



Photo Illustration

(L-R) Peggy Cubis, Bobby Henry, 2006-2007 Miss Florida Seminole Brittany Yescas, 2005-2006 Miss Florida Seminole Christine McCall, Brighton Council Representative Andrew Bowers, Florida Gov. Charlie Crist, Bobby Frank, Bradley Cooley Jr., Annie Henry, Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Linda O. Henry, Alexander Tommie, Susie Doctor, Nancy Frank and Maggie Garcia.

American Royalty Sculpture Unveiled in Tallahassee

Tribal Council, Princess, Tampa Citizens Attend

By Wanda F. Bowers
TALLAHASSEE — Governor Charlie Crist joined Tribal Council representatives Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Andrew Bowers, Brighton repre-

sentative; and Sally R. Tommie, Fort Pierce Liaison, at the unveiling of the American Royalty bronze sculptures on the morning of March 15.

The sculpture series now stands outside the R.A. Grey Building, located at 500 S. Bronough St. in downtown Tallahassee. It features three separate statues: a king and queen and their male servant, who carries the king's deerskin robe.

Crist unveiled American Royalty to the public. The date chosen for the unveiling coincided with the fourth annual Florida Heritage Month, celebrated March 15 through April 15. Following the unveiling, Crist shook hands with the chairman and Bowers.

Miss Florida Seminole Brittany Yescas, Princess Chaperone Wanda Bowers, 2005-2006 Miss Florida Seminole Christine McCall also attended.

The Tampa reservation was well represented with Tribal citizens Peggy Cubis, Susie Doctor, Nancy Frank, Maggie Garcia, Annie Henry, Bobby Henry and Linda O. Henry attending.

This is the third of four in a series of statues titled Indian Heritage Tableau, all created by the

◆ See SCULPTURE, page 23



Chris Jenkins

Elgin Jumper presents his work to the BCC audience.

Tribal Citizens Put Their Talents on Display

By Chris Jenkins

DAVIE, Fla. — It was about getting in touch with the subconscious mind through art. At least, that was one important message passed on by Tribal citizens Elgin Jumper and Sam Tommie. On March 20, both were featured guests presenting

original works of poetry and art for art appreciation students, faculty and staff at the Broward Community College (BCC) South Campus.

Jumper, Otter clan, recited his

◆ See ART, page 3

Groundbreaking Kicks Off Renovations to Complex

By Judy Weeks

BIG CYPRESS — The long-awaited renovation of the Junior Cypress Entertainment Complex and Rodeo Arena has officially begun.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the improvements, which facility director Josh Jumper called "a new beginning for an old story," took place March 8. Susie Kippenberger, formerly of the Utilities Department, was all smiles as she announced that work would soon start on this project, which had been several years on the list for improvements.

"The end result will not only be attractive, but a state-of-the-art complex to accommodate both present and future generations of the Seminole Tribe," Kippenberger said, pointing to architectural renderings at the front of the room.

Following an invocation by Jumper, Kippenberger introduced representatives from the firms that developed the project: Balfort Finnold Architecture, Inc., Northstar Geomatics, Arpe Engineering, Inc., Berg All Angle Construction, S & F Engineers, Inc., P.E. Associates and Signature Structures.

Kippenberger introduced John Dufal of Signature Structures to discuss the state-of-the-art material used in renovating the arena.

"While it appears to be a canvas top, it is in reality a polyester substance with a PVC topcoat," he said. "It has a

minimum 20-year life expectancy with a full warranty for eight years and carries a 15-year pro-rated warranty. This space-age material is both weather- and fade-resistant and is becoming extremely popular because of its ability to ventilate as well as protect. We look forward to it serving us well."

Big Cypress Council

Representative David Cypress then thanked everyone for their support in developing this much needed project — most of all his colleagues on the Tribal Council.

◆ See COMPLEX, page 21



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Cnaan Jumper, Arena Director Josh Jumper, Big Cypress Special Projects Coordinator Nery Mejicano and Tribal leaders participate in the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Junior Cypress Entertainment Complex and Rodeo Arena.

Legends Take the Court for Howard Tiger Tournament

Native Ladies, Brighton Emerge Victorious

By Tony Heard

HOLLYWOOD — When the Annual Howard Tiger Memorial Legends Basketball Tournament rolls around, the

legends start wiping off their shoes and pulling out their knee braces. And don't forget the icy hot — anyone playing more than two games is going to need it.

The legends, all 35 and older, play two 12-minute halves during the Howard Tiger Tournament. This year's tournament brought three men's teams and two women's teams back to the court.

The two women's teams were the Native Ladies and the Old Skool Ballers. Two women's teams playing in the tournament always means there's going to be a best-out-of-three series.

The Native Ladies won the first game. They used tough defense and fast-break baskets to gain a nice size lead and keep it. The Old Skool Ballers looked as if they got a bit tired with about seven minutes to go, and just did not have it in them to try to make a comeback.

The ladies had time to get some rest because the men were taking the court to show off some old school razzle dazzle. Even though it was more like "raz" and "daz," the effort and the competitiveness were clear and present.

The men's bracket had three teams and they played regular tournament style. The Old Tamianni Trail team did not make it to the championship this year. After two tough games, they were eliminated, and Brighton would have to face Hollywood in the championship.

◆ See LEGENDS, page 18



Lila Osceola-Heard

Michelle Osceola looks for her shot.

What's Inside



Judyhill Osceola's Retirement Party

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Brighton ATV Class

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Judy Weeks

Members of Team Seminole present for early activities on March 9 were (L-R) Linda Reyes, Maria Castro, Elva Montez, Jean Martinez, Paula Agado, Xocheh Paulfox, Lenora Roberts and Nelson McElvoy.

Team Seminole Raises \$25,000 for ACS

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — With the coming of spring each year there is a promise of new life, regeneration and hope. What better time for the American Cancer Society (ACS) to unite people all across our nation in the attack against the dreaded disease of cancer.

No matter where you live, you will have an opportunity to participate in

the Relay for Life 2007. The little community of Immokalee was no exception and Team Seminole proudly joined ranks with their neighbors in the fight against cancer.

The Seminole Tribe's Community Outreach Liaison Edna McDuffie and Nutritionist Charlotte

◆ See ACS, page 14

Photo Quiz








Who are we?

AMTAH-THUKI

2007 Distinguished Lecture Series

The Mission is pleased to present the 2007 Distinguished Lecture Series featuring prominent figures in the areas of Native American art, contemporary history and culture.

Events will be held at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino and are free to the general public. Space must be reserved on a first come, first serve basis and is limited to 200 persons.

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| January 23, 2007 7:30pm Contemporary and Native American Art Featuring a Lecture by  Robert Berryhill Jr. | February 22, 2007 5:30pm National Chairman of the American Indian College Fund Featuring a Lecture by  Sherrie Girty | February 23, 2007 7:30pm National Chairman of the American Indian College Fund Featuring a Lecture by  Shirley Jones | March 22, 2007 7:30pm National Chairman of the American Indian College Fund Featuring a Lecture by  Mikael | April 26, 2007 7:30pm National Chairman of the American Indian College Fund Featuring a Lecture by  Angela Barnett |
|--|---|---|---|---|

Before each lecture, there will be a Museum members only reception from 6-7pm.

To reserve your space today please contact Tara Whitehead at 800.963.1113 Ext. 231.

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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-

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Deadline: May 2, 2007

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Deadline: May 23, 2007

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

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Editorials

Huge Visions and Dreams

Dr. Dean Chavers runs *Catching the Dream*, a national scholarship and school improvement organization in Albuquerque. He has been involved in the fight for Lumbee recognition for 35 years. This column is adapted from his book "Modern American Indian Leaders," to be published in March by Mellen Press, www.mellenpress.com. He is the world's oldest surviving Indian columnist. The opinions he expresses are his own. Contact him at CTD4DeanChavers@aol.com.

The large casino in the Connecticut woods has become the most outstanding symbol of the Indian gaming movement. The success of this huge casino, which is the largest one in the world, owes most of its success to the man who led the movement to reconstruct a small Tribe. His name is Richard "Skip" Hayward.

His father was a Navy seaman who traveled the world for over 20 years, taking the family with him to most of his bases. His mother was the daughter of the matriarch of the Pequot Tribe, Elizabeth George, the last resident of the reservation when she died in 1973.

Elizabeth had been born on the reservation in 1894 and lived there all her life. Her two half-sisters, Alice Brend and Martha Langevin, for two generations were also involved in the fight to hold onto the reservation. Elizabeth and Martha were born on the reservation and lived on it their whole lives. Alice left to raise her family, and then returned in her old age, where she proceeded to mix it up with local authorities that tried to tell the three sisters what they could or could not do on the reservation.

"Hold on to the land," her grandchildren and others remember her saying many times. Her grandson Skip took her advice to heart more than did any of the other grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. He was the first one to move back to the reservation after Elizabeth died, the first one to start trying to rebuild it, and the first one to have dreams of glory that would later come true.

In March 1975, Hayward became the leader of the Mashantucket Pequots at the age of 27. The others had all left to find better opportunities and jobs. Her sister Anne lived off the reservation in a nearby community.

"If it hadn't been for my grandmother's tenacity," says Hayward, "and her perseverance living here on the reservation, I don't think it would be here for us today. I give her all the credit."

By 1973, when Elizabeth George

died, the reservation had been illegally reduced by the State of Connecticut down to only 200 acres. It took a lawsuit handled by the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) to restore the other 2,000-plus acres to the reservation, and to regain for the Tribes its recognition by the federal government.

When she died, Skip quit his job as a welder and moved onto the reservation to try to preserve the Tribe's historic status. He also started working to get other people to move to the reservation to live, which few of them wanted to do at the time. There was little work for them to do, and just some hardscrabble ways of making a living, such as cutting and selling firewood and picking blackberries to sell.

There had not been a new house built on the reservation for 120 years. After years of trying, the tiny Tribe finally got the State of Connecticut to agree to give them some federal HUD funds in 1981. They built 15 new homes and started to rebuild the Tribe.

"People cleared their own lot," Phyllis Monroe Wait, one of Elizabeth George's granddaughters, said. "We put in our own lawns, and it was a job. It was a job because those same rocks that were there when we were trying to do gardens were there when we were trying to plant lawns."

Many of the George grandchildren, including Skip, had spent time living and visiting with their grandmother on the reservation. Many of them remember the pleasant summers they spent there, working in the gardens and picking wild berries.

By 1986, Skip decided the time had come for the Tribe to become something other than a small band of struggling day laborers. He approached banks all over the United States asking for backing to open a bingo parlor on the reservation, with no luck. Not one single bank would take a chance on backing such an operation.

So Skip finally went to the United Arab American Bank to find a partner. They borrowed several million dollars to open the bingo parlor. It started operations in 1986. Within 18 months it had completely paid back the full amount of the loan, with interest.

In 1991, after the passage of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act in 1988, the Tribe decided to reach for its ultimate goal — building the largest casino in the world. Between New York City and Boston, they had the largest concentration of people in the U. S. to draw from, over 75 million people.

Skip again approached the banks (he claimed all the banks in the country)

with absolutely no luck at all. So he went to Malaysia, where he gained an audience with the richest man in Southeast Asia, Lim Goh Tong. He had no problems loaning the Tribe \$950 million to build Foxwoods casino (a reference to the legend that the Pequots had been known as the people of the fox).

The Tribe opened Foxwoods on February 15, 1992. Immediately it was the largest casino in the world, and still is. It is twice as large as the largest casino in Las Vegas, for instance. It has 6,800 slot machines, while the largest casino in Las Vegas has fewer than 3,500 slots.

Within a few years the Tribe had paid back the Lim loan, with interest, and had expanded into over 40 other industries. The Tribe is now the largest employer in southeast Connecticut, with businesses including a pharmaceutical business, fish hatcheries, a builder of jet boats, house construction, several hotels, two golf courses, and many others. Four hotels, another casino, two golf courses, an extensive shopping mall, and a Tribal museum surround the casino with state-of-the-art facilities.

With the coming of Foxwoods, the casino hired literally all the locals it could find, but soon ran out of people. They have tried numerous techniques to find and keep good workers, including hiring people from Russia, running buses from Bridgeport every morning and afternoon (Bridgeport is two hours away), hiring Indians from outside the area, and using recruiters to find people. The casino still has a problem finding enough personnel.

Skip served as chairman for a very long time. He stepped down in 1998 after serving for 23 years.

In the 1990s the MPTN grew enormously in wealth and power. They bought 165 acres of farmland that was located near to the reservation, but that had been allowed to run down. It contained a former Boy Scout camp that had been allowed to run down and a lake that had been allowed to grow over.

So the Mashantucket Pequots have grown enormously wealthy in a short period of time. This has made them the envy of many other Tribes and Tribal leaders. But other Tribes, being more mature about it, emulate what they are doing and are trying to do. MPTN is now forming alliances and coalitions with other Tribes in the development of resorts, casinos, hotels, and businesses. It seems the sky is the limit for the little Tribe with the big casino in the woods of eastern Connecticut.

Letters & E-mail

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

Hello,

I just wanted to say that I from now on will utilize the Hard Rock Café in Stockholm when taking girls for dinner! You should be proud!

I'm sorry for what some of my ancestors did to Indians when they migrated to America, but hey, after all it's not about origin, it's about heart! Good luck in business and please, whatever you do, don't forget heart or your enemy will have won.

Best of wishes,

Mikael

Dear Editor,

The 13th Annual Haskell Commencement Indian Men's Fast Pitch Tournament will take place in Lawrence, Kan. May 12-13. The tournament takes place in conjunction with Haskell's commencement activities.

We have teams represented from Oklahoma, Kansas, North Dakota and South Dakota. Any readers who would like to get their team(s) into our tournament may e-mail or call the below listed individuals for more information. The entry deadline is May 8.

Angela Barnett:
abarnett@haskell.edu, (785) 749-8489;
Kerry Girty: kgirty@haskell.edu, (785)

832-6600 or Robert Berryhill Jr.: robert-berryhill@hotmail.com, (785) 856-2992.

Thank you,

Sherrie Girty

Secretary of the Counseling Services Center
Haskell Indian Nations University

Dear Editor,

Would it be possible to have a Seminole wedding ceremony that is legally performed for a white couple? If so, could you refer me to someone who would be willing to perform the ceremony? Thank you,

Shirley Jones

Hello Ms. Jones,

You could always look into renting a site on one of our publicly used facilities, including the *Ab-Tah-Thuki Museum* or *Billie Swamp Safari*, both on the Big Cypress reservation, or a Tribally owned hotel such as the *Hollywood or Tampa Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino*. However, there is no way to legally perform a Seminole wedding ceremony on a non-Tribal couple. Sorry. Good luck though!

Sincerely,

Tina M. Osceola
Director of Museums

Photo Quiz Answer



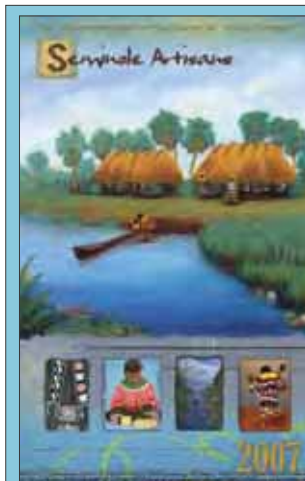
Tribune Archive Photo

Billy Osceola, First Tribal Chairman

The 2007 Tribal Calendars Are Here

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.



Museum Hosts Third Distinguished Lecturer UCLA Professor Peter Nabokov Speaks

By Chris Jenkins

HOLLYWOOD — In the third installment of the Distinguished Lecture Series, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino welcomed guest speaker Peter Nabokov on Mar. 15. The University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) professor, author and anthropologist discussed "Sacred Places: Historic Preservation of Our Lands" as well as his latest book, *Where the Lightning Strikes: The Lives of American Indian Sacred Places*.

Central to his discussion was an analysis of 16 varied and sacred places across the United States, all connected spiritually to Native Americans. He also discussed the myths, legends, practices and rituals associated with them.

Nabokov's interest in the topic is closely connected to his early exposure to the Native American culture, as well as his studies. He was a newspaper reporter for *The Santa Fe New Mexican* in the late



Chris Jenkins

Professor Peter Nabokov speaks to the audience during his lecture.

1960s. Nabokov also spent time on the Navajo, Sioux, and Crow reservations. He said he was exposed to and drawn to Indian lifestyles and customs since an early age.

"For years after that there was nothing I wanted to do except to visit the native community and get to know native people and try to learn what their thousands of years of occupations had taught them, and every time I have tried to learn another subject matter I have been brought back," he revealed.

Director of Museums Tina M. Osceola said inviting Nabokov to discuss his thoughts on Native American issues and his book was a great idea. She said his presentation was needed within the community.

"Our primary audience is of course our Tribal members," she said. "Providing opportunities and perspective for Tribal employees and others is also part of the goal. 'We as a Tribe need to identify

our own sacred places and identify our own natural resources. The whole idea was to provoke thought and promote dialogue."

Nabokov said he was excited to be a part of the series and to be in Seminole country.

"The Seminole story is an amazing story," he said. "Their rich and complex heritage should be acknowledged and honored by everybody in this state."

Osceola said the series, which is in its first year, has been well received thus far. She said she feels it was needed to increase the museum's appeal and that the months of January through April are an ideal time for the lectures because of tourism in Florida.

"In the move toward accreditation, programming became big in making a bid toward recognition," she said. "We wanted to bring people to the museum who would provoke thought. Who better than scholars?"

❖ Art

Continued from page 1

own original light and shadow poetry along with presenting paintings and sculptures. Tommie, Bird clan, spoke about his Seminole heritage as well as life in the Everglades. He also presented original pieces of sculpture, paintings and drawings and gave a flute performance.

"We're trying to do new things to share and further Seminole art," Jumper said.

Broward Community College Visual Arts Department Coordinator and Gallery Director Dr. Kyra Belan said Jumper's and Tommie's appearance was timely.

"I think they really opened the students' eyes on their culture and socioeconomic issues," she said.

Bringing the two to BCC is part of a renewed effort to understand, appreciate and celebrate Native American and other cultures, according to Belan. She said the last guest appearance she was involved in coordinating was close to 20 years ago, when former Tribal President Joe Dan Osceola spoke.

"I want to continue to bring different cultures here to campus," she said. Jumper is a published poet with works featured in his book *Nightfall*, which is part of the The Native Writers Chapbook Series II, published by the Sequoyah Research Center at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He said he has been recognized for his talent by instructors for years, through classes and workshops, and his growth continues.

"I want to take [Seminole art] places it has never been before," he explained. "I'm not afraid to try new things and to put myself out there. When you get deeply into something, you want to keep learning and understanding."

Tommie, who is also a filmmaker, is one of the few current residents of the Everglades who was born there. Describing himself as "neurotically comfortable," he said the Everglades spirit is very important for art creation and guidance in life.

"Your spirit is within everything that is around us within every one of us... we are all connected to all of it. We can

also call the spirit the subconscious mind," he said.

He said he is also close to his roots and environment and draws strength from both.

"[The water] not only provides physical protection, it has also been a spiritual refuge for my family," he said. "Birds and animals have also actually played a big part in our lives."



Chris Jenkins

Sam Tommie displays one of his sculptures.



Chris Jenkins

Elgin Jumper and BCC Visual Arts Department Coordinator Dr. Kyra Belan talk to the audience.

Belan said future plans at BCC include Tribal artists participating in the first Seminole Art and Culture Symposium in November. It is envisioned as an annual event. She said she will also continue grant work, currently tabled among administrative staff on campus, allowing for the building of two to three chicken huts on the southwest end of the campus. The huts will be used for study and leisure, she said.



Chris Jenkins

Peter Nabokov

Bambi Kraus to Speak on Historic Preservation

Submitted by Museum Staff

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum presents the final free lecture in its 2007

Distinguished Lecture Series on Thursday, April 26, from 7-9 p.m. at the Hollywood Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. The featured lecturer is Bambi Kraus, president of the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO). Kraus will speak about "Tribal Historic Preservation Offices: An Issue of Sovereignty."

All are welcome. Please RSVP to Sara Whitehead at (863) 902-1113, Ext. 12211.

Bambi Kraus is the president of the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO). Since graduating from Stanford University, she has resided in Washington, D.C., and has been committed to working with and advocating for Native American rights. She worked as a senior

adviser for President Bill Clinton's Initiative on Race, the National Indian Policy Center, the National Advisory Council on Indian Education through the U.S. Department of Education and the National Anthropological Archives with the Smithsonian Institution.

Kraus completed a children's book in 1998 with and about her mother, Frances Nannauck Kraus. Bambi Kraus is a Tlingit Indian whose family is from Kake, Alaska.



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Members of the RMPK Group of Planners answer inquiries about planned changes and renovations.

Committee Reviews Master Plan for Immokalee

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — The city's emerging role as a hub for economic growth was up for discussion recently at a meeting of the Immokalee Master Plan and Visioning Committee.

CRA Advisory Board Representative Fred Thomas called the Feb. 20 meeting to order at the Career and Service Center of Collier County.

"The goal of this committee is to guide land use so as to enhance

Immokalee's quality of life, natural beauty, environment, small town character and stable neighborhoods," Thomas said. "Immokalee has to determine its status as an urban hub for the surrounding economic growth in eastern Collier County, while providing for agriculture, tourism and the Immokalee Regional Airport's port-of-entry designation."

The RMPK Group, Inc. has developed a comprehensive plan to coordinate all of the above interests. Sections have been set aside for future housing projects, estate areas and major residential developments, in addition to vast commercial tracts which will greatly change the landscape of Immokalee.

Regional Context and Future Land Use Maps on display at the meeting indicated the proposed zoning and redevelopment areas necessary to implement their plan. The overall area was broken down into subsections for more in-depth viewing.

In order to comply with the Master Plan, a great deal of redevelopment will be required throughout the existing community over the next several years.

One of the objectives of the plan is to reinstate the former Main Street Program, under a new name, to provide a means of improving the physical appearance of the commercial buildings along the New Market Road corridor and State Road 29 between First and Westclox streets. It was suggested that an architectural code be developed to dictate the look intended for this area.

With a controlled plan, Thomas said,



Regional Context Map of Immokalee Master Plan

Immokalee could put on a very desirable new face not only for the residents, but also for those entering the community.

Thomas said the new Ave Maria University is rapidly materializing with 600-plus students slated to begin study this fall. He added that the student body will eventually comprise thousands of students occupying an expansive campus. This will provide untold commercial opportunities for Immokalee, according to Thomas.

Committee members discussed the Seminole Tribe's current land use and possible development projects over the next several years. They agreed that creating a commercially zoned district in the vicinity of the Tribe's properties could prove to be very beneficial.

They added that coordinating the efforts of local business interests with those of the Tribe could be a step in the right direction. These efforts will aid in developing Immokalee as a tourist destination point in the areas of ecotourism, heritage tours and multicultural entertainment.

Collier County Commissioner Jim Coletta said Immokalee generates \$800,000 to \$1,000,000 in property tax revenues. He said this would show an immediate increase if the Master Plan is implemented. With the current tax base, the revenues would first double and then begin to escalate rapidly, providing a considerable income to Collier County, he added.

Funds will become available for additional

infrastructure improvements necessary to accommodate the resulting growth, according to Coletta.

Master Plan objectives state that by 2008, Collier County shall implement a comprehensive program for the repair or removal and replacement of the housing units identified in the Immokalee Housing Condition Inventory as severely substandard, dilapidated and/or deteriorated. The Master Plan also specifies that the Community Redevelopment Agency will



Planners, a county commissioner, engineering firms, real estate agents, developers, and representatives of businesses, the Water Management District and the Audubon Society attend a meeting on Immokalee's Master Plan.

establish Neighborhoods of Critical Concern to encourage revitalization and infill housing construction in neighborhoods with substandard housing conditions and dilapidated commercial buildings.

Thomas, Coletta and RMPK Group planners noted that:

- A \$9.2 million rural development grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture has been received to refurbish and reconstruct Farm Workers Village. This project should be getting under way soon.

- State Road 29 will soon be widened and a Bypass in the proposal stages.

- The Immokalee Tradeport has been approved. As soon as the Master Plan can be instituted, the zoning in this area will create industrial flexibility and entice large commercial interests around the airport. If contracts from large companies can be obtained, the Federal Aviation Administration would be willing to approve a 7,500-foot runway suitable for commercial jet traffic, while leaving the passenger service at the Jetport in Fort Myers. This would create an unlimited business potential for transport into the U.S. from other countries.

A representative of the Audubon Society, who did not give his name, expressed concerns about the effect that development would have on Lake Trafford and the wetlands to its south and west. He pointed out that the lake had suffered serious damage in the past and a fortune had been spent on its cleanup and re-nourishment.

Thomas replied that the areas around the lake are designated for high-end housing and estates as well as ecotourism enterprises. He said these would benefit the area and not adversely affect the quality of the runoff into the water or nearby slough.

With regard to agricultural runoff and its effect on Lake Trafford and local waterways, Thomas said these issues are rapidly being resolved: Extensive changes are on the horizon for the Senorita Holdings. Alico is altering their agricultural land use programs to accommodate the changing lifestyle. The Pepper Ranch properties are under going developmental proceedings.

According to Thomas, Coletta and RMPK Group planners, the Master Plan is designed to make provisions for ecotourism around Lake Trafford and the wetland areas surrounding Immokalee. They said the prospectus calls for the best possible use and preservation of these sensitive areas while creating a valuable enhancement of property values and sources of income to their current and future owners.

They added that the proposed changes would make a dramatic increase in the property values while altering the face of Immokalee and allowing for future expansion.

After reviewing the above information, Chairman Mitchell Cypress remarked, "It is often said that wisdom comes with age and there is one thing that has proven to be true — 'You cannot stand in the way of progress without getting run over.' This leads to the big question, 'Shouldn't we find ways to benefit from things that we cannot control?'"

"I don't wish to imply that we are opposed to change, but I feel that we would benefit by helping to constructively shape the changes that are inevitable. In this way we can create a map for our own future. A properly orchestrated Master Plan could be of benefit to everyone and ensure a bright future for residents as well as enhancement of future revenues in the Immokalee area.

"The Seminole Tribe has plans to have representatives attend future workshops and meetings regarding the Immokalee Master Plan and perhaps play an active role in planning for the future."

Tribal Employee Selected for Federal Survey Program

Submitted by the Real Estate Department

HOLLYWOOD — Danny R. Swain, P.S.M., is among the first group of 69 professional land surveyors nationwide to receive a new federal certification from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Swain, employed by the Tribe as a land surveyor, was among the beta test group of selected land surveyors to participate in the new program called CFedS, meaning certified land surveyor.

The CFedS program, which has been approved by the secretary of the interior, was designed by the BLM to fulfill the Department of Interior's fiduciary trust responsibilities for surveying on Indian lands. This program is directed at making it a requirement for anyone surveying on Indian lands to have completed 120 hours of training and pass a six-hour written examination attesting to the fact.

By completing the course and successfully passing the written exam, Swain has ensured the Tribe will retain control of surveying its own lands.



Submitted by Real Estate Department
Danny Swain

Housing is Central Topic at Seminars



Seminar guests watch a slide presentation.

By Chris Jenkins

HOLLYWOOD — The state of housing among the Seminole Tribe and other Native Americans was on the minds of speakers and guests who met for their annual joint sessions March 13-15 at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida Grants and Governmental Affairs Offices, along with the Housing Department, were involved with organizing the sessions. There were also four major housing representatives on hand, representing the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for Native American Programs, the United South and Eastern Tribes, the Great Lakes Indian Housing Association and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The three-day gathering assembled representatives from 55 Tribes, all located east of the Mississippi, to discuss the importance of housing, needed improvements and projects which have been implemented.

Members of the Tribal Council also appeared offering greetings and their thoughts. They included Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Fort Pierce Liaison S.R. Tommie and Trail Liaison William Osceola.

Seminole Tribe of Florida Housing Department Director Troy Clay said the meetings are important.

"This helps bring Tribes together to understand what has been successful for other Tribes," Clay said.

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Evening of Song and Dance Kicks Off Lehigh Spring Festival

Immokalee's Chelsey Ford, Laurissa DeLaRosa Perform

By Judy Weeks

LEHIGH ACRES, Fla. — The 36th Annual Lehigh Spring Festival got under way on March 16 with a lively evening of entertainment. The theme for this year's production was "Gone Country," and featured many local artists as well as



With a series of backflips, Laurissa DeLaRosa crosses the stage.



Laurissa DeLaRosa flutters across the stage during her ballet routine.



Whether dancing to music from the 1960s or 2000, Chelsey Ford is obviously enjoying herself.

country singers Taylor Swift and Andrew Dean. Vonzell Solomon of *American Idol* fame also performed.

Performing in the middle of this impressive lineup were two Tribal citizens from Immokalee, Chelsey Ford and Laurissa DeLaRosa. These two young ladies have been attending Patti's Dance School for the past two years, where they study ballet, tap and hip-hop.

Following the opening ceremonies, the stage was filled with music as one dance troupe after another performed for an appreciative audience. There were dancers of all ages, beginning with the 3- and 4-year-old junior petites in their adorable costumes. The program ended with teenagers who have qualified for the Junior Olympics.

Gliding across the stage, Ford and DeLaRosa wowed the spectators with their graceful movements. They appeared to float on air as they performed the Princess Dance. It was obvious from their strength and muscular control that they have been working very hard to develop this ballet routine and their efforts were paying off.

The girls' expertise doesn't end there. Shedding their tutus and donning blue jeans, they joined a chorus line for a hip-hop and tap dancing combo that burst with energy. Ford received a round of applause for her tumbling routine as she backflipped across the stage.



Susan Etxebarria

(L-R) Little Mr. Seminole Kano Puente, Brighton Jr. Miss McKayla Snow and Brighton Miss Amber Craig wave to the crowd from their float at the Okeechobee festival.

Tribes Attends Local Parades, Festivals

Princesses, Officials Represent Tribe

By Susan Etxebarria

The Seminole Tribe represented itself with pride, dignity and zest for life, showing up at the Hendry County Fair Parade in Clewiston on March 17. The Tribe contributed the most entries — seven — to this annual event sponsored by the Hendry County Fair and Livestock Association.

President Moses Osceola was honored as the marshal of the Chalo Nitka Parade in Moore Haven on March 3.

The Tribe's princesses, Miss Florida Seminole Brittany Yescas and Little Miss Florida Seminole Krysta Burton, attend-



Susan Etxebarria

Chairman Mitchell Cypress



Susan Etxebarria

Big Cypress Board Rep. Paul Bowers

ed the Chalo Nitka Parade and the Hendry County Fair Parade. They also appeared at the Swamp Cabbage Festival, the Speckled Perch Festival Parade in Okeechobee City, the annual Brighton Field Days Parade and the Red Ribbon Parade.

The princesses have attended five in all for the year, according to the Tribe's Princess Committee Chairperson Wanda Bowers.

Education Adviser Pat McElroy and Loan Department employee Jackie Booth, both on the staff at Big Cypress, organized the Tribe's participation in the Hendry County Fair. They coordinated the entries with the county's fair committee and made sure everyone knew when and where to arrive before the parade.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Big Cypress Board Representative Paul Bowers Sr. rode in the Hendry County Fair Parade. The theme was Mardi Gras and the float was decorated beautifully in purple, green and gold. McElroy headed the committee building the float and they decorated it from the ground up. "It took one month for us to do this," McElroy said.

The Fellowship Riders from Calvary Chapel Motorcycle Ministry traveled from Fort Lauderdale to join the parade. They were accompanied by Big Cypress cyclists including Ronnie Billie, who rode his fantastic motorcycle to "oohs" and "aahs" from parade spectators.



Susan Etxebarria

Little Miss Seminole Krysta Burton at the Speckled Perch Festival in Okeechobee

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The wedding party gathers on the beach following the ceremony.

Judy Weeks

Billie, Herrera Wed in Seaside Ceremony

By Judy Weeks

FORT MYERS BEACH, Fla. — Family and friends of Clea Billie and Jose Herrera arrived at the Pink Shell Resort & Spa to witness their marriage on March 21.

A beautiful staging area was prepared on the white sand beaches of the Gulf of Mexico, forming a small chapel with a bridal arch decorated in flowers and fern-lined walkway.

The resort features an undersea atmosphere with huge fish, underwater coral and sea life, an octopus and extraordinary seashells seen throughout. A massive staircase descends from the upper stories of the building into the pool and beach area of the complex.

Escorts seated the mother of the groom, Susie Lindsey, while the bride's mother, Marie Phillips, joined brother Jonah Cypress in a medley of gospel songs.

The bridal party made their entrance on the staircase beginning with the three flower girls, Marley Herrera, Annie Joe and Dayra Koenes. They wore white organza gowns with yellow and coral rose petals filling their hemlines. Garlands of flowers and twisted ribbons adorned their hair.

The bridesmaids, Toi Andrews, Rochelle Osceola, Cooper Rivers and Allison Herrera, wore canary yellow satin gowns and carried colorful bouquets of spring flowers. They were accompanied by



Judy Weeks

The bride's mother, Marie Phillips, joins her brother Jonah Cypress in performing for the ceremony.

the best man, Fernando Herrera, and the groom's attendants, Randall Osceola, Nick Andrews and Chris Joel, all in black tuxedos.

Maid of honor and sister of the bride Cheyenne Edwards echoed the wedding's colors in a Palm Beach coral-colored dress with a white shawl.

Bride Clea Billie was a vision of loveliness in a gown with white iridescent beads and sequins embroidered over Chantilly lace. The skirt featured cascades of vertical organza ruffles. Her veil had a border of small pearls and was accompanied by a pearl-beaded tiara. Ricky Doctor beaded the handle of her magnificent bridal bouquet especially for the occasion.

Clea was escorted by stepfather Fred Phillips down the length of the wooden boardwalk to her father, Ronnie Billie Sr. He, in turn, brought his daughter down the aisle to groom Jose Herrera.

With the sunset as a background, the couple was joined in holy matrimony by family

member Fred Lindsey. He offered advice about the responsibilities of marriage, the joys and sacrifices, and the bonding union of a man and woman in the eyes of God.

Following a moving ceremony, ring bearer Tyee Thorpe produced the ring on a white, yellow and coral Seminole patchwork pillow, which the mother of the bride made just for the occasion. At the conclusion of their vows, the bride and groom participated in a "mixing of the sands" ceremony that symbolized the two of them becoming one.

Trays of appetizers were served at the pool deck. Then the wedding party led their guests to the reception in the pool pavilion, lavishly decorated in canary yellow and Palm Beach coral. Table centerpieces included floral arrangements surrounding sand castles.

A luxurious banquet preceded the traditional toast and serving of the wedding cake, which was decorated with seashells.

The bride and groom chose to "God Bless the Broken Road that Led Me Straight to You" by Rascal Flatts for their first dance. As the sun sank into the water signaling the end of another day, it gave promise of a bright tomorrow for the happy couple.

Mr. and Mrs. Jose Herrera enjoy their first dance.

Judy Weeks

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Native Book Review

By Ramona Kiyoshk

[Editor's Note: Ramona Kiyoshk is a freelance writer living in Jupiter, Fla. She is a member of the Ojibway First Nation of Walpole Island, Ontario. The opinions she expresses are her own. She can be reached at ramona2kiyoshk@yahoo.ca.]

This book breathes with its own energy. The colors on the cover are the hues of birth, fire,

sky and water. The red Earth is the mother of the red people—the Native Americans, the children of Turtle Island. Red is also the color of fire and blood. Blue is the color of water and the sky.

In these poems, the Earth exudes energy, strength and a life force that defeat, oppression, poverty and humiliation cannot suppress indefinitely. The Earth is represented as a nurturing mother comforting her waiting children. The blue water is the source of human life, and the sky, elusive and mysterious, represents a distant goal that we must never stop striving to reach.

These are the lessons foremost in this collection of poems that pay homage to the Indian way of living in harmony with the natural world. The writer is Dan C. Jones, a Ponca Indian. The striking, memorable paintings illustrating the pages are by Rance Hood, Comanche.

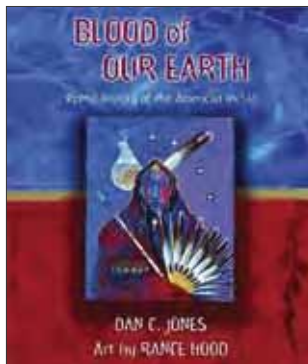
The poems tell the stories of native people and their path from the past to the present. Each

poem is a portrait of some aspect of their lives. The last poetry book I reviewed was by a woman, Sara Littlecrow-Russell, and it is interesting to observe how the same things are perceived differently by each gender. But the truths are the same and longings leave the same optimism or wistful sadness.

When Littlecrow-Russell writes about a bird, it is an owl, soft in the night with a gentle call. Jones writes about an eagle at high noon, with its strength, comparing it to the male warrior. These poets see humor, loneliness, spirituality and art through different eyes.

Jones' collection of poems, a foray into the history of the Poncas — with anecdotes on Native Americans today, straddling two worlds where values often collide — is a wild, energetic and sometimes angry ride. Indians are known for their gentle humor and there is plenty in this book. They are also famous for subtle wit and wisdom, and that proliferates, too. Hood's paintings are robust, poignant and unforgettable, a perfect accompaniment.

If you choose to read *Blood of Our Earth: Poetic History of the American Indian*, make sure you have a box of Kleenex™ handy. You will need it. You will be crying from laughing one minute and crying from sadness the next. You will come away knowing more about Native American history.



Title: *Blood of Our Earth: Poetic History of the American Indian*

By: Dan C. Jones (Ponca)
Art by: Rance Hood (Comanche)
Publisher: University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, N.M.
Price: \$26.95 Paperback

Indian, make sure you have a box of Kleenex™ handy. You will need it. You will be crying from laughing one minute and crying from sadness the next. You will come away knowing more about Native American history.

To Seal or Not To Seal

By Richard Castillo

[Editor's Note: Richard Castillo is a lawyer unaffiliated with the Seminole Tribe of Florida. He is a contributing writer for The Seminole Tribune. The opinions he expresses are his own. You may contact him with any questions at (954) 522-3500 or castillo@lawyer.com]

Sealing or expunging a criminal record allows an individual to hide a mistake he or she has made. Florida Statutes 943.0585 (expunction of criminal record) and 943.059 (sealing of criminal history) permit persons to have their criminal cases either destroyed, in the case of an expunction, or hidden, in the case of a sealing.

To have a case expunged, the matter must have been dismissed or the individual found not guilty. If either of these occurred and the person has not been convicted of any other offenses, he or she is eligible to begin the process.

To have a case sealed, the matter must have been resolved with adjudication withheld, and the penalty must be completed. If either of these occurred and the person has not been convicted of any other offenses, he or she is eligible to seal the case provided it is not one that is precluded from such a remedy.

This process takes approximately six to eight months to accomplish. It costs approximately \$300 plus the attorney's fee. Certain jurisdictions require hearings to be conducted.

Once the matter is sealed or expunged, the individual can lawfully deny or fail to acknowledge the arrests covered by expunction or sealing. There are exceptions to this rule, but they are severely limited by the statute. The practical effect of a sealing or expunction is that a background check for most purposes (employment, loan applications, etc.) will not disclose the case.



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Sweet Farewell After 33 Years on the Job

Judybill Osceola Retires from Tribal Secretary's Office

By Chris Jenkins

HOLLYWOOD — Thirty-three years of service deserve a party. For Judybill Osceola, Otter clan, the time to say goodbye to her Tribal enrollment administrator position in the Tribal Secretary's office had come.

Friends, co-workers, family members and others gathered at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino on March 20 to officially say their goodbyes to Osceola as she began her retirement. After many years of service with the Seminole Tribe of Florida, her loyalties were rewarded with a special gathering and program.

The evening was emceed by Tribal citizen Moses "Big Shot" Jumper Jr. The Rev. Paul Buster gave an invocation, which was followed by dinner.

Next were words of encouragement and praise from a host of friends and co-workers including Hollywood Board Representative Gloria Wilson, Trail Liaison William Osceola, Fort Pierce Liaison S.R. Tommie, Tribal citizen Paul Bowers Sr., President Moses Osceola and Chairman Mitchell Cypress.

There was also a special slide-show presentation on her life, along with entertainment from a Patsy Cline impersonator. Ending the evening was an open mic session for comments or thoughts as well as a few final thoughts from Judybill Osceola herself.

She said although she was still healthy at 66 years young, it was time to move on and retire.

"Because I've been praying a lot about it, I felt I had to ask the Lord about it and he wanted me to; to help out more in the church and with the children," Osceola said.

She said her three boys are her central focus now, as well as serving as a Sunday school teacher at her local church.

"The Lord has put it in my heart to do more," she explained.

According to Osceola, the times have changed and progressed a lot for her and the Tribe in all her years of work. As a former cheerleader, now mother of five — two biological, three adopted — she said she has seen and experienced a great deal. She says she remembers the times when Tribal citizens sang for money for tourists on the Jungle Queen in Fort Lauderdale, or when selling arts and crafts, not gaming, was the Tribe's primary source of income.

Osceola also recalled taking long road trips with her father, Bill Osceola. The two solicited signatures in Fort Pierce, Brighton, Okeechobee, Big Cypress and other areas in an effort to assist the Tribe's establishment. She said

she remembers seeing the first Tribal office in Hollywood and making \$1 an hour to start.

Osceola said she remains grateful for being a part of those days in the Tribe's history. She said she is particularly proud of the Tribe's recent accomplishments.

"The Tribe has really progressed," she said. "It went from nothing to what it is today."

The success is of course no surprise to her. However, she does admit she

never thought she would be alive long enough to see or experience it, saying "I never thought I would make it to 65."

Osceola said with the Tribe's success comes added responsibilities. The only thing she wishes she could change regarding today's society and the youth would be higher ambitions over the trappings of dividends.

"I wish more of our kids would graduate and go to college and come back and work for the Tribe," she said.

Although she was originally scheduled to retire in October 2006, her last official workday was Dec. 28, 2006. Lavonne Kippenberger has taken over her duties.

"I have learned a lot," Judybill Osceola said. "I have no hard feelings about retiring. As a matter of fact, I'm happy because now I get to see my kids grow up."



Chairman Mitchell Cypress (L) and Fort Pierce Liaison S.R. Tommie (R) with Judybill Osceola



A younger Judybill during the slide presentation



Friends Nancy Conklin (Ludington) (L) and Angela Hoffer (Lombardi) (R), with Judybill Osceola



Co-worker and friend Wanda Bowers with Judybill Osceola

Friends and family who showed their support expressed their thoughts in a poem and program announcement saying:

We'd like to welcome you today, to our fine celebration in honor of our friend, Judybill, to show our admiration. We've gathered here from near and far, her family and friends, to demonstrate our deep respect. I'm glad you could attend. She's strong and focused, smart and friendly, but also known for sharing. She's a dedicated professional, she's loyal, kind and caring. Co-workers, too, looked up to her as someone in the know. They saw her passion, her results, how much she had to show. Judybill is great in all these ways but possibly most known throughout all our good and bad days, is when her real spirit shone. She's done her best for 33 years, been a wonderful employee. But more than that, Judybill's become a member of our family. Although we're sad to see her go to her new life of leisure, we wish her all the best, and know that she deserves the pleasure. In every way, Judybill, for all the years and everything you've done!!

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Keli Chapman (R) of The Healthy Start Coalition assists with a group project.



(L-R) Janet Smith, Marcus Robinson and Erena Billie collaborate on their project.

Brighton Students Receive Life Skills 101

By Emma Brown

BRIGHTON — The Brighton Education Department has teamed up with The Healthy Start Coalition to present Brighton's middle school and high school students with a four-part series on life skills.

The topics so far have included developing healthy relationships, resolving conflicts with parents, teachers and peers, goal setting, the importance of school, decision making and the consequences of choices. Future topics include making healthy choices, sexual relationships, finances and planning.

The presentations include upbeat, fast-paced videos, individual feedback and group exercises. Student response has been very favorable and the students have engaged enthusiastically during the group exercises.

The Education Department hopes to reach students through real life interaction about real life situations and educate them about how to be positive peers and role models in their community.



Keli Chapman (L) looks over Stormin Youngblood's work.



Kassandra Baker (L) goes over her work with Keli Chapman.



Janae Braswell (L) and Kristina Osceola (R) finish up their assignment during the workshop.

Library Receives Valuable Native American Collection

Submitted by John Frasier, Director, Community Library Program

BIG CYPRESS — Tom Anderson, known by some Tribal citizens as "Lobster" and "Tommy White Door," recently donated his valuable collection of Native American books, magazines and videocassettes to Big Cypress's Willie Frank Library.

The library welcomes all of these gifts. Some of the dozens of books and magazines are irreplaceable because they are long out of print. The books include a complete set of Time-Life's *The American Indians*.

The videocassettes include the complete CBS television documentary series *500 Nations*, for which Anderson's friend Lee Miller wrote and directed research. He also donated autographed copies of Miller's books *From the Heart: Voices of the American Indian* and *Ronoke*.



While Tom Anderson and Chairman Mitchell Cypress shake hands, the chairman holds a copy of *Wisdom's Daughters*, a book featuring Seminole citizens Susie Billie, Agnes Cypress and Jeanette Cypress, which Anderson donated to the library.

Of Kaw heritage and founder of the Native Learning Foundation, Miller also was a consultant for the BBC television series *Land of the Eagle*.

Anderson says he is offering these gifts for the benefit of present and future Tribal citizens, to show his lifelong, deep feelings of respect for all Tribal cultures and to preserve items he was concerned might be dispersed if something happened to him. He also said he wanted to honor his friendships with Seminole and Miccosukee Tribal citizens he has lived with for years and visited with for decades.

Anderson said he also believes some Tribal citizens would want to know that as a charter member of the National Museum of the American Indian, he has placed the name of his late, beloved Bonnie Billie on the museum's Honor Wall in Washington, D.C.

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(L-R) Rayssa De La Paz, Cindy Hughes, Director of the Florida Partnership of the College Board Jesus Jara, Tina Krzeminski and Higher Education Adviser Linda Iley

Educators Prepare Students for SATs

By Felix DoBos

HOLLYWOOD — "Destination College" was the title of a program presented March 20 at Tribal headquarters by Jesus Jara, director of the Florida Partnership of the College Board in Tallahassee.

Introduced by Higher Education Adviser Linda Iley, Jara spoke extensively about the importance of preparing for the Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT). This test is used throughout the United States by educators and college admission boards for measuring academic skills in writing, math and critical reading. Scores are used in conjunction with grades to help determine a student's level of achievement when considered for college admission.

Jara discussed how the test has changed since 2005. It now includes a written exam comprised of essay writing

and multiple choice questions. He said this gives college admission boards a greater understanding of the student's ability to succeed in college curricula, especially in the area of writing.

Jara also gave several pointers for college success. He stressed that the higher an individual's level of education, the higher his or her income.

"If you graduate with a high school diploma, you will make at least \$2,000 more a year than someone who



Jesus Jara gives SAT test tips.

Changes to the SAT Since 2005

Writing

A new writing section has been added to the test. Students are asked to write an essay that requires them to take a position on an issue and use reasoning and examples to support their position.

The essay is similar to the type of writing required on in-class college essay exams.

Multiple choice questions measure a student's ability to identify sentence errors, improve sentences and improve paragraphs.

Math

The new math section includes topics from third-year college preparatory math, such as exponential growth, absolute value, functional notation and negative and fractional exponents.

Quantitative comparisons have been eliminated.

Critical Reading

The critical reading section, previously known as the verbal section, includes short and long reading passages.

Analogies have been eliminated, but sentence completion questions remain.

Total Testing Time

Three hours and 45 minutes, including an unscored 25-minute variable section. This helps in the development of future test questions.

The Family Service's Department's Adult Basic Education Program presents:

Computers 101: Introduction to the Personal Computer and Windows
This course is designed for new computer users. The objective of this course is to provide a foundation of knowledge that can be applied to basic computer functions, or future classes. Many basic skills will be covered in this class. This class is designed to cover three areas: computer hardware, the Windows operating system, and applications programs. This is the preliminary and the most basic computer course offered. This class is required for future classes that will be offered in Basic Word Processing, Basic Excel Spreadsheet, Charting, PowerPoint, and Outlook.

Will be held at the DSO Library's Computer Lab in Hollywood at a two-day course starting 04/17/07 and 04/19/07 from 9-12 pm

Free to all adult tribal members!

Please fill out below for enrollment and return before the start of class on 04/17/07.

By RSVP only and space is limited. Must be at least 18 years of age.

Name:

Address:

Contact Phone:

Please return to: Jasmine Porter, Adult Vocational Administrator, Family Services Department, Seminole Tribe of Florida, 3006 Josie Billie Ave., Hollywood, FL 33024. Or fax to 954.965.1311. For further information, please call 954.965.1314.

Seminole Officials 'Wow' Agricultural Tour Group

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — A sellout agricultural tour on March 21 offered participants an opportunity to learn about the Seminole Tribe's history and culture as well as its farming and cattle enterprises. The Collier County office of the

"For the first time in the history of our nation, this past year our country imported more agricultural products than it exported. It is important to realize that you can have all the money and power in the world, but without agriculture it means nothing because you cannot survive.

"During the time I spent on the Intertribal Agricultural Council, I traveled to several other countries," he continued. "As a nation, I quickly discovered that we have the highest standards of safety in food production and processing in the world."

He concluded by saying that the Seminole Tribe is No. 7 in the nation in cattle production with more than 10,000 head of prime cattle. Herds have been established by trial and error to meet consumers' demands for a more tender, less fat source of protein. Seminoles now raise the Brangus breed of cattle using approved vaccines, wormers and feed sources to provide the highest quality beef possible.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress told the group, "We are here today to give you information about agriculture, but my colleagues have done an excellent job in this capacity. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to broaden your views on the Seminole Tribe, its system of government, sources of revenue and programs for education, health and welfare. Too often we are associated solely with gambling casinos and bingo. We are so much more ..."

Later, a crowd gathered around the three Seminole speakers, bombarding them with questions and requests for photos and autographs. This group of retired professionals represented many fields including law, medicine, accounting, manufacturing, real estate development, insurance and major industries. They were very surprised to learn that Seminoles pay taxes and that gaming revenues are used for programs that benefit not only Tribal citizens, but also employees and the communities where they live. Cypress stressed that even Tribal citizens' dividends trickle back into the local economy. There are untold benefits from operating a business near the



(L-R) Paul Bowers Sr., Linda Tommie and Richard Bowers enjoy a quick tour of the Roberts Ranch Museum before their speaking engagement.

University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Science (IFAS) orchestrated the well-attended bus tour. Four charter buses carried approximately 235 retired professionals from the Gold Coast of Naples to Immokalee.

The daylong tour began at Davenport Nursery, a large grower of commercial ornamental and landscape plants. It continued on to Jack and Ann's Feed Supply, the Creel Tractor Exhibit, Lake Trafford, Roberts Ranch, Tomato Man Packing House and the Silver Strand Citrus Grove.

IFAS Collier County Extension Director Robert Halman organized the day's activities, which included a barbecue lunch at Roberts Ranch.

The first speaker to address the group was Lee Mitchell, director of the Roberts Ranch Museum. Mitchell gave a brief history of this pioneer family's origin and efforts to build one of the first and largest cattle companies in the Immokalee area. Over the years, the Roberts family became important figures in business and community life, eventually donating their



(L-R) Hendry County Commissioner Bill Maddox, Richard Bowers, Mitchell Cypress, Linda Tommie/Bowers and Paul Bowers Sr. gather beneath the oak trees before speaking to the tour group.



(L-R) IFAS Extension Director Robert Halman, Paul Bowers Sr., Hendry County Commissioner Bill Maddox, Regional Agricultural Specialist Gene McAvoy, Roberts Ranch Museum Director Lee Mitchell and Richard Bowers before the tour

initial homestead and a few surrounding acres as a museum to Collier County.

Big Cypress Board Representative Paul Bowers Sr. gave a comprehensive presentation about the Seminole Tribe's history in agriculture and the cattle industry. He spoke of his distant ancestors as well as his grandparents, Wilson and Ruby Cypress, who lived and worked in the Immokalee and Big Cypress vicinity in the 1900s.

Toiling as a hunting guide, a cattle worker and a farmer, Wilson Cypress sustained his family almost entirely off the land, Paul Bowers said.

He also spoke of his own experiences in the cattle industry, the U.S. Marine Corps and as pageboy at the Florida Capitol in Tallahassee. He said he worked in cattle from the ground up, eventually acquiring his own herd. As an elected official of the Tribe, he is in charge of its agricultural endeavors at the Big Cypress reservation which include cattle, citrus, produce and mining.

Richard Bowers, assistant director of natural resources at Big Cypress, picked up where Paul Bowers left off. He explained how the three Seminole Wars were fought over the competition for the Seminoles' prime cattle pasture land as they were forced slowly southward on the Florida peninsula.

"Agriculture means survival and the lands set aside for this use across the United States are diminishing," he said.

Tribal ventures, he said.

Hendry County Commissioner Bill Maddox praised the Seminole officials.

"Mitchell Cypress, Paul Bowers Sr. and Richard Bowers are bridge builders of the highest degree," Maddox said.

"They have come here today and represented the Seminole Tribe, the American cattlemen and farmers in a way that has enlightened everyone."

Rege Malone of the Collier County Master Gardeners at the Extension Office remarked, "The group on today's tour were wowed by the Seminole Tribe. I have never seen such a favorable reaction in my life."

Linda Hetrick, administrative secretary at the University of Florida Extension Service, said, "The Seminole Tribe can be very proud of the high caliber of men they have elected to represent them. These gentlemen are very articulate and well-versed in the subjects about which they speak. ... I sincerely hope that we will be fortunate enough to have them return and educate our future audiences."



Tour group members enjoy a luncheon of local agricultural products.

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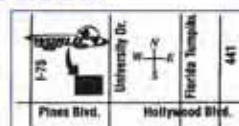
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Health Corner ♦ Chah-nee-ken chao-ke ♦ Cvfeknetv onakv

Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day To Become an Annual Event

Submitted by the Indian Health Service

[Editor's Note: Charles W. Grim, D.D.S., is a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. As the director of the Indian Health Service (IHS), he is an assistant surgeon general and holds the rank of rear admiral in the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service. He was appointed as the interim director in 2002, and was sworn in by the Department of Health and Human Services in 2003. As the principal federal health care provider and health advocate for Indian people, the IHS is responsible for providing preventive, curative and community health care to approximately 1.9 million of the nation's 3.3 million American Indians and Alaska Natives. Dr. Grim made the following remarks last month on the occasion of the first National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. The opinions he expresses are his own.]

March 21, 2007, marks the first National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. On this groundbreaking day, we acknowledge all those working to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. We also pause to acknowledge the challenges, strength and advocacy of those living with HIV/AIDS.

This important day, which will become an annual event, is an opportunity to avoid complacency, open discussion, and increase awareness of the impact of HIV/AIDS on American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians.

Native communities selected March 21 to commemorate National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day because it marks the start of spring, a time of renewal. Now is the time for change.

More than a million Americans are living with HIV and at least 40,000 new infections occur annually. American Indians and Alaska Natives represent approximately 1 percent of the U.S. population and account for the third highest rate of AIDS diagnoses of all races in the United States.

Stigma, silence and behavior are fueling this epidemic. Although these are sensitive issues, we must begin to talk openly and honestly about HIV/AIDS in our communities. I encourage everyone to engage in

discussion with family, friends, colleagues and neighbors about HIV/AIDS within the context of our culture.

Every time we discuss HIV, we lessen the fear, decrease the stigma and eliminate the silence. We then have the opportunity to encourage others to protect themselves, know their status, and promote a healthier community.

HIV screening is another important tool we have in the fight against HIV. Nearly one in four people who have HIV in the U.S. do not know they are infected with it. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently released new HIV testing recommendations that call for routine voluntary screening in health care settings for every person between the ages of 13 and 64. When people know their status, they can change risk behaviors, benefit from earlier access to life-extending treatment and reduce transmission.

In honor of National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, I encourage all native people to be screened for HIV and to know their status. ... It is necessary that each and every one of us play a role as an advocate, champion, facilitator or provider of prevention, education and care.

In observance of the first National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, events including free HIV/AIDS screening, talking circles, pow-wows, walks, town hall meetings and memorial services took place throughout the country. The theme of this year's National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day was "A Celebration of Life ... Protecting Our Future, Protecting Our People!"

To listen to Dr. Grim's public service announcements about the first National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, please visit www.omhrc.gov/hivaidobservance/naad/materials.htm.

To locate a testing site, please visit www.hivtest.org. For more information on National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, please visit www.aids.gov.

Are You At Risk for STDs?

Submitted by the Seminole Health Department

Sexually Transmitted Diseases or STDs are a group of more than 20 diseases that can be passed from one person to another through sexual intercourse. Some common STDs include herpes, HPV (genital warts), chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, hepatitis B and HIV (the virus that causes AIDS).

Untreated STDs can cause serious health problems including cervical cancer, liver damage, brain damage and the inability to have children. All of these diseases are passed on by having unprotected sex — any kind of sex — with someone who is infected. You cannot tell if someone is infected by looking at him or her! Remember, STDs including HIV are passed on by having unprotected sex.

Ask yourself: Do you use condoms every time you have intercourse? Have you ever had unprotected sex? Have you ever had sex while drunk or high? Have you ever had sex with a partner who used IV drugs (drugs that are injected into the body using a syringe)? Have you ever used IV drugs? Have you ever had unprotected sex with someone whose STD status you did not know? Have you ever had sex with a partner who has had sex with more than one person? Have you had sex with more than one person in the last three months?

STDs can be prevented. Abstinence is the best way to protect yourself from all STDs. If you do contract an STD, however, there are many treatment options. Some STDs can be cured or managed with

ongoing treatment. A person can have an STD without having any symptoms. If you do have symptoms, they may include genital discharge or itching, pain or burning when urinating, sores or bumps, warts or blisters on genitals, pain in the lower abdomen and pain when having sex.

To protect yourself from STDs, you need to make good, informed decisions about sex. Alcohol and other drugs can keep you from making good choices. Being drunk or high changes how you think and feel — you may take chances you normally wouldn't take. Sharing needles for drugs, steroids, tattoos or body piercing can also put you at risk for some STDs.

Remember, abstinence is the best way to protect yourself against STDs. However, if you are sexually active, always protect yourself by using a condom. Learning as much as you can about STDs before you decide to have sex will help you to make a better decision — which could be not to have sex. Respect yourself and your body and show your partner you expect him or her to do the same. Don't do anything that makes you feel uncomfortable.

Take responsibility for your own health. If you decide to have sexual relations, make sure to practice safer sex. If you think you have symptoms, see your health care provider immediately. Get checked and get treatment early — it can make all the difference. For more information, contact your reservation's health educator.

New Tribal Citizen Health Plan Cards, Revised Health Plan Books

Submitted by Connie Whidden, Health Department Director

In mid-April the Health Department will be mailing new Health Plan cards and revised Health Plan books to Tribal citizens. The new card and plan book will be effective May 1.

New Member Health Plan Card

When you receive your new Health Plan card, please review your name on your card to ensure that it is correct. Begin using your new card on May 1 and destroy your old Health Plan card. Please make sure to present your new Health Plan card to all medical, dental and pharmacy providers prior to receiving services. In addition, please note that your Social Security number will no longer be printed on your

Health Plan card, nor will it be used as your member identification number. It will be replaced by a unique computer-assigned identification number that will be given to you and your dependents, if applicable. This change was made to protect your privacy and security and to provide protection against identity theft.

It is very important that you begin using your new card and referring to your new member identification number as of May 1 when obtaining services from pharmacy, medical and dental providers.

Revised Member Health Plan Book

The changes to your Health Plan book will also take effect May 1. Please review the Health Plan book so that you will be familiar with the plan benefits, limitations and exclusion. Some of the revisions are highlighted below:

Chiropractic, acupuncture and massage therapy benefit was revised to clarify that the initial visit for chiropractic care is covered at \$175 maximum to

Physical, speech and occupational therapies are covered at 100 percent and are now limited to 75 combined visits per calendar year.

Coverage for smoking cessation prescription medications was added at a maximum of \$500 per calendar year.

Benefits for surgical insertion or removal of dental implant(s) to replace a tooth/teeth that was extracted while the person was covered for these benefits under this plan was increased to 100 percent subject to treatment plan review by the dental program manager and approval by the health director.

Coverage for eye surgery to correct refractive error was added when the patient meets Health Department criteria and is approved by the chief medical officer and the health director.

Orthodontia benefit was increased to \$6,000 lifetime maximum per person.

Oral Health Risk Assessment and Examination was added, limited to one exam per three-month period per covered member under age 3.

New Prescription Benefits Information
Effective May 1, we will no longer be using Pharmacy Services Group (PSG) as the Pharmacy Benefits Manager. We will be switching to National Medical Health Card Systems, Inc. (NMHC). NMHC offers more benefits to you such as mail order prescription services and other online services.

This change should not affect your ability to obtain prescription medications as you normally would since the pharmacies that you currently utilize should also be in the pharmacy network of NMHC. We encourage you to utilize the Seminole



Pharmacy located on the Hollywood reservation, and for your convenience, we added the pharmacy's telephone number to the back of your Health Plan card. The pharmacy is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

You can obtain prescriptions from the Seminole Pharmacy in several ways:

- Drop-off and/or pick-up prescriptions directly at the pharmacy.
- Receive prescriptions at your home using the mail order service if you reside out of the area.

Order and pick up prescriptions through the Seminole Clinic. Orders are delivered to each reservation daily from the pharmacy.

Please contact the Seminole Pharmacy at (866) 961-7210 or one of the Seminole Clinics for more information on prescription services.

Please be looking to receive your new card and Health Plan book in the mail before the end of April. If you do not receive these documents or if you have questions, please contact the patient services coordinator at one of the Seminole Tribe of Florida Health Clinics listed.

TO ALL PROVIDERS OF SERVICE

Seminole Medical & Dental Clinics at: Seminole Tribe of Florida Health Plan
5501 Renaissance Road, Suite 107
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312

Most call plans for eligibility & benefits at: 1-866-505-6789 or 954-961-7410

This plan requires pre-authorization within twenty-four (24) hours in the most business day for all outpatient surgeries and outpatient admissions, to include mental health and substance abuse. For pre-authorization call: (866) 961-7210 or visit www.seminoletribe.com

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| Beech Street PPO Network | 1-800-937-2277 or visit www.beechstreet.com |
| Community Health Partners (CHP) | 1-774-476-6510 or visit www.chphealthpartners.com |
| Re: 800-619-0111 PCN: NMHC | |
| Submitted Group: 070007 | 1-800-883-1155 or visit www.NMHC.com |
| Seminole Pharmacy | 1-866-961-7210 |

include X-rays. Also covered are 17 combined chiropractic, acupuncture and massage therapy follow-up visits per calendar year, with \$75 maximum per visit. Acupuncture and massage therapy require a physician's prescription.

transient coronary artery spasm.

Physicians have a variety of diagnostic tools. An electrocardiogram-EKG or ECG can tell a doctor if your heart has been damaged by a heart attack. If the EKG is done while you are having chest pain, it can also show if your angina is caused by a problem with your heart.

A stress test is often done while you walk on a treadmill. Your doctor will look at your EKG to see if it's abnormal when you exercise. Your doctor may also have X-rays of the heart taken before and after you exercise. These pictures can show if an area of the heart is not getting enough blood during exercise.

A cardiac catheterization involves inserting a long, thin tube into an artery in the arm or leg and then guiding it into the heart. Dye is injected into the arteries around the heart. X-rays are taken. The X-rays will show if any of the arteries that supply the heart are blocked.

Most people diagnosed with heart disease have to take medicine. Medicines called beta blockers, calcium channel blockers and nitrates can help relieve angina.

There are also surgical options. Angioplasty uses a tiny balloon to push open blocked arteries around the heart. The balloon is inserted in an artery in the arm or leg. A stent, or small tube, might be put into the artery where the blockage was to hold the artery open.

In bypass surgery, the surgeon takes pieces of veins or arteries from the legs and sews them into the arteries of the heart to bring blood past a blockage and increase the blood flow to the heart.

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: My understanding is that angina is not as serious as heart disease. Is this true?

A: Angina pectoris—or simply angina—is the medical term for chest pain or discomfort caused by coronary heart disease. Angina is a sign that someone is at increased risk of heart attack, cardiac arrest and sudden cardiac death. If you get angina, you should get medical attention immediately.

Angina (pronounced "an-JI-nuh" or "AN-juh-nuh") hits when the heart doesn't get enough blood. This usually occurs when there is a narrowing or blockage in one or more of the vessels that supply blood to the heart.

Angina can come from exertion. It may make you sweat or lose your breath. The pain can strike your arm or neck, too.

"Stable angina" comes on with exertion and then goes away easily. You can have this kind of angina for a long time.

When the pattern of angina changes a lot, it's called "unstable angina." This is a danger sign. Unstable angina may be the first sign of a heart attack.

Then there is "variant angina pectoris" or "Prinzmetal's angina." It usually occurs spontaneously and almost always occurs when a person is at rest. It doesn't follow physical exertion or emotional stress, either. Variant angina is caused by

The Water Resource Management Department Presents



Earth Day in My Backyard

Come learn about water resources, vegetation and wildlife right here on Big Cypress Reservation! Hands on activities, wildlife demonstrations and games for all ages.

Celebrated on the Big Cypress Reservation on April 20, 2007 9 am to 5 pm
At the parking lot across from the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

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

Losers Are Winners at Weight Watchers

National Weight-loss Program Comes To Immokalee

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — The Weight Watchers philosophy that has helped countless people across the country has made its way to the Immokalee reservation. Seminole Tribe Nutritionist Charlotte Porcaro has enlisted the services of Weight Watchers Leader Betty Albritton to host the 12-week weight-loss program. It began on March 7.

Meetings are being held each Wednesday at noon at the Senior Center. Light lunches using Weight Watchers recipes are served. At least 15 participants are required for a session.

The first meeting included a welcoming introduction, enrollment and weigh-in.

Organizers distributed materials and the Weight Watchers point system was explained. The program is based on learning to eat wisely and establishing attainable goals. It offers two tried and tested food plans to choose from, and the leader helps each participant choose the one that's better for him or her.

Weight Watchers is designed so participants will lose weight at a healthy rate. Dieters must keep in mind that people lose at different rates depending on their age, gender and starting weight.

Albritton inspired the newcomers by telling

them that she had lost 50 pounds, and showing her "before" picture. "Before" photos of all Weight Watchers participants were taken and will be saved for comparison when they attain their goals.



(L-R) Betty Albritton and Seminole Nutritionist Charlotte Porcaro welcome participants to the Weight Watchers program.

The program aims to assist in losing 10 percent of body weight to positively impact health. For example, lowering blood pressure also reduces the risk of stroke, and lowering cholesterol levels also reduces strain on joints. Weight loss can also reduce the risk of developing diabetes.



Louise Osceola is just one of the many smiling faces at the Weight Watchers luncheon.

Porcaro prepared the first three luncheons using Weight Watchers recipes, which included tuna salad, veggie burgers and a sandwich/salad combination. The participants were very complimentary of the meals and showed extreme surprise when learning they were eating veggie burgers, which they had assumed were made from chicken.

♦ ACS

Continued from page 1

Porcaro assisted in organizing the event, which took place March 9 and 10 at the Immokalee High School Track.

The Relay for Life was a fun-filled overnight event designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money for research and the many programs sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

Following an opening lap at 4 p.m., the students of Patti's Dance Studio entertained. Then came the survivors' reception and lap. Recognition of the caregivers brought an overwhelming response by the participants, and a lap in their honor followed.

By far the most impressive and moving portion of the evening was the luminaries service, which was followed by

memorial laps. The entire distance around the track was lined with candles in closed containers lighting the way in memory of those who lost their lives to cancer. Family members, friends and neighbors joined together to do laps in honor of their loved ones.

The objective of each team was to keep at least one member on the track at all times either walking or running laps. Team Seminole members carried a patchwork-covered baton, which they traded back and forth during the relay.

Donated items were also raffled off, with the proceeds going to the ACS. They included a huge gift basket, provided by the Immokalee Seminole Casino, with an assortment of delicacies.

The night's activities included numerous contests which extended into the early morning hours for those who had elected to camp out and represent their

teams in the continuous relay.

The ACS is the nation's largest, private nonprofit source of funding for cancer research. ACS members made presentations and erected signs around the perimeter of the track, relaying sobering statistics intended to enlighten the participants and hopefully promote a more healthful lifestyle.

Many people think what little they can afford to give won't make a difference. Immokalee's Relay for Life has proven this to be untrue. This year's efforts raised more than \$25,000 in this small but generous community — approximately \$5,000 of this in just one evening.

ACS representatives expressed their gratitude to Team Seminole and Immokalee Seminole Council Liaison Ralph Sanchez for their contribution and participation in this worthwhile endeavor.



(L-R) Nutritionist Charlotte Porcaro and Community Outreach Liaison Edna McDuffie, the backbone of Team Seminole in Immokalee.



Michelle Ford carries the Seminole baton during the relay.



Charlotte Porcaro, Nutritionist for the Seminole Tribe in Immokalee, displays the Team Seminole banner.



Frankie DeLaRosa and Amy Yzaguirre make their laps for Team Seminole on Saturday morning.



The 41 members of Team Seminole represented the Tribe well at the ACS walk.

Team Seminole Walks to D'Feet ALS

Walkers Honor Ex-Tribal Employee Don Brock

By Felix DoBoz

SUNRISE, Fla. — About 200 people — patients, families, employees of local companies and Team Seminole, among others — gathered at The Oasis at Sawgrass Mills Mall for a one-mile walk to support patient care and research for ALS.

All money raised at the March 17 event was donated to the ALS Association's Florida Chapter in Tampa. The funds will be used to support nationally directed ALS research and to

finance local programs in patient services, education and awareness.

ALS stands for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, but is better known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. It was named for New York Yankee great Lou Gehrig, who abruptly retired from baseball in 1939 after being diagnosed with ALS.

ALS is a degenerative disease in which cells in the brain and spinal cord are destroyed, leading to loss of voluntary muscle control. The cause is mostly unknown and up to 30,000 Americans have ALS at any given time, according to the ALS Association website.

At the request of Elsie Bowers, who worked with ALS sufferer and former Tribal employee Don Brock, the walk was organized in his honor. Edna McDuffie, community outreach liaison from the Big Cypress Wellness Center, orchestrated Team Seminole's involvement.

Brock, who also attended the event, now must use a wheelchair for mobility. Judy Jones handed out T-shirts with a group image of Brock on the back to support this fight against ALS.

"This was a team effort to honor our friend Don Brock," Bowers said, adding, "Thank you to Max Osceola, Hollywood Council Representative, for his support for this cause. Thank you to Gloria Wilson, Hollywood Board Representative, who provided her support as well as T-shirts for the event. We had 41 participants who got up early, including walkers from Big Cypress, to help out in this cause."

For more information on upcoming Team Seminole walks, please contact Edna McDuffie at (863) 983-5798. For more information on ALS, please visit www.alsa.org.

The Health Department contributed to this report.

Representing Team Seminole at the Walk to D'Feet ALS:

Tribal Citizens

Almira Billie, Louise Billie, Elsie Bowers, Jonah Cypress, Judy Jones, Edna McDuffie, Donelda Mercer, Lawanna Niles, Demetria Tigertail, Marina Tigertail, Dorothy Tommie and Helesi Tommie Twoshoe.

Tribal Employees and Children

Sandra Berkowicz, Jody Bernstein, Cheryl Bolton, Don Brock, Penny Brock, Yenny Cardona, Christa Clark, Suzanne Davis, Kristen Duda, Martha Duda, Suzanne Fundsland, Tena Granit, Kathy Gutierrez, Mary Hanson, Josh Harrison, Ilse Jaeger, Doreen Marshall, Franice Marshall, Rodni Mercer, August Meredith, Lyric Meredith, Marjorie Meredith, Connie Morgan, Doris Nicholas-Mir, Guy Pollina, Jaime Schevis, Jim Talik, Allen Thomas and Tom Traponi.



After the 5K walk Team Seminole gathered for a picture.

Team Seminole Walks for Heart Health

Event raises \$470,750 for Heart Association

By Lila Osceola-Heard

A health-conscious group of 25 Tribal citizens, employees, friends and children — also known as Team Seminole — laced up their most comfortable walking shoes on the morning of March 10.

For the fourth year in a row, Nova Southeastern University (NSU) hosted the annual American Heart Association (AHA) Broward County Heart Walk, and Team Seminole was there.

The team began preparations for the 5K or 3.1-mile walk with a group stretch. When the walk started and everyone was off, the faster walkers darted to the front of the pack as more leisurely walkers casually strolled behind them.

Some walkers showed their dedication to a healthy lifestyle by walking in honor of a loved one who passed away from cardiovascular disease or stroke. Many had T-shirts printed for the occasion with pictures of the people they were walking to honor.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida enters walks as Team Seminole "to let people know we are interested in helping with various fundraisers in our communities," according to team member Edna McDuffie. McDuffie also works in the Big Cypress Wellness Center as a community outreach liaison.

Jessica Irish, spokeswoman for the AHA, said the annual Broward County Heart Walk is the "largest national fundraising and awareness-raising event" with about 5,000 participants. Though the event did not reach its \$750,000 goal, it did raise \$470,750, according to Irish.

Proceeds from the walk benefited the AHA, which aims to "reduce disability and death from cardiovascular diseases and stroke," according to its website, www.americanheart.org. These diseases are the nation's first and third most common killers, respectively. Cardiovascular disease and stroke claim more than 910,000 American lives a year, according to the AHA.

Team Seminole Members Who Participated in the Broward Heart Walk:

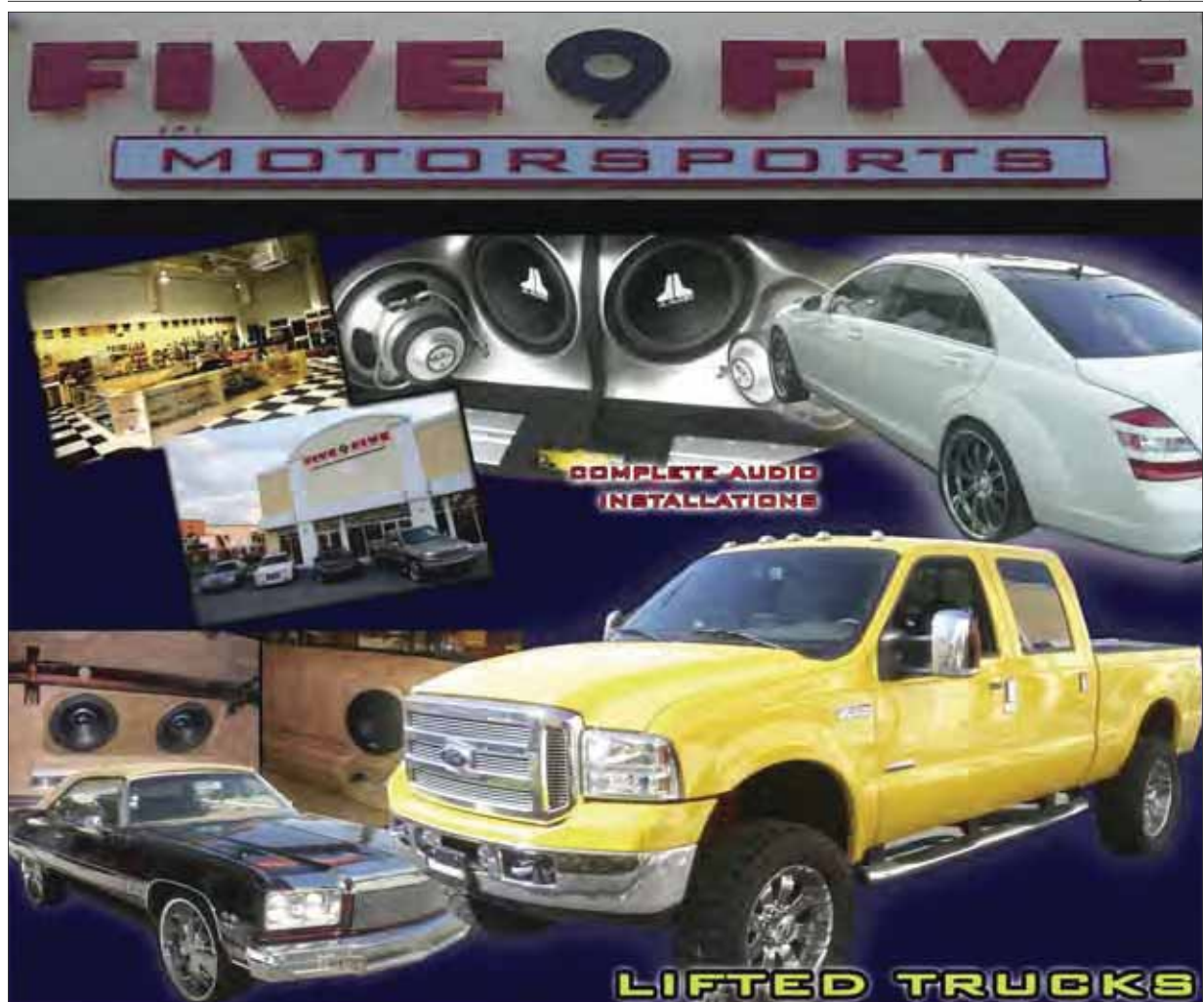
Sherry Allgaier, Garrett Anderson, Almira Billie, Barbara Billie, Elsie Bowers, Suzanne Davis, Darlene Dempsey, Kristen Duda, Sue Fundingsland, Joshua Harrison, Stailce Heard, Tyia Heard, Amber Hyatt, Ilse Jaeger, Edna McDuffie, Tina Mennella and friend Bradley, Rodni Mercer, Marjorie Meredith, Connie Morgan, Doris Nicholas-Mir, Lawanna Niles, Lila Osceola-Heard, Harley Roberts and Dorothy Tommie.



Almira Billie

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The basketball court at Big Cypress' Herman L. Osceola is ready for action.

Tony Heard

Big Cypress Gym Gets a New Look

Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium Renovated

By Tony Heard

BIG CYPRESS — The Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium on the Big Cypress reservation is home to many tournaments, gatherings and events.

The adults get quality use from the weight room and the various exercise equipment the gym has to offer. Kids occupying the gym and the playground are plentiful and constant. The recent addition of new playground equipment makes the outside area more eye-catching, and the equipment is durable and safe for youngsters to use during many hours of fun.

The majority of the remodeling took place inside the gymnasium, however. The new glass backboards, rims and paint looked wonderful.

Four of the six new basketball rims placed in the gym are custom made and can adjust in height as well as retract up when not being used.

The floor was widened with a goal of making one facility into two. The curtain divider will allow players to utilize the side baskets, and play two games at once for youth basketball tournaments.

But the most talked about addition to the gym was the new floor. It is not the standard hardwood floor one may expect. The directors and staff decided to use a different surface material called "Sport Court."



Tony Heard

Hector Vega painted the patchwork that lines the gym walls.

This material has been around for a few years and keeps improving. A few NBA teams use it in their practice facilities and are pleased with how it holds up and how easily sections can be changed. The Sport Court is described as an all-around playing surface. The material is easy to maintain, can be easily replaced and is proven to be better for an athlete's knees and joints.

The final touches were put on the floor on the afternoon of March 21. The first event to take place on the new court was the Herman L. Osceola Memorial Basketball Tournament over the weekend of March 24-25.

The gym looked great for the event even though all of the painting was not completed. The walls behind the basketball goals will soon feature large pictures representing all the clans. Also, new pads for the walls will be installed soon for more protection.

Stan Frischman, assistant director of Big Cypress Recreation Department, commented on the vast improvements of the gym.

"This is a project we have been planning for a long time and we are pleased with the completion, and the Tribal members are able to enjoy the facility now," he said.



Tony Heard

Big Cypress spelled out with the "Sport Court" tiles.

Kids Learn Safe Driving at ATV Class

By Susan Etzebarria

BRIGHTON — The all-terrain vehicle, or ATV Safety Course, presented to the Brighton youth on March 19 and 23, highlighted the dangers of ATVs. The Brighton Recreation Department, Seminole Tribe 4-H and Seminole Police Department (SPD) joined forces to provide a hands-on opportunity for the children to learn safe driving techniques.

males. But, chances of survival increase by 50 percent if a helmet is worn, Smith said.

The officer also told the children about the laws regarding ATVs. Some children didn't know that driving on roadways is not allowed. Smith said that ATVs' tires are not suited for the pavement because the tread is designed for trails. The vehicles can roll and tip easier on the harder road surfaces.

Smith said driving without a helmet, for those under 16, is against the law and riding as a passenger is also against the law for all ages. He showed how a passenger may accidentally grab the driver too tight when they go over a bump or make a quick turn, and then the driver might have to swerve, causing the ATV to roll.

All these infractions of the law can carry penalties, such as tickets, fines and points on the driver's license. When children violate the laws, parents incur their penalties.

There are special helmets designed just for ATVs, Smith explained, because football or bicycle helmets cannot prevent head and neck injuries in an accident as they do not provide good peripheral vision. Children should also wear goggles and gloves as well as



Susan Etzebarria

Chastity Harmon maneuvering around the corner as Raven Smith waits patiently to take on the course next.

SPD Officers Michelle Clay, Thomas Faherty, Richard Smith and Kenneth Tillman, who is also the school resource officer at the Ahfachkee School, presented the safety seminar.

The first speaker, Tony Mello, got the attention of 6-to-10-year-olds on March 19, and 11-to-15 year-olds on March 23 with his tragic story. Mello, whose teenage son sustained permanent injuries in an ATV accident, helped to make the kids realize that these vehicles are not toys.

He said his two teenage sons were always told not to ride their ATVs without wearing their helmets, and they usually obeyed. But one day one son, then 15, jumped on the back of a friend's ATV as a passenger and took off without a helmet. The ATV was hit by a truck going 70 mph. Mello's son, now 18, has been bedridden for three years. He is unable to eat anything but baby food and is unlikely ever to walk again.

"He does not respond to anything; he just drools," said the heartbroken father. "He was a super bright boy. I wake up every day and I think about my boy lying in bed."

It was a difficult thing to talk about for Mello, who wanted to tell the children to listen to their parents and the police officers who are teaching them how to be safe.

"If you don't wear a 'brain bucket,' you could end up being a vegetable, just like my son," he said. "Then you will hurt everyone who loves you, not just yourself."

Next, SPD Officer Richard Smith showed a video, produced by the ATV Rider Institute, about ATV safety. It featured teens, each of whom lost a brother, sister or good friend in an ATV accident. Their message got the children's attention, too.

In the last 17 years, 200 people have died in ATV accidents, one-fourth of them children, mostly



Susan Etzebarria

The ATV riders learn how to properly fit a helmet before taking their turn on the course.

special boots or shoes that protect the ankles and are safer than sneakers, he said.

The class also learned that ATVs themselves must be the right size to ensure rider safety.

"Kids' feet have to be able to reach the floorboards and the hands have to be able to reach the handlebars when turning," Smith said. "Otherwise there will be accidents. Tipping and rollovers occur when a child is riding too large of an ATV."

After the one-hour class, the children were treated to lunch and fitted for new helmets, courtesy of the Brighton Recreation Department.

Later in the day, the children had a chance to pass tests on an obstacle course, then ride the FBI Trail. With officers riding along, the kids were able to learn the techniques of proper and safe driving with hands-on instruction.

Eighth Annual Seminole Sports Festival

Thursday, May 24th

Bowling

Pembroke Pines AMF
(954) 432-5500
This is a scratch tournament.
(No handicaps will be used
Thursday, Friday Saturday or
Sunday)

Registration ends 15 min.
prior to squad times

Squad Times

9 a.m.-12 p.m. Singles
\$16/per person
2 p.m.-5 p.m. Doubles
\$16/per person
7 p.m.-10 p.m. Teams
\$64/per team

Saturday, May 19th

Rodeo

Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena

Kids 5 p.m.

Call in
May 14 and 15
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

(863)763-1070

Friday, May 25th

Pool

Hard Rock Hotel &
Casino
(954)327-7625
Ballrooms A/B/E/F/M
Men's/Women's 8 ball
\$10 entry fee
Register at 10 a.m.-11
a.m., Shoot @ noon

Bowling

Pembroke Pines AMF
Registration ends 15
minutes prior to squad
times
Squad Times
9 a.m.-12 p.m. Singles
\$16/per person
2 p.m.-5 p.m. Doubles
\$16/per person
7 p.m.-10 p.m. Teams
\$64/per team

CoEd Slow Pitch

Softball

Hollywood Rec
Complex
To register a team call
Leon Wilcox at
(954) 989-9457,
Ext.10814
Registration fee:
\$500/per team
Make checks payable
to Seminole
Recreation

Saturday, May 26th

Pool

Hard Rock Hotel &
Casino
(954)327-7625
Ballrooms A/B/E/F/M
Men's/Women's 8 ball
\$10 Entry Fee
Men-5 Team/Women-4
Team
Register at 10 a.m.-11
a.m., Shoot @ noon

Bowling

Pembroke Pines AMF
Registration ends 15
minutes prior to squad
times
Squad Times
9 a.m.-12 p.m. Singles
\$16/per person
2 p.m.-5 p.m. Doubles
\$16/per person
7 p.m.-10 p.m. Teams
\$64/per team

CoEd Slow Pitch

Softball

Hollywood Rec
Complex
1st-\$5,000
2nd-\$4,000
3rd-\$3,000
15 man roster
Seven inning/1:15
game time limit

Sunday, May 27th

Pool

Hard Rock Hotel &
Casino
(954)327-7625
Ballrooms A/B/E/F/M
Men's/Women's 8 ball
\$10 Entry Fee
Register at 1 p.m.-2
p.m., Shoot @ 2:15 p.m.
8-Ball Scotch Doubles
(following 9-Ball)

Bowling

Pembroke Pines AMF
Registration ends 15
minutes prior to squad
times
Squad Times
9 a.m.-12 p.m. Singles
\$16/per person
2 p.m.-5 p.m. Doubles
\$16/per person
7 p.m.-10 p.m. Teams
\$64/per team

Golf

Jacaranda Golf Club
(954) 472-5836
Two man teams, Bring
your own partner
Register at 7:30 a.m.,
18 Hole Shot Gun Start
at 8 a.m.

\$20 Entry Fee

Monday, May 28th

Golf

Jacaranda Golf Club
2 Man Blind Draw
Register at 7:30 a.m.,
18 Hole Shot Gun Start
at 8:00 a.m.
\$20 Entry Fee

All
events
are open
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Native Ladies proudly display their championship jackets.



Mindy Fish guards Vodne Chapoose in one of their games to the championship.

♦ Legends

Continued from page 1

This game was guaranteed to be a good one considering the competition. In this game, Brighton defeated Hollywood for the first time ever. The game was everything the spectators had come for, diving on the floor for loose balls, fast-break points, amazing passes and big shots at crucial times. These two teams were playing the game the way it is supposed to be played, minus the crazy collisions and timely turnovers from not playing on a daily basis.

All of the mistakes were easily overlooked because of the effort and competitive spirit showcased by these two teams. Unfortunately, one of the teams had to lose, but there were numerous lead changes and game-changing plays before the end. The Brighton team made fewer mistakes and knocked down free throws until the final seconds of play.

In the end, Brighton walked away with the championship and the bragging rights until next year rolls around.

When the ladies hit the court again, the game got much more intense and the Old Skool Ballers weren't going to go down without a fight. The Native Ladies started off the same as in the first game, but their did not last this time. The Old Skool Ballers decided to get back on defense and stop the easy fast-break points by the Native Ladies. Their defensive energy carried over to the offensive end and the Old Skool Ballers made a lot of shots they missed in the first game. This time around, the Old Skool Ballers displayed great ball movement and teamwork. With about four minutes to go, the roles were reversed and the Native Ladies were the tired and winded team. The Old Skool Ballers held on for the win, forcing a tie-breaker game.

The championship game went back and forth; neither team wanted to go home without the championship. Shirley Clay led the Old Skool Ballers in shooting. But the Native Ladies kept it close. With only three minutes to go, they maintained their lead, thanks to the rebounding and



As a tribute to Dennis Osceola, Kevin Osceola wears his late friend's No. 13 Miami Dolphins jersey.



Old Skool Ballers are runners up in this year's tournament.



Men's championship game well under way.



Nora Billie drives to the basket as Shirley Clay dives for the ball.



Brighton takes home the nice championship jackets.



Hollywood claims second place honors.



Travis Osceola brings the ball up the court.

GO DRAGON CORNER



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

Little Warriors II
ages 6-7
4:30

Team Dragon
ages 8-13
4:45

Adults 14+
5:30

Tribal Martial Arts Program Set to Expand

By Irena Loleski

BRIGHTON — The Go Dragon martial arts program is on its way to Brighton. Classes are scheduled to begin on May 2 in the fitness room, with an open house allowing those interested a chance to meet the instructor, Master Robert McCarthy, and his staff.

Registration will be available onsite as well as through the Brighton Fitness Department.

Tribal-wide Fitness Department Director Vicky Barogianmis said she is proud to expand the Go Dragon program to Brighton.

"I am so excited to finally be able to bring this incredible program to our Brighton reservation," she said. "We began this program in Big Cypress in June of 2006, and it has absolutely surpassed all of our expectations. We are looking forward to duplicating our accomplishments in Brighton."

Through this martial arts program students are learning discipline, confidence, good sportsmanship, flexibility and teamwork. It's fun for the whole family, and anyone, at any fitness level, can participate and see results.

For more information on Go Dragon martial arts classes, please call (954) 931-0515.



Larry Bitter and Christian Alexander trade kicks during a Team Dragon drill.



Three year old Colin Bowers-Wilson practices front kicks during Little Warriors I class.

Ricky Joe Ahambaugh and Justin Ruff match up for a grappling drill.



Iyanka Rodriguez and Sabre Willie enjoy a moment together during Team Dragon class.



Master Rob McCarthy stands behind two dedicated Little Warriors: Kishawn Henry and Braden Jim.



Team Dragon: girls just wanna have fun! Kaiti Birt, Lurini Toman, Savannah Tiger, Mike Lopez celebrate a victory over the boys!



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

Sports ♦ Ham-pa-leesh-ke ♦ Vkkopvkv

Big Showdown in the Big Apple

By Chris Jenkins

NEW YORK — New York City is the perfect place to dream big. Sultan Ibragimov came one step closer to realizing his dreams on March 10. Madison Square Garden Theater hosted Seminole Warriors Boxing, Redline Media Group, Cirillo World and Swanson Communications for a great night of boxing action with seven matches on tilt.

Warriors championship contender Ibragimov (19-0-1, 16 KOs) faced Javier "The Monster" Mora (21-3-1, 17 KOs) in a heavyweight battle as the main event. Ibragimov was 1-0 in NYC making his only appearance in March of 2005 with a win by TKO. It was Mora's first action.

Coming in, both seemed ready to go. A confident but frustrated Ibragimov was bouncing back from a July 2006 draw to Ray Austin in 12 rounds. Mora won by a unanimous decision in January facing Earl Ladsen in six.

The match-up between the two came on the heels of a initial championship bout scheduled between the Russian native Ibragimov and the current World Boxing Organization heavyweight champion, Shannon "the Cannon" Briggs. The bout was postponed due to Briggs' pneumonia.

From the opening bell, Mora came out aggressive and attacking. A patient and defensive Ibragimov picked his spots to counter, and as the cliché goes, it was the beginning of the end. Forty-six seconds into the first round, Ibragimov made short work of Mora (by TKO) with a left hook and a series of jabs, and the fight was stopped.

Afterwards, a business-like Ibragimov was brief in his thoughts on the fight.

"I took my shots," he said. "[Mora] came out for a fight and got one."

Warriors Executive Director Leon Margules expected a much different fight than what took place.

"It was a 46-second surgery, but I thought it was going to be a long, drawn-out fight," he explained. "I thought Mora was going to be patient, get inside and try to stay in Sultan's face the whole night."

Margules maintains high hopes and is excited about his latest sensation.

"I believe 'Sultan' is the most talented heavyweight in the world," he said.

He added that fans and the experts



(L-R) Daniel Gopher, Cima Georgevich, Big Cypress Representative David Cypress, Naples Liaison O.B. Osceola, Fort Pierce Liaison S.R. Tommie and Justin Gonzalez at the Madison Square Garden Theater for the fight.



Roman Greenberg (L) uses his left jab versus Michael Simms.

should expect the same outcome for Briggs, when the two finally meet, June 2nd.

"I think [Ibragimov] is going to do to Briggs what he did to Mora," Margules said.

With the impressive win, Ibragimov can now focus his attention on another shot at Briggs in a heavyweight division where Ibragimov's other Eastern European brethren, Oleg Maskaev, Nikolay Valuev, and Vladimir Klitschko, currently hold the remaining major world titles. The next step for the south-paw will be Briggs in Moscow.

Other action on the venue included: undefeated International Boxing Organization Intercontinental heavyweight champion Roman Greenberg over Michael Simms in 10 rounds by unanimous decision. In welterweight action, a 16-0 Shamone Alvarez defeated an over-matched Travis Hartman in 2:19 with a first round KO.

In the light welterweight division, Edgar Santana won versus Dairo Jose Esalas by split



Ibragimov (L) unloads a left cross to a dazed Mora.

decision in 12. Among middleweights, Peter Quillin remained perfect versus Nathan Martin by TKO in 39 seconds of the second.

Junior welterweights Khabib Alakhverdiev and Miguel Ortiz faced off with Alakhverdiev winning by TKO in the first round. Featherweight action saw Eilon Kedem move to 2-0 over Manuel Angulo by split decision in four rounds.

Celebrities and Tribal officials making appearances were: Big Cypress Representative David Cypress, Fort Pierce Liaison S. R. Tommie and current light heavyweight champion Bernard "the Executioner" Hopkins.



Travis Hartman (L) braces for a blow to the chest from Shamone Alvarez.

Heritage Patriots Win First Lacrosse Game

Story and Photos by Sherrie Robbins

SUNRISE-American Heritage Patriots teammates Tucomah Robbins (No. 43) and Nelson Billie (No. 37) compete in their first lacrosse game against North Broward Prep.

The final score in the Feb. 23 game at North Broward Prep's Coconut Creek campus was American Heritage 6, North Broward Prep 3.

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Jesús Pabon (R) tries to avoid a stiff jab from Sebastian Hamel.



A game Sedrick Fields (L) taunts Michael Mooror (R).



Noe Bolanos (R) sizes up Adailton DeJesus to make his move.

Tribal Pride 2 at the Seminole Hard Rock

By Chris Jenkins

HOLLYWOOD — In their first collaboration, they made history as the first two Native American Tribes to present a championship card, Tribal Pride, in May of 2006. An encore was in order on March 16.

In Tribal Pride 2, Seminole Warriors Boxing, Sycuan Ringside Promotions, LLC and the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino would once again join forces presenting seven entertaining matches during the evening. The action was broadcast live on Telefuturo Deportes

"Piolo" Castillo (27-3, 17 KOs), with the title at stake, Caballero came in off a TKO win to gain the title versus Somsak Sithchatchaval in October of last year. Castillo was trying to bounce back from a loss last November by split-decision to Takalani Ndlovu.

With a height difference as the only visible mismatch coming in, this looked on paper like it would be a war; it ended in a whimper. The 5-foot-11-inch lefty Caballero used his reach advantage the entire bout. He controlled the tempo of the fight with jabs and stayed on the move over the 5-foot-6-inch Castillo. Castillo countered with aggression trying to corner Caballero and get inside to attack the body.

The bout took a weird turn for the worst in the ninth round however, as a frustrated and tiring Castillo took a page out of the World Wrestling Entertainment as he intentionally fell on top of Caballero causing him to fall in the ring. Amid the commotion, Castillo's camp decided to call it quits. The fight was called at the 2:02 mark of the ninth round and ruled a TKO win for Caballero, who retained his title.

Seminole Warrior's Boxing Executive Director Leon Margules said he thought the decision to quit was a good one by Castillo and his staff. Without a knockout, Castillo had only a very small chance to come back to win

the fight, according to Margules. "It was a very good stoppage," he said. "There was no reason for him to continue."

Other bouts scheduled included: Adailton DeJesus in a win over Noe Bolanos by unanimous decision in eight rounds in super featherweight action and Raul Marquez over Jonathan Corn by KO in the first round of super middleweight action.

Former three-time champion Michael Mooror continued his comeback with his second straight win by unanimous decision over energized veteran Sedrick Fields in 10 rounds of heavyweights.

In an evenly matched cruiserweight match-up, Shawn Hawk and Ed Perry slugged it out in route to a draw in eight rounds.

In lightweight action, Ramon Guevara scored an upset win over the previous undefeated Jorge Paez Jr. by TKO in the fourth round, and Jesús Pabon got a unanimous decision win in 12 rounds versus Sebastian Hamel. Members of the Tribal Council were in attendance to enjoy the action, including Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Council Representative David Cypress, Trial Liaison William Osceola and Fort Pierce Liaison S. R. Tommie.

The next scheduled event for Warriors and the Hard Rock is a nationally televised event tentatively set for May 16, featuring Glen "The Road Warrior" Johnson.



The champ gathers himself between rounds.

(Spanish) Television.

The main event featured two of the world's top 10 best at super-bantamweight as current World Boxing Association champion Celestino "Pelechin" Caballero (25-2, 18 KOs) faced Ricardo



Jonathan Corn (L) uses his jab to hold off Raul Martinez.



Steven Bowers presents the colors.

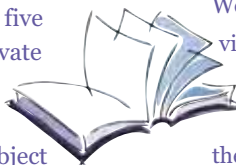


A happy Jonathan Corn prior to his bout versus Raul Martinez

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

♦ Complex

Continued from page 1

"Because we live in Florida," the council representative noted, "we have several months each year when the arena is nearly impossible to use because of the heavy rainfall and its effect on the uncovered grounds. When this project is complete, this will no longer be an issue. We will have a year-round facility."

Recalling "the wonderful man in whose memory this arena was originally built," Cypress declared, "I am proud to say that Junior Cypress was my uncle."

"Cattle was his life and as you know, work is never done when you work with cattle. He was instrumental in the early development of the cattle industry for the Seminole Tribe and introduced many of the next generation into this line of work. I think I can speak for him when I say that he would be very happy to have this wonderful complex named for him because it promotes a lifestyle in which he believed and creates a future for our younger generations who

were so important to him."

Big Cypress Board Representative Paul Bowers said, "I definitely support this project, which has been a long time coming. During one particularly wet summer, Mitchell and I promised the youngsters competing here in High School Rodeo that we would have a roof over their heads when they returned. Some of them are now running pro circuit and wonder 'Where's the roof?' By this time next year, they won't have to wonder anymore."

Junior Cypress's son, Jonah, thanked everyone on behalf of his father.

"My dad would have been very proud to have his name placed on something as wonderful as this," he said, "because it promotes the things that he built his life around — cattle, children, honest values, responsibility and a bright future for the Seminole Tribe."

"A face-lift for these rodeo grounds is long overdue," Chairman Mitchell Cypress said. "I can remember our first rodeos being held in some pens over on what is now the airstrip. James Billie envisioned this arena and moved it here. It was obvious to everyone from the very beginning whose name it should carry. I am proud to say that Junior Cypress was my uncle. He was with cattle 24 hours a day and children whenever possible. He had a keen interest in youth and always made time for them. Back when dividends were \$25 apiece, he would load us up in his cattle truck and take us into town. This brings back very fond memories for me of a much simpler time when our needs were small and I looked up to this man, who for me was 10 feet tall."

"Today is very important," said Fort Pierce Liaison Sally Tommie. "Standing here in Big Cypress, there is a natural beauty that none of us can take credit for — the sunshine, beautiful blue skies, circling birds and the quiet, intense surroundings of the cypress trees and open pastures. Birds drop seeds to renour-

ish our surroundings and allow life to renew itself. That doesn't happen with what is planted in the heart of a man for his community. It takes pride, ideas, actions and results to make a difference, and that is what is taking place here."

Pointing to Jonah Cypress and remembering her first encounter with him, Tommie said, "He is a special person with a big smile and an unlimited laugh. In Jonah I see the epitome of what his father would have wanted in a son."

Reminiscing about Junior Cypress, she continued, "That wasn't a cattle truck that he drove — it was a vehicle to steer the children away from the things in the street. It was guidance to make a dream a reality."

O.B. Osceola Jr. recalled, "When I was small in the early 70's, I would come out to Big Cypress with my dad, O.B. Sr., to sell beads and buy rolls of patchwork. Thanks to our leaders, the changes I have seen in the last 25 years are incredible."

"I came to this reservation 17 years ago as a counselor," Nery Mejicano said. "David Cypress told me I was burned out and had too much to offer to stay where I was. He pulled me out and gave me an opportunity to be part of the future and I am very grateful to him. Thanks to leaders like him, I have seen Big Cypress transform before my eyes and today is just another example of the progress that is taking place. Leaders like David Cypress have helped put Big Cypress on the map as a destination."

Assistant Director of Big Cypress Natural Resources Richard Bowers recalled, "I grew up in the shadow of such wonderful men as Junior Cypress and am proud to say that I chose my profession because of what I learned from them. Our elders are one of our most precious natural resources and we should cherish what we can learn from them and put it to good use. This is a proud day for the Seminole Tribe and an investment in the future of our young people."

Josh Jumper commented, "This facility will be here for years to come serving our community, but the difference it will make for the children can not be measured in words. I take my hat off



Paul Bowers, David Cypress and Mitchell Cypress are closely examining the architectural renderings for the project.



Aerial photo of the current Junior Cypress Entertainment Complex



Architectural rendering of the new covered rodeo arena



Richard Bowers joins members of the construction crew in examining the aerial surveys.



Josh Jumper's children, who grew up in this arena, take part in the groundbreaking ceremonies.

today to the leaders who had the foresight to realize what youth programs like the ones generated by this facility mean to the development of our next generation. I grew up in rodeo arenas like this one and dreamed of the day when I too could make a difference, and you have made that possible. Today marks a new beginning for an old story and I am proud to be a part of it."

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Rodeo ❖ Ko-waa-ye Esh-ham-pa-lèesh-ke ❖ Curakko Ohapoketv

Championship Bull Riding to Air on ESPN Brighton's Fred Smith Arena Featured

By Susan Etchebarria

BRIGHTON — Rodeo fans should set their TVs to ESPN on April 14 at 4 p.m. and to ESPN2 on April 19 at 3 p.m. to watch the world's top bull riders performing in Seminole Country.

These telecasts will showcase the Fred Smith Arena. Here on March 10, the Tribe hosted one of the top rodeo shows of the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association (PRCA) season. Eight-time world champion Donnie Gray will handle the color commentary, sure to entertain rodeo fans watching the toughest sport on dirt.

ESPN filmed 40 of the top bull riders in the world competing for a \$69,000 purse in the Dodge Xtreme Bulls Seminole Classic. There are 11 rodeo tours in the Xtreme Bulls series and only top arenas are chosen for this production.

The event opened theatrically with lights out, then a lone spotlight shining on Moses "Big Shot" Jumper Jr., dressed in traditional warrior



Susan Etchebarria
Leanna Billie handles the spotlight at the ESPN bull-riding event.

clothes, standing defiantly in front of a campfire. He picked up a spear, paces and hurled it into the ground, where it created a sudden bolt of fire spreading its electrifying branding-iron pattern of an X across the ground.

In a commanding voice amid more pyrotechnics, the announcer introduced the 40 bull riders as they entered the ring. When the lights came up, the Seminole Color Guard presented the salute to the flag and the audience stood for *The Star-Spangled Banner*.

The Seminole Classic is one of many rodeo tours presented throughout the year by PRCA Pro Rodeo. Others include the Wrangler ProRodeo Tour, the Professional Women's Barrel Racing and the Circuit system, in which cowboys battle to become the best in their regions and qualify for the Dodge National



Susan Etchebarria
Cowboys from all over the USA competing in the Xtreme Bulls Rodeo Tour.

Circuit Finals Rodeo.

World champion bull riders earn good money. Matt Austin set a new PRCA single-season earnings record in 2006 after winning \$320,766 in bull riding.

Even though there were no Seminole cowboys in the top 40, the Seminole-owned bulls of 5-Star Rodeo were selected as some of the meanest stock available. Marti Johns's and Paul Bowers Jr.'s bulls were chosen to perform in the company of the best in the industry, including bulls brought in from the Four L Rodeo Company and Southwick Robertson Wilson of Texas — some of the highest-rated bulls in the nation.

At this rodeo level, the bulls are known by name and reputation, and they compete for prize money, too. It was the reputation of some of these bulls that motivated Cody Hancock of



Susan Etchebarria
Bull rider Cody Hancock receives a buckle from World Champ Donnie Gray and Brighton Council Rep. Andrew Bowers.

great bulls. Great bulls make rodeo stars.

At Brighton, Hancock, the 2000 world champion bull rider, won his second event in four tries this year when he scored 178.5 on two rides, earned \$15,058 and moved to No. 6 in the ProRodeo Cowboys World Standings. Not bad for a cowboy who considered not entering the Seminole Classic due to injury.

In a combined effort involving more than 200 people working for the PRCA, Winnercom Sports and the Seminole Tribe, ESPN captured a spectacular and highly professional show filled with excitement and surprises.

"This was a good crowd for TV cameras," said Sam Dunn of Winnercom Sports, who managed the entire production. "We know that this event is important to the Tribe. It gives this

arena exposure."

The honor of showcasing this arena on ESPN testifies to the quality of the arena and the efforts of the Brighton's Rodeo Grounds staff, now under the management of Amos Tiger. He and the Brighton staff were hard at work the entire time.

A cowboy from Roseburg, Ore., Jason Mattox, said he liked the Fred Smith Arena. Being from the rainy Northwest, he said, he liked the fact it was a covered arena.

Ron Mandes, a former bull rider and now a professional rodeo photographer from Brooksville, Fla., took hundreds of photos during the event. He also said the Fred Smith Arena was a good venue for the event.

"It think it really went well," he said. "I had a blast and the bulls bucked well."



Jacoby Johns

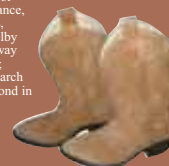
Rodeo Contestants Hit the Road Again

By Emma Brown

PIERSON, Fla. — The Brighton cowboys and cowgirls were on the road again during the weekend of March 10-11. This time, they traveled north to Pierson, Fla. to compete.

The weather was beautiful for the two-day rodeo, which also counted as two rodeos for the contestants. Only four rodeos remain before the state finals competition in June.

Results are as follows: Saturday performance, March 10: Jacoby Johns, second in bareback; Shelby Osceola, first in breakaway and fifth in team roping; Sunday performance, March 11: Shelby Osceola, second in team roping; Shyanna Osceola, ninth in barrel racing.



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Seminole Broadcasting

Movin' On (R), Seminole Family (C) and American Royalty (L) are on display at the R.A. Grey Building in Tallahassee.



Seminole Broadcasting

(L-R) The king, his servant and the queen, which make up American Royalty

✦ Sculpture

Continued from page 1

Bronze by Cooley team of Lamont, Fla. Bronze by Cooley, consisting of father Brad Cooley and son Bradley Cooley Jr., created the tableau as an homage to Florida's native peoples.

All three groups of sculptures created to date can be seen outside the R.A. Grey Building. The final work in the series, to be housed at the same location, will feature Indians from the pre-

Columbian era. It is slated for unveiling in March 2008.

American Royalty depicts Floridian Indians in the 1500s, the time of colonization by Europeans. The Cooleys studied drawings by 16th century French artist Jacques Le Moyne to maintain historic integrity when creating the sculptures. LeMoyné traveled throughout the Jacksonville area and artistically recorded the Timucuan people of the area.

The first set of sculptures, titled Movin' On, features a Miccosukee family from the 20th century. Movin' On was

unveiled to the public on March 15, 2005. The second features a Seminole man, woman and child and is titled Seminole Family. This bronze likeness of 19th century Seminoles was unveiled on March 15, 2006.

After the unveiling of American Royalty, the group of Seminole citizens, several invited members of the public and museum staff went into the museum for refreshments. Cypress expressed his view of the day's events and explained how important it is to continue this recognition of Native Americans in Florida.



Linda Cooley

(L-R) Nancy Frank, Brighton Tribal Council Representative Andrew Bowers, Maggie Garcia, Bobby Henry, Annie Henry, Peggy Cubis, Linda O. Henry and Susie Doctor stand with all three American Royalty sculptures.

Micki Free Donates Treasures to Hard Rock

By Felix DoBosz

HOLLYWOOD — Family, friends and invited guests gathered together to celebrate a thrilling event at the Hard Rock Café on March 23.

Cherokee and Comanche multi-platinum recording artist Micki Free contributed his actual Grammy award statue, as well as a guitar, a flute, a sequined black vest and an autographed photo of himself performing, to the Hard Rock's collection. All items are currently on display at the Hollywood Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

Fort Pierce Liaison S.R. Tommie emceed the donation event. Tommie introduced guest speakers who said how proud and honored the Seminoles are to be associated with Free, who works for the Tribe as deputy director of promotions.

Tribal leaders and Hard Rock executives took turns congratulating Free on his career and musical accomplishments, which include winning both Grammy and Grammy awards. The speakers also thanked him for his generous contributions to the priceless Hard Rock memorabilia collection.

"We are thrilled to add these rare and valuable items from this influential Native American artist to the largest memorabilia collection in the world," said Don Bernstine, manager of acquisitions/artist relations for Hard Rock International.

Free played his wooden flute and enchanted the crowd with a brief rendition of one of his Grammy-award-winning tunes.

"As a Native American descendant and deputy director of promotions, I share the Seminole Tribe's vision of making a difference in the lives of Seminole youth — especially those who dream of making it big in the entertainment industry," Free said. "I am honored to donate my memorabilia to the Tribe and I hope it will serve as a testament to

the success that perseverance brings. I hope that I can, in any way, pass on some of the blessings I have received in my life."

Free went on to make a few jokes but also took the time to thank his family, friends and the great leadership of the Seminole Tribe and the Hard Rock.

Then it was time to get down with a rockin' jam session. Free led an all-star band with fellow musicians and



Felix DoBosz

Micki Free enjoys performing at the Hard Rock Café.

friends including Jon Brant, formerly of Cheap Trick; Carly Smith, former drummer for Boston; and Jean Beauvoir, former singer of The Flamingos.

They played a set featuring three rock 'n' roll classics, to which everyone seemed to know the words. They started off with the classic Rolling Stones anthem "Jumpin' Jack Flash," followed by Led Zeppelin's "Rock and Roll" and finally The Wild Ones' "Wild Thing," which artists including Jimi Hendrix and The Troggs have covered.

Guests also enjoyed a delicious selection of entrees for lunch followed by a giant chocolate cake shaped like an electric guitar to commemorate the occasion.



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Announcements ♦ Ahaaheeke ♦ Nak-ohkērkēciv

Congratulations



To Pete,

Congratulations on your new position as vice treasurer. You are doing a great job and keep up the hard work. Pagaache and I are so proud of you.

With love,

Mercedes and Draven Osceola-Hahn

Congratulations to our son, Peter

Anthony Osceola-Hahn. We remember the quote over the football locker room at the Haskell Indian Nations University Stadium. It said: "Have you made your ancestors proud today?" We want you to know we continue to be proud of your efforts and accomplishments in life. We know this is just the beginning.

Love,
Mom and Dad

Poem

Can You See The Pride in the Panther?

Can you see the pride in the Panther by the way he or she walks?
They hold their heads up high surviving by the traditional ways that are taught.
So much has changed since our ancestors' days.

But it's still a cold cruel world.
Learn the language, culture and traditional ways.

That way you won't be one-dimensional — you could survive in the city or wild.
Master what you are taught; one day you will teach a child.

It's a blessing to be a Panther and an honor to be a Seminole.
Always represent and be proud, India J.C. Harjo.

You are part of the only unconquered in the United States.
No one else can say they stood toe to toe against their government of hate.
Baby girl, learn the language, culture and the traditional way of life.
It's the key to survival in this land of so much strife.
Can you see the pride in the Panther by the way he or she can withstand the tests of time?
Baby girl, we are always there for our own kind.

— Ike T. Harjo
Panther Clan

From Now On

From now on — that's what the judge said — in society's eyes I'm considered dead. Because that's really what a life sentence means, to enter society again will only be in a dream.

Only the strong survive in a situation as mine, since day one I've been strong and day after day I get stronger ain't nothing to this four letter word called "Time."
Each day that goes by is just another day in this cell; missing the streets of Hollywood, Miami and Fort Lauderdale. It's been several years since I been away

still ain't no sunshine, it's no ones fault but my own for living that life of crime. Word to the wise it might not be too late, change your ways before you too end up with an unknown release date.

From now on unless the courts set me free, this warrior like will always stand strong even as I become in society a distant memory.

— Ike T. Harjo
Panther Clan

Victim of Love

As I am here on my lonely bed,
And contemplate on the day that I met you
I am left with no options, but to feel blue.
Why you ask?

Well the first time I saw you, you enraptured my mind ...
I can't stop thinking of you, while I am doing this time ...

I wish I could see you,
Or at least hear your beautiful voice ...
But these prison bricks,
Won't give me a choice ...

I still keep in mind, that I met you in October ...
Your soft warning voice had me going astray.

You made me a victim,
With your beautiful looks ...
Hypnotized by your eyes,
I must say, "I was hooked."

I still remember the night,
That you rung up my cell ...
Thank you for being a beautiful woman,
You were concerned,
Of me being well ...

"Damn!" I tell myself,
"How did I miss those calls?"
While I'm lying in bed, surrounded by walls.

This poem's from a man that met a princess in October.
That's hoping and wishing,
That bricks won't put them away.

P.S. Bricks and bars could keep me in prison, but with you in my mind I'm keeping it real.

True 2 Life,
— Alex T.
Otter Clan

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Happy Birthday



Happy birthday to Grandma's Moo Cow, Jewel. I love you. You have a blessed day and hope you have fun.

Love,
Grandma Aranita and family



We would like to wish a very happy birthday to **Pete Osceola-Hahn** on April 13. We are happy to have you in our lives and couldn't ask for a better husband, father, uncle and brother-in-law.

Love,
Mercedes, Pagaache, Haliput, Tazumi, Nageesh, Tasha, JoJo and Courtney



Happy birthday
March 14
Biker Lady



Happy birthday to **Jordan**, my Tomato. God blessed me with a beautiful angel. You turned out to be a sweet young lady. Keep your head up, stay focused and stay strong. Respect yourself always and respect others. Happy Sweet 16!

Love you,
Mommy Aranita and family



Happy 1st birthday **Tyla "TV Ty" Heard**. It's unbelievable how fast you are growing ... time flies when you're having fun! Slow down a little bit and try not to pass up your big sister Stailce. We love you so much and continue to show us how big you are.

Love,
Mom and Dad, Bubba and Sisser,
Grandpa Moke and Uncle Blake and all your family from Oklahoma



Jada Sky Holdiness, we are so proud of you and all that you have accomplished in such a short time. You turned 6 years old on April 4, but you are still our special baby in every aspect of our daily lives. You make us laugh and every moment spent with you will be treasured in our hearts forever. You are and always will be, our baby, Chenchu.

Love you forever,
Mom, Broder, Nana, Jeka,
Mantha and Lilo



We would like to wish our baby girl **Saniya Kay Rodrigues** a happy first birthday on April 4. This year has gone by so fast. We love you more than anything.

Love,
Mom (Karen) and Dad (Stan)



Huge birthday kisses go out to **Miss Jewel Alice Frank**, who will be celebrating her 3rd birthday on April 10. Have a blast at Benihana's baby!

We love you,
Mom, Pop Pop, Wes, Dominic
and the entire family



Happy birthday **Hooks!**
From,
Laytee and Achonnaheche's
Mamma



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News From Indian Country

Six Native Artists Awarded SWAIA Fellowships

Diverse Backgrounds, Skills Included in Talented Group

Submitted by SWAIA

SANTA FE — The Southwestern Association for Indian Arts (SWAIA), the organization that produces the annual Santa Fe Indian Market, is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2007 fellowship awards for Native American artists.

Recipients include: Roger Amerman (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma) for beadwork/diverse arts, Diane Douglas-Willard (Haida) for weaving (basketry), Ira Lujan (Taos Pueblo) for sculpture (glass), Beverly Rose Moran/Bear King (Standing Rock Sioux) for beadwork/diverse arts, Rainy Naha (Hopi) for pottery and Penny Singer (Dine) for diverse arts (clothing design).

The fellowship was established in 1980 to provide financial support to exceptionally talented American Indian artists from across the

Submitted by SWAIA
Roger Amerman

nation. It also provides a substantial cash award, exhibit space at the Santa Fe Indian Market and increased national exposure for the deserving recipients.

George Toya, SWAIA board member and fellowship committee chair, said: "This year we received more applications than ever before, making the selection process even more difficult. However, we are really pleased with the breadth of the final recipients' talents, Tribal backgrounds and plans for using their fellowship monies."

SWAIA's Honoring Reception to formally recognize these award recipients will be held June 7 at the La Fonda Hotel in downtown Santa Fe. Tickets are \$50 and include hors d'oeuvres and wine. Proceeds will benefit SWAIA, a nonprofit organization, and its programs for native artists.

Please call the SWAIA Development Department at (505) 983-5220 before June 1 to RSVP. For more information about SWAIA, please visit www.swaia.org.

Roger Amerman (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma) — Beadwork/Diverse Arts

Amerman is an accomplished bead worker who is inspired by the history and traditions of Southeast Tribal peoples. His work draws on the strong, fluid movement and stunning

symbolism, which are typical of Southeast-style designs, using sun, stars, serpents, mythical animals and cultural heroes in his colorful pieces.

Submitted by SWAIA
Diane Douglas-Willard

He is a multiple award winner whose honors include two Best of Show awards at the Choctaw Nation Arts Show in Tuska Homa, Oklahoma, four prizes at the Speely-Mi Indian Art Market in Spokane, Wash., and one at the Indian Art Northwest in Portland.

He said he plans to use his fellowship money to produce a full-length Choctaw hunting coat. Amerman said it will be a project akin in magnitude to Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel as it requires traveling to acquire buckskins and five different types of beads in more than 30 colors. He said he will also have to research how to replicate traditional designs.

Diane Douglas-Willard (Haida) — Weaving (Basketry)

Douglas-Willard is a traditional Haida weaver who uses materials such as cedar bark and spruce root to painstakingly create her pieces.

Although she mostly makes baskets, she also does Raven's Tail and Chilkat weaving styles in clothing and accessories. She has been an instructor and demonstrator at the Totem Heritage Center in Ketchikan, Alaska and an award winner at art centers and exhibits across the country.

Douglas-Willard's work can be found in the permanent collections of the Alaska Native Heritage Center,

Submitted by SWAIA
Ira Lujan

and the Anchorage Museum, both in Anchorage and at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

He said her fellowship will be used to make a Raven's Tail robe using sea otter fur as the warp. In the past, Raven's Tail robes and leggings were made for those with chief status and very few of the old robes have survived intact.

"I have studied with Cheryl Samuel, who wrote the book on Raven's Tail, so Raven's Tail weaving has not been lost," Douglas-Willard said. Her education includes American Indian Studies at the University of Washington, as well as a certificate of merit from the Totem Heritage Center in Ketchikan, Alaska.

Ira Lujan (Taos Pueblo) — Sculpture (Glass)

Lujan is literally one of a handful of emerging Native glass artists. He has studied with noted Native American glass artists Tony Jojola at the Taos Glass Art and Education Center in New Mexico and Preston Singletary at Pilchuck Glass School in Washington.

He said he is inspired by the freedom he has found in incorporating everyday Pueblo utilitarian objects into glass. Lujan likes to compare glass to Pueblo pottery because "both are more than just functional. Cups and vases transform into objects that serve to not only hold water, but light and spirit as well."

His work can be found at several galleries in the Southwest such as Zane Wheeler in Taos, N.M., and the Institute of American Indian Arts gift shop in Santa Fe. Lujan was on the first Native Underground panel at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture in Santa Fe in 2006, as well.

He said he plans to use his fellowship to help construct a portable "hot shop." This is the space in which hot glass vessels are blown and created, and which take a tremendous amount of time, energy and money to maintain.

Beverly Rose Moran/Bear King (Standing Rock Sioux) — Beadwork/Diverse Arts

Moran has exhibited mostly at the New Mexico State Fair until this time, receiving accolades for her elaborate and beautiful beaded traditional outfits. She regularly participates in pow-wows as a Northern Traditional Buckskin dancer, and has performed at

the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra and Native American Music Awards.

She attended the University of Virginia in Arlington and Northern State College in Aberdeen, S.D., but is a self-taught bead artist.

Moran said she will use her fellowship to purchase supplies such as brain tanned hides and hair pipes to help her produce dance regalia, bone breastplates, and bags to show and sell at the Santa Fe Indian Market and other juried exhibits. She also states the fellowship will gift her with the opportunity to "professionally document by beadwork to share with all Nations."

Submitted by SWAIA
Beverly Rose-Moran/Bear King

Rainy Naha (Hopi) — Pottery

Naha is a third generation potter, primarily taught by her well-known mother, Helen Naha. While Naha has developed her own style, she has faithfully replicated the designs her mother used from the ancient pottery shards of Awatovi Village Ruins, near the Naha's home.

She has exhibited at markets and shows around the country, winning many awards. She has also lectured for institutions such as the Crow Canyon Archaeological Society as she believes it is important to educate academic communities and provide them with historically accurate information about Hopi art and culture. Her pottery making process is traditional in that she uses natural brushes and pigments and gathers and harvests all of her own clay.

With her fellowship she plans to purchase sheep manure to use as fuel for the firing process, as it is a substantial cost for creating her work. She will also set up a competition and awards program for Hopi youth, in order to encourage young artists to participate during workshops Naha gives during Elderhostel visits to her home.

"There is no better way to give thanks to the Creator and to my

Submitted by SWAIA
Rainy Naha

mother than by passing on the legacy of pottery creation to our children and grandchildren," Naha said.

Penny Singer (Dine) — Diverse Arts (Clothing)

Singer is a clothing designer who has won multiple awards at shows such as the Heard Museum Indian Market and the Santa Fe Indian Market for her contemporary Native fashions.

Singer loved photography, beadwork and abstract drawing while a student at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe and her photos of the Tec Nos Pos reservation and pow-wow circuit have become one of her principal design components. She often transfers photos directly to her pieces, creating wearable works of art.

She said she will use her fellowship money to purchase an industrial grade sewing machine and serger to help her fulfill the volume of orders she currently receives and to be able to do the more detailed work she is inspired to do.

Submitted by SWAIA
Penny Singer

NARF Debuts 'The Indian Wars Never Ended' PSA Shown for the First Time at Annual NIGA Convention

Submitted by the Native American Rights Fund

BOULDER, Colo. — On March 26, attorneys and staff of the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) premiered its first public service announcement at the opening ceremonies of the National Indian Gaming Association's annual convention in Phoenix, Ariz. The 60-second PSA titled "The Indian Wars Never Ended," is part of a greater campaign to generate a renewed awareness to one of Indian Country's most established and respected nonprofit advocacy organizations.

Featured in the PSA production are NARF Executive Director John Echolaw and members of

his legal team, as well as the award winning hip-hop duo, Culture Shock Camp. The cross-generational project represents the symbolic message of NARF as it establishes a contemporary message for modern times.

For 36 years, NARF has played a significant role in the progress of native peoples by providing legal advice and assistance to Tribal governments in need. Today, some of those Tribes are enjoying an economic renewal with the advent of gaming in the U.S.

To see the NARF PSA campaign, please visit www.moderndaywarrior.org.

Native Leaders Testify on Indian Housing

Submitted by the National American Indian Housing Council

WASHINGTON — Paul Lumley, executive director of the National American Indian Housing Council, testified March 22 before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. Lumley, a citizen of the Yakima Nation, expressed his and the NAIHC membership's hope for the reauthorization of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996.

The Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) is the primary federal legislation meant to provide for housing development on Indian reservations, in Alaska Native villages and for Native Hawaiian peoples. Lumley described the successes of the Act and made several recommendations for improvement, including a request for a minimum funding amount of \$750 million for the 567 Indian Tribes and Alaska Native villages across the country. Currently, the funding component of the NAHASDA, the Indian Housing Block Grant, is proposed to be funded at \$627 million for Fiscal Year 2008.

U.S. Sen. Byron Dorgan, (D-N.D.), chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, remarked about the need for more Indian housing resources,

saying Indian people had been "left behind in the American dream." He commented on the testimony of John Yellow Bird Steele, president of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, who described the needs of his people by saying they "want to live like every other person" in this country in decent, affordable housing.

Other panelists testifying before the committee included George Rivera, governor of Pojoaque Pueblo from New Mexico; Juel Burnette, program director of the Wells Fargo Native American Housing Initiatives; Dr. Jon Perez, director of behavioral health for the Indian Health Service and Housing and Urban Development. Congress will decide on the reauthorization of NAHASDA in the months to come. Please visit the NAIHC Web site for more information and to read the testimony in full.

The National American Indian Housing Council asserts Tribes and Tribal housing entities in reaching their self-determined goals of providing culturally relevant, decent, safe, sanitary and good-quality affordable housing for native people in Indian communities and Alaska Native villages. "A Tradition of Native American Housing." For more information, please visit www.naihc.net.

Tribe Gets \$1.1 Million for 2003 Oil Spill

By Lynda V. Mapes, Seattle Times Staff Reporter

SEATTLE — More than three years after nearly 5,000 gallons of oil fouled pristine beaches and a salt marsh, the Sogamosi Tribe has accepted a \$1.1 million settlement from Foss Maritime as payment for the environmental and spiritual damage wrought by the spill.

Tribal Chairman Leonard Forsman still remembers watching heavy black oil coat the beach and reservation marsh at Doe-Kag-Wats, near Point Jefferson on the Kitsap Peninsula, a sacred place for traditional healing, worship and shellfish gathering for his tribe.

"It was just painful, to know that you have a place that is part of you, part of your childhood, part of your heritage, to see it black and oiled. It was painful and frightening," Forsman said.

"It was a sanctuary for people. It was one of the few places we could still go to ... feel some freedom to be Indian. You can kind of feel at times you have been able to escape the 21st century. And then when it comes washing up on the beaches it definitely affected us, and it still does."

The settlement, reached Feb. 9 with Foss Maritime, was announced Monday by the Sogamosi Tribe. It intends to put the money toward a \$20 million cultural and economic revitalization project on the reservation, including construction of a dock and a museum; a story pole; renovations to Chief Seattle's grave; and a traditional community house for gatherings and ceremonial use.

The spill started at Point Wells on Dec. 30, 2003, when nearly 5,000 gallons of heavy black oil poured into Puget Sound. The oil overflowed from a Foss barge being loaded at the former Chevron/Texaco terminal near Richmond Beach.

Winds and tides pushed the oil across the Sound, where it washed up on the beach and marsh

owned by the tribe near Indianola. The spill polluted near-shore habitat, including eel grass beds used by herring and salmon; oiled birds; and temporarily closed down shellfish harvests.

Foss took responsibility for the accident, which led to new rules adopted last October by the state and the hiring of six additional inspection workers to help prevent spills during fuel transfers to commercial vessels.

If those rules had been in place at the time of the spill, containment booms would have been required to have been in place before the fuel transfer.

The tribe negotiated with Foss for three years to obtain the settlement for damages to its land. The company had previously paid the tribe \$126,000, and \$265,000 to a federal fund for environmental cleanup projects.

Foss also was fined \$577,000 by the state Department of Ecology after the agency determined a barge worker had underestimated how fast the fuel tanks were filling.

An alarm that was meant to signal when the tank was almost full had been shut off, and a second alarm also wasn't working, investigators found.

By the time the barge operator discovered the problem, about 4,700 gallons of heavy fuel oil had gushed into the water, fouling one of the last pristine salt-water marshes in Puget Sound and requiring a \$4.5 million cleanup.

Forsman said the tribe plans a traditional healing ceremony for the area in the spring because money alone can't soothe the wound.

"Feelings are mixed," he said. "There is definitely a sense of relief that we managed to stay out of court. But it's hard to put a dollar figure on this kind of injury."

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Settlement in oil spill

The December 2003 oil spill at Point Wells fouled miles of pristine beaches and led to new statewide rules governing fuel transfers over water.



Casino ♦ Esh-te-may-bee Cheke ♦ Setenpokvcuko

Band Camp 2007 Stops at Hard Rock

Tour Features Puddle of Mudd, Chevelle, Buckcherry, Three Days Grace

Submitted by Bitner Goodman PR HOLLYWOOD — Puddle of Mudd will headline Band Camp 2007. The event features Chevelle, Buckcherry and Three Days Grace for a performance in Hard Rock Live on April 26 at 6 p.m. Tickets are on sale now.

The alt-metal quartet Puddle of Mudd consists of Wesley Reid Scantlin (guitar and vocals), Christian Stone (guitar), Douglas John Ardito (bass), and Ryan Hearden (drums). They took their moniker from a mishap when the Missouri River flooded their practice space. The band released two independent albums, *Stuck* in 1994 and *Abruptly* in 1997, before releasing their major label debut album, *Come Clean*, in August 2001.

Come Clean has been certified Triple Platinum in the United States by the Recording Industry Association of America and has sales worldwide in excess of 5 million copies. The lead single from the album, "Control," grabbed the attention of rock audiences worldwide by becoming the theme song for the *WWE Survivor Series* 2001.

Their follow-up album, *Life on Display*, spawned two hit singles, "Away From Me" and "Heel Over Head." A new release is expected soon.

The Illinois rock group Chevelle, formed in 1995, now features family and band members Sam Loeffler (drums), Joe Loeffler (bass) and Pete Benardini (vocals, guitar). In 1999, Chevelle released their debut album, *Point #1*, on Squint Entertainment. Three years later, the band inked a deal with Epic and issued the platinum-selling *Wonder What's Next*, which spawned the hit singles "The Red," "Closure" and "Send the Pain Below," which topped both Mainstream Rock and Modern Rock charts.

The band's success resulted in their co-headlining Ozfest and embarking on a tour in Europe with Audioslave. In 2003, they issued a concert album, *Live from the Road* followed by *This Type of Thinking (Could Do Us In)* in 2004, which produced *Vitamin R (Leading Us Along)*, a No. 1 hit on the Mainstream Rock chart. The band's next album, *Vena Sera*, is scheduled for release this month.

Los Angeles hard rock band Buckcherry formed in mid-1995 after

singer Josh Todd and guitarist Keith Nelson were introduced by their tattoo artist. The band also features Stevie D (guitar), Xavier Muriel (drums) and Jimmy Ashhurst (bass).

In July 2002, founding member Josh Todd unexpectedly left Buckcherry, which led the band to take a hiatus. Regrouping in 2005, Buckcherry began recording songs that eventually would become the album *15*, which was released in early 2006. It features the hit "Next 2 You," which peaked at No. 18 on the Mainstream Rock chart, and "Everything," which reached No. 11 on the Modern Rock chart.

Canadian alternative metal/post grunge band Three Days Grace was formed in Norwood, Ontario in 1997 by Adam Gontier (vocals, guitar), Brad Walst (bass) and Neil Sanderson (drums). The group had originated in 1992 as a five-piece ensemble called Groundswell. It is now a quartet also featuring Barry Stock on guitar.

The band's self-titled debut album, *Three Days Grace*, was released in 2003 and reached the Top 10 of the American albums chart, the top 100 of the Canadian Billboard 200 albums chart and No. 1 on Billboard's Top Heatseekers chart.

The album's lead single, "I Hate Everything About You," reached No. 1 on the U.S. Modern Rock and Mainstream Rock charts and No. 2 on the Canadian Rock chart. The second single "Just Like You," gave the group a second No. 1 in America and also hit No. 1 on rock charts in Canada. Their third single, "Home," was also a hit, charting at No. 2 on the U.S. Modern Rock chart, and was the second-most popular Active Rock song of 2005.

Last June, the band released *One-X* featuring the single "Animal I Have Become," which reached No. 1 on both the U.S. Modern Rock and Mainstream Rock charts. The album's second single, "Pain," also recently topped the Billboard Mainstream Rock chart and the Modern Rock chart in February of 2007.

Tickets cost \$45, \$35 and \$25 for reserved seating; additional fees may apply. They are available at the Hard Rock Live box office, open daily from noon until 7 p.m.

Tickets are also available at all Ticketmaster outlets, online at www.ticketmaster.com, or to charge by phone: Miami-Dade (305) 358-5885, Broward (954) 523-3309 and Palm Beach (561) 966-3309. Doors open one hour before the show starts.

Motown Legend to Give Benefit Concert

Smokey Robinson Performs on April 22

Submitted by Bitner Goodman PR HOLLYWOOD — Smokey Robinson, founding Motown executive, songwriter and producer, and front man for the Miracles, brings his Legacy of Love benefit concert to the Hard Rock Live on April 22 at 7 p.m. Tickets are on sale now. Proceeds from the Legacy of Love tour will support the Smokey Robinson Foundation. The foundation's mission is to financially support educational programs and organizations that provide college scholarships to qualified candidates.

Smokey Robinson is well known for composing tunes with The Temptations including "My Girl," "Get Ready" and "The Way You Do the Things You Do." Other songwriting credits include R&B

and rock standards by the Miracles like "Shop Around," "Going to a Go-Go," "You've Really Got a Hold On Me," "Tears of a Clown," "Ooh Baby, Baby," "I Second That Emotion" and "More Love." Robinson has also composed for Mary Wells, Marvin Gaye and The Marvelettes.

Robinson is entering his fourth decade as a professional singer, songwriter and producer, adding to his distinguished career with his newest debut solo album, *A Quiet Storm*. Recognized by the music industry, Robinson's achievements include 36 Top 40 hits and a Grammy "Living Legend" award.

Most recently, Robinson received

the National Medal of Arts Award — the most prestigious and highest honor an artist can receive — from President Bush. He continues to sing about love, which he says is an "everlasting subject" that "never goes out of style." Tickets cost \$75, \$60 and \$45 for reserved seating; additional fees may apply. They are available at the Hard Rock Live box office, open daily from noon until 7 p.m.

Tickets are also available at all Ticketmaster outlets, online at www.ticketmaster.com, or to charge by phone: Miami-Dade (305) 358-5885, Broward (954) 523-3309; Palm Beach (561) 966-3309. Doors open one hour before the show starts.



Latin Singer Carlos Vives to Perform at Hard Rock Live

Submitted by Bitner Goodman PR HOLLYWOOD — Latin singer/songwriter and guitarist Carlos Vives performs at Hard Rock Live at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino on May 17 at 8 p.m. Tickets are on sale now.

In 1982, Vives landed a role in the Colombian TV series *Tiempo Sin Tregua*, starting his successful acting career. He later extended his professional skills to Puerto Rican television. In 1994, Carlos Vives' "La Gota Fria" became his first smash, climbing on the most important music charts around Latin America. In 1996, under the slogan of "Únete A Los Locales" — "Join the Local Ones" — the talented musician created his own label, called Gaita, to promote and give an incentive to local artists.

Tickets cost \$100, \$85, \$70 and \$50 for reserved seating; additional fees may apply. They are available at the Hard Rock Live box office, open daily from noon until 7 p.m.

Tickets are also available at all Ticketmaster outlets, online at www.ticketmaster.com, or to charge by phone: Miami-Dade (305) 358-5885, Broward (954) 523-3309 and Palm Beach (561) 966-3309. Doors open one hour before the show starts.

Steely Dan to Perform May 8 at Hard Rock

Submitted by Bitner Goodman PR HOLLYWOOD — Jazz-rock icons Walter Becker and Donald Fagen and their band, Steely Dan, make a stop in Hard Rock Live at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino on May 8. Tickets are on sale now.

Bass player Walter Becker and Donald Fagen on vocals and keyboards were the core members of Steely Dan throughout its variety of incarnations. With producer Gary Katz, Becker and Fagen gradually changed Steely Dan from a performing band to a studio project, hiring professional musicians to record their compositions.

Though the band didn't perform live after 1974, Steely Dan's popularity continued to grow throughout the decade, as their albums became critical favorites and their singles became staples of AOR and pop radio stations. During the summer of 1981, Becker and Fagen announced that they were parting ways.

The following year, Fagen released his solo debut, *The Nightfly*, which became a critical and commercial hit. Even after the group disbanded in the early '80s, their records retained a cult fol-



lowing, as proven by the massive success of their unlikely return to the stage in the early '90s. Fagen didn't record another album until 1993, when he reunited with Becker, who produced *Kamakiri*. The album was promoted by the first Steely Dan tour in nearly 20 years, and while the record failed to sell, the concerts were very popular.

In 1994, Becker released his solo debut, *11 Tracks of Whack*, which was produced by Fagen. The following year, Steely Dan mounted another reunion tour, and in early 2000 the duo issued *Two Against Nature*, their first new studio album in two decades. In the summer of 2006, Steely Dan went on tour with its "The Steelyard Sugarloaf" *McDan* concert and has announced dates for its 2007 tour, "Heavy Rollers."

Tickets cost \$200, \$150, \$100 and \$50 for reserved seating; additional fees may apply. They are available at the Hard Rock Live box office, open daily from noon until 7 p.m.

Tickets are also available at all Ticketmaster outlets, online at www.ticketmaster.com, or to charge by phone: Miami-Dade (305) 358-5885, Broward (954) 523-3309 and Palm Beach (561) 966-3309. Doors open one hour before the show starts.

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