

## What's Inside...



**22nd Annual  
Seminole Tribe  
4-H's Show & Sale**  
Page 13



**Boys & Girls Club  
Teen Center Grand  
Opening**  
Page 12



**Physician Lisa  
Wildcatt Joins  
Health Dept. Staff**  
Page 25

Community .....	3
Sports .....	17
Education .....	22
Health .....	25
Casino .....	27
Announcements .....	33

## Tribal Council Meets in Hollywood

By Chris Jenkins

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Tribal Council met in Hollywood on March 17. They passed 31 resolutions on the agenda, including:

Resolution 15: Service line agreement (230' x 25') between Glades Electric Cooperative, Inc. and the Seminole Tribe of Florida - Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 16: Service line agreement (305' x 25') between Glades Electric Cooperative, Inc. and the Seminole Tribe Veterans Building - Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 17: Service line agreement (1,580' x 5') between Enbark FKA Sprint-Florida Inc. and Johnny Osceola for location of a buried telephone cable - Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 18: Amended fishing permit regulations for the Big Cypress, Hollywood and Brighton Reservations;

Resolution 19: Approval of engagement letter with Deloitte & Touche LLP for Services performed; relevant to the series 2008A (taxable) Special Obligation Bonds Offering memorandum; ratification of execution by the Chairman of the Tribal Council;

Resolution 20: Approval of engagement letter with McGladrey & Pullen, LLP for services performed relevant to the series 2008A (Taxable) Special Obligation Bonds Offering Memorandum; ratification of execution by the Chairman of the Tribal Council;

Resolution 21: Verizon business service agreement between the Seminole Tribe of Florida and Verizon Business Network Services, Inc.; ratification;

Resolution 22: Revision of travel policy and establishment of travel procedures;

Resolution 23: Fire Cooperative Agreement between Seminole Tribe of Florida, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. and Bureau of Indian Affairs to assist on Fire Management Activities on Tribal Lands of the Seminole Tribe of Florida;

Resolution 29: Issuance of permit for access and construction of a Sheepshead Weir and Rock Rip-Rap on the C-41 Canal - Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 30: Donations of Tribally-owned vehicles to Tribal members and donation of a Chevrolet Micro School Bus to Harvest Fellowship;

◆ See COUNCIL, page 2

## Annual Junior Cypress Cattle Drive Returns to BC

### Honorary Trail Boss Joe Osceola Sr. Recognized

By Judy Weeks

**BIG CYPRESS** —

Approximately 600 people participated in the 12th Annual Junior Cypress Cattle Drive, held March 29 on the Big Cypress Reservation. After sharing a bountiful breakfast buffet at Billie Swamp Safari, the cowboys and cowgirls made their way to the cattle pens at the end of West Boundary Road.

Paul Bowers kicked off the event by recapping the experiences of previous years and giving a brief overview of things to come for any new riders. Next, Moses "Bigg" Jumper Jr. provided a short history of the cattle drives and discussed Junior Cypress and the other elders responsible for establishing the Tribe's cattle industry. Beginning with the Spanish introduction of cattle to Florida and the whole Western Hemisphere, Jumper talked about the evolution of Cracker cattle and horses and their eventual effect upon the Seminole economy.

"Today's event is a replica of the original drive that brought cattle, purchased from the Apaches, overland to Brighton and Big Cypress from Bassinger, at the railroad north of Lake Okeechobee," he said. "In poor health, many did not

◆ See CATTLE DRIVE, page 14



Riders push the cattle down West Boundary Road in Big Cypress during the 12th annual Cattle Drive.

Chris Jenkins

## Hard Rock Hosts 1st Annual Shareholder Meeting

By Elgin Jumper

**HOLLYWOOD** — Seminole Tribal citizens joined the Tribal Council and invited guests in the ballroom of the Hollywood Hard Rock Hotel on April 5 for the 1st Annual Shareholder Meeting.

The meeting began with a traditional prayer delivered by Betty Clay Osceola. Following Osceola, meeting attendees were treated to several video presentations conducted by Jim Allen, Tribal

Gaming CEO, and Hamish Dodds, president and CEO of Hard Rock International.

In addition to the members of the Tribal Council, Tribal dignitaries, including Chief Operating Officer Elrod Bowers and General Council Jim Shore, also attended the meeting.

The various video presentations were not only educational, but entertaining

◆ See SHAREHOLDER, page 2



Chairman Mitchell Cypress (L) interacts with Tribal leaders, Tribal citizens and Hard Rock executives during the question and answer portion of the meeting.

Elgin Jumper



Judy Weeks

The Naples community children welcome the Easter Bunny to their party.

## Easter Bunny Visits Naples

By Judy Weeks

**NAPLES** — On March 22 the Easter Bunny hopped his way onto the grounds of the Collier County Museum to visit with the members of the Naples Seminole Community.

With approximately 50 people in attendance, the fabled hare had to deliver a multitude of baskets to the stage of the pavilion chicken, containing presents appropriate for all ages. Prior to his

arrival, a magician and balloon artist entertained the children with his antics and taught them a few slight of hand tricks.

"Easter brings the promise of resurrection and renewal of life," said Naples Liaison OB Osceola Jr. "What better place to enjoy this miracle than in the heart of a cypress head or oak

◆ See EASTER, page 9

## Culture Day Teaches Brighton Youth Seminole Ways Tribal Girls Learn Frybread Making, Boys Woodcarving



Susan Etchebarria

Culture Teacher Jenny Shore (L) shows Cady Osceola how to make frybread and Culture Education Dept. Director Lorene Gopher (Left, Back Row) works with Sunni Beardon and Aiyana Tommie as their homeroom teacher watches.

By Susan Etchebarria

**BRIGHTON** — On March 19 the Pemayetv Eimahukv Charter School hosted Culture Day to teach Seminole youngsters two important facets of their culture — frybread making for the girls and woodcarving for the boys. About 150 students, in kindergarten through fifth grade, participated in Culture Day.

Making Indian frybread is a culinary art generally passed down from mother to daughter or from grandmother to granddaughter. The tasty bread is made without a written recipe which is why the taste and texture can vary depending on the bread maker.

"This is how our ancestors made bread a long time ago," said Jenny Shore, culture education teacher. "They cooked fry bread in the outdoors and we want the girls to see how things used to be. Only the girls learn to make fry bread; the boys learn to carve. That's our tradition," she said.

There were numerous instructors and volunteers present for the interactive demonstration, held at the Cultural Village at the Fred Smith Rodeo Grounds. Lorene Gopher, Laverne Thomas, Selena Billie, Shirley Sampson, Amy Clay, Jenny Shore, Ginger Jones, Jo Leigh Jumper, Edna Tommie and Alice Sweat were all eager to

train the girls how to mix the dough and cook it in a hot skillet over an open fire.

Each girl received a large bowl which the teachers scooped a handful of flour into before adding water to the dough and mixing it by hand. The preparation and cooking of the dough over a hot fire requires practice to achieve perfection.

The male students learned the art of woodcarving from Preston Baker, Victor Billie, Leroy Osceola and Danny Jones.

Other activities that took place included learning Seminole legends from storyteller Martha Jones, assisted by Cultural Education Teacher Nancy Shore. Jones captivated the youth with a puppet as she told the legend of The Mother Opossum and the Box Turtle. Jones told the children every legend has a moral, a message that guides a child to make the right decisions in life.

"It is important to know the legends if you are Seminole," she said.

Jones asked the students if they knew any Seminole legends they would like to share and a number of children spoke up and shared.

Creek Language and Seminole History Teacher Jade Braswell played alphabet, number and word games in

◆ See CULTURE, page 30





## Big Cypress Veteran's Memorial Grand Opening

By Denise Freund

With great pleasure, we announce the grand opening ceremony of the Veteran's Memorial at Big Cypress Reservation. Months of planning and construction will soon come to an end resulting in a breathtaking display, centered around a massive granite wall inscribed with the names of all the Seminole Veterans. Facing this massive wall will be a large bronze statue of a Seminole Warrior. Truly, a symbol of the strength and courage of each soldier.

In honor of all veteran's

Chairman Mitchell Cypress would like to invite all Seminole Tribal members and their families as well as all tribal employees to join us in the grand opening ceremony of the Big Cypress Veteran's Memorial and Memorial Day celebration on Thursday, May 29, 2008. The ceremony will begin at 10:00 a.m. and last approximately 2 hours. We will be serving lunch following the ceremony.

Please keep all of our soldiers both past and present in your heart and in your prayers.

## Tribune Reporter Relocates to Big Cypress

Beginning March 31, *Seminole Tribune* Staff Reporter Chris Jenkins relocated from the Hollywood Reservation to the Big Cypress Reservation to service the reporting needs of the Big Cypress, Brighton, Immokalee, Ft. Pierce, Naples and Tampa communities. He is the *Tribune's* first full-time reporter to work outside of the Hollywood Reservation.

Chris's office will be located in the Broadcasting Department Offices in the Family Investment Center. All Tribal citizens and Tribal departments requesting story coverage should please contact Chris in his office at (863) 902-3217, Ext. 13339, or on his cell at (863) 228-2881. He can also be e-mailed at [chrisjenkins@semintribe.com](mailto:chrisjenkins@semintribe.com); please be advised that all e-mail requests should



Chris Jenkins, *Seminole Tribune* reporter

be CC'ed to *Seminole Tribune* Editor Elizabeth Leiba at [elizabethleiba@semintribe.com](mailto:elizabethleiba@semintribe.com).

## The Seminole Tribune

If you need a reporter or you would like to submit an article, birthday wish or poem to the *Seminole Tribune*, please contact the Editor-in-Chief Virginia Mitchell at (800) 685-7800, Ext. 10725, fax (954) 965-2937, or mail to: The Seminole Tribune, 3560 N. State Road 7, Hollywood, Florida 33021

Issue: May 30, 2008  
Deadline: May 14, 2008

Issue: June 27, 2008  
Deadline: June 11, 2008

Issue: July 25, 2008  
Deadline: July 9, 2008

Please note: Late submissions will be posted in the following issue.

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3560 N. State Road 7  
Hollywood, FL 33021

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**The Seminole Tribune**  
is a member of the Native American Journalists Association. Letters/e-mails to the editor must be signed and may be edited for publication. Subscription rate is \$35 per year by mail. Make checks payable to The Seminole Tribune, 3560 N. State Rd. 7, Hollywood, FL 33021  
Phone: (954) 965-7072  
Fax: (954) 965-2937  
Or subscribe on the internet at [www.seminoletribe.com](http://www.seminoletribe.com)  
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## ❖ Shareholder

Continued from page 1

as well. During one of the presentations, those in the audience learned there are more than 130 Hard Rock locations in 47 countries, all of which are owned by the Seminole Tribe of Florida. The videos also outlined the Tribe's prosperity with the Hard Rock thus far.

"It was the deal of the century when the Seminole Tribe of Florida was

able to purchase the Hard Rock," said Allen "I think that's something a lot of people should be proud of."

Additional topics of discussion at the gathering were: Review of the First Year, Five Year Business Plan, Updates on



Hamish Dodds, CEO of Hard Rock International, addresses Tribal citizens at the shareholder meeting.



Tribal Gaming CEO Jim Allen opens the shareholder meeting.

Marketing and Public Relations, as well as other crucial matters.

"The future seems really bright," remarked Frank Moore Jr., after seeing the video presentations. "The Tribal Council's done a great job. They're pointing us in the right directions, and we're hir-

ing the right people. That's what we need."

Dodds then took the stage to address the assembled Tribal citizens. Dodds spoke on the Hard Rock's central concerns such as: memorabilia authenticity, customer service and philanthropy, among other topics.

"I think the Tribal members received a lot of information from this 1st Annual Shareholder Meeting," reflected Chairman Cypress afterward. "The future's looking really good. And I think it's very good what Jim Allen and Hamish Dodds have accomplished, so that we're successful and will continue being successful."

## ❖ Council

Continued from page 1

Resolution 31: Cancellation (write-off) of outstanding Tribal Council Loans of deceased Tribal members;  
Resolution 32: Gordon Wareham copyright license agreement for DNA Website;



Miss Florida Seminole Jennifer Chalfant updates the Tribal Council on her journeys as the 2007-2008 princess.



Members of the Haskell Indian Nations University softball team visited the Tribal Council during their trip to South Florida.

Resolution 33: Seminole Indian Casino-Coconut Creek Class III Gaming approval; ratification

Resolution 34: Approval of Agreement with Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino - Hollywood for the Seminole Princess Pageant;

Resolution 35: Approval of construction loan disclosure and agreement for residential construction projects managed

by the Seminole Tribe;

Resolution 36: Bank of America Corporate Purchasing Card Account Agreement; limited waiver of Tribal sovereign immunity; and

Resolution 37: Ford Motor Credit Company Indian Tribal Government Lease-Purchase Agreement No. 49990 as amended by schedule 4999057; waiver of sovereign immunity.

## Casey McCall Memorial Grass Dance



My brother, Steven Bowers, my daughter, Christine McCall, and myself, Casey's mom, would like to thank all the grass dancers that made their way down to Florida to be a part of my son's Grass Dance Special. I've been told that this is a first for a special this big to be held anywhere.

My intention was not to be big, but to honor my son in the way that he lived his life — which was grand, over-the-top, bold, first and the best — and that's what Casey was known for. I'm sure he loved every minute of it and that he would also have appreciated all the grass dancers for coming down to his special.

The following is a list of winners from the three-day event: 1. Wesley Windy Boy, 2. Randel Paskemin, 3. Rusty Gillette, 4. Adam Nordwall, 5. Julius Not Afraid, 6. Lakota Clarmont, 7. George Growing Thunder, 8. Tarrence Goodwill, 9. Buck Spottedtail, 10. Darrel Bolton, 11. Delbert Wapass, 12. Royce King Bird.

Hopefully in a few years I will be able to do another special for Casey, but right now it is time to let him rest.

I would like to thank my friends for coming down to help me out with Casey's Special. They are: Salina No Ear, Howard "Junior" Todume, Sean Spicer for those beautiful plaques, Claudia Spicer,

Jonathan Windy Boy, Lawrence Baker, Ronnie and Lillian "Twenty" Good Eagle, Dale Old Horn, Sidrick Baker and his drum Mandree, John Bearstail, Leonard Baker and Wade Baker, all the way down from Minot, N.D., Sidrick's wife Alanna for the beautiful Grass Dance outfit she made, Francine Osceola for those beautiful T-shirts, they came out better than we expected, and a very special thanks to Melissa Sherman who stayed on top of all orders for Casey's memorial special.

Sincerely,  
Wanda Bowers

## Here Yesterday, Gone Today

By Jarrod Smith

I'm not one to complain, that has never been my forte. However, I believe this instance garners my complaint.

For too long now I've known the ills of Rez life, regrettably almost always resulting in incarceration or death. I can't even count on my hands and toes anymore the number of my friends who have fallen to this ... disease. That's what it is; a disease that currently doesn't have a cure, a disease that not only infects its victims but also has residual effects on their families as well.

Being Seminole, I realize that what happens to one of us essentially happens to us all. This means that I don't look at these incidents as only a failure by those who were involved, but also a failure of our community as a whole. If young people are our future, as I've heard said so many times over, and fervently believe myself, then why is it that we allow them to destroy themselves ... essentially destroying apart of our future right along with them?

I realize I'm not alone in my feelings but I also realize that nothing is being done in a broader context to remedy the

current situation. The focus has been to treat each case as individual, but more importantly it has been to treat it after there have been symptoms. This method is too late for most people to be able to recover. Why not inform and inoculate from a very young age, as is done with many diseases today?

Not too long ago measles, smallpox or polio could kill a person, whereas today one rarely if ever hears about an outbreak. Could the same not be done for this "Rez Disease"? I believe it could, and I'm willing to put forth my time and effort into finding that cure. However, do we as a community and Tribe have that same willingness? This disease has spread wide and affected all; let us not allow it to claim more victims.

This is a tribute to my childhood friend James Girtman who recently fell victim to the Rez Disease in one of its many manifestations. Not only to him, for he is just the latest, but also to Tiffany, Paige, Kiel, Dustin, Garrett, Cody and countless others who I've known personally. Words have meaning, but only when backed by action. Let us act to help our young ... to help our future.



## Community News



Felix DoBoz

Graduating Class 08-01 displays the silver badge-shaped plaque they made and presented to the Seminole Tribe of Florida at the ceremony on March 21. They are: (L-R) Firefighter/Medic Bryan Russo, Firefighter/Medic Ryan Boehm, Firefighter/EMT Steven Bromhead, Firefighter/Medic Jonathan Hernandez, Firefighter/EMT John Light, Firefighter/Medic James Sundberg, Firefighter/EMT Jason Press, Firefighter/EMT Oscar Castillo, Firefighter/EMT Christopher Muxo and Firefighter/Medic Nicholas Simone.

## EMS Class 08-01 Honored at Graduation, Badge Ceremony

By Felix DoBoz

**HOLLYWOOD** — On March 21 the Seminole Department of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) held a graduation and badge ceremony for the 10 men who completed their six-week boot camp course to become certified Seminole EMS Department employees.

The 10 Class 08-01 EMS recruits are: Firefighter/Medic Ryan Boehm, Firefighter/EMT Steven Bromhead, Firefighter/Medic Oscar Castillo, Firefighter/Medic Jonathan Hernandez, Firefighter/EMT John Light, Firefighter/EMT Christopher Muxo, Firefighter/EMT Jason Press, Firefighter/EMT Bryan Russo, Firefighter/EMT Nicholas Simone and Firefighter/Medic James Sundberg.

Assistant Director of EMS Chief John Cooper hosted the ceremony, held in the Hollywood Tribal Auditorium, and introduced the evening's guest speakers.

Director of Seminole Recreation Moses "Bigg" Jumper Jr., wearing ceremonial regalia, and representing the Seminole Tribe of Florida, welcomed everyone to the ceremony and delivered the invocation to the graduating Class 08-01.

"Years ago we had to wait hours and hours sometimes when somebody was either hurt or needed some kind of emergency aid, so we're proud and very honored to have this group of men graduating here tonight," he said.

EMS Director Charles V. Lanza then addressed the gathered graduates, department personnel and guests. He said this was his third graduation ceremony since he started with the department last year.

"When we hire fire fighters, we try to hire the people that will meet our expectations," Lanza said. "There's a lot of rigors in this department; there's a lot of rigors in this job... We found the 10 best people in our community right now, and they're graduating tonight."

"In a few minutes you'll stand and take the

of the entire class, thanked the Tribe and all the EMS chiefs and instructors for their support.

Also on behalf of graduating Class 08-01,



Felix DoBoz

Moses "Bigg" Jumper Jr. (C), in full regalia, delivers the invocation on behalf of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. (L-R) Lt. Eric Fazzi and Chief John Cooper look on.

Hernandez presented a three-foot tall shiny silver badge-shaped plaque to the Seminole Tribe of Florida, and read a heartfelt poem. It has become tradition for each graduating class to make a plaque for the Tribe, which they present at the badge ceremony.

Seventeen started the training but only 10 graduates satisfactorily completed all the course requirements. They read the oath in unison, officially becoming sworn in. Lt. Olen Price then presented a 15 minute video which displayed photos of the strenuous training sessions the young recruits endured in order to complete the program.

Operations Chief Robert Suit offered a closing statement to the graduates.

"About six weeks ago I met these men when they first reported in," Suit said. "I was there to meet them and they had a look on their faces of concern and a little bit of anticipation. I told them that day 'It's going to take three things to get through this: dedication, determination and perseverance.' You men found all three of those, and here you are tonight, and I congratulate you."

"This profession... requires sacrifice; you're going to have to work nights, weekends and holidays," he added. "If your shift comes up on a holiday, believe me, I expect you to come to work. Don't call in sick unless you are sick. And if you are, I will visit you in the hospital that day."

Many in the audience had a hearty laugh over that comment; however, there is truth to it. Currently, there are 120 EMS Dept. employees serving all Seminole reservations. They work in shifts 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

During the pinning ceremony, Capt. Bill Press, father of graduate Jason Press, and 35 year veteran officer with the organization, I can't thank Chief Lanza and his staff enough for the fine job that they did. They made him into a better man than he was before."



Felix DoBoz

(L-R) Miami-Dade County Police Captain Bill Press pins his son, Jason Press', badge on him as EMS Chief Chuck Lanza looks on.

firefighters' oath, that all of us in the fire service have done," he added. "Please don't just say the words, but live those words, and remember they should last you your entire career."

Class 08-01's instructors were introduced by Chief Frank Ransdell to applause from the gathered guests in the audience. Jonathan Hernandez, firefighter/medic, and class leader, was also introduced. He said he was honored to be in the class and, on behalf

## NAFOA Acknowledges Tribe for Hard Rock Acquisition

*Tribal Officials Attend Annual Conference to Accept Award*



Chris Jenkins

(L-R) Brighton Council Rep. Roger Smith, NAFOA President Bill Lomax, President Richard Bowers Jr., Frank King, managing director with Merrill Lynch, and Trail Liaison William Osceola.

By Chris Jenkins

**SAN DIEGO** — The Seminole Tribe of Florida was acknowledged for one of its most successful and accomplished business moves by the Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA) on March 26. The award presentation coincided with NAFOA's annual Spring Conference, held March 25-27 at the US Grant Hotel in San Diego.

NAFOA presented its inaugural financial leadership award — or Large Deal of the Year award — to the Tribe, as well as the business firm Greenberg Traurig, and the financial management and advisory firm Merrill Lynch, for their acquisition and structuring of the Hard Rock International franchises in March 2007.

President Richard Bowers Jr., Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith and Trail Liaison William Osceola were on hand to accept the award on behalf of the Tribe.

"I think this is a great testament to hard work," President Bowers Jr. said. "It has been a great journey to come here and share with everyone."

Gitsxan Indian Nation member and NAFOA President Bill Lomax said the Seminole Tribe is an inspiration and that this deal pushes all Native American Tribes to dream and achieve.

"All of a sudden it has been done before," Lomax said. "For [NAFOA] it was a fantastic situation. It allows us as an organization to show what other Tribes can do."

NAFOA is a national not-for-profit organization focusing on the financial success of Tribal entities as part of a continuing effort toward building financial strength of Tribal governments and enterprises as well as providing educational forums and resources, according to its website. For more information, please visit [nafoa.org](http://nafoa.org).



Chris Jenkins

(L-R) NAFOA President Bill Lomax presents the award to President Richard Bowers Jr. at the NAFOA conference.

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## Community News



Marisol Gonzalez

Fans (L-R) James Holt, Sheila Corona, Jo Motlow North, Leoma Poore, Austin Billie and Paul Buster watch R.C. North's performance.

## North Performs at South Florida Starbucks

By Marisol Gonzalez,

**HOLLYWOOD** — R.C. North, 18, came to the stage prepared to shine. This was his fourth time performing at various Starbucks locations throughout South Florida.

His friends and family came out to support him as well as enjoy the music and the beverages.

Employees and customers of the Sheridan Plaza Starbucks, located only about two miles from the Hollywood Reservation, were also intrigued by his performance. Bringing a variety of music with songs that he wrote himself, he also sang songs by artists including U2, The Rolling Stones and The Beatles, just to name a few. North showed joy and enthusiasm as he sang his heart out for the crowd, belting out more than a dozen songs.

North has been a singer/songwriter for the past five years. His ultimate goal is to go into music and movie production.

"Being able to perform at the Starbucks is pretty cool and a great opportunity," he said. "Performing is one way that I can express myself."

Robert C. North Sr., R.C.'s father, said he is very supportive of his son and of what he does.

"I am a very proud father and it's amazing for R.C. to compose and arrange all of his lyrics," he said.

In addition to his dad, mother Jo Motlow North, aunt Leoma Poore and uncle Dana Poore were also in the crowd to support R.C.

"R.C. grasps all really well and he is good at what he does," said Dana Poore.

R.C. is also scheduled to perform with his band Hybiskus at this year's Gathering of the Nations pow-wow in Albuquerque, N.M.



Marisol Gonzalez

R.C. North performs for the crowd.

## O'Hara Tommie Joins EAO Team

By Marisol Gonzalez

**HOLLYWOOD** — In October 2007, O'Hara Tommie joined the Executive Administration Offices (EAO) team as executive assistant to EAO Amy Johns.

Besides working in Seminole Wholesale before moving to the EAO office, Tommie has worked for the Tribe in many capacities for years. Starting at 14-years-old, he worked in what is now called the Summer Work Experience Program, where he helped in a few maintenance and building and grounds functions throughout the Tribe.

College in Tallahassee before moving to Hollywood. He is currently working on his master's degree in the field of leadership management, also at Keiser. He said his ultimate goal is to attend Florida State University and receive a Ph.D. in leadership management or administration.

In addition, Tommie is a licensed realtor and an air conditioning technician with certification from the North Technical Education Center in West Palm Beach, where he completed a two year apprenticeship to obtain his subcontractor's license. He also had a chance to work with the Florida Governors Council of Indian Affairs when he was just 16.

As a youngster, Tommie said he was always taught to go to school and come back and work for the Tribe — and he has definitely done just that. He started out with the Seminole Preschool, where he was the secretary in charge of the bookkeeping. Then he went on to work with Brighton Casino. Other departments he has worked in include: Housing, Okalee Village and Information Systems.

Tommie has also worked with Hollywood Board Rep. Gloria Wilson during her first term in office. While there, he did many things to help Tribal citizens with money marketing, investments and real estate. He also wrote the association guidelines that are still being used today in the Ft. Pierce Reservation's housing development, Chupco's Landing.

In his current position, he works with a financial literacy

class to help the Tribe manage money and prepare the youth for the future.

"Everything I do today makes the future better for the ones younger than me," Tommie said.

His mother and his family are a big part of inspiration to him, he said. He considers himself to be a role model to his children and would like to see more of the youth of the Tribe work within the Tribe.

Tommie said he believes in the Tribal leadership. If the timing was right, he would be would seek an elected position, however, said he likes being in the background and wants to get a lot done in his current setting.



Marisol Gonzalez

O'Hara Tommie

"I don't think there is any other place I would rather work," Tommie said. "I know that if I work anywhere else no one would inspire me. Here, I can always go to the elders that have never given up, and they motivate me."

Tommie was born in Ft. Pierce and said he still considers himself to be a Ft. Pierce native. He grew up in Brighton and then went back to Ft. Pierce where he attended Westwood High School. Tommie is a member of the Bird Clan, and the father of three children.

He acquired a bachelor's degree in both business administration and accounting from Keiser

## Housing Dept. Financial Workshop Provides Beneficial Info to Tribal Citizens

By Marisol Gonzalez

**HOLLYWOOD** — Nearly a dozen Tribal citizens gathered at the Hollywood Headquarters auditorium lobby on March 19 to learn more about financial readiness.

Roberta Robinson and Raul Sigler Jr., financial advisors from the Housing Department, led the workshop. They discussed how to manage bank accounts, understanding a credit score and credit report and preparing for homeownership, among other topics.

The two are both certified with First Nations Oweesta Corporation, a South Dakota-based Native economic development firm, in financial education training.

Guest speaker and Assistant Vice President and Market Manager from the Hollywood and Ft. Lauderdale branch of Eastern Financial Credit Union Sean Chaderton also spoke at the workshop. Chaderton spoke about the benefits and differences between credit unions and other banking.

The Housing Department began having these financial readiness workshops in February, with their first stop at the Big Cypress Reservation. They are scheduled to visit each reservation in the coming months, with workshops scheduled to be held in Brighton on May 21, Immokalee on June 18 and Tampa on July 23.

At the end of the workshop, each attendee will receive a certificate of completion, which is necessary to proceed with housing projects.

For more information, or to reserve a space, please call (954) 966-6300, Ext. 11724 or 11725.



Marisol Gonzalez

The participants interact with the instructors during the workshop.

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## Community News



## Swamp Safari Debuts New Eco-Tour

**By Shelley Marmor**

**BIG CYPRESS** — On April 1, staff at Billie Swamp Safari added the Exclusive Swamp Buggy Eco-Tour to their line-up of ways tourists and locals alike can experience the Florida Everglades.

This tour will differ from the swamp buggy tour previously offered at the Safari in several ways. First, guests will tour the 2,200-acre eco-park on smaller swamp buggies that accommodate up to six, versus the older buggies that can hold up to 32, designed especially for this tour.

According to Billie Swamp Safari Park Director Ed Woods, one of the main reasons for adding the exclusive tour is that many guests wanted a private tour with their own guide.

The exclusive tour will last between 90 and 120 minutes, whereas the previous tour is only one hour. It will begin unlike the previously offered tour as well. One of the four guides assigned to this tour will greet guests in the Gift Shop with a baby alligator or some other local "critter," according to Woods.

The guide will then take guests to the Swamp Water Café for the "Taste of the Everglades" portion of the tour. While there, they will get a chance to taste some Seminole delicacies including frog legs, gator nuggets, frybread and hearts of palm.

After departing the Swamp Water Café, guests will board their swamp buggy for a personalized tour of the Florida Everglades. The smaller size of the swamp buggies on this tour will allow them to go off the designated trail that the larger buggies must follow, according to one of the exclusive tour guides, Glenn Wilsey.

Wilsey and the three other guides were selected by Woods because of their vast knowledge of



Glenn Wilsey demonstrates how to start a fire, which Seminoles of the past had to do in order to cook their food.

also identified the sable palm. Once the outer layers are removed, give way to the edible hearts of palm that guests had the chance to sample during their Taste of the Everglades at the beginning of their tour.

In addition, Wilsey also demonstrated how the Seminoles used to start fires many years ago using only some flint rock, a piece of iron, a piece of fabric and some husks from a palmetto tree. He was able to start the fire in about 20 seconds, but said the Seminoles of the past could do it much faster.

At the conclusion of the tour, all guests will receive a special memento to take home.

For more information or to book a tour please call 1-800-GO-SAFARI or visit [www.seminoletribe.com/safari](http://www.seminoletribe.com/safari). Exclusive Buggy Tour prices are \$375 for up to four; \$425 for up to five; and \$475 for up to six.



the Everglades. Wilsey said he grew up on the Tamiami Trail, and has been giving eco-tours in South Florida for 17 years, with one and a half of those years spent at Billie Swamp Safari.

On a dry run of the tour, held March 24 for members of the media, Wilsey put his knowledge to the test as he discussed the animals and plants that call the Swamp Safari home.

As the tour progressed, the swamp buggy passed by several native Floridian animals that live at the Safari including the Osceola turkey, wild pig and black vulture. There were also other animals seen along the way, many of which used to live at zoos, including the ostrich, American bison and Asian water buffalo, all of which Wilsey was able to identify and discuss.

He also pointed out several plants along the way, including the cypress trees that Big Cypress is named after, bay laurel plants, which produce bay leaves, resurrection ferns, Brazilian pepper, strangler



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Lamborghini | Yellow, 2008, 2 Passenger

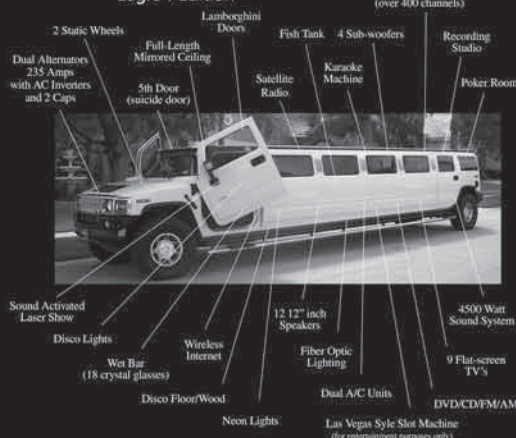


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## Community News



Judy Weeks

Tribal citizen Willie Johns (Third from Right) familiarizes the Valcon Group students with the important native medicine plants requiring preservation when instituting Army Corp of Engineer projects.

## Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Hosts Seminar for Army Corp of Engineers

By Judy Weeks

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum hosted an educational seminar for 23 students and four facilitators from the Valcon Group, a contractor for the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. The seminar lasted four days and began on March 11.

The Valcon Group is responsible for the training of future Army Corp employees, who will be involved in mitigation projects, natural resource development and ecological studies. Native American Lisa Shorbull is the curriculum coordinator, which aims to familiarize the students with the archeological and cultural heritage of the First Americans.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Education Coordinator Diana Stone put together a comprehensive on-site program to introduce the students to Florida and its rich Native American background, which she said must be preserved for future generations. The Seminole Tribe's conviction to preserving the past for future generation is felt and seen throughout the museum.

Setting up camp at the Museum Ceremonial Grounds, the students experienced firsthand the Florida landscape with its native plants and animals which play such an important role in the culture and heritage of the Seminoles.

Crowding years of education into a very limited time frame, the museum staff held a round table discussion for Valcon students to ask questions. Chief Historic Resource Officer Tina Osceola, Water Resource Director Craig Tepper, Tribal Preservation Officer Willard Steele, Museum Director Anne McCudden and staff members Willie Johns, Brian Zepeda and Everett Osceola participated in the round table discussion.

Their four-day classes also included a swamp buggy tour through the Billie Swamp Safari, a discussion of Florida's ecology and plant preservation, canoe making, a craft demonstration, storytelling, stomp dancers and an archeological history of the region.



By Ramona Kiyoshk

[Editor's Note: Ramona Kiyoshk 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.moonshine@gmail.com](mailto:satin.moonshine@gmail.com).]

**American Indians and the Law** attempts to clarify a murky and troublesome subject — Native American sovereignty. The author, Bruce Duthu, a member of the United Houma Indian Nation, is the

vice-dean of academic affairs and professor of law at the Vermont Law School. Citing poignant examples from history and key court cases, Duthu brings lucidity and perception to a greatly misunderstood area of American history. The newly released cloth-bound volume, clearly presented in four parts, became available in February 2008.

Native people, Duthu points out, have a unique place in American society, different from other minorities. From the very beginning of their relationship with Europeans, the Indian Tribes of America were regarded as a sovereign nation with their own political power.

According to their sovereign status, Native Americans should have negotiating powers with the U.S. Congress regarding how they conduct business in their territories, and today Tribal lands are called reservations. How they live, receive education, work, worship, and conduct their daily affairs should be determined by Tribal governments.

Still the U.S. government applies a heavy hand in controlling how Tribal councils do things, and at one time, even legislating some Tribes out of existence. The legal status of sovereignty lies buried in a haze of misinformation, misunderstanding, racism, suspicion and confusion, conjuring up a variety of contradicting scenarios.

Forced removals, land grabs, and the boarding school system are historic examples of how a conqueror would treat a subjugated, defeated nation. Wherein lies the sovereignty?

Today, America's jails hold a disproportionate number of American Indians, and the population as a whole is the most economically desperate and poorly educated on the continent. In the 1960s and '70s, activism that resulted in violent clashes forced the U.S. government to take notice of the discontent in Indian Country.

More recently, the emergence of tax-free tobacco shops and gaming facilities on Tribal lands made the government aware that Native Americans intend to take control of their own destinies.

As well, official policies that continue to refer to Native people as dead or dying are insulting. The U.S. government has been holding our funeral for hundreds of years. In the 1800s, Andrew Jackson predicted our demise and tried to expedite it. "Wild Bill" Hickock's *Wild West Show* depicted Indians as a curiosity; a dying chapter in history. Museums even display Native art and history next to dinosaur exhibits.

My favorite story is one from the *Introduction of Duthu's* book. In 1913, President Taft officiated over a groundbreaking ceremony on Staten Island, N.Y., where a monument was to be erected to the "departed race." If plans had materialized, today the bronze statue of a young brave would be towering a good 15 feet in height over the

Statue of Liberty.

As that great American writer Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, wrote: "Rumors of my death have been greatly exaggerated."

This book should be court-mandated reading for all citizens. Every American and every new arrival can stand to take an honest look at the Native people who share this land. For Native Americans, it will be a refresher course. With reinforced insight into their vital past and pride in their dynamic present, Native Americans will be able to move into the future with dignity and determination.

**American Indians and the Law**  
The Penguin Library of American Indian History  
By N. Bruce Duthu, Edited by Colin Calloway  
Hard cover, 270 pages  
ISBN: 9780670018574  
Publication date: January 2008  
Viking Adult  
\$21.95



## Community News

## Princess Attends 34th Annual Pow-Wow Chalfant Represents Tribe at Denver March

By Wanda Bowers

DENVER — Each year, Miss Florida Seminole attends the Denver March Pow-Wow, and no matter who she is, she never fails to make lasting friendships. The 2007-2008 Miss Florida Seminole Jennifer Chalfant managed to do the same this year as she warmly greeted those she met at the 34th annual pow-wow.

As we do every year, the Seminole delegation met up with the high school students from Flandreau Indian School in Flandreau, N.D., along with the school's Color Guard, Princess Kateri Velasquez (Apache), Starling Robinson of Nebraska, Dalta Green of South Dakota and Jesse Morrison of Colorado. All in uniform represent the Flandreau Indian School Color Guard; the school is located in Flandreau, S.D.



Submitted by Wanda Bowers

(L-R) Jasmine Wallette of North Dakota, Tashina Leekity of New Mexico, Miss Florida Seminole Jennifer Chalfant, Miss Flandreau Indian School Princess Kateri Velasquez (Apache), Starling Robinson of Nebraska, Dalta Green of South Dakota and Jesse Morrison of Colorado. All in uniform represent the Flandreau Indian School Color Guard; the school is located in Flandreau, S.D.

Although we received a warm welcome from the Denver March Pow-Wow Emcee Lawrence Baker, and the Flandreau High School students, we were met with a very cold Denver weekend. It was 20-30 degrees most of the weekend, eventually leading to snowfall on the night of March 22.

However, this didn't deter Chalfant from staying at the Pow-Wow and dancing several inter-Tribal dances with Britney Yescas, Miss Florida Seminole 2006-2007, and Miss Flandreau Kateri

Velasquez during the three-day pow-wow, held March 21-23 at the Denver Coliseum.

In addition to her royal duties, Chalfant also got to do some shopping there at the Pow-Wow. We tried to look at all the vendors' merchandise, but there were so many of them we would only get so far before hearing the emcee call for drum roll call, which meant Miss Florida Seminole had to get back, get ready and get in line for Grand Entry.

In the Grand Entry, Chalfant joined about 70 other royals who represented their Tribe, club, school or organization. Some of her fellow royals on hand included Miss Indian Nations Sheri Wright and Denver March Princess Amanda Jo Ironstar, who gave us a warm welcome to her pow-wow, to name a few.

In addition to the Seminole princess, several Tribal citizens also attended the pow-wow including: Louise Billie, Louise Osceola, Joe Junior Billie, Charlotte Bowers, Paul Bowers Sr. and a few others. They all said they saw Miss Florida Seminole in the Grand Entry and said she looked great.

On the last day of the pow-wow, March 23, Miss Florida Seminole got to make one more Grand Entry before saying goodbye to her new friends and returning home.



Submitted by Wanda Bowers

(L-R) Flandreau Indian School teacher and Denver March Pow-Wow committee member Lillian Gooddeagle, Miss Flandreau Indian School Princess Kateri Velasquez (Apache), Miss Florida Seminole Jennifer Chalfant and Flandreau Indian School Cultural Coordinator Ronald Gooddeagle.

## NICWA President Honors Tribe with Award



Chris Jenkins

National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) Policy Committee Chairman Theodore S. Nelson (C) presents the Tribe and Tribal Council an award on behalf of NICWA for their support and contributions. NICWA is a nonprofit organization that supports and addresses the issues of child abuse and neglect through training, research, public policy and grassroots community development.

## Seminole Citizens Express Themselves at Show First-Ever Seminole Expression Night Held

By Marisol Gonzalez  
HOLLYWOOD —

Seminole talent was out in full force on the evening of March 31 as friends and family gathered in the Hollywood Tribal Auditorium for the first ever Seminole Expression Night.

Seminole Expression Night was the brainchild of Elgin Jumper and Moses "Bigg" Jumper Jr. The two, who organized the event, wanted to give Tribal citizens and employees an opportunity to express themselves by sharing music, poems and even stories.

"This event gives a way of letting people and youth express their arts and gifts," Moses "Bigg" Jumper Jr., himself a poet, stated.

Co-creator Elgin Jumper echoed Moses Jumper's sentiment about the importance of creative expression.

"Self-expression is important and this was set up to bring out talent



Marisol Gonzalez

Moses "Bigg" Jumper Jr. shows the crowd a picture of him and his grandmother, from his book *Echoes in the Wind*. His grandmother was a big inspiration in his writing.

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Marisol Gonzalez

Luke Baxley Jr. flips through his pages to find the poem that he will read to express his creativity.

and for everyone to show their creativity and ideas," Elgin Jumper said.

Kicking off the night was none other than one of the organizers Moses Jumper Jr. greeted, thanked and shared a blessing with the attendees for joining them at the creative expression night.

Elgin Jumper took the stage first, reading a work from his favorite poet, William Butler Yeats. Next, Moses Jumper Jr. shared some of his own poetry from his published book *Echoes in the Wind*. Gordon Oliver Wareham took the stage and played his "Flute Song" as well as his "Tiger Song." Wareham also shared some storytelling with the group.

Some of the Tribe's younger members, Amila Baxley, Luke Baxley Jr., Isabel Tucker and Deila Harjo, also read original poetry at the event. In addition, Regina Jumper Thimo also recited her own poetry and sang.

## Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant

The Seminole Princess Committee and the Tribal Council are in the planning stages for the upcoming Miss and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant, scheduled for the evening of July 26.

Please mark your calendar and make plans to attend the crowning of the new princesses. If you have any questions please contact Wanda Bowers at (954) 444-9827 or Ext. 11468.

For applications please contact Mercedes Osceola-Hahn, Hollywood, Alice Billie, Big Cypress, Salina Dorgan, Brighton Recreation Department, Tampa Tribal Office, Fort Pierce Tribal Office and Maria Billie, Immokalee Tribal Office.



Save the Date - July 26, 2008



## Community News



(L-R) Cady Osceola, Drake Lawrence, Stoney Fish and J-Wayco Billie (Front) compete in a water noodle race at the Spring Break Pool Party.

## Kids Attend Poolside Spring Break Party

By Susan Etzebarria  
**BRIGHTON** — More than 65 of the Brighton community's youngest members enjoyed a poolside party, held during Spring Break on March 31 at the Brighton Pool. This event was the third in a series of events to help promote a drug free lifestyle.

"Brighton Family Services and the Brighton Recreation Department teamed up to sponsor the pool party and cook out," said Valerie Marone, Family Services Department community events coordinator.

Brighton Family Services Department staff members are making every effort to get out and meet the kids at these events and teach them the benefits of being drug-free. By reaching out, the youth get to know the counselors, and in turn, they are more likely to seek support and



Relay race winners (L-R): Kelton Smedley, Cyrus Smedley, Joshua Madrigal and Drayton Billie.



Buddies (L-R) Aidan Tommie, Gage Riddle and Daven Buck kick back at the cookout.

guidance if they are having problems.

Recreation Department staff members Al McGruff and Jason Tommie were on hand to assist with grilling hamburgers and hot dogs for the kids to enjoy.

"We will continue to provide monthly drug free activities," Marone said. "The next event will be a talent show and poster contest. Since April is Alcohol Awareness Month, we are having our next party on April 25," said Marone.

### Smaewley Holata Mother's Day Celebration

Tuesday - May 6th, 2008 @ 6:00 pm

Location: Brighton Gymnasium

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- ♦ Door prizes
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## Community News

### ❖ Easter

Continued from page 1

hammock as our ancestors once celebrated the return of the growing season and cleansing of their spirit. The cypress trees are bursting with new green foliage and the resurrection fern and flowers are springing back to life."

As with many family gatherings, the elders experienced a welcome opportunity to share in the enthusiasm.

Tahama Osceola talked about college graduation with her granddaughter, Jessica, as Ingraham Billie and his daughter, Maggie Porter, took a family portrait. OB Osceola Sr. was seen nearby with grandchildren crawling all over him, while Mary Osceola Moore ate lunch with her great-granddaughter, Melinda.



Kaley Zepeda is as pretty as the decorated eggs she is hunting.



Maggie Porter gives the Easter Bunny a big hug.

## Hollywood Preschool Easter Egg Hunt



Malacei Young, from the 4 year old class, finds hidden goodies everywhere along the playground.



Trace Wilcox bolts to find more goodies at the Preschool playground Easter egg hunt.



Heseli Two Shoes, from the 4 year old class, runs to get a hug from the Easter Bunny, who made a special appearance at the egg hunt.



(L-R) Aurora Cypress, Conchade Osceola and Jay Bowers, from the 4 year old class, pose in a picture with the Easter Bunny.



Jay Bowers, from the 4 year old class, speeds into overdrive to get as many eggs as possible at an additional egg hunt held at the Preschool playground.

## Seniors, Community, Bowlers Celebrate Easter

By Susan Ettebarria  
*Senior's Egg Hunt*

**BRIGHTON** — Easter celebrations at Brighton included the seniors' annual egg hunt on March 20.

The big winner was Oneva Baxley who not only scooped up two prize eggs, numbers three and four, but also won a prize for finding the most eggs. Happy Jones won the No. 1 egg, Billy Micco found the No. 2, and Molly Shore the No. 5.

The plastic eggs gathered outdoors on the lawn were exchanged for colored boiled eggs



Billy Micco wins an Easter Bunny prize.

Susan Ettebarria

inside where seniors later enjoyed soffee and a hearty lunch.

All the seniors were given Easter baskets stuffed with treats and some won a second Easter basket as a door prize. Other prizes included beautiful floral arrangements, a perfect table setting for the holiday.

Pastor Wonder Johns of 1st Indian Baptist Church of Brighton blessed the meal with prayer and reminded everyone about the meaning of Easter.

"We celebrate Easter in

memory of Our Lord Jesus Christ and His resurrection," he said.

He invited the seniors to attend the church's Easter Sunday Services and enjoy a luncheon following.

Dan Bowers announced there would be Easter services at Seminole Baptist Church as well, followed by a picnic and day long celebration.

Happy Jones invited all the seniors to attend traditional Easter Sunday sunrise services that she hosts every year at her home.



Shule Jones hunts for eggs.

Susan Ettebarria

### Community Egg Hunt

On March 21 the Chairman's Office and Recreation Department co-sponsored the Brighton Community Egg Hunt.

The event began with an exciting children's hunt in the morning and adults egg hunt in the afternoon. Under the canopies of trees in the side yard of the gym, ages 7 and older, hunted eggs in age-designated areas while the children younger than 7 hunted near the playground swings and slides.



Aidan Tommie, 6, finds 22 eggs and prize egg No. 3 in 5-7 year old division.

Susan Ettebarria



Lahna Sedatol finds egg No. 2 in 8-9 year-old division.

Susan Ettebarria



Hunter Howard finds winning egg No. 2 in 5-7 year old division.

Susan Ettebarria



In the 8-9 year old division, Aiyanna Tommie found egg No. 1.

Susan Ettebarria



Rudy Juarez IV having fun at bowling tourney.

Susan Ettebarria

### Easter Bowling Party

The Non-Resident Liaison's Office hosted the first-ever Easter Family Bowling Tournament at Stardust Lanes in Okeechobee on Good Friday. Liaison Holly Tiger-Bowers said invitations were sent to all Tribal citizens living both on and off-reservation.

Most of the family bowlers were non-residents who live in Okeechobee, said Tiger-Bowers. Since this was a family event, the adults were required to bowl with children. There were 64 attendees that made up eight teams. Teams were comprised of one child matched to one adult.

The bowlers played three games starting at noon. The games were Regular, No Tap and 3-6-9, and each time the game changed each child had to draw for a new adult partner.

"That way a child played with three different adults which was a good way for everyone to get to know one another," said Tiger-Bowers.

Outnumbered parents bringing more than one child to bowl were invited to bring other family members to help. Each child bowled with a parent first and then they were switched in the next two games to level the playing field and improve the chances of winning for each parent.

Salina Dorgan of the Brighton Recreation Dept. manned the sign up desk and helped tally scores. Winners were: Game 1: Jonathan Frank/Bobby Frank, 2. Brent Frank/Bobby Frank; Game 2: 1. Cameron Dorgan/Bobby Frank, 2. Alesia Dorgan/Ben Purvis; Game 3: 1. Rumor Juarez/George Micco, 2. Cameron Dorgan/Ben Purvis.



Grandfather Albert Snow and his granddaughter McKayla Snow bowl together.

Susan Ettebarria



(L-R) Ridge Bailey, 7, mom, Rinella Bailey, and Billy Bailey, 6, enjoy family togetherness at the bowling alley.

Susan Ettebarria

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## Community News

### Kids Fun Day at Okalee Village



Gator John shows the kids an opossum and answers their questions about the animal.



Olivia Brown, 7, smiles as she shows the Easter egg she found.



The Okalee Village Easter festivities included making colorful Easter eggs.



Immokalee's seniors gather in front of the Senior Center before embarking on carriage rides.

### Easter Festivities Abound in Immokalee

By Judy Weeks

**IMMOKALEE** — The seniors attended the first of three Easter events in Immokalee on March 19 when they participated in an egg hunt, Bingo game and luncheon. The annual Easter basket and hat contest featured flowers, bunnies, chicks, eggs, ribbons, candy and Seminole dolls. A great deal of imagination went into creating these works of art and the judging of the items was a very difficult task. Louise Motlow won first place for both best hat and basket. The second prize went to Rachel Billie's hat and Elaine Aguilar's basket, while Ruth Osceola came in third in both categories.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Big Cypress Council Rep. David Cypress stopped by to visit with the seniors at their luncheon.

"Easter was always a big social event for us when the churches at Big Cypress would hold their annual egg hunts," said David Cypress. "The ladies of the church



Kunchatee Tahchawickah found the colorful eggs strewn around the lawn very tempting.



Judy Weeks

Ozzie Garza quickly managed to fill his giant basket with Easter eggs.

would spend all day cooking traditional Seminole favorites over the fire. It was a family day that included the whole community because, of course, we are all one big extended family."

The Immokalee Seminole Ranch gave the seniors and their guests a ride around the community in their vintage carriage drawn by two white horses. Later the same day, the Education Department drew a crowd of youngsters from the afterschool program for their egg decorating contest and hunt.

The Immokalee community gathered at the ball field on March 22, when the Recreation Department coordinated with several other departments to provide a day of fun filled events.

The golf range and baseball field had been sectioned off to accommodate various age groups for the annual Easter egg hunt, which employed plastic award filled eggs, candy and prizes for the most eggs collected in each division.

A kid friendly, barbecue luncheon and social hour were followed by an afternoon of contests that included egg tosses, wheel barrow races, sack races and a hole-in-one golf competition. Water slides, bounce houses and face painting were a big hit.



Judy Weeks

Spencer Aguilar shows off the egg that held his money prize.



Judy Weeks

Gage Osceola keeps a tight grip on his sippy cup while collecting candy eggs.



Judy Weeks

The whistle blows and Ava Osceola is off and running in the Immokalee egg hunt.

## Become a Certified Healthy Relationships Trainer!

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## Community News



Judy Weeks

A tulip centerpiece highlights the table where Claudia Doctor plays bingo.



Judy Weeks

Louise Osceola carefully opens the plastic eggs, hunting for the rewards hidden inside.

## Seniors Celebrate Easter, Birthdays

By Judy Weeks

**BIG CYPRESS** — Visitors from the Tamiami Trail and Brighton communities joined the Big Cypress seniors for a combined Easter and birthday celebration on March 18 at the Senior Center.

Festivities got underway with an Easter egg hunt in the Culture Village with prizes being awarded for the most eggs collected. In the Easter basket decorating contest, entrants used a wide variety of materials to express themselves, resulting in some extraordinary creations.

The day's activities included several games of Bingo and door prizes that followed the Easter theme. A hilarious highlight of the party was a film clip that featured the heads of Louise Osceola, Teresa Jumper and Virginia Tommie affixed to cartoon bodies, performing dance routines to songs that they had previously recorded.

Following the luncheon, Chairman Mitchell Cypress and President Richard Bowers Jr. socialized with the group and joined them in looking through copies of vintage photographs as they attempted to identify their ancestors. Alice Billie received a reprint of a picture taken during her youth, which brought back fond memories.

President Bowers Jr. recalled past Easters as he reminisced about the Creek missionaries who brought

Christianity to South Florida, the establishment of churches on Seminole reservations and the significance of the holiday.

"Regardless of religious beliefs, Easter brings the promise of spring and the renewal of life," he said. "Our ancestors looked forward to this time to prepare the soil for planting their crops and celebrated the new life that arose from the soil."



Judy Weeks

It was easy to see the similarity between Alice Billie now, and a photo taken of her during her youth.

## Easter Egg Hunt Held for Hollywood Seniors



Felix DeBoz

Senior Dorothy Tommie quickly picks up the eggs she finds at the Easter egg hunt, held at Hollywood's Osceola Baseball Field on March 19.



Felix DeBoz

Leslie Osceola, Bird Clan, stands by the colorful Easter baskets the seniors made.



Felix DeBoz

The seniors are lined up and ready to hunt down Easter eggs.



Felix DeBoz

Joan Billie from Trail gathers as many eggs as she can find.

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## Community News

### BC Preschool Hosts Easter Egg Hunt



Sontino Billie (R) and classmate Evan Cypress (L) admire their Easter baskets.



Carlise Bermudez, 3, collected a basketful of multi-colored eggs.



Members of the Preschool staff and the 3 year olds count their Easter eggs after the hunt.

### B&GC Hosts Teen Center Grand Opening

#### 'Rock the Block' Party Held for Tribal Youth

By Felix Dobosz

**HOLLYWOOD** — Classic rock music blasted at the Rock the Block party to let everyone know they were at a celebration. On March 13, The Boys & Girls Club (B&GC) of the Seminole Tribe of Florida celebrated the grand opening of their new Teen Center in Hollywood.

The double wide Teen Center trailer is located next door to the double wide trailer that houses the B&GC. The newly decorated and landscaped courtyard between the two facilities creates a friendly fenced-in campus type environment. The new trailer has several large activity rooms, a modern kitchen, bathrooms and offices for Director Robert C. North Sr. and the support staff.

"We've been working very hard to get it open and to get more of our youths involved in character building activities, specifically our teens," North, who also emceed the event, said. "We are providing alternative activities for our teens, and we want to be more popular than other activities, so that means we have to work a little harder ... we want to be more popular than the drug pushers, we want to be more popular than the bars, all those types of things."

"We understand and accept the challenge putting together a product here to attract and encourage young people to further their own development and really prepare them for adulthood," he added.

The air conditioned Teen Center features one room with a new eight-foot pool table the



Boys & Girls Club Director Robert North Sr. gives a tour of the new Teen Center.

youngsters can use to hone their skills. The adjacent room has an entertainment center with comfortable black leather couches, a large 50 inch HDTV, DVD player and video game devices, such as the new Nintendo Wii.

A couple of new desktop computers are also available for the youngsters to use for school homework studies and the outdoor fenced-in patio has several picnic tables and a new table tennis game for the kids to play on.

North said he appreciates the Tribal Council and the Housing Department for their assistance in making the Teen Center a reality for the Hollywood Seminole community. He also said

he hopes that these teen programs can be augmented at other Seminole reservations in the future.

Hollywood Board Rep. Gloria Wilson welcomed everyone to the Teen Center grand opening. She said she feels it is important for community members to come out and support these types of events because they benefit the entire community. Wilson also encouraged the teens to take advantage of the new programs, services and activities that have been organized for them.

This Teen Center is open for 12-18 year olds from 4-8 p.m., Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, and 4-6 p.m. on Wednesday and Friday.



Some Tribal youngsters enjoy a friendly game of table tennis at the new Teen Center.

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### Teen Center

The Boys & Girls Club Teen Center began full operation on Thursday, March 13

The Teen Center will offer regularly scheduled Teen Empowerment Classes, indoor & outdoor activities, field trips and other teen-related activities

Hours of Operation  
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Wednesday, Friday: 4-6 p.m.

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# Tribal 4-H'ers Show, Sell Their Livestock at Annual Event

By Judy Weeks

**BRIGHTON** — The 2007-2008 Seminole 4-H season neared its completion on March 27-28 with the annual Livestock Show and Sale, which took place at the Brighton 4-H barn. During the ensuing weeks, the end of the year wrap up will take place followed by the 4-H Awards Banquet to officially end the season.

Seminole 4-H Director Polly Hayes spent a very busy 2007-2008 season coordinating the leaders on each reservation, setting up the programs, helping with livestock selection, weigh-ins and clinics, among other things.

"This is a big job and I want to thank my co-workers and talented staff members for their cooperation ... which has resulted in the completion of another successful and productive season," Hayes said.

Daily attention was necessary throughout the season, beginning with the receipt of the livestock. However, during the final weeks, minutes stretched into hours, and then turned into days spent handling, grooming and working on showmanship. Thanks to the accumulated effort of the participants, their families and sponsors, the projects were ready for completion at the time of the final weigh-in.

In the final hours leading up to the Show and Sale, the livestock had to be transported to the show barn and pass the weigh-in qualifications. Steers were evaluated in the shifters pen in order to ensure safety for the livestock owners and their competition while in the holding pens and show ring.

Seminole 4-H Extension Agent Michael Bond remarked, "I am very proud of this fine group of young people. It has been a pleasure to work with them and I look forward to their return next year."

During the final hours before the show, the barn was a bee hive of activity with animals being bathed, pens cleaned and last minute preparations.

Immokalee Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar commented: "Everyone appeared to be cooperating, lending a helping hand where needed and working together. Not just competition, but friends and neighbors learning to work together toward a common goal."

Mary Jene Koenes offered the invocation at both the Show and Sale prior to the Pee Wee Exhibition and Small Animal Show, which included ducks, chickens, rabbits, hogs and a heifer calf.

Then, Bond introduced this year's judges, Dallas Townsend and Don Strickland. With clipboards in hand they alternated their responsibilities, examining stock and observing the exhibitors.

The animals were divided into weight classes for the purposes of judging, but their owners were separated into Junior and Senior Divisions for showmanship. The steers were divided into four classes. Each exhibitor paraded his entry around the arena and then stopped it for careful examination by the judge before taking their place in the final lineup.

Townsend has many years of experience evaluating livestock. He spends a great deal of time with each entry and then offers valuable tips prior to announcing his decisions. Meanwhile, Strickland kept a watchful eye on the youngsters and their handling techniques, composure, general attitude and eye contact in preparation for declaring showmanship awards.

Out of 14 contenders, this year's Grand Champion Steer weighed in at 1,135 pounds and belonged to Kenny Joe Davis Jr., 10, of Immokalee. The Reserve Grand Champion went to a 1,154 pound raised by Brighton's Jaryaca Baker, 13.

First place in Senior Showmanship went to Brighton's Erena Billie, a veteran 4-H exhibitor. Receiving the highest award in Junior Showmanship was Jessie Osceola, also of Brighton. Sterling silver belt buckles were awarded to the winners.

Norman Johns, Emma Jane Urbina and 2008 Brighton Seminole Princess Jaryaca Baker were invaluable stewards in the arena throughout the



The 2008 Grand Champion Steer belonged to Kenny Joe Davis Jr., 10, of Immokalee, who poses here with his father, Kenny Joe Davis Sr.



Brighton Council Rep. Roger Smith congratulates the owner of the Reserve Grand Champion Steer, Jaryaca Baker, 13, of Brighton.



Brighton Council Rep. Roger Smith congratulates the owner of the Grand Champion Swine, Rylee Smith, from Brighton.

## 22nd Annual 4-H Livestock Show & Sale Results

### Steer

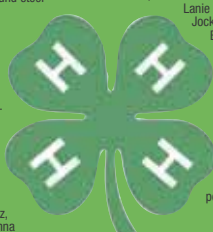
Grand Champion: Kenny Joe Davis Jr., 1,135 pound steer  
Reserve Grand Champion: Jaryaca Baker, 1,154 pound steer  
Senior Showmanship: Erena Billie, 1,140 pound steer  
Junior Showmanship: Jessie Osceola, 1,080 pound steer

First Place, Blue Ribbon: Blake Baker, Alexis Aguilar, Breanna Billie, Kristina Osceola;  
Second Place, Blue Ribbon: Kristina Osceola, Dalton Koenes, Marshall Tommie; Third Place: Kaigary Johns; Third Place, Red Ribbon: Erena Billie, Jessie Osceola, Rayven Smith; Fourth Place, Red Ribbon: Justin Garza, Seth Randolph.

### Swine

Grand Champion: Rylee Smith, 263 pound hog  
Reserve Grand Champion: Jacob Cotton, 265 pound hog

First Place, Blue Ribbon: Jessica Lopez, Mika Lopez, Callen Tommie, Tana Osceola, Arianna Nunez, Cyrus Smedley; Second Place, Blue Ribbon: Nicholas Correa, Bonnie Davis, Aiyana Tommie, Kylier Baker, Chastity Harmon, Sabre Billie, Drayton Billie, Ruben Burgess Jr.; Third Place, Blue Ribbon: Chelsey Alvarado, Jay Roberts, Destinee Jimmie, Andre Jumper, Justin Osceola, Courtney Gore, Christian Alexander, Amy Nunez; Fourth Place, Blue Ribbon: Nikki Davis, Jonah Alvarado, Alexis Jimmie, Ahnie Jumper, Keniya Yzaguirre.



### Pee Wee Exhibitors

Ramona Baker, Chihuahua; Phienan Baker, Chihuahua; Cassandra Alexander, duck; Charles Alexander, duck; Cameron Thomas, rabbit; Conner Thomas, rabbit; Dayra Koenes, rabbit; Trinity Williams, rabbit; Nicolas Andrews, rabbit; Marley Herrera, rabbit; Jaiyah Arteaga, rabbit; Keanu Correa, rabbit; Ives Baker, rabbit; Aiyke Baker, rabbit; Dasani Fry, hog; Dayra Koenes, Heifer calf.



Ahnies Jumper relaxes with the hog she raised for this year's 4-H project.



Blake Baker and Oreo are all spruced up and ready for the livestock show.



Owner of the Swine Reserve Champion, Jacob Cotton (L) joins Jon and Cassandra Jimmie in parading their entries before the judge.



Winning first place in Junior Steer Showmanship, Jessie Osceola shows off her prize belt buckle.



Dalton Koenes cleans his steer's ear under the watchful eye of Mary Jene Koenes prior to the 4-H Livestock Show.

Show and Sale. However, they could not have done their jobs without the parents and staff who so competently handled the stock behind the scenes.

The 65 contenders in the swine portion of the show were divided into eight weight classes with six-nine entries, permitting a first place award in each class. Using a show cane, participants moved their pigs around the arena allowing Judge Strickland to evaluate their overall health, conformation, and ratio of muscle to fat. As he announced the winners in each class, he described the reasoning behind his decision and the necessary steps to finishing these swine.

Meanwhile, Judge Townsend kept his eye upon the exhibitors who strive to remain with their pig, keep one hand behind their back, always face the judge and smile. This is not an easy demeanor to achieve while attempting to control their livestock, but some of the youngsters have shown for several years and have become quite adept in showmanship.

The winning places were announced by class and then all first place entries returned to the arena to be re-judged. Strickland carefully re-examined each pig, talked with its owner and finally gave a comprehensive critique before announcing that the Grand Champion belonged to Brighton's Rylee Smith and the Reserve Championship went to Jacob Cotton of Big Cypress.

Changing places, Judge Townsend requested 11 seniors to return with their swine to the arena, where he eventually announced that Big Cypress' Jessica Lopez had taken first place in Senior Showmanship.

Twelve Junior participants were asked back and after a difficult process of elimination, the judge determined that Kylier Baker from Brighton would take first place in Junior Showmanship.

At the conclusion of the Show, Bond presented both judges with Seminole jackets on behalf of the 4-H Program in appreciation for their services.

The Buyer's Dinner was held at 5 p.m. on March 28, followed by the Pee Wee Exhibition, before the 2008 4-H Sale got underway. Opening with the Grand and Reserve Champions, bidders got an opportunity to view some extraordinary examples of livestock. Fourteen steers and 67 swine were auctioned off during the bidding process, bringing some excellent prices.

Prior to the beginning of the sale, President Richard Bowers Jr. introduced a very special guest. ESPN Producer Sam Dunn, who was responsible for the telecast of the 49th Annual 2007 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas and the Xtreme Bull Tour presentations in the U.S., came forward to congratulate the Seminole 4-H participants.

Joining President Bowers Jr. and Dunn was National Bull Riding Champion Chance Smart, the current PRCA World Standings list and a winner in the Xtreme Bulls Tour Championships. The Seminole Tribe and Seminole Hard Rock will be sponsoring this outstanding athlete during the 2008 season.

In addition, a buyer's basket was presented by each of the grateful youngsters to the winning bidder of their livestock. Then the 4-H participants posed with their entry and buyer for a photo opportunity before the conclusion of the auction.

Brighton Council Rep. Roger Smith said: "The 4-H Program teaches responsibility, credibility and family values. These are qualities that are essential in the development of our youth and preservation of our culture."

The Small Animal Club auctioned off a John Deere® quilt as a fundraiser, which was purchased by President Richard Bowers Jr. and Big Cypress Board Rep. Cicero Osceola.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress said: "Raising livestock requires diligence and responsibility. Looking at the livestock auctioned here this evening, it is obvious that these youngsters have what it takes to be successful in whatever career they choose."



Paul Bowers, bidding on behalf of the Big Cypress Council Office, and Brighton Seminole Princess Jaryaca Baker pose with Jay Roberts and the hog he just purchased.



Leaning into the grooming glove, Justice Baker's hog enjoys all the attention he is getting.





(L-R) President Richard Bowers Jr. on the trail with national Bull Riding Champion Chance Smart.

## ❖ Cattle Drive

Continued from page 1

survive the shipping and the remainder struggled on the trail to their new homes.

"Having a rich heritage with the tough Cracker cattle, these resourceful cowboys nursed their herds back to health, overcame drought, cattle tick infestation and blight as they built a foundation for the Seminole Tribe's massive cattle industry, which ranks among the top ten in the United States today."

Joe Osceola Sr. was this year's honorary trail boss. Raised along the eastern edge of the Everglades, Osceola began with a few head of cattle and built a herd that has sustained his family for many years.

"My whole family got involved," he said. "From my wife, Martha, in the camp, to my sons and daughters working the cattle round ups, pens and shipping, this has been a family operation."

Chairman Mitchell Cypress welcomed the riders.

"God has given us a beautiful day to follow in the footsteps of our forefathers," Chairman Cypress said. "It took them days to round up the cattle from the brush and drive them to the pens. Our task will be easy by comparison."

After an introduction of VIPs by President Richard Bowers Jr., he signaled for the cattle to be released and the drive to get underway. Following a similar circumstance in the previous year, some of the cattle scattered into the nearby woodlands, requiring a quick round up. With the majority of the herd recovered, the 12 mile drive began, taking the route down West Boundary Road, into the Big Cypress community and winding up at the Junior Cypress Entertainment Complex.

Midway on the trail, the cattle, horses and riders all welcomed their arrival at the rest area in Mary Jene Koenes' pasture. While there, several speakers addressed the gathering.

President Bowers Jr. introduced Sam Dunn, famed rodeo and Xtreme Bull producer for the ESPN network. Dunn announced that the Seminole Tribe and the



Chairman Mitchell Cypress relives memories of previous cattle drives.



Honorary Trail Boss Joe Osceola, Sr. (Center, in vest) and members of his family thank Brighton Council Rep. Roger Smith (L) and (from R to L) Paul Bowers, Chairman Mitchell Cypress and President Richard Bowers Jr. for the opportunity to participate in the 12th Annual Junior Cypress Cattle Drive.



Champion Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association bull rider Chance Smart thanks the Seminole Tribe for their sponsorship.



Chairman Mitchell Cypress leads the cattle drive into Mary Jene Koenes' pasture.



(L-R) Dennis DeVoe and Paul Bowers ride shotgun on the stagecoach at the cattle drive.

Seminole Hard Rock are sponsoring national bull riding champion Chance Smart.

Chairman Cypress then acknowledged the importance of cattle owners like the Trail Boss Joe Osceola Sr. and his family.

"Men like Joe are the backbone of our cattle industry and they have given us the footprints to follow in developing the programs that we have instituted on our road to success," he said.

Third generation cattle owner, Mary Jene Koenes, addressed the gathering and talked about her grandfather, Albert Billie, one of the original Big Cypress cattlemen.

"Ours was a total family operation and with mostly girls, my grandfather didn't cut us any slack," Koenes said. "We rounded up cows on foot in the brush from daylight to dark and performed every task imaginable as we raised and marketed our herd."

Returning to the trail, the route was covered with cattle, horses,



Jobe Johns scored 56 points in the Calf Riding event.

riders, covered wagons, buckboards, carriages, a stagecoach and swamp buggies as the caravan slowly made its way to the Rodeo Arena at the Junior Cypress Entertainment Center.

After a long day in the saddle, the riders were treated to a delicious barbecue supper while being entertained by a host of speakers.

Moses "Big" Juniper Jr. recited his classic poem entitled "Indian Cowboy Dreams" and talked about his grandfather, Morgan Smith. Reliving highlights of his career in cattle, working with children and rodeo, and said he thanked God for the many opportunities he was afforded during his lifetime.

President Richard Bowers Jr. passed the mic around the building, moving from person to person, while providing a running commentary.

Past experiences, mishaps, laughs and good times created memories that the participants of the 12th Annual Junior Cypress Cattle Drive will carry with them for a long time.

The event would not be complete without a stellar performance by the members of the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association. This was the first activity to take place in the newly-constructed entertainment complex and hopefully will set the stage for many years to come.

The contract entertainment throughout the production was the very popular Hollywood Harris and his son, Booger Head. An all time favorite with rodeo enthusiasts, Harris kept the crowd laughing all night long with his commentary and jokes, while his son's antics played into the performance.

Brighton cowboy Randel Osceola, 17, took to the clay for the fourth time as he embarks on his career in bull fighting. Growing up in rodeo, he said he started as a mutton buster and has ridden livestock in all categories. It is hardly a surprise that he plans to make a career as a bull fighter. Under the watchful eye of his mentor, John Copsey, he holds a bright future.



Mary Jene Koenes talks about the Seminole Tribe's cattle culture.



The 12th Annual Junior Cypress Cattle Drive moves along the trail at Big Cypress.



## Community News

### Sheila Bevenue Receives Keys to New Home



Tribal citizen Sheila Bevenue (C) poses with members of the Tribal Housing Department after receiving keys to her new home on April 8.



The home is a four bedroom, 2.5 bathroom residence, located on Farmer's Road in Big Cypress.



Traveling two and three to a canoe, the Naples field trip made its way down the Blackwater River.



Grillmaster Corey Billie prepares the picnic lunch during the canoe adventure.

### Tribal Youngsters Enjoy Canoeing Adventure

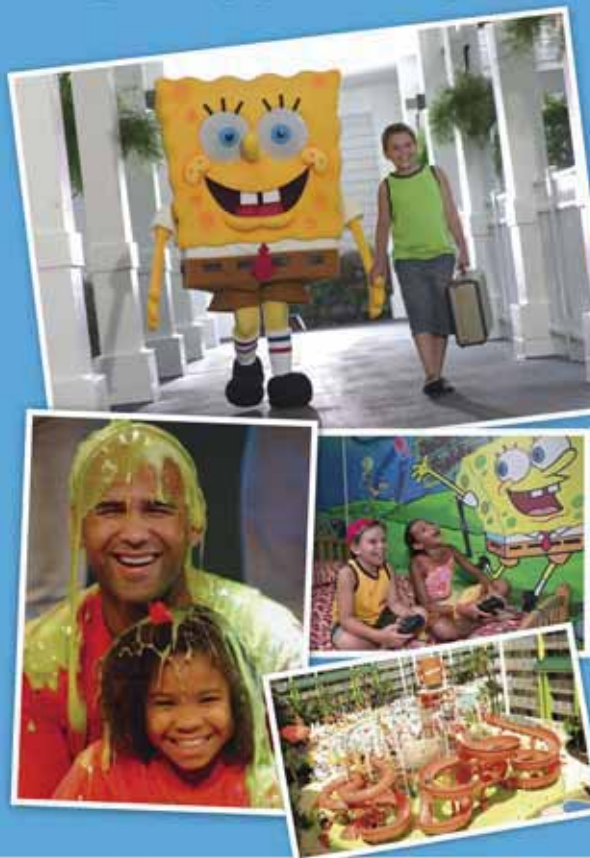
By Judy Weeks  
ROYAL PALM HAMMOCK, Fla. — Fifteen youngsters from the Naples community enjoyed an afternoon adventure on March 20. Corey Billie and Sandy Osceola organized a canoe trip down the Black Water River at Royal Palm Hammock State Park.

For the majority, it was a first time experience with hilarious consequences. Their laughter could be heard throughout the canoe trip in which the children meandered in and out of the mangroves, while learning to paddle and steer their canoes.

Eventually, they got the hang of it and took off with Billie in the lead and Osceola bringing up the rear of their small caravan. It was a beautiful afternoon for exploring the backwaters of the Ten Thousand Islands and witnessing nature up close and personal.

It didn't take long for two hours of paddling to feel like an all day event. The hungry travelers willingly returned to shore, where Billie grilled some hamburgers and hot dogs as conversation centered on plans for their next outing.

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## Sports · Ham-pa-leesh-ke · Vkkopynvk

## Brighton A-Team Wins OVA Championship Game



The Brighton A-Team poses with Coaches Jo "Boogie" Jumper (R) and Holly Osceola (L) after winning the championship game against OVA.

By Elizabeth Leila  
**ORLANDO** — The Brighton A-Team girls volleyball squad was victorious in the Orlando Volleyball Academy Spring Fling, held in Orlando, March 15-16. According to Coach Jo "Boogie" Jumper, the team played three hard fought games on March 15 and two the following day.

The 10 and Under girls team went undefeated and dominated Orlando Volleyball Academy (OVA) in the championship game.

"All our girls played hard, and did a very good job, said Jumper. "This is our first year and these girls are showing a lot of natural ability that it takes to make a winning team. They are really coming together."

Acting Director of Education Emma Johns congratulated the team and also gave a special thank you to Coaches Jo Jumper and Holly Osceola.

"This was only the third time the girls have played together as a team and they are displaying so much heart already, which truly makes the team," Johns said. "If we didn't have the commitment from the coaches then this wouldn't be possible."

Jumper credited the Brighton Recreation Department for much of the team's success.

"I would like to thank Richard Osceola and the Brighton Recreation staff for all their help through the volleyball season," she said.

## Tribe Sponsors PRCA Bull Riding World Champ

Submitted by Sam Dunn

**BIG CYPRESS** — On March 29, during the annual Cattle Drive, the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Seminole Hard Rock Hotels, Casinos and Cafés announced their sponsorship of national bull riding champion Chance Smart at a ceremony held at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena. Smart currently leads the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association's (PRCA) World Standings list with year-to-date earnings of \$117,739.

In making the announcement, Board of Directors President Richard Bowers Jr. said: "Chance Smart has participated in bull riding events on the southeast circuit for several years, and has always been a crowd favorite whenever he comes to Brighton. We got to know him better when we sponsored him at the Wrangler NFR last year and he's a great representative for the Seminole Tribe of Florida and our Hard Rock Hotels, Casinos and Cafés."

"Besides, how can you be in the gaming industry and not bet on a bull rider with the name Chance Smart," President Bowers Jr. added.

Smart, 25, is a resident of

Philadelphia, Miss. He joined the PRCA in 2004 and placed third at the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in 2007. He placed second in the 2007 Dodge Xtreme Bulls Tour Championship and is currently leading the 2008 Dodge Xtreme Bulls Tour standings, with one tour stop win in San Antonio this year.

"I'm really excited about representing the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Seminole Hard Rock properties," said Smart. "They've been a great supporter of PRCA rodeo and bull riding and I'm going to be doing everything I can to make sure their faith in me and in the sport pays off."

Last December, the Seminole Hard Rock Hotels, Casinos and Cafés became the first presenting sponsor of ESPN's telecast of the 49th Annual 2007 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo (WNFR) in Las Vegas with an estimated viewership of more than 40 million during the 10-day event. Dubbed the "Super Bowl of Rodeo," the WNFR is the largest and richest professional rodeo event in the world.



Chris Jenkins

Bull riding champion Chance Smart (L) with President Richard Bowers Jr.

## Tribal Boxing Team Receives Top Honors

Four Standout Performances at Golden Gloves Championships

By Carolyn Billie

**BOCA RATON, Fla.** — The 2008 Florida Golden Gloves State Championships were held at Grandview Preparatory School in Boca Raton, March 28-29. Coach Richard Clark took seven members of the Seminole Recreation Boxing Team to the competition, bringing home four championships.

Neko Osceola, 12, boxing in the Junior Division, was designated a Walkover Champion for his age group. Osceola also won his last boxing match in Key West on Feb. 9.

Samuel "Chris" Hunter II, Bird Clan, and Dejong Frank, Panther Clan, competed in the 15-16 year old Junior Division. Hunter won his first match on the night of March 28, which set him up for the championship match the following day. Frank had a bye during competition on March 28, putting him in the championship bout against Hunter, who would emerge victorious.



Jimmy Osceola

(L-R) Dejong Frank and Samuel "Chris" Hunter II battle it out for the Florida Golden Gloves welterweight class championship. Hunter would emerge victorious.



Jimmy Osceola

(L-R) Dejong Frank, John Seward, Jeff Lowe, George Quintero, Samuel "Chris" Hunter II, Coach Richard Clark and Neko Osceola (Center, Kneeling).

Both boxers have been training at the Seminole Recreation Boxing Gym, located in the Hollywood Gym complex, and competed in the Silver Gloves Championships in West Palm Beach earlier this year.

Other boxers on the team were Jeff Lowe, 196 pound heavyweight, who won his championship match, and George Quintero, 152 pound middleweight champion. John Seward won in the semi-finals, but was defeated in the open middleweight division championship, and fellow boxer Jeremiah Ramirez lost his championship bout.

Jimmy Osceola, Seminole Recreation Boxing Team coordinator, said he was proud of the team. He added that the team would not be possible without the support of Marl Osceola, Steve Young and Moses "Bigg" Jumper Jr.

## Adult, Youth Compete at Virgil Billie Hoops Tourney

By Chris Jenkins

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Annual Virgil Billie Memorial Basketball Tournament had a little variety and fun for all on April 4-5.

The tournament, now in its third year, featured several age group categories as well as 3-on-3 and 5-on-5 basketball action. The event was open to Seminole and Miccosukee Tribal citizens, with prizes going to the winners.

Big Cypress Recreation Director Stan Frischman said it was a successful gathering.

"We always have a good turnout for this and it's something the players always look forward to," Frischman said.



Chris Jenkins

Michelle Jimmie prepares for her shot.



Chris Jenkins

Leslie Osceola drives the ball down the court.



Chris Jenkins

Darlah Cypress cuts through defenders.



Chris Jenkins

Alonzo Wargolet takes a shot during the 8 & Under championship game.

#### Adult Division

Women: 1. Hollywood, 2. Trail, 3. Herrikanes; Men: 1. Big Town, 2. Trail Kings, 3. Dem Boyz

#### Youth Division

Ages 8 and Under Co-Ed: 1. Lil Cane, 2. Lil Hustlers; 10 and Under Co-Ed: 1. Este Chade, 2. Trail, 3. Little BC; 14 and Under Boys: 1. BC Seminoles, 2. Bout Dat; 17 and Under Girls: 1. Lady Ballers, 2. Brighton Girls, 3. BC Lady Seminoles; 4. Trail; 17 and Under Boys: 1. BC Seminole, 2. Este Chade, 3. Brighton Seminoles.

## Annual Herman L. Osceola Memorial Tourney Held

By Chris Jenkins

**BIG CYPRESS** — The 24th Annual All-Indian Herman L. Osceola Basketball Tournament, held March 27-29, was another great success.

As one of the longest running hoops events in the Tribe, this year saw seven women and six men's teams competing. The three days of competition featured the Legends Division, ages 35 and older, the Adult Division, ages 18 and older, and three-point contest with prizes awarded to the winners.

Mother Ruby Osceola said her son Herman, Bird Clan, was well respected in the Tribal community and involved in many of the recreation activities for the youth and teens.

"Every year when these kids come and play I'm happy because they are like my own kids," she said.



Chris Jenkins

Deforest Carter squares up for his freethrow attempt.



Chris Jenkins

Amos Huggins skies high for a rebound during his game.



Chris Jenkins

Byron Billie runs down the court to set up a fast break.



Chris Jenkins

Ruby Osceola (C), mother of Herman, with three point contest winners Elizabeth Osceola (L) and Amos Moses Billie (R).



## Sports • Ham-pa-leesh-ke • Vkkopvkv

## Skate Park Hosts Rally at the Ramps

By Chris Jenkins

**BIG CYPRESS** — On April 1, the Big Cypress Skate Park hosted what could be the beginning of an organized skateboarding club.

With the support of the Big Cypress Recreation and Family Services Departments, Rally at the Ramps offered skateboarding junkies the opportunity to perfect their skills imitating the likes of Tony Hawk, Mike McGill and other greats on the skateboard scene.

The event was complete with grinding rails, kicker ramps, grind boxes, raffle items and an electronic gaming wall for games and play as well as being catered with fun for all.

"We're trying to bring some new life into our skate parks," Big Cypress Recreation Manager Stan Frischman said.

Frischman said plans are to build on the event by involving other reservation skate parks with hopes of club membership and competitions.

Skateboarder Ellis Dang of Naples came out and said the day was fun. He explained that skateboarding is very fun and looks a lot harder than it really is.

"[Skateboarding] is really fun and not hard, you just have to keep on skating and you will get better and better," Dang said.

Frischman said promoting a healthy and safe environment is important as well.

"We are always promoting drug-free alternatives and that is what we have always been about," he said.



Chris Jenkins

It was a display of balance and skill for locals and guests.



Chris Jenkins

The gang takes a break in the action.



Judy Weeks

Louise Billie shows off a collage of photos of John Billie Sr.

## Friends, Family Honor John Billie Sr. at Tourney

By Judy Weeks

**BIG CYPRESS** — Participants gathered on the lawn behind the Big Cypress Senior Center on March 27 to compete in the 2nd Annual John Billie Sr. Horseshoe Tournament. A collage of framed photographs adorned the center table beneath the tent evoking good thoughts and old stories about their comrade.

Following an opening prayer, Louise Billie reminisced with her friends about the many years she had shared with her life partner, Big Cypress Council Rep. David Cypress lent humor to the occasion with his sharp wit and had everyone laughing as he recalled antics of growing up in Big Cypress.

"We owe a great deal to our elders, who taught us responsibility and respect," Rep. Cypress said. "Because of them, we are here today and will be able to fill the role of teachers for the next generation."

A portrait of John Billie Sr. was displayed on the front of the commemorative T-shirts and the Bear Clan appeared on the back. Door prizes were raffled throughout the event.

A relaxing meal inside the Senior Center followed a strenuous morning of competition. During this time out, the Broadcasting Department entertained the group with a film of the Big Cypress Seniors Easter party and the Preschool Easter egg hunt.

Returning to the horseshoe court, play



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Daisy Buster and Louise Billie try for a ring at the horseshoe tournament.

resumed with the following results: Men's Division: 1. David Jumper, 2. George Billie; Women's Division: 1. Elmira Billie, 2. Juanita Osceola, 3. Louise Billie, 4. Daisy Buster.

## Jennie Chalfant Remembered at Tournament

By Judy Weeks

**OKECHOBEE, Fla.** — Family and friends look forward to celebrating the memory of Jennie L. Chalfant each year. This annual event started in 1996 with softball, later becoming a bowling tournament, in order to accommodate a wider range of age categories.

Jennie's brother, Elbert Snow, and sister, Salina Dorgan, joined their mother, Alice Snow, in organizing this year's event, which took place at Stardust Lanes on April 5.

"Jennie was always energetic and loved life," Dorgan said. "A mother of two boys, she was stricken with kidney failure at 34 years old and underwent a transplant a year later. A real fighter, she wouldn't let anything keep her down and fought her way back to a healthy lifestyle, setting an example for everyone she came in contact with."

"She spent the next 10 years raising her sons and proving to be a vibrant member of the community," she added. "In 1995, she was suddenly overwhelmed by a deadly infection, which stole her away from us, leaving her family as her legacy."

Brighton Council Rep. Roger Smith remarked, "Jennie was much like her mother, my Aunt Alice. They carried the strength and determination of our ancestors in their blood. Women like this made it possible for our people to survive years of hardship and be where we are today."

Miss Florida Seminole 2007-2008

Jennifer Chalfant was very young when she lost her grandmother, but said she proudly bears her name and strives to carry on the tradition of her namesake.

Fifty-six participants entered this year's competition, including two special bowlers, Alice Snow, 86, and her cousin Rosie Billie, 70, who gave everyone a run for their money.


The tournament was comprised of four games: Regular, 3-6-9, Scotch Doubles and No Tap. Teams of male and female bowlers were formed with stiff competition and the prizes were awarded through 15 places, including three ties. Participants in the tournament all received bowling towels and T-shirts to commemorate the occasion.



Tribune Archive Photo

Jennie Snow Chalfant

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The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisement. Guy J. Seligman worked as a Certified Legal Intern in both the State Attorney and Public Defenders offices in Dade and Broward County, he has been in private practice for 16 years. He graduated from Nova Southeastern University Law School in 1987 and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1988.



# Sports · Ham-pa-leesh-ke · Vkkopynvkv

## Tribal Teams Compete at Kingfish Masters

*Hard Rock, Native Premonitions Teams Represent Tribe*



Felix Dolbow

(L-R) Seminole Hard Rock boat crew member Todd Nickel and Captain Christopher Osceola hold up two Kingfish they caught on March 29 at the three-day Ocean Promotions Kingfish Masters tournament, held in Miami.



Felix Dolbow

Frank Miele, of the Tribe's Native Premonitions team, holds up a 29.3 pound Kingfish at Miami's Haulover Park Marina weigh station on March 29. The Kingfish was caught about 1.5 miles off Hollywood Beach using Speedo fish as bait. Unfortunately, the fish was not big enough to beat out the Dream Team's first place Kingfish that weighed in at 59.96 pounds.



Felix Dolbow

Native Premonitions' Captain Leon Wilcox (L) guides his boat through Miami's Haulover Marina as he brings in his catch to see if his team has the heaviest Kingfish.

## Hollywood Volleyball Tournament Held



Felix Dolbow

Janine Cypress (Right, Kneeling), captain of the Bird Clan Team, won first place at the Volleyball 2008 Tournament, held in the Hollywood Gym on March 15.



Felix Dolbow

There was plenty of action at the net as players jumped into position to spike the Wilson.



Felix Dolbow

(L-R) Broadcasting's Sunshine Frank passes Wilson to Chris Jenkins who is ready to make his move for the B-Rollers Team.

## Gino Torretta Celebrity Golf & Gourmet Weekend



Marisol Gonzalez

(L-R) Gino Torretta and Joe Rose prepare for the live auction which included sports memorabilia, vacation packages and jewelry. The money raised throughout the weekend and through the Torretta Foundation would go toward research for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), a motor neuron disease, more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, after the New York Yankee who died of the disease in 1941. ALS affects an almost equal number of people per year as Multiple Sclerosis (MS). There are less patients living with ALS than MS simply because ALS kills faster, usually within three to five years. The goal of The Torretta foundation is to slow and cure ALS and similar neurodegenerative diseases.



Marisol Gonzalez

Walter Briggs gets ready to swing at the golf tournament, held on the final day of the Gino Torretta Celebrity Golf & Gourmet Weekend, March 17.



Marisol Gonzalez

Gino Torretta holds his Heisman Trophy at the VIP party, which kicked off his Celebrity Golf & Gourmet Weekend, held March 15-17. The weekend featured former Heisman winners as well as NFL greats.



Marisol Gonzalez

(L-R) Former Heisman Trophy winner George Rogers pictured with his team John Madrigal, Kyle Doney and Bill Osceola.

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The hiring of an attorney is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisement. Richard 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.



# Sports · Ham-pa-leesh-ke · Vkkopvkv

## Hollywood's Softball Co-Ed Playoffs



Felix DuBois

Coach Leon Wilcox pitches for his team, Seminole Rec, in Hollywood's Softball Co-ed Playoffs on March 31. Wilcox's team competed against the Tribal Team in the championship game. The Tribal Team would emerge victorious against the Seminole Rec team, 18-14, in this fun-filled slugfest.



Felix DuBois

Tristen Wilcox makes hard contact with the ball and hits a line drive into the outfield.



Felix DuBois

Michelle Osceola takes a mighty swing and keeps her eye on the softball.

## 13th Annual March Madness Tournament



Chris Jenkins

**Boys:** 14 and Under — St. Ives Red, 2. Big Cypress, 3. St. Ives White; 17 and Under — 1. St. Ives, 2. Este Chade, 3. Bout That.

**Adults:** 1. 2 Legit, 2. Rome, with Tribal citizen Jerome Davis, 3. Most Wanted.

Hollywood Recreation's Richard Osceola (L) gives the players some last minute instructions at the scorers table before play gets underway in the 13th annual March Madness Basketball Tournament. The event featured teen and adult divisions this year, and runs in conjunction with the NCAA men's and women's basketball tournament each year.

## Seminole Pro Bass Tourney

1. Josh Jumper/Jesse Metcalf, 13 pounds, 12 ounces, 2. Cooper Rivers/Fred Phillips, 12 pounds, 5 ounces, 3. Leon Wilcox Jr./Kassim Stockton, 11 pounds, 8 ounces, 4. Justin Gopher/Naha Jumper, 5. Charles Alexander/Ricky Doctor.



Chris Jenkins

Participants pose for a group picture in the first of three parts of the 8th Annual Howard Tiger Memorial Fishing Tournament. Hollywood Recreation Dept. Director Moses "Bigg" Jumper Jr. (C) emceed the event, and cash prizes were awarded to the winners.

## Brighton Adults, Youth Compete in Spring Break Triathlon



Susan Etchebarria

The first place 8-10 year old girl team (L-R) Keyanna Nelson, Chastity Harmon and Lahna Sedatol.

**By Susan Etchebarria**  
**BRIGHTON** — Adults and youth from the Brighton community showed up eager and ready to compete at the Brighton Spring Break '08 Triathlon Relay Race. To enter the race, participants had to establish their own three-person team comprised of a runner, swimmer and cyclist — the three components that make up a traditional triathlon.

For the adults, the relay consisted of a two mile run, a 10 lap swim, totaling 20 lengths in the pool, and a seven mile bike ride. The racers assembled at the Brighton Pool to begin the triathlon; the adults, ages 17 and older, competed on March 21 at 3 p.m., and the youth on April 2 at 11 a.m.

There were two women's teams and two men's teams competing in the adult division.

The first place Women's Team comprised of runner Carla Gopher, swimmer Danielle Howard, and cyclist Rita Gopher McCabe, who finished the relay course in 1:13:52. The first place Men's Team comprised of runner Davey Snow, swimmer Joey Micco and cyclist Richard Osceola, who finished the relay race in 1:06:50.

Each winner received a T-shirt and cash prize, as did the youth who competed during their school spring break.

Among the youth there were a total of eight teams, all divided by age categories. The 8-10 year old teams ran one mile, swam two laps, or four lengths, and cycled three miles; the 11-13 year olds ran one mile, swam four laps, or eight lengths, and cycled three miles; and the 14-17 year olds ran two miles, swam 10 laps, or 20 lengths, and cycled seven miles.

The first place 8-10 year old girl team consisted of Keyanna Nelson, Chastity Harmon and Lahna Sedatol, who completed the course in 30 minutes, 21 seconds. For the boys, the 8-10 year old first place winners were: Yopilakio Osceola, Sean Osceola and Imalakio Osceola, all finishing the course in 30 minutes, 19 seconds.

Korvette Billie, Jessi Osceola and Brianna Billie earned first place in the 11-13 year old girls division, with a course time of 25 minutes, 56 seconds. The first place 14-17 year old team consisted of Alissa Dorgan, Kirsten Doney and Kristina Osceola, who finished the course in 1:01:53.



Susan Etchebarria

The first place 11-13 year old girls team (L-R) Korvette Billie, Jessi Osceola and Brianna Billie.



Susan Etchebarria

The first place Women's Team (L-R) Carla Gopher, Rita Gopher and Danielle Howard.



Susan Etchebarria

The first place Men's Team (L-R) Davey Snow, Richard Osceola and Joey Micco.



Susan Etchebarria

The first place 8-10 year old boy team (L-R) Yopilakio Osceola, Sean Osceola and Imalakio Osceola.



# Sports • Ham-pa-leesh-ke • Vkkopvkv

## Immokalee Relay for Life



Judy Weeks

Members and affiliates of the Immokalee community rallied at the Immokalee High School track March 14-15 as Team Seminole came out in support of the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Joining approximately 500 people, Team Seminole walked for better health, recognition of victims, survivors and an effort to "Fill the Pot for a Cure."

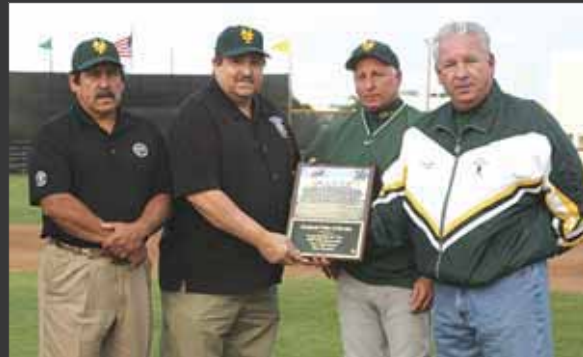
## Clewiston Relay for Life



Judy Weeks

Members of the Seminole Tribe and affiliates collected the largest donations in their region during the Clewiston Cancer Relay for Life, held March 7 at Clewiston High School. Rushelle Lee's fifth grade class at the Abfackee School is all smiles after adding their awesome \$4,010.56 donation to the Tribe's total, capping off a very successful drive against this deadly disease.

## Seminole Recreation Honored by Nova HS



Felix Dubose

(L-R) Seminole Recreation Director Moses "Big" Jumper Jr. and Tribal Treasurer Mike Tiger are honored with an award plaque for their dedicated community sponsorship of Nova High School Titans Varsity Baseball Team by Nova High School Baseball Coach Pat McQuade and school Principal John LaCasse.



Felix Dubose

On March 18, Haskell Indian Nations University Indians took on the Nova Southeastern University Sharks for a fast pitch women's softball game, played on Oseola Field in Hollywood. Haskell fast pitch Women's Softball Coach Gary Tanner also conducted a softball clinic for young Tribal citizens while in South Florida.



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## Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School Awards Recipients

**Kindergarten**

Effort: Laila Bennett, Waylynn Bennett, Echo Billie, Alyssa Gonzalez, Alexis Gore, Donovan Harris, Jacee Jumper, Marcie Osceola, Rubie Osceola, Jason Sampson, Caillou Smith, Mallorie Thomas, Aleah Turtle

Citizenship: Katie Beck, Myron Billie, Dalence Carrillo, Keira French, Edward Clausin, Aniya Gore, Tucker Johns, Malcolm Jones, Sage Motlow, Kai Osceola, Madiyn Osceola, Ozzy Osceola  
Improvement: Jahbahn Arnold, Jaylen Baker, Jayton Baker, Bevin Billie, Hunter Howard, Tanner Shore, Dante Thomas, Araya Youngblood  
100's Club: Ozzy Osceola, Katie Beck, Jason Sampson, Dante Thomas, Madiyn Osceola, Malcolm



Photo Courtesy of Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School  
**The fourth grade Citizenship Award recipients.**

Jones, Echo Billie, Jacee Jumper, Marcie Osceola  
Creek Class: Lorene Gopher's Class: Most Improved – Jarrett Bert, Best Writing Skills – Tucker Johns, Behavior – Tanner Shore, Best Creek Speaker – Mallorie Thomas; Jenny Shore's Class: Most Improved – Katie Beck, Best Writing Skills – Malcolm Jones, Behavior – Keira French, Best Creek Speaker – Ozzy Osceola  
Arts and Crafts Class: Nancy Shore's Class: Most Improved – Mallorie Thomas & Marcie Osceola, Craftsmanship – Echo Billie & Sage Motlow, Behavior – Bevin Billie & Tanner Shore, Best Creek Speaker – Malcolm Jones & Ozzy Osceola

**First Grade**

Effort: J-Wayco Billie, Keely Billie, Alicia Fudge, Raeley Matthews, Caroline Micco, Kyle Palmisano, Kano Puente, Gage Riddle, Aidan Tommie  
Citizenship: Jarrett Bert, Keely Billie, Krysta Burton, Alicia Fudge, Robert Harris, Aleina Micco, Lucas Osceola, Conner Thomas, Oscar Yates  
Improvement: Alyke Baker, Blake Baker, Andrew Fish, Lance Howard, Drake Lawrence, Caroline Micco, Conner Thomas, Luzana Venzor

Creek Class: Lorene Gopher's Class: Most Improved – Blake Baker, Best Writing Skills – Aleina Micco, Behavior – Aidan Tommie, Best Creek Speaker – Gage Riddle; Jenny Shore's Class: Most Improved – Oscar Yates, Best Writing Skills – Raeley Matthews, Behavior – Caroline Micco, Best Creek Speaker – Aleina Fudge

Arts and Crafts Class: Nancy Shore's Class: Most Improved – Andrew Fish & Conner Thomas, Craftsmanship – Aleina Micco & J-Wayco Billie, Behavior – Aidan Tommie & Keely Billie, Best Creek Speaker – Aleina Fudge & Krystal Burton

**Second Grade**

Effort: Sunni Bearden, Elijah Billie, Jalyln Jones, Morgan King, Dyani Nelson, Isaac Osceola, Joseph Osceola, Brady Rhodes, Rylee Smith

Citizenship: Marquis Fudge, Reed Gopher, Morgan King, Cady Osceola, Camryn Thomas, Layne Thomas, Improvement: Cheyenne Fish, Dalton Girtman, Michael Girtman, Richard Harris, Logan Ortiz, Cyrus Smedley, Layne Thomas, Billy Yates

Creek Class: Lorene Gopher's Class: Most Improved – Drayton Billie, Best Writing Skills – Camryn Thomas, Behavior – Ivess Baker, Best Creek Speaker – Aiyana Tommie; Jenny Shore's Class: Most Improved – Reed Gopher, Best Writing Skills – Morgan King, Behavior – Isaac Osceola, Best

Creek Speaker – Dyani Nelson  
Arts and Crafts Class: Nancy Shore's Class: Most Improved – Elijah Billie & Jalyln Jones, Craftsmanship – Layne Thomas & Aiyana Tommie, Behavior – Reed Gopher & Sunni Bearden, Best Creek Speaker – Chloe Chalfant & Camryn Thomas

**Third Grade**

Effort: Bethany Billie, Drayton Billie, Ruben Burgess, Erik Garcia, Odessa King, Rylee Osceola, Samuel Osceola, Sean Osceola, Jaden Puente, Lanie Sedatol, Trevor Thomas

Citizenship: Bethany Billie, Demetrius Clark, Robert Fudge, Courtney Gore, Samuel Osceola, Lanie Sedatol, Diamond Shore, Kelton Smedley, Crysten Smith, Bailey Tedders  
Bronze Award (3.0-3.4 GPA): Jermaine Bennett, Bethany Billie, Ruben Burgess, Demetrius Clark, Robert Fudge, Courtney Gore, Joshua Madrigal, Samuel Osceola, Lanie Sedatol, Diamond Shore, Kelton Smedley, Crysten Smith

Silver Award (3.5-3.9 GPA): Drayton Billie, Erik Garcia, Odessa King, Rylee Osceola, Jaden Puente, Bailey Tedders, Trevor Thomas

Gold Award (Straight A's - 4.0 GPA): Sean Osceola

Creek Class: Lorene Gopher's Class: Most Improved – Trevor Thomas, Best Writing Skills – Jaden Puente, Behavior – Demetrius Clark, Best Creek Speaker – Rylee Osceola; Jenny Shore's Class: Most Improved – Lanie Sedatol, Best Writing Skills – Jermaine Bennett, Behavior – Joshua Madrigal, Best Creek Speaker – Ruben Burgess

Arts and Crafts Class: Nancy Shore's Class: Most Improved – Lanie Sedatol & Diamond Shore, Craftsmanship – Robert Fudge & Rylee Osceola, Behavior – Sean Osceola & Odessa King, Best Creek Speaker – Jermaine Bennett & Erik Garcia

P.E. Skills Challenge Awards: Gold – Joshua Madrigal, Demetrius Clark, Odessa King, and Trevor Thomas; Silver – Drayton Billie & Kelton Smedley

**Fourth Grade**

Effort: Tyra Baker, Boyd Brown, Kailin Brown, Chastity Harmon, Zachary Hudson, Harley Johns, Keyana Nelson, Cheyenne Nunez, Imillakiyo Osceola, Royce Osceola, CW Ortiz, Dezmon Shore, Rayven Smith, Richard Smith

Citizenship: Tamea Allen, Tyra Baker, Thomas Bearden, Michael Garcia, Alison Gopher, Joshua Greenbaum, Elizabeth Johns, Kalgary Johns, Brydgett Kountz, Donovan Osceola, Lahna Sedatol, Jayce Smith, Melany Williams

Bronze Award (3.0-3.4 GPA): Tamea Allen, Michael Garcia, Allison Gopher, Chastity Harmon, Harley Johns, Brydgett Kountz, Keyana Nelson, Imillakiyo Osceola, Trista Osceola, Yopalakiyo Osceola, Dezmon Shore, Rayven Smith  
Silver Award (3.5-3.9 GPA): Boyd Brown, Elizabeth Johns, Jaron Johns

Gold Award (Straight A's - 4.0 GPA): Kailin Brown, Joshua Greenbaum, Zachary Hudson, Zeke Matthews, Cheyenne Nunez, Donovan Osceola, Melany Williams  
Creek Class: Lorene Gopher's Class: Most Improved – Chastity Harmon, Best Writing

Skills – Joshua Greenbaum, Behavior – Robert Fudge, Best Creek Speaker – Tyra Baker; Jenny Shore's Class: Most Improved – Cheyenne Nunez, Best Writing Skills – Kailin Brown, Behavior – Yopalakiyo Osceola, Best Creek Speaker – Melany Williams

Arts and Crafts Class: Nancy Shore's Class: Most Improved – Cheyenne Nunez & Thomas Bearden, Craftsmanship – Imillakiyo Osceola & Rayven Smith, Behavior – Donovan Osceola & C.W. Ortiz, Best Creek Speaker – Richard Smith & Kailin Brown

P.E. Skills Challenge Awards: Gold – Cheyenne Nunez, Yopalakiyo Osceola, Kailin Brown, Zeke Matthews, Imillakiyo Osceola, Raven Smith, and Zachary Hudson; Silver – Tyra Baker, Harley Johns, Jaron Johns, and Thomas Bearden; Bronze – Michael Garcia, CW Ortiz, and Boyd Brown

**Fifth Grade**

Effort: Toby Gopher, Deveen Jones, Delaney Osceola, Lindsey Sampson, JT Smith, Jennifer Tommie, Breanna Billie, Cameron Youngblood  
Citizenship: Daniel Nunez, Korvette Billie, Joshua Boromei, Myrick Puente, Justice Baker  
Bronze Award (3.0-3.4 GPA): Anthony Johns, Bracton King, Brooke Osceola  
Silver Award (3.5-3.9 GPA): Layton Thomas  
Gold Award (Straight A's - 4.0 GPA): Daniel Nunez

Creek Class: Lorene Gopher's Class: Most Improved – J.T. Smith, Best Writing Skills – Joshua Boromei, Behavior – Breanna Billie, Best Creek Speaker – Deveen Jones; Jenny Shore's Class: Most Improved – Cameron Youngblood, Best Writing Skills – Bracton King, Behavior – Brooke Osceola, Best Creek Speaker – Layton Thomas

Arts and Crafts Class: Nancy Shore's Class:



Photo Courtesy of Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School  
**Fourth grade Creek class award winners with teacher Lorene Gopher (R, Back Row).**

Most Improved – Jennifer Thomas & Korvette Billie, Craftsmanship – J.T. Smith & Daniel Nunez, Behavior – Cameron Youngblood & Toby Gopher, Best Creek Speaker – Layton Thomas & Joshua Boromei

P.E. Skills Challenge Awards: Gold – Joshua Boromei, Deveen Jones, Bracton King, Daniel Nunez, and Myrick Puente; Silver – Breanna Billie, Brooke Osceola, and Layton Thomas; Bronze – Delaney Osceola and JT Smith.

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## Broadcasting Dept. Hosts 2nd Annual Youth Video Production Workshop

### Classes to be Held June 22-28 in Hollywood Offices

Seminole Broadcasting has developed a video production workshop program to introduce Tribal youth to the video and television production industry. This seven day workshop, scheduled June 22-28 at the Broadcasting Offices in Hollywood, will introduce participants to the various aspects of video production. The classes will be taught by Seminole Broadcasting staff and industry professionals.

For further information,

please contact Seminole Broadcasting's Dennis Pellarin at (954) 985-5701, Ext. 10707.



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## Education • Emahaayeeke • Kerretv

### Preschool's 7th Annual Field Day



Shyla Holata plays with UM's mascot, Sebastian.



(L-R) Janae Bankston, Jay Bowers, Julia Doctor and Helesi Two Shoes race while kicking the soccer ball in one of many obstacle races at the 7th Annual Preschool Field Day, held at the Hollywood Ball Field on March 26.



The infant class was also a part of the Field Day.



The preschoolers do their warm ups before the Field Day activities get underway.

### Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School Recognizes Students of the Week

#### Students Recognized for the Week of March 3-7

Kindergarten:  
Miss Robinson - Sage Motlow, Tanner Shore  
Mrs. Webber - Ozzy Osceola, Madisyn Osceola

1st Grade:  
Mrs. Davis - Alyke Baker, Lucas Osceola  
Mrs. Ringstaff - Gage Riddle, Aleina Mico

2nd Grade:  
Mrs. Ball - Layne Thomas  
Mrs. Hudson - Cady Osceola

3rd Grade:  
Mrs. Pryor - Robert Fudge, Odessa King  
Mrs. Clements - Erik Garcia

4th Grade:  
Mrs. Tedders - Yopalakiyo Osceola, Lahna Sedatol  
Mrs. Williams - Imillakiyo Osceola, Alison Gopher

5th Grade:  
Mrs. Hawthorne - Breanna Billie



#### Students Recognized for the Week of March 24-28

Kindergarten:  
Miss Robinson - Aleah Turtle  
Mrs. Webber - Caillou Smith

1st Grade:  
Mrs. Davis - Robert Harris  
Mrs. Ringstaff - Krysta Burton

3rd Grade:  
Mrs. Clements - Bethany Billie  
Mrs. Pryor - Rylee Osceola

4th Grade:  
Mrs. Tedders - Tamea Allen, Dezmon Shore  
Mrs. Williams - Donovan Osceola



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- Carbon-fiber domed hood with a window to the supercharger
- Unique carbon fiber dual cove front fenders
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### ZR1 Interior

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# Health · Chah-nee-ken chao-ke · Evfekknety onakv

## Tribes Welcomes First-Ever Native Physician

*Pediatrician Lisa Wildcatt Joins Health Dept. Full Time*

By Shelley Marmor

**HOLLYWOOD** — Dr. Lisa Wildcatt, MD (Choctaw) joined the Seminole Health Dept. on Feb. 18 as the department's full time pediatrician. She is the first Native American physician to work for the Tribe.

Wildcatt will travel between reservations to provide care for the Tribe's youngest members. She will be in Brighton on Mondays, Hollywood on Tuesdays, Big Cypress on Wednesdays, and Immokalee on Fridays. Although she said Health Department staff members generally schedule her to see about one patient per hour, Wildcatt said "I'll see whoever comes in."

She attended the University of North Dakota (UND) in Grand Forks, N.D. for both her undergraduate degree in biology and her medical degree before completing her pediatric residency at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta.

Wildcatt said she was born and raised in South Florida and was "ready to come home" when she took the job with the Tribe and moved to her current residence in Lighthouse Point, Fla.

Before joining the Seminole Health team, Wildcatt worked for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians at the Cherokee Hospital. While at the hospital, located in Cherokee, N.C., she developed and implemented the hospital's Pediatric Program, which she called "successful" and said is still utilized today.

Wildcatt said when developing the program she took into account the basic guidelines all pediatricians should follow, as outlined by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the North Carolina Well Child guidelines, and finally, the specific needs of the Cherokee Tribe. She said, for example, the national rates of asthma — the No. 1 chronic illness among Native children — are about 8 percent; however, within the Cherokee Tribe, that number rises to 13 percent.

Since coming to work for the Seminole Tribe, Wildcatt and other staff

determine how to modify the program she developed for the Cherokee Tribe and tailor a similar program to the Seminole Tribe. She said updating her program to be Seminole-specific is a move "to continue to strive towards a culturally-appropriate health service for Native Americans."

"What we're trying to do is make it the best," Wildcatt said. "We're working towards putting all the pieces together."

In addition, Wildcatt said she is working on making pediatric care uniform throughout all reservations, meaning Immokalee's youngsters will have the same care they receive in Hollywood. She said well child exams will have a check list of all the things a health care worker must examine before the patient leaves.

One thing Wildcatt has already implemented at Tribal health facilities is the use of two computer programs, one to test for autism and the other which checks to make sure the child is developing at a normal rate. She said the latter, known as a developmental

screening, is a questionnaire the parents complete to see if their child has any developmental "delays." Wildcatt said this test, called the Ages & Stages Questionnaire®, will catch up to 80 percent more than a pediatrician alone.

Tribal citizens wanting to schedule an appointment for their child to see Dr. Wildcatt should call their local clinic.



Dr. Lisa Wildcatt in her Hollywood office at the clinic.

Shelley Marmor

members have been collecting data and statistics from Tribal citizens, which are plugged into the Registered Patient Management System (RPMS) database to be analyzed. The RPMS was implemented by the U.S. Dept. of the Interior's Indian Health Service and is used by many Tribes, according to Wildcatt.

After putting facts and figures into the RPMS, Wildcatt said she will

## Flea Control and Prevention

Submitted by Ava John, MPH, REHS  
Environmental Health Program

You might think that fleas are just a bit of a nuisance for your pet, an irritating bite at the most. But these parasites can cause serious problems ranging from skin allergies, hair loss and worms.

Attempting to control fleas on your pets is a multi-step process. Adult fleas spend most of their time on an animal, but the flea eggs, larvae, and pupae are found in abundance in the environment such as in carpeting, beddings, and grass. For every flea that you see on your pet, there are likely to be hundreds of eggs and larvae in your home and yard. Therefore, an effective flea control program always includes treating the environment as well as treating your pet.

The essential steps for a successful flea control program include flea control indoors as well as outdoors, and on your pet.

### Flea Control in the Indoor

**Environment** Frequently vacuum the areas your pet is around, especially carpeted areas in your home, under furniture that is frequented by your pet and where your pet sleeps. Each time, seal your vacuum bag in a plastic bag and discard immediately.

Use a product that will kill any remaining adult fleas and also stop the development of eggs and larvae. This can be in the form of carpet powders, foggers or sprays. Your veterinarian can help you choose the appropriate products for your situation.

Wash your pet's bedding weekly and treat the bed and surrounding area with a product that contains both an adulticide, to kill adult fleas, and an insect growth regulator.

Do not forget to also clean and treat your automobile, pet carrier, or any other place your pet spends much time.

### Flea Control in the Outdoor

**Environment** Flea control in the outdoor

environment generally involves treating the yard and kennel areas where fleas are most likely to occur. Fleas tend to like it where it is moist, warm, and shady, where there is organic debris, and where pets spend more of their outdoor time. So be sure to concentrate on areas such as patios, under porches, dog houses, etc.

Remove any organic debris such as leaves, straw, grass clippings, etc., to disturb flea habitat and allow any flea products you use outdoors to penetrate.

You may need to treat the yard every seven to 21 days depending on the product. Read the label on all insecticides thoroughly and apply them as directed. Regardless of the product used, remember not to spray when or where runoff could go into lakes or canals.

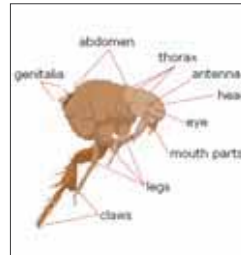
### Flea Control on Your Pet

Now that we've taken care of the fleas in your home and treated the hot spots in your yard, it's time to eliminate the fleas that are on your pet. There are a number of flea control products for use on pets, including once-a-month topical products, sprays, dips, shampoos, collars, powders, oral and injectable products. Please ask your veterinarian for the most effective way to rid fleas from your dog.

Always remember when using flea products: Read the entire label before use. If you don't understand something, you should ask your veterinarian; follow the directions exactly, using latex gloves if possible. Then wash your hands; on cats, use only products labeled for cats; and store products away from food and out of children's reach.

Flea control is a year round event and treating your pet regularly with a product that controls fleas is the best way to make sure that your pet and home stays protected. Talk to your veterinarian for advice on the most suitable flea control product for your pet and your home.

The Animal Control Program requests that you call the Health Department with any animal control issues. The department can be reached at (954) 965-1300, Ext. 1063.



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## Healthy Seminole

**Dear Health Educator,**

I am 65 and I am starting to notice that I have some changes in my eyesight. I am scared of going blind. What can I do to help take care of my eyes and keep my vision?

Sincerely,  
Concerned

**Senior**

**Dear Concerned Senior,**

Many people notice a change in their vision as they age. By the age of 65, one out of every three Americans suffers from a form of a vision impairing eye disease. Many of these people do not realize that this is due to an eye disease. Most people believe that poor vision is just a part of aging. Early detection and treatment of eye disease can help seniors save their sight.

The first step in detecting health problems is to see a physician for a complete physical. This is important, because many medical conditions affect the eyes. Your eye doctor needs to know what your current medical conditions are when you have a vision screening. This includes a complete list of medications that you are currently taking.

The next step is to schedule an appointment with the eye care professional. Choosing an eye care professional can be a little confusing. The most common terms used to describe an eye care professional are optician, optometrist, and ophthalmologist.

An optician is not trained for eye examinations or treatment solutions for eye disorders. They help you select and adjust your frames.

An optometrist is a doctor of optometry. They perform annual examinations to test your vision problems and detect signs of disease and abnormal conditions. They are able to prescribe glasses or contacts.

An ophthalmologist is a medical doctor who is specialized in eye and vision care. Ophthalmologists are trained to provide all eye care services, from prescribing glasses and contact lenses to eye surgery.

Ophthalmologists are the only eye care professionals certified to perform surgery on the eye.

Once you have an appointment with your eye care professional, organize yourself for the exam. This includes: bringing a list of past and current medical conditions and your current medication list; keeping a list of questions for the examiner, as well as a log of any pain or symptoms you have experienced; and bringing a friend or family member to the eye exam appointment, as you will not be able to drive when your eyes are dilated.

Following your exam, it is important to remember that many lifestyle choices can affect your eyes. For instance, if you are diabetic try to monitor your blood sugar carefully. Good blood sugar control can help prevent or postpone diabetic retinopathy. Smoking and having high cholesterol can put you at a greater risk for developing age related macular degeneration.

Making a few changes in your lifestyle can help to preserve your eyesight in your senior years. These changes can include walking more often, eating well balanced meals, and taking your medications routinely. Talk with your health care team about small changes that can really improve your overall health and as a result protect your vision.

Make a commitment to have your eyes examined annually. The frequency of these exams can detect small changes before they become large problems.

For more information about this topic, please contact the health educator on your reservation: Big Cypress Wellness Center, (863) 983-5798, Marie Meredith, Health Educator; Brighton Medical Clinic, (863) 763-0271, Barbara Boling, Health Educator; Hollywood Medical Clinic, (954) 962-2009, Tina Mennella, Health Educator; Immokalee Medical Clinic, (239) 867-3400, Charlotte Porcario, Dietician/Health Educator.

Sincerely,  
**Your Health Educator**

**Common Senior Eye Problems**

Eye Disease	Occurrence	Symptoms	Treatment
Cataracts	Half of all Americans have had cataracts by the time they are 80 years old	Cloudy or blurred vision Colors seem faded Lights seem too bright, glare, halo appears around lights Double vision Frequent prescription changes	Surgery to remove the cloudy lens and replace it with an artificial lens
Glaucoma	More than 3 million people have glaucoma but do not know as there are often no symptoms	No symptoms during the early stages - as glaucoma progresses, blind spots appear in the field of vision	Early treatment involves eye drops or laser or laser or conventional surgery when needed
Macular Degeneration	The leading cause of vision loss in Americans 60 years and older	Slight blurred vision Wavy lines appear Blind spots in the field of vision	Medication and laser surgery can aid some cases
Diabetic Retinopathy	5.3 million cases in the United States - up to 1/3 of these people may be unaware	Often there are no early signs Spots floating in your vision	Laser surgery



# Health · Chah-nee-ken chao-ke · Cvfeknety onakv

## On Eagles' Wings Shares Positive Message with Tribe Christian Native Youth Group Return to Seminole Country

By Felix DoBosz

**HOLLYWOOD** — Members of the Hollywood community received a message of hope on March 27-28 from members of the Native Christian youth ministry aptly named On Eagles' Wings.

The volunteer group has traveled throughout Indian Country in the U.S. and Canada for the past 17

He is originally from San Jose, Calif. and of mixed ancestry with a lineage to several Tribes in Oklahoma on his mother's side, and of Puerto Rican descent on his father's.

The 20 or so young people that make up On Eagles' Wings are Native Americans from different Tribal communities throughout the U.S. and Canada.

They travel throughout the country telling their stories of personal tragedies they have encountered in their young lives.

However, they also explain how this program helped them embark on a journey of self-discovery, transformed them and changed their attitude about life, beginning by embracing the teachings of Jesus Christ. What makes this ministry program so unique is the fact that these young people tell their stories in a way that's very personal. They often break the ice when meeting other Tribal youth by playing a friendly game of hoops, which is what makes their message so effective.

Leo Bird (Cherokee), a soft spoken middle-aged man, originally from Oklahoma, is an assistant pastor with a church near the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. For the past nine



Felix DoBosz

The On Eagles' Wings team lines up to share their testimonies of hope.

years, spreading its message to young Native peoples. They tailor their message to reach young adults ages 16-35, using an interactive peer to peer presentation that is both mesmerizing and optimistic.

The evangelical group received such positive feedback after visiting the Tribe last year that they were invited back again. This year they visited the Seminole communities in the last week of March during spring break.

Marcus Guinn, AKA Emcee One, hosted the event and was also the DJ, playing only positive rap songs while the young team members tossed basketballs on the outdoor courts at the Hollywood Seminole Gym. Guinn has been with the group for the past four years, providing music and support to the young volunteers in the program.

"It's more than a job, it's an adventure," said Guinn.



Felix DoBosz

On Eagles' Wings members get warmed up, playing a friendly game of basketball with Seminole Tribal citizens.



Felix DoBosz

Team advocate Marcus Guinn, AKA Emcee One, only plays rap songs that have a positive message.

years he has volunteered his time to travel with On Eagles' Wings and help them to spread the word.

"We've had members from 30-40 different Tribes; my first time we went all the way up to Alaska," Bird said. "A lot of reservations are not like [the Seminole Tribe of Florida]; other places you go to, there's a lot more poverty, drugs and alcohol just like everywhere else, and suicides, abuse and incest."

"It's a cycle over and over and we need to break that cycle through education and the teachings of the local churches and also listening to some of these young people's testimonies," Bird added.

Craig Smith has been serving as the director of On Eagles' Wings for the past five years. He had a great deal to say about this program of hope.

"You look at these team members, some of them were drug addicts, some of them were alcoholics, many of the girls on our team unfortunately have suffered sexual abuse, a lot of deep pain in their upbringing, but they've been healed from that; they've been restored," Smith said. "Now these young people have a passion in their heart to share that hope with other Native young people, and that's what we do in On Eagles' Wings."

One of the ways Smith and On Eagles' Wings helps young people is through events such as their annual Warrior Leadership Summit. For this gathering, the organization recruits young adult Native Americans to participate in united Christian worship and fun activities in a summer camp-type atmosphere. This year's Warrior Leadership Summit will be held July 3-8 at the Windermere Conference Center in Roach, Mo.

To learn more about On Eagles' Wings please visit their website at <http://wls.hutchcraft.com>.

## 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. If you would like to ask a question, please write [fredcicetti@gmail.com](mailto:fredcicetti@gmail.com). All Rights Reserved ©2008 by Fred Cicetti.]*

Q: Is ALS an old-person's disease, or does it affect every age group?

A: Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) usually strikes between the ages of 40 and 70, but there have been cases of it in young adults, children and older people. The average age for getting ALS is 55.

ALS is known as Lou Gehrig's disease in the USA. Gehrig, who played baseball for the New York Yankees, died of the disease in 1941. In other countries, ALS is often called motor neuron disease. It is not contagious.

ALS destroys nerve cells — motor neurons — that control muscle cells. In most cases, the cause is unknown. As the motor neurons are lost, the muscles they control weaken. Eventually, people with ALS are paralyzed.

Amyotrophic means "no muscle nourishment." Lateral identifies the affected areas in the spinal cord. Sclerosis refers to the scarring or hardening in the region.

ALS doesn't directly affect involuntary muscles, so the heart, digestive tract, bladder and sexual organs continue to work. Hearing, vision, touch and intellectual ability generally remain normal. Pain is not a major component of ALS.

The most common form of the disease in the U.S. is "sporadic" ALS. It may affect anyone, anywhere. "Familial" ALS is inherited. Only about five to 10 percent of all ALS patients appear to have the inherited form of ALS. In those families, there is a 50 percent chance each offspring will inherit the gene mutation and may develop the disease.

Respiratory problems usually kill those with ALS in three to five years after diagnosis. About 10 percent of those with ALS live more than 10 years. Some even survive for more than 10 years. For example, the famed British physicist Stephen Hawking has had ALS since the 1960s. In a small number of people, ALS mysteriously stops.

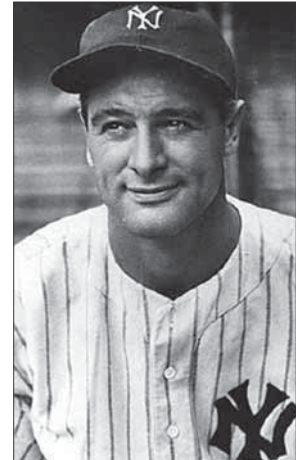
The usual early symptoms of ALS are weakness or spasms in a limb, and trouble speaking or swallowing. After the initial symptoms, the disease may progress in the following way: cramping of muscles, dimmed use of the limbs; thick speech and difficulty projecting the voice; difficulty breathing.

Doctors begin testing for ALS by checking muscle and nerve function. The next step is usually

an electromyogram (EMG). This test measures the signals that run between nerves and muscles and the electrical activity inside muscles. Additional tests may include a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan, a spinal tap between two lower vertebrae, blood tests and muscle biopsies.

Rilutek (riluzole), which is approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, is the only drug found so far that helps prolong life in people with ALS.

However, there are non-pharmaceutical treatments to help people with ALS. These include physical and occupational therapy, respiratory therapy and assisted ventilation, speech therapy, nutritional and emotional support. There are devices, too, such as special grips for writing implements and eating utensils, canes, supportive braces, walkers, wheelchairs and scooters.



Lou Gehrig

## Photo Challenge



Tribune Archive Photo

Can you guess who we are? Please see the May 30 issue of *The Seminole Tribune* to find out.

## Previous Photo Challenge Answer



Tribune Archive Photo

Ada Smith Bowers and Lena Gopher



# Casino • Esh-te-may-bee Cheke • Setenpokvcuko



Chris Jenkins  
Members of the Tribal Council, (L-R) Brighton Rep. Roger Smith, BC Rep. David Cypress, Hollywood Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., and Vice Chairman Richard Bowers Jr., take the ceremonial first pull on the new machines.

## Class III Gaming Comes to Coconut Creek Casino *Las Vegas-Style Slot Machines Installed at Seminole Facility*

By Chris Jenkins  
**COCONUT CREEK** — The Las Vegas-style Class III gaming conversion at the Tribe's casinos continued on March 12 at the Coconut Creek Casino when more than 700 new slot machines were unveiled for Tribal citizens and invited guests.

The Tribal Council was on hand for the ceremonial first slot pull. Chairman Mitchell Cypress, President Richard Bowers Jr. and other council members addressed the media along with special guest rock 'n' roll stars the "Golden Boys," Frankie Avalon, Fabian and Bobby Rydell, on hand. The three are best known for their Las Vegas, Atlantic City and nationwide shows and

performances, as well as movie appearances, in careers that have spanned decades.

"We dedicate this day to our ancestors, our Tribal members, and our Tribal Council," President Bowers Jr. said. "This is the beginning of more prosperity for our communities throughout Florida and expands on everything we have already."

Seminole Gaming Chief of Operations James F. Allen also updated those in attendance about plans for the hiring of more than 3,600 Blackjack, Baccarat, and Pai Gow dealers, along with floor supervisors, pit bosses, cage managers and more.

Installing the new machines at

Coconut Creek is the latest in a multi-phase process for upgrades and expansions at Seminole gaming facilities, including building the Coconut Creek Hotel, a *porte-cochere* entrance with valet, expanded casino space, retail shopping and other amenities.

The six other Tribally-owned locations will also be included in the conversion with the Hard Rock Tampa slated for upgrades on May 1.

The machines are manufactured by International Game Technology (IGT) and Bally Technologies with one cent to \$1,000 denominations.

## Class III Gaming Machines Installed at *Hollywood Classic Casino*



Marisol Gonzalez  
The new machines were all tested before the public used them.



Marisol Gonzalez  
The newest Class III gaming machines at the Hollywood Classic Casino.



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## Upcoming Events:

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**RADIOHEAD**  
**ERIC CLAPTON**  
**KANYE WEST/RIHANNA**  
**KID ROCK**  
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**POLICE**  
**AVENTURA**  
**DURAN DURAN**  
**LYNYRD SKYNYRD**  
**STEVE MILLE BAND**  
**STEELY DAN**  
**PEARL JAM**  
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**DAVE MATTHEWS BAND**  
**TOM PETTY**  
**YES JOURNEY**  
**GEORGE MICHAEL**



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## Community News



Culture Teacher Jenny Shore shows Camryn Thomas and Cheyenne Fish how to cook frybread with the assistance of Shirley Sampson.



Aniya Gore plays a Creek language game.



(L-R) Preston Baker teaches woodcarving to Morgan King and Reed Gopher.



Culture Teacher Jade Brasswell teaches children to count numbers in Creek.

## ❖ Culture

Continued from page 1

Creek with rotating groups of student. Another circle of students sat on the ground near a tree.

The students also took turns playing a game of Fishing with teacher Janelle Robinson. In the game, the children attempted to snag a paper fish with a magnet hanging from a string on a stick. Written on the fish was a Creek word and the student was asked to pronounce the Creek word and say its meaning in English.

Teacher Denise Welborn also led the students in a Creek version of Duck, Duck Goose where the students had to state the words in Creek as they played the game.

Before the day was over all the students had a chance to eat the delicious frybread that was cooked over the fires under the chicken.

Louise Gopher, former Education Dept. director, also assisted with the Cultural Education Day.

The following day, March 20, the students had an extension of Cultural Day at a traditional Seminole lunch served at the charter school. Mary Jo Micco cooked the meal consisting of rice, Spam® and tomato gravy, frybread, sofkee and fruit.

"The Cultural Program is the other part of the charter school," said the Cultural Education Program Director Lorene Gopher. "We teach our students how to speak, write and read our Seminole Creek language, and the arts and crafts of our people."

Tribal-Wide Cultural Education Coordinator Shelly Walker said the department is seeking Tribal

citizens to volunteer or apply for a job in a paid position in the cultural program at the charter school.

"A few elders are leading the way now but it is only when younger adults get involved that we can ensure the Tribe's cultural program will survive," said Walker. There is hope the children learning today will become the future leaders of Seminole culture in the future but meanwhile there is a large gap in Creek language skills among 20-50 year olds."

She said it can be a fulfilling and rewarding experience to teach the youth their culture and all who wish to participate will be offered teacher's training. It will include Creek language training as well as instruction in teaching Seminole arts and crafts.

Currently the Cultural Education Department offers Creek language classes to teenage youth after school. In high school a student is required to study a foreign language such as Spanish, French or German. The Okaloosa County School Board has an alternative arrangement with Brighton to teach Creek classes at the reservation to fulfill the high school students' requirement for graduation. It also counts as college credit.

"Maintaining our language has been my priority," said Gopher. "Without the knowledge of our language we have no identity. My dream and vision are that the young children learn to speak their language. We strive for that each day."



Reed Gopher volunteers to tell a legend and Alyanna Tommie and Jalynn Jones pay close attention.



Kano Puente plays the Fish Game with Culture Teacher Janelle Robinson.

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## Community News

# Seminole Okalee Indian Village Hosts 2nd Annual Earth Day Celebration



Clinton Holt, Bird Clan, sticks his head into the alligator's jaws.

Felix DuBois



During the alligator show, Clinton Holt, Bird Clan, pulls an alligator out of water.

Felix DuBois



A golden panther stares from its cage during the 2nd Annual Earth Day celebration at Okalee Village.

Felix DuBois



Kids had fun learning organic art under the shade of the chickee.

Felix DuBois




Felix DuBois

An educational chickee was set up at Okalee Village for guests to read environmentally-related literature and watch a video presentation of Al Gore's Oscar-winning global warning documentary "An Inconvenient Truth."

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Tribal Members and Tribal Employees...

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**2008**

**SEMINOLE STAR SEARCH**

**FINALE**

**Friday, May 2nd  
Seven o' Clock**

**The Auditorium at Tribal Headquarters**

**6300 Stirling Road**

**Hollywood Florida, 33024**



**954.797.5562**



# Announcements · Ahaaheekē · Nak-ohkerkēcēv

## Congratulations

I would like to congratulate my husband, **Pete Osceola-Hahn**, for being accepted in the Americans for Indian Opportunity Program. The kids and I are so very proud of you. You are a perfect example of wanting something bad enough, working hard to reach that goal and believing that nothing is impossible. We will always support you in everything you do.

Love always,  
**Mercedes, Draven Stryker and Presleigh Amalia**



## In Memoriam

### Never Forgotten

#### Josiah "Jojo" Robbins

February 8, 2007 —  
March 21, 2007

We all love you and miss you,  
**Mommy, Daddy, Ashley, Kyle, Talia, Dylan and Kassiah**



## In Loving Memory of Catherine Madrigal Marin

1959 – 2008

My precious daughter Catherine Madrigal Marin, 48, left this earth on Jan. 9 and went to a heavenly home of less heartache and pain. Every mother who has suffered such a loss knows how I feel. It takes time to heal.

My Cathy is remembered as a faithful daughter, a beloved sister, a conscientious mother and grandmother, and a loving wife. Her life touched many.

Cathy, a member of the Panther Clan, was devoted in her work for the Seminole Tribe of Florida. She served on the staff of the Brighton

Preschool for more than 17 years before her illness. Children loved her. When parents and teachers needed her assistance she was always ready to help. She had a gift of being a problem-solver and many sought her advice.

Cathy's husband of the past seven years adored her. Before her marriage to her second husband, Tim Marin, she had raised her children as a single mother. It wasn't easy but she did it a fine job.

As adults, her daughter Lisa Huff Betscher brought her joy with two grandchildren, Alek and Jakob Betscher. Her son Chad Huff also gave her grandchildren. They are Caylie, Haylie and Kalissa Huff.

Cathy seemed reserved to those who did not know her, as she spoke little about herself. She was a private person.

But she had close friends with whom she shared her dreams and goals. She struggled with the serious health problem many of us face, and she was determined to win out, but God had another plan for her life. I pray what Cathy went through will save someone else.

I can imagine her having some good chats again with my mother, Lois Micco, who passed in 1995. Cathy loved her grandmother and happily lived with her at Brighton Reservation in her teen years.

She graduated from Moore Haven High School and then

went to work, first at the old Bingo Hall, then at Joe Lester's store, and later driving the school bus for the Education Department. But it was working with children and parents at the Preschool where Cathy found her calling in life.

Cathy's sisters are Debbie Carter and Donna Turtle. Her brothers are Howard "Boo" Madrigal and John Madrigal. Her father is Chon Madrigal.

It's hard to believe Cathy is gone. I had the honor of being her mother and I am grateful for the children and grandchildren she has blessed us with. I thank my family, friends and Tribe for their support during these days of sorrow.

— **Leah Minnick**  
April 2008



## Birthdays

Happy birthday to **Jada Sky Holdiness**, who turned 7 on April 4. Jada Sky, we cannot believe how grown you have gotten, but as the years go by, you will always be our special little lady.

Love,  
**Mom (Ada Campos), Lilo, Broder, Nana and Jeka**



Happy birthday to my beautiful baby girl, **Jewel Alice**, celebrating her 4th birthday on April 10. Have a wonderful day. I love you very much!

Love,  
**Mommy (Valerie Frank)**

Happy birthday to my chiye'e

Love,  
**Your brother Wesley**



Happy birthday daddy!!  
Love,  
**Dayne Allen**



## Classifieds

**Francoise's Barbershop:**  
6782 Stirling Road, Hollywood, Fla. 33024. (954) 987-1309, (954) 471-2469. Where everyone is welcome. Skin fade, fade, layer cut, flat top, unisex color, highlights, correction haircut, kids and seniors. Enjoy the best old fashioned hot shave in town! European facial, waxing, \$25 spa pedicure and manicure combo.

**\$16 an Hour / Part-Time (Armed) Position Available:** The Wackenhut Corporation is currently hiring qualified candidates for one part-time position at the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation (Ah-Thi-Ki Museum), an eight hour, overnight assignment (32 hours).

Applicants must have prior law enforcement/corrections certification (any state), military or police experience to qualify.

Please apply in person at our Ft. Myers Office (The Wackenhut Corporation, 2830 Winkler Ave., Suite 101, Fort Myers, FL 33916), Monday-Friday, from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday until 7 p.m. Please call (239) 768-0808 for more info.

For a complete listing of the basic qualifications for this position visit: [www.wackenhut.com](http://www.wackenhut.com).

## Recovery



## Meetings

**Monday** Noon Discussion Meeting Big Cypress Sober House

**Tuesday** 7:30 PM Recovery Meeting Brighton Sober House

**Wednesday** Noon 12 Step Meeting Big Cypress Sober House  
Noon Support Meeting Brighton  
8:30 PM AA Meeting Hollywood Administration

**Thursday** Noon Lunch AA Meeting Brighton  
7 PM NA Meeting Brighton  
7:30 PM Seminars in Recovery Big Cypress Sober House

**Friday** Noon 12 Step Meeting Immokalee Family Services

## 2008 UPCOMING EVENTS

**Block Party** April 12 Brighton  
**Campout** May 1, 2, 3, 4 Cherokee, NC

## FINANCIAL EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP Presented by the HOUSING DEPARTMENT

- | Topics:  | Time  |
|--|---|
| • Manage bank accounts:<br>Opening an account<br>Balancing a checkbook | 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.<br>Wednesday, February 20<br><b>BIG CYPRESS</b> |
| • Understanding Credit Score:<br>What credit means<br>Fraud Alert      | Wednesday, March 19<br><b>HOLLYWOOD</b>                                 |
| • Preparing for Homeownership:<br>Budgeting Finances<br>Managing debt  | Wednesday, April 23<br><b>FT PIERCE</b>                                 |
| • Call to Reserve your Space:<br>954-966-6300<br>Ext. 11725 or 11724   | Wednesday, May 21<br><b>BRIGHTON</b>                                    |
|  | Wednesday, June 18<br><b>IMMOKALEE</b>                                  |
|  | Wednesday, July 23<br><b>TAMPA</b>                                      |



**Lunch Will Be Served**

Any tribal member that attends will receive a certificate of completion. This certificate is needed to proceed with your Housing Project.

## In Loving Memory of Ms. Janet Cypress

Homegirl, it's been more than two years since you've crossed over and it's still hard for me to believe it. I still think about you a lot, remembering the times we would be chillin' together; you knew what it meant to be "keeping it real!" You were always there when I needed help in certain situations and you stuck with me. I'll do the same by keeping the memories of you here with me. I remember hearing your laugh and the way you said "cha gani" in your own way and you always asking me how to shoot the ball while we played pool. I also remember the first time we met — that was 18 years ago. I'll keep that one with me always. I know those who have their memories of you will always keep them as I will. You will always be missed and loved by family and friends. Ms. Cypress, you're in a better place now, until the day comes for us to meet again.

Remembered Not Forgotten,  
One Love,  
**Burton Lee Harjo Jr.**



### Attention Tribal Citizens:

Seminole Broadcasting is seeking a self-motivated, energetic Tribal citizen to take on the responsibilities of assistant director in the department. This great opportunity is open to any Tribal citizens with a four year degree in business, media arts, video production, broadcasting, communications or any other related field. Applications available in the Human Resources Department or at [www.semtribe.com](http://www.semtribe.com).



# ATTENTION:

The Seminole Housing Department is announcing an after hours emergency contact number.

## 800-617-7517

Press the following for your reservation:  
**Press 1 for Hollywood & Trail**  
**Press 2 for Big Cypress & Immokalee**  
**Press 3 for Brighton, Ft. Pierce & Tampa**

This number is available: 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. Monday to Friday - All Day Saturday & Sunday

## All Homeowners / Occupants



Please be aware that closed / locked storm shutters can become a problem by preventing emergency access!!

During an emergency evacuation or rescue attempt, locked and/or closed storm shutters could hinder the rescue process. We ask that you seriously consider this dangerous action and do not put yourself or your family members at risk.

**Your Safety is our concern!**

Seminole Tribe of Florida  
Fire-Rescue Department  
Fire Prevention Division, Chief David Logan





# Announcements • Ahaaheek • Nak-ohkerkēcetv

## Farewell

The Broadcasting Department would like to wish Barbara Billie the best of luck in her future endeavors. Barbara Billie came on board with Seminole Broadcasting about two years ago as the DirectTV customer service coordinator. Her last day working with the department was March 28.

Her dedication, hard work and smiling face are qualities that we all will miss. She was an important asset to the DirectTV component of the department, and a woman who will be hard to replace. Good luck Barbara! We'll miss you!



## Poems

### A Warrior Never Cries

Born into a warriors world where tears were a weakness and love misunderstood, everyday was a struggle but that was nothing new pain became the remedy as a warrior slowly grow  
I have seen the smiles fade and believed every life of love but nothing will ever replace the memory of my Angel with feathers of a dove. I have walked this road of loneliness a prisoner to my pain a disguise

My angel seen my tears that fell from unseen eyes she wiped my eyes and gave me love and together we began to cry, she whispered to me softly that a warrior is who you are so take my tears and drown your pain because a warrior never cries

— Vandell Billie  
2008  
P.C.P.

### Another Wasted High

The whispers of death rings in your ears as the streets become your friend and replaces your fears, the day is only the beginning of a life lived but never loved the night erases the dreams and introduces a child to reality and lifes silent screams  
You walk this road of loneliness with a smile on your face your enemies hide behind each shadow ready to welcome you to a life of disgrace, you walk the nights of emptiness hoping someone will show the way but there in the dark you find a stranger taking the light

from another wasted day.  
Addiction kicks in and now you stagger through your storm cocaine lies and never ending goodbyes as no one ever hear your cries, tears of time and tears of pain but never a tear from my eyes I am you and you are me as one more tear nourishes another wasted high.

— Vandell Billie  
2008  
P.C.P.

### A Sea of Sorrow

In a sea of sorrow and never ending pain where the current of misery always calls your name you hear the whispers and you hear the screams as the waves of yesterday slowly drive you insane, there's no promise for tomorrow so you live for today as you find yourself drowning in your watery grave  
Your heart becomes a stranger as your love turns to hate you know it's just a matter of time so you sit back and wait, the sun begins its journey but it no longer lights up your day as you search for the

answers to this internal pain the darkness takes you by the hand and leads you astray you walk the life of emptiness restrained by hell's ball and chain  
Eyes of dark brown can no longer disguise the shame as its tears of sadness these brown eyes can no longer restrain, they fall by the gallons but they never end you hide in the shadows praying for your sins further and further you fall but you have no one left to blame you're in a sea of sorrow and never ending pain.

— Vandell Billie  
2008  
P.C.P.

### No One Knows

Good love gone bad as your love learns to hate you descend deeper into loneliness with no way to escape, fighting with them demons that led you astray one token, one drink, and now you're their slave  
You see your face of happiness slowly start to fade time no longer ticks on the wall now it's the difference between freedom and an unmarked grave, the days turn to nights as the nights awake the pain as the scepter of sorrow becomes your royalty that always calls your name  
A king without a crown but in a kingdom of hate where time is the essence and souls patiently wait, the

weeks turn to months as the months turn to years it's the mistakes that we remember in each written tear  
Words become pain and an escape from the shame as love ones and friends soon forget your name, whispers of addiction you now hear in the wind you know it's not what you need but you're tired of being your only friend  
Cocaine addictions, death and screams, white line lies and shattered dreams, good times gone bad but no one knows how the Hands of Time always steals the show

— Vandell Billie  
2008  
P.C.P.

### A Never Ending Game

In a world of strangers where no one has a name a soul becomes intoxicated by a whole new level of the game, mesmerized by the thievery and the lives without shame one benefits an animal that hungers for pain  
Humanized by existence but no longer of man kind you sit back and count the shadows as another year passes you by, one by one they walk a losers step deep in thought but never thinking of ways to pay their debt  
Death laughs and plays its game as the unseen tears drown your soul each day you wake to one more day as your heart loves hate and grows deadly, cold, you

see this change of misery as the voice of death cheers you on you no it's wrong but you like the song even though it chills you to the bone  
Lies behoove reality that takes away the pain everyone hears a million lies and every lie is all most the same, cars, dimes and money but no one wants to take the blame it's life in blues where you fight to stay true in a never ending game

— Vandell Billie  
2008  
P.C.P.

### Seminole Poet

The reservation is the brilliant light of her universe. It's not the same place anymore. She prepares poetry like frybread and venison. She crafts language with colorful rhymes and word-play. She recalls standing on the lonesome battlefields of yesterday and writes about it. In a cooking chickee, a poem comes to her while she's fixing Indian stew. She carries poetry like

offerings of frybread, and hopeful words come to her like groups of Seminoles seeking the Everglades. And as the years pass by, the glass bead splendor of her poems shine through with more passion, and miraculously, her poetry takes flight like mourning doves from pine trees. She's a poet, you see, a starlight song, expressed ever-so-gently.

— Elgin Jumper  
Hollywood, 2008

### Transcendence

"I just wanna stare at this painting for a hundred years," I said to no one in particular. "He must be one of those artists," a curious museum visitor said. "You know how they're always tryin' to get into people's paintings." "I just wanna transcend this two-dimensional surface," I revealed, "and make it my own struggle." I had once heard if an artist gazed deeply into a painting, then worlds would open up, and all the colors of the imagination would come alive! so whenever I could, I'd steal away to museums. In time, I became enchanted by paintings. Museums are climate-

controlled so paintings last forever. One day, it happened! After decades of searching images, colors, compositions, the very brushstrokes ... "Yes, there it is," I yelled to no one in particular, "the transcendence of surface! And it's so thrilling! I'm at that place now. Behold, I see castles in the sky ... Therefore, I dream." Just then, I could hear dazed voices on the other side and I could see museum visitors peering in. After awhile, the voices and faces grew fainter and fainter. I had walked into another room.

— Elgin Jumper  
Hollywood, 2008

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