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Council Holds Meeting in BC

By Chris Jenkins

BIG CYPRESS — The Seminole Tribal Council met for a regular meeting on July 23 on the Big Cypress Reservation. They passed 39 resolutions including:

Resolution 19: Grant of easement for right-of-way to Tampa Electric Company for Tampa Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

Resolution 22: Amendments of the Seminole Tribe of Florida 401(k) Plan; **Resolution 23:** Approval of the Seminole Tribe of Florida amended and restated Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan.

Resolution 24: Amendment of the Seminole Tribe of Florida Indian Casino 401(k) Plan effective Jan. 1, 2008;

Resolution 25: Purchase of Apple® computers for the Brighton Charter School.

◆ See COUNCIL, page 3

Board Holds First Meeting With New Representatives

By Elizabeth Leiba and Felix DoBosz

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Tribal Board of Directors met for a regular meeting on July 27 on the Hollywood Reservation. They passed six resolutions:

Resolution 5: Authority to apply for beer and wine sales license at the convenience store located on the Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 6: Approval of officials authorized to conduct business with the Office of Special Trustee for American Indians;

Resolution 7: Amendment to Resolution BD-006-07;

Resolution 8: Approval of authority to execute documents necessary to receive timber funds owed to the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. from the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

◆ See BOARD, page 2

Jennifer Chalfant Crowned 2007-2008 Miss Florida Seminole Princess Alicia Nunez Crowned 2007-2008 Jr. Miss Seminole



Emcee Moses Jumper, Jennifer Chalfant, Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Alicia Nunez and President Richard Bowers. Please see pages 29-32 for story and photos.

Tamiami Trail Field Office Grand Opening Celebration

By Elizabeth Leiba

OCHOPEE, Fla. — Tamiami Trail community members, Tribal employees and friends gathered for the grand opening of the Petties Osceola Sr. Trail Field Office in Ochopee, Fla. on Aug. 3. The event was hosted and emceed by Trail Tribal Liaison William Osceola who gave the crowd a warm welcome.

"I'm glad you're here today. I'd like to welcome you," said William Osceola. "It's really great that you made it out here because we're so far out. You

can take a look around and see how we're living out here."

Osceola introduced his staff members as well as Assistant Director of the Housing Department James Oleksak. Osceola's staff is working in conjunction with the Housing Department to bring many new improvements to the Trail Community.

Osceola explained that among the planned improvements are the building of two story homes in the preserve for community members as well as a movie room, new computers and tutor-

ing services provided after school for students.

"Today is a very special day because we've come a long way," remarked Osceola.

Oleksak assured the community that the Housing Department is there to serve all their needs to the best of their ability.

"I want you to know we are here to serve you," he said. "One of the things we want to do is expand the number of camps that are available."

◆ See TRAIL, page 5

Tribe Donates \$25,000 to Kyle Petty's Victory Junction Gang Camp

Motorcyclists Celebrate 13th Annual Charity Ride Across America



Kyle Petty and Max Osceola hold the check with Seminole Tribal citizens and their spouses after completing the charity ride.

By Felix DoBosz

HOLLYWOOD — On the afternoon of July 20, the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino roared to life, welcoming a motorcade made up of almost 300 custom touring motorcycles and their riders. Seminole Paradise signified the completion point of the 13th annual Chick-fil-A® Kyle Petty Charity Ride Across America.

Hollywood, Fla. was the seventh and final stop of this fund raising ride, which started out 2,600 miles north in Bar Harbor, Maine on July 14.

Kyle Petty remains one of the most popular NASCAR drivers and is also founder of the ride; he is the son of the legendary NASCAR and Hall of Fame driver Richard Petty. The Victory Junction

Gang Camp, founded by Kyle and wife Pattie Petty, is dedicated to the memory and honor of their son Adam Petty.

Adam was a fourth generation NASCAR driver who was killed in May 2000 in a tragic practice run for the NASCAR Busch Grand National Series

◆ See RIDE, page 6



Max Osceola at the press conference.

New Starting Location Revealed for Winterfest Boat Parade

By Felix DoBosz

FORT LAUDERDALE — On July 26, five months before the annual Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade takes place on Dec. 15, a press conference was held to announce its relocation. The parade route used to begin at Port Everglades, a limited view starting point, and will now start in Downtown Ft. Lauderdale on the New River at the Broward Performing Arts Center.

It then cruises east to the Intracoastal Waterway, then north to its customary destination Santa Barbara Lake in Pompano Beach. This change will allow an additional estimated 250,000 spectators to cheer while lined up on both sides of the narrow New River. Home owners, condo owners and guests will have a fantastic view from their homes and balconies as well as restaurants and hotels.

This year's boat parade should prove to be the best ever because it will not

◆ See WINTERFEST, page 5

Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sweeps Region with 'Best of' Awards

Submitted by Bitner Goodman PR

HOLLYWOOD — *Casino Player* magazine editors recently announced the 2007 Best of Gaming Awards, which are based upon reader response. The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino secured first place for Best Overall Hotel Casino and Best Overall Entertainment, and among 37 other first place awards, two second place awards and one third place award.

The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino swept the region in nearly all categories for overall hotel casino, entertainment and dining.

On the hospitality side, Seminole Hard Rock garnered first place for categories including Best Overall Hotel and Best VIP Services. The casino was named Best Overall Casino, Trendiest Casino, Best High Limit Players Lounge, Best High Limit Slot Area, Most Innovative Slot Floor and Most Frequent Casino, among others.

Entertainment designations include Best Overall Entertainment, Best Bar, Best Pool Area, Best Pool Bar, Best Nightclub, Best Place to Shop and more. Council Oak received recognition as Best Steakhouse and for its Champagne Brunch. Several Seminole Paradise restaurants won accolades in categories, as well.

The Best of Gaming awards are tallied in more than a dozen different regions around the country. This year, more than 4,000 reader responses from around the country were received. Now in its 12th year, these awards are widely considered the consumer standard by which the industry is measured.

"Gaming may be expanding in Florida, but our readers remain loyal to South Florida's stunning Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood — one of the highest-end, amenity-driven gaming resorts on the East Coast," said Adam Fine, *Casino Player* magazine's editor-in-chief. "The property is definitely in a class of its own."

◆ See AWARDS, page 26

Board Appoints New Land Use Director

By Felix DuBosq

HOLLYWOOD — On July 12, the Tribal Board of Directors announced that they have selected a new Land Use Director. His name is Marvin Bowers, 40, Snake Clan. Bowers is a Brighton community member and the son of Elsie Bowers.

In his new position, Bowers will be responsible for overseeing 14 employees and the department budget. The Land Use office is responsible for clearing land for future use and maintaining and operating heavy equipment and bringing in clean fill for construction projects.

For the past few years he has been working primarily in Brighton, also for the Board. Bowers has three years of experience with the water resources department and for the past four years has worked as a land use foreman. He said he learned a lot about how things run and was always ambitious to gain as much knowledge about all the various operations he performed and later supervised others performing.

Bowers started working for the Tribe when he was just 19 years old in the old Brighton Citrus Grove Program. He worked for nine and a half years operating the heavy equipment, water pumps and big trucks.

"I got tired of that and started my own business hauling landscape trees for my transport truck business for four and a half years," he said. "Some of my new responsibilities are meeting new contacts to make sure projects are maintained and running smoothly and on schedule. This was my goal to become the director of this department and bring in more money for the Tribe. We can here to serve the Tribe as much as we can for whatever is needed."



Marvin Bowers

Felix DuBosq

Tribal Youth With A Big Heart

By Susan Etzhebarria

MOORE HAVEN — Skyler Burke is a Tribal youth with a big heart. On July 10, the Brighton resident arrived at the Glades County Courthouse on a mission.



Skyler Burke and Donna Keen

Susan Etzhebarria

The sixth grader, who attends Moore Haven Elementary, waited in the hallway with her mother, Connie Haight, to enter the Glades County Tax Collector's office. She was there to surprise Donna Keen who works for the county. Keen is the wife of the late Doc Keen, a highly respected veterinarian who had worked with the Seminole Tribe cattle owners for many years.

The 4-H youngster, who was proudly wearing her 2006 green and white 4-H jacket, had to wait outside the office, and out of sight, for a good while until Keen was finished waiting on a customer. In her hand she held a check for Keen.

Burke's steer was sold during the Seminole Tribe Annual 4-H Show and Sale in March. She had pledged \$2,000 to the Doc Keen Scholarship Foundation from her 4-H earnings. Burke won Reserve Grand Champion at the 4-H Show and Sale. She also won Jr. Showmanship. Burke had pledged the amount then but she didn't receive the money until recently.

When Burke and her mother finally entered the office, Keen was taken by surprise. She was so happy to see the young girl that she hugged her. The check will help many other youth go to college, she said.

Burke said she knew Doc Keen. "He helped me with the steer and when my steer was sick, he gave him a prescription. He was really a good guy and when he died I was sad," said Burke.

Keen was very touched by the gift. "I think it is so special that a young girl could recognize how much Doc loved the 4-H kids. Doc was a 4-H leader for 30 years and his gravestone has the 4-H cloverleaf emblem on it," she said.

Doc Keen died in 2006. His wife, Donna, created the scholarship fund in his name. This year three graduating seniors received \$1,000 each to help with their college educations. One graduate received a \$500 scholarship for trade school.

"On behalf of the scholarship committee and Doc's family we wish to thank Skyler and all the Tribal members that have donated so generously to the Doc Keen Scholarship Fund," said Keen. She added that Moses Osceola, prior President of the Board of Directors, had bought a steer at the Hendry County Fair for \$12,780 that was donated to the scholarship fund as well as a \$50 add-on from former Big Cypress Board Representative Paul Bowers.

Council

Continued from page 1

Resolution 37: Sale of 13.72 +/- acres of vacant land located in Mooresville, N.C. (STOF Holdings, Ltd., as seller);

Resolution 38: Ratification of letter of intent with W.G. Yates & Sons Construction Company for design/build contractor for the parking garage at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino-Tampa;

Resolution 39: Ratification of letter of intent with Alliance Contracting Corporation for high limit and executive offices at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino-Hollywood;

Resolution 40: Seminole Tribe of Florida election to participate in the National Sex Offender Registry and Notification System;

Resolution 41: Bronze by Cooley contract for the completion of a life-size bronze sculpture of Rudy Tiger Osceola with panther;

Resolution 42: Approval of application and agreement, irrevocable standby letter of credit, addendum, and security agreement for irrevocable standby letter of credit with Wachovia Bank, National Association related to the construction of improvements at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino-Tampa; limited waiver of sovereign immunity;

Resolution 43: Ha-Sho-Be Golf, L.L.C. Memorandum of Understanding;

Resolution 44: Landlord's lien waiver, access agreement and consent with respect to the Hard Rock Café at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino-Hollywood; limited waiver of sovereign immunity; and

Resolution 45: Mediation resolution agreement between the U.S. Department of Justice and the Seminole Tribe of Florida D/B/A Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino-Tampa regarding accessibility to TAD devices facilitated by mediation conducted by the Key Bridge Foundation.



By Ramona Kiyoshk

Dr. Seuss, Native American Style 'Flight' by Sherman Alexie

By Ramona Kiyoshk

A few years ago, I met Sherman Alexie in Toronto at the press suite where the young Spokane/Coeur d'Alene author from Seattle was receiving reporters. I had prepared questions, but asked none of them.

We talked instead about life: his and mine. Alexie was relaxed, warm and unburied, every bit as charismatic as the photos in *Esquire* and on book jackets. I asked about his pregnant young wife. That was when his eyes darkened and his tone changed. He said he was concerned about bringing a baby into such a cruel, evil, dangerous world. Those were not his words exactly, but that is what he more or less meant.

I don't have my notes from that meeting. His demeanor suggested Native Americans were doomed to a life of struggle and targets for racism. He was getting angrier as he spoke. I wanted to hug him. We chatted a bit longer and then with a well-meant thank you, I hurried out into the drizzly, Lake Ontario morning.

What I recall most was a young man, not much older than my own son, who was scared.

Recently, I read *Flight*, Alexie's latest book. The first word that came to mind as I read was forgiveness, only because a writer had used the word in a review about *This Business of Fancy Dancing*, Alexie's first book. I did not find forgiveness in Alexie's earlier works.

I did find a young man trying to come to grips with his place in America — anger and pain were the dominant emotions. There was warmth and laughter. Native people are family people and family includes all our friends. Warmth and camaraderie keep us going. All these feelings were still there in *Flight*, but this story is about metamorphosis.

I think Alexie, who is now the father of two, has been working on how to present the world to his children. And, following in the steps of other seekers of truth who go to the mountain, Alexie went to his personal mountain and came back with this book.

The main character in *Flight* is an alienated teenage boy whose nickname is Zits. He is an orphan, half Native-half white, plagued by that

teenage nightmare, acne, and suffering abuse and pain at every turn in a foster care system filled with predators and vultures. The boy is feisty, smart and streetwise.

By a twist of fate, he finds himself transported back in time to the Civil Rights era on a reservation in Idaho, where he is an FBI agent. He and his partner meet two Native warriors who are informants for the government. Zits witnesses betrayal, cruelty and deceit. He also witnesses love and kindness.

Are some killings right and others wrong, he asks himself? What defines good and evil and when are they different?

"We are all the same people," Alexie writes. "And we are all falling."

This time-travel phenomenon goes on as Zits finds himself in the body of a mute Indian child in a camp rejoicing after the Battle of Little Bighorn. Then, after that battle, he becomes a crusty, old Indian tracker for the U.S. Army.

Another time he inhabits the body of an airline pilot who commits suicide after betraying his wife, his mistress, and his country. Then as the *pièce de résistance*, Zits finds himself in the body of drunken, sick, broken Indian rummaging through dumpsters in a Seattle alley. He discovers he is in the body of his long-lost father.

The word betrayal comes up again and again; and so many questions.

When are cruelty, deceit, war, lies and revenge acceptable? These puzzles confront the astounded time traveler over and over. "Is revenge a circle inside of a circle inside of a circle?" he writes.

When the time travel journey dumps Zits back in the lobby of the Seattle bank where he started out, with two loaded guns, ready to shoot up the place, he realizes that he can still choose. It really is about choice and self-efficacy.

I think Alexie has decided that darkness, racism, violence and stupidity will always be out there; but love, knowledge and family will always hold back the night, and even the most hideous toads become princes in a loving embrace.

This book is an important marker on the writer's personal journey as a man and I believe that it is a gift to his own, and to all, children. The lessons are universal and told through the eyes of a rambunctious, vulnerable and very believable teenage boy, who swears a lot.



Flight

By Sherman Alexie

Black Cat, a paperback original imprint of Grove/Atlantic
\$13, paperback original
200 pages

Publication date: April 2007
Reading Group Guide Included

Even
a fish
wouldn't
get
caught
if it
kept
it's
mouth
shut

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

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Cowboy Happy Jumper wrangles the cattle for weigh in time.

Gordon Oliver Wareham

Cattle Shipping Days at Brighton and Big Cypress

By Susan Etsebarria

Shipping of this year's calves from the Seminole Tribe's individual and corporate herds was 14 days of exhausting, exhilarating and sometimes exciting moments as a new system for weighing cattle was introduced.

Approximately 5,000 head of cattle were rounded up from more than 55 pastures starting July 16. The first week the shipping took place at Marsh Pen at Brighton. The second week shipping took place from Cow Pen at Big Cypress. The calves were loaded into semi-trailers heading for feedlots in Nebraska, Illinois, Oklahoma, Texas, Mississippi and Tennessee. Each semi-trailer is loaded with 82 to 125 head of cattle depending on the weights of the cattle loaded. For example, 82 calves weighing approximately 600 pounds will fill one truck.

Sold at record-high prices for the third year in a row, the highest priced beef brought \$1.30 a pound. "Everything we sold this year was over a dollar a pound," said Don Robertson, the Tribe's Director of Natural Resources. "The Tribe's cattle sell good because of its reputation."

Work began early for the cattle crew, rounding up cattle at daybreak. The weather was hot and humid. By noon you could see the exhaustion on their faces. But the day continued hour after hour depending on how many cattle were to be shipped that day. A normal day is round up, sorting and weighing of six or seven herds a day. Herd sizes vary.

Alex Johns, assistant director of Natural Resources, supervises the cattle foreman, and two full-time cowboys throughout the year. But during the round up this year there were an additional 14 cowhands hired just for this special time. There was regular staff from the Natural Resources Department working at the cow pens instead of in cool air-conditioned offices.

"The shipping at Brighton went faster and smoothly," said Leoma Simmons, office manager of the Cattle and Land Operations. Simmons tallied the weights on a computer. She said the remodeled pens at Brighton are much easier to work at now since they are no longer sitting out in the direct sun.

A new system was used for the first time at Brighton. It is an electronic weighing of each individual calf that saves many hours in the shipping process. The calves are fattened up and finally weighed in July when they are shipped to the buyer.

In the past, calves were weighed by manually adjusting weights on a scale (much like humans are weighed in a doctor's



Don Robertson, Natural Resources director, shows the old manual scale at Big Cypress next to the new electronic scale.

Gordon Oliver Wareham

office). The weighing process now works with the Tribe's electronic identification (EID) of each cow with a chip in its ear that enables precise record keeping. The "pay weight" was automatically transferred to a computer when a calf was corralled onto a scale. Each calf was on the scale and off in seconds then loaded onto the truck. Pay weight is what each calf brings after it was sold at a certain price per pound in March.

"You see that little scale I was working on?" said Johns. "This was the first year we actually scanned, sorted and weighed all our cattle with EID. We automated the entire system. Last year, and years before, all the cattle had to go to a big scale and were hand-tallied."

That was the old way of doing it, he said. This year the pay weights were gathered through electronic weighing and he said in one week at Brighton they saved \$8,000 dollars in weight alone just due to less shrinkage. "The calves didn't have to be handled as often as they were in the past," he said.

Instead, they were just pushed through quickly one at a time. In prior years he said the calves were losing about a half percent of their weight by the time they were sorted into groups of five or six and then weighed on a big scale.

At Big Cypress, the calves were still weighed five or six at a time, as in the past. But, the electronic weighing was used there instead of the manual weights, which reduced the time. Next year the new system of weighing one calf at a time will also be used at Big Cypress. Brighton was a trial run this year that paid off for them.

The shipping days are one of the major events of the year in which all the cattle owners participate. They assist with the round up of their herds and separating calves that have been sold. The cattle owners whose herds are being shipped have the special tradition of supplying a bountiful lunch that day for all the workers.

One cattle rancher who was present at the July 17 round up was 69-year-old Rosie Billie of Brighton. She can identify with the labor of the shipping days.

"There have been some beef recalls lately but not the Tribe's because of our EID. Our quality is really high."

—Cicero Osceola
BC Board Rep.

"I was 17 years old when I got a herd," she recalled. "Cattle owners back then only had about 15 or 20 head and we all had to pay for our own feed, our veterinarian fees, maintain our own fences and pastures," she said.

Later, the Cattle and Land Operations was established after the Tribe's Board of Directors formed in 1957. Today the Board handles most of the cattle management. Tribal cattle owners still pay fees out of their profits but for the most part they do not personally have to repair fences, manage the grasses, care for the herds when sick, and do the endless amount of government and regulatory paperwork involved in the cattle industry.

"We had more cattle owners back then than we do now but some sold out," said Billie. She said that it was hard work for many and not as profitable in the beginning. "We would earn about a \$100 per head."

Billie said she worked right along with the men patching fences and she earned \$13 a day. Today, her daughter, Emma Urbina, is one of the few cowgirls who works with the cattle in the pens during shipping days.

Billie sat under the chickee during the early morning and through the lunch. She enjoyed talking about the way it was at Brighton in the '40s and '50s when she was

growing up.

"There was no water; no electricity at our camp," Billie recalled. She said it was a big deal for her family, who resided at Micco Camp, when they were able to buy a Coleman lantern for light.

Billie was a very active member of the Tribe. She worked as manager of the Tribal store at Brighton and was a council representative for four terms. She helped start the first field days at Brighton, and she was involved in 4-H when the only animals they raised were chickens.

"We took turns going to feed them," she remembered. She attended many meetings about starting casinos but she has mostly retired now. "I stick with my cattle now, nothing else," she said.

At Big Cypress another of the women cattle owners was present at the shipping pens on July 24. Mary Tigertail has owned her own herds for 20 years and was the first woman there to own a herd. Today she is the president of the Big Cypress Cattle Committee. She said her pastures were once farmland where peppers were grown. Fertilizing the pastures has resulted in better grass.

"When it was dry we used to buy hay, but now the pasture is a lot better than when I first started," she said.

Tigertail believes the Tribe should always invest in the cattle industry. "It's our history. When we didn't have what we have now, we always had our cattle," she stated. "It helped us make it through thick or thin. It was the Tribe's survival. The cattle will always be here. Money and casinos are fine but that is not our history."

Another cattle owner, Big Cypress Board Representative Cicero Osceola, was also present. He is enthusiastic about the future of the cattle industry.

"With the new EID program it is going to open a lot of doors and expand our beef market, maybe selling it to the Hard Rock chain," he said. "There have been some beef recalls lately but not the Tribe's because of our EID. Our quality is really high."

President Richard Bowers showed up just before noon after the rounding up of cattle on his ranch. Asked if he was very busy now after his election to the Board, he joked, "I am very busy. This is actually a vacation day. Working the herd is like my day off."

Bowers said the Tribe is making money with cattle and will continue to make more money. Robertson asserted that the pastures, fertilizer and extreme care given to the cattle contribute to the Tribe's high quality herds.

"The calves surprised us after the drought. They are looking good and weighing heavy," said Robertson. "We are getting data back about the carcasses and we've made changes. The EID program is vital to us. It tells us what kind of bulls to buy and we are buying bulls with really good carcass, high in marbling scores. The Tribe's cattle is U.S. Prime Choice."



Susan Etsebarria

Leoma Simmons (L) tallies the weight of the cattle from the computer.




Gordon Oliver Wareham

FAST FOOD: From the pen to your plate.




Susan Etsebarria

(L-R) Pedro Zepeda and Mary Tigertail get a demonstration from Leoma Simmons on how the new scale works.



PRESENTS:

UPCOMING CATTLE RANCHING EXHIBIT



If you have family memorabilia or stories to tell that relate to the
Seminole Cattle Ranching Industry please contact :

Michole Eldred
Curator of Collections, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum
micholeeldred@semtribe.com
(863) 902-1113 EXT. 12209

to arrange for a meeting to discuss the possibility of loaning your items
for the exhibit.



Broadcasting workshop participants: Joseph Santiago, Tampa; Jason Dodd, Hollywood; Darwin Cypress, Big Cypress; Deandra Tiger, Hollywood; Shelli Mae Osceola, Hollywood; Jesse Mitchell, Hollywood and Brittany Huff, Big Cypress.

Seminole Youth Explore Careers in Broadcasting at Workshop

By Elizabeth Leiba

HOLLYWOOD — Danny Jumper wants Seminole youth to know that broadcasting can be a fun and rewarding career. Jumper, director of the Seminole Broadcasting Department, hosted a week-long workshop designed to introduce young Tribal citizens to the possibilities of a career in broadcasting.

The Seminole Broadcasting Youth Video Production Workshop 2007 kicked off on July 23. Topics included an overview of broadcasting careers, hands-on training in videography, editing and audio, and an opportunity for students to produce their own five minute video with help from Seminole Broadcasting staff.

Jumper saw this as an opportunity to get younger people interested in the field of broadcasting. Fourteen years ago, he began the department with little experience and a small budget. When Chairman Cypress decided to expand the department and its functions, Jumper went to work, hiring Tribal citizens and providing them with on-the-job training.

"There was a need 14 years ago," said Jumper. "It was hard to find people with a background in broadcasting."

Jumper said he hopes to hold this event each year and encourages Seminole youth to get involved.

"Even if we have one person get into broadcasting, then my feeling is we have accomplished the intent of the workshop," he said.

During the workshop, Jumper stressed good work habits and professionalism. Participants were held to high standards with a full week of eight hour days. Sessions were led by Seminole broadcasting staff members, who have worked in professional media outlets nationwide.

Students were divided into two teams of four and asked to develop a video. They were free to express their creativity and were guided by staff on all aspects of pre-production, which included story development and location scouting. They also experienced what goes on during production, where they learned camera operation and composition, and post-production, for editing, audio effects and more.

The seven students: Darwin Cypress, Jason Dodd, Brittany Huff, Jesse Mitchell, Shelli Mae Osceola, Joseph Santiago and Deandra Tiger, all said they liked participating in the weeklong event.

"It wasn't exactly like I thought it would be," explained Deandra Tiger, 14, from the Hollywood Reservation. "I thought it would be boring at first, but I met new people and it was really fun."

The week culminated in a dinner at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. Family and friends were present to celebrate the accomplishments of the budding broadcasting professionals, and had an opportunity to view the videos they



In the *Among the Dead* video, Shelli Osceola turned into a zombie and creeps in the background behind hitman Jason Dodd.



In this scene Jason Dodd is a hitman, Shelli Osceola and Joseph Santiago give him his assignment and tools to complete the job.



Broadcasting employee Roberta Schicchi assists the new crew in editing *The Pizza Parlor* video creation.

❖ Winterfest

Continued from page 1

start in the limited-view Port Everglades. The new route will provide an abundance of viewer vantage points that will allow cheering fans to be much closer and participate in the holiday light spectacle on the water.

Lisa Scott Founds, president and CEO of Winterfest, Inc. welcomed everyone with great excitement to the afternoon press conference. She explained the plan to expand the boat parade route by changing the starting place to downtown, which will allow for greater viewership and greater audience participation.

Founds then introduced invited guest speakers and dignitaries. Each spent a few minutes on the podium explaining how excited they are about the change in the parade route. Many also discussed the positive impact this will have on ringing South Florida cash registers. It translates into millions more dollars and increased revenue flow for the local economy.

Hollywood Tribal Council Representative Max B. Osceola Jr. and Seminole Gaming CEO James Allen attended the press conference.

"You know Ft. Lauderdale is known as the 'Venice of the United States' and historically Seminoles used waterways," Osceola said, speaking on behalf of the Tribe. "I can remember my elders telling me that they used to go canoe down the New River. They would bring the furs, or whatever they wanted to trade to the original Downtown Ft. Lauderdale, which was the Stranahan House. So this was our downtown, and this is where the history of the Tribe began and the history of Ft. Lauderdale."

"So we must remember this, and when we pass by the Stranahan House we're going to wave because a long time ago they took care of us," he continued. "Now, today, we've been blessed. We're able to be this year's sponsor not because we have to, but because we want to. Thank you for coming here and during the parade we need you on the shore; we need you on the boat; we need you waving and we need



Three generations of the Holland family pose in their Toy Soldier uniforms.

you here."

At a later interview with WSVN-TV reporter Nicole Linsalada, Osceola said: "Our ancestors traveled down the New River in canoes, and now we will be traveling down the River on yachts. Isn't it cool?"

Lined up and on hand smiling to meet and greet the guests were the famous Holland Family Soldiers. The family has participated in Winterfest parades, dressed as toy soldiers, for more than 30 years. Each year the soldiers get shot by a cannon to the great delight of the cheering crowds along the shore.

This will mark the 36th year of the parade and the theme is Magical Movie Moments. Spectators should be on the lookout for re-creations of scenes from classic Hollywood films on the boat decks.

The Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade is billed as the seventh largest spectator event in the country and Top 20 parade in the world, according to www.winterfestparade.com. Billed as a Rock and Roll Fanta-Sea, the new slogan for Winterfest is "New River, New Direction, Same Tradition."



Hollywood Tribal Council Representative Max B. Osceola Jr., Broward County Tourist Development Council Chair Nicki Grossman and Seminole Gaming CEO James Allen pose in front of the Oscar statue.

❖ Trail

Continued from page 1

Oleksak explained that the housing department has 300 homes in the process of being constructed and 200 that are in the initial planning stages. There will also be a need to build 100 new homes across the reservations to serve the needs of the Seminole children who are becoming adults.

Tribal Secretary Priscilla Sayen mused about how much the community has changed since her days working for the U.S. Health Department in the late 60s. She remembered that at that time, all that was provided for the community was an outhouse, a bathhouse and septic tanks. There was also no readily accessible healthcare for community members.

"We have come a long, long way," Sayen said.



Elizabeth Leiba

Construction continues at the Pettis Osceola Sr. Trail Field Office.



Elizabeth Leiba

Trail Liaison William Osceola addresses the gathering.

more princesses are needed from the Tribal community, as the former Miss Seminole from the 2006 – 2007 year was Brittany Yescas, an Ochopsee resident. He encouraged young women from the community to participate in upcoming pageants and represent the Tribal community.

In closing, Osceola remarked that the Seminole Tribe has come so far in 50 years and accomplished so much in such a short time.

"Today is a great day to be Seminole," he said. "It's fantastic."

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Riding down State Road 7, the 300 bikers who participated in the 13th annual Chick-fil-A® Kyle Petty Charity Ride Across America head toward their final destination, Seminole Paradise.

Felix DoBoz

✦ Ride

Continued from page 1

race in New Hampshire. In honor of his son, Kyle changed his car number to #45, his son Adam's number. When he races in the NASCAR circuit he drives the #45 Marathon Petroleum Company Dodge Charger for Petty Enterprises.

Kyle Petty combined his love of motorcycles with his deep compassion to help people when he opened the Victory Junction Gang Camp on 72 acres of land in Randleman, N.C. The camp "enriches the lives of children with chronic medical conditions or

The Chick-fil-A® Kyle Petty Charity Ride Across America collects donations from sponsors, business and ordinary people along the way. Generous Americans, families and kids line the roadway from town to town donating money for this worthy cause, as the motorcade parades down the main streets of their town.

Now in its 13th year, the ride has logged more than 45,000 miles, more than 5,350 riders have gone on the ride and they have donated more than \$9 million to charity. Some of the big name celebrities on the ride were: Harry Gant, retired Winston Cup champion; Steve Park, NASCAR driver; Herschel Walker, former professional football player, Niki Taylor, model and Burney Lamar, NASCAR driver.

Tribal citizens joining

Hollywood Council Representative Max B. Osceola Jr. on the long charity ride were Joe Osceola Jr., Vince Micco, Loretta Micco, Barbara Butera, Chris Osceola, Alicia Micco and Tina Lacey.

Max Osceola welcomed all the riders to "Paradise" at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino before presenting Kyle Petty with a donation check.

"About 50 years ago we were rich, we just didn't have any money," he said. "We were rich in what was important; we were rich in family, culture and history. So we've been blessed and now we're blessed economically."

"There is a saying: 'You can't buy happiness,'" he continued. "Well, every rider here brought happiness for all the children at Victory Junction and that deserves a big round of applause. So to help the cause, the Seminole Tribe of Florida wants to give Victory Junction

[camp] a check for \$25,000."

Kyle Petty said, "God bless you guys and thank you guys for all y'all did this year. We are richer today and blessed more today to be here on this stage with this fine group of folks."

In the more appropriate Hard Rock tradition, Max Osceola was happy to present Kyle Petty with shiny new electric guitar to wild cheers and applause from the audience. It featured the Seminole Hard Rock and the Kyle Petty Charity Ride logos.

Following this, Grammy and Grammy award winning rock musician Micki Free serenaded the



Hollywood Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. presenting Kyle Petty (L) with an electric guitar featuring the event logos.

Felix DoBoz

(L-R) Chris Osceola, George Flannigan, director of the Country Music Award Video of the Year, Steve Park, NASCAR Driver and Jeff Kelderman of Kelderman Air Ride systems participated in the race.

Felix DoBoz

serious illnesses by providing life changing camping experiences that are exciting, fun and empowering, in a safe and medically sound environment," according to www.victoryjunction.org.

The \$34 million facility features an auto racing architectural theme and includes more than 44 buildings. More than 4,400 eligible children have attended the 10 week camp since its opening in June 2004. Children attend the camp free of charge thanks to the ongoing financial support of the charity ride, corporate sponsors, foundations and generous donors.



Felix DoBoz

Hard Rock/Kyle Petty T-shirts were given to participants.



Felix DoBoz

Model Niki Taylor, who participated in the ride, on a 2007 Victory.



Felix DoBoz

Miss Seminole 2006-2007 Brittany Yescas and Hollywood Council Representative Max B. Osceola Jr.

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Poetry Slams, Performances, and the Triumphs of the Poet

By Elgin Jumper

DELRAY BEACH, Fla. — More than anything else, Renda Writer, demands to be thought of as a poet. Truth is, this poet's one-man revolution has brought about a sweeping change on the entire South Florida spoken word scene.

Writer possesses a virtual arsenal of creative, organizational and administrative skills. These include: creating numerous poetry and spoken word events, music-related freelance writing, acting, producing, directing, and writing for film, recording an experimental hip-hop based poetry album entitled, "Eclectic Poetic," working with local schools and community organizers in a successful bid to create a wider audience for poetry, and more.

Writer stated, "First and foremost, I'm a poet. That's how I really see myself."

With the production of his new CD, "Workaholic," which is still in the process of being recorded, listeners and connoisseurs of the current spoken word clamor will be sure to experience an obvious break from the past.

I interviewed the poet recently at Kervo's Gallery, Studio and Art Bar in Downtown Delray Beach, Fla. Deb Sullivan and Kevin Rouse, friends of Writer and gallery owners, generously opened their doors for us prior to business hours, specifically for purpose of the interview and photographs.

Writer is trim, resolved, with black hair and a serious, purposeful attitude. He's 28 and I found his conduct to be meticulous, direct and to the point. His self-proclaimed label of "workaholic" is well-placed.

He's busy most of the time, almost every night, with planning, organizing, promoting, and hosting poetry and spoken-word events. Make no mistake about it, he is well-entrenched in the creative life of South Florida; and he is ever-insightful, informative, intelligent, "quick-on-his-feet" and involved.

Writing seriously since 2000, Writer is a poet emanating a rare charisma intermingled with a piercing precision and an exacting truthfulness. He has made a name for himself in the poetry slam showcases and spoken-word events in and around Queens, in New York City. While there, Writer has performed in such famous places as: Nuyorican Poet's Cafe, The Bowery Poetry Club and the Apollo Theatre — "without getting booed offstage" he joked. The poet was also cast in the CBS reality-based television show, *Cupid*, which was produced by American Idol's, Simon Cowell.

Not long ago, Writer released a debut experimental poetry album, "Eclectic Poetic." It is a unique

a diverse set of poetry events along the way.

His second CD, "Workaholic," is still in production, and will be put out independently, he said.

"There'll be a variety of producers working on it; eight producers in all," the poet informed me. "I

performance aspects of the poem, as much as I do on writing of the poems themselves. You've got to put a lot of effort into memorizing and practicing it. The thing with performance is: every time you perform it, you get better."



Esta Liederman

(L-R) Tribal citizen Elgin Jumper interviews poet Renda Writer at Kervo's Gallery, Studio and Art Bar.

go through a company in New Jersey called Discmakers for the Duplication. As far as the artwork, the layout and the graphics, I'm going locally with the guys from ULS Media, who I've done in previous with. I'll be promoting and distributing the CD myself."

He stated he would like the time to go on a lengthy tour of major colleges to promote the release, but he realizes also that he is far too busy to do so sufficiently.

"I'm really itching for the opportunity to go on the road, on the college circuit," the poet disclosed. "That's my real dream."

Regardless of the art form he's immersed in at the time, Writer's creativity knows no bounds. Sometimes he writes with a plan, and sometimes it's fast, but then again, sometimes it goes at a slower pace. "Sometimes it's inspiration," he said, "spur of the moment."

For instance, he is working on his next album. All the poems that are going onto the album will be "like planned efforts," he said he has a clear vision of how he wants the CD to look, the track listing, everything.

"I'm going into the studio this weekend," he remarked, "and I'm working on three poems: One's called 'She's a Pronoun,' one's called 'Watch it Grow' and the other one's called 'The Moon.' So I've got a really focused vision. I have a process going into this album."

"I've been looking through old notebooks. I do that a lot when writing new stuff. Writer added, "I pull out a bunch of notebooks and just flip through and find stuff when I was inspired and I'll just rip it out and what I did like six to eight months ago; I got the idea."

"If I'm going through these old notebooks, then every time I find something I should rip it out, and put it in a box, a certain particular box I have in my closet. That box now holds the work that's going on my next album," he said.

Describing his poetry, Writer said, "It's kind of 'Slam.' Its semi-slam poetry style; very rhythmic, and most of it rhymes."

He said he finds it rather difficult to write work that doesn't rhyme. "It's really hip-hop-oriented, too," he added.

"I grew up listening to hip-hop, and I think, if I had to say what it was that got me into poetry, I'll have to say, it was definitely hip-hop," he added.

The poet spoke to me about about "performance" and its great significance to the spoken word movement.

"Performance is very important," Writer emphasized, "especially to the type of poetry I do. What I do is very performance-based, so I work on the

"I know a lot of people who bring poetry to the kids," he told me, stressing the poet's vital importance for youth in the community. "I did poetry workshops at Coral Springs High School and at Atlantic High School here in Delray. I see that growing a lot. I'm getting more into it. Youth poetry is just as big as Slam and Adult poetry and there's just as much of a scene for it now."

And that's the direction poetry is headed in. Meanwhile those inspired enough to assail the stage with their brilliant performances aren't all that concerned about whether their detractors accept the new way or not, they must however keep the public informed about just what it is that's coming.

Writer is prolific. There are no boundaries, "No limits, no rule, do it all."

"Some poets like to stick to certain boundaries or whatever," he said. He prefers a poetry which runs a whole gambit of topics.

"I've got one called 'The Real World,' which I wrote in New York back in 2001," he recalled. "It talks about how so many people are not so real. I wrote it at a time when I felt kind of jaded. I was broke, and I was in New York. I've got one called 'Cubicle Cages' that I wrote in New York when I was working some office jobs. It's about the office world and the cubicle life. I've got this one, 'The Peddler,' it's about how I write poetry on my bike. That one I'm probably the most proud of. It's so different."

Writer was born on Long Island and moved to Florida when he was only 9. "My dad got a job transfer down here," he said. Coral Springs was where the family ended up and most of the poet's school years were spent there.

Following high school, he attended and graduated from the University of Florida in 2000 with a degree in finance. From there he moved back to New York, this time to Queens, and the explosive spoken word scene there. Three years ago he returned to unleash his campaign to drastically alter, for the better, the South Florida spoken word poetry scene.

Two years ago, Writer met a group of creative people known as ULS Media. They were instrumental in introducing the poet to film work.

"They do graphic designs, they do websites," he said. "They do all sorts of artistic stuff. And they do video production. So ever since I started hanging out with these guys, they got me more involved in film work."

On his website, he has a short film entitled, *Bullet First*, which was part of a local annual event known as "The 48 Hour Film Contest" in Miami.

"You meet at this certain place," he explained, "and they give you a title of a film. They give you a character's name. They give you a certain line that needs to be in the film and they give you a genre."

"Then, of course, you have 48 hours to use those basic ingredients," he continued, "to write, cast, shoot, direct and edit a film. We did that last year. I helped write it. The two main guys from ULS went down to Miami, got the assignment, and came back. And as soon as we got down there, it started shooting, and we were up for the whole 48 hours. That was my first real adventure of getting on film and writing for film."

And those adventures into film are only getting bigger, noted Writer, expanding on to include film work in the Grindhouse genre, which is now being revived by filmmakers such as Quentin Tarantino and Robert Rodriguez.

He hosts four weekly open mic nights a week and one poetry slam monthly. He is mentioned frequently in the local print media such as: *The South Florida Sun-Sentinel*, *Boca Raton Times*, *City Link* and *New Times*. Writer has hosted fundraisers for "Kids in Distress," and opening nights for art exhibitions, stand-up comedy and spoken word showcases.

"It's cool how it leads to other things," said Writer. "Being a poet puts me on stage. People see me onstage, but they see other potential in me, too ... they say, 'Hey, I'm working on a film, do you want to be a part of it?' I think you'd be a good writer for it and things come my way, just gaining visibility."

He explained how he started organizing poetry slams: "I was on Craig's List, a website for networking, around 2004, and in some section, I found a posting that said, 'Local bar in Boca Raton looking to start up an open mic. Needs a host.' I did a lot of other open mics, too, which led to more events."

In 2000, a poet had discovered the path to self-identity. And the search for that "true self" appears to be a reoccurring theme in Writer's poems, striving as he does to analyze, evaluate and figure out just who he is.

"I'm 28," he said, glancing at the single word tattooed on his upper right arm near the shoulder. "I'm at that stage where I'm still trying to figure stuff out. In 2000, I really started discovering who I am, which is a poet. I got this tattoo, and that kind of filled it in. That's what I am: a poet."



Esta Liederman

Renda Writer

collection of 33 poems, rhythmic, powerful, brutal and deeply-influenced by his rich hip-hop upbringing. Among many other projects, he will also produce a poetry chapbook by year's end. Writer shifts effortlessly between art forms, while organizing and hosting

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Youth Conference Offers Lessons for the Whole Family

By Iretta Tiger

ORLANDO — It seemed like any other conference dinner; good food and great service. Then they appeared: Mickey and Minnie Mouse! This was the first sign of just how special this conference was.

From July 8 through 14, the Hollywood/Non-Resident Youth Conference was held at Disney's prestigious Grand Floridian Resort & Spa.

The goal of the conference was to instill Seminole culture in all the participants, including the adults. Classes for adults were a part of the daily schedule.

"We are not trying to tell you how to raise your kids or how to live," said event emcee Lawrence Baker. "We just want to show you alternatives and offer you a chance to see what is out there."

The classes that were offered to the youth were also offered to the adults. The afternoon schedule for the adults was always dedicated to arts and crafts and several hours were also allotted to the youth. The culture room was open nightly for a few hours following dinner.

It was awe-inspiring and humbling to see many of the Seminole youth, some as young as 7 years old, creating patchwork and needing very little assistance. They were very serious and were cutting and sewing like an old pro. Student Wyatt Deitz, 11, even made a SpongeBob SquarePants T-shirt for his 4 year old brother.

Each day Carol Cypress taught an *Eleponke* language classes. The classes were more than just memorizing words. Cypress taught about the meaning and history. For example, when she taught about the medicine colors she explained that white symbolized spirit and that black symbolized death. The medicine colors also represent the four races of man, and there are also several other meanings of the colors.

Though Seminole culture was top priority, there was an array of topics covered at the conference, including defense techniques. Go Dragon, the martial arts school based in Big Cypress, taught self defense. Participants were taught basic jabs — a type of punch — and how to defend against a choke hold. They also offered valuable advice.

These excellent teachers will soon have their own complex in Big Cypress and they are working on arrangements to teach on the Hollywood Reservation.

"Banking 101/Savings 101," "How to Save Money" and "Investing and Guarding Your Wealth" were among the other topics. These classes were also a part of the schedule for the youth. Money management concepts played an important part of the conference.

This year "Tommy Dollars" were introduced. Every youth participant was given one Tommy Dollar for each class they attended. Bonus dollars were given for "random acts of kindness," which included helping someone without being told to do it.

The purpose of Tommy Dollars was to teach the youth about saving because every night a canteen would open at the end of the conference schedule. All sorts of toys were available for the children to buy with their Tommy Dollars. For those who could resist temptation and save their money until the very end of the conference was the ultimate prize, a \$50 gift card that could be used at any of the Walt Disney World resorts. This card could be bought for \$27 Tommy Dollars.

The kids did pretty well. The staff had 35 gift cards to start with and by the end they had only four left.

Motivational speaker Jim Warne, Oglala, held classes about self-esteem. Warne stressed the importance of self-identity and motivation.

"If you fight with your fists you're going to lose eventually," Warne said "It's not the right path."

Warne has achieved much in his life. He is an actor and has appeared in several movies and television shows and he played football with the Cincinnati Bengals. Warne also earned a master's degree from San Diego University and is currently working toward a Ph.D. at the University of Northern Colorado.

Though he has accomplished so much, what Warne is most proud of is his Oglala heritage and all native people. He is involved in several native programs and his biggest desire is to enable other Native Americans in obtaining higher education.

For more information about Jim Warne or any of the organizations he supports please see www.jimwarne.com.

Also attending this year's conference was a delegation from the Ho-Chunk Nation of Nebraska. The Ho-Chunk youth participated in classes, including arts and crafts.

On the last day of the conference the Ho-



Madeline Gopher teaches basketmaking.

Iretta Tiger



Iretta Tiger

Alli the Alligator teaches the youth about how to properly deal with bullies.

Chunk youth held cultural exchange classes. They wore traditional clothing and performed traditional dances. Darrell Fierro and elder Vivian Thundercloud explained the dances and the traditions.

The patterns on the women's dresses are specific to a family, and to use that pattern a dancer must have permission from that particular family.

Clans can use specific colors and cannot use other colors. For example, the Thundercloud Clan cannot use black because black is not in the sky. Clans also cannot eat the meat of their clan animal, i.e. the Bear Clan cannot eat bear meat.

The Ho-Chunk youth enjoyed the conference and even had their favorites.

"I really liked the language classes, they were my favorite," said Jalisa Horn.

Though they had a great time their biggest desire was to see our reservations, especially Big Cypress, because they want to see an alligator.

Ho-Chunk Chairman Louie Larose held classes about the buffalo. Larose helped his Tribe raise a buffalo herd, which has grown since being bought. He explained the dynamics of buffalo families.

"For so long the bison has taken care of the

Indians," Larose said. "Now we're in the cycle where the Indians need to take care of the bison until it's their turn to take care of us again."

Larose concluded his class with this message: "I want you to be proud like the buffalo."

The conference concluded with a banquet.

Robert North from the Boys & Girls Club presented Jim Warne and Lawrence Baker with Seminole shirts. Virginia Mitchell made the shirt for Warne and Holly Tiger-Bowers made the shirt for Baker.

Each youth age group gave musical performances. The 5 to 7 year olds sang while the 8 to 11 year olds played guitars, with Rhett Tiger on the drums, and the teen group performed on guitars with a traditional flute.

Arts and crafts created during the conference were displayed. To top it all off Disney created a special cake for those who celebrated their birthdays during the conference. The cake was topped with a chocolate sculpture of



Iretta Tiger

Go Dragon demonstrates self defense.

Mickey and Minnie Mouse.



Iretta Tiger

Cindy Adair buys a Mickey Mouse gift card, which she saved her Tommy Dollars for.



Iretta Tiger

The 12 - 17 year olds entertaining the crowd at the closing banquet.



Iretta Tiger

Seminole Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Ho-Chunk Chairman Louie Larose wait for classes to start.



Iretta Tiger

The Ho-Chunk boys perform their Traditional Men's Fish Dance.

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

14th Annual Seminole Wellness Conference

By Elgin Jumper

MARCO ISLAND, Fla. — An atmosphere of healing and renewal permeated the Marco Island Hilton Hotel, from July 15 – 20 for the much anticipated 14th Annual Seminole Wellness Conference.

Attendees came together from all the Seminole reservations, along with members of the Miccosukee Tribe and Tribal employees.

Looking into the rear view mirror of the important event, a thought which comes to mind is just how useful the wealth of information gathered from the presentations is.

Wellness, of course, is the main idea behind the intensive schedule put together by Helene and Andy Buster, together with a proficient committee. Numerous addictions were addressed during the conference, which underscored a balanced physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual contentment. And year after year, the organizers make sure to include in the agenda, the Seminole and Miccosukee youth.

Early risers and exercise enthusiasts will recall the walks and runs along the echoing beach for three miles and the smells of the sea winds. The ardent staff from the Fitness Department organized and carried through the remarkably helpful activities. With the

Wellness Conference this year. It is a program designed to focus on prevention and educating through activity and is open to all children up to 15 years of age. Participation was totally voluntary.

The burgeoning Youth Program was carefully put together by Non-Resident Liaison Holly Tiger-Bowers.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress took the podium next and requested a moment of silence in remembrance for a recent tragedy on the highway, involving both the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes. He then went on to address the group about the conference.

"Today, God gave me an extra day to be with you," Cypress said. "We have a very good program for you. The motivational speaker or messenger doesn't just happen. It comes through God and a message through a human being. We're here for a reason. I'm very happy to see each and every one of you."

Next to address the crowd was President Richard Bowers, Jr.

"Helene has done another tremendous job," Bowers said. "She's an inspiration to me. And I'm sure she's an inspiration to everyone here."

The president also urged attendees and the Tribe to include the traditional languages in the overall recovery process, to meet with and learn from Tribal elders and especially to never forget where you come from. He also expressed exceeding pride in the Seminole Wellness Program.

Following welcoming remarks by BC Council

"Sobriety is an option, it has always been an option, and it will always be an option."

Representative David Cypress, Brighton Council
Representative Roger Smith and Immokalee Council
Liaison Elaine Aguilar, William McKinley Osceola spoke.

Said Osceola, "I'm very grateful to be here; in recovery, I didn't do it alone. I had a lot of people to help me. So like I heard Helene say earlier, be open-minded, be willing to receive, and put forth the work. Thank you for inviting me here. Sho-na-be-sha."

Making an appearance this time was motivational speaker and NFL football legend, Thomas "Hollywood" Henderson.

"Hollywood" relayed his powerful story to an enthralled audience, who were absorbed in the hope



Jasmine Porter of Family Services handed out valuable information at the department booth.



The banner that covered the podium at the 14th Annual Conference.

gradual ascent of the orange sun in the east, just on the other side of the stirring heat, the walkers and runners thoroughly enjoyed the commencement of the long day.

The Fitness Department strives to provide Seminole Tribal citizens with all the information and material necessary to elevate healthier lifestyles. They were in constant motion, on hand to offer specialized regimens to any interested participants.

Registration and breakfast for participants began and ran from 6:30 a.m. through 8 a.m. daily.

On the morning of July 16, an opening welcome and conference announcements were made by Helene Buster and attending Seminole Tribal dignitaries.

She then made a point to recognize the dedicated committee responsible for organizing the five day event. They were, among a long list of others: Mark Billie, Geraldine Lee Osceola, Carol Cypress and Suzanne Davis.

Tribal leaders who welcomed the attendees were: Chairman Mitchell Cypress, President Richard Bowers Jr., Brighton Council Representative Roger Smith, Immokalee Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar, BC Council Representative David Cypress and William McKinley Osceola of the Miccosukee Tribe.

"This Wellness Conference is something that is very important to me," continued Buster. "So I put a lot into it."

She pointed out the conference's great significance to Seminole and the Miccosukee Tribes, saying it is organized and brought about through committee, and it advocates daily recovery program from alcoholism and drug addiction. She said it also helps Tribal citizens become more educated about diabetes, stress, fitness and many afflictions.

It was a well-planned itinerary which challenged those in attendance. Lengthy friendships and new acquaintances were carried on or made and the speaker and audiences were hard pressed to find the time to do anything else but focus on the paths to wellness and the extensive meetings.

Helene Buster, during one of her announcements, read a letter introducing participants in the new Youth Program to the Seminole



Debbie Osceola taught sewing during the arts & crafts portion of the conference.



Conference participants enjoy an early morning walk on the beach.

steeped within his words. Wearing a 1977 Super Bowl ring, Henderson's subject matter ranged from cocaine addiction, alcoholism, extreme domestic abuse, dysfunctional families and hopes and dreams, among a host of other topics.

The ex-football player for the 70s Dallas Cowboys played in no less than three Super Bowls, but he is quick to point out that he is no better than anyone else. He has a

Davis, along with an ever-helpful staff of health educators, arranged an enjoyable presentation called, "How We Got This Weigh." She educated participants on losing weight and, interestingly enough, "about how the weight finds us."

Davis then introduced a "Simpsons" skit, starring "the prime time players." The cast featured a *dramatis personae* of health educators, allied health



Health educators and Tribal citizens participated in a Simpsons sketch about healthy eating.

resonating voice and he kept the audience on the edge of their seats with Super Bowl anecdotes, his knowledge and understanding about recovery and the substantial benefits of sobriety, and an endearing sense of humor.

"Sobriety is an option," Henderson affirmed, underlining his special message for the youth. "It has always been an option, and it will always be an option."

He also informed the conference that he is a huge lotto winner, and not just physically. He is presently utilizing his resources to make a true difference in the community.

Suzanne Davis, allied health manager, spoke after Henderson. She ascended the podium proclaiming "Seminole Wellness Conference No. 14" enthusiastically.



Presenter Fred Williams sings the Wellness Conference theme song.



Lois Billie receives a hug from presenter Douglas Cox.

staff and Tribal citizens, with the entire cartoon family sitting down to breakfast.

It was quite the informative show and creatively informed as well as entertained. Covered were the mental, emotional and physical aspects of the problem and all the behavioral changes that come into play in the challenge of gaining and losing weight.

International speaker and Native American performer Denise Alley (Cherokee, Shawnee, Otee, Delaware) was in attendance once again and her presentation this year was entitled "The Laws of Attraction," where group participation and laughter were prominent. Her message dealt with desires, whether tangible or intangible. Participants courteously chimed in with their aims and intentions and the discussions were quite positive, well-received.

Counselor Fred Mullins of the Family Services Department spoke about codependency. He also stressed receiving and giving back as an integral part of recovery.

"Codependency is a disease," he said. "It comes as a result of us not feeling at peace with what's going on around us. Codependency is when we attempt to medicate ourselves, by giving in and giving in to people, giving our lives away, just so we can feel good about what's going on."

Speaking about the Twelve Steps of Recovery, Sonya Beanland of Family Services, said, "I believe we are more likely to pursue something when we understand, so when look at something and we don't understand it, the motivation to pursue that is very limited. So what I'm going to do for the next few days with the steps is break them down to a much simpler form."

"The way that I could understand the steps is to apply them to my own life, because as addicts we tend to complicate things," Beanland continued. "We tend to complicate our lives. We make small things, big things. Our perceptions are all messed up, and it's a simple program, if we keep it that way. The steps are meant to be worked through the course of a lifetime."

Barbara and Bob Mora gave thoughtful presentations on how to deal with the daunting disease of diabetes. Barbara is the author of *Using Our Wit & Wisdom to Live Well with Diabetes* and husband Bob is a musician who has recorded a CD, with his wife entitled, *Songs From Quina Baht (Eagle's Place)*.

Praying the Native American way, the Moras graciously assist others by reading, education, flute songs and earnest prayer. Together they express how they felt during certain periods of difficulty in their lives, gather strengths and change their life-situations through love, unity, mutual assistance and understanding.

Motivational Speaker Douglas Cox discussed the power of communication and dreams.

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

"Night dreams are for healing," he said, "Every night your body begins to heal itself. So we need to make an appointment with ourselves, to go to sleep when your body says, 'come on now.' We need to sleep well. We need to rest well."

"Daydreams are for wishing," he informed. "And visions are gifts from God. It's so important to realize that. We all have visions, but we don't realize it in our sobriety. And you will hear that still small voice. The dream is important."

Public Speaker Dr. Don Bartlette's story held everyone's attention for the entire duration he was at the podium. He has made several memorable appearances to the Seminole Wellness Conference and has routinely been well-received. Having seen great adversity, he talked softly of "a personal journey."

As the label on his CD states, "Macaroni at Midnight is an autobiographical profile of the speaker's social, psychological and educational experience as an Indian child growing up with severe speech and physical handicaps in a poverty environment. It shows how one person made a difference in the speaker's life."

In growing up, he said he could not talk for 17 years and his world was one of deep poverty and sexual abuse and malnutrition. He had a severe childhood on the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation in North Dakota, his father was a violent man and Bartlette held strong resentments for many years.

People around him believed he would never be able to communicate sufficiently and he was often rejected and ridiculed for his handicaps. And there was no help forthcoming from anywhere. When he was 12, he met a prominent, wealthy woman who helped to change his life.

"She came into my life," said Bartlette. "She took me into her home, she became a foster mother. Everything I needed. She helped provide for a very

Gambler's Anonymous, brought an informative message about the perils of gambling addiction to the conference.

"In gambling addiction it has very little to do with winning or losing, anymore. It's about staying high from gambling," Benson explained. "Just like a heroin addict has to shoot-up to stay high. The chase is on."

Seigal spoke on how gambling had affected her and her husband and the insanity of the addiction, as well as the urgent need for seeking help. She talked about the extent gambling had ravaged her life and about being grateful for finding help.

"I just want to thank everybody for being so open today, to hearing us talk," she said.

A lively, crowd pleasing speaker, Clayton Small (Northern Cheyenne) took the attendees through several active audience participation sessions. He is quite adept at inspiring and encouraging and the smiles and laughter, which emanated forth from the large room.

"How old were you when you got out of denial?" Small asked. "How many years did you have to suffer before that giant neon light came on? And you said, 'Oh my gosh; the enemy is me. And I have got to do some work on my attitude and behavior.'"

"We all know someone who is still stuck," he asserted. "And sometimes it's more painful when it's people we love: our spouse, our grandchildren, our parents. You've tried everything. And sometimes that causes codependents. ... And they're not taking care of themselves. So we got to get out of denial, we got to get real, we got to get honest, stop blaming, and start addressing some of those issues."

In addition to numerous speakers, there were extensive Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, Women's



Victoria Billie (L) keeps a watchful eye on Elizabeth Osceola's (R) beadwork.



Esta Liederman

(L-R) Roger Smith, Brighton Council Representative; Richard Bowers, President; ex-NFL player Thomas "Hollywood" Henderson; Mitchell Cypress, Chairman and David R. Cypress, Big Cypress Council Representative at the Wellness Conference.

Groups, Personal Testimonies, Kids Camp and a "Traditional Night" where participants were asked to attend a dinner in traditional Seminole or Miccosukee clothing. Paul Buster provided story and song.

There was an array of folders and packages given out, filled with all sorts of helpful facts and information on a vast assortment of diseases, disorders, as well as brochures and pamphlets on where and how to acquire the best possible help.

Tribal departments, including Fitness, Health, Education, Family Services and Recreation, set up several long tables in the entrance hall to distribute information on various topics. Not only were their services greatly needed, they were also rather informative.

"It's getting better every year," Chairman Mitchell Cypress said, referring to the conference. "There's a lot to do out there; there's more people, more testimonies are being given. The Wellness Conference is paying off."



Esta Liederman

Education Department staff members, Tony Bullington (L) and Linda Iley (R) warmly greet attendees.



Esta Liederman

Fitness Specialist Natasha K. Perez leads the teen group in exercise.

difficult childhood. I learned how to talk. I learned how to learn. I learned how to provide.

"With her help," he continued, "I became valedictorian of my high school class. I became a social worker, a counselor and an educator. And I became a professional for 23 years."

Bartlette is a man who has overcome scores of burdens, has persisted, has worked his way up in the world and has learned to survive. His words and motions conveyed confidence and empowerment, he was in command and articulated his story rather well.

Rick Benson and Renée Seigal, representing



Esta Liederman

Lottie Cody (L) of Oklahoma walks with her friend Mabel Haught (R) of Brighton.

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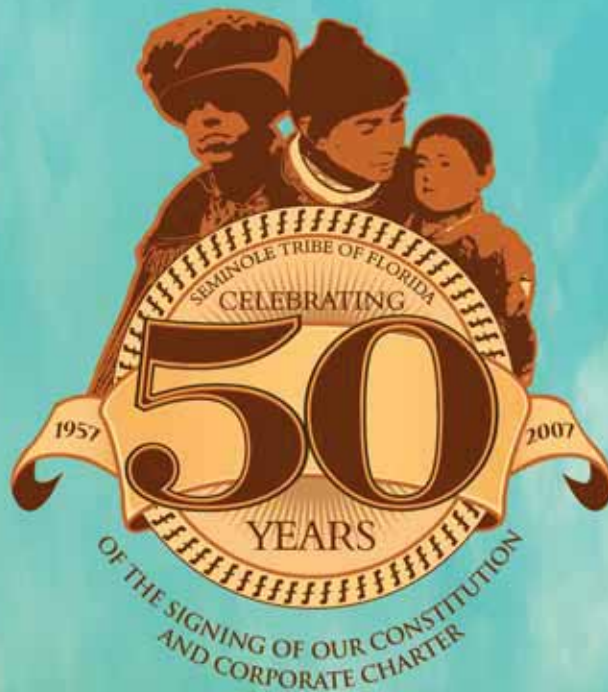
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Seminoles. Come learn about the rich history, culture and
tradition that is the foundation for what our Tribe has become.

***Please plan to join us for history in the making
and be a part of this once in a lifetime event.***



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What Should You Know About Sugars?

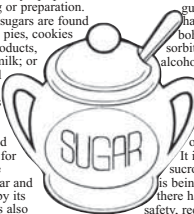
Submitted by the Seminole Health Department

Think about the foods you most enjoy eating. Most likely they contain some form of sugar. It could be the naturally occurring sugar in the freshly picked fruit from a tree, or the sugars added to your favorite ice cream or dessert to give it that delicious taste.

"Added sugars" are sugars and syrups put into foods or drinks during processing or preparation. Foods that contain most of the added sugars are found in regular soft drinks and fruit drinks; pies, cookies and cakes; milk based desserts and products, such as ice cream, yogurt and sweet milk; or grain products such as sweet rolls and cinnamon toast.

For people with diabetes it is especially important to know how much sugar there is in food because carbohydrates from sugars cause blood sugars to rise. There are many names for sugar on package labels, such as table sugar, beet sugar, cane sugar, raw sugar and turbinado. Sometimes sugar is listed by its chemical name, sucrose. Fruit sugar is also known as fructose and the sugar in milk is known as lactose. Other sugars can be spotted on the label by names that end in "ose." For example glucose (dextrose), maltose and fructose (also called levulose).

Sugar-free does not mean carbohydrate-free. Compare the total carbohydrate content of a sugar-free food with that of the standard product. If there is a big difference in carbohydrate content between the two foods, you may want to buy the sugar-free one. If there's little difference between the two foods, choose the one you want based on price and taste.



"No sugar added" foods don't have any form of sugar added during processing or packaging and do not contain high-sugar ingredients. But remember, they may still be high in carbohydrates, so you have to check the label.

"Sugar alcohols" are one type of reduced-calorie sweetener used in sugar-free candies, chewing gum, and desserts. They provide about half the calories of sugars and other carbohydrates. Isomalt, maltitol, mannitol, sorbitol and xylitol are examples of sugar alcohols. Even though they are called sugar alcohols, they do not contain alcohol. (Sometimes sugar alcohols can cause diarrhea, especially in children, so watch serving sizes!)

Stevia, made from the leaf of a tropical plant, has gained interest. It is up to 300 times sweeter than sucrose, has zero calories, zero carbs and is being used in many countries. Although there has been controversy regarding its safety, recent studies have shown that it appears to be safe to use.

Reading the ingredient label on processed foods can help to identify added sugars. Look for these names for added sugars on food labels: brown sugar, corn sweetener, corn syrup, dextrose, fructose, fruit juice concentrates, glucose, high-fructose corn syrup, honey, invert sugar, lactose, maltose, malt syrup, molasses, raw sugar, sucrose, sugar and syrup.

As part of a balanced plan for healthy eating, you can enjoy sugars in moderation. For more information please see your reservation's nutritionist.

Summer Care Tips for Your Pet

Submitted by Ava John, Environmental Health

It's summertime and dogs and cats can suffer from the same problems that humans do, such as overheating, dehydration and even sunburn. By taking some simple precautions, you can celebrate the season and keep your pets happy and healthy.

• A visit to the veterinarian for a check-up is a must; add to that a test for heartworm, if your dog isn't on year-round preventive medication. Ask your doctor to recommend a safe, effective flea and tick control program.

• Exercise your dog in the cool of the early morning or evening — never when it's extremely hot or humid. Take care not to let your dog stand on hot asphalt, as his sensitive paw pads can easily burn.

• Provide plenty of shade and cool, clean water for animals kept outdoors; a properly constructed doghouse serves best.

• Never leave your animal alone in a vehicle. Overheating can be fatal. Even with the doors open, a parked automobile can become a furnace in no time. Parking in the shade offers little protection, as the sun shifts during the day.

• Some animals will need extra special care in hot weather, especially those who are elderly and overweight or have heart or lung disease. If your pet is showing signs of heat stroke or exhaustion, take him to your veterinarian immediately.

• When walking your dog, steer clear of areas that you suspect have been sprayed with insecticides or other chemicals. And please be alert of coolant or other automotive fluid leaking from vehicles. Animals are attracted to the sweet taste, and ingesting just a small amount can be fatal. Call your veterinarian if you suspect that your animal has been poisoned.

• Good grooming can prevent summer skin problems, especially for dogs with heavy coats. Shaving the hair to a one inch length helps prevent overheating. Cats should be brushed often.

• Stay alert for signs of overheating in pets, which include excessive panting and drooling and mild weakness, along with an elevated body temperature.

The Animal Control Program requests that you call the Health Department with any animal control issues. The department can be reached at (954) 962-2009.

The Healthy Senior

By Fred Cicetti

Editor's Note: Fred Cicetti is a syndicated columnist who writes about issues concerning senior citizens' health. The opinions he expresses are his own. If you would like to ask a question, please write fredcicetti@gmail.com. All Rights Reserved © 2007 by Fred Cicetti.

Q: I'm getting heartburn a lot since I turned 60. Is more heartburn something that comes with more years?

A: More than 60 million Americans experience heartburn at least once a month and more than 15 million Americans experience heartburn daily. Heartburn is more common among the elderly.

Heartburn two or more times weekly may be caused by gastroesophageal reflux disease or GERD. See a doctor if you have heartburn too often. The doctor can test for GERD.

In the upper GI series, you swallow a liquid barium mixture. Then a radiologist watches the barium as it travels down your esophagus and into the stomach. Another test is an endoscopy, in which a small lighted flexible tube is inserted into the esophagus and stomach.

GERD makes stomach acid flow up into your esophagus. There is a valve at the lower end of the esophagus that is designed to keep acid in the stomach. In GERD, the valve relaxes too frequently, which allows acid to reflux, or flow backward.

A hiatal hernia may contribute to GERD. A hiatal hernia occurs when the upper part of the stomach is above the diaphragm, which is the muscle wall separating the stomach from the chest. The diaphragm helps the valve keep acid from coming up into the esophagus.

When GERD is not treated, you can suffer from severe chest pain, narrowing or obstruction of the esophagus, bleeding, or a pre-malignant change in the lining of the esophagus. One study showed that patients with chronic, untreated heartburn were at substantially greater risk of developing esophageal cancer.

The following are some symptoms that may mean there has been damage to your esophagus: difficulty swallowing, a feeling that food is trapped behind the breast bone, bleeding, black

bowel movements, choking, shortness of breath, coughing, hoarseness and weight loss.

You can control infrequent heartburn by changing your habits and using over-the-counter medicines.

For example, you should avoid heartburn-producing foods such as chocolate, coffee, peppermint, tomato products, alcoholic beverages, and greasy or spicy dishes. Quit smoking because tobacco inhibits saliva that helps with digestion. Tobacco may also stimulate acid production and relax the esophageal valve. Lose weight. And, don't eat two hours before you go to sleep.

For infrequent episodes of heartburn, take over-the-counter antacids, such as Alka-Seltzer, Maalox, Mylanta, Pepto-Bismol, Rolaids, and Riopan. Or, you can take an H2 blocker. H2 blockers are available in both over-the-counter and prescription forms. For example, Pepcid, Tagamet, Zantac and Axid are all over-the-counter H2 blockers which are available by prescription at higher doses.

Then there are proton pump inhibitors (PPIs), a group of prescription medications that prevent the release of acid in the stomach and intestines. Doctors prescribe PPIs to treat people with heartburn, ulcers of the stomach or intestine, or excess stomach acid. PPIs include Prilosec, Prevacid, Nexium, Aciphep, and Protonix.

GERD is a chronic disease that calls for continuous long-term therapy. To decrease the acid in your esophagus, raise the head of your bed or place a foam wedge under the mattress to elevate the head about 6-10 inches. Avoid lying down for two hours after eating. And don't wear tight clothing.

Prescription medications to treat GERD include the H2 blockers and the PPIs, which help to reduce the stomach acid and work to promote healing at prescription strength. In addition, there are agents that help clear acid from the esophagus.

Surgery is an option if other measures fail. A surgeon can improve the natural barrier between the stomach and the esophagus that prevents acid reflux.

How to Reduce Portion Sizes

Submitted by the Seminole Health Department

In the battle of the bulge, one of the most helpful things we can do is reduce our food portion sizes. Over the past 20 to 30 years, the portions of food served have grown significantly. Eating just 100 extra calories every day for a year, without burning them off, can lead to a weight gain of 10 pounds. In restaurants, bigger plates serve portions that would actually feed two or three people. In fast food restaurants, the "biggie" size meals have led to "super-size" waistlines. "All you can eat" buffets challenge us in every town. All of this leads to over eating and weight gain.

If you think back, can you remember the days when eating out was a TREAT, not a part of every day? Do you remember the little glass bottles of soft drinks? How about a time when a single patty hamburger was enough, and the triple whopper with cheese had not even been imagined yet?

So, what do we do? How can we reduce our portions when super-sized foods are everywhere? Let's start with fast food. One of the first steps is to not fall for the extra "value" of an extra large meal. There is no value in increasing your intake by almost 1,000 calories by going for the bigger sandwich, bigger fries and mega-sized soft drink. For adults, if you stick with a single patty sandwich, medium fry, and water or medium soft drink, you will not be overeating as much. Also, most fast food restaurants have become aware that customers are demanding healthier options like fruit and salads as substitutes for fried French fries.

In full-service restaurants, ask yourself, do I really need an appetizer, entrée and dessert? Or would

one or two of these satisfy me? You may consider just ordering an appetizer and not ordering a full meal until you finish the appetizer. At that time you can see if you are still hungry. If you are served a huge portion, take half of your entrée home, or share it with someone. The same goes for desserts. Many desserts are big enough to feed two, three or even four people. Another strategy is to order an appetizer as your main course. They are often smaller and may help you to not over eat. A good example is a quesadilla, as an appetizer. It does not usually come with the extras like beans and rice.

Another example would be a chicken finger appetizer that would come without French fries. If you add a side salad to either of those, you have a complete meal, for far fewer calories and no stuffed feeling afterward.

At buffets, keep in mind that you are just eating a regular meal, not entering a contest to see just what "all you can eat" means. First priority should be to look over the whole buffet and see what is offered. That way you can decide what it is that you would really like most. Starting with a salad or soup can help you to make sure you get your vegetables and fill you up. Using a smaller plate, like a salad plate, for your buffet items can help you to eat less. Also, if you have a sweet tooth, choosing just one dessert will help you to not over eat. The goal is to get a well balanced meal, not to end with a tummy ache.

Here are some buzz words to watch out for as they indicate excess calories on the menu: Combo, Deluxe, Ultimate, Kingsize, Value Meal, Jumbo, Colossal, Supersize, Supreme, Biggie, and All-you-can-eat. Avoiding those key words will definitely help your waistline. For more healthy eating tips and tactics, please contact the nutritionist on your reservation.

Ask The Counselor

Basil Phillips
M.S. Mental Health Counseling

All letters should be sent to
pmcivator@aol.com

Dear Counselor:

How do I go from balled up resentment and hate to forgiveness? Why should I forgive?

The person betrayed and hurt me. I cannot get this person out of my head. I gave him so much of my time, listened to all his problems, gave him romance, money and my self-esteem. Then, out of nowhere he left me for another relationship.

He doesn't call anymore. He doesn't really care about me. The resentment rises in my throat and my chest tightens with hate every time I think about him.

Signed:
Raged

Dear Raged:

The art of forgiveness is not an easy journey. How do we go from balled up resentment to a level of spiritual understanding? How do we release old hurt or betrayals that steal our happiness and eat away at our joy?

Most of us believe that the people who hurt us should pay for the pain they caused; that they deserve to be punished and not forgiven. The question then is why should you forgive? Raged, the answer is the path to your freedom.

Harboring negative feelings and thoughts

may influence your psychological and physical health.

Holding a grudge may contribute to heart diseases, high blood pressure, muscle tension and other ailments, or trigger mental health problems such as depression and addictions to alcohol and drugs. The thought patterns that cause the most disease in the body are criticism, anger, resentment and guilt.

When we refuse to forgive others, we effectively give them the keys to our happiness and freedom. But when we become willing to forgive, we are finally able to let go of old, ugly hurts that can grip us with a rage so deep they threaten to consume us. By practicing forgiveness, we are able to release these negative emotions, reclaim our well-being and regain control of our lives.

Even though it seems a willingness to forgive lets the other person off easy, in fact, when we hold on to anger and hurt, we're the ones who suffer in the long run. Raged, here are some words of wisdom from the Counselor: forgiving is not forgetting; it's letting go of the hurt.

Signed:
The Counselor

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

'National Day of the American Cowboy' Celebration Held

By Judy Weeks

OKEECHOBEE, Fla. — The Okeechobee Cattlemen's Association spearheaded the July 28 celebration of the National Day of the American Cowboy with a cattle drive and ranch rodeo.

American Cowboy magazine launched a campaign in 2004 to set aside a day for Americans to pay tribute to the cowboys and cowgirls that made such a valuable contribution to the American culture. Senate Resolution 130, sponsored by Senator Craig Thomas (R-WY), named July 28, 2007, as the third annual celebration of the National Day of the American Cowboy. Ongoing efforts are aimed at making the fourth Saturday in July a perpetual holiday.

After Congress' acceptance of his resolution, Senator Thomas said, "Cowboys and cowgirls hold a special place in American lore, and they continue to provide a valuable link in our nation's strong agricultural system." Board President, and a fourth generation cattleman, Richard Bowers remarked, "The ancestors of the Seminole Tribe were the first cowboys on the Florida peninsula and began building their herds in the early 1700s. Already an agricultural society, cattle became a very important part of our economy and today the Seminole Tribe of Florida is recognized as seventh in the U.S. in cattle production."

Members of the Cattlemen's Association, representing all of the major ranches within a significant distance of Lake Okeechobee, which includes the Seminole Tribe, were on hand the morning of July 28 for a cattle drive. Following the main streets of the downtown business area and ending at the Okeechobee County Agricultural Center, it was a very impressive procession. The long horned Corriente cattle used in the event were provided by the Seminole Reservation at Brighton.

With a loud "Yee Haw," the cattle were released from the holding pens at 10 a.m. and began their journey down the spectator lined streets. Leading the drive was the Sheriff's Department and mounted color guard. Adding to the historic atmosphere, the Seminole Tribe had provided a vintage chuck wagon, territorial jail and stagecoach which delighted the crowd.

Riding in the chuck wagon, Tribal Chairman Mitchell Cypress reminisced.

"My whole family has been involved with cattle for many generations," he said. "My father and uncles were not only instrumental in building the Tribal herds, but put in long hours in the saddle as day workers on many of the



Paul Bowers Sr. (R) rides shotgun with and Dennis DeVoege (L).

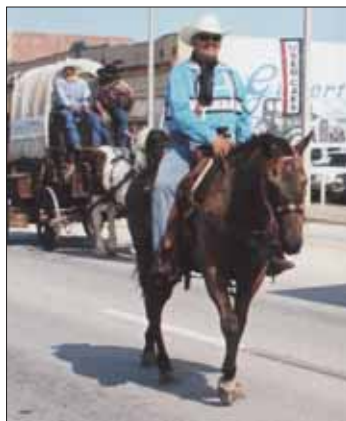
local ranches represented here today. Riding in this wagon, I remember what a welcome sight the campfire and evening meal were after rounding up cattle all day in the swamps and woodlands."

The mule drawn territorial jail brought hoots of laughter from the crowd with a multitude of suggestions about who should be incarcerated.

Eastern Indian Rodeo President Paul Bowers was riding shotgun on the stagecoach, while the spectators envied the passenger, Linda Tommie Bowers. Smiling and waving to the crowd, it was obvious that she was having a blast.



Linda Tommie Bowers in the Overland Stage Line during the Cattle Drive.



President Richard Bowers rides Point for the Cattle Drive.

Paul Bowers remarked, "This is a far cry from the ox cart that my grandfather, Wilson Cypress, used to get around this part of the country. Today is representative of the EIRA motto, 'Continuing the Tradition.' I grew up as a cowboy, spent time in the military and then returned to my roots. You might say that cattle are in my blood and I am happy that our country is taking time out to recognize this important part of our national heritage."

A large crowd had gathered at the Okeechobee County Agricultural Center and yelled with enthusiasm when a lookout shouted, "They're comin' over the bridge." Rushing out into the field with cameras in hand, they greeted the drivers and swarmed the wagons, attempting to capture the moment.

Numerous booths provided a variety of cuisine, including a barbecue prepared over the fire beside an old time make shift cypress corral. A multitude of artists displayed their paintings of the Florida frontier and scenes from its cowboy heritage. Books were available with accounts of pioneer interviews and old family recipes.

The Bits and Spurs Chapter of the Okeechobee 4-H provided a live animal display, petting zoo and horseback rides. Many of the youngsters involved in today's 4-H come from a long line of cowboys and cowgirls and are continuing in their footsteps.

Vintage displays of western memorabilia drew a large audience as people enjoyed the demonstrations and storytelling of Gordie Peers and Buddy Mills.

At 2 p.m. local talent participated in a ranch rodeo with events derived from some of the original jobs delegated to the cowboy. Activities involving roping, bull dogging, calf tying and branding were everyday experiences as the cattle were worked, docked and separated. Barrel racing, poles and wild horse races help to demonstrate the rigors that go into training a good cow horse and make him a partner that a cowboy can depend upon.

A barn dance took place Saturday evening at the Mt. CIN Ranch with the proceeds being donated to Hospice of Okeechobee. The music was provided by 3S Entertainment. During the night's activities, D.R. Daniel put on a roping demonstration and winner of the National Reining Horse competition, Rick Steed put his horse through a very rigorous presentation.

1. Sam Jones - A Very Important Figure in Seminole History - White Chocolate & Raspberry

2. Billy Bowlegs - Lead the Seminoles in the 3rd Seminole War - Dark Chocolate & Caramel

3. Remember the Clans! - All 9 Clans: Otter Bear, Snake, Panther, Big Town, Bird, Deer, Wind and the extinct Alligator - Iced Lattes

4. Josie Billie - One of the Strongest Medicine Men of the Seminole Tribe - Dark Chocolate & Hazelnut

5. Ingram Billie - Brother of Josie, also a Powerful Medicine Man - Vanilla & Hazelnut

6. Laura Mae Osceola - Instrumental in getting Federal Recognition of the Seminole Tribe - Dark Chocolate & Banana

7. Joe Dan Osceola - Youngest elected President & First Ambassador - Almond & Dark Chocolate

8. Fred Smith - Longest serving Tribal President - Dark Chocolate & Mint

9. Jim Shore - Longtime General Legal Counsel of the Seminole Tribe - Dark Chocolate & Raspberry

10. Betty Mae Jumper - First Chairwoman of the Seminoles - Apple & Cinnamon

11. James Billie - Longest Serving Elected Chairman of the Tribe - Vanilla & Caramel

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12. Priscilla Sayen - Long time Respected Tribal Secretary - Irish Cream & Hazelnut

13. Howard Tiger - First Military person Elected President, Organized sports programs for the Seminole Youth - Dark Chocolate

14. Mitchell & David Cypress - Brothers and Leaders from the Big Cypress Reservation - White Chocolate & Caramel

15. David DeKays - Hollywood Representative - Board - Dark Chocolate & Coconut

16. Moses Osceola - President of the Seminole Tribe - Irish Cream & Dark Chocolate

17. Roger Smith - Brighton Representative - Council - Dark Chocolate & Vanilla

18. Paul Bowers - Big Cypress Representative - Board - Caramel & Hazelnut

19. Johnny Jones - Brighton Representative - Board - Dark Chocolate & Praline

20. Howard Tommie - 2-Term Elected Chairman, Introduced Seminole Bingo - Dark Chocolate & Honey

21. Mike Tiger - Former Director of Indian Health Svs & current Treasurer - Half and Half, Sugar and whipped cream

22. Winifred Tiger - Helped Seminole Youth stay in school, graduate and go to college - English Toffee & Vanilla

ATTENTION:

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

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THE WALL 25 YEARS

ANNIVERSARY PARADE • NOVEMBER 10, 2007

Vietnam Veterans of America is presenting the 25th Anniversary Parade in celebration of the dedication of "The Wall" on Saturday, November 10, 2007. If you were there in 1982, you know why you should be back for the 25th. If you weren't there in '82, then this is the one to attend, because it is being held by us, for us.

Come feel the healing power of "The Wall" and show our fallen brothers and sisters the honor and respect they deserve.

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THE SCHEDULE:
NOVEMBER 10, 2007

The Opening Ceremony on the Mall
10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

The opening ceremony will start at 10:00 a.m. and will take place on the Mall at 3rd Street, between Jefferson and Madison Drives.

The Parade
11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Immediately following the opening ceremony, the parade with thousands of participants, military vehicles, floats, veteran motorcades, and marching bands steps off. Along side the reviewing stand will be limited bleacher seating for those veterans and members of the general public who wish to view the parade.

Washington Monument Grounds
12 noon until 6:00 p.m.

Parade participants and the general public can enjoy a variety of activities and street vendors.

Need accommodations? You can book your rooms and make your travel arrangements at www.vva.org. Just look for the 25th anniversary tab on the home page or call toll free: 866-489-6888.

Education ♦ Emahaayeeke ♦ Kerretv

BCC's Seminole Culture Project Coincides with 50th Anniversary

Submitted by BBC's Visual Arts Program

DAVIE, Fla. — The main purpose of this project is to bring the Native American culture of the Seminoles — the arts, crafts, architecture and the history of the Seminole Tribe of Florida — to the students of Broward Community College (BCC) and the surrounding community on an ongoing and permanent basis.

This project has been conceived because very few college students are aware of the cultural accomplishments of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. The planning stage for the project was initiated in the fall of 2006 and implementation began in 2007, the year of the 50th Anniversary of the Tribe's sovereignty. The project will be ongoing.

The first phase of the BCC Seminole Project was the construction at BCC south campus of two Seminole chickees. The presence of these structures will serve as study and rest space for BCC students and will ensure the Seminole culture is visible all year round. Landscape around this Seminole architecture will be comprised of plants that are native to Florida. Wheelchair access and

historical markers will be added. The construction of the chickees was headed by Tribal citizen Joe Dan Osceola.

This part of the project required the acquisition of funding through a BCC Staff and Program Development Grant. The official opening ceremony for the chickees will be at 12:30 p.m. on Sept. 5, by the chickees in front of Building 71-101.

Our First Annual Seminole Arts and Culture Symposium will take place on Sept. 18 at 12:30 p.m. in Building 86's Sea Breeze room (next to the Cafeteria). Participating Seminole artists include Elgin Jumper, Jessica Osceola, Regina Jumper Thinn, Sam Tommie and Pedro Zepeda.

The Artists Seminole Exhibition, featuring contemporary Seminole artists, is also planned to become an annual event. The exhibition is scheduled to open at The Art Gallery at BCC at 7 p.m. on Jan. 10, 2008 and will remain open through to Feb. 22, 2008.

For more information please contact Project Director Dr. Kyra Belan at 954-201-8895.

Full Scholarships for Native American Students

The George Washington University is proud to announce the availability of full scholarships for Native American college students interested in studying in Washington, DC in spring 2008 in the Semester in Washington Politics Program. The Native American Political Leadership Scholarship is funded by a gift from the AT&T Foundation. The scholarships cover full tuition, housing, books, transportation and other expenses. Semester in Washington offers first-hand

knowledge and experience in election and legislative politics.

The application deadline is Oct. 15, 2007. For more information contact: Gregory G. Lebel, Director, Semester in Washington, The George Washington University, 1922 F Street, NW., Rm. 404-A, Washington, DC 20052. For more information please e-mail glebel@gwu.edu.

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Community Honors Seminole Students with 2007 Incentive Awards



Esta Liederman

Education Director Louise Gopher and Hollywood Council Representative Max B. Osceola Jr. share a fun moment before dinner.



Esta Liederman

(L-R) PAC President Natoshia Osceola and event emcee Will Bacon



Esta Liederman

Night one of the Incentive Awards honored the kindergarten through sixth graders.



Esta Liederman

Hollywood Council Representative Max B. Osceola Jr. encourages students to pursue their educational dreams.



Esta Liederman

Emcee Will Bacon, Education Advisor



Esta Liederman

Students wait for the balloons to drop during the festivities.



Esta Liederman

Many of the youngsters opted to get a tattoo.

By Elgin Jumper

HOLLYWOOD — For two nights, July 27-28, the Seminole Gymnasium on the Hollywood Reservation was the location for the 2007 Incentive Awards, where deserving Seminole Tribal students received certificates and monetary awards. According to Will Bacon, Hollywood education advisor and event emcee, the awards were: "based on academic achievement in kindergarten, GPA 3.0-4.0, excellent attendance, taking advanced honors courses, completion of high school, GED, associate's/ bachelor's/master's/doctoral degrees."

The Hollywood Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) painstakingly organized the event, under the direction of Natoshia Osceola, president of the committee, along with assistant, Latoyia Stewart. Hollywood Council Representative Max B. Osceola, Jr. and Louise Gopher, director of education, distributed the certificates to recipients. Dinner began at 6:30 p.m., with the awards ceremony following at 7 p.m. each night.

"We actually started planning in January," said Natoshia Osceola. "We first brought it to the parents at a PAC meeting and went from there."

"As far as the Education Department," she continued, acknowledging organizers, "they played a big part in the planning and funding."

She recognized the "people [who] played a big part in brainstorming for the events" They were: Latisha Moore, Library, Latoyia Stewart, Culture and Language, Carine Eugene, Education, Will Bacon, Education, Raysa De La Paz, Education, and Linda Iley, Higher Education.

On the night of July 27, the theme presented to attendees was that of the Circus. For honorees, it may very well have been the greatest show on earth! And because the children in attendance ranged from grades kindergarten to the sixth, the ordinarily big yellow and red gymnasium interior was keenly converted into a "Big Top."

There was an abundance of circus-themed activity, fun sights and sounds, humorous clowns, colorful tables, balloons, temporary tattoos, rainbows of ribbons and banners. All in all it was a cheerful night for Seminole Education and Incentive awards.

The outstanding buffet on the first night was catered by Corporate Catering, while on the second night Tribal citizen Tony Tommie handled catering duty. Will Bacon emceed the proceedings on both nights.

For the second night, July 27, grades six through 12 and the higher education students were honored. The theme was just as energized, as event organizers transformed the gym once again; this time providing attendees with an exhilarating night at "Club 64," thanks to the superb entertainment provided by Celebration Source.

There was even a stage with a Club 64 DJ dropping lavish music. The dim lighting, variety of neon lights, towering white columns, stylish white palms on every table and the requisite dance floor enhanced the night club atmosphere.

Hollywood Council Representative Max Osceola Jr. said: "Last night this looked like a circus, but tonight — Welcome to Club Seminole! I want to congratulate the staff at the Parent Advisory Committee for what they've done ... the energy and effort they've put in, to show appreciation for our students. It's just overwhelming."

Afterwards, Natoshia Osceola addressed the importance of parent involvement, especially where the child's learning experience is concerned.

"When a child sees that their parent or parents are involved, and cares about what goes on in their school, it seems to keep them excited to stay in school and that's very important," she stated. "The parents always have the best ideas concerning the children. Parent involvement this past year was great; I never had a problem getting parents to volunteer, all I had to do was ask."

"To the parents, I think you're doing a great job," she added. "Stay involved with your children and always show them you care, that you're proud of them."



Esta Liederman

Students display their certificates.



Esta Liederman

Clowning around at the Incentive Awards.



Esta Liederman

(L-R) Louise Gopher, Jessica Buster and Hollywood Council Representative Max Osceola Jr.



Esta Liederman

On night one, award recipients were invited to get an airbrush tattoo.

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Good Food, Fun at 8th Annual Rez Rider Car Show and BBQ Cook-Off

By Chris Jenkins

HOLLYWOOD — For the eighth year, the annual Rez Rider Car Show and BBQ Cook-Off was center stage as nice cars and mouth watering food was the focus at the recreation ball field on July 21.

The event was sponsored by the Hollywood Recreation Department, Hollywood Tribal Council Office and Maroon Chevrolet.

There were 13 class divisions for judging including: Luxury, Custom,

Classic, Bicycles, Motorcycles, SUVs, Custom (Classic) SUV, Best of Show, Anything on Wheels, Stock Truck, Custom Truck, Classic Truck and Extreme Truck.

The barbecue cook-off was based on three main factors for judging: appearance, taste and booth hospitality. Ribs were provided. Cash prizes were awarded to first though third finishers based on a scoring system for each division.

Hollywood Recreation Director Moses Jumper Jr. created the idea for the event.

"I've been rebuilding classic cars for 25 years or so and as the Tribe has continued to grow I wanted to give citizens the chance to show off their vehicles," Jumper said.

There was something for everyone with the accessories in the cars being one of the more popular aspects of the event. Items such as televisions and sound systems have all traditionally been a part of the entertainment for the day.

Jumper says it has grown every year with between 30-50 participants involved and was initially held at the Okalee Village prior to construction of the Hollywood Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

"It's just another Tribal activity to do and we want to continue to try to accommodate those in our community," he said.



Chris Jenkins

Tribal citizens Eric Osceola (R) and J.C. Stewart (L) stand beside a 1984 Cadillac Coupe de Ville.



Chris Jenkins

Custom built bikes in the Motorcycle division.



Chris Jenkins

Jim Harper (R) and Dave Richardson (L) judge a 1955 Chevrolet truck from the Classic division.



Chris Jenkins

Jadrien Antuna with his 2007 Cadillac Escalade.

Car Show & Cook-Off Results

Car Show

Luxury Car: 1. Regina Thinn, 2. Regina Thinn
Custom Car: 1. Jay Antona, 2. Chris Osceola, 3. Juanita Osceola
Classic Car: 1. Moses Jumper Jr., 2. Moses Jumper Jr.
SUV: 1. Regina Thinn, 2. Geraldine Osceola, 3. Krystle Young
Custom (Classic) SUV: 1. Max Osceola III, 2. Jay Antona, 3. Jay Antona
Best of Show: 1. Chris Osceola
Custom Truck: 1. Chris Osceola, 2. Eric Osceola, 3. Tate Osceola
Classic Truck: 1. Moses Jumper Jr., 2. Moses Jumper Jr.
Anything on Wheels: 1. Tate Osceola, 2. Leslie Osceola
Motorcycles: 1. Peter Bivong, 2. Jacob DeMayo, 3. Jacob DeMayo / Bronson Hill
Bicycles: 1. Leslie Osceola, 2. Jason Don Billie, 3. Eric Osceola / Phyllis Osceola
Extreme Truck: 1. Jacob DeMayo, 2. Sherri Micco
Custom Classic Car: 1. Eric Osceola, 2. Jay Stewart, 3. Jacob DeMayo

Cook-Off

1. Chucky Osceola, 2. Phalyn Osceola, 3. Eric Osceola



Chris Jenkins

Eric Osceola poses beside his 1986 Chevrolet Caprice, equipped with four custom 13 inch speakers.

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Little Warriors I
ages 3-5
3:30

Little Warriors II
ages 6-7
4:00

Team Dragon
ages 8-13
4:00

Adults 14+
5:30

Big Cypress

Little Warrior Mya Cypress demonstrates focus and strength while practicing a jab.

Team Dragon yellow belts Lonnie Tommie and Ricky Joe Alumbaugh spar during class.

The Hollywood Youth Conference kids' self defense seminar was filled with participants eager to learn useful martial arts skills.

Little Warriors I Hehchoo-Ye, Ta-Sho-Ta-She and Shania Ballentine wait patiently to be called during class.

Effort pays off in high kicks for our participants during the adult class.

Photos by Irena Loleski

Contact Irena Loleski 954.931.0515

Valley Nationals Debut at Hard Rock

By Chris Jenkins

HOLLYWOOD — In what is expected to become a tradition for years to come, newcomers and some of the best of the billiard world came together for the 25th Annual Silver Anniversary Seminole Florida State Pool Championships at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino July 13-July 15.

There were an estimated 600 to 800 participants competing. Tribal members, Tribal Council, teams from around Florida and the Bahamas all took part. The tournament featured four divisions: sportsman, expert, state and masters all competing for cash, prizes and bragging rights. Trophies were awarded to first through fourth places, and one professional per team was allowed in the masters division of competition.



Photo Submitted by Judy Giroux
Cory Duelle

This was the first year for the event at the Hard Rock (although in its 25th year) according to Tournament Director Bill Wilson. He said it was all a great success but was a lot of hard work.

"It was absolutely great," Wilson said. "We had a wonderful staff of assistants working 12 to 14 hour days to make it all work."

The Valley National Eightball Association and the Tribe were the major sponsors.

VNEA President Anthony Falcigno described the event as "a shining star" and said bringing the event to the Hard Rock took over five years of planning due in part to scheduling, but his hopes were to continue to change the perception of billiard players and maintain Tribal exposure.

"We want to continue to play to the finest conditions," he said. "We are also that this reflects well on the state of Florida."

According to Falcigno, a major part of the tournament's success is also from the support of Council, in particular, Big Cypress Council Representative David Cypress. "David has been the driving force for this all along," Falcigno said. Cypress was also a participant and was presented with the Red Jones Meritorious Service Award. The award is given annually to the person exhibiting contributions to amateur pool and who shows the virtues and strength of character, competition and a sense of fair play.

Falcigno and Wilson also credited Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Naples Liaison O.B. Osceola Jr. for their strong support throughout.

"In all my years I have never been to or at a tournament where such good sportsmanship and friendships existed," Wilson said.

He expects participation in next year's tournament to double and will have approximately 16 more tables added, up from 56 this year. It will also be moved to its traditional time slot of Mother's Day weekend in May. For more information on dates and times for events visit www.vnea.com.



Photo Submitted by
Vivian Villareal and Judy Giroux

Tournament Results:

Sportsman Team: 1. Lords of the Felt, 2. Strokin 254, 3. Ball Busters, 4. Cues Me.

Expert Team: 1. Racks and Balls, 2. Critters Sharks, 3. I.Q.'s, 4. Equalizers

State Team: 1. Nasty Boys, 2. Bad Boys
1. 3. Top Guns, 4. Talkn-Bout Strong.

Women's singles: 1. Kinikia Kaponu, 2. Teresa Nunez, 3. Alesia Rhodes, 4. Amy Roche

Men's singles: 1. Steven Rolls, 2. Rick Mansfield, 3. John Megge, 4. Jack Billie.

Master Men's: 1. Will Bilbrey, 2. Nathan Rose, 3. Bill Wilson, 4. Troy Frank.

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Billy Nelson

Ted Nelson

Seminole Dirt Bike Riders Dominate at Seminole Tribe Motocross Track

By Ted Nelson

BIG CYPRESS — Tribal citizens Billy Nelson and Josh Sneed have been unbeatable at the Tribal motocross track on the Big Cypress Reservation.

Sneed has dominated the "C" class riding on his 450 CRF Honda while Nelson is establishing his presence in the "A" class on his 450 CRF Honda dirt bike.

Sneed and Nelson have been very busy in the past year and have advanced in class and skill in this highly competitive sport. The duo has received sponsorship from Seminole Sports Management, as well as very much appreciated support from their parents, family, Tribal leaders, recreation, and help from many individuals in the motocross racing industry.

On July 1, both Sneed and Nelson won their respective classes in the Florida MX Series that is now making the Seminole Tribe Motocross track one of its Florida circuit tracks. Since the beginning of 2007, the young riders have been following an intense training schedule to qualify for the national motocross championships. On June 23-24,

both competed at the Southeast Regional in Bremen, Ga. for a spot on the starting gate at Loretta Lynn's Ranch in Hurricane Mills, Tenn., from July 30 through Aug. 5.

The top 40 riders in each class will compete in the national championships.



Billy Nelson and Josh Sneed

Ted Nelson

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Submitted by Travis Trueblood
(L-R, Back Row): Kenny Doney, Brandon Billie, Gilbert King, Tammy King, Kim Chalfant, Danielle Howard, Loretta Peterson, (L-R, Front Row): Travis Trueblood, Carla Gopher and Ignacio Orozco.

Reservation Hosts Mini-Triathlon

Submitted By Travis Trueblood

BRIGHTON — The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Brighton Recreation Department sponsored the community's first ever mini-triathlon on July 7 in Brighton.

The event, which was open to Tribal and community members, consisted of a one mile run, 200-yard swim and five mile bike ride. There were four categories: men's and women's, ages 16-34, and men's and women's, ages 35 and older. There were cash prizes for the first three places in each category and raffle door prizes.

Competition was heated in all categories. For the 16-34 men, Ignacio Orozco led the pack and finished with an overall time of 37 minutes, 29 seconds. Second place went to Brandon Billie at 38 minutes, 52 seconds. Gilbert King edged Travis Trueblood for third place with a time of 42 minutes flat.

Kenny Doney was the sole competitor in the men's 35 and older category and finished with a time of 47 minutes, 28 seconds.

In the 16-34 women's division, Danielle Howard finished first with a time of 44 minutes, 21 seconds. Tammy King took second place with a time of 45 minutes, 18 seconds. Not far behind was Carla Gopher in third place with a time of 45 minutes, 38 seconds.

Loretta Peterson took first place in the women's 35 and older category and Kim Chalfant took second.

Brighton Recreation Director Richard Osceola thanked everyone for their support and for making fitness a priority. "These are important events for our communities," he said.

Brighton Recreation Fitness Trainer Kai Setty organized the event and held triathlon training sessions for Brighton community residents in preparation for the competition.

The Brighton Recreation Department plans on hosting another mini-triathlon this coming fall. Setty said that the next mini-triathlon will be open to Tribal employees as well, and will also include a category for youth competitors.

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All Miami Dolphins**

Final Rodeo for 2007 EIRA Series

By Judy Weeks

LABELLE, Fla. — The 2007 series for the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) reached its climax on July 21 in LaBelle, Fla. Despite heavy afternoon rains, it was determined that the show must go on. There was only a few moments delay, while the arena was aggressively dragged in an effort to remove excessive water. Competitors, their families and spectators did not allow their spirits to be dampened as they donned their rain gear for the final shower that lasted only a few minutes.



The bullfighter works to free the first place winner in the junior bulls, Ethan Gopher.

It was a muddy ride for the mutton busters who opened the Junior Rodeo on their woolly, black sheep. Flying down the arena, they slid off into the mud with big smiles as they beat the buzzer. Hanging on for 24.3 seconds, Mark Holmes took first place, followed by Kirkland Boney with 14.98.

The first youngster out of the chute in the Wild Pony Race was Riley Smith. Laid out on the pony's back like a true bronc rider, he made it half way down the arena before losing his grip. The crowd roared as he was shot off the rump of the pony and slid on his back in the wet clay.

Kelton Smedley's little white pony proved to be a stick of dynamite as he bucked vigorously earning him a winning score of 34. Kelton executed the perfect dismount by landing on his feet and running along beside while gaining his equilibrium. Timothy Bearden beat his brother, Thomas, out of second place by one point.

With his red chaps flapping in the air, Jobe Johns had an awesome 57 seconds in the calf riding event. Kelton Smedley and Riley Smith had tough breaks right out of the chute, but Dalton Koenes managed to pull through in the second slot.

Wearing iridescent blue and white chaps, Chad Motlow was a spectacular figure as he took first place on a lean, mean brown critter in the steer riding category. Kelton Smedley was thrown straight up in the air, while Zane Ducheneaux gave everyone a few tense moments when he remained hung on top of the steer. With 4.16 seconds Timothy Bearden was the second place winner.

There was wild action in the junior

bulls as everyone rushed to Ethan Gopher's aid. He got hung up following a magnificent ride. It is times like this when the bullfighters are worth their weight in gold. Despite his experience, Ethan acquired 75 points for first place.

The fence drew the junior bulls like a magnet on the night of July 21. Second place winner Cody Motlow avoided being slammed into it and was nearly stepped on when his black and white monster tapped danced around him. Andrew Holmes' mount headed straight for the fence as he exited the chute with his rider making a swift recovery. It took a few seconds for Billy Foley to free is hand and dive for the fence as the bull chased him.

As always, the darlings of the Junior Rodeo are the 4-8 year old barrel racers. Wearing a Seminole jacket and riding a beautiful paint horse, Araya Youngblood was the first to ride by herself into the arena. Budha Jumper and her little Appaloosa pony followed the family tradition and did the pattern all by themselves without knocking over a barrel. Dayra Koenes, Brighton Bauman and Mila Osceola have great futures with times ranging from 25 to 35 seconds.

Reba Osceola struggled to pick up her feet in the wet clay as she led her smiling daughter, Madison, through the pattern. Wearing a huge black hat and waving to the crowd, Alea Turtle was pulled along by



Andrew Holmes shows great form in the junior bulls.

they sacrifice themselves in a muddy arena. Tommy McCormick's steer snatched him off into the mud for a no time.

Visiting from Robertsdale, Ala., Quint Campbell had a nine seconds flat, but wasn't fast enough to beat Naha Jumper's 5.2 seconds. Despite the fact that Sidney Gore wound up skiing behind his steer, he completed the job for second place.

It was a tough night in the tie down roping. Naha Jumper won first place with a 21.5 second run, but not without stiff competition. Josh Jumper's face catch put him out of the running when the calf slipped the noose. Justin Gopher, Happy Jumper and Hilliard Gopher caught their steers and slipping and sliding flipped them to the ground. The horn beat all three while completing their tie downs.

Trina Bowers and Mindi Fish won in the women's breakaway when they roped their quarry right out of the box.

Norman Johns had the first place winning throw for two rodeos in a row in the 50+ breakaway. Paul Bowers drew a bad steer that hooked back toward the box and then rammed the fence giving him no opportunity to compete. Using two loops, Billie Joe Johns took second place with a 15.6 run. Rudy Osceola had a good catch but wasn't quick enough for the money.

Josh Jumper caught right out of the box, turned the steer for Hilliard Gopher's doubles and they faced off with a nine second flat run to win the team roping. It was a hot night for Hilliard when he also took second place with teammate, Justin Gopher during the slack.

Shawn John and Todd Johns pulled third with an 11.2 time plus five seconds for a one leg heel. More than 20 teams competed in the roping and slack with numerous no times and a few broken barriers.

There were some fabulous times in the women's barrel racing despite the slippery turns created by the rain soaked arena. Unfortunately, numerous barrels were flipped as the horses fought to keep their footing, resulting in several five second penalties. Thanks to the excellent riding skills of these contestants, there were no wrecks. As the horses slid, scabbled and fought their way around the pattern, you had to take your



Rodeo Cow: One, Cowboy - Dustin Holmes: Zero.



Zane Ducheneaux is thrown into a tricky position in the steer riding.



Budha Jumper puts her pony through its paces in the 4-8 year old barrels.

her brother, Seth Randolph. Ahnie Jumper blew everyone's doors off with a 17.77 win, followed by Jobe Johns and Cyrus Smedley.

Despite the wet arena, Zane Ducheneaux aced the 9-12 year old barrels with a 15.88 win. Melani Perez did a great job for second place with Acelyn Youngblood in third, after a downed barrel cost Calgary Johns the spot. Kelton Smedley and Courtney Gore were neck and neck in the nineteen second range.

It was a close race in the 13-18 year category of the barrels with fractions of a second determining the winner. Taylor Johns' 17.575 beat out Janae Braswell's 17.852 for first place. It was 6 and 0 for the cows in the junior breakaway with no qualified times despite a great deal of effort on the part of the youngsters.

Following a short break and redressing of the arena, the Sanctioned Events got underway at 8 p.m. Announcer Tom Bass briefly enlightened the audience regarding the upcoming qualifications and the Indian National Finals Rodeo, which will take place in San Carlos, Ariz. in October. Carrying the flags, Taylor Johns and Heather Petersen led the grand entry.

Oklahoma entrant Jeremy Shed earned 77 points on one of Marki Rodeo's infamous brones after a hair raising ride in the bareback competition. Cody Parker's orange chaps caught everyone's eye, including the horse, as he hastily exited the arena following his second place win.

One of Brighton's local boys, Davy Snow, followed his family's legacy when he made his colorful debut in pink and silver chaps in the saddle bronc riding. He drew a particularly bad boy for the ride which catapulted him into the air outside the chutes, but didn't daunt his spirit.

Veteran Robert Youngblood was poised in the saddle with his hand in the air, as he fought hard for his 8 second ride that earned him a first place in the saddle brones.

The steer wrestlers were good sports as they jumped from their horses into the mud to bull dog their steers. This is a harsh, rough and tumble event under ideal conditions and brings out the best in the participants as



Steer rider Timothy Bearden is bucked into second place.

hat off to these accomplished female athletes.

The four top winners in the barrels had scores ranging from 15.863 to 16.533 seconds. That is less than one second determining the winners, who were: Tess Ducheneaux, Mackenzie Johns, Perri Whidden and Brenda Youngblood.

There were no qualified rides in the bull riding competition but this didn't prevent an exciting exhibition. Seth Randolph cleared the chutes on a black and white spotted beast determined to create a major upset. Dayne Johns yellow chaps were a blur as his bull spun him around in circles. Justin Gopher survived several hard bucks before being sky rocketed into the air and Justin Aldridge learned the meaning of "eat dirt."

Matt Clemons, a professional bull rider from Okeechobee, put on a guest performance of awesome proportions. Exiting the chute on one of Marki's finest, he took a royal beating before earning his eight seconds, dismounting and throwing his hat to the crowd.

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Lila Osceola-Heard

Krystle Young (L) dribbles hard right to get past Ariah Osceola (R).



Alonzo Wargolet



Lila Osceola-Heard

Lariah Balentine dribbles into the trap, but avoids a turnover.

Youth Spend Holiday Weekend on the Court

July 4th Youth Basketball Tournament Held

By Lila Osceola-Heard

HOLLYWOOD — Independence Day holiday brings many fun activities to the Hollywood Reservation including, the July Youth Basketball tournament. The weekend of June 30-July 1, youth from all over gathered to compete in the first July Fourth Youth Basketball Tournament held at the Seminole Gym and Hollywood Christian Gymnasiums.

Due to the amount of teams, the games started early Friday morning and carried over to Saturday night, having games at Hollywood Christian and Seminole Recreation.

The games consisted of competitive games, good teamwork and lots of fun to go around.

The winners were as follows: 8 & under kids were all winners and received medals; 11 & Under Coed Champions: Big Cypress; 14 & Under Girls Champions: Lady Seminoles (14); 14 & Under Boys Champions: Del Ray; 17 & Under Girls Champions: Lady Seminoles (17); and 17 & Under Boys Champions: Unknowns.

Teams at the tournament included: 8 & Under Teams: Hollywood, Big Cypress, Lil Hustlers, Brighton, Del Ray; 11 & Under Coed Teams: Hollywood, Del Ray, Brighton, Big Cypress; 14 & Under

Girls Teams: Lady Seminoles, Big Cypress, Del Ray; 14 & Under Boys Teams: Hollywood, Big Cypress, Brighton, Del Ray (Blue), Del Ray (White); 17 & Under Girls Teams: Lady Seminoles (17), Brighton, Team Florida, Lady Seminoles (14); 17 & Under Boys Teams: Hollywood, Cannon, Big Cypress, Justin's, Rockstars, Del Ray (Blue), Team N.A.B.I., South Broward, Unknown Boys, Del Ray (White).



Lila Osceola-Heard

Big Cypress Boys take home championship honors for the 11 and under team.



Lila Osceola-Heard

Lady Seminoles 17s say cheese after winning the championship.



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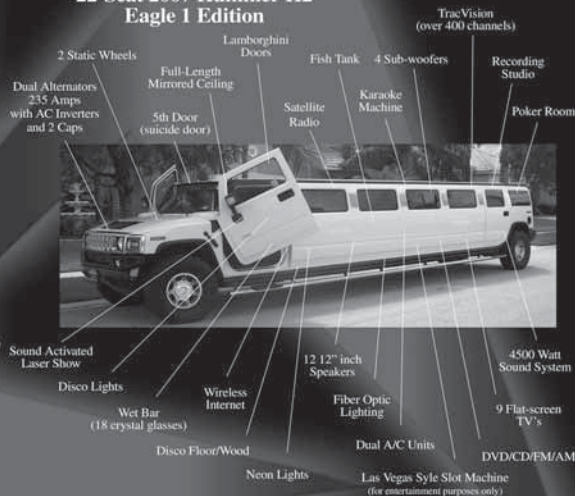
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High School Natives Time to Shine in First NCAA Tournament

Seminoles Take Their Boys and Girls Teams to Compete

By Lila Osceola-Heard

PHOENIX — Anticipation grew as many young Native teams showed up at the Fort McDowell Resort for registration on July 9. Teams arrived wearing their Native pride, displaying T-shirts from their hometowns, and their basketball skills on the brink of explosion.

Excitement filled the air as the NCAA certification meeting opened many minds to a new world. What a Native High School baller dreams for is a chance to shine and the place to be on the week of July 9 – 14 was in Phoenix, Ariz.

The Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI) played host to an array of Native Tribes to be spread out playing what Indians call "Rezball" throughout the city.

The Honorary Commissioner of NABI 2007, Diana Taurasi, WNBA All-Star and Phoenix Mercury guard, and former Louisiana State University basketball coaching legend Dale Brown both attended NABI. The two also came to show their support of all these young Natives' basketball hopes and dreams.

Brown is the only Southeastern Conference coach to appear in 15 consecutive NCAA tournaments and has led LSU teams to two final rounds. Many people down this way refer to him as Shaquille O'Neal's coach.

Aside from basketball, the week was filled with many new and exciting events. First, it started out with team check-in, which allowed all the players and teams to get together for the 2007 NABI team orientation and the distribution of Nike team uniforms and credentials.

Since its inception, NABI has created numerous opportunities for Native American students to receive college athletic scholarships.

"Their exceptional talent and passion for the game makes them prime candidates for scholarship opportunities, but due to the demographics of most reservations they do not always get to show off their talents to college recruiters," said Mark West, NABI co-founder and vice president of player programs for the Phoenix Suns.

As an NCAA summer tournament, NABI

became the first all Native American Basketball tournament certified by the NCAA. Being an NCAA certified event allows Division I and II coaches and scouts to attend the NABI tournament. This, in turn, means more exposure for Native youth.

"This NCAA rule change and new sanction is arguably one of the most significant developments to ever occur in Native and college basketball," said GinaMarie Scarpa-Mabry, co-founder of NABI and tournament director.

Increased demand for teams represented throughout Indian country in the U.S. and Canada led NABI to expand the field from 24 teams in its 2003 inaugural year to 80 — 40 boys and 40 girls — for this year's tournament. This year brought 41 girls' teams and 46 boys' teams. The tournament games were played in various local venues with the championship rounds at the US Airways Center.



Lila Osceola-Heard
Greg Carter passes the ball quickly to a teammate.

from different tribes and different teams, and I know what I need to improve on for next year."

The Seminole boy's team went 2-1 in their pool play which gave them a five seed and paired them up with the Young Gunz from Arizona. They faced the Young Gunz with intensity and determined to make it to the US Airways.

Teamwork and hustle helped them win this game — the final score Florida Seminoles 72, Young Gunz 63.

The stage was set for a big showdown at the Salt River High School Gym on July 13 with college coaches and many spectators cheering and chanting for their favorite teams. It was definitely a great atmosphere to play in.

The Florida Seminoles went up against the Cheyenne Arapaho team. It was all a basketball fan could hope for: a great, intense game. Players were diving on the floor, hustling after rebounds and loose balls, mixed in with good competition and the crowd atmosphere was intense.

The depth of the Cheyenne Arapaho team overwhelmed the Florida Seminole team. The final score was Florida Seminoles 48 and Cheyenne Arapaho 73. The Cheyenne Arapaho team went on to win the championship.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida was a sponsor of this event as well as other sponsors such as Nike, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Ak-Chin Indian Community, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Sora Band Of Luiseno Indians, University of Phoenix, Native Voice, 21 Native, Navajo Times, The Arizona Republic, AZ TV, U.S. Airways, Phoenix Suns, Phoenix Mercury, Arizona Diamondbacks, Gila River Indian Community, The Original Sweatshirts.com, Fort Mojave Indian Community, Hualapai Tribe, Arizona Department of Health Services, Pima Awards and Promotional Products, Inc., Heard Museum, Arizona Native Scene, Yavapai Prescott Indian Tribe, Championship Trophies and Parents Speak up National Campaign.

NABI Tournament Results

Girls MVP: Angel Goodrich, 4 Love of the Game, Muscogee Creek Nation, Oklahoma

Boys MVP: Wayne Rannels, Cheyenne

Arapaho, Cheyenne Arapaho, Oklahoma

Girls All Stars: Angel Goodrich, 4 Love of the Game, Nicolette Lewis, 4 Love of the Game, Gabrielle Curtis, 4 Cornerz, Terri Todachine, 4 Cornerz, Noel Hinton, Rez Girls, Tanishia Manson, Arizona Hoops, Kensey Hall, MHA Nation, Kylie Medicine Horse, Lady Eagles, Nicole Crisp, Lady Eagles, Telisha Joe, Navajo Nation Lady Cats

Boys All Stars: Wayne Rannels, Cheyenne Arapaho, Ephraim Kelley, Cheyenne Arapaho, Jo Jon Smith, 4 Love of the Game, Trevan JimBoy, 4 Love of the Game, Lavell Harris, Yakima Nation, TJ McCauley, Lakota Regulators, Jeff Longhair, Young Guns, Ephraim Sloan, Chi'hooslo Wolfpack, Jordan Kayow, Kansas Kings, Nathaniel Packineau, MHA Nation

Girls Teams: 1. 4 Love of the Game, Oklahoma, 2. 4 Cornerz, Arizona, 3. Rez Girls, Arizona

Boys Teams: 1. Cheyenne Arapaho, Oklahoma, 2. 4 Love of the Game, Oklahoma, 3. Lakota Regulators, South Dakota

Tribe of Florida sent two teams to represent the Tribe. Coach Tim Thomas from the Brighton Recreation Department brought a group of boys and a girls team from various reservations.

The pool play began with every team playing one game a day, from July 9 through 11. After collecting all scores, regular single-elimination tournament play started on July 12.

The Lady Seminoles went 1-2 in the pool play, and therefore didn't advance to tournament play but gained valuable experience, and more importantly improved every game. Chelsea Mountain, a senior at American Heritage from the

Hollywood Reservation, commented on her experience.

"It was fun. I got to meet a lot of other people



Lila Osceola-Heard
Alice TJ Osceola the great uses her quickness to get past the defense.

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Announcements ♦ Ahaaheeke ♦ Nak-ohkērkēcetv

Birthdays

I wish you the best. Happy birthday, **Tana** on Aug. 27. Love always, **Dayne Allen**

We would like to wish **Tana** a happy 14th birthday on Aug. 27. Love always, **Aunt Mary & Mark**

Wishing you a happy 14th birthday **Tana**. Love your sis, **Maranda**



Happy 13th birthday to **Monique Jimmie** on Aug. 13. I hope you become everything that I am not. Love, Your dad, **Markell Billie**



Happy birthday **Rowdey Osceola**! Rudy and Lisa Osceola visited their grandson Rowdey in Tulsa, Okla. to celebrate his 15th birthday.

Seen in the photo are: (L-R) Lisa Osceola, Rudy Osceola, Reggie Scott, Rachael Lee, Rowdey Osceola, Buffy Powell and Shiloh Smith



Memory

In Memoriam of Patrick Allen Jones June 20, 1967 – April 30, 2006

By Louise Gopher, Mother

It has been more than a year since Patrick slipped away from this world during his afternoon nap at the Florida Institute of Neurological Rehabilitation on April 30, 2006. Although the family never formally thanked everyone for their kind words and gestures, it wasn't that we did not appreciate them. It was because we did not how to express how truly grateful we were, and it was difficult to express strong feelings in a few words.

There were so many people over the two years of his convalescence that took the time to visit with him, sing to him, pray for him and even bring traditional medicine to him. He was hospitalized in West Palm Beach, Boynton Beach and finally ended up in Wauchula, Fla. But distance did not matter to his friends and family. And there are those strangers who offered comforting words.

During his first night of injury, when he was in grave condition, there was a Deacon from Belle Glade, Fla. who sat down with me and prayed for us. There was a black lady who worked on the construction crew on I-95 who came in every night to visit her mom and always offered me home cooked food. She would always say, "You need to eat."

There was a white lady who walked with me nightly to the parking lot. The 45th Street area in West Palm is not very safe. And then there was the staff at Florida Institute of Neurological Rehabilitation (FINR) who took excellent care of Pat. We never had to worry about him. To friends, family and strangers, we thank you all from the bottom of our hearts!



Patrick passed away on April 30, 2006 at the age of 38. He was born on June 20, 1967 and had a birthday recently. It would have been his 40th. He was a member of the Panther Clan and a resident of the Brighton Reservation. He was a member of the Seminole Bible Baptist Church in Brighton and graduated from Okeechobee High School in 1985.

He grew up around his grandparents, Willie and Flora Jones, and his late uncle, Bert Jones. They taught him to speak fluent Creek. Because of them, he grew up with love and respect for his native traditions and cultural ways. They taught him to sing and lead dances at traditional ceremonies. Patrick was very fond of the Green Corn Dance Ceremony and loved to play stickball there. He took all this knowledge with him.

The family sent few items with Patrick for his journey which included the sign-in book from his room at FINR with well wishes from his many visitors over the last two years. We also included an autographed copy of Patrick Smith's book, *A Land Remembered*, which was his favorite book — he loved to read — and his stickball game sticks.

He is survived by his wife Annette, son Tallbird Richard Pewo, sisters Rita McCabe and Carla Gopher, mother Louise Gopher and two nephews Michael and Erik Garcia. All reside on the Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation.



Retirement

Tribal Employee Sandy Selner Retires

By Dave Anderson, Housing Dept.

Tribal citizens, Tribal leaders, employees and friends of the Tribe joined together on July 13 to wish a fond farewell to longtime employee and a good friend Sandy Selner. Sandy has spent the last 29 years not only performing her duties but touching our lives in her own unique way. This night was our chance to thank her.

The gathering was held at the Renaissance Hotel in Plantation and they put on a very nice affair. The food and banquet room as well as the service were perfect. The emcee for the evening was Sally Tommie, who did a wonderful job though at times let her own emotions for Sandy show through. She even serenaded Sandy by song; unfortunately there are no recordings available for proof.

Those of us who were in attendance all had a chance to take the microphone and tell our own stories of this

lovable and gracious woman. As we listened to everyone speak it was very clear how special she really is. We all spoke about the woman that not only made a difference in our lives but through her dedication has played an important part during the growth of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Words cannot express how much we'll miss her. But come Monday morning there are going to be people wondering what to do or who to contact because she's not there to help

them like she has been for so many years. And then we will know.

Enjoy your retirement, "Kiddo," and thank you for everything.



Poems

Dark Dream

Into a dark dream I have awakened
All freedoms, they have taken
You wouldn't believe it even if I told you what I'm seeing
It created the person I am being
Hey!! You didn't understand what I said
Don't even think once, just smash his head
Now they know they can't treat me any kind of way
They understand what I say
Officers and inmates they all the same
Brown and blue — different colors — playing the same game
Corruptions, consumptions, assumptions, eruptions
It's all part of my daily living
Gotta build me a good life, cause they ain't giving
Hustles are fast, gotta be faster
Match wits, think quick, be my own master
Into a dark dream, I have awakened
All freedoms they have taken
You wouldn't believe it even if I told you what I'm seeing
Rage is the person I'm being
Shanked in the yard, gunners gunning
Stalkers stalking, punks everywhere! Aaaaaaah!!
Did ya hear that? It was the sound of my controls breaking
Into a dark dream I have awakened

— Joey W. Henry

Good Die Young

Life is hard and full of pain
But when one dies we come together
The good die young
And now they're on their way
They were my homies in this place
And they'll be with me till I go
But that doesn't make it easy
With all the memories that I have
This is my way to say goodbye
The only way I can cry
So I guess I'll see y'all when I get there
Cause I'm still here to fight this fight
Just know that y'all are truly missed
And that y'all be forever on my mind

— Kiel Jumper

Pieces

Many a stranger welcome through a false intrusion
Appearance can deceive by a false illusion
To touch does not always mean to feel
Witness a moment pass yet time stands still
What of laughter and smile
Those that shelter pain all the while
There are voids never to be filled
Ask the tears a heart has spilled
Eager to understand life's many twists and turns
Yet unprepared for the journey one soon learns
To make and mold with words he's ever so clever
These are the ones added to a piece of his life letter

— Leslie Gopher

The Lesson

Walk in life head held high
Greet others with care and never say goodbye
When you give your word, do all you can not to break it
If you do it, it becomes useless and no one will ever take it
Money helps but always remember it's the root
Riches are hidden, so for the stars always shoot
To love a woman is to give her your heart and give her your all
Carry each other and the two of you will never fall
When children arrive, they'll become first in all you do
You become their key to unlock the doors that make dreams come true
Be careful of those you allow in your house
For all snakes bite and all are as silent as a mouse
Pray always and seek the truth of the word
Listen with your heart and his voice will be heard
I did none of these and pain was all I got
Maybe you can learn from the lesson I'm being taught

— Leslie Gopher

Lawyers and Such

Yeah, from your mouth I've been vilified
It's really ok cause deep inside ya know ya lied
Ya got me for a few years, caused me a little tears
But it's really ok because ya left me my heart, my soul, my pencil
So every night I fight to get it right
Thoughts and words overflow from my soul
Leaving my little room is the goal
Some people still pray for me but most have forgot
It's just the nature of the beast, I was taught
Some would say ya owe me an apology
But the last four years been good to me
With six more to work the plan
To become the biggest NDN in captivity known to man
Yea, in 013 we gonna see
But ya better be careful what ya say to me
Hope ya don't think it was just a game
Cause things have a way of changing
Won't stay the same
The good thing about time is it won't slow
It'll be there before you know
Ticking away to confront destiny
That's the last thing in front of me

— Joey W. Henry

News From Indian Country

Museum of Florida History Opening Exhibit on 'Seminole People of Florida: Survival and Success'

Submitted by Florida Secretary of State's Office

TALLAHASSEE — Secretary of State Kurt S. Browning announced the opening of a new exhibit, Seminole People of Florida: Survival and Success, which will open on Nov. 15, 2007. The exhibit will be on display through June 1, 2008 at the Museum of Florida History in Downtown Tallahassee.

The exhibit was created in the spirit of admiration for a group of people who have not only survived but have overcome extreme adversity through the years. The Seminole people have adapted to a changing world with remarkable success while sustaining many of their traditions.

"This exhibit is a testament to the perseverance and pride of the Seminole Tribe," said Browning. "Their contributions to the culture and heritage of Floridians cannot be overstated. It is an honor for us to salute and recognize the Seminole Tribe on their 50th Anniversary as a sovereign nation with this exhibit."

The exhibit, Seminole People of Florida: Survival and Success, provides a glimpse into Seminole history, culture and artistic traditions from the mid 1850s to the present. There is a particular focus on the rich material culture that the Seminoles created and sustained during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.



Children gathered around the camp fire, with a chickee in the background, ca. 1920 - 1940

The exhibit will include more than 150 artifacts, historical photographs, colorful graphics, a recreation of an early 20th century trading post and a traditional Seminole chickee. Artifacts in the exhibit will encompass a range of items from stickball sticks to beautiful patchwork clothing from the museum's collection. Other artifacts include baskets, dolls, silver work, beadwork, and utilitarian items.

Visitors to the exhibit can access an interactive kiosk that features oral histories, music, and video clips. The Museum of Florida History is working with members of the Seminole Tribe, Florida State University, and others to create a well-rounded exhibit.

"We have wanted to create this exhibit for a very long time," said Museum Director Jeana Brunson. "And we are thrilled to present it for the public to learn from and enjoy."

The Museum of Florida History is located in the R.A. Gray Building at 500 South Bronough Street, downtown Tallahassee and admission is free. For more information contact (850) 245-6400 or visit www.museumoffloridahistory.com.



Collections of the Museum of Florida History

A Seminole family in a dugout canoe travels via the Miami River, ca. 1900 - 1920

Congressional Members, Senators, Pledge Support on Indian Health, Housing

Submitted by NCAI

WASHINGTON — In their first meeting after an all night debate about the Iraq War, U.S. Senators Harry Reid, Byron Dorgan, Debbie Stabenow, and John Tester met with Tribal leaders and pledged their support for immediate reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCA) and the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA). Both pieces of legislation are currently pending in the Senate.

"For the leadership of the Senate to meet with Tribal leaders after an unprecedented all night debate speaks volumes to their commitment to improving the lives of Indian people and I commend them for that," said National Congress of Americans Indians (NCAI) Executive Director Jackie Johnson. "These face-to-face meetings of governmental leaders are important for moving our shared agenda forward at a time when passage of these pieces of legislation is more important than ever."

Tribal leaders have been working on reauthorization of the IHCA since the late 1990s. Rachel Joseph, Chair of the National Steering Committee on the reauthorization of the IHCA gave the Senators a poignant example of how long Native people have been waiting for vital improvements to the health care system.

"In 1999, a Tribal leader and friend wondered if he would see the reauthorization of the IHCA before he passed on," she said. "He died in April of this year."

John Yellow Bird Steel, President of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, spoke of the U.S. government's responsibility to provide for adequate health because of Tribal lands seized by the government.

"We were promised health care for our people," he said. "The government has our lands and must now live up to their end of the bargain."

The meeting also focused on the reauthorization of NAHASDA. National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) Chairman Marty Shuravloff said robust housing in Indian Country is directly related to improved economies in Native communities.

"Not only is the Tribal economy impacted, but so too are the lives of families and individuals who live in substandard housing," said Shuravloff. "The reauthorization of NAHASDA is a vital element in improving the overall living conditions in Indian Country."

Afterwards, Tribal leaders met with staffers from the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. There, the leaders presented other topics important to Indian Country such as veteran's affairs, infrastructure and economic development. The July 19 meetings concluded with a Tribal leaders meeting with the House Resources and Native American Caucus staff.

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Casino



Felix DeBoez

The Seminole Auto Salon personnel at the grand opening celebration on July 28.

Seminole Auto Salon Grand Opening Celebration

Free Car, Dog Wash Benefits Local Humane Society

By Felix DeBoez

HOLLYWOOD — The shiny brochures handed out to the public read, "We'll Wash Your Poodle & Porsche FREE!" Bring your Hummer & Husky or your Toyota & Terrier — we'll wash them both — FREE! The grand opening of the new Seminole Auto Salon on July 28 brought in more than 100 customers to Seminole Auto Salon (SAS).

To get ready for this big event SAS had more than 35 auto wash specialists working in unison as teams, hand washing all the vehicles lined up for free carwashes. They even invited Y-100 FM's DJ Froggy making sound bites on the air to promote and support this charity event.

SAS is owned and operated by Hollywood Tribal citizen Max Osceola III, Brett Serpe, president, and Shawn Leiter, general manager.

"We have been open for the past two months," said Serpe. "Once we have established a successful business, we will be looking to expand the business model to contract with other pari-mutuels, such as the Hard Rock Casinos & Hotels to offer value added service like a carwash, and we'd like to take it to a national level."

This state of the art 14,000 square foot, environmentally friendly, hand car wash and auto detail service is located on the second level in the southeast corner of the Seminole Way Parking Garage. SAS does its part to help the environment by using biodegradable cleaning products in conjunction with a pressurized filtered water system and a sophisticated drainage system to conserve overall water usage.



Felix DeBoez

This Toyota SUV gets rinsed off as the water and suds drain through a sophisticated filtration system that will conserve overall water usage.

Here's how it works according to Apollo Ramirez of SAS: "The customer drives to the valet area of the casino and drops off their car. We'll valet the car up to the carwash area of the garage and the car will be hand washed and whatever service the customer wants. Once the service is completed, the car is driven back to the valet parking area. When the customer is ready, we deliver the cleaned car for pick-up."

"On average it takes about 30 minutes; longer for more services," Ramirez added.

Also on hand in the same vicinity were the dog washing volunteers from the Humane Society of Broward County. These workers performed the wash on the canines, while obedience instructors answered pet owners' questions and concerns. From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., dog washing went on in one end of the garage area, while on the other end of the garage the SAS exterior car washing was in full swing.

A total donation of \$1,500 was raised for the Humane Society of Broward County in the short two hour time span. All proceeds were donated by SAS, which included donations from attendees and participants.

Car washing services are open to the public from Sunday through Thursday, noon to 10 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from noon until midnight. Prices for most cars begin at \$18.99 for basic exterior carwash and go all the way up to \$139.99 for finely detailed bumper-to-bumper cleaning.

To learn more please go to SAS's website, www.seminoleautosalon.com.



Felix DeBoez

Dog washers were on hand to clean pets and raise money for the Humane Society.

Awards

Continued from page 1

According to Michael Bloom, president of the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, the two-time award recognition and categories swept by the Seminole Hard Rock reinforces the property's designation as a regional leader in the gaming and entertainment industries. "We strive to provide an exceptional experience for our guests. The readers spoke, and we're elated to be number one in every category," said Bloom.

Casino Player is the nation's largest consumer gaming magazine, dedicated to national coverage of all things of interest to gaming enthusiasts. Now in its 21st year, *Casino Player* boasts a readership well into the hundreds of thousands, and is available by subscription with its sister publication, *Strictly Slots*, at casino-player.com. The awards are documented in the July issue.

Best of Gaming Awards 2007

First Place: Best Overall Hotel Casino, Best Overall Hotel, Best Overall Casino, Best Overall Theme, Best Hotel Rooms, Best Hotel Suites, Best Room Packages, Best VIP Services, Best Valet Parking, Trendiest Casino, Best Players Club, Best High Limit Players Lounge, Best Comps, Best Service, Best Casino Promotions, Best Hosts, Best High Limit Slot Area, Most Innovative Slot Floor, Best Poker Room, Casino Where You Feel the Luckiest, Casino Most Frequented, Video Slots, Live Poker, Best Overall Entertainment, Best Concerts, Best Nightclub: Passion, Best Bar: Center Bar, Best Pool Area, Best Pool Bar, Best Place to Shop: Seminole Paradise Retail District, Best Spa, Best Must See

Attraction, Best Gourmet Dining: Jazzie Bistro, Seminole Paradise, Best Steakhouse: Council Oak, Best Champagne Brunch: Council Oak, Best Coffee Shop: Blue Plate, Best Italian Restaurant: Tuscan Italian Bistro, Seminole Paradise, Best Chinese: Tatu, Seminole Paradise, Best Japanese Sushi Bar: Tatu, Seminole Paradise, Best Mexican Restaurant: Tequila Ranch, Seminole Paradise, Best Seafood Restaurant: Bluepoint Ocean Grill.

Second Place: Best Nightclub: Pangaea, Seminole Paradise, Best Bar: Murphy's Law, Seminole Paradise.

Third Place: Best Nightclub: The Gryphon, Seminole Paradise.



Felix DeBoez

On July 24 legendary blues great BB King (R) and soul icon Al Green (L) stopped by the Hard Rock Café to begin their big tour and meet and greet their adoring fans. BB King is 81 years young and was to perform that night at a sold out show with the Reverend Al Green, who is 20 years his junior, and singer Chaka Kahn, who also shared the bill. They were promoting King's annual 2007 Blues Festival and answered questions from fans and the media about the tour.



Chris Jenkins

Actresses Essence Atkins (L) and Gabrielle Union (R) pose for the media on the Red Carpet as guests joined a host of other celebrities in support of Miami Heat star Alonzo Mourning for Zo's Summer Groove in support of his Alonzo Mourning Charities.



Chris Jenkins

Miami Heat superstar Dwyane Wade, and teammate of Alonzo Mourning, gives a quick pose while enjoying the comedy show to support Alonzo Mourning Charities and held at the Hard Rock.



Chris Jenkins

Miami Heat star Alonzo Mourning and wife Traci enjoy the comedy show benefiting his Alonzo Mourning Charities at the Hard Rock Live. The show was a part of weeklong festivities.



Chris Jenkins

Film and stage comedian Mike Epps performs for the audience at the Hard Rock Live in support of Miami Heat star Alonzo Mourning and his charity work.

Casino

New Orleans' Legendary First Family: The Neville Brothers to Perform Oct. 11

Submitted by Bitter Goodman PR

HOLLYWOOD — New Orleans' legendary first family, the Neville Brothers — Aaron, Art, Charles and Cyril — will bring their distinctive blend of rhythm and blues, soul, jazz, Cajun and funk to South Florida for an 8 p.m. performance on Oct. 11. Doors open one hour prior to show start time. Tickets are on sale now.

Throughout their long careers as both solo performers and as members of the group that bore their family name, the Neville Brothers proudly carried the torch of their native New Orleans' rich R&B legacy. Although the four siblings did not officially unite under the Neville Brothers aegis until 1977, all had crossed musical paths in the past, while also enjoying success with other unrelated projects.

Eldest brother Art was the first to tackle a recording career, when in 1954 his high school band the Hawketts cut "Mardi Gras Mambo," a song that later became the annual carnival's unofficial anthem. Two years later, Aaron scored his first solo hit, "Over You."

In 1966, he notched a pop smash with the classic "Tell It Like It Is," a lush ballad showcasing his gossamer vocals. After a stint with family band, the Meters, backed the Wild Tchoupitoulas, a group led by the Nevilles' uncle, George "Big Chief Jolly" Landry, the four brothers released their self-titled 1977 debut.

Despite critically acclaimed reviews; the band's 1981's release "Fiyo on the Bayou," which spotlighted Aaron's tenor on standards like "Mona Lisa" and "The Ten Commandments of Love" along with renditions of "Iko Iko" and "Brother John," failed to catch fire. Still persisting, the band released 1984's "Neville-ization," an incendiary live set recorded at the Crescent City landmark Tipitina's which featured Duke Ellington's "Caravan" and Aaron's perennial "Tell It Like It Is" alongside the brothers' own "Africa" and "Fear, Hate, Envy, Jealousy."

"Treacherous Vol. 1" was released in 1986 followed by "Live at Tipitina's," and then "Uptown," which featured cameo appearances from Keith Richards, Jerry Garcia and Carlos Santana.

In 1989, under the tutelage of famed New Orleans producer Daniel Lanois, the Nevilles released "Yellow Moon," an atmospheric album that finally

earned them success on the charts, thanks in part to the anthemic single "Sister Rosa." 1990's "Brother's Keeper" fared even better, spurred by Aaron's concurrent success with Linda Ronstadt on the smash duet "Don't Know Much."

The Neville Brothers legacy continued in 1999 with "Valence Street," "Uptown Rulin'" and 2004's "Walkin' in the Shadow of Life."

In subsequent years, Aaron reignited his solo career while also remaining with his brothers. While the Nevilles retained their cult following with LPs like 1992's "Family Groove," 1994's "Live on Planet Earth," and 1996's "Mitakuye Oyasayin/All My Relations," Aaron scored a top ten hit in 1991 with the single "Everybody Plays the Fool," a successful cover of the 1972 Main Ingredient soul classic taken from the Ronstadt-produced Warm Your Heart.

In 1993, he notched a minor hit with "Don't Take Away My Heaven" from the LP "The Grand Tour," a year later, he found success with "I Fall to Pieces," a duet with country star Trisha

Yearwood. In 1990, Charles also issued the jazz collection "Charles Neville & Diversity."

In addition, a second generation of Nevilles also began making their mark on music. In 1988, Aaron's son Ivan, a member of Keith Richards' backing band the Xpensive Winos, released his solo debut, "If My Ancestors Could See Me Now."

Solo-wise, Aaron Neville, one of the busiest in the family enterprise, has worked on numerous projects for television, movies and sporting events. He sang the National Anthem in the movie The Fan starring Robert DeNiro and Wesley Snipes, the theme music to the children's TV series Fisher-Price Little People and is the voice of "Cotton," for Cotton, Inc. which was introduced during the 1992 Summer Olympics and can still be heard on air, today.

Tickets cost \$50, \$40, \$30; additional fees may apply. All seats are reserved and available at the Hard Rock Live Box Office, open Monday through Saturday from noon to 7p.m. Tickets purchased in-person at the box office will not incur a service charge.

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



America to Perform at Hard Rock Live

Submitted by Bitter Goodman PR

HOLLYWOOD — Pop/folk classic group America will bring their soft rock sound to Hard Rock Live on Sept. 25 at 8 p.m. Doors open one hour prior to show start time. Tickets are on sale now.

America, featuring original members Gerry Beckley and Dewey Bunnell, have been perennials on the concert circuit for 34 years seamlessly assimilating strands of rock, pop and folk elements into crowd-pleasing favorites. The band burst onto the radio scene and the top of the charts in 1972 with their signature song, "A Horse with No Name." Soon to follow were classic AOR staples such as "I Need You," "Ventura Highway," "Don't Cross the River," "Tin Man," "Lonely People," and "Sister Golden Hair."

By the mid 70s, though, inter-band conflicts combined with an exhaustive touring and recording schedule exacted its toll on the group. In 1982, the band rebounded feverishly with the smash single, "You Can Do Magic."

America has almost 20 albums to their credit — six certified gold and/or platinum hitting four million in sales. The band also won a Grammy Award for Best New Artist in 1972.

Their newly released two CD set, "Here & Now" is a spectacular distillation of the group's signature sound, both past and present, comprising one studio record of all new material and a second live disc taped at XM Radio featuring renditions of songs found on the group's multi-platinum greatest hits album, "History." It features contemporary contributions from producers Adam Schlesinger (Fountains Of Wayne) and James Iha (Smashing Pumpkins) and features guests, Ryan Adams, Ben Kewler, Ira Elliot and Matthew Caws (Nada Surf) and Jim James and Patrick Hallahan (My Morning Jacket), Stephen Bishop and Mark Rozzo (Maplewood).

Tickets cost \$50, \$40, \$30; additional fees may apply. All seats are reserved and available at the Hard Rock Live Box Office, open Monday through Saturday from noon to 7p.m. Tickets purchased in-person at the box office will not incur a service charge.

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

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By Elizabeth Leiba

HOLLYWOOD — The Miss Florida Seminole and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant was an opportunity to celebrate the beauty of the women of the Seminole Tribe of Florida as represented by the young and talented contestants on July 28.

This pageant also held a special place in history as it occurred during the year of the 50th Anniversary of the Tribe's Constitution signing. Fifty years of Seminole princesses were honored with a presentation from Chairman Mitchell Cypress and President Richard Bowers Jr. In addition a slideshow showcased the former Miss Seminole and was dedicated to the women of the Seminole Tribe. Strains of Whitney Houston's "I'm Every Woman" punctuated the photographs of Seminole princesses past and present.

The night began with opening remarks from emcee Moses "Big Shot" Jumper Jr., who shared his poem "Seminole... Beautiful and Proud." The poem highlights the uniqueness, beauty and determination of the Seminole woman.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress provided a warm welcome for the audience and sympathized with the difficult task the judges had ahead of them in picking just one Miss and one Jr. Miss. President Richard Bowers also addressed the crowd. He thanked the Princess Committee for holding the event and continuing the Princess tradition.

After an introduction of Princess Committee members, the Tribal Council and Board members were recognized, as well as the reigning Jr. and Miss Seminole Princess.

Little Miss Seminole Krysta Burton also came to the stage and said a few words. There was laughter from the audience as she stood on a chair when she couldn't see over the podium. But in true Seminole royalty fashion, she was articulate and poised in front of the crowd.

After an introduction of the pageant judges, the contestants each took the stage and gave a brief biography presentation about themselves, starting with the contestants for Junior Miss Florida Seminole.

First up was Jaryaca Baker, 12, from Brighton. Her hobbies include softball, basketball and participating in 4-H.

Lariah Balentine, Panther Clan, resides on the Big Cypress Reservation. Balentine attends Ahlachee Day School and in her free time enjoys playing basketball, softball and models.

Amber Craig, 16, attends Boca Raton Preparatory School and is currently in the 11th grade. The Bird Clan member resides on the Brighton Reservation and her hobbies include playing sports such as basketball, volleyball, softball and soccer. After high school graduation, she said she plans to attend Florida State University and pursue a degree in business administration.

Margie Dorgan, 14, is a member of the Panther Clan who said she likes to hang out with her friends.

Alicia Nunez, 14, has several hobbies including playing piano, guitar and drums. She lives in Okeechobee, Fla. and attends Benjamin High School in North Palm Beach. After graduation she said she plans to attend the University of Florida and major in psychotherapy or marine biology.

Amelia Nunez, 12, plays volleyball and tennis and said she loves photography. She lives in Okeechobee, Fla. and also attends Benjamin Middle School. She also hopes to start her own business one day.

Next were the introductions from the Miss Florida Seminole contestants.

Kurya Kippenberger, 19, is a sophomore at Nova Southeastern University majoring in history. In her free time she said she enjoys spending time with her family, sewing and attending Pow-Wows with her grandmother.

Jennifer Chalfant, 18, is a resident of the Brighton Reservation and Bird Clan member. This fall she will be attending Florida Atlantic University, majoring in dentistry.

For the next portion of the competition, each contestant modeled traditional Seminole clothing. Big Shot explained that this art should be embraced by more young Seminole women.

"Although it is an art, it is basically not dying out, but not a lot of our young ladies pick that up anymore," he stated. "This is one of the things our young people need to pick up as far as from our older ladies that are seamstresses who do these designs and traditional dresses."

First, the Jr. Miss Seminole contestants modeled their traditional wear. Jaryaca Baker wore a long sleeved traditional cotton dress with the medicine colors and diamond patchwork design. It was accentuated by a short cape and made by Virginia Oscola of the Hollywood Reservation.

Lariah Balentine modeled a traditional Seminole two piece outfit with the medicine colors. Her dress was accentuated with multi-colored beaded earrings and a 20 strand, medicine color beaded necklace.

Amber Craig graced the stage in a traditional cotton dress with geometric patterns. The full-length skirt was accentuated by a green ruffle at the top. Her dress was made by her great-grandmother Alice Snow.

Margie Dorgan wore a short sleeved traditional cotton outfit with a blue and yellow short cape. The dress also contained patchwork and was made by her great-grandmother Alice Snow.

Alicia Nunez modeled a traditional two piece Seminole dress from the early 1920s. The yellow, black and maroon dress featured a patchwork design of a man on a horse.

Amelia Nunez wore a dress she had made herself with the help of her grandmother. The early 1900s traditional cotton dress was red, black and white with a short black cape and two black ruffles. She also wore matching beads with multiple strands and earrings.

Kurya Kippenberger modeled a purple and black traditional cotton dress from the early 1900s with a short cape and quarter-length sleeves. It featured a white and green diamond patchwork design made by her great-grandmother Mary Tiger.

Jennifer Chalfant's dress was a three-piece modern traditional dress. It was accentuated by a short pink cape and diamond patchwork designs in the medicine colors. Her dress was made by her great-grandmother Alice Snow.

"The clothing is a very important part of our culture and our tradition," stated 2006-2007 Miss Florida Seminole Brittany Yescas. "As you can see it's unique in its own way and it separates us from the rest of the world."

The talent portion of the competition followed with contestants performing a variety of traditional Seminole talents and customs. The Junior Miss Seminole contestant went first.

Jaryaca Baker performed her rendition of "Amazing Grace" in Creek, while Lariah Balentine shared a video demonstrating her ability to make sofkee. Amber Craig recited an original poem, entitled "The Lost Ones," about the history of the Seminole Tribe and in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Tribe.

Next was Margie Dorgan with her telling of the legend about two hunters. Alicia Nunez demonstrated how to make shakers that are worn by women at traditional dances and Amelia Nunez displayed some traditional clothing, including pieces that she had made herself.

The Miss Seminole contestants also had an opportunity to show off their talents. Kurya Kippenberger demonstrated how to make a beading loom and showed her beading work, while Jennifer Chalfant recited Big Shot's poem, "The Council Oak."

The impromptu questions tested the contestants' knowledge of Seminole traditions and culture and each contestant demonstrated her ability to answer with poise and grace.

Before the winners were announced, both the 2006-2007 Miss Florida Seminole Brittany Yescas and Junior Miss Florida Seminole Tianna Garcia gave their farewell speeches.

By the end of the night the judges had talked up the votes and the winners were announced for all categories.

Alicia Nunez won the talent portion of the contest for her demonstration of how to make shakers. She also won Miss Congeniality and was the crowned Junior Miss Florida Seminole.

First runner up was Amelia Nunez; second runner up was Amber Craig; third runner up was Lariah Balentine; fourth runner up was Jaryaca Baker; and Margie Dorgan was the fifth runner up.

First runner up for the title of 2007-2008 Miss Seminole was Kurya Kippenberger. Jennifer Chalfant was crowned the new Miss Florida Seminole for the 2007-2008 year.



2007 Florida Seminole Princess Pageant

Photos by Stephen Galla

2007-2008 Miss Florida Seminole Princess



Jennifer Chalfant





Alicia Nunez



2007-2008 Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Princess

2007 Florida Seminole Princess Pageant



Elizabeth Leiba



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