



Trail Boss Frank J. Billie leads the way for 400 cowboys and girls, and thousands of pounds of beef.

Judy Weeks

11th Annual Junior Cypress Cattle Drive Runaway Cattle Lead to Impromptu Cow Hunt

By Judy Weeks

BIG CYPRESS — What started out as the 11th Annual Junior Cypress Cattle Drive on March 31 turned into an event of much larger proportions — including a hunt for runaway cows.

A record crowd of over 400 cowboys and cowgirls ranging from 2 to 84 gathered at the Billie Swamp Safari to register for the day's activities. They received their commemorative handker-

chiefs with numerous tribal brands surrounding the logos of both the Council and Board of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Then they headed for the Swamp Water Café, where an enormous breakfast buffet awaited them.

Then a steady stream of horse and livestock trailers made their way to the far end of the West Boundary Road, where a herd of longhorn cattle had been assembled for the 12-mile cattle drive to

the Junior Cypress Entertainment Center and Rodeo Grounds. Horses were quickly saddled, riders mounted and the entourage assembled in preparation for the release of the cattle.

Big Cypress Board Representative Paul Bowers Sr. welcomed participants and gave them a brief history of the cattle drives that originated in this

♦ See CATTLE, page 34

2007 Seminole Indian 4-H Livestock Show & Sale

By Susan Etzebarria

BRIGHTON — The Tribe's 4-H program has come a long way since the 1950s when the only youth livestock available in those difficult times were donated chickens. Wherever attendees looked, there were animals of all types at the 2007 Seminole Indian 4-H Livestock Show and Sale.

The event, held March 28-30 at the Brighton 4-H Barn Pavilion, featured the largest number of animals ever — 24 steers, 66 swine and 16 small animals.

"I was so proud to see an increase in the number of animals. This year we had first-time participation from two reservations; Fort Pierce and Hollywood," said 4-H Coordinator Polly Osceola Hayes. "We have more youths starting younger in 4-H with small animal projects. They are getting used to caring and showing their animals and learning responsibility toward their next step of raising and showing larger animals. 4-H is steadily growing."

There were also hundreds of adults at the Livestock Show and Sale, observing, working and milling about, so the mix of God's creatures made for a swell of many sounds — moos, bleats, grunts, quacks, human laughter, shouts, kids' squeals and voices from the PA system.

For three days, the children, with help from their parents, concentrated on the many chores to be done caring for their 4-H project animals. The mood was intense but exciting as the nervous and eager youngsters readied

♦ See 4-H, page 33



Raven Smith and his baby calf lead the Pee Wee parade.

Susan Etzebarria



Felix DoBoz

Young Jason Hayling won first prize for most Easter eggs.

Fort Pierce Celebrates Easter With a Spring Fling

By Felix DoBoz

FORT PIERCE — The morning started out cool and rainy, but as luck would have it, the sun finally came out. The cloudless sky turned bright blue, the birds were chirping in the trees, and the kids were smiling and laughing — what a beautiful picture perfect day for the Spring Fling on April 6.

Seminole families from the local Fort Pierce community at Chupco's Landing gathered at the nearby Chupco Youth Ranch to share a beautiful day with their kids. The families enjoyed fun-filled educational activities in celebration of the upcoming Easter holiday.

Various Tribal departments, including human resources, education and health, helped make the first Fort Pierce Spring Fling memorable and successful. It is expected to become an annual event.

The Seminole Police Department, along with McGruff the Crime Dog, attended to greet and amuse the little kids, all the while promoting an antidrug message.

Tribal Emergency Services Department personnel brought a fire truck to demonstrate how they extinguish a small fire. The department also showed an impressive short video, produced by Seminole Broadcasting, telling kids and their parents to always be aware of the dangers of a fire.

Chupco Youth Ranch has lots to offer — the serenity of tall shady trees and plenty of space for horses to graze on while

♦ See SPRING, page 30

Council Passes 23 Resolutions at Meeting

By Chris Jenkins

BIG CYPRESS — The Tribal Council passed 23 resolutions as part of their meeting on March 27. They included:

Resolution 12: Approval of Tribal Alcoholic Beverage License issued to the Hard Rock Café International (USA), Inc., Hollywood Seminole Indian Reservation

Resolution 13: Service Agreement with Aquatic Plant Management, Inc., for Invasive Exotic Plant Removal Program Work on the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation

Resolution 14: South Florida Water Management District Local Government Agreement to assist the Seminole Tribe of Florida in conducting a geophysical investigation of a site adjacent to Harney Pond Canal on the Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation

Resolution 15: Schlumberger Water Services, a division of Schlumberger Technology Corporation Service Agreement to conduct a geophysical investigation of a site adjacent to Harney Pond Canal on the Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation

Resolution 17: Second Amendment of the Nineteenth Annual Work Plan submitted to the South Florida Water Management District by the Seminole Tribe of Florida

Resolution 19: Second Amendment of Seminole Tribe of Florida Criteria Agreement for Private School Scholarship Program

Resolution 23: Approval of attached quotation/lease agreement between the Seminole Tribe of Florida and Williams Scotsman, Inc., for 5,376 square feet of modular office space

Resolution 24: Issuance of a revocable permit by Loretta Micco, Rosetta Jumper and Regina Thinn to American Outdoor Advertising, Hollywood Seminole Indian Reservation

Resolution 25: Approval of revocable permit between Joe Osceola, Jr. and J & R Holdings Group, Inc.,

♦ See COUNCIL, page 7

What's Inside



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Brighton Students Visit Kennedy Space Center

By Emma Brown

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.

— Director of Education Louise Gopher has been requesting a trip for students to visit Kennedy Space Center for some time. During this year's Spring Break, on March 20, her request came to fruition.

The Brighton Education Department and Recreation Department organized a day trip for students to Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral. More than 75 students and adults traveled to the center to learn more about the brave men and women who have launched into space from there, such as John Glenn, Neil

Armstrong, Sally Ride and Jim Lovell.

Students were able to visit authentic attractions and inspiring exhibits and have hands-on experiences that make Kennedy Space Center one of Florida's highlights. Students also enjoyed the MAX theaters that allowed them to feel the thrill of a space exploration on five-story screens whose images made it seem as if they were floating right alongside NASA Astronauts. The students took advantage of the Space Center's guided tours to get a behind-the-scenes look at its working space flight facilities.

See page 23 for the photos.



Emma Brown

Ruben Burgess makes friends with an "astronaut."

Photo Quiz



Who are we?

Mother's Day, the Most Important Day of the Year

Our mothers have been our inspiration throughout our life. We should be celebrating our moms every day. They have looked after us, taught us our culture, been there to wipe our tears when we were down and cheered for us when things were going right.

I am grateful that my mother, Mary Frances Cypress, is there for me because she is my rock and my strength. Just knowing that my mom is around gives me the extra courage to continue to strive for the best for my people.

Please give your mom a kiss on the cheek and thank her for all she has sacrificed for you. Cherish the time you have with her and let her know that she is loved.

Happy Mother's Day!

Mitchell Cypress, Chairman



Mother's Day Message

Thank God for our mothers! Where we would be without loving mothers who give their all for us without a second thought? I thank God for my mother, who has been a picture of God's unconditional love; she is unselfish, forgiving, nurturing, guiding, helpful, encouraging, and always available! I am sure that you love your mother in the same way. So on this Mother's Day, I wish and pray for all our mothers that they would be honored as they so deserve and enjoy their special day with their families! Let's show our mothers just how much we love and appreciate them on their day and every day!

Proverbs 31:10 Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies.

Proverbs 31:27 She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.

Proverbs 31:26 She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

May God Bless You!

Moses Osceola, President

The 2007 Tribal Calendars Still Available

Seminole Tribal citizens can pick up their complimentary copies of the 2007 calendar at either the Hollywood Headquarters, Suite #235, the Big Cypress Council Representative's Office or the field offices on the Naples, Brighton, Immokalee, Tampa and Fort Pierce reservations.

Additional copies are available at the Tribune office for \$10. For more information, please contact Darline Buster at (954) 966-6300, Ext. 1266.



Letters & E-mail

Please send all letters to 6300 Stirling Road, Hollywood, FL 33024 ♦ tribune@semtibe.com ♦

Dear Editor,

Do you offer retreats where people can come to learn about Native American spirituality, cultural/ceremonial practices, shamanic studies, healing practices, etc.? Do you have shamanic practitioners among your Tribal citizens who are willing to teach these practices to those seeking this spiritual path?

My family and I are interested in learning and studying such Native American spiritual traditions. We are very concerned about the conditions of this earth and its people and we believe that it is through the practices of indigenous peoples that we can learn the way to help heal and restore our planet to its proper health, balance and well-being in the coming new age of human evolution.

Thank you,
The Gibbs Family

Dear Gibbs Family,

Your family's quest is definitely an honorable one. However, our traditional spiritual leaders do not discuss our ceremonies or beliefs with non-Tribal people. There are a lot of scholarly works that have been published that may help you and your family.

Good luck with your endeavors,
Tina M. Osceola
Director of Museums

Dear Editor,

I collect old Seminole dolls and they naturally some have damage. My husband and I are planning a trip to visit the Everglades soon and were wondering if anyone does repair work on dolls. We would like to have them repaired while on our vacation. The damage is not to the patchwork but the bodies of some of the dolls need reinforcement.

If anyone can help, please contact me via e-mail.

Thank you,
Lynn Johnson
orchid54@earthlink.net

Correction

An inaccurate headline appeared over the American Cancer Society Relay for Life article in the April 6 issue of The Tribune. It should have said: "The Immokalee Community Raises \$25,000 for ACS."

Photo Quiz Answer



Lena Doctor Tiger, Martha Tony



(L-R) Estelle Welsh, Miss Flandreau Indian School Princess, and Brittany Yescas, Miss Florida Seminole from the Florida Everglades, meet at the Denver March Pow-wow.



Drum and Dance group from Flandreau Indian School

Dear Chairman Cypress & Seminole Tribal Council:

We would like to thank the Seminole Tribe of Florida for the generous donation given to the Flandreau (S.D.) Indian School. It is very much appreciated and you are to be commended for your generosity. As I mentioned in our request, we have approximately 400 students representing 53 tribes from 20 states. Flandreau Indian School is one of the remaining four Off Reservation Boarding Schools in the United States. Our students come from rural reservation communities to urban areas. They board here at FIS for nine months and we have a few students that stay for our summer program.

A few years back the school added a new Cultural Program with Indian Studies classes. We teach these classes along with singing, dancing, outfit making and theater production. Our Indian/Cultural Club is very active doing cultural performances for various groups, and we also take our students to pow-wows. The name of our school drum group is Young Voice Singers.

We just recently took our drum group, dancers, and JROTC Color Guard to the Denver Pow-wow. A total of 25 stu-

dents attended from our school. We had the honor of sitting with Miss Seminole, Brittany Yescas and Wanda Bowers throughout the weekend. Brittany really made an impression with the students. They enjoyed talking with her and learning about the Seminole Tribe and Florida. We sent her an invitation to our Senior Honoring Pow-wow in May.

The Senior Honoring Pow-wow is held to honor our graduating seniors. We usually feature a school dance club competition, along with additional category specials and a drum split for visiting drum groups.

Your donation will help us with everything I have mentioned and more. Again I would like to thank you and the tribe from the students, myself and administration for your donation. Pidamaye!

Sincerely,

Ronnie Goodeagle
Cultural Coordinator

Betty Belkham
Superintendent

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) 683-7800, Ext. 1260, fax (954) 967-3482, or mail to: The Seminole Tribune, 6300 Stirling Road, Hollywood, Florida 33024.

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Deadline: May 23, 2007

Issue: June 29, 2007
Deadline: June 13, 2007

Issue: July 20, 2007
Deadline: July 5, 2007

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Swamp Cabbage Festival Committee recognized The Seminole Tribe of Florida as the guests of honor.

Swamp Cabbage Fest Appreciation Dinner Seminole Tribe Recognized for Participation

By Judy Weeks

LABELLE, Fla. — With the 41st annual festival behind them, members of the 2007 Swamp Cabbage Festival committee invited all festival sponsors to an appreciation dinner at the F.A. Hendry House on April 12.

This beautiful 19th century cracker residence has been placed on the Florida State Historical Registry and is often pressed into service for auspicious occasions. The wide veranda surrounding the



Barbara Billie was one of the guests of honor.



(L) Paul Bowers received a belt buckle.

entire structure provides the perfect platform for an old fashioned country dinner, including a fresh vegetable salad served from an old metal wash tub.

John Roberts and his guitar softly serenaded the gathering with a repertoire of country music favorites throughout the evening. Hendry County Commissioner and this year's parade Grand Marshal Bill Maddox offered the blessing. Lucretia Strickland and Ernesto Franco of the Swamp Cabbage Committee took turns hosting the event.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida was recognized as the guests of honor. Tribal citizens Barbara Billie and Diane Buster each received a large bouquet of long-stemmed red roses for the long hours they had spent planning and helping to organize the weekend's activities and Eastern Indian Rodeo Association presentation.

Big Cypress Board Representative and EIRA President Paul Bowers Sr. also received a decorative belt buckle inlaid with gold that read Swamp Cabbage Rodeo Sponsor.



The first event of the day captured the audience as they watched the Alligator Show.

Unforgettable Adventure and Learning Experience Okalee Village Fun Day and Seminole Marketplace

By Lila Osceola-Heard

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Okalee Indian Village opened up its doors and invited the public in to experience Seminole culture at Okalee Village Fun Day on the afternoon of March 25.

The flyer read "Unconquered Spirit, Unforgettable Adventure," and what an adventure it was with live animal shows that provided for entertainment as well as education. A few of the day's other activities included animal encounters, feedings, alligator wrestling and enjoying real Seminole culture first-hand.

Parents and adults were impressed and intrigued as they admired Seminole patchwork pre-



These girls watching the show are from Australia.



Guests of Fun Day experienced beading.

sented by Tribal citizens Minnie Doctor and Nettie Stewart. The two displayed their authentic Seminole skirts, dolls, necklaces and wood carvings — all made by their hardworking, strong Seminole hands.

Dedicated Tribal citizen Linda Jim spent her birthday under the cooking chicken making frybread and Indian tacos for guests to sample.

The day came to an end as kids departed, taking pieces of Tribal culture with them. Hopefully the experience will last them a lifetime and they will appreciate the Seminoles' ways.

Roman Holiday — With A Hard Rock Twist

Submitted by Peggie Reynolds
ROME, ITALY — Many travelers include a pilgrimage to the local Hard Rock Cafe and store on their itinerary within the U.S. or abroad. When they return home, they add yet another Hard Rock T-shirt or cap from such places as Honolulu, Sydney, London, Paris or Chicago to their collection.

During a winter trip to Rome, Peggie Reynolds from the Tribal Grants and Government Relations Department headed straight for the Rome Hard Rock Cafe on Via Vittorio Veneto.

What made this visit unique is that the Seminole Tribe had recently announced its purchase of the Hard Rock International chain. Carrying a variety of Tribal and Seminole Hard Rock items, Peggie dropped by the Roman cafe to share gifts and conversation with the managers and staff.

The Roman welcome could not have been warmer. General Manager Jesus Rodriguez, Operations Manager Alessio Bisogni and Sales & Marketing Manager Barbara "Bibi" Legnani and the rest of the staff were all very hospitable.

The afternoon visit soon became a whirlwind of chatter and excitement. Copies of *The Seminole Tribune* helped answer some of the questions about



Romans learn about peace, love and culture through this Tribune.

the Seminole community, and Seminole pin dolls conveyed a little of the Tribe's culture and goodwill. The next Hard Rock stop for Peggie will be Beijing, China in September.

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The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements. One (1) Seligman worked as a Certified Legal Intern in both the legal industry and public defender's offices in Florida and through County for his years, has graduated from Miami University (the world's law school) in 1987, and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1988.

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On Eagles' Wings: Faith, Hope and Basketball

Native American Ministry Meets Kids on Their Own Turf

K.B. Schaller is an independent journalist, novelist, artist and photographer based in Plantation, Fla. She contributes to a large-ly Native American readership.

By K.B. Schaller

When the Native youth evangelizing team On Eagles Wings, an outreach of Ron Hutchcraft Ministries, landed in South Florida on March 24, it was their first spring break visit to South Florida reservations including Big Cypress, Brighton and Hollywood.

The team was comprised of individuals representing about 20 Indian nations. Those from the continental United States included the Chickasaw, Creek, Western Seminole, Navajo, Apache, Pueblo, Cherokee, Ojibwe and Choctaw. The Yupik, Eskimo and Athabaskan tribes hailed from Alaska. The Cree and Mohawk represented the Canadian Tribes.

"This trip was not in our plans or budget," says the Rev. Craig Stephen Smith (Ojibwe), "but God enabled us to answer the call." A pastor as well as the author of *White Man's Gospel*—con-

sidered by many to be a must-read for all considering native ministry—Smith has directed the team for the past four years.

"The Seminole Tribe of Florida as well as the local pastors and congregations extended every courtesy and made us feel right at home," he says.

Right from the start, however, the team faced some challenges in reaching the Sunshine State: cancelled and delayed flights because of snow storms in many northern areas, and luggage woes that resulted in uncoordinated arrivals.

"We had planned for the area churches to see the team before we began, but groups arrived at different times and were too scattered around," Smith says, "so we didn't have time to meet together to set up for ministry."

Smith then cites an instance where "One team arrived at about 2 a.m. They then had to travel over 50 miles to the Big Cypress Reservation, get settled in, and be up by 8 a.m. to drive over an hour to the Brighton community."

"But these are seasoned OEW members," he adds quickly, "and by 5 p.m. everything was up and running."

According to Seminole Recreation Director Moses "Big Shot" Jumper, the historic visit had been in the making for six months, and required careful collaboration

with local pastors to preserve the harvest and encourage new leadership. In fact, I sort of step back and allow the OEW members to do most of the leading. After all, our youths are the leaders of tomorrow and the future of the church."

OEW, Smith further explains, also encourages the Big Cypress, Brighton and Hollywood kids to attend the Warner Leadership Summit this summer. "At WLS, they will meet and interact with between eight hundred and a thousand young natives who have passionate hearts for Christ. The summit will also feature The Third Day Singers and other native worship teams."

Smith also says that out of 54 youths who committed their lives during WLS 2006 alone, 32 are now either in or preparing for full-time ministry.

Although Craig Smith is the driving force behind the OEW team, part of the key to its success is LaDonna Smith (Navajo), Craig Smith's wife and ministry partner for 30 years. Her role, though less visible and performed more quietly, is still an integral part of the ministry.

"I'm largely a kind of mom for the girls. And I fit in and assist Craig whenever and however I can," she says. "I consider it an honor and a privilege to work with my husband."

LaDonna Smith adds that she is deeply involved in discipleship training for the OEW team. "Mentoring and providing a prayer covering are important components of this ministry. The team has to be ready for battle when the Enemy comes after them."

Tony Tiger (Saw Creek/Seminole), who is studying for a master's degree in art as well as serving as youth minister for the team, shared his story of hope, delivered sermons to area churches, and described the team's evangelizing mission. Tiger also helps to "keep the OEW team energized. I serve as counselor and leader and I make sure that they eat well, get enough rest, and stay healthy both spiritually and physically," he says.

Tiger adds that his responsibilities also include day-to-day functions. "I do things like organize trips to the mall and keep the kids pumped up and excited."

Craig Smith adds, "Sooner or later, though, we older folks will have to pass the torch to these young people, and they are the ones who must run with it and keep it burning."

Craig's father, Ray, also accompanied the OEW team. The elder Smith is involved in the administrative end of CHIEF, a ministry dedicated to raising up native pastors in the Americas. Still energetic and active, he agrees with his son, but is not ready to pass the torch just yet. "I thought about retiring once," he says, "but there's still just too much more I can do in ministry."

Following a formula that has worked for OEW in the past, the team spent the first of their three days-per-reservation trips passing out flyers door-to-door to generate interest in their evangelistic presentation, "Extreme Action."

"We meet native kids on their own turf"—any place where there's a basketball court. The team then challenges the locals to a basketball game. There, they establish rapport, interact, and share their stories of hope," Smith says.

The basketball game and shoot-out includes food, Christian rap music with a deejay, a comedy sketch, other fun events, as well as the stories of hope by those whose lives were changed by accepting Jesus Christ. And although OEW targets young adults between the ages of 18 and 34, all are welcome to attend their functions.

"By the second night, the word is out, and the attendance tends to build," Smith states. "The greatest crowd is almost always on the third night."

Smith further explains the OEW strategy: "We have found that three days at each place works best, and we avoid meeting at churches. They are not places where lost youths would feel comfortable. We also avoid 'churchy' words such as 'testimonies.' We prefer 'stories of hope' because they more aptly describe changed lives."

Smith also states that "OEW is not about

psychological abuse. The school drop-out rate for Native youths is estimated to be over 30 percent and also figures into the scenario of hopelessness.

"After listening to the unique challenges facing native young people, Chairman Cypress okayed the OEW visit," Craig Smith says, and underscores the position of Ron Hutchcraft Ministries: "Native American youths are the most devastated young people in America."

Sharing this belief, local pastors, no longer content to watch the continuing devastation from the sidelines, united to invite OEW with their unique brand of Native ministry to South Florida. They believed that, through the individual OEW team member's stories of hope explaining what Jesus Christ has done to change their lives, they could bring an added sense of hope to the Big Cypress, Brighton, and Hollywood communities.

And by the end of the evangelizing tour, based on the OEW team member's stories of overcoming many adversities in their young lives, nearly a hundred

daunting job to one less experienced; but Jumper's 33 years of experience—he has held his position since the Recreation Department's inception—assured that

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K.B. Schaller

An OEW team member shares how her new Christian faith helped her to overcome problems plaguing many native youths.

Following a formula that has worked for OEW in the past, the team spent the first of their three days-per-reservation trips passing out flyers door-to-door to generate interest in their evangelistic presentation, "Extreme Action."

"We meet native kids on their own turf"—any place where there's a basketball court. The team then challenges the locals to a basketball game. There, they establish rapport, interact, and share their stories of hope," Smith says.

The basketball game and shoot-out includes food, Christian rap music with a deejay, a comedy sketch, other fun events, as well as the stories of hope by those whose lives were changed by accepting Jesus Christ. And although OEW targets young adults between the ages of 18 and 34, all are welcome to attend their functions.

"By the second night, the word is out, and the attendance tends to build," Smith states. "The greatest crowd is almost always on the third night."

Smith further explains the OEW strategy: "We have found that three days at each place works best, and we avoid meeting at churches. They are not places where lost youths would feel comfortable. We also avoid 'churchy' words such as 'testimonies.' We prefer 'stories of hope' because they more aptly describe changed lives."

Smith also states that "OEW is not about

psychological abuse. The school drop-out rate for Native youths is estimated to be over 30 percent and also figures into the scenario of hopelessness.

"After listening to the unique challenges facing native young people, Chairman Cypress okayed the OEW visit," Craig Smith says, and underscores the position of Ron Hutchcraft Ministries: "Native American youths are the most devastated young people in America."

Sharing this belief, local pastors, no longer content to watch the continuing devastation from the sidelines, united to invite OEW with their unique brand of Native ministry to South Florida. They believed that, through the individual OEW team member's stories of hope explaining what Jesus Christ has done to change their lives, they could bring an added sense of hope to the Big Cypress, Brighton, and Hollywood communities.

And by the end of the evangelizing tour, based on the OEW team member's stories of overcoming many adversities in their young lives, nearly a hundred

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K.B. Schaller

In Hollywood, Chairman Mitchell Cypress (front row, center) poses with OEW team. Second row: LaDonna Smith (L) and other OEW team members. Back row: Ray Smith (L); youth pastor Tony Tiger (5th from left); the Rev. Craig Smith (behind man holding boy) and OEW team members.

considered by many to be a must-read for all considering native ministry—Smith has directed the team for the past four years.

"The Seminole Tribe of Florida as well as the local pastors and congregations extended every courtesy and made us feel right at home," he says.

Right from the start, however, the team faced some challenges in reaching the Sunshine State: cancelled and delayed flights because of snow storms in many northern areas, and luggage woes that resulted in uncoordinated arrivals.

"We had planned for the area churches to see the team before we began, but groups arrived at different times and were too scattered around," Smith says, "so we didn't have time to meet together to set up for ministry."

Smith then cites an instance where "One team arrived at about 2 a.m. They then had to travel over 50 miles to the Big Cypress Reservation, get settled in, and be up by 8 a.m. to drive over an hour to the Brighton community."

"But these are seasoned OEW members," he adds quickly, "and by 5 p.m. everything was up and running."

According to Seminole Recreation Director Moses "Big Shot" Jumper, the historic visit had been in the making for six months, and required careful collaboration

OEW enjoyed their stay.

Jumper, along with others on the Brighton and Big Cypress Reservations, planned such necessities as the team's living quarters—which on the Big Cypress Reservation were Chickee cabins—and were also responsible for the team's transportation and food.

But not all was evangelizing work for OEW; there was also that special brand of Seminole hospitality: Chairman Mitchell Cypress presented T-shirts and gift packets to the team, and provided a tour of Ah-Tah-Thi-ki Museum, and a trip to the beaches. The team, as a gesture of gratitude, presented the Chairman with OEW T-shirts.

"The trip was initiated by Reverend Salaw Hummingbird (Cherokee, Big Cypress)," Jumper says. "Along with pastors Wonder Johns (Creek, Brighton), Arlen Payne (Big Cypress), Bruce Pratt (Pawnee, Hollywood) and Paul Buster (Seminole, Hollywood) they met with Chairman Mitchell Cypress and other tribal leaders."

The pastors then voiced their concerns about issues that affect Native American youths as a whole, cutting across economic and cultural lines: broken homes, alcohol, drug abuse, early deaths due to suicide, homicides that are often related to substance abuse, and physical, sexual and

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Chairman Mitchell Cypress and President Moses Osceola reminisce about the good ol' days.

Chairman Celebrates 60th Birthday

By Chris Jenkins

BIG CYPRESS — "Sixty and Better than Ever" was the theme and the star of the show was Chairman Mitchell Cypress. On March 30 a packed house of family, friends and employees gathered at the Big Cypress Entertainment Complex to celebrate his milestone birthday.

Joining the chairman for the festivities were President Moses Osceola and Fort Pierce Liaison S.R. Tommie, who emceed for the day.

Also attending were Tribal citizens and well-wishers including: Edna McDuffie, Paul Bowers Sr., Joe Osceola, Stanlo Johns, Helene Buster, Louise Gopher, Joe Osceola, Mike Tiger, Hendry County Commissioner Bill Maddox, daughter Angie Cypress, artist Guy LaBree, Suzanne Davis and Vicky Barogiannis.



Chris Jenkinson
Big Cypress Board Rep. and friend Paul Bowers Sr. says a few words about Chairman Mitchell Cypress as Fort Pierce Liaison S.R. Tommie (R) watches.



Mentalist and entertainer Guy Bavli performs with audience participant and Tribal Information Technology Department employee Mario Silva.

Timi Bearden recited a poem in tribute to the chairman and his late daughter Michelle.

The chairman enjoyed the show of support, saying "I thank everyone who came out today."

Birthday gifts from friends and well-wishers included special presents from Tribal citizen Linda Frank as well as 2007 Miss Hendry County Jenna Stephens.

The entertainment for the afternoon was a slide show presentation of the chairman and family over the years. The band Private Stock played and a special performance by "Master of the Mind" mentalist and entertainer Guy Bavli also entertained the audience. Bavli, a nationally known performer, used a combination of humor, suspense, magic and mind skills to keep the guests excited and amazed.



(L-R) Mindy Fish, Chairman Cypress and Marcia Green.



Chairman Cypress participates on stage with mentalist and entertainer Guy Bavli.



Chairman Cypress receives a gift from 2007 Miss Hendry County Jenna Stephens.



Private Stock performs.

Robert B. Frank Jr.
Named Tribal
Programs Officer



Seminole Tribal citizen Robert B. Frank Jr. has been appointed Tribal Programs Officer, Chief Operations Officer Elrod Bowers announced April 18.


Bobby has been employed with the Tribe since August 1996. He worked as a videographer (camera operation) and production coordinator, and was promoted to the position of assistant director of Seminole Broadcasting, assuming responsibility for the operations management of five facilities.

"Bobby's management experience and extensive knowledge of Tribal operations will be a great asset to the Chief Operations Department," Bowers said in his announcement of Frank's appointment.



Tribal Programs Officer Robert B. Frank Jr.




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Look What's Happening in the Housing Department *Housing Takes Aggressive Approach to Improvements*

By Lila Osceola-Heard

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Housing Department's goal is to provide quality housing for Tribal citizens. In order to follow through with that, staff members are making improvements to the community.

Tents, tables, chair and barbecue were set up at the Seminole Wind Apartments on the afternoon of March 29 so members of the community could view and comment on the improvements. A fresh paint job to the exterior is always a new beginning. There are also new signs at the apartments identifying them as Seminole Wind Apartments.

Hollywood Council



Lila Osceola-Heard

Hollywood Rep. Max Osceola talks with Housing Department staff.



Lila Osceola-Heard

(L-R) Alex, Kwan and Irene Tommie listen attentively.

Representative Max B. Osceola Jr., along with Housing Director Troland "Troy" V. Clay, discussed many of the recent improvements made at the town homes and apartments in the Seminole Wind complex.

Safety is the department's top priority and many of the improvements made were made with that in mind. Some of these improvements include: 24/7 manned surveillance, gates on the dumpster encl-

tures, controlled access points and additional lighting. Their will also now be monthly routine inspections by Seminole Police Department officers. This effort is part of a new Housing Department program to ensure long-term effectiveness, safety and quality.

Department Service Manager Lori Milano said she is excited about these improvements as the department strives to meet its goal of providing quality housing. She added, "We will continue to build on a positive prideful relationship with our Tribal members and ask your assistance and cooperation in helping us maintain our rental complexes."



Lila Osceola-Heard

Lori Milano (R) talks with housing tenants and staff.

Hazard Mitigation Workshop, Meeting

Story by Judy Weeks

BIG CYPRESS — In an effort to establish the Seminole Tribe of Florida All Hazard Mitigation Plan, a public meeting took place on March 26 at 2 p.m. in the Big Cypress Community Center.

The Office of Emergency Management and Utilities/Public Works Department co-hosted a workshop that morning to provide an overview of the current mitigation planning process. They also wanted to collect information from Tribal Council representa-

opportunities through the Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation grant programs.

Representatives from all major Tribal departments had an opportunity to express their concerns and ideas regarding response efforts and preventive techniques. Some stressed the vulnerability of the Tribe without a mitigation program and said the need for public participation is vital for FEMA approval. FEMA gives incentives to local governments who



Judy Weeks

Mitigation specialists join the representatives from Tribal departments in an effort to prepare a comprehensive plan and inform Tribal citizens of their efforts and recognize their concerns.

Alejandro Toro, vice president of Metcalf & Eddy/AECOM, and Daniel Martin of Integrated Solutions Consulting gave a PowerPoint presentation identifying the meeting's purpose and objectives, and the goals sought by the Tribe.

According to the presentation, mitigation is the cornerstone of emergency management. It is an ongoing effort to lessen the impact of disasters through damage prevention and insurance.

Mitigation measures include building safely within potential hazard areas and engineering buildings and infrastructures to withstand hazard impacts, among others measures.

The goals of the Mitigation Plan include assisting residents, businesses, emergency personnel and others in order to minimize the potential damage of a disaster and provide a framework for sustainable development. These goals are designed to comply with the latest requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.

With the adoption of the plan, the Seminole Tribe will be assured eligibility for future funding

adopt mitigation plans, which will put them in a position for immediate funding should a disaster take place.

STOF Emergency Manager Curt Sommerhoff pointed out: "Currently there is no flood plane mapping on tribal lands and water treatment and management programs are being instituted to protect from overflow and contamination. This is important not only from a community prospective but has a significant effect on the Tribe's agricultural ventures."

After adopting a plan, the Tribe can work with FEMA in administering its own grant so impacted areas can receive immediate relief.

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By Ramona Kiyoshik

A Fashionable Journey through Time

In the beginning, they were not even an official nation. Art and culture were luxuries that a people on the run could not afford.

Their first numbers consisted of a conglomerate of proud individuals who valued their freedom and efficacy above all else. Most were renegades from the East Coast and Bayou Tribes fleeing the oppression and genocidal policies of the likes of Andrew Jackson. Miccosukee, Muscogee and Creeks, joined by runaways from slavery and some white sympathizers, would emerge into today's Seminole and Miccosukee tribes of Florida.

Many ceremonies and art forms were lost as small family groups fled from "swamp to swamp," with soldiers and dogs not far behind, often leaving every possession except the clothes on their backs.

After a bitter resistance that lasted almost 40 years and reduced their numbers to less than 200, they regrouped in the sanctuary of the Everglades. With a determination to survive, they took what the swamps had to offer to create a new culture based on the traditions, legends and language they managed to retain.

The history of their art is traced by their clothing — styles, materials, assembly and demands of the environment. This is not unusual as the indigenous peoples of North America created their ceremonies, dwellings, clothing and even food to fit into a holistic pattern with the natural world. Animals, the elements, trees and plants, they believed, were all part of a grand scheme, and the objective was to coexist with Creation. Respect was the guiding principle.

Today the fashions of the Seminoles and Miccosukee Tribes are the subject of many books and museum exhibits throughout the state. They make for a fascinating record of periods of destitution and affluence. *Art of the Florida Seminole and Miccosukee Indians*, by historian Dorothy Downs, is an extremely comprehensive and loving tribute to the evolution of clothing as art. It also covers aspects of making canoes, baskets, household utensils and even the building of thatched chickee shelters.

Dr. Downs explains how emerging technology was adapted into refining the manufacture of clothing and necessities, and how new materials reflected encounters with traders, merchants and other tribes. Versatile and creative Indian men and women readily learned to use sewing machines and the cloth and trinkets acquired via trade. Through the consolidation of the skills of the various cultures that made up their community, the distinctive and colorful patchwork patterns would evolve into the trademark garments known worldwide — and once sported with pride by Pablo Picasso himself.

Art of the Florida Seminole and Miccosukee Indians is a lively retelling of Seminole history, fun to read, entwined with anecdotes about what the people were wearing, with wonderful period photographs and illustrations. The book may be dated by its 1995 publication date, but the material is very relevant and entertaining. It is not the last word on the Florida Tribes and their art, fashions or culture, however.

Art is dynamic and new forms will continue to emerge from the soul of a nation, reflecting changing times, popular culture, prosperity and materials available. While new artists will continue to express themselves in the language of the times, the basic principles remain intact.

What is the source of Seminole inspiration? From what I know of this resilient people, they turn to family, nature, tradition and their personal bests. Their art, writing, music, carvings and ceremonies still reflect an affinity with Creation. In an era of computers and curious youth, there is no limit to what one can expect from this nation known for its enterprising spirit. Dorothy Downs's wonderful book becomes a jumping-off point for those who want to know how it all started. Feel free to speculate and enjoy an exciting journey.



Title: Art of the Florida Seminole and Miccosukee Indians

Author: Dorothy Downs,

Edition: Illustrated.

Binding: Trade paperback

Publisher: University Press of Florida

Date Published: 1995

ISBN: 0-8130-1536-7

Special Tribal Council Meeting

By Chris Jenkins

HOLLYWOOD — The Tribal Council met for a special session on March 26 and passed one resolution.

Resolution 4: Approval to enter into a settlement, recapitalization and clarification agreement and related documents with Power Plant, Entertainment, LLC; limited waiver of immunity.

❖ Council

Continued from page 1

Hollywood Seminole Indian Reservation

Resolution 26: Issuance of a revocable permit by Dan Bowers to Clear Channel Outdoor-Hollywood Seminole Indian Reservation

Resolution 27: Standard form of agreement between owner and contractor where the basis of payment is a stipulated sum between the Seminole Tribe

of Florida and CAL Development, Inc., for the construction of three single family homes on the Immokalee Seminole Indian Reservation

Resolution 28: Ford Motor Credit Company Indian Tribal Government lease-purchase agreement No. 49990 as amended by schedule 4999052: waiver of Sovereign Immunity

Resolution 29: Approval of agreement with HKS Architects, Inc., for Design and Contract Administration Services related to the construction of improvements at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino-Tampa

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Seeing the World in a New Light: An Essay on American Impressionism

"Color is my daylong obsession, joy and torment."
— Claude Monet

By Elgin Jumper

Comprehension, according to Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, is "the act or action of grasping with the intellect; understanding." Yet I would say it is not restricted to the intellect, for deep within the wondrous realms of inquiry and wisdom resides the heart in a rich golden light. The heart, in the ways it takes to something truly heartfelt, can grasp what it holds profound passions for as well.

And so, to further comprehension and gain a deeper inspiration, I recently visited the Naples Museum of Art, just off U.S. Route 41 in Naples, Fla. for the "Impressions: Americans in France, 1860-1930" exhibition, which will be on display through May 13.

The American Impressionists in this show, it seems, were those significant artists who made France their home, or visited and were in turn greatly inspired by the famous artistic developments there. Thus they brought valuable inspiration back to America, to other American artists. And, of course, to me, a Native American artist.

I have long been fascinated by the mother and child theme in the paintings of Mary Cassatt, the only American ever permitted to exhibit with the French Impressionists. She was also the only American allowed into their immediate circle. Cassatt was influenced, as were many of the Impressionists, by Japanese printwork. Yet I often see that same mother and child theme, full of emotion, in Seminole art-work and photos, and must say I encourage it and hope to see more. The images are so iconic, so reminiscent of Mary and Jesus, which is why Cassatt's work endures. Cassatt, who trained first in Pennsylvania, journeyed to France after the Civil War, and painted theater scenes before her mother and child paintings, which even now she is more revered for.

As I understand it, shortly after the Civil War, American artists traveled to Paris in large numbers to study and to refine their talents. They studied landscape painting and the "peasant genre" as themes to work in. Colonial painters had visited Paris as well, but not on the same scale. Winslow Homer produced *French Farm* in 1867. These painters were quite aware of the Barbizon art colony, which advocated a school of thought that lightened the rigors of peasant life. But American painters such as Robert Wyllie with his picture, *The Postman* (Reading the Letter to the Bridegroom), and J. Alden Weir with his, *The Oldest Inhabitant*, began to tell a more rigorous story on their canvases.

But the Impressionists concerned themselves primarily with the fleeting moment, capturing it despite its precious intangibility. Which brings me happily to another great show at the Naples Museum of Art: "Claude Monet: Giverny and the North of France." Inspiring, to say the least. I could lose myself in Monet's brilliant use of pastel colors, where crystal waters and their reflections drink in fantastic sunlight and amazing colors become the eye's thought in patterns — for there the sun! the sun! — and yet all is fleeting, all is changing and constantly in flux, so that many canvases might be filled to chronicle a day.

But it was Robert Reid who was to become one of the leading American Impressionists. Reid's *Blessing the Boats* is one of the first paintings you see when you walk into the first gallery. The work was rendered in a somewhat Academic tradition with clear foreground, middle ground, and background, but here the people aren't as detailed, and Reid wasn't afraid to use themes that were mortal or even tragic. Even so, his time in Paris was extraordinarily successful.

American Impressionist Childe Hassam's painting *April Showers, Champs Elysee, Paris*, is an exquisite instance of an American capturing the great French city. The darkness of the carriage is quite at odds with the lightness of the horses pulling it, a delightful contrast. I'm enchanted by the work every time I view it.

Hassam, who visited Paris in the late 1880s, was exceptionally gifted at capturing its weather conditions. I myself have been working on a "chickee series" of contemporary impressionistic paintings, just going through the wondrous permutations of the sequence, trying to learn and understand the fleeting light. Perhaps it's emblematic of how we sometimes change, how we occasionally are shown a new light, and how we begin to see the world in that fresh, new, radiant light.

Another American Impressionist who caught my attention at the show was Julius LeBlanc Stewart. Stewart specialized in painting the upper classes, but he had gleaned his style from Spanish Academic

painters. Stewart's colorful and vibrant paintings captured scenes concerned with elaborate social functions, yachting, tennis, carriage outings and beautifully groomed women. His was an out-of-doors style of painting, and proficiently rendered. Stewart's *Summer* transports one to the glimmering summer days in France around 1880, with wealthy men and women promenading through field and country.

At this show, too, I'm glad to see, is the work of John Singer Sargent, who is known more often for his magnificent portraits and work in pure figure



Chickee kissed by sunlight inspires Jumper to create a new type of Impressionism.

painting. He has several portraits of Monet, but I find the dark bust portrait painted in 1887 to be especially impressive. In his early years, Sargent had a tendency to paint more in the rural genre, and his work was more loose with more of a natural brushstroke. This is evident in the work titled *Fishing for Oysters at Cancale*, a painting for which Sargent produced two preliminary studies, *Girl on the Beach* and *Boy on the Beach*. Here the Impressionistic vision is confirmed with much resemblance and vibrancy. Yet there were other American Impressionists as well, who were enticed away into an Impressionism entangled in the relentless net of modernity.

Theodore Robinson's *Angelus*, also known as *Suzette*, portrays a young peasant girl in a sun-seeped landscape near a lily pond. Still, Robinson had painted this one around 1887, long before he was to become a leader in the American Impressionist movement. The painting, I learned, is much in keeping with the Barbizon school, with overcast and tonal landscapes and peasant lifestyles represented. When I see the painting, I think of prayer and standing in darkness and sunlight at the same time. Robinson went further than Barbizon, and was known for painting near the



Jumper's artwork combines Seminole tradition with bold, modern brushwork.

village of Grez sur Loing, a far scenic locale on the river Loing, where advantages, not apparent at the former, were to be had.

Yet there were still other American Impressionists, and these found their way to Giverny, France where Claude Monet made his home. Of the first group of Americans to make it to Giverny, Theodore Robinson is perhaps the most prominent, but also, in France, there would be others such as Theodore Wendel and Willard Metcalf.

Theodore Wendel's *Girl with Turkeys*, *Giverny*, is infused with fantastic light and color, swift brushwork and figure painting, but facial definition isn't as important as the figure-painting theme. Meanwhile, Wendel's friend Willard Metcalf's *Sunlight and Shadow* is a striking example of exploring the sun's effects as well as the effects brought on by sunlight brushing across the tops of trees. The paint is applied thickly, impasto-like, and the sun and shadow contrasts are rather astounding.

Although Wendel and Metcalf weren't all that close to Monet, there was another artist who did, fleetingly, become a close friend to the modern "Old Master."

John Leslie Breck was so inspired by Monet's paintings of haystacks that he rendered in the same manner, his own series of grain stacks. Breck's interpretation of sunlight on Monet's garden, *Garden at Giverny*, shows an artist quite taken with Impressionism's aesthetic and vision. Yet as if that wasn't enough, Breck also fell in love with Blanche, one of Monet's daughters. This greatly angered the aging French Impressionist and thus terminated the artistic harmony at Giverny.

Monet, being one of the original French Impressionists — the name came from a derogatory review of Monet's *Impression Sunrise* — associated with only a handful of American Impressionists who invaded Giverny. But there was yet another American painter who became exceptionally close to Monet.

Theodore Butler, a landscape painter, married Suzanne, another one of Monet's daughters, and when she died, he married Marthe, her sister.

Butler's *Grainstacks*, *Giverny* seeks to surpass the haystacks and wheat stacks of his famous father-in-law. Later though, Butler's work would be impacted by Post-Impressionism—that is, simplification of forms, light and colors in patterns, looser brushwork, less-defined compositions. And yet when I see Butler's and Monet's "stacks," I can't help but be reminded of my own work, my series of contemporary chickees — how I see them time and time again anew, and shimmering bronze and gold leaves in the sun!

Friedrich Friscke, an American Impressionist from the Midwest, and was of the later generations into Giverny. He kept mainly to himself, and he, too, would be deeply influenced by the Post-Impressionist style, with his somewhat adorned abstractions, artificial colors, and intermittent spots of sunlight often directed on contemplative women. Interestingly enough, his approach was very successful. Momentarily back to Childe Hassam, a frequent visitor to Pont Aven, Brittany. Hassam started out as an illustrator, yet his untutored eye never failed to pick up beauty the untrained artist neglected to

"I find here sunlight that seduces the eye, transcends it, even transforms it with terse illuminations, and reflects it back to us on other momentary reflections of light."

notice. As a viewer of Hassam's painting *Afternoon in Pont Aven*, Brittany — undoubtedly a neo-Impressionistic work with its severe impasto, simplifications of forms, and intense colors — I find here sunlight that seduces the eye, transcends it, even transforms it with terse illuminations, and reflects it back to us on other momentary reflections of light. And although until this time, Claude Monet had been the main inspiration, the darker palette and slashing brushwork of Edouard Manet were fast becoming the model that newer American Impressionists were looking to for enthusiasms.

One, Robert Henri, originally from Nebraska, was academically trained, yet he was eventually ensnared by the light and brought over to the Impressionists' approach. Henri's *Night, Fourteenth of July* is steeped in Manet's ever-dramatic palette, and more natural brushstrokes and realist portrayals of then-contemporary life, Manet's main theme.

Henri was closely linked with yet another of the American Impressionists. A friend of Robert Henri, William Glackens, initially came from Philadelphia, and both were immensely influenced by Manet's work. Glackens's *Quatorze Juillet* echoes his enchantment with Paris, and qualifies his spirit for the energies of the commoner. I see the painting as a fresh recording of a dark moment, though not all that long a moment for Louis XIV.

Susan Watkins had studied in America with William Merritt Chase before journeying to Paris. Between France and Italy, Watkins spent no less than 14 years, and her work is laced throughout with academic training and Impressionism. Watkins's *Heart of the Fountain de l'Observatoire, Jardin du Luxembourg, Paris*, and *A Young Girl (Daughter of Walter S. Martin)*, displays



Impressions of a chickee in shadow

the artist's skills in contrast and colorful floral patterns. Watkins unfortunately died at 37.

And Edward Hopper, better known for his paintings of city and diner scenes, was himself influenced by Henri, Manet, and Velasquez. Hopper's *Le Font des Arts* and *Le Quai des Grands Augustins* are impressionistic in spirit — in their renderings, that is. But with the latter painting one can feel the dramatic power of isolation and the strong sense of being alone, for the work has more of the anonymity and alienation of his later, more famous works.

Even so, it wouldn't be until 1927 that an American Impressionist, Guy Pene du Bois, captured the unmistakable essence of the American Paris scene. Du Bois, from Brooklyn, had been trained by Henri, and his *Americans in Paris* is a work that thoughtfully preserves the feeling of how young American women, at the time, flouted convention as they traveled both far and wide.

Later American Impressionists gathered in droves around states such as California, Connecticut, Indiana, New York, and Pennsylvania. But the catalyst of the present movement was initiated back in the 1950s when major museums started having French Impressionist exhibitions again, but this time on a far larger scale than ever before. Some of the prominent American Impressionists were William Merritt Chase, Edmund Charles Tarbell, and Frank Weston Benson. Today, we have Catherine Elliot, Lena Kurovka, Lee Tiller, Lindsay Dawson, Tim Howe, Vitali Komarov, Richard Earl Thompson, and John C. Terelak, among many others, emulators of Manet, Monet and others.

The American Impressionism and Claude Monet shows left such lasting imprints and I couldn't wait to set my feelings down on paper!

I see my work as a Native American interpretation of French and American Impressionism, for ultimately we are

"Ultimately we are all setting down on canvas the overall sense of light, and to me they're revived chickees longing to shimmer in the sun."

tures in the chickees are secondary to the effects of light and cast shadows. I apply light, broken brushwork, stand back occasionally to get the lively contrast of values in.

I stand back anyway when viewing an Impressionistic work, to let colors come together, to allow harmonies of vigorous work to become one, though not too precisely painted. The preoccupation with moments, the play of light, changing light — recalling the Naples show — the thick paint, the profound interest in the dynamic, the expressive, in all sincerity, in all things close to the heart.

Yes — Life to be lived! To be treasured! Comprehending dear, fleeting moments, — they can never be brought back to you — and vanishing still, the lightest rain on a sultry night. And as for me, I shall fortify my heart 'gainst the onslaught.

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Sean Etzebarria

Awards in the Culture Class were presented to the following students, and two other classroom teachers, who posed with the Culture Class staff: First row (L-R): Michelle Jimmie, Jathaniel Brooks, Ethan Balentine, Alena Stockton. Second row (L-R): Culture Class aide Wanda Billie stands next to staff award winner Roxann Engel. Award winning students Stevie Billie and Reggie Billie, staff award winner Coach Randall Chickler, and classroom teacher Danielle Frye.

School Awards Assembly Dishes Up Surprises

By Susan Etzebarria

BIG CYPRESS — The Ahfachkee School's third quarter awards assembly was held on March 30. Teachers rewarded the accomplishments of hardworking students with certificates and a surprise dish of ice cream at the end of the day.

The newest groups of awards, called the Library Awards, were introduced this year. They went to youths in all grades and recognizing some unusual but important achievements.

Susie Jim, fifth grader, received an award for shelving books and sixth grader Ricky Joe Alumbaugh received an award for working behind the scenes. Sixth grader Lariah Balentine won an award for excellent Native American research and Arnold Billie, third grader, won an award for dedication to reading.

Other interesting awards in the high school this year were the Plato Honors. Plato Learning is an online program that students complete on their own, independent of classroom instruction.

After the awards program, Principal Terry Porter congratulated the winners.

Porter also announced that the school is working on creating an organized sports program. For that reason, the students all took part in a democratic process of suggesting ideas for a school mascot and school colors for their teams and then the students voted on their favorites. Porter announced the results.

He declared the school mascot will be the Ahfachkee Seminole Warrior and the school colors will be the Seminole Tribe's official colors of red, yellow, black and white.

"When we have games I will want to see those colors painted on all your faces," he said.

Porter also recognized guests who attended the assembly, including Diana Rocha of the Immokalee Education Department; who Porter said was "very helpful with our students from Immokalee."

Education Director Louise Gopher also attended the ceremony.

"She is really supportive of Ahfachkee School and has been very helpful to me in my first year here," Porter said.

Preschoolers and Special Guests Celebrate "Week of the Young Child"

By Lila Osceola-Heard

HOLLYWOOD — It is so easy for adults to get wrapped up in the hustle and bustle of daily life. But on April 9, Hollywood Tribal Council Representative Max B. Osceola Jr., Human Resources Director Lee Zepeda, Shelia Elliott and Sandra Rosenberg-Stoller of the Human Resources Department, and Tribal citizen Dave Osceola slowed down and had lunch with the Hollywood Preschool students.

This lunch was in support of the National Association for the Education of Young Children's (NAYCE) "Week of the Young Child," observed April 22-28. According to their website, "NAYCE's mission is to serve and act on behalf of the needs, rights and well-being of all young children with primary focus on the provision of educational and developmental services and resources."

The Hollywood Preschool cooking staff made an extra special lunch for the guests. The staff also decorated the guests' table with beautiful pictures of the kids' faces, handprints and footprints, laminated as placemats for them to look



Cachalani "Alani" Frank and Max Osceola



Lila Osceola-Heard

(L-R) Max Osceola, Lee Zepeda, Shelia Elliott, Sandra Rosenberg-Stoller and Dave Osceola.

at while they ate.

The five guests all sat and watched the future of the Tribe pick up their food with their little fingers and eat it all.

"We want to teach our children about the world and what is possible for them," Zepeda said. "But this type of event demonstrates that our children really teach up, that our children really teach up about the world and what is possible for us. There is nothing more encouraging."

Ahfachkee School Third Quarter Awards

High School
Plato Honors
 Jamie Hulbatta
 Herschel Frank
 Steven Hannahs
 Bree Robbins
 Ralph Sanchez
 Micco Billie
 Eric Sanders

Accelerated Math Award
 Erica Mata
 Steven Hannahs

Accelerated Reading Award
 Dawna Cypress
 Steven Hannahs
 Bree Robbins
 Jessica Ruhl

Perfect Attendance & Punctuality
 Herschel Frank

8th Grade
Perfect Punctuality
 Jumper Hudson

Perfect Attendance
 Tia Osborne

7th Grade
Perfect Punctuality
 Ryan Cypress
 Jessica Lopez

B Honor Roll
 Dillon Cypress
 Malachi Baker
 Kaylee Jumper
 Jessica Lopez

Accelerated Math
 Tana Bear-Osceola
 Dillon Cypress Daylin Hall
 Malachi Baker
 Jessica Lopez

Accelerated Reader
 Ryan Cypress
 Malachi Baker
 Kaylee Jumper

6th Grade Class
AB Honor Roll
 Lariah Balentine
 Julia Gonzalez
 Ricky Joe Alumbaugh
 Cypress Billie
 Tequesta Tiger
 Bradley Osceola
 Rodni Mercer
 Shawna Billie
 Adrienne Cypress

A Honor Roll
 Alexis Aguilar

Perfect Attendance
 Bradley Osceola
 Tequesta Tiger

5th Grade
A Honor Roll
 Terri Baker
 Justin Roff

Perfect Attendance
 Savannah Tiger

Perfect Punctuality
 Sylvia Gonzalez
 Rashaun Jim
 Savannah Tiger

A-B Honor Roll
 Malari Baker
 Sylvia Gonzalez
 Darren Jim
 Destiny Robbins
 Savannah Tiger

4th Grade
Spelling
 Leana Billie
 Sabre Billie
 Gloria Brooks
 Michelle Jimmie
 Kaitlin Osceola
 Chief Billie
 Katherine Bert
 Christian Alexander

Math
 Michelle Jimmie
 Leana Billie
 Katherine Bert
 Reading
 Leana Billie
 Katherine Bert
 Kaitlyn Osceola
Perfect Attendance and Punctuality
 Kaitlin Osceola and Rosalinda Lopez

3rd Grade
Perfect Punctuality
 Jacob Cotton
 Arnold Billie
 Channey Curry

Nehemiah Roberts
 Samantha Gonzalez
Perfect Attendance
 Jacob Cotton
 Chelsey Alvarado

A Honor Roll
 Michaela Cypress
Perfect Attendance
 Jacob Cotton
 Chelsey Alvarado



A-B Honor Roll
 Channey Curry
 Christopher Alexander
 Jacob Cotton
 Samantha Gonzalez

2nd Grade
Perfect Punctuality
 Corbin Billie
 Jathaniel Brooks
 Graysun Billie
A-B Honor Roll
 John Robbins, Jr.
 Roderick Bert
 Trevon Marks
 Graysun Billie

Perfect Attendance
 Jathaniel Brooks

AR Goal Award
 Jonah Alvarado
 Corbin Billie
 John Robbins
 Ignacia Rodriguez

Accelerated Math Awards
 Jonah Alvarado
 Roderick Bert
 Corbin Billie
 Jathaniel Brooks
 Stanley Cypress
 Trevon Marks
 John Robbins
 Ignacia Rodriguez

First Grade
Perfect Attendance
 Ethan Balentine
 Troy Cantu

Independent Reader Award
 Jazmine Billie
 Trinity Williams
 Kevin Ivey
 Ethan Ballentine
 Eyanna Billie

A Honor Roll
 Ethan Balentine
 Cartaya Billie
 Eyanna Billie
 Jazmine Billie
 Ciara Iglesias
 Zephaniah Roberts
 Annabelle Whiteshield
 Kevin Ivey

A/B Honor Roll
 Trinity Williams

Kindergarten
Perfect Punctuality
 Cade Gibson
 Ezekial Roberts

Most Improved
 Cassie Alexander
 Ezekial Roberts

Addition & Subtraction Awards
 Katrina Huggins
 Mya Cypress
 Alyssa Burnett Osceola
 Leslie Gopher
 Cade Gibson
 Nigel Wells
 Precious Jimmie

Fluent Reader
 Alyssa Burnett Osceola
 Cade Gibson
 Romeo Garcia

Writing Award
 Cade Gibson
 Romeo Garcia
 Thoya Robbins
 Leslie Gopher
 Cassie Alexander
 Eliza Billie
 Alyssa Burnett Osceola
 Jack Aguilar

Pre-K Awards
Perfect Punctuality
 Shana Balentine
 Elise Brown
 Tash-Sho-Tah-Che Jumper
 Carlee Billie
 Richard Billie

Knows All 26 Letters & Sounds
 Tash-Sho-Tah-Che Jumper
 Leilani Gopher
 Elise Brown
 Carlee Billie

Knows Numbers 1-10
 Tash-Sho-Tah-Che Jumper
 Leo Onco
 Leilani Gopher
 Shana Balentine
 Osiana Crespo
 Elise Brown
 Carlee Billie
 Kylen Jumper
 Red Heart Billie
 Alena Stockton
 Savannah Fish
 Jalycia Billie

Homework Award
 Carlee Billie
 Shana Balentine
 Elise Brown
 Martha Tiger

Math Award Counting
 1-75
 Leo Onco
 Red Heart Billie
 Osiana Crespo

Most Improved
 Ko" Oshee Henry

Improved Writing
 Rickardo Rodriguez

ESE and VE Class
 (part time)

A-and-A-B Honor Roll
 Jon Ross Billie
 Kegan Cypress
 Steven Frank
 Trisha Walker
 Christian Alexander
 Ricky Joe Alumbaugh
 Graysun Billie
 John Ross Alexander
 Anthony Cypress
 Dillon Cypress

Perfect Punctuality
 Jon Ross Billie
 Steven Frank

Art Awards
 Les Gopher
 Ciara Iglesias
 Stanley Cypress
 Samantha Gonzalez

Library Awards
 Ricky Joe Alumbaugh
 Lariah Balentine
 Kaitlin Osceola
 Arnold Billie
 Bradley Osceola
 Jacob Cotton
 Thomlyn Billie
 Kevin Ivey
 Jessica Lopez
 Steven Hannahs
 Steven Frank
 Red Heart Billie
 Leslie Gopher
 Rodni Mercer
 Jalycia Billie-Valdez

Youth Invited to Apply For Summer Work Program

Submitted by the Family Services Department
HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Family Services Department welcomes back The Summer Youth Work Experience and Internship Program.

This two-month program, which runs from June 4 through Aug. 10 this year, is designed to provide paid internships and work experience for Tribal high school and college students. Working within the Seminole Tribe of Florida, they can gain meaningful employment experience and knowledge of the workings of the Tribe. The program provides for flexible scheduling, competitive wages and a variety of employment opportunities.

The Summer Work Program calendar includes seminars on professionalism, résumé building

and successful interviewing.

Applications can be found in Human Resources at the Tribal Headquarters Office and at any Education Department or Family Services Department office. The application deadline is May 28.

Please call Jasmine Porter at (954) 965-1314, Ext. 175 for answers to any questions about the program.

The summer internships are sponsored through the Family Services Department's Adult Vocational Program. Please return all applications to Jasmine Porter, Adult Vocational Administrator, Family Services Department, 3006 Josie Billie Ave., Hollywood, FL 33024; (954) 965-1314 or fax (954) 965-1311.

ATTENTION:

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

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Submitted by Jesse Mitchell
Jesse, Virginia and Eddy Mitchell stand in front of the Masters scoreboard.

My Spring Break in Augusta

By Jesse Mitchell

AUGUSTA, Ga. — For three days of my spring break I had the pleasure to go to Georgia with my mom and dad.

On the first day of our trip we met up with my Aunt Iammie and friend Ray Thomas from Knoxville, Tenn., and we all took a boat trip.

One of Georgia's top 10 historic places to visit, which we enjoyed, was the Augusta Canal. It has a narrated tour that departs daily from a 19th Century Enterprise Mill. Along the canal there were many landmarks spanning more than 200 years of history and different wildlife. The very large red brick building we saw used to be a school but over the years closed down.



Submitted by Jesse Mitchell

This historic brick schoolhouse is closed down.

They were holding signs asking for tickets or trying to sell tickets for this annual event. Other than that this town is probably quiet.

My dad won four raffle tickets to the Masters 2007 first practice day and this is how we had the privilege to attend. Now I understand why this tournament is held on this course — for its endurance and magnitude.

When we first entered I couldn't believe all the people that were already there and the ones still coming in. As we came up on the course near the ninth hole here was the great Tiger Woods along with J.J. Henry. Of course we had to stay and watch for my mom and aunt; they are Tiger fans!

Our day started at 8 a.m. walking the whole course and I enjoyed every minute of it. And no matter where we walked to, there was Tiger Woods, which made the girls happy. Oh, but I did get to see others like Tom Watson, Brett Quigley, Zach Johnson, Gary Player, Stuart Appleby, Singh Vijay and Colin Montgomerie. I especially liked when they skipped the ball over the water to the green. I'll have to try that.

This was a nice experience to spend with family and see some awesome golfers, and I would recommend it for anyone who hasn't gone.



Submitted by Jesse Mitchell

Tiger Woods was near us at the ninth hole.

I could not understand all the hype about this very small town, but there were so many people along the roadsides.



Submitted by Jesse Mitchell

Masses of people attended the Masters 2007 to watch the great golf players.

Museum Seeks Entries for Tribal Youth Exhibit

Submitted by the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is seeking original 2-D artwork in the size of 8.5 inches by 11

inches from Seminole Tribal youth, ages 5-18. Please include artist's name, address, phone number, media and age on back of the art piece.

Send art and contact information

to Diana Stone, education coordinator, at dianastone@semttribe.com or (863) 902-1113. The deadline for submissions is May 31.

Major Regional Festival Invites Artists to Apply

Submitted by Gainesville Division of Cultural Affairs

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — The Downtown Festival & Art Show, recognized as one of the best art shows in the nation, invites artists to apply for its 26th annual exhibition set for Nov. 10-11.

The weekend festival in the tree-lined streets of the city's historic downtown is expected to attract more than 250 of the nation's finest artists and more than 100,000 visitors.

Artists will display their work in the multimedia show

and compete for more than \$14,000 in cash prizes and \$5,000 in purchase awards, distributed during the event. Artwork on exhibit will include ceramics, fiber, glass, graphics, jewelry, mixed media, paintings, photography, sculpture, wearables and wood.

Continuous live music, a Children's Imagination Station and a forum for nonprofit organizations are also planned.

Artists' applications for the Downtown Festival & Art Show are available online at www.gvcculturalaffairs.org or from Linda Piper at (352) 334-5064. The application deadline is May 19.

College Prep, Tribal Jobs Highlighted at Presentation
Reps from Harvard, UM, Human Resources Speak

By Felix DoBosz

HOLLYWOOD — On April 4 the Education Department and Higher Education Adviser Erlinda Iley hosted an educational program at the DSO Building. Representatives from Harvard University, the University of Miami and the Tribal Human Resources Department spoke to students and parents interested in higher education and preparing for Tribal job opportunities.

Tribal citizen Tina Lacey brought her three teenage students in to listen to the speakers. Malcolm Lacey, 14, Victoria Lacey, 13, and Zachariah Lacey, 12, attended the educational presentation — even though they were right in the middle of spring break. The three attentively listened to the presenters who gave out tips and guidelines for evaluating and choosing the right school to attend.

Steven Abbott, associate director for recruitment and student affairs at Harvard University's Native American Program, was the first guest speaker displaying an informative PowerPoint presentation. He said there are currently about 130 Native American students enrolled at Harvard.

Abbott said Harvard offers more than 3,500 courses. He also discussed some of the benefits of attending this historic Ivy League college and outlined how to prepare for admission.

"Some of the questions that are important should be: 'Is the school right for me?' 'Where is the school located?' 'Do they offer courses that I'm interested in?'" he said.

Kimberly Reyes and Nikki Chun from UM presented next and discussed various programs available at the university. The two talked about some of the benefits of attending a university with a small student-faculty ratio.

"Half of our classes have 16 or fewer students so we really try to make sure we have small classes and a nice intimate learning experience for our students," Reyes said.



Felix DoBosz

Steven Abbott from Harvard University (black suit) with (front row L-R) Malcolm Lacey, 14; Higher Education Adviser Erlinda Iley; Victoria Lacey, 13; Zachariah Lacey, 12; (back row L-R) HR Analyst Glen Altman, HR Director Lee Zepeda, Kimberly Reyes and Nikki Chun from the University of Miami and the Lacey kids' mom, Tina Lacey.

ful people who later can work to help the Tribe.

Zepeda also discussed the STOF summer intern program for students who would like to get valuable work experience before graduating from high school.

Whatever higher educational route a student chooses, the Tribe provides full financial support for all Tribal students. For more information, please contact Erlinda Iley at 954-989-6840, ext. 1311.

Young Native Writers Essay Contest Announced
Prizes Include Washington, D.C. Trip, Scholarships

Submitted by Holland & Knight Charitable Foundation, Inc.

The Holland & Knight Charitable Foundation, in association with the National Museum of the American Indian, has announced the 2007 Young Native Writers Essay Contest.

This unique writing contest for Native American high school students is designed to inspire honest portrayals of the richness of Native American life and history. The top essayist will receive a \$5,000 college scholarship and a trip to Washington D.C.

Contest sponsors say they view the contest as "an enduring legacy to every Native American who has ever lived" and hope to "inspire a sense of honor and dignity" in all participants. Each student entering this year's writing contest should present in an essay of no more than 1,200 words: (a) specific or general struggles and triumphs of Native Americans in history and in today's world; and (b) how the writer will use his or her talents to enhance the future of his or her own Native American community.

Suggested subjects include Native American involvement in treaties, governments (federal and Tribal), languages, education, folklore, religion, entertainment, games, sports, media and current events.

In preparation for writing, students should draw from their personal knowledge and research information from a variety

of sources. Primary and secondary source material could include: historical and reference material, interviews, personal experiences, oral testimonies, official documents, diaries, letters, autobiographies, newspapers, academic journals, films, CD-ROM and Internet sources.

Five first-place winners will receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. (tentatively scheduled for Aug. 2-6) to tour the National Museum of the American Indian, meet their Congressional representatives and visit other government and historical sites. The students will be accompanied by the teachers who inspired their contest entries.

Each first-place winner will receive a scholarship ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 to be paid to the college or university of his or her choice.

Five second-place winners will each receive \$500. All 10 winners will also receive special awards to display at school or home and certificates of participation.

The entry deadline is June 1. Entry forms and further information are available from Young Native Writers Essay Contest c/o Holland & Knight Charitable Foundation, Inc., 100 North Tampa St., Suite 4100, Tampa, FL 33602. Interested students may also call 1-866-452-2737 (toll free) or visit www.indianhklaw.com.

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Health Corner ♦ Chah-nee-ken chàò-ke ♦ Cvfeknetv onakv

Be Smart About Body Art

Submitted by the Seminole Health Department

Body art and ornamentation are nothing new. Throughout various cultures, humans have chosen to express themselves through markings and jewelry on their bodies. This practice continues today, but measures have been taken to ensure the safety of those who decide to get tattoos and body piercings.

In tattoo parlors, standards are set by state health agencies requiring proper sterilization of needles and tools. Autoclave sterilization machines are the standard and are also used in the medical field for sterilizing medical instruments. An autoclave machine must maintain a temperature of 246 degrees F or higher for 30 minutes to completely sterilize an instrument.

When getting a tattoo at a tattoo parlor, be sure to ask about its sterilization practices. Also, watch the tattoo artist open a brand new needle from a sterilized, sealed pouch before he or she tattoos. The same practice applies for needles used when getting a body piercing.

Inks can also become contaminated by blood during the tattooing process. Make sure the tattoo artist uses a new tub of ink before tattooing. Also, in areas that may need to be shaved before tattooing begins, make sure the razor blade being used is brand new.

Many individuals decide to let friends do their body art for them. The tools used by home tattoo artist are usually very crude and not sterile. Similar to those who get prison tattoos, the tattooing machines are made out of whatever can be found. Objects such as paper clips, rubber bands, ball point pens, etc. None of these objects are intended to be used for tattooing purposes and all of them can harbor germs which can lead to serious infections and other diseases.

The most common of the diseases that can be passed by improperly sterilized tattooing instruments is hepatitis. Hepatitis is a serious disease that attacks the liver. Hepatitis can lead to lifelong infection, cirrhosis or scarring of the liver, liver cancer, liver failure, and even death. Improperly sterilized needles can also harbor the HIV virus, which can lead to AIDS. Both of these diseases can lead to a lifetime of suffering for those afflicted.

Anyone concerned about any previous tattoo that did not follow these safety guidelines should visit his or her reservation clinic to ask about hepatitis and HIV tests. Medications can

help relieve the symptoms of these diseases.

The steps to making sure that a tattooing or piercing experience is a healthy one may seem overly cautious. However, when assessing the health risk involved, taking these extra steps to ensure personal health safety makes good sense.

For more information about safe tattooing and body piercing practices, please contact your reservation's health educator, Big Cypress: Marjorie Meredith, (863) 983-5798; Brighton: Barbara Boling, (863) 763-0271; Hollywood: Tina Mennella, (954) 965-1300; and Immokalee: Charlotte Porcaro, (239) 867-3408.



(L-R) Animal Control Officers Jonathan Vazquez and Donna Williamson and Supervisor Ava John

Tribe Introduces Animal Control Team

Submitted by Patrick Peck, Environmental Health Program Manager

The Seminole Tribe of Florida has a newly established Animal Control Division. The Animal Control Division was launched in mid 2006 as part of the Seminole Tribe of Florida Health Department's Environmental Health Program.

The division services all reservations and special cases involving Tribal members residing off reservation. The division's main focus will be on domestic animals. However, the Animal Control Division will also respond to request for wildlife trapping and pick up when they represent a public health nuisance or hazard.

The main goal of this program is to protect Tribal citizens and animals. The Animal Control Division will strive to be proactive and offer programs to prevent problems before they occur. To adequately address these problems, the Tribal Council passed an Animal Control and Care Regulation Ordinance in May of 2006.

The mission of the Seminole Animal Control Division is to enforce Tribal ordinance pertaining to animal control and management and to educate the community in responsible pet ownership and care. The division will also aim to prevent rabies in humans and pets, provide for the relocation and housing and care of stray animals and coordinate adoption when possible, or humane euthanasia, when adoption is not possible.

Part of the division's vision is to reduce the dangers and nuisances caused by irresponsible pet ownership and to protect pets from abuse, neglect and homelessness. This is accomplished this through transparency, accountability, professionalism, clarity, safety and by acting with a humane attitude. The Seminole Tribe is working closely with the Broward County Humane Society and has interagency agreements with other county animal shelters in vicinity of Seminole Tribal lands.

The Animal Control Division includes a qual-

ified and experienced Animal Control Supervisor as well as two trained and licensed animal control officers. The animal control mobile units will be patrolling the reservations.

In the coming months, the animal control team shall conduct periodic round-ups of stray animals on the reservations. All untagged and unregistered animals will be impounded. We again ask all Tribal citizens to have their pets registered and tagged at a local community health department showing proof of a current rabies vaccination certificate.

Every call for assistance is important to the Animal Control Division and program staff aims to provide the best customer service possible. For any questions, complaints or requests between hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., please call (954) 965-1300, Ext. 125. In case of emergency after hours, please direct calls to the Seminole Police Department.

- The following is a list of activities to be undertaken by the program:
1. Stray dog and cat pickup
 2. Mandatory annual animal registration and tagging
 3. Biannual rabies clinics on all reservations
 4. Quarantine and confinement of suspected rabid and diseased animals
 5. Animal bites and animal incident follow up
 6. Barking and vicious dog complaint
 7. Animal care enforcement
 8. Animal cruelty investigations
 9. Leash law violation and trespassing of animals
 10. Police department calls for assistance
 11. Pick up and disposal of dead animals
 12. Community prevention of zoonotic diseases including rabies
 13. Community educational outreach on ownership, control and care of pets

January Weight Loss Contest Results

Tribal Member Women
 3rd Place-Regina Thinn (14.1 lbs.)
 2nd Place-Cassandra Jones (14.7lbs.)
 1st Place-Francine Osceola (15.9 lbs.)

Tribal Member Senior Women
 3rd Place-Judy Jones (5.3lbs.)
 2nd Place-Elsie Bowers (7.6 lbs.)
 1st Place-Yvonne Courtney (7.7lbs.)

Tribal Member Men
 3rd Place-Mingo Jones (3.4lbs)
 2nd Place-Robert Stivers (5.4 lbs.)
 1st Place-James Holt (12.4 lbs.)

Tribal Member Senior Men
 2nd Place-Mike Tiger (1.9 lbs.)
 1st Place-Rugby Jumper (7.5 lbs.)

Employee Women
 3rd Place-Karla Rivera (15.5 lbs)
 2nd Place-Tonya Gibson (15.8 lbs.)
 1st Place-Barbara DiCarlo (21.6 lbs.)

Employee Men
 3rd Place-Dave Anderson (4.3 lbs.)
 2nd Place-Tommy Doud (6.9 lbs.)
 1st Place-Larry Labazio (32.8 lbs.)

Ask The Counselor

Basil Phillips
 M.S. Mental Health Counseling

All letters should be sent to:
 pmotivator@aol.com



Dear Counselor:

I am a 26-year-old working mother of two, and I have been married for seven years. I have been unhappy for a very, very long time. I keep thinking about divorcing my husband. I am an emotional wreck.

My husband cheats and stays out all night. He keeps phone numbers from different girls in his pants pocket. Then he will bring me roses, calls me pet names and talks to the kids about all the family things we are going to do together. My husband also can't keep a job. He's been fired five times in three years.

He is driving me crazy. I am so angry half the time that all I want to do is scream. I want to be a better mom to my children; one who isn't so depressed, sad and angry all the time.

My parents think my life will be harder without my cheating, mentally abusive husband. They say I should wait it out. I wonder how long I have to torture myself before I can finally be happy.

Signed,

Broken Heart

Dear Broken Heart:

Unlike your parents, I don't feel that a person can wait out depression, sadness and anger.

Rather than discussing your situation with your parents, you should contact the Family Services Department and commit to a positive change within yourself. The highest form of mental health is realizing there are options and choices.

The goal here is to not to go out of the way to please your husband, but to make your children and yourself feel more secure. You can do this by being a role model for your children and not allowing yourself to be taken advantage of.

The price of manhood and being a husband is his responsibility. This cost may be too high for your husband to pay as too many men are willing to pay more to be amused than to be responsible.

Your husband's actions of bringing you flowers and calling you pet names are forms of manipulation. I can understand how your husband's denial of your unhappiness would be frustrating to you. Being a single mom is challenging, but no challenge is tougher than trying to tolerate your present situation, a husband with no compassion.

Signed,

The Counselor

The Healthy Senior

By Fred Cietti

[Editor's Note: Fred Cietti 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 fredcietti@gmail.com. All Rights Reserved © 2007 by Fred Cietti.]

Q: Is depression just a "normal" part of aging?

A: There are a lot of problems to face as you get older. There are losses of all kinds that can get you down. And feeling blue for a while is a normal part of living at any age.

But, unrelenting depression is not normal. If you feel this way, you should seek medical attention. Most people get better if they treat their depression.

There are many causes of depression. Some of them are the natural consequences of being older: a health crisis or death, the loss of physical or mental capacities, or being a stressed-out caregiver. Seniors usually rebound from a period of sadness; however, if you are suffering from "clinical depression" and don't get help, your symptoms might last months, or even years.

The following are common signs of depression. If you have several of these, and they last for more than two weeks, get treatment: anxiety, fatigue, loss of interest or pleasure, sleep problems, eating too much or too little, abnormal crying, aches that can't be treated successfully, diminished concentration or memory, irritability, thoughts of death or suicide, and feelings of despair, guilt and being worthless.

Depression is a serious illness. It can lead to suicide. Don't waste time. Find help.

Start with your family doctor. The doctor should check to see if your depression could be

caused by a physical problem such as hypothyroidism or vitamin B12 deficiency, or a medicine you are taking.

After a complete exam, your doctor may suggest you talk to a social worker, mental health counselor, psychologist or psychiatrist. Doctors specially trained to treat depression in older people are called geriatric psychiatrists.

Support groups can provide new coping skills or social support if you are dealing with a major life change. A doctor might suggest that you go to a local senior center, volunteer service or nutrition program. Several kinds of talk therapies work well.

Antidepressant drugs can help. These medications can improve your mood, sleep, appetite and concentration. Electroconvulsive therapy is another option. It may be recommended when medicines can't be tolerated or when a quick response is needed.

What can be done to lower the risk of depression?

Nurture your family ties and friendships — they are your lifelines. Hobbies keep your mind and body active. Exercise is a mood-elevator. Eat a balanced diet. Get outdoors to absorb sunlight and breathe fresh air. Take naps.

Remember that with treatment, most people will find positive thoughts gradually replacing negative thoughts. And you can help this process by catching yourself when you are dwelling on the negative and shifting gears to sunnier thoughts.

If you have a question, please write to fredcietti@gmail.com.

Return to Arcadia: An Interview with Florida Artist Guy LaBree

"All passes. Art alone enduring stays to us;
The bust outlasts the throne, The coin, Tiberius"
— Henry Austin Dobson

By Elgin Jumper

ARCADIA, Fla. — In early March, 2007, we ventured to the home of Guy and Patti LaBree, situated in a rural area of DeSoto County. I should say from the start that Guy has had a close and lengthy friendship with my father, Alan Jumper, but it had been well over 30 years since the last time I'd been to Arcadia and that visit was as a kid with my family.

This weekend visit was made at the kind invitation of the LaBrees and this time Guy and I painted outdoors using acrylic paints. It was quite enjoyable, to say the least, and I will always cherish the memories as well as Guy's and Patti's incomparable friendship and hospitality. This was the first time I had ever painted "in the open air" and now, should someone ask whether I have painted outdoors, I shall gladly say, "Why, yes, I have painted outdoors," and then I'll add with overwhelming pride and joy, "with Guy LaBree, thank you very much." It was great to be back! I also drew two portraits of Guy, which I rendered quickly in charcoal.

Guy was painting a landscape, for himself, just creating, letting his imagination run free, but in the midst of that creativity, he smiled from time to time, and calculated well his next moves. He wore a

GL: We met in school. In the second grade he was sitting behind me — and I didn't remember this, he did, and when he reminded me, then I remembered it — but in the second grade he was looking over my shoulder and I'd be drawing pictures and he would be suggesting things to draw and I'd be drawing them and other guys came around and we'd cause trouble by drawing instead of doing our work. Then I became friends with your uncle, Jimmie Jumper. We were very close. I was nuts about alligator wrestling and I'd get

and he did. There's three main tricks of things not to do. I only got hurt one more time after that.

EJ: What do you think of artists sharing knowledge with other artists, not only to teach, but to learn as well?

GL: I think it's great. I don't see how you can learn any other way. In fact, I think it was Jo North and Noah Billie who got together one time and co-opted a deal on the rez, quite a few years ago. They had these young kids sign up and I think the tribe was sponsoring and they would give art lessons. I told Noah I thought it was one of the greatest things I'd seen in a while, because there are so many Seminole kids out there who are really good artists and they have good minds. I was really thrilled to see them do that.

EJ: So you're very much in favor of learning, giving back. What would you think if a group of artists wanted to come out and paint with you, learn from you?

GL: I think it'd be great. I could definitely learn from other artists. That's why I go to the shows around the reservations — I want to see what the artists are doing. You know Jimmy Scott Osceola, right?

EJ: Yes. GL: Now he's an artist, because an artist is somebody who has to do art. They have to do these things. At times, you just have to do it, and get something out of yourself. That to me is an artist. Jimmy Scott has always been that way.

EJ: That's amazing. I really enjoy seeing his pen and ink work. There are some talented artists out there on and off the reservations.

GL: You know, I used to see artists doing Western dances. I said why don't you do Seminole dances, but then they'd say, "I've seen that all my life, I want to see Western dances." I'd say, "Do you sell these to Indians?" Then I'd suggest they make something people here will be interested in. They're right here with the Seminoles, yet they don't even know they exist. They'd say they're more flowery out West, but I don't think so. I think they're more interesting here myself. If you look at Western artists — what are they painting?

They're not painting Seminoles. They're painting Western images. You don't have to show everything. EJ: You've mentioned *SouthWestern Art* magazine to me before as a possible source of inspiration. Of course, rendered in the Seminole way.

GL: Well, it tells a lot of what's going on, because the No. 1 sales in the United States is realist art. And then coming up strong is your abstract, and that used to be strictly in New York and Chicago, but now the Indians out West are doing it as well. They have their own styles. And that's another thing I noticed. Indians that went to college for it used to come back with a style like Fred Beaver, you know, with the line around everything? Now I like Fred Beaver, mind you, that was his style. But it was like somebody was teaching that somewhere.

EJ: What do you think about the present climate in the Seminole art scene, the exhibitions, the energy?

GL: A lot of the Seminoles are good artists, and they're getting more



Guy LaBree (L) welcomes Elgin Jumper to his home.

Esta Lieberman



LaBree's palette is a work of art itself.

Esta Lieberman



Friends and fellow artists swap stories and share insights.

Esta Lieberman

brown hat and prescription glasses, augmented by his mustache. The day was bright and warm, and golden sunlight occasioned creative sparkles to his eyes. It was an unforgettable time and I recall the birds chirping and singing and the rare car heard in the distance, winding its lonesome way up or down the Arcadian road.

During one of our few breaks from painting, I asked Guy's comments about Arcadia, the past, and artists.

EJ: You've had a very close friendship with my father, Alan Jumper. Can you tell me a little bit about that?

Guy LaBree: Well, I used to like to go camping. Not in the sense of camping that they do nowadays. It was just maybe taking a tarp, a hunting knife, some matches, and just go out and make a camp, and we couldn't find a place to go except Fisheating Creek, and you had to have a tent and this, that and the other. But we wanted our own wild place. We read about a place up here. We thought maybe an acre. When I walked back in here it had higher land and lower land and it had that rich palmetto smell and I liked it right away. But we haven't been camping since we moved here.

EJ: You've had a very close friendship with my father, Alan Jumper. Can you tell me a little bit about that?



LaBree begins a watercolor.

Esta Lieberman

myself bit every time, six to nine times, somewhere around there. Fortunately nothing super or major, just fingertips and such. And Jimmie said something about Alan wrestling alligators and I said, "You have a brother who's an alligator wrestler?" and he said, "Oh, yeah." That was in Dania Elementary. Alan said he'd show me how to wrestle where I wouldn't get hurt,



The artist's studio

Esta Lieberman

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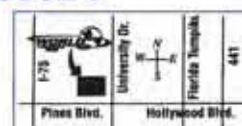
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Sports ♦ Ham-pa-leesh-ke ♦ Vkkopvkv



Education Department and spring breakers take a time out from the fun.



Jerome Williams, security officer, and Jordan Baker



Chris Hunter and DeJong Tommie battle it out on the Air Bots game.



Luke Baxley catches the egg.

Spring Break Brings Fun to the Field

By Lila Osceola-Heard

HOLLYWOOD—Monday usually means beginning-of-the-week blues. Back to school for kids and back to work for adults. But this particular Monday, April 9, would be very exciting and definitely out of the ordinary.

The Education Department invited the Hollywood community to the baseball field for games, food and fun. A spring break fun day was exactly what everyone needed. Games like the egg toss, water balloon toss, and the egg and spoon race provided a good dose of the giggles along with prizes for their hard work while having a blast.

The sound of laughter filled the air along with happy kids and adults visiting and enjoying each other. The event was a success with great food catered by CharHut. Emcee Jerome Williams, security officer, got the party on track with his leadership and direction. The education staff had many good times planning this event as well as watching their event blossom into a fun and exciting day on the field with their Spring breakers.



Marissa DiCarlo and Isabell Tucker, winners of the egg toss game



Sisters Ethel and Eteau Huggins are about to get busy with some Char Hut.



The kids take a dip in the pool following the fun on the field.



Spoon and Egg race about to begin

Seminole Princess Power

By Virginia C. Garcia

Tianna Hali Yesenia Garcia, 2006-2007 Junior Miss Florida Seminole Princess, is a star on the rise. Hali is a student athlete who attends American Heritage School in Plantation, Fla. Along with her duties as Junior Miss Seminole, she continues to maintain a strong head on her shoulders.

Hali, 14, is the daughter of Virginia Garcia and Eric Sanders, and great granddaughter of the late great Tommie Roberts Jumper of Big Cypress. Delores Jumper of Immokalee is her proud grandmother.

During basketball season, Hali practices four hours a day. Hali played on this year's Junior Varsity (JV) and Varsity squad. She lead her JV squad in assists. She averaged 12 points a game.

"Hali will develop into a strong player," said her Coach Kevin Gordon. "She definitely is a joy to coach. We look forward to seeing more from her next year."

She earned this year's Patriot Award for her role on the JV squad. The award is chosen by the coach and given to the player who they feel brings heart and leadership to their team. Hali and her team finished the season 12-1. The Lady Patriots outscored their opponents by margins of 25 or more points.

Hali was named in 2006 "Best Defensive Player" for her participation at Michael Jordan's Flight Camp. The Big Cypress Recreation department started sending Tribal youth to this basketball camp several years ago. Since then, the youth look forward to the camp each year — and their chance to meet Michael "Sir Airness" Jordan.



Garcia was named the 2006 "Best Defensive Player."

She was also named "Free Throw Champion" and received a plaque at a basketball camp in Highpoint, N.C.

Hali started a routine for herself a few years back. She would write inspirations on her shoes. Things like "I love Mom," "Panther clan," "Seminole" and her cousin Kokoko's name.

"I am proud of who I am and I want my family and loved ones to know this," Hali said about her practice. "This is my way of expressing me. There are times that I turn the ball over, and I am just angry with myself. I look down and see the writing on my shoes; it just makes me want to play even harder."

So now Hali proudly displays "Princess Power" on her shoes. She says she is just waiting for Coach Carlos "Los" to give her the green light, so she may continue to write words of inspiration on her new team shoes. Hali says she enjoys playing with her new team because "Los makes you run!"

"I'm about stepping up my game," she added. Hali and fellow Lady Patriot Kaley Howard can now be seen playing with the Lady Seminoles team. She said she enjoys playing with her new team and looks forward to working to become a starter for her new squad.

"I don't mind being this year's sixth (wo)man award recipient," she said with a huge smile.

In closing, on behalf of my family, we just wanted to share our joy and pride for our baby's accomplishments and her love of the sport with everyone. We will continue to show our love and support for our sweetheart, Hali. Best of luck to you always, Go Foo-Le-Foo-Kee! We love you!



Tianna Hali Yesenia Garcia averaged 12 points a game.

McCall Walks Through the Night in Relay for Life Fundraising Event Benefits ACS

By Wanda Bowers

TALLAHASSEE — Relay for Life is a "fun-filled overnight event designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money for research and programs of your American Cancer Society (ACS)," according to the ACS website. The fight against cancer is an ongoing cause that Florida State University and other universities and groups across the country support.

My daughter Christine McCall and her sorority, Delta Nu Zeta, joined in on the walk on the night of March 16.

Other sororities, fraternities, the basketball team, men's and women's softball teams, and many other groups all joined together at the FSU track to walk throughout the night. The event started at 4:30 p.m. and ended the following day, March 17, at 10:30 a.m.

Along with collecting donations and pledges from numerous sources, Christine raised



(Front) Christine McCall walks for life.

Christine called me about 12:30 a.m., saying she needed something warm to eat, so I brought her some food. I didn't hear from her again until 8:30 the next morning, when she told me she was through with the event and wanted me to come pick her up.

I had expected to hear from my daughter sooner, but she said she couldn't leave her sorority sisters. She had promised to stay all night and walk, and that's exactly what she did. Now that's what you call sisterhood, commitment, loyalty or just plain determination.

ACS fundraising efforts will continue through the end of April, when a final donation tally will be available.

The other reason for Christine being involved in Walk for Life is because she is now a member of the Lady Spirit Hunters of FSU. It's not easy getting in this group either. They had about 200 would-be Spirit Hunters apply this year — and Christine was one of 79 chosen, based on her high GPA and vast knowledge of FSU and the Seminoles.

The Lady Spirit Hunters act as morale boosters, motivators, community service volunteers and much more. They boost school spirit at all home games and paint faces at all the FSU sporting events. You'll always see the girls there trying to raise the FSU spirit.



Christine McCall passing on spirit at a home baseball game

more than \$2,000, which the Tribe matched. All proceeds went to the ACS.

I started out with them that afternoon but only lasted until about 8 that night — it got too cold for me and I went back to the hotel for comfort and warmth. But I put up a good walk. My daughter, on the other hand, was a bit tougher and stayed all night.

Now, I'm not saying she walked throughout the entire night. Rather, Delta Nu Zeta had a member of the team walking the track at all times. They had a "Spirit Stick," which members of the team took with them as they walked the track, and handed off to fellow team members during break time. There was always a member of Christine's team on the track.

Let me tell you these kids did great. The temperature went down to about 30 degrees that night and they were still walking or sleeping until their turn. Christine even told me that at one point, one of the walk directors got on the microphone and asked everyone to do some aerobics to stay warm.



Even Mom (Wanda Bowers) gets a little spirit from Christine.

Sports ♦ Ham-pa-leesh-ke ♦ Vkkopvkv

Tribe, Jason Taylor Join Forces Once Again

\$400,000 Raised for South Florida's Children

By Chris Jenkins

When famous duos come to mind, the Seminole Tribe and the Jason Taylor Foundation make a good pair. This was the fourth year the two, along with several corporate sponsors, teamed up to raise money for Taylor's foundation and this year's estimated \$400,000, raised March 31 through April 2, was the highest earning to date.

The Tribe and Taylor, the reigning 2006-07 National Football League defensive player of the year, offered up three days of activities to support his foundation, The Jason Taylor Foundation. Its mission, according to its official website, jasonstaylorfoundation.com, is to support and create programs that facilitate the personal growth and empowerment of South Florida's children in need by focusing on improved health care, education and quality of life.

On March 31, the Improv Comedy Club at Seminole Paradise was host to a private party as celebrity guests and foundation board members enjoyed dinner and a performance by comedian Aries Spears. Spears is best



Chris Jenkins
National Football League Hall of Famer Dan Marino (C) and Tribal citizens (L-R) Curtis Osceola, Marcy Osceola, Mitch Osceola and Charlie Cypress.



Chris Jenkins
Jason Taylor prepares to putt.



Chris Jenkins
Lawrence Osceola readies his swing.

known for his stint on the Fox Network's late night sketch comedy show MADtv.

April 1 featured both live and silent auctions and a gala dinner at Parrot Jungle Island in Miami. There were more than 80 items up for grabs, such as trips and autographed sports memorabilia. Also up for bids were a trip to see the Miami Dolphins in London at their October game versus the New York Giants at Wembley Stadium, and a signed photo of the original Three Stooges.

April 2 concluded with the Seminole Tribe of Florida Jason Taylor Celebrity Golf Classic at the Grande Oaks Golf Club in Davie, Fla. More than 20 celebrities of the sports and entertainment world participated with more than 100 golfers, all in teams of five. The winners were Cleveland Browns quarterback Charlie Frye's team, and each member received a custom-made suit from famed men's clothing designer Ermenegildo Zegna.

Some of those sports celebrities on hand to support Taylor were: current and former Miami Dolphins Chris Chambers, Randy McMichael, Terrell Buckley and Olindo Mare; Hall of Famer Dan Marino; professional poker player Phil Gordon; golf legend Lee Elder; and New York Giants Hall of Famer Lawrence Taylor.

Foundation Director Seth Levitt said he thought the weekend was another huge success and bigger than ever.



Chris Jenkins
Tribal citizen Elliot Young sizes up his approach on the green.

"It was a fantastic weekend for us because this is our biggest weekend of the year," he said.

He says the relationship between the foundation and the Tribe has been vital to the continued success each year.

"The partnership has grown with each and every event," he says. "They have really become friends of the foundation and helped support us. It shows you have two groups of individuals that share similar interests in helping kids."

Horseshoe Tournament Honors John Billie Sr.

By Susan Etxebarria

BIG CYPRESS — A newer tradition among the modern Seminoles involves memorial events honoring loved ones and an example of this was the John Billie Sr. Memorial Horseshoe Tournament held at the Big Cypress ball field on March 29. The first of its



Susan Etxebarria
Louise competes in horseshoes.

kind, it is expected to become an annual event.

The tournament was the perfect setting for an outdoor day of exercise for the many elders that attended the event. The happy spirit of a Seminole memorial always seems to include food, raffles, music and games. It's not a solemn trip to the loved one's grave-

side as is done in other cultures, but a day of celebration.

The event was sponsored by the Department of Elder Affairs and coordinated by the B.C. Elderly Program and Recreation Department.

The departments coordinated their efforts well and had the horseshoe pits located under another tent so the players were well protected from harsh sun.

After an opening prayer by Jonah Cypress, Senior Center Director Cecilia Solano greeted all the guests.

"I want to thank the family for letting us honor John's memory today," she said. "John was a big part of the Senior Center; he was at the center almost every day. John was a special man to us and we had many years with him participating in our programs. There's no way to say how much we appreciated him."

John Billie Sr., a heavy equipment operator, was self-employed many years operating a pasture mowing business. People remember him riding his John Deere tractors and mowers on Tribal ranches.

He and his wife, Louise, raised six children: Irene, Gene, Almira, Loraine, John Jr. and Carol. The

offspring today include 19 grandchildren (one deceased), and 12 great-grandchildren.

"Dad was always willing to help us out with anything we asked," said Carol (Billie) Osceola.

Many of the grandchildren and great-grandchildren came to the event. The younger ones played ball games on the field. Louise Billie Jr., a good horse-shoe opponent herself, joined in the games that lasted most of the day.



Lila Osceola-Heard
Trail Kings celebrate their hard-earned championship and show off their jackets.

Breaking in the "New" Gym with a Tournament

Herman L. Osceola Memorial Basketball Tournament

By Tony Heard

BIG CYPRESS — March is known for "madness" in the basketball world. The Herman L. Osceola Memorial Basketball Tournament fell on the weekend of March 23-24 just as basketball season was coming to an end.

Big Cypress' newly renovated gym brought big time rez ball back to the swamp. New faces as well as old were spotted on the Big Cypress reservation as competitors vied for a chance to bring home the championship and bragging rights for this year.

This tournament is the oldest in history for the Big Cypress reservation. The gym is named after the late Herman L. Osceola, who passed away 22 years ago on March 24.

The tournament was a one-day event with the legends showcasing their skills on March 22. Then the adults took center stage for their turn to shine. The women's side of the bracket had four teams and the men's bracket had five.

Usually all reservations are represented and people travel long ways to play in these Indian tournaments. Rez ball is widely known throughout Indian country. Players and teams travel to a number of out-of-state tournaments for all sorts of reasons.

This tournament attracted only local teams, but it began as any other tournament would begin, with a whistle or horn. Then came sounds of balls bouncing, shoes hitting the ground, people yelling from pure adrenaline, teams winning and losing all



Tony Heard
Great defense earns championships, as Sundown showed in the championship game.



Lila Osceola-Heard
Wisconsin native Dionne Jacobs and Tribal citizen Adrian Baker show off their sharp shooter prizes for being 3-point champions.

Tony Heard
Sundown defending Native Ladies in Championship

throughout the day.

The championship was later on that day with Native Ladies and Sundown meeting face to face. With the youthful legs of Sundown, the Native Ladies had a tough time keeping up. Turnovers on the part of Native Ladies made it easy for Sundown to get lay-up after lay-up.

Native Ladies fought long and hard but fell short, and Sundown won this year's championship game.

The men's championship game was all one could ask for — Trail Kings versus the young guns of Str8 Ballin'. Trail Kings is a mixture of Tribal members from Micooskee. They cruised into the championship via the winner's bracket. Str8 Ballin' fought back through the loser's bracket, but didn't let fatigue slow them down at all.

The game was back and forth with the crowd giving oohs and ahs at the big shots and tough



Lila Osceola-Heard
Pete Osceola plays defense on Amos Huggins in the championship.

lay-ups by both teams. Showing athleticism and skill, both teams played hard, not giving any thought to anything but playing tough defense and finishing on the offensive end.

Eventually the adrenaline rush had to come to an end. Str8 Ballin' fell to Trail Kings by 8 points. Great game and good sportsmanship were displayed by both teams in the Championship.

The Herman L. Osceola family and Big Cypress Recreation gave all teams and players a nice tournament with the paint on the walls barely dry. The renovated gym is the total tournament experience.



Lila Osceola-Heard
Str8 Ballin's Jarred Smith



Lila Osceola-Heard
Wilson Bowers plays good defense on Trail Kings' Jarred Osceola.

Sports ♦ Ham-pa-leesh-ke ♦ Vkkopvkv

Tribal Citizen Strides to Be Healthy

By Lila Osceola-Heard

HOLLYWOOD — Elsie Bowers, Snake Clan, has taken control of her diabetes — and it's been an uphill battle for 22 years. She is combating this deadly disease through education, which has taught her how to fight it. She has dedicated herself to a healthy lifestyle and made it a routine to walk for exercise daily and eat right.

A youthful 67, Bowers says her goals are to be in better health by controlling her diabetes — literally one step at a time — and to avoid kidney failure and dialysis. Bowers said she makes exercise a part of her everyday living, walking three miles a day either on the treadmill or at the park. She said she also watches what she eats, takes her vitamins and never drinks soda — not even diet soda.

She is an avid walker and a member of Team Seminole walking club. They participate in various walks throughout the year through the leadership of Edna McDuffie, Big Cypress community outreach liaison. On March 17, Team Seminole participated in the Walk to D'Fet ALS at Sawgrass Mills Mall in Sunrise, Fla.

Bowers, who works in the President's Office, organized Team Seminole to walk in honor of Dou Brock, former Tribal wholesale distribution director. Brock worked for the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. for 14 years and is currently fighting ALS.

Everyone has ups and downs, but Bowers found that changing her lifestyle — and sticking with it — were the hardest things to do. Luckily, she didn't have to do it alone and had lots of support from her family.

Bowers has two younger sisters and a brother who have also committed themselves to a healthful lifestyle. The non-diabetics of the family, Gladys Bratcher and Martha Jones, along with Elsie's brother, Andrew Bowers, run in marathons and participate in walks.

Of course, staying in shape hasn't always been easy. Just as things were going well for Bowers, she fell off a treadmill on August 12, 2005. She ended up with an injured shoulder and later had to have surgery to correct it. As many know, getting hurt is one of the biggest downsides to exercising. The recovery process is grueling due to obstacles such as age, work, kids, health reasons, stress related, self-esteem, and/or time constraints.

Burdened with one of these obstacles, recovering from injury made Bowers work twice as hard as

she did before. However, she persevered and stayed focused on her goal.

Bowers continues to her quest to stay fit, and currently works out at SimplyFit, a women-only workout center in Davie, Fla. She credits her doctor with helping her stay in shape and monitoring her weight gain and loss. She said she also attends Weight Watchers meetings once a week, and regularly eats salads, yogurt, fruits and vegetables, and claims she only cheats at community dinners.

Bowers said her biggest accomplishment was participating in a weekend charity walk in 2004. The event, which raised funds for the fight against breast cancer, began in Boca Raton, Fla. at 7 a.m. and everyone walked until about 4:30 p.m.

Organizers had buses that picked participants up and drove them to a football stadium in Fort Lauderdale where they showered and camped out in preparation for the second day.

Organizers even had entertainment and food for the participants, but Bowers said she just ate and went to bed early. She said all the festivities were fun, but she simply "had to rest."

The next morning she got up early and had a healthy breakfast. The walk began around 7 a.m. Bowers and three other Tribal citizens finished in Miami later that day.

"It was a three-day walk, but I finished in two and a half days," Bowers said, adding that she completed the course with only one blister.

That is a perfect example of Bowers' ability to set a goal and accomplish it. Not only did she have to walk many miles, but she was responsible for all her extras, like socks, Band-Aids™ and shoes. What a walker wears on her feet is very important in an event like this, according to Bowers.

"I wear Coolmax socks — they keep my feet from sweating — and I wear New Balance shoes," she said. "In big walks like this I bring two sets of shoes."

When she looks back into the past, Bowers said: "Before diabetes, I was the first person to walk around in Brighton. People thought I was crazy. As far back as I remember I always try to watch what I eat. I'd be walking down the road and people would stop and ask me what I was doing and do I need a ride. I would tell them I'm just exercising."

Bowers is still is very passionate about the importance of exercise, not just for herself but for all people. "These days kids ride their golf carts, dirt bikes; kids don't even walk anymore," she said.

Very serious about fitness, but even more serious about her health, Bowers said she will continue to try to eat right, stretch, lace up and walk to control her diabetes — but more importantly, not let it control her. If anyone asked Bowers how she maintains her lifestyle, she would give a very simple answer.

"I just stay active and stay healthy, get involved and learn how to eat," she said.

Her answer is so matter-of-fact that it sounds easy; and it might be easy for a week. However, a true dedication to staying healthy and eating right is a very powerful commitment.



Emma Brown

Seminole Join in March of Dimes Campaign
Charity Raises Funds for Healthier Newborns

By Emma Brown

OKEECHOBEE, Fla. — Premature birth weight rates have escalated steadily and alarmingly over the past two decades.

Currently in the United States, one out of eight babies is born prematurely. The March of Dimes Prematurity Campaign is a multimillion-dollar research, awareness and education effort to help women give birth to healthier babies.

Each year the city of Okeechobee gets involved in the campaign by fundraising and hosting an annual walk. The Seminole Tribe of Florida Health

Department is always active in raising money for this important cause and organizing Team Seminole walkers to participate in the walk.

This year's walk took place on March 31 at Flagler Park. The course was approximately three miles with spirit stations along the way handing out water, nutrition bars and more.

The Health Department hosted a spirit station this year and gave out beaded necklaces and water to all walkers. The Seminole Tribe of Florida received awards for having the most people register and for raising the most money.



Chris Jenkins

President Moses Osceola (R) enjoys Trick Pony and the auction with friends (L-R) Shawn Henderson, Marilyn Cerrato, Hector Cerrato and Gene Meisenheimer.

Torretta and SSM are a Successful Team
Charity Event Raises Estimated \$130,000

By Chris Jenkins

HOLLYWOOD — They were not a team in the football sense, but a former Heisman Trophy winner and Seminole Sports Management (SSM) worked as one and scored big for a good cause at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino on March 24-26.

Former University of Miami Hurricanes quarterback and 1992 Heisman winner Gino Torretta and SSM planned a weekend full of entertaining events with a live concert, silent auctions, celebrity poker and golf for all to enjoy. Together both raised funds and awareness in support of the Torretta Foundation. The weekend's festivities raised an estimated \$130,000 for the foundation.

The Torretta Foundation, which he began in 2002 with wife Bernadette, places an emphasis on research for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, better known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

The Seminole Paradise's Gryphon nightclub was the site to kick things off on March 24, as the platinum-selling country music group Trick Pony and special guest Steve Azar performed. Miami Hurricanes announcer Jay Rokeach, the emcee for the evening, handled live auction duties, offering sports memorabilia, vacation getaways and jewelry to the highest bidders.

March 25 featured a poker tournament and silent auction emceed by former New York Jets quarterback Walter Briggs. Appearances by former Chicago Bears quarterback Jim McMahon, former Hurricanes quarterback Ken Dorsey and former Hurricanes wide receiver Lamar Thomas, among many others, showed their support.

Rice football and a picture of the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team.

The TPC Eagle Trace golf course in Coral Springs, Fla. was the host site for golf tournament play on March 26.

SSM Foundation Manager Tera Jenkins said the weekend was a big success.

"Overall, I felt the weekend was very successful," she said. "We had no major problems. [Gino's] guests seemed happy and impressed with the Hard Rock. All of the guys loved the addition of the poker tournament."



Chris Jenkins

Steve Azar presents a custom autographed guitar from legendary rock singer and song writer Bob Seger.

Jenkins said she was also impressed with Torretta and enjoyed working with him.

"It is great working with someone who is so passionate about raising money for a great cause," she said. "He is very hands on and is very personally involved. I would love to have 100 Gino clients."

"We raised a lot of money and everyone who attended was there to actually support the cause with open checkbooks and willing hearts. You could definitely tell that these people were not only there to party — but for a real purpose."

Torretta praised the turnout of support this year as well as the job done by SSM.

"I was pleased with the weekend," he said. "I thought things went very well."

For football and Hurricanes fans, Torretta is best known as one of the gridiron greats of college football. He played quarterback for the University of Miami, where he won two national championships in 1989 and 1991. His 1991-1992 Heisman campaign capped a season where he had 3,095 yards and 20 touchdowns, and he is one of only two UM quarterbacks — the other is Vinny Testaverde — to win the award. He was drafted in 1993 and played five seasons in the National Football League for Minnesota, Detroit, San Francisco, Seattle and Indianapolis.



Chris Jenkins

Platinum-selling country music group Trick Pony performs.

The auction displayed autographed memorabilia from legends of the sports world including a Jim Brown football, a Joe Montana picture, a Jack Nicklaus hat-magazine, a Kirk Gibson jersey, a Jerry

other is Vinny Testaverde — to win the award. He was drafted in 1993 and played five seasons in the National Football League for Minnesota, Detroit, San Francisco, Seattle and Indianapolis.

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Lila Osceola-Heard
Greg Carter #23 is ready to block Marlon Foster #15 as he attempts a jump shot.



Lila Osceola-Heard
Trewston Pierce



Lila Osceola-Heard
Chris Hunter takes the ball full court.



Lila Osceola-Heard
Look in their eyes; BC 8 and under might be small in size but they're big in heart.

Youth Hustle Back to the Court with a Competitive Spirit

39th Annual Howard Tiger Youth Memorial Tournament

By Tony Heard

HOLLYWOOD — Each year, young Seminole basketball players from every reservation look forward to playing in the Howard Tiger Memorial Basketball Tournament. The competition, held March 30 - 31 at the Hollywood Gym, has always been great; however, it seems as though the level has grown drastically in the past few years.

The tournament began at 5:45 p.m. with the 8 and younger teams hitting the hardwood. They wasted no time showcasing all their hard work from many hours of practice.

The Recreation Department has basketball goals that connect to the regulation goals. This brings the level of the basket to about seven feet, which is just right for many of the kids playing. The youth work on their game to become better, but at the end of the day it's all about the teamwork and fun — all of the kids in this age bracket received medals for their hard work and participation.

The 12 and younger co-ed games always bring a level of intensity with the young athletes ready to compete. The BC, Hollywood and Brighton teams looked more ready than ever. This group is really serious about their basketball and it shows on the court with their inability to tire.

The level of competitive spirit did not drop when the 14 and younger boys and girls hit the court. Their games started off with a bang with players diving on the floor and getting defense stops. It was a great atmosphere to be in: players giving high fives, parents cheering and coaches giving it their all.

It was then time for the 17 and younger teams to hit the hardwood and compete for the championship. They did not disappoint the many spectators on

and good ball movement were just a few of the things spectators saw.

March 31, the final day of the tournament, meant there will be teams taking home championship trophies — and bragging rights.

The games began at 8 a.m. with the 12 and younger co-ed games and 14 and under boys following. Each age bracket had their time on the court to compete and find out who would be playing later in the "ship."

The 12 and younger championship pit Brighton against Hollywood. The game was intense right from the jump with scoring going back and forth. Neither team could gain a large advantage. The score at the halftime was 13 - 14, with Hollywood holding onto a slight lead. Team Brighton kept themselves in the game with tough rebounding and by getting fast break points.

In the second half Hollywood extended their lead to 10 with a pair of the three pointers and defensive pressure caused a two quick steals that turned into lay ups. The lead was too much for Brighton to overcome and the final score ended up being 26 - 19, Hollywood.

Then the epic battle commenced when the 14 and younger girls took the court to play for the championship. It was BC facing off against the teamwork and full-court pressure of the Lady Seminoles — and it was just too much or the BC girls this time around. The Lady Seminoles claimed the championship and await the next tournament to compete and play together with friends and family.

The 14 and younger boys division saw BC taking on Hollywood, and both teams brought their A game. BC quickly jumped ahead of Hollywood with a 10 - 0 lead. Hollywood had a slow start but got back in the game trailing 26 - 15 at the half.

Hollywood gave a good fight but just didn't have enough to overcome the careless turnovers they committed throughout the game. The final score was 37 - 23, with Big Cypress earning the title.

The 17 and under girls hit the court and all the Lady Seminoles came ready to play. After going head-to-head in practice they met in the final game after meeting early on in the bracket and falling short to the 14 and younger Lady Seminole's team. This would be their first appearance in the older division.

The Lady Seminoles squad simply demonstrated more teamwork and effort than their counterparts. The older squad was plagued with injuries, which made winning the championship easy for the 14 and younger Lady Seminoles.

Once the 17 and younger guys took the hardwood, the intensity level increased about three volume levels. Hollywood and BC were battling and having a good time competing. Down 14 at the half, the Hollywood team had to rally in the second half.

Unfortunately, the Big Cypress team did not want that to happen. They applied some full court pressure and extended their lead to win the game, 27 - 19.



Lila Osceola-Heard
Alonzo Waglet and Chayse Billie show good sportsmanship.



Lila Osceola-Heard
Lariah Balentine dribbles while Whitney Osceola plays defense.



Lila Osceola-Heard
Hollywood 12 and under get instructions from coach Carlos Adamson.



Lila Osceola-Heard
Charlie Osceola



Lila Osceola-Heard
BC 12 and under boys earn championship honors to add to their collection.



Lila Osceola-Heard
BC boys Championship 17 and under team show off their hardware.

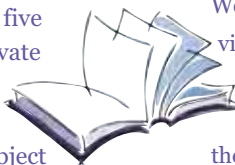


Lila Osceola-Heard
Lady Seminoles show their personalities as they take home two championship honors in the 14 and 17 and under divisions.

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GO DRAGON
CORNER

Troy Cantu and Brandon Otter race during fitness drill in Little Warrior I class.

Lil Warriors I
ages 3,4,5
3:30



Little Warrior Bradin Jen displays Certificate of Achievement for excellence in testing while posing with Master Rob.

Little Warriors II
ages 6-7
4:30

Team Dragon
ages 8-13
4:45

Adults 14+
5:30



Troy Cantu shows great physical agility during Little Warrior II class.



Alina Stockton and Carlos Billie show great determination and speed during Little Warrior class.



Justin Ruff and Hayden Littlebear put up for Team Dragon class drills.



Matthew Blahd assists Master McCartney in demonstrating a technique during Team Dragon class.



Team Dragon class listens to Master McCartney while they learn the five Go Dragon Principles.



Little Warriors Brandon Otter and Troy Cantu practice kicks under Master McCartney's direction.



Alina Stockton and Savannah Fish learn about balance while playing a favorite Little Warrior game.

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Spring Weight Loss Contest

Open to Hollywood Tribal Members, Spouses, Employees, and Community Members.

Spring Hollywood Weight Loss Contest began at 9:00 am on Monday, April 16.

Everyone must be weighed in by 5:00 pm on Friday, April 20th.

No exceptions!!

Your weigh in weight can not be higher than the January weight loss "weigh out" weight. If your weight is higher, then your "weigh out" weight will be used for your starting weight.

Everyone must weigh out by 5:00 pm on Friday, August 17th.

If you have any questions, please call Hollywood Recreation at (954) 989-9457 or Gina at (954) 605-8909.

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EIRA Rodeo at Annual Cattle Drive

By Judy Weeks

BIG CYPRESS — After a long day in the saddle, the cowboys and cowgirls who participated in the 11th Annual Junior Cypress Cattle Drive on March 31 were treated to a performance of the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA). Following a relaxing meal at the end of the trail, the weary riders got their second wind and a crowd formed in the bleachers.

The Junior Rodeo got under way at 6 p.m. with the popular Mutton Bustin'. Pint-size athletes always capture the hearts of their audience as they exit the chute, clinging to the back of a woolly sheep and dreaming of the day when they will ride the bulls. The top contenders were Kirkland Boney, Mark Holmes, Rayven King and Norman Osceola.

The Wild Pony Riders drew gasps from the spectators as they mounted the little four-legged kegs of dynamite and came bucking out of the starting gates. With a tight grip on the saddle horn and one hand in the air, it takes every ounce of courage a rider can muster to compete. Timothy Bearden and J.J. Johns fought hard and won their points.

Winning Calf Riders Jobe Johns, Dalton Koenes and Dustin Holmes got in plenty of practice, learning the skills and balance required to eventually

those precious qualifying seconds, sooner or later he is going to come off. This is when riders pray for a good clown and a pickup man. Ethan Gopher, Josh Johns and Billie Foley have all felt the fear, rush of adrenaline and courage required to earn their winning points.

There were 16 entries in the 4- to 8-year-old Barrel Racers division, and they were all crowd-pleasers. The top five winners, Ahnie Jumper, Jobe Johns, Cyrus Smedley, Brighton Bauman and Savannah Fish, had scores ranging from 18.954 to 84.909 seconds. These youngsters all rode unassisted and completed the pattern in order to qualify.

It was heartwarming to watch Justin Aldridge running ahead of his little sister Aleah Turtle and William Bearden dragging Sunni's pony through the pattern while she waved to the audience. Barrel Racing veterans Boogie Jumper and Reba Osceola were really cranking it up when they took their daughters around on lead line.

However, the real show stopper was Dayra Koenes, whose horse broke the pattern. She corrected him by herself and then completed the run unassisted.

Scores in the 9-12 and 13-18-year-old Barrels were very close ranging from 18.275 to 19.766 seconds. A very familiar rider, Nauthkie Henry, took first in the younger division with Kelton Smedley and Malanie Perez just thousands of a second behind her.

Janae Braswell blew everyone away with her 18.415 second run with Taylor Johns and Adrienne Cypress in hot pursuit. It was tough luck for Ashton Baxley who knocked down the third barrel and Rebecca Osceola when her horse broke the pattern.

However, both girls showed excellent sportsmanship and completed their runs ready to try again. It was a very exciting night in the Junior Breakaway. Jobe Johns lost his seat and slammed into the hard clay of the arena. He lay motionless for a few seconds but rallied when his father rushed to the scene.

As he slowly got to his feet he said, "I'm tough. It only knocked the wind out of me."

First and second places in the Breakaway went to Kelton Smedley and Dalton Boney, respectively, when they pantyhosed their steers. Blevins Jumper grabbed third with a trick shot using his third loop.

Junior Bareback riders Jacoby Johns and Christopher Smith took the top positions in their event. Riding some of the rankest rough stock on the rodeo circuit, these young men fought hard against some very tough odds and won.

Assisting the announcer in the evening's sanctioned events was Dale Oldhorn, a council delegate for the Crow Nation. His announcing career has spanned nearly 40 years and carried him to many of the states in our nation. As a college professor, he has taught Native American studies since 1971 and currently holds the position of Crow Tribal preservation officer.

There were no qualified rides in the Bareback or Saddle Bronc events and it was a rough night for the Steer Wrestlers with Greg Louis being the only contestant of several to complete his ride.

When it was time for the Calf Roping, the participants finally got the upper hand over some very fast stock, with top honors going to Josh Jumper,



Andre Jumper takes first place in the steer riding event.

Judy Weeks



Clowns help J.J. Johns to his feet during the Wild Pony competition.

Judy Weeks

move up the ladder to the Steer Riding. The two top riders in the Steers category, Andre Jumper and J.J. Johns, don't have to have very long memories to recall the bumps, bruises and hard falls they acquired while preparing for their rung on that same ladder.

Donning their vests and preparing their rigging, the Junior Bull Riders risk life and limb when they lower themselves on the backs of these beasts bent on losing their riders. It is impossible to determine what is going to happen when the chute opens and bull and rider lunge into the arena. Bucks, jumps, twists and turns designed to fling the rider to the ground are just the beginning.

Even if the rider manages to stay on board for

Happy Jumper and Preston Williams.

Of the 10 entries in the Women's Breakaway, Pauletta Bowers, LeAnna Billie and Tess Ducheneaux, took the lead in this very competitive event. The Legends Breakaway had an equally hard way to go with Norman Johns taking first and Rudy Osceola coming in second.

There were 28 teams vying for the winning money in the Team Roping event, which proved to be a very difficult task. An 8.2 second run for brothers Josh and Naha Jumper put them in first place. The young team of Justin and Hilliard Gopher excelled this season, and despite a one leg catch, were able to grab the second slot. A broken barrier didn't prevent Willie and Alex Johns from taking third and a 1.5 second margin put Richard and Paul Bowers in fourth.

Of the 20 women seeking qualifying points in the Barrel Racing, only six entrants made the grade. The competition was unbelievably close with only three quarters of a second between the first and sixth place winners.

Each of the contestants accumulated as many points as possible to qualify for this year's finals and they have already gotten off to an excellent beginning. The line up was as follows: Boogie Jumper, Scooter Johns, Perri Whidden, Toi Andrews, Marilee Johns and Heather Peterson.

The evening's performance came to an exciting conclusion with seven entries in the Bull Riding and just two qualified rides. Justin Gopher and Coty Brugh received fantastic scores for their rides and the extreme efforts of their mounts. High caliber rides of the type experienced during this competition will surely place the contestants among the contenders at the Indian National Finals Rodeo.



Professional announcer Dale Oldhorn of the Crow Nation assists at the Eastern Indian Rodeo.

Judy Weeks



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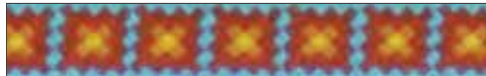
Poems

Refuse

The time came to take a stand
For far too long I embraced a forbidden
hand
As I struggled to free myself from its pow-
erful grip
Treasures I once held began to slip
Clutched by confusion — held captive to
pain
Clinging to the deception, I was led hope-
lessly through the rain
Misery loves company so I quickly took
part

It was then I received a blow straight to
my heart
Life to me had become so unfair
Would I ever escape this touch of despair
Defeat was an option I could not accept
As I was delivered to the lesson in life I
would not forget
Today Gopher YO8219 fights through a
second bid
A payment for the life I had once lived
Again I am confined to a cell
Breaking the adversary's hold because I
refuse to fail

Leslie J. Gopher



T.I.M.E.

Just another 4-letter word with a lot of
meaning
Once young, my mother was always there
when I was crying and screaming
Her graceful love and tender care always
left a warm feeling
Growing up, playing with my brothers and
sisters there couldn't be better days; I
thought I was dreaming
A house full of family, there's always a
shoulder worth leaning
But as time passed people grow and people
change, and that's all right
So my love for you will remain the same

and we'll always be trunk tight
You hold the Ace, I hold the King and
together we'll always have the upper hand
In case we've bumped heads, I'm sorry; it
will never happen again; my word as a
man
But over time wound heal and love is
regained
I'll always love my mother, father, brothers
and sisters; and that will never change.

Dedicated to my brothers Ira, Mike and
Randy; and to my sisters Carla and PJ.

Smile back Big Town,
Dustin Osceola



Walking in a Bid

Steps taken daily are impossible for words
to say
Twenty-four seven in every second that
fades away
Come morning the weakness runs and
hides
By nightfall silently come the cries
Memories that were and ones without
place
Clinging close to what time cannot erase

Encamped to chaos by razor and chain
Partaking in a confusion that prospers
within the pain
Few will leave but many must stay
Payment to a life sacrificed in each day
The struggle that forces a heart to look
Searching the answers of one great book
Repentance, forgiveness and deliverance
once was hid
The real truth ... walking in a bid

Leslie J. Gopher



In Loving Memory of Clarence L. Avila

I'm On My Way

I'm on my way, ancestors, family and
friends. I truly look forward to the day
when this life ends.
Until then I will keep your memory alive
through you all I gain strength to sur-
vive.
So until my time comes I will continue
on, giving them hell till I too am gone.
I feel your spirits all around, whites &
blacks just can't comprehend because
your bodies lay on the ground.

My own spirit is strong & gets stronger
everyday, because I have faith in only the
Native American traditional way.
I will always remember where I come
from, which I will not be converted as
some.
I'm on my way it's just a matter of time,
Ike will always have much love &
respect for the race that is mine.

Ike T. Harjo
Panther Clan

Only the Strong Survive

Only the strong survive in
this world of sin. I dedi-
cate this to my nephew
Clarence. Now this terri-
ble scribe begins.
You was just a child the
last time I seen you out
there, but no matter how
long it has been I always
loved you & cared.
That will not change now that you are
gone, bloods thicker than water so I
guess you know she already moved on.
I sure wish I was out there to school you
on the game, she wouldn't have been
part of your life & a stable you would
have gained.



If a person presents they
self proper they get
treated with respect, but
if they get beside they
self it's a must they get
checked.
My reputation is notori-
ous for that but that's
the only way I know
how to be, all they have
to do is respect they self
& they get the utmost
respect from me.

Anyway I truly hate you
got caught up in that web, now in this
world you're physically dead.
But life goes on & your memory will
too. I give you my word & I feel your
spirit, nephew.

Ike T. Harjo
Panther Clan

Happy Birthdays

Zaliyah Alice Billie Spends Birthday with Friends, Family

Story and Photos By Lila
Osceola-Heard

HOLLYWOOD —
April 6 was a beautiful,
sunny day in South Florida,
and Zaliyah Alice Billie cele-
brated her second birthday
poolside at the Hollywood
Gym. She got to watch her
family members take full
advantage of the beauty of
the day.

Her maternal grand-
parents are Diane Osceola
and Wayne Billie. Paternal



Happy belated birthday to Kellie
Renee Tigertail on March 30.
From,
Willie Osceola
Boca Raton, Fla.



Belated happy 7th birthday wish-
es to Clairese Avila.

From,
Mom, Dad, family and friends

Happy birthday to Dominique
Osceola AKA Otter Face, on May 1. I love
you and I miss you.
Love,
Mom (Kim)

Happy birthday to mom, Doris
Osceola, on May 1. I love you Ma,
you're the best and I am so grateful to
have you as my mom. I hope you enjoy
your big day.
Love,
Kim Osceola



grandparents are
Monica Cypress and
Lyle Billie.
Aja Billie, aunt
and babysitter, held
Zaliyah as the family
spent quality time
together.

Everyone had a
great time playing catch
with the water balls in
the pool, but playing
water basketball pre-
sented some challenges.
Food and drinks were
provided by the family.

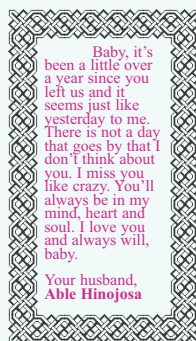
Shaq Celebrates Birthday at Hard Rock



Chris Jenkins

Happy birthday to the Miami Heat's Shaquille O'Neal. He celebrated his 35th
birthday at the Hollywood Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino on March 24.
He was swarmed by press and fans on the red carpet.

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News From Indian Country

New Rule May Help Tribes Reclaim Their Lost, Stolen Artifacts

By Kevin Livelli, Columbia News Service

It's been nearly a dozen years since museums and federal agencies had to notify American Indian Tribes about artifacts in their collections that might have been stolen from or lost by the Tribes. But a new federal regulation may make it easier for the Tribes to identify such objects.

It was a hot and arid day in Pecos, N.M., when the elders and leaders of the Jemez Pueblo Tribe welcomed an outsider into the fold: archaeologist William Whately.

Wearing colorful headbands, the old men sat on the ground with Whately. Then they began drawing images in the dust — images of bones, masks and pottery that had gone missing or been looted from the Tribe. The elders implored Whately to use his scientific knowledge to find the objects and help return them to the Tribe. Not an easy task.

That was nearly 20 years ago. Now, for other Tribes searching for lost or stolen items, the process may get a lot easier.

In mid-March, the Department of the Interior's National NAGPRA program, which helps carry out the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, announced a regulation requiring museums, universities and federal agencies in possession of Native American art and artifacts to provide new lists of their inventories and to share them with all federally recognized Tribes within six months.

The rule, which takes effect today, marks the first time in a dozen years that museums and federal agencies have had to tell Tribes what's in their collections. This process may uncover many items missing for years, and it may encourage Tribes to start making repatriation claims to get their artifacts back.

Repatriation is a process frequently fraught with tension between museums and Tribes. Curators and scholars have an interest in preserving items for their educational and research value. For the Tribes, reclaiming their objects can have a spiritual and cultural significance.

But for some, it can lead to big business. A reclaimed object can establish a Tribe's right to land, which it might want to develop — perhaps into a casino.

"This promises to have a big impact for many Tribes, especially those recently recognized by the federal government," said Dr. Rayna Green, a Cherokee and the curator and director of the American Indian program at the Smithsonian Institution. "And it's not just about cultural heritage," she added. "It's about money and land and property. This is America, after all."

Yet even if the new rule helps Tribes find many sacred objects, it won't necessarily help them overcome the many obstacles inherent in the repatriation process.

"Tribes and museums approach decisions about sacred objects carefully," said Dr. Timothy McKeown, the senior program coordinator at the NAGPRA office and the man responsible for overseeing the entire repatriation process. "Repatriation is not just something you can do overnight."

To begin with, Tribes can struggle with issues of confidentiality when filing a claim. Many Tribes, especially the Pueblo groups in the Southwest, have strict customs and rules about sharing Tribal information with outsiders. Yet the law requires a Tribe to reasonably establish its historical connection to a particular object.

The Pueblo Indians of San Ildefonso made a claim in the mid-1990s but backed away when a dispute over the claim led to litigation in federal court. They didn't want to have to testify and reveal Tribal secrets.

Even putting together the claim can be a challenge. In many instances, a Tribe's spoken language—like that of the Jemez Pueblo—isn't written down and can't be easily transferred into the legalese necessary to file a claim. And hiring lawyers costs money, something many smaller Tribes lack.

When claims are readied for filing, McKeown says Tribes sometimes argue among themselves and with neighboring Tribes over who has the right to proceed with that claim, who should act as spokesperson and who will be responsible for the objects once they return.

One such case currently under review by McKeown's office involves funerary objects and human remains that were recently found in Chaco Canyon National Park in New Mexico.

Representatives from Pueblo, Navajo and Hopi Tribes have all made competing claims for the same objects.

The Tribes' competing claims can stir feuds that go back hundreds of years. "It has to do with very old notions of clan and kinship and philosophical and religious ideas about death and the afterlife," Green said.

"The issue is important because what you and I call artifacts are in their worlds living Tribal members with the same rights as people," Whately said.

Once objects are successfully returned to Tribes, one serious issue frequently remains. Many of the items belonging to Tribes in the Iroquois Six Nations and the Hopi Nation are perishable — cornhusk masks or headdresses with feathers. When these items come into a museum's collection, they are often sprayed with arsenic or another pesticide for preservation.

But upon return, the masks and headdresses are often worn in ceremonies, endangering the lives of Tribal members and leaving the museum potentially liable for any resulting injury or illness.

"That's something we in the museum world are trying to remedy," Green said. "We're looking now into alternative means of preservation, like flash-freezing objects."

Though the path to repatriation may take many years, Whately says the end result will be worth the trouble for Tribes. Over nine years, he has helped return thousands of objects to the Pueblo Jemez from museums around the country.

Back in dusty Pecos, thousands of Indians gathered in 1999 to welcome home their inanimate "Tribal members." Museum curators and staff were on hand too, watching from a respectful distance.

Whately, however, was by then a special guest of the Tribe and had special access. He said he felt something that day that transcended science, money, land and all his pre-existing notions about Native American culture.

The experience, he said, has stayed with him and opened his eyes to a new way of looking at life.

"There's a lot more to this on the spiritual side than many non-Indians realize," he said. To view the NPS regulations, please go to http://www.cr.nps.gov/nagpra/MANDATES/43_CFR_10_13_02Final%20Rule%2003-21-07.pdf.

NCAI Youth Ambassador Helps to Provide Shelter for the Homeless

Community Home Opens on Nez, Perce Tribal Land

Submitted by NCAI

WASHINGTON — As one of two youth ambassadors for the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), Patricia Carter is "providing for her people while serving as an outstanding role

model for Indian youth across the country," according to NCAI President Joe A. Garcia.

The 23-year-old Nez Perce Tribal member is working on a groundbreaking project for her Tribe that will provide a new homeless shelter for the Nez Perce Tribe.

Carter is a volunteer and lead organizer on the Warm Fires Community Home project in Lapwai, Idaho. Along with a handful of volunteers, Carter is renovating a three-bedroom home that will serve as a shelter and safe haven for the homeless.

"The creation of the Warm Fires Community Home is one way we are meeting the challenge of providing for our people," said Carter. "It is important for us as Tribes and bands to step up and take care of our brothers and sisters when they cannot provide for themselves, regardless of their reason for need. Individualistic thinking goes against who we are as indigenous people. The welfare of the entire Tribe, not the individual, is the primary focus."

The Warm Fires Community Home Project is still in progress and there is a need for more volunteers and donations. Carter says the project is in need of furniture donations, specifically twin-size beds or bunk beds, and also nonperishable food items and adult-size clothing.

"This is exactly the kind of youth leadership Indian Country needs," Garcia said. "Through Patricia's work she is showing the importance of working together as a united Indian Country to benefit native people. I think we could all learn a good lesson from her initiative. Her work provides for a strong start to NCAI's new Youth Ambassador Leadership Program."

Carter said she hopes to have the shelter up and running this month. "At times it appears that we may be straying from our cultural values and for this reason, among many notable others, it makes our present efforts even more significant; that in today's modern society we are still here to help, even through the hard times," she said.

Carter is currently serving a two-year term as NCAI youth ambassador along with her male counterpart, Quintin Lopez of the Tohono O'odham Nation.

For more information on NCAI's Youth Ambassador Leadership Program and Youth Commission, please visit www.ncai.org. To make a donation, or for additional information about Warm Fires Community Home, please contact Patricia Carter at ambassador-carter@gmail.com.



Photo Courtesy of Patricia Carter

NCAI Youth Ambassador Patricia Carter

Conference Highlights Native American Archives, Libraries, Museums

Submitted by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries

OKLAHOMA CITY — American Indian librarians, historians, Tribal leaders and others interested in Tribal cultural preservation will gather at the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center in downtown Oklahoma City, Oct. 23-25, for a national conference of Tribal archives, libraries and museums. The 2007 event builds on two previous conferences in Arizona in 2003 and 2005.

The Oklahoma Department of Libraries with support from the Oklahoma Museums Association, Red Earth, Inc., and Tribal representatives from throughout the state will host this year's conference, "Guardians of Language, Memory and Lifeways: Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums." An envisioning committee made up of leaders from throughout the nation is providing guidance on issues of critical importance to Tribal cultural entities.

The two-and-a-half day conference will provide concurrent sessions, keynote presentations, hands-on workshops and a variety of networking opportunities. A series of daylong pre-conference workshops are scheduled for Oct. 22.

For registration, exhibitor, sponsorship or other information, please visit www.tribalconference.org or call the conference office at (405) 522-3515.



Red Earth Festival Showcases Native Americans

Event Features Native Artists, Dancers, Crafts, More

Submitted by Eric Oesch, Deputy Director, Red Earth, Inc.

OKLAHOMA CITY — When the 21st annual Red Earth Native American Cultural Festival opens at the Cox Convention Center on June 1, more than 1,200 American Indian artists and dancers from throughout North America will gather to celebrate their rich heritage and diversity with the world. For three exciting days, Oklahoma City will be at the center of Native American art and culture in America.

Through the years, Red Earth has matured into one of the most respected visual and performing arts events of its type, setting the standard for many of today's Indian art shows held throughout the nation. At Red Earth, guests can sample the work of some of the nation's most celebrated artists, with opportunities to purchase contemporary and traditional examples of beadwork, basketry, jewelry, pottery, sculpture, paintings, graphics and cultural attire during the juried art show and market.

The dance competition at Red Earth is one of the rare occasions when dancers from America's

Northern and Southern tribes can be seen together in one venue. Red Earth dancers represent the elite of Native American dance, some of the most gifted and accomplished in the world. The masters, each in his or her distinctive Tribal dress, exhibit originality and skill in one of the most prestigious of all native dance competitions.

A parade unlike any other will open the festival on the morning of June 1. The streets of downtown Oklahoma City will vibrate with Native American spirit as representatives of more than 100 Tribes march in full regalia.

The Red Earth Art Market opens at 11 a.m. on June 1, and the first grand entry of dance competitors begins at noon inside the Cox Convention Center Arena. Grand entries are scheduled at noon and 7 p.m. June 1 and June 2, and at noon on June 3.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.ticketmaster.com. For more information, please contact Red Earth, Inc., at (405) 427-5228 or visit www.redearth.org.

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Members of the Tribal Council at the official ribbon-cutting ceremonies for Fresh Harvest restaurant at the Coconut Creek Casino.

'A True Culinary Adventure' at Coconut Creek

Fresh Harvest Restaurant Celebrates Grand Opening

By Chris Jenkins

COCONUT CREEK — The Seminole Coconut Creek Casino hosted members of the Tribal Council, general public and media for an experience in freshness on April 10 at the grand opening of the Fresh Harvest restaurant.

Fresh Harvest, the newest in alternative dining, is a 6,000-square-foot restaurant with a 290-patron capacity. The restaurant combines dining and entertainment, and feature meals with hand-selected ingredients in a market-style atmosphere, according to Executive Chef Francois Ternes.

"We wanted to make it an entertaining experience while maintaining freshness, abundance and consistency for the palate," he said.

In what Ternes calls a "true culinary adventure," the restaurant will feature several open marketplace stations offering fresh ingredients including herbs, fruits and vegetables.

Live action cooking stations will feature grilling and sautéing with five rotisseries, a pizza oven, sushi, salad and sandwich stations, a patisserie or dessert

station, and a circular flat-top griddle for cooking various cuisine.

The restaurant's décor features a multicolored carpet with a pattern of butterfly wings, and a unique handcrafted 20-by-10-foot butterfly-shaped glass chandelier. The theme was chosen to represent and maintain the city of Coconut Creek's reputation as the butterfly capital of the world.



The patisserie inside Fresh Harvest

The opening came days after a pre-opening treating Tribal citizens and employees to breakfast, lunch and dinner April 3-4.

Before the ceremonies, Comanche flutist Sonny Nevaquaya entertained guests. The Rev. Jimmy Osceola, a Tribal citizen, provided the invocation. Seminole

Gaming Chief Executive Officer James F. Allen emceed the event.

Allen said the expansion helps to raise the Tribe's profile in the area.

"A lot of people think about the Seminole Tribe and they think the Hard Rock, but the Coconut Creek facility has been tremendously successful and we think this is the first step in taking it to the next level," he said.

Remarks followed from President Moses Osceola, Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Hollywood Tribal Council Representative Max B. Osceola Jr., Miss Florida Seminole Brittany Vescas and Coconut Creek Mayor Lou Sarbone. The ribbon cutting capped off the ceremony, with members of the council, Sarbone, and Vescas doing the honors. Lunch followed.

Cypress said the Tribe's expansion of the casino will help boost the economy in the Coconut Creek community.

"This is the way we share — by creating employment," he said. "And this is a fine example."

Ternes said the main emphasis for patrons is a merchant service concept.

"The guest will feel as if he has taken a trip back in time when a visit to the local market meant an affable conversation with the village butcher or bake shop owner," he said.

Fresh Harvest is open daily from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Tribe Flips the Switch on Neon Hard Rock Marquee

65 Foot Las Vegas-Style Sign Is One of the First in State of Florida

By Felix DoBoz

HOLLYWOOD — All the invited camera crews from local TV and newspaper outlets scrambled to get a good vantage point to shoot this grand extravaganza. Members of the media waited patiently along with Tribal citizens and employees in anticipation of the magic moment of illumination.

When the time finally came at 8:05 p.m. on April 12, Fort Pierce Liaison S.R. Tommie, Tribal elder Bobby Henry and Seminole Hard Rock President Mike Bloom had the honor of flipping the switch. The three lit up the 65-foot, full color, Las Vegas-style marquee amid applause, fanfare and camera flashes.

The double-sided sign sits on State Road 7, just south of the Lucky Street parking garage at the Hollywood Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

The first image shown on the display screen was the colorful official seal of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Everyone stared at the billboard as the image then changed to John Anderson's *Seminole Wind* music video, as speakers cranked out the song to the delight of the assembled crowd.

The full color LED, video display is about 17 by 15 feet. It uses full color FC-HX2 technology and is capable of displaying 16.8 million colors. The weather-resistant marquee was designed and built by Tampa's Federal Health Sign Company.

The hi-tech billboard will provide

updated information for news events, emergencies and Seminole Hard Rock Casino & Hotel promotions. In a voluntary partnership with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the sign will broadcast AMBER, or America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response, alerts.

Bloom introduced guest speakers Don and Claudine Ryce. The Ryces founded the Jimmy Ryce Center for Victims of Predatory Abduction after the kidnapping and murder of their son Jimmy in September, 1995. They said they hoped the AMBER alert broadcast will help save and protect missing children in the future.

The first AMBER alert on the new marquee was for 28-day-old Bryan Dossantos-Gomes, who was abducted from Fort Myers, Fla. on Dec. 1, 2006.

Tribal citizen Bobby Henry offered a blessing in Miccosukee. Representing Chairman Mitchell Cypress, and the Tribal Council was S.R. Tommie. She welcomed everyone on behalf of Tribe and called the sign "a work of art" before making a few additional comments.

"Our Tribal elder Bobby Henry blessed this area," she said. "He blessed it for the betterment of all people traveling through this area ... It is the first in South Florida of its kind — period. So once again the Seminole Tribe of Florida has set out in the front lines and made one of its acquisitions for the betterment of all the citizens of Florida."



Spectators gather along State Road 7 to see the new Hard Rock sign.

Felix DoBoz

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Celebrating Easter

Seniors Celebrate Easter Holiday



Susan Etzebarria

Louise Osceola waits for egg hunt to begin.

By Susan Etzebarria

BIG CYPRESS — The seniors at Big Cypress enjoyed a daylong Easter party hosted by the Big Cypress Elderly Program with the assistance of the BC Recreation Department starting off the day on the ball field with an egg hunt.

Hundreds of plastic eggs were hiding in the grass, some containing \$1, \$5 and \$10 bills, and the egg hunters swooped them up as fast as they could. After the hunt, the seniors went back to the Senior Center where they sat down and opened their eggs, looking to see if they were the lucky money winners. The sounds of laughter rippled across the room as winners piled up the money they found in their eggs.

Minnie Doctor received a prize for finding the most eggs in the women's division, and Pilot Billie won in the men's division.

Tribal President Moses Osceola and Chairman Mitchell Cypress attended and wished everyone a Happy Easter. Big Cypress Council Representative David Cypress spoke in Miccosukee to all of his Tribal citizens and the many guests from other reservations, and with his usual sense of humor, made them all giggle.

Pastor Salaw Hummingbird of the Big Cypress First Baptist Church talked about the real meaning of Easter.

Most of the seniors played bingo before and after a wonderful lunch while Jonah Cypress played the guitar and sang. During the day of socializing and bingo there were raffles. Easter gifts for raffle winners included cookie jars, Easter baskets stuffed with goodies and big fluffy stuffed animals.

There was an Easter bonnet contest as well. Results were as follows: 1, Esther Buster, 2, Rudy Osceola, 3, Violet Jim, 4, Jeannie Bowers, 5, Patsy Billie, 6, Henry Jumper Jr., 7, Nancy Motlow.



Susan Etzebarria

All lined up for the Easter egg hunt.



Susan Etzebarria

George Billie and Mitchell Cypress wait with the women for the egg hunt.



Susan Etzebarria

Nancy Motlow hunts for eggs and tosses them in the bag.



Susan Etzebarria

Edna McDuffie looks for eggs with other seniors.



Susan Etzebarria

Nancy Motlow likes bingo.



Susan Etzebarria

Happy Jones finds money in the Easter eggs.

Around The Reservation

Preschoolers Enjoy Easter Carnival



Sassy the Clown gives Leighton Jim a fresh face.

Susan Etzbarria

By Susan Etzbarria

BIG CYPRESS — After an exciting Easter egg hunt indoors at the Big Cypress Preschool, youngsters enjoyed a mini-carnival on the Culture Grounds behind the Family Investment Center on April 5.

The children took turns riding around the grounds in the large toy train with their parents and the preschool staff. The huge water slide was a big hit on the warm day. So were the bounce house and the other large rubberized playground equipment. The preschoolers were able to roll and jump to their heart's content without getting hurt.

Sassy the Clown from Pembroke Pines, Fla. painted the children's faces, and it was amazing how still the little ones could sit.

The Big Cypress Council's Roasted Corn Wagon was set up and Nery Mejicano roasted the corn for the children's outdoor picnic lunch and the enjoyment of staffers who were invited to come by and visit. Many parents attended the party and just enjoyed sitting under the chickee, chatting with one another as the kids played.



Lazzlow and dad Andy Perez

Susan Etzbarria



Susan Etzbarria

The train takes off with preschoolers and parents, next stop, Big Cypress Culture Grounds.



Susan Etzbarria

Lauren Doctor and Analyse Stockton get ready for a wet and slippery ride down the slide.

Community Easter Celebration in BC



Alice Billie

Nery Mejicano

By Nery Mejicano

BIG CYPRESS — Easter in Big Cypress is celebrated every year with a community luncheon, music and fellowship. On April 6, the Big Cypress community, along with employees and other friends of the Tribe, got together to celebrate this most holy of occasions.

The BC Gymnasium was nicely decorated with colorful flowers, bright and cheerful rabbits, eggs, and a giant rabbit who entertained the seniors and children alike by passing small gifts. Paul Buster and his Cowbone Band provided the background musical entertainment as well as spiritual inspiration for this annual event.

The parking lot of the

gym was filled to capacity, spilling the extra vehicles to the shoulders of Snake Road and next to Ahfachkee School. The smell of delicious food wafted across the wide expanse of the swamps, attracting the hungry to the gym.

Council Representative David Cypress welcomed the community and introduced Chairman Mitchell Cypress. Cypress welcomed the crowd, then passed the microphone to Big Cypress Board Representative Paul Bowers, who commented on the meaning of the occasion. Following a prayer and historical perspective of Easter by Kino King, lines formed to share the wonderful Easter meal.



David Cypress and Peter Cottontail

Nery Mejicano



David and Mary Francis Cypress

Nery Mejicano



Patsy Billie

Nery Mejicano



Louise Billie cats with the bunny.

Nery Mejicano





Judy Weeks

Get ready, get set and go in the Easter egg hunt in Immokalee.

Community Holds Easter 'Eggstravaganza'

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — Residents, both young and old, of the Immokalee Community gathered on the ball field on April 6 for what promised to be a fun-filled day in celebration of Easter.

A day full of games and activities was planned, beginning with the traditional Easter egg hunt. Participants ranged from toddlers to senior citizens, and were divided into several age groups. Separate territories were marked off for the eager scavengers as eggs were strewn across the grass and hidden in every nook and cranny imaginable.

Anticipation filled the crowd as each group took their place at the starting line. With baskets and bags in hand, they burst out across the playing field collecting their bounty. Prizes were awarded to the individuals who acquired the most eggs in each category.

For the littlest children this was an awesome occasion and their squeals of joy and expectation were contagious. Smiles and laughter spread across the faces of the crowd in waves throughout the entire day.

There was no shortage of contestants in the games that followed the hunt. The ever popular egg toss and spoon walk took their messy toll on the participants as they were quickly eliminated. Attempting to catch or balance the raw eggs, they had to work hard to avoid the

inevitable near miss or overzealous throw of their partners. Fortunately, water hoses were available to wash off the evidence.

As the day heated up, the revelers made frequent visits to the two water slides to cool off and clean up before the next event. The sack race brought screams, shouts of encouragement and laughter as the spectators enthusiastically reacted to each race.

Several youngsters entered the horse-shoe competition, which really brought out the competitive spirit in the teenagers and adults. Participants and spectators seriously contemplated each throw, and the air filled with the ringing of shoes on steel and exclamations from the side lines.

Following a delicious buffet served under the big chickee, raffle tickets were distributed and the long-anticipated drawing began. As the numbers were called, the winners stepped forward and each drew a plastic egg out of the giant basket. Each egg contained a monetary prize, gift certificate or opportunity to receive one of the large door prizes.

"I have just recently joined the Immokalee staff and today's event has given me an opportunity to meet and interact with the members of your community," said Recreation Director Stan Frischman. "We have had a wonderful turnout and your overwhelming enthusiasm has made me feel very welcome."



Judy Weeks

Youngsters enjoy a refreshing moment on the waterslide.

❖ Spring

Continued from page 1

soaking in the surroundings of nature's tranquility. There's a freshly painted log cabin surrounded by a beautiful, meticulously manicured tropical landscape, and there was fresh sod for the kids to run crazy on while they hunted for Easter eggs. Young Jason Hayling won first prize for the most Easter eggs collected.

Hope Sneed, Fort Pierce community involvement coordinator, shared some of the hosting and general welcoming duties with Fort Pierce Liaison Sally R. Tommie and Sharon Thomas of the Family Services Department. They took turns introducing different segments of the day's agendas and directing some of the fun-filled activities.

Tommie, reading from one of the pamphlets that were displayed on one of the booths, said, "Let's put our minds together and seek what kind of life we can build for our children." That was a quote from Sitting Bull, and this facility today and this event today, Spring Fling, is designed just for that. Though it states for our youth and our children of tomorrow, it's also to educate our Tribal members as to some of the Tribal programs that are available."



Felix DuBois

Culture Department seniors show kids how to make frybread while S.R. Tommie helps out.



Felix DuBois

Motocross star Josh Sneed helped out.

After the buffet-style meal, Tommie announced that it was time to have some fun by making frybread. Lorene Gopher, Jennifer Chadwick, Jade Braswell, Martha Jones and Jennie Osceola Billie from the Culture Department demonstrated and taught the youngsters how to make frybread. They molded the flour to make the dough then dropped it into a pan of boiling oil and fried it to a golden yellow color for a delicious crispy treat. They made the frybread the traditional way — over a burning campfire.

Future motocross star Josh Sneed of Fort Pierce stopped by to say hello and let everyone know how well he's doing, especially in his sport. He said he qualified for the prestigious Loretta Lynn Amateur National Motocross Championships, held in August at the country singing legend's ranch in Tennessee.

Sneed also found time to make some frybread and supervised some of the children while helping his sister Hope and the rest of the family celebrate the Easter holiday.

Little kids enjoyed eating their fried creations and learned a little more about their unique culture. Everyone agreed it was a fun-filled afternoon.



Emma Brown

(L-R) Marilyn Doney, Joni Johnson and Dana Osceola

Tribal Staff Celebrates Easter

By Emma Brown

BRIGHTON — The Brighton Council Office and Maintenance and Human Resources departments hosted an Easter celebration and

April birthday luncheon for the Brighton staff on April 5 at the Brighton Field Office.

The kitchen was festively decorated with a rainbow of Easter pastel baskets and balloons. A delicious ham luncheon with all the sides was served as different departments enjoyed each other's company.

The crowd was surprised by a visit from Peter Cottontail. Each staff member was given a basket full of eggs, some of them filled with special prizes. Three beautifully decorated Easter birthday cakes were served for dessert.



Emma Brown

Young Rucks of Accounts Payable



Emma Brown

Tony Bullington and Becky Bowers of the education staff



Emma Brown

Lucy Bowers and Easter bunny



Emma Brown

Michele Thomas with Easter bunny



Emma Brown

Firefighters and EMT staff



Seniors, Community Celebrate Easter Holiday



Susan Etxebarria
First place winner Jenny Snow



Susan Etxebarria
Jonah Cypress entertains.



Susan Etxebarria
Alice Snow shows off her second-place Easter bonnet.



Susan Etxebarria
Mitchell Cypress speaks to seniors.



Susan Etxebarria
Happy Jones' happy cap made fifth place.



Susan Etxebarria
Rudy Osceola's crazy Western hat.



Susan Etxebarria
Billy Micco's yellow egg, chick and bunny bonnet took second place.



Susan Etxebarria
Virginia Tommie made third place for her "eggcellent" creation.

By Susan Etxebarria

BRIGHTON — The Brighton seniors started off their annual Easter party on April 4 at Hot Meals with the annual bonnet contest.

Hats were brimming with amusing or garden-like decorations. Some were so heavy they could hardly stay in place as the contestants modeled for the judges who are residents of the nearby Brighton Campground. They were Sharon Stroyeck, Ruth Mains and Clara Sweet.

The winners in the men's division were Wonder Johns, receiving top honors, and Billy Micco, taking second. In the women's division, the winners were Jenny Snow in first place, Alice Snow in second, Virginia Tommie in third, Mary Johns in fourth and Happy Jones in fifth.

Then the elders had their egg hunt on the

grounds of their putt-putt golf course where they quickly picked up colored plastic eggs in hopes of finding winning numbers inside. It was amazing how cleanly and quickly all the eggs were scooped up.

The party continued with a special lunch, raffles and the awarding of prizes to the winners of the egg hunt. At Brighton, a freshly boiled real egg for the egg finder to take home replaced every plastic egg found.

Later that week on April 6, the Brighton Community Easter Party at the Fred Smith Rodeo Grounds included another egg hunt — this one for children of various age levels. The hunt was followed by an outdoor lunch. Then the adults arrived to begin their hunt. The Brighton Recreation Department organized the activities.



Susan Etxebarria
Mary Johns won fourth place for her rainbow tiered egg and flower combo.



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Shelley Marmor

Back row (L-R): Gregory Carter, Tony Bullington, Pierson Hunsinger, Cody Billie, Jacoby Johns, Emma Brown. Front row (L-R): Mary Tigertail, Erlinda Iley, Meaghan Osceola, Louise Gopher, Amber Craig, Arianna Billie, Summer Billie, Dena Billie.

Students Take Tour of FSU Campus Meet Coach Bowden, President Wetherell, More

By Shelley Marmor

TALLAHASSEE — Most prospective students who tour take a tour of Florida State University (FSU) don't get to make a stop in Head Football Coach Bobby Bowden's office for autographs and photos. However, the eight Seminole students on this VIP tour did.

The first stop on Day One of a two-day campus tour brought high schoolers Cody Billie, Summer Billie, Gregory Carter, Amber Craig, Ariana Cypress, Pierson Hunsinger, Jacoby Johns and Meghan Osceola to

Carla Gopher.

When Wetherell arrived, he encouraged all the high school students to attend FSU, joking, "not the University of Miami, and certainly not UF." He also discussed the 80 percent Seminole Scholarship that FSU offers to Seminole Tribal citizens who attend the university and a new class that teaches Seminole history.

The History of the Seminoles and Southeastern Tribes Pre-Contact to Present class is offered through the history department. Wetherell said that having a Tribal citizen in the class will help the other students better understand the pride that goes into calling themselves FSU Seminoles.

"The 'Unconquered' spirit is something we live 365 days a year," he said. "It's not just a mascot."

Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Liz Maryanski and Associate Director of Admissions Hege Ferguson also spoke to the group. Tribal citizen and high school senior Summer Billie was especially interested in speaking to Ferguson because Billie already sent her admission application to FSU.

Student Ambassador Jovonia Alexander and Associate Director of C.A.R.E. Will Hudson were the last speakers on the first day of the tour. The student ambassadors lead most of the campus tours for prospective students and are all FSU students themselves.

The Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement, or C.A.R.E., is an FSU program that offers "support programming for students who are among the first in their family to attend college, and for those who otherwise may face unique challenges in college because of economic, cultural or educational circumstances," according to their website, www.care.fsu.edu.

Day Two of the tour began bright



Shelley Marmor

Students join FSU President T.K. Wetherell in front of the Westcott Building on campus.

the coach's office in the Doak S. Campbell Stadium. While there, Bowden, the winningest college football coach in NCAA Division I-A history, met with the group — and even offered advice to a possible future player.

Hunsinger, 16, currently plays defensive tackle for Okechobee High School and said he is considering attending FSU after graduation. He said he hopes to play football for the Seminoles and gave the coach a heads-up about his plans. Bowden advised him to "keep your grades up" and autographed Hunsinger's T-shirt. He also signed photos and dollar bills for everyone in the group who wanted autographs.

Following their meeting with the coach, the group made a stop in the Seminole Sports Shop for some FSU souvenirs. Lunch in the Suwannee Room, one of several on-campus dining establishments, followed.

Brighton Tribal citizen and FSU student Kyle Doney met up with the group. Doney, a political science major, was just weeks away from graduation when he joined the tour group on April 9. He said that after graduation he plans to move to Hollywood and enroll in the Tribal Career Development Program, a management training program offered through the Tribe.

The tour then continued on to the office of President T.K. Wetherell in the Westcott Building. While waiting for the president to speak, the group browsed through his waiting room and got a chance to look at some of his Tribal-related memorabilia — including a plaque in recognition of the first Seminole Tribal FSU graduate,



Shelley Marmor

Bronze by Cooley's Seminole Family



Shelley Marmor

Students and chaperones gather at FSU's statue of an unconquered Seminole.

and early at 9 a.m. on April 10. The group boarded two buses, with student ambassadors as their guides, and embarked on a 30-minute driving tour of the campus. While on the bus, the group got to see the buildings that house various university programs, including film, social services, science, math and business.

The last stop on the bus tour took the group to Landis Hall, an on-campus student housing facility. Following their stop in Landis Hall, the group made their way to the T.K. Wetherell Building to view the bronze *Seminole Family* sculpture that stands in front of the building. The sculpture was created by the Bronze by Cooley sculpture team, which has designed many of the bronze sculptures seen in various Tribal buildings.

The group then got to meet and greet with two other well-known FSU coaches, Baseball Head Coach Mike Martin and Women's Basketball Head Coach Sue Semrau. Both took time out of their schedules — Martin even had a game later that evening — to answer any questions the group had.

The tour concluded at the Seminole Reservation, a 73-acre outdoor recreation area that surrounds Lake Bradford. FSU Campus Recreation operates the Seminole Reservation, which both students and community members can utilize for fishing, boating and more. Director Patty Malarney showed the students some of the Seminole Reservation's unique features, including a chickee built by Tribal citizen Bobby Clay in 1995.

Accompanying the students as chaperones were family members Marge Osceola, Dena Billie and Mary Tigertail, along with Education Director Louise Gopher, Higher Education Adviser Erlinda Iley, Brighton Education Adviser Emma Brown and Brighton Education Specialist Tony Bullington.



Shelley Marmor

Amber Craig (L) and Arianna Billie show off dollar bills autographed by Coach Bowden.



Shelley Marmor

Coach Bobby Bowden surrounded by young fans



Shelley Marmor

Students take a break at the Seminole chickee on FSU's campus.

Rodeo ♦ Ko-waa-ye Esh-ham-pa-léesh-ke ♦ Curakko Ohapoketv

♦ 4-H

Continued from page 1

after eight months of hard work.

The 4-H staff, employees from Cattle & Land Operations and many other volunteers helped with various aspects of the show.

"I especially want to recognize parents who come out and help every year," said Hayes. "These are the unpaid volunteers behind the scenes. If I leave anyone out I am sorry, but I want to especially thank those who help year after year. They are Cecilia and Frank Thomas, Adam Turtle, Emma Urbina, Mary Jene Koonces and Council Representative Andrew Bowers."

The Show and Sale took place at the expansive grounds of the Brighton 4-H Barn Pavilion with its horse, hog and cattle barns. The parents and kids arrived with their loaded livestock trailers on March 28 for the crucial weigh-ins. This is the most important day of qualifying, "show and tell" time for the youth.

But first, every 4-H member had to submit his or her up-to-date record book. Keeping a record book is an important learning tool in 4-H since the economics of raising cattle for the marketplace are learned by doing expense sheets, profit and loss statements, medical histories and other worksheets.

Every year there are always a few whose animals do not meet the required weight of 900 pounds for a steer and 180 pounds for a hog. Cattleman Don Robertson, director of Natural Resources for the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc., said a "finished" steer is ideal.



Susan Estebarrria

Weigh-in of hogs, a crucial moment for the kids



Susan Estebarrria

Jobe Johns of Brighton leads his 1,175-pound steer.



Susan Estebarrria

Deliah Carrillo of Immokalee with her hog



Susan Estebarrria

Justin Aldridge shows his steer in the ring.

"It is a steer that has been fed properly, has a lot of fat, and when slaughtered the carcass would be graded by the USDA as U.S. Prime, U.S. High Select or U.S. High Choice," Robertson said. "... That depends on how the 4-H youth feeds his steer. Those that stick to a regular schedule and feeding routine at the same time every day will see an increase on their steer's weight."

After meeting the weight requirements, the next test in the steer project was to exhibit their ability to control their steer in the show ring in front of the sifers. This year the sifers were Shelley Humphries, Glades County extension agent; and Sonya Crawford, Okeechobee County extension agent.

Sifers are necessary for shows. If youth cannot handle their animals they may be disqualified because an unruly steer can be a danger to others. Youth with hogs do not have to go before the sifers to qualify for the show.

At the same time on March 28, the 5-to-8-year-olds in the Pee Wee Show helped set up their exhibition tent where they would care for their baby beef and dairy calf, a miniature horse, rabbits, a puppy, goats and a goose. The children lead their animals into the show ring in a parade to the applause of the audience.

For these entire three days, many parents worked along with their children. Feeding the animals and cleaning their stalls became a family affair.

"4-H takes a family commitment," Hayes said. "It is an informal education program that requires family involvement you can't get in the classroom."

By the afternoon of March 29, there was much last-minute grooming of the animals. The steers were showered and brushed, and so were the hogs. The show started on time and the youths were very serious now, paying attention to the announcer's call to the ring.

Steer show judge Zach Conlin of Indiantown, Fla. spoke to the youths individually about their showmanship skills. When he announced winners in each of the four weight classes, he explained his decisions to the audience of parents, friends and potential buyers.

This year's **Grand Champion** of the steer project is Brighton's Kailin Brown, daughter of Emma and Avant Brown, who received the esteemed Blue Ribbon for her steer, Lucky. The judge told the crowd that 9-year-old Kailin's steer, weighing in at a mammoth 1,277 pounds, was "the most finished of them all." This was Kailin's first year raising and showing a steer.

Kailin had shown animals in the Pee Wee competition for three years, including a baby calf last year. Her mother said it was good preparation for the Steer Project.

"I love to work with animals and I thought it would be a good experience to join 4-H," Kailin said. "Lucky was a big baby when I first got him. As he got older he got more stubborn."

Kailin is in the third grade at Moore Haven Elementary and is a straight-A student. Her steer came from the Tribe's herd at Parker Island. Skyler Burke, also from Brighton, won the second place **Reserve Grand Champion** title, as well as the prestigious **Junior Showmanship** award for the second year in a row. Skyler is the daughter of Connie Haught and granddaughter of Mabel Haught. Her steer weighed 1,190 pounds.

Ribbons for showmanship are based on the handling of the steer or swine in the ring and the exhibitors' skill using the show stick. Steer judge Conlin repeatedly reminded the youth that showmanship is a special talent.

"When you are in the ring you have to keep your eye on the judge at all times," he said. "Don't take your eyes off the judge."

Skyler excelled in keeping her steer calm and responding cooperatively to the use of the show stick, but her constant beaming smile also contributed to her high score.

"I just worked with my steer a lot to make sure he would get tame," said Skyler. "If you let your parents do the work, then the animal doesn't behave as well." But Skyler said her family helped in other ways. "When I was gone and my steer got sick, they took care of him for me," she said. "If it weren't for them, I probably wouldn't have won."

Skyler also donated the first \$2,000 she earned in the sale to the Dr. Keen Scholarship Fund. Her steer sold for \$8 a pound.

The top award for **Senior Showmanship** went to Megan Bettleyoun of Brighton, even though her steer was a little rambunctious, because Megan kept her eyes on the judge without wavering. Megan's steer weighed 1,127 pounds.

The Bettleyoun family had three children in 4-H this year. Myra Bettleyoun won a second place blue ribbon for her 1,100-pound steer.

Not everyone wins the top award, but some are worthy just because of their 4-H dedication and spirit of determination. Dylan Chalfant came close, taking second place with his steer weighing 1,261 pounds. Dylan's steer weighed 700 pounds when he picked him out of the Chalfant herd. It was Dylan's first year in 4-H and he did the entire project on his own.

"It was an adventure," he said, "but there was more work than I have ever had to do."

Following the steer show, special swine judge Comele Peacock took over. Most first-timers are encouraged to show swine the first year to get used to the way 4-H works. There are monthly meetings and special clinics in addition to daily feedings and frequent washings.

The **Grand Champion** award in the Swine Project went to Jessica Long



Susan Estebarrria

Gearing up for the steer weigh-in



Susan Estebarrria

Kailin Brown with her Grand Champion steer, Lucky

of Big Cypress whose 278-pound hog named Lunchmeat wowed the crowd, selling for \$7 a pound. Jessica, 13, has been a 4-H member for four years and won **Grand Champion** steer in 2004. She said other activities like softball take up too much of her time, so she decided to raise a hog this year.

Jessica is the daughter of Sheila Aguilar, who was there for the three days helping out at the Pee Wee tent. Jessica got her hog from Georgia.

"I exercised him a lot but I didn't overfeed him because I didn't want Lunchmeat to get too heavy," said Jessica, an honor roll student at Ahfachkee Elementary. "Market buyers are looking for the meat and not too much fat."

The **Reserve Grand Champion** award in the swine project went to Rosa Urbina of Brighton, whose hog had one of the highest weights, 301 pounds. Rosa has been a 4-H member for six years and her parents are Jessie and Emma Urbina. She has won awards in the past for her steer projects but she said this year she decided to show a swine.

"I don't want to get rid of it now. I got attached to it," she confided.

Cassandra Jimmie of Immokalee won the **Senior Showmanship** award for swine; her swine weighed 234 pounds. Breanna Billie of Brighton won **Junior Showmanship**; her hog weighed 280 pounds. Her parents are Emerson and Jeannie Billie.

This year Hollywood Reservation had three new 4-H competitors. They were Kenneth Deschence with a swine weighing 269 pounds, Ravenna Oscola with a steer weighing 909 pounds and Brantley Oscola with a swine weighing 287 pounds.

Hollywood 4-H members had a special challenge. They wanted to participate but had no land on which to raise farm animals. Seminole Tribe Extension Agent Michael Bond helped solve the problem with the assistance of Fred Segal, president of the Broward County Farm Bureau, who works with the 4-H Foundation of Broward County.

Siegel found an orange farmer, Bob Roth, owner of New River Groves, who was willing to set aside some land for the Hollywood youth to use for raising their animals. Also, Tribal citizen Brandy Clay of Hollywood volunteered as their club leader — a big job because she had to teach, guide and hold clinics and monthly meetings.

Edward Aguilar of Immokalee catered the buyers' dinner on March 30. However, dinners were also available to buy throughout the three days at the vendors' tent operated by Mary Jo Micco.

Bond was the show's announcer. He also assisted in the weigh-in of the swine including use of a sonograph from the University of Florida that will provide carcass data about the swine. It analyzes fat content and gives results that will provide information on better methods of raising 4-H swine in the future.

One 4-H member did not get to show his steer, but still shines as an example of 4-H leadership. Randel Oscola of Brighton, this year's president of the Brighton Steer Club, attended 4-H Officers' Training and conducted the meetings with a firm hand, said 4-H Coordinator Hayes. Someone carelessly or deliberately opened his gates and let his steer out. It got loose and was never found.

"Despite the disappointment, it didn't keep Randel from fulfilling his responsibilities as the president," Hayes said.

He participated in the Livestock Show and Sale, too, she added.

"He helped out during the weigh-ins and he helped other kids wash their steers," Hayes said. "I was so proud of him coming out and offering to help. That is what 4-H responsibility is all about."



Susan Estebarrria

Skyler Burke, Reserve Grand Champion



Susan Estebarrria

Kailin Brown grooms her Grand Champion.



Susan Estebarrria

Christian Alexander of Big Cypress watching over his hog.



Susan Estebarrria

Judge Conlin coaches Jewel Buck regarding showing her steer with 4-H member Seth Randolph in background.

Rodeo ❖ Ko-waa-ye Esh-ham-pa-lèesh-ke ❖ Curakko Ohapoketv

Tribe Donates Old Arena Cover to Hendry County

By Nery Mejicano

BIG CYPRESS — As work progresses on construction for the new rodeo arena roof at the Junior Cypress Entertainment Complex, demolition of some parts of the old rodeo arena as well as the old horse barns is required. All efforts at made at recycling materials that can be reused resulting from the demolition. The new roof of the arena will require the removal of the existing cover of the south and north end bleachers.

Rolf Berg, of Berg All Angle Construction, the project contractor and who lives in LaBelle, Fla., found out that Hendry County just finished a very nice rodeo arena, but lacked the funds to put a roof over the bleachers. Rolf contacted Hendry County Commissioner Bill Maddox to come to Big Cypress along with the others to see if they could use the metal cover.

The next day Maddox returned and met with Big Cypress Tribal Council Representative David Cypress and Chairman Mitchell Cypress. The two were happy most of the material would go to a good cause. Maddox said he is very excited at the opportunity to use the material for a much needed new cover of the new bleachers at the LaBelle Rodeo Arena.

Taking down the cover will be done as a joint effort by the Tribe and Hendry County — saving both a significant amount of dollars.



(Back row L-R) Rolf Berg, John Berg, (Front row L-R): Commissioner Bill Maddox, Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Representative David Cypress.

After the construction of the new horse barns, the old horse barns will also be demolished. However, the material will be reused by the individuals who will come and take them down. These recycling efforts are part of the Seminole Tribe of Florida efforts at conservation not only of the environment and natural habitat, but also the reuse of valuable materials.

Lakeland High School Rodeo Highlights

By Emma Brown

LAKELAND, Fla. — The young Brighton cowboys and cowgirls traveled to Lakeland recently to put their rodeo skills to the test. The team only has three rodeos remaining

before the state finals in June. Only the top 15 in each event will be participating in the finals.

Results are as follows: Jacoby Johns, third in bareback; Shelby Osceola, split, first and second in breakaway.

New Horse Barns Go Up in Big Cypress

By Nery Mejicano

BIG CYPRESS — New barns being built at the Junior Cypress Entertainment Complex will be bigger, safer and more resistant to bad weather. Every time it rains, the old barns in Big Cypress become flooded, putting horses at risk for hoof disease. Efforts by the staff to drain the water have been an exercise in futility and frustration. In addition, the old barns are not built up to code, so animals might be injured during a natural disaster. The wood is beginning to decay and Hurricane Wilma did quite a bit of damage to the structures. There is no place to keep the hay and feed and there is limited space to meet the demand for boarding horses.

The new barns will have a capacity for almost 90 horses in stalls that will be bigger and safer. There will be room to store the hay and feed and to prevent rodents and other vermin from contaminating the feed. The barns will be built high enough as to keep the animals out of the elements and in comfort. The staff will have a small office and clean restrooms.

There is no more room in the adjacent counties to board horses, and the demand for boarding

exceeds the available space. Even though only the foundation is in place, calls are already coming from Broward and Palm Beach counties to reserve space for horses. Along with the fees for the boarding, the Junior Cypress Entertainment Complex will for the first time have an arena covered by a roof, enabling the Seminole Tribe to host a variety of events that will generate income that will help defray the investment incurred in the building of the horse barns and the arena roof.

Big Cypress has become a destination for many local residents as well as international visitors. It is envisioned that the Junior Cypress complex will be part of the entertainment package that includes the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, the Billie Swamp Safari with its swamp buggy and airboat rides and animal shows.

In addition to boarding horses, the Junior Cypress Complex will have horse trail rides. Many tourists and local visitors have been requesting this activity and it is hoped that the horse rides will be part of a comprehensive entertainment package that will continue to make Big Cypress a stop that visitors will not want to miss.

❖ Cattle Drive

Continued from page 1



(L-R) Dennis DeVegh, Chad Motlow, Cody Motlow and Benny Motlow stand beside an antique chuck wagon used for years on cattle drives.



It's time to head 'em up and move 'em out!



A few of Junior Cypress' descendants.



(L-R) Tom Mullany, Miss Florida Seminole Brittany Yescas and Mitchell Cypress pose during the presentation of the flintlock rifle and scrimshaw powder horn.



The 11th Annual Junior Cypress Cattle Drive drew a record crowd.

very same location more than 50 years ago. He then introduced Jonah Cypress, a son of Junior Cypress, in whose memory this annual event was organized and whose family members are eager participants each year.

From his perch aboard a tall swamp buggy, Moses Jumper Jr. told the audience about the Tribe's first contact with the cattle brought to Florida by the early Spanish explorers. These animals flourished on the lush, green vegetation of the Florida peninsula and produced a vast number of wild cracker cattle that inhabited the area and were the foundation stock for the initial Seminole herds.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress said: "Looking across this sea of smiling faces, I can't help but think of what a great tribute your participation is to the memory of Junior Cypress."

"Today's trail drive is one of many organized by the Seminole Tribe in which I have participated. As veterans we all have great stories to tell, but I can't stress enough that we don't want any of you to become one of those stories today," remarked Hendry County Commissioner Bill Maddox.

Miss Florida Seminole Brittany Yescas rode forward and said, "This is my first time on a horse in over a decade and I am looking forward to enjoying a great day in your company. Let's all have a good time, be safe and take home some great memories."

The Rev. Salaw Hummingbird led the group in prayer, saying, "This is your opportunity to relive a glorious moment in the history of the everyday lives of many of our ancestors who drew their sustenance from this wonderful world provided by our Creator. As you ride down the trail today, look around you and marvel at God's creations."

Then the riders moved to one side to allow for the release of the cattle so the drive could get under way. But the cattle had other ideas, and approximately 1,000 feet from the pens they made a rapid dash off the road right-of-way into the cypress swamp. The less experienced riders went crashing after them, driving them further astray and scattering the herd in the heavy underbrush.

After half an hour of fruitless effort, the riders reassembled on the access road and it was decided that the cattle drive would have to become a daylong horseshoe ride. As the group proceeded along the planned route, Benny Hernandez of the Big Cypress Arena and his hand-picked crew of approximately 10 veteran cowpunchers moved off into the woodlands and began to encircle the cypress slough.

Just like the original cow hunters of the Seminole Tribe, these cowhands began moving carefully among the cypress knees, jumping fallen logs and pushing through dense thickets to seek out the strays and start bunching up small groups of cattle.

These were pushed slowly toward the main road, while outriders rode ahead of the remaining stock, cutting them off and circling them back to join the others. Before long they had retrieved all but 10 head, which could be reckoned with another day.

A few miles down the road, the main force of riders were taking a short rest beside the canal when someone spotted the herd rounding a bend in the trail. As word spread of their arrival, people began to shout and cheer. Hurrying to mount their horses, they formed a corridor to let the cattle pass and then fell in behind. It was time to head 'em up and move 'em out!

A tent and refreshments greeted the riders at the half-way point, where they took an hour's break to rest the cattle and horses. Riding point in a covered wagon was this year's honorary trail boss, Frank J. Billie.

One of the Seminole Tribe's treasured senior citizens, Billie has been working cattle most of his 84 years. His early years were spent learning the survival techniques of his ancestors and living off the land. In 1940, he moved to Big Cypress and became involved in the cattle program, which was in its early stages.

Sitting beside Billie, Chairman Mitchell Cypress confided, "This man was very influential in my upbringing. He took care of me from toddler age all the way until it was time to go off to school. He was my guardian, put the bologna on the table and taught me about honesty, integrity and self-respect. He is my mentor and I owe him a great deal."

Laughing, Billie said, "I didn't have to discipline him until he was 3 years old, but then the fun began. He was all boy and full of big ideas."

During the rest stop, Richard Bowers said: "We all need to thank Benny Hernandez, his son Little Benny, and his excellent string of cowpunchers who kept this from being a cattle drive without cows. If Junior Cypress were alive today, he would be very proud of their efforts which signify what this cattle drive is all about. ... Reliving this cattle drive gives us a sense of where we come from and who we are. We are currently working on a project for a cattle exhibit for the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in an effort to pass this wonderful legacy on to our next generations."

"The Seminole Tribe was a generous sponsor of the Great Florida Cattle Drive of 2006," said Tara Johns. "Approximately 520 peo-



Chairman Mitchell Cypress speaks at the start of the Cattle Drive.



Trail riders enjoy a huge breakfast buffet at the Swamp Water Café.

ple mounted on horses, mules and wagons participated in driving 600 cattle across many miles of family owned ranches in rural Osceola County. Mr. Tom Mullany is here today on behalf of this fine group of individuals to present Chairman Mitchell Cypress with a flintlock rifle and custom made scrimshaw powder horn depicting his Otter Clan and their gratitude."

Cecil Tucker II presented Seminole Tribe President Moses Osceola with a custom-made knife and decorated sheath on behalf of the same organization.

Florida Cracker Storyteller Butch Harrison returned for a second year and entertained the audience with one of his tales while cracking his bull whip to the delight of the younger set.

Paul Bowers Sr. next introduced Dale Oldham, Council Delegate for the Crow Nation, and special guest of the Seminole Tribe for the Cattle Drive and Rodeo.

Special recognition also went to:

The numerous descendants of Junior Cypress who are carrying on his legacy and have made the cattle industry a family tradition;

Stanlio Johns of the Brighton Reservation, who has been designated Pioneer Cracker Cattleman of the Year;

Iris Wall, Florida Agricultural Woman of the Year;

The Yarbrough Family Ranch, which has been elevated to the Agricultural Hall of Fame;

Mary Jene Koenes, who permitted the use of her pasture for the Cattle Drive rest area. She said she was the fifth generation in her family to have this particular pasture, and shared childhood memories of the cattle industry her great uncle, Junior Cypress.

Returning to the trail, the riders proceeded to the Josie Billie Highway, wound their way down through the Big Cypress community and pushed the cattle into the holding pens at the Junior Cypress Entertainment Center and Rodeo Grounds.

At the end of the long day on the trail, they were welcomed by a sumptuous buffet dinner served by Renegade Barbecue Company from the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. EIRA provided the evening's entertainment.