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Tribal Citizen Earns President's Education Award



Photo submitted by Wende Malik

(L-R) Bryce and dad O.B. Osceola Jr.

Submitted by Wende Malik

NAPLES—Congratulations to Bryce Monroe Osceola, 11, of the Naples community. Bryce graduated from fifth grade at Vineyards Elementary School in Naples at the end of May and received the President's Education Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence.

Students are eligible to receive this award if they maintain a 3.2 or higher overall GPA and a passing score on the FCAT. This award is personally signed by the President of the United States George Bush.

Bryce also finished her fifth grade year on the honor roll and was a year-long member of the Vineyards News Crew, which broadcast a daily morning TV show to the entire school. Bryce participated as a news anchor and also worked the camera equipment.

Bryce was an active basketball player during the school year, playing for the local YMCA teams year-round. She also said she enjoys watching her cousin, Dakota Osceola, play on the local Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Basketball Team, called Explosion. Bryce hopes to follow her cousin Dakota's lead and join the AAU team this fall.

Bryce is the daughter of Naples Tribal Liaison O.B. Osceola Jr. and Wende Malik, both of the Naples community.



Stephen Gallia

Brittany Yescas, 2006-2007 Miss Florida Seminole Tianna Garcia, 2006-2007 Jr. Miss Florida Seminole

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Clifford Sanchez Jr. Plays in Jim Thorpe Classic *Jim Thorpe Considered 'Athlete of the Century'*

By Kenny Bayon

LAWTON, OK—Seminole Tribal citizen and Hollywood resident Clifford Sanchez Jr. was not only chosen to play in the Jim Thorpe Indian All Star game but selected as well. He was joined by fellow Seminole Jarrod Smith, who was selected as a coach. The game was played at Cameron Stadium in Lawton, Okla. on July 1.

The game pitted an all star team from Oklahoma called Team Oklahoma and players from the rest of the country called the National All Stars. Cliff spent the entire week leading up to the game at Camp Y'Shau.

This remote camp is a year round retreat and conference center located on 160 acres in the heart of the beautiful Wichita Mountains. The camp is about 45 minutes from Lawton and was where both teams practice for the game. Furthermore, it was where the youth football camp for Native Americans was held.

Clifford, the son of the late Clifford Sanchez Sr. and Alicia Cabal, is a member of the Panther clan. Cliff just recently graduated from Hollywood Christian High School. He was a two year starter on the varsity football team and played two positions as starting offensive tackle



Kenny Bayon

Sanchez #55 prepares to take the field.

◆ See CLIFFORD, page 19

Seminoles Compete in North American Indigenous Games

By Chris Jenkins

DENVER, CO—A celebration of culture, sport and spirit was on center stage July 2-9, as the Mile High City played host to the sixth annual North American Indigenous Games (NAIG).

Athletes from all across the U.S. and Canada came together for this event, which takes place every four years. The Seminole Tribe of Florida represented the state with pride and honor. Of the 15 sports offered, Team Florida had representatives in basketball, athletics, also known as track, Tae Kwon Do, rifle shooting, archery, golf and wrestling.

One of the stars of the week was Amy Johns, who won gold and bronze medals in rifle shooting. As a 2002 competitor, Johns was determined to come back strong this year. The Brighton native and mother of two won in the prone, or laying position, and 3P, which encompasses three positions: prone, kneeling and standing, divisions.

The Panther clan member got into rifle shooting at an early age and says it was her love for it which held her interest.

"It seemed like the logical choice for me because I'm around firearms a lot," Johns said.

Teammate Reese Bert felt confident that Johns' chances were good to medal.

"I believed Amy should have been able to place," Bert said.

Johns coach and teammate, Joe

◆ See NAIG, page 21



Judy Weeks

Helene and Andy Buster talk wellness.

13th Annual Seminole Wellness Conference

By Judy Weeks

MARCO ISLAND, FL—On July 16 participants began to arrive at the Marco Island Hilton for the 13th Annual Seminole Wellness Conference. This monumental event had been in the planning stages for the past nine months and had finally become a reality.

Under the competent direction of Helene Buster, the wellness committee put together a very beneficial opportunity for the members of the Seminole Tribe and their families. The basic concept is just what the name implies. Wellness takes in additions in its many forms, recovery and both physical and mental well being. This year's well thought out program covered all of these aspects, including youth counseling.

Activities got underway each morning at 6 a.m. with the Fitness department sponsoring a beach walk that took in approximately a three mile radius. Gathering in the pre-dawn darkness behind the hotel, the group had the exhilarating experience of watching the sunrise as they enjoyed the quiet lapping of the Gulf waters on the beach. Walking along in solitude or speaking in hushed tones, one could not help but recognize that each day is a new beginning in our lives.

The beach walk was just the beginning of a very busy day for the Fitness department. Personal trainers Neil Prager and Joey Garcia were available by appointment to assist in helping set up a safe, healthy physical program geared to the needs of each individual participant. Massage Therapist Tracy DelaRosa used her magic fingers to relieve the muscle strain from unfamiliar exercise or long hours in the conference room. Both facili-

◆ See WELLNESS, page 26

Tribe, Inc. Helps Football Team Prepare for Next Year

Board Donates Check in Honor of the Late Fred Smith

By Lila Osceola
HOLLYWOOD — On July 20,

President/Vice Chairman Moses Osceola congregated in his office with Camilla Smith, and key Smith family members. Together the group presented a check to Okeechobee High School Football Coach Chris Branham.

Fred Smith, Bird clan, played guard for Okeechobee High from 1957-1958. Smith was once the president of Seminole Tribe of Inc. for three terms. Tribal citizens, daughter Camilla Smith, granddaughter Stephanie Smith and grandson, Jarrod Smith, from Brighton were present to honor their relative and their local high school. The Okeechobee football players who attend this camp in Lake Denton, Fla. on Aug. 1-5 will bene-

proper chemistry plays a large role in the success of a football team on any level.

Camp attendees can expect four nights and three days of intensive football drills, team building, evening ministries, camp fires, dorm-room living and full course meals. Any football player would say this sounds like a camp the young men will enjoy and benefit from.

The football camp will not only benefit the football team on the field, but off the field as well. The camp will present a college level regimen for the student athletes to experience. For those who are looking forward to attending

"Always try harder, give it all you got, and because you get to college be ready to play. When you get to college you may think you're good, you're just like everyone else there."

— Jarrod Smith, Florida Atlantic University standout football player

college, this gives them a sneak peak of what to expect.

Seminoles who attend Okeechobee High School are: sophomores Pablo Cardinos, Piercen Huntsinger, Damon Bert and senior Kelsey Spencer. Grades play an important role in sports and some

Seminoles are negatively affected. That is why the Coach Branham has incorporated in study hall before football practice with hopes of keeping everyone of the players eligible.

Branham is one of the youngest head coaches in the history of Okeechobee High School and holds his college level intensity to the team. Major rules that he said he instills in his players are: God, family, school and football.

He, along with his staff, pride themselves on discipline, dedication and determination. Coach Branham said he hopes to prepare the student athletes for college and give them some experience that will prepare them throughout life, in

college and on and off the field.

The Smith family legacy lives on through Fred Smith's grandson, Florida Atlantic University football great, Jarrod Smith and granddaughter, 2005-2006 Brighton Miss Seminole, Stephanie Smith.



(L-R) Moses Osceola, Stephanie Smith, Camilla Osceola, Coach Branham, Jarrod Smith and Gwen Smith at the check presentation.

fit from the donation greatly. Coach Branham said he believes this camp will improve the chances of his teams' success for the upcoming year.

This camp will play as a very important part of team preparedness for the upcoming season along with team building and much needed team trust in one another. Working on the fundamentals and having the



Susan Etxebarria

Brianna Nuñez stands in front of the mural she helped paint in Okeechobee City, Fla.

Brianna Skye Nuñez Makes A Mural

By Susan Etxebarria

OKEECHOBEE CITY, FL. — Tribal citizen Brianna Skye Nuñez is getting an early start as an artist. The 10-year-old was one of 10 Okeechobee school district students selected to work with noted artists to paint a mural on a building wall in Okeechobee City.

The 80-foot-by-18-foot historical mural entitled the "Williams Family Cattle Drive-1937" was unveiled to an appreciative audience at the outdoor celebration on July 10. This was the first mural project sponsored by Okeechobee Main Street, Inc., a downtown economic development and revitalization organization.

Nuñez is the daughter of Deanna and Dallas Nuñez. Her Seminole grandmother is Alice Sweat, a member of the Panther clan. Brianna has had a love for drawing and painting since she was old enough to hold a crayon.

"I love to draw horses," she said "Sometimes, if I can't think of anything to draw, I do cartoons."

Nuñez has taken art classes at Absolute Art Gallery. Her mother said Brianna loves to sew and do crafts.

"She will stay up all night," mom Deanna said. "I think her love of art has to do with her Seminole culture and how well her people express themselves through artwork."

Brianna also posed as a model for the mural. She represented a Seminole youngster in a gathering of people standing in front of a 1937 movie theater. Nuñez said her daughter will be part of history.

"In the mural you are seeing her picture up there forever," Deanna Nuñez said. "It will be there forever."

Brianna Nuñez worked 18 months alongside her fellow students under the guidance of professional artists to accomplish this extraordinary work of art. Students were chosen by their teachers for the honor of being a "junior artist." Each one had to have exceptional talent as demonstrated in samples of their work.

These junior artists were able to strengthen their painting skills under the direction of the artists who all volunteered their time to work on this project. They are: Fawn McNeill Barr, art teacher at Okeechobee High School, Bridgette Waldau, artist and owner of the Studio of Graphic Design, Maureen Burroughs, a floral artist and owner of Sybels Flowers and Gifts, T.J. Condon, a freelance graphic and fine artist and Jillian Warren, a caricature artist at Busch Gardens in Tampa Bay. Waldau was the driving force behind the design and artistic elements.

The other nine junior artists were: Lindsay Crum, Rocky Huddleston, Taneisha Mitchell, Rachel Muros, Jack Radebaugh, Hannah Sadler, Donny Sheldon, Nick Valcamant and Gabrielle Velie.

The mural depicts various scenes and memories of the youthful days of Haynes Williams in an earlier era in Okeechobee, Fla. His pioneer grandfather, Fitz Williams, raised cattle on Okeechobee land, the well known 101 Ranch.

The mural was painted with acrylics with UV glaze. It can be seen at 206 North Parrott Avenue in Okeechobee.

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Rock Mine Aids Development of Big Cypress



Rock pit employees often have to operate heavy equipment on the job.



A Rock Pit employee pumps water on the job.



The Rock Pit is building a new Scale House, where trucks weigh their rock loads.

By Susan Etebarria
BIG CYPRESS — A trip to the Big Cypress reservation rock mine seems like a trip to Mars. What appears at the end of what locals call Rock Pit Road is a vast terrain bleached white in the hot sun, a barren landscape dotted by huge pyramids of rock, dirt or sand. Gigantic machinery crawls over the earth and with giant arms of mechanized steel dig and dump earth. At times, wind storms blow clouds of white dust.

This surreal oasis is not a gold mine but it might as well be one. On this large stretch of land, located about eight miles south of the Big Cypress Family Investment Center, rock mining produces a valuable natural resource and for the next 20 years there will be almost an endless supply.

An average of 170 dump trucks a day, each loaded with 20 tons of material, pass through the scales daily. It is estimated there will be an additional 120 tons of material needed each day for the construction of the reservation's new water plant when it begins. So far 100 acres has been mined, 89 acres are currently being mined and there are another 200 that will begin excavation in the future. It took almost five years to excavate the first 100 acres.

Since the water table is so close to the surface, water fills up the ever widening rock pit as the digging proceeds. The pit needs to be pumped out continuously to keep it dry for the machines to maneuver so deep pits are dug nearby to hold the excess water. When they finish mining the earth from the first pit, they return the water and then start on the emptied pit. What was left after excavation of the first pit is now a 20 foot deep lake already teeming with fish. The plan is that future generations may one day be able to enjoy this newly created lake once it is landscaped as a beautiful park for picnicking, boating and fishing. At this point the industrial site is not usable, safe and is off limits.

How the rock mine was developed is a story as strange as the altered scenery. The rock mine was once viewed as potential pasture land for tribal cattle. Board Representative Paul Bowers Sr. and his brother, Richard Bowers, raise cattle in this region. Looking for new pastures five years ago led them to this section of land. "We wanted to plant grasses and fence it off," said Richard Bowers. First they needed ditches dug for

irrigation and to provide water for the herd. But they ran into problems immediately and it was slow going.

"The cap rock was so hard the machines couldn't get through the earth and each day we were only able to dig a trench about 25 to 50 feet long," added Bowers. "The machines were being destroyed and we were discovering it was hard rock at least three feet deep."

Richard Bowers said they had to use dynamite and that's when they realized

Rock is also used for home building and this is where the Five Point Corporation gets its top soil for their Big Cypress landscape projects.

"We have taken out millions of yards of fill and about 75 percent of it has been used in Big Cypress," said Richard Bowers. "They've got it at their fingertips."

Because of the investment in equipment and start up costs the Board is not making a lot of profit yet but the rock mine has saved the Tribe millions of dollars in construction costs. As the capital outlay for assets decreases the profits will increase.

Of the 22 pieces of equipment one of the largest is a Hitachi Trackhoe that can scoop up to seven yards of earth in its enormous bucket. The earth is funneled into a crusher that can produce 800 tons of crushed rock in one hour. The crushed base material is used in creating asphalt roads.

Delivery of rock to Big Cypress from Clewiston, Fla. would cost the Tribe up to \$700 or more per load due to distance. Therefore the Tribal Council purchases from the Board of Directors in order to save money.

As any highly industrialized business there are many regulations regarding the environment and ecology that have to be adhered to. The operators can only dig down about 20 feet before hitting a bright green clay-type substance called marl. Below that is the aquifer.

Today, 21 full-time employees run an efficient and growing operation. The rock mining manager is Richard Bowers and the rock mine supervisor is Clyde Beckett. Karen Simone and Esther Buster

run the office while there are heavy equipment operators, pump operators and other laborers at the rock mine.

The rate sheet lists materials available per ton. These materials include: rip rap, gabion stone, bedding stone, commercial #89 stone, commercial #57 stone, commercial screenings, crushed rock, top soil and pond sand.

A new scale house is being built but until then the main office for Big Cypress Rock Mining is housed in the same building as the Cattle & Ranch Headquarters. If anyone wishes to purchase any materials they may call the office 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. at (863) 983-4141.



Supervisor Clyde Beckett stands near Rock Pit machinery.

they were sitting on top of a large vein of coral rock so hard and deep that it would be very difficult to dig the desired irrigation ditches. A boring test revealed the lands potential as a rock mine.

"We were at the right place at the right time because Big Cypress was really growing and the rock, sand and dirt was really needed," said Richard Bowers.

Representative Paul Bowers, Sr. said that he and Richard sought the support of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. to

get the rock mine started and funded to purchase heavy equipment and pay operators. Since then millions of tons of dirt has been dug and used.

"It feels good because it helps the community and it helps build house pads," said Bowers Sr.

This valuable earth offers up a cache of rock desperately needed for road and building construction on the reservation. The materials are used on the reservation but there are some outside buyers including the South Florida Water Management District, Weekly Asphalt and others.

"The rock mine has saved the Tribe millions of dollars in construction costs."

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Seminole Art - A Renaissance in the Making

By Elgin Jumper

Art, according to Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, is defined as "the conscious use of skill and creative imagination, especially in the production of aesthetic objects," indicating then objects considered beautiful or pleasing in appearance. Art is truth. Art is everywhere. Art is in the collective waters, as it were. And "Seminole Art," particularly, is on the rise, a reawakening, a Seminole Renaissance, if you will, is going to occur.

Recently I visited the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on the Big Cypress reservation, off of I-75 (Alligator Alley) and Snake Road. I must say I enjoyed the visit very much! The museum has heart and spirit and the staff and curators were kind and courteous throughout, extremely helpful. As for the exhibits, there's a score of life-like mannequins all made up to resemble actual tribal members. I found myself scrutinizing them to see if they might be breathing or not. (Smile) The wax figures are arranged in various activities—economy, family, camp life, ideology, and Green Ceremonies—concerning Seminole history and culture and are reminiscent of Contemporary Figurative Sculptor Duane Hanson's life-size figures made of polyester resin and fiberglass. There's a boardwalk and a cypress dome and a gift shop as well. The museum offers up an orientation film, which is a virtual feast for the eyes and ears, a rich store of knowledge.

In the back of the museum, inside near the glass doors and the library, hangs a splendid painting by the late Seminole artist, Noah Billie. Being somewhat of an artist myself, I took some extra moments to immerse myself in the brilliance of this particular oil painting: Seminole warriors in full regalia, hidden within a watery landscape... White soldiers, oblivious as to the warriors' presence, march on. It's a rather large painting with much detail, a great work of art. I tried to imagine what the artist must've felt, what his creative process must've been like.

Needless to say my visit to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki went far in giving me more insight into the appreciation of our precious Seminole Art.

Driving away, I was filled with a warm sense of pride, I felt as if a great truth had been given to me by the Maker of Breath. I was so moved, I should say, that right then I decided my next essay would be on Seminole Art.

Immediately I set my pen to paper and tried to get my feelings down as best I could. Art stirs my imagination, awakens my soul, exalts my spirit. And Seminole art has power, it's vibrant and rich, it evokes the emotions of the struggle, and it reaches back into the past to present a fresh image for the future. It is Seminole, and it is extraordinarily creative!

It is an art that thoroughly illuminates the Seminole, and it is quite worthy of its place within the boundless limits of the artistic world. Back in June of this year, I made a visit to the Norton Museum in West Palm Beach, Fla. I couldn't believe all the great works of art, the works of significant artists like Picasso, Kuhn, Matisse, Pollack, Bohm, O'Keeffe, Saar, to name a few. I saw the works of the Impressionists, the Post-Impressionists, Betty Saar, and her African-American experience, and the museum's Renaissance paintings as well as the various galleries waiting to be examined and appreciated. Truth be told, I have been deeply moved by these exhibitions also. Why hadn't I made the trip earlier? I know I had spent time in there but when I checked my watch three hours had elapsed and it hadn't even seemed that long. It was a wonderful visit.

The museum is well-maintained. I could ask questions on a particular work and feel confident with the answers given (just as it had been at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki). The artwork is right there before you, it confronts you, it won't go away, it draws you in, slays you, then weeps. I enjoyed the stairway with inspiring quotes from illustrious artists and the Chihuly Ceiling crafted from colored glass (I first saw his work a month prior at the Tropical Gardens in Miami).

I was amazed at how close the artwork is. I studied the different techniques such as the lavish brushstrokes of post-impressionism, the dripped-paint techniques of Pollack's "Night Mist," the vivid colors and the force and the unpredictable abstractions. I took in the Chinese art on the second floor and the priceless permanent collection on the third floor.

It was a beautiful way to spend an afternoon. The imagination is alive and well. Understanding of art is on the rise, and great art is made accessible in West Palm Beach, among other South Florida locales. I for one shall find the time.

The exhibits with photography and quilt-works were awe-inspiring, to say the least, and the visit was well-worth the drive and the ten-dollar price of the ticket. But assailing the Norton's gift shop afterwards, handling posters and postcards and such, I started reflecting on the significance of Seminole art—yesterday, today, and tomorrow—how it so represents us, our most profound thoughts, our deepest feelings, our drama, our laughter, our hopes, our prayers, our protests. It is much more than art. It goes past understanding. It is alive and quite symbolic of our highs and lows. We need more of that.

I keep the literature I received from the Norton and the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki close to my laptop and replay the memories often. To me, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki is just as prestigious as the Norton, if not more so, with just as important an artistic stature as anyone else, with just as true an artistic

contribution to offer than anyone else. I look forward to the Seminole artists of the future, learning and honing their craft, awaiting their opportunity. They wait to take the world by storm, and they will echo the hopes and dreams of the Seminole Tribe. They'll create art from their experiences, from their lives. And it will certainly have significance.

I was even inspired to take out my own dust-covered drawing pad and canvas panels. I have always been an aspiring artist, but scarcely was I ever aware of the principles of design, or the concepts of balance, symmetry, unity, etc., etc. Yet circumstances seemed to be on some divine convergence and I thought of creative processes that were vehemently inclining towards each other which caused me to ponder a lasting art, an artistic awakening that emphasizes the need for artistic freedom—I even considered Seminole writers, extolling the virtues of Seminole Art in all its magnificence—and so many blank canvases to fill, so many works of art to produce. The talent is there: the ability, the process, and the finished product, transmitting the deepest feelings which in turn causes the deepest feelings in others.

Since boyhood I have appreciated art. I can even recall owning a book on Norman Rockwell and his famous paintings. I remember the painting with the kid running away from home, and the rather large cop preparing to guide him back. That one sticks in my head for some reason. But Native artwork was so foreign to me back then, and I'd only heard one side of the story. I would educate myself about the Indian side later on. I'd heard the story of Van Gogh and the ear and the madness, but I couldn't quite see and feel the passion behind all that just yet. And it was only when the tribal fair came around once a year that I got a passing glimpse of Native American art. I was in too much of a hurry to stop and smell the colorful flowers by the wayside.

But I still attempted to draw and write. I remember sketching the bands I liked and scribbling surrealist landscapes like some would-be Salvador Dali. And in my recollections, I can see the mirrored-water in the distance, the cliffs and the mists and the dreams. Some of my drawings were in color, some in black and white; I kept them with what passed for my schoolwork. Sometimes poetry manifested itself without words and dreams can be the blue color of sadness, but in spite of that the artist creates, the vision is bestowed, a once barren life is at once restored, if we just take the time... I think back on that world of childhood dreams when I do it haunts me. You see, it's those very dreams that imbed themselves deep in your heart and no matter what you do to try and get away, those dreams never let up on you. Believe me, I know.

When I recall my artwork back then, it's usually an unfinished piece, but the lack of completion can be attributed to inactivity rather than to any sound artistic decision. The initial spirit was there, but the following through wasn't, and as soon as one idea was started another would take hold, cast its spell and work its magic, as if the initial flame had been ignited only to be smothered out by the fleeting breeze of yet another unfulfilled flame. Had I collected all my unfinished work up to that time, I feel I could very well have created a crude example of abstract expressionism. (Smile) Fortunately for me, those incomplete pieces have been misplaced in the inexorable march of time.

Sometimes I worked with colored pencils and sometimes charcoal or graphic pencils, and for awhile there I worked with acrylic and tempera paints, mixing the different mediums. I drew Indians with a western landscape for background, though I'd scarcely been even out west. But in that rear-view mirror, I can see a wayward kid, a boy, knowing and yet not knowing anything at all, starting but rarely finishing, pen or paint-brush in hand, and yet well-acquainted with introspection and solitude.

While I considered Seminole art, I realized that everything I have ever experienced, everything I've ever read, written, heard or lived through, influences the feelings I have for art, all art. A coral monument in Pembroke Pines, Fla. could be mystically linked to ancient Stonehenge across the sea, and on the walls of my imagination are the vivid prehistoric cave paintings with colors and contour lines and everything! They hold a sacred link to Sitting Bull's drawings of "The Battle of the Little Big Horn" and all those blue soldiers falling from the sky. Imagine: Sitting Bull knew before the battle was even fought that they were going to win. Long after they're gone, the artwork remains—just look at all the great societies before us, all have vanished, only the art remains.

Prior to submitting this essay, I spoke with Anne McCudden, with the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum about the upcoming

Seminole art exhibit scheduled for Jan. 1, 2007, and she was brimming with optimism, adding also that the museum has had "a good response" so far. She was very helpful and answered my questions promptly and with much interest. Incidentally, all works of art must be submitted by August 15, 2006, so please hurry, finish up those pieces and get them in. Seminole creativity is as unique as the Florida Everglades and the promise of greener days can only foster a rarely-seen artistic growth, a rise in Seminole-oriented works of art that truly needs embracing and nurturing. Seminoles expressing the Seminole experience as standard-bearers for the future. Seminole artists will be in vogue now. It's time. I can see a Seminole art scene and a flourishing market stimulated by hope and the challenge and art movements for our



Painting entitled "Corn Dance" by Seminole artist, Noah Billie.

Photo submitted by Noah Billie

Picasso, our O'Keeffe, our Matisse, while still retaining our Seminole identity and rising always to the zenith! The possibility is very real. But you know what, steps need to be taken, and no delay, either, for the time is now to get out from behind the comfort zone, the awakening is at hand. I myself have vowed not waste any longer the talents God has given me.

It's been at least three decades since I sketched my first unfinished Indian with a surreal background. I recall some of those drawings, tossed about now in a world of remembrance, how some were scribbled on red construction paper. Art has to have its beginnings. I recall other works of art, water color studies with still life and action combined. It was as though I could see and feel those accidental washes of color, like I was standing within the brilliant petals of an O'Keeffe painting. But mine were more accident than method, and yet they appeared crisp and fresh and lively as if they'd been rendered only yesterday.

Subsequent to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum visit, I've taken my art supplies out more frequently, attempting to transform the blank paper or canvas panel into an work of art, creativity where once was destruction, the yellow sun now shimmering on a canvas once dark and foreboding. It's a promising landscape now, steeped in confidence—the Seminole experience as I see it.

I've lived joys and sorrows, I try to reveal that in my art. Its not hard for me to conjure up those images with their smiles and frowns or illuminations of success and the dark grays of disaster. I have traversed the smooth, flower-scented path and I've endured the severe uphill climb with no sun, but in spite of those troubles (and not because of them), I strive on. The reawakening of my artistic endeavors was the turning of the tide, the harbinger and catalyst of a new day. I can always remind these films of memory and images, inspired by some great Seminole artist—Noah Billie or Jimmie Scott Osceola, among many others—toiling on in earnestness and in the ardent search for truth.

Today I try to make art from what was once turmoil and grief. I'm not perfect, I know this, but I do feel that creativity is far better than destruction and that someday, when I'm in a far better position, God will restore the happiness that once was. I've got to pray that this is true.

Had I only felt this strongly about literature and art when my family was with me, I could've further instilled in them the passion for enrichment, for empowerment, and the need to craft our feelings and experiences into art, an art that creates beauty, boldly and unafraid, honoring and immortalizing the Seminoles. Today, my family is separated, and yet, still, I must deeply consider Seminole Art and refuse to go quietly into the night, for I don't live the ruinous life I once lived, nor do I feel the somberness of ravaged times. I see now only a future as lived amidst as the heavens, I hear only the words of God saying, "Now's the time... the long night is over."

Good dreams possess vibrant wings of potential that soar on in bluest skies. I pray they'll soar to the hearts of my children, for their art shall be a revolt against their fate, the vibrant wings of potential that soar on in bluest skies. I pray they'll soar to the hearts of my children, for their art shall be a revolt against their fate, the vibrant wings of potential that soar on in bluest skies. I pray they'll soar to the hearts of my children, for their art shall be a revolt against their fate, the vibrant wings of potential that soar on in bluest skies.

their art will remain long after we're gone. If I were to paint a family portrait now, I'd try to reveal not only the shadows of anguish and despair, but the sunlight radiance as well, the happy times, the colors bright and cheerful. There were countless times when we were there as well. The canvas on which I paint today is encouraging and the palette is varied, well-intentioned. My deep interest in the art of poetry and writing endures and gives my life a sense of meaning and purpose. And there's so much hidden talent within the Seminole Tribe, artists signifying a virtual treasure-trove of passion. I've come to greatly appreciate art, in writing and in drawing and painting, in the enduring beauty of life and nature, as if guided to it by a sacred light. No, I'm not the same man who once took his life for granted, but I am a person now striving to pick himself up off the ground, dust himself off... and perhaps there's a blessed art being created when one makes a change for the better.



Elgin with a portrait of his grandmother late, Tommy Jumper.

Photo submitted by Elgin Jumper



Seminole man steering canoe in Canal.

Photo submitted by Elgin Jumper

Apache Chief Geronimo drawing graphite by Elgin.

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Summer Block Party in Immokalee

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — Residents of the Immokalee reservation turned out in full force on July 14 to participate in the Summer Block Party. Festivities were held at the Immokalee Seminole Youth and Livestock Ranch. Representatives from 12 departments had correlated their efforts to make this event an overwhelming success.

Nutritionist Charlotte Porcario had accepted the difficult job of coordinating so many different departments and arranging the schedule. "It was truly a group effort and I couldn't have done it without everyone's cooperation," Porcario said. "Meetings were held, plans made, program schedules set up, and when the big day came, everything fell right into place. This is really a wonderful, enthusiastic group of people and I enjoy working with them." Even the weather cooperated and held off the downpour of rain that takes place each afternoon this time of the year. The clouds didn't begin to gather until the party was drawing to a close. Festivities got underway with an opening

gives you the power to survive and the ability to stand strong as the Seminole Nation."

Seminole Police Department Interim Chief Charlie Tiger talked about his 33 years in law enforcement. During this time, he had gained experience in many fields: patrol, canine, detective, dive team and SWAT as well as administration. He asked several individuals what they aspired to become upon completing their education. Among the replies were school teacher, plastic surgeon, marine biologist and police officers.

Tiger pointed out that it was very important to set goals, stay in school and work hard to achieve your careers, for not only your own benefit but for the sake of your people. If you make a genuine effort the Seminole Tribe is willing to help you achieve your goals.

The 2005-2006 Miss Florida Immokalee Christine McCall echoed his words and offered inspiration to the Tribal youth.

"You have a responsibility to yourself, your family and your Tribe," McCall said. "I am in my first year of college and will follow my example. Get an education and return to work for your people. Who knows them better than you do?"

Partygoers received a ticket to be punched as they traveled from booth to booth. When the ticket was filled they could then return to the support table to pick up their raffle ticket. Here they were able to make a selection from the pile of attractively decorated black and white t-shirts, which had been designed to commemorate the day. Raffles were held throughout the afternoon and prizes included gift certificates to Walmart® among other favorite hangouts.

Immokalee Education Advisor Norita Yzaguirre and Intervention Assistant Diana Rocha handed out educational materials, neck straps, book bags, mirrors and packets of sunscreen. They talked about the upcoming school year and offered assistance wherever needed in tutoring and career selection.

Nutritionist Charlotte Porcario passed out brochures designed to educate on the very important topics of exercise, weight control, proper diet and more at the Health department booth. In addition to fresh fruit and nutrition bars, a display of artificial food demonstrated the food pyramid.

Misty Hall came from the Clinic to offer blood sugar tests and distributing coloring books and crayons. Emergency Management offered valuable information in the event of hazards, both natural and man-made. Fire and Rescue officers demonstrated the proper use of a fire extinguisher and set up a display of their rescue equipment and discussed its various usage. They were giving away coloring books, fire hats, outlet protectors and smoke alarms from their well stocked table.

One of the most popular areas was the Seminole Police Department's information center, where Immokalee Officers Laura Herran

and Allen Colon greeted everyone on a first name basis. Immokalee SPD interacted with the community daily on more than just a law enforcement basis and



Judy Weeks

SPD Lieutenant Powell Morris was good natured enough to take the hot seat at the dunk tank.

have the confidence of the people. Barbara Aiken had traveled from Big Cypress and as many as six officers were working the booth at times during the afternoon, distributing items of interest to both young and old.

SPD Lieutenant Powell Morris had agreed to sacrifice himself at the dunk tank and Doug Van Orman was cheerfully handing out the balls as the group took turns knocking him off his perch.

The Department of Elder Affairs set up a display of vases recently completed by some of the

ally subdued it and held its nose under his chin for over a minute with his arms outstretched. Elders participated in story telling and a contest was held for the children to see who could make up the best tale.

Culture and 4-H representatives spent all morning at the cultural village preparing a traditional Seminole lunch of fry bread, Indian dogs, rice and gravy and more. The appreciative crowd dove into the meal with gusto.

By far the entertainment segment of the afternoon proved to be the most popular and the audience raved about the performers. Tina Turner appeared in the form of Community Health Representative Anna Puente with her young chorus line, Eliza Mora, Larissa DeLaRosa, Juliza Martinez and Ashley Faz. To rounds of applause, they performed "Rollin' on the River," "Cumbia" and a Spanish serenade.

Jamaica came to Immokalee when Family Services' version of Bob Marley hit the stage. Basil Phillips did an awesome rendition of Bob Marley as he danced, strutted and displayed his acrobatic ability in full costume while being accompanied by Beverley Rose and Linda Freeman. Harold Baxley and Eric Bricker donned guitars for the occasion and Tony Roberts manned the drums. The stage came alive as they performed "The Lord is my Shepherd" and one of Bob Marley's classics.

Immokalee is very privileged to have such a talented, enthusiastic staff in the Family Services' office. They interact well with the community and make every effort to be of service to their clients. Bolstered by the Hollywood staff, they are an exceptional team.

Tushka Hill from Broadcasting surprised everyone when he picked up a flute and serenaded the community. He began by relating how an Old Cherokee woman had given him the flute some 10 or 12 years ago. He experimented with it and like his ancestors learned to play the instrument.



Judy Weeks

Officer Laura Herran (right) hands out tokens to Larrisa DeLaRosa.

Immokalee seniors. Ceramic instructors Zakir Seymour and Jessica Hubbard talked about the work being done and technique used in preparing these fine examples of workmanship. The SPD officers judged the entries which included Tribal scenes, multi-colored pottery, pond birds and wildlife.

Angie Arreguin and Gale Greer spent the afternoon assisting seniors and showing snapshots of senior events, trips, projects and awards collected during the past year.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture sent representatives from Plantation, Fla., to help educate people on the healthy balance between plants and animals. Noah Ressa and Tina Bayler set up an attractive table with brochures and bulletin boards to promote awareness of the responsibility human beings have in safe guarding our natural and domestic resources.

The Immokalee Recreation department supplied the big tent, tables, chairs, bounce houses, music, public address system and organized contests throughout the afternoon. Allen McInurf and Raymond Mora implemented a watermelon eating contest, seed spitting contest and cake walk.

Immokalee Seminole Youth and Livestock Ranch Director Kenny Joe Davis and his assistant Gabriel Acosta were in charge of supplying and organizing a sheep scramble. The children were divided into age groups and took turns attempting to garner the ribbon attached to some very large black and white woolly sheep. There were a large number of entries in this event and squeals of laughter and excitement filled the air.

Victor Billie from the Culture department did a fine exhibition of alligator wrestling. Working the eight-and-a-half foot reptile with his stick, he eventu-



Judy Weeks

Family Services' staff's doing their best Bob Marley impersonation.

"It has a calming effect and I often retreat into myself while playing it's clear resonating notes," he said. "This is a part of our culture and has been handed down to us from our forefathers."

At the conclusion of the block party, Norita Yzaguirre, Basil Phillips and Raymond Mora gathered the Immokalee students on the stage and presented each one with a beautiful watch carrying the logo of the Seminole Tribe. Phillips pointed out that with this watch there would be no reason to be late for school. Time is of the essence in building a well balanced, responsible life and legacy for the future of the Seminole Tribe.



Judy Weeks

SPD Interim Chief Charlie Tiger talked to the kids about self-respect.

prayer by Louise Motlow. Emcee Raymond Mora introduced the speakers and laid down the ground rules of the afternoon's activities.

Mental Health Counselor Basil Phillips gathered the young people around him at the amphitheater before beginning his opening remarks. In his usual animated, jovial manner, he addressed all ages. He explained the virtue and integrity of our ancestors which they have handed down through the ages.

"As their descendants, the elders have left



Judy Weeks

Linda Freeman from Family Services managed the booth and handled the raffle.

you the clans, blood lines, self-respect and feelings of responsibility in their wills," he said. "This is your legacy and in this you can find pride. This legacy

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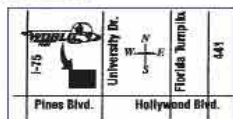
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Susan Etzebarria

Suited up in protective gear the learners role play life saving techniques.

Terrorism Training for EMS Personnel

By Susan Etzebarria

BIG CYPRESS — The exploits of Agent Jack Bauer of the TV series 24 is just a wild fantasy. However, the real life effects of bio-terrorism were dramatized in two intense days of training for the Seminole Tribe of Florida's first responders.

Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), fire fighters and police officers were enrolled in a 16 hour class held July 24 and 25 at Big Cypress called Emergency Response to Terrorism. It was offered by the University of Miami and it is the

Just the practice drills alone were exhausting. "It's like going jogging with a garbage bag on," said Big Cypress EMT Ryan Gentile. "You can only do it for about a half hour and then you have to rest and re-hydrate."

They learned about DECON, or decontamination, an important action to take after exposure to a dangerous agent. It involves shedding contaminated clothing, washing off with warm water and soap.

This is just a glimpse of the course that has many levels of learning. Looking through the manual and listening to the lectures, it is apparent that paramedics and EMTs have to learn much about medicine; they have to diagnose and treat in absence of doctors. It is no accident the course is offered by the University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine. They do much research there in medical education.

This two day advanced level training is usually offered at the university or community colleges. The instructor's credentials are exceptional. They all have long titles, some are professors, but all with experience in the field. They were Angel A. Brotons, Andrew Popick, Kozette Hubbard, Frank Dunn, Shawn Trelous, Joe Sunday, Hector Fabib Rivera and Carlos Guzman.

Trainees earned credits that help them meet their requirements for certifications and re-certifications in their field and each learner had to take a final test to get a grade.

"This type of training is absolutely necessary in case something goes wrong," said Seminole Tribe of Florida E.M.S. Battalion Commander Stephen Cornell. Cornell, who is in charge of training, said rural residents may not have many terrorism concerns but there is always the possibility of events taking place that may not be terrorist related but still have some of the same consequences. There can be chemical spills from highway accidents or there are dangers of explosions from herbicides and pesticides in agri-



Susan Etzebarria

EMT Josh Bower role plays a victim and is being decontaminated in the wash house from chemical agents.

only course in Florida that offers in-depth training on how to recognize, evaluate and manage a terrorist incident.

The learners were issued a one inch thick textbook and eight instructors drilled them, drilled them and gave them plenty of hands-on training.

Fans of 24 will remember the episode in Season 3 where a deadly virus was going to be released. In this real life training, the first responders learned what really happens in a terrorism attack. The have to know how to determine if people have been exposed to such dangerous things as chemical agents, nerve agents or biological agents; they must identify the symptoms and the immediate response required that can save lives in a catastrophic event.

The effects of biological agents were also studied. Scary things we read about in newspapers such as anthrax, bubonic plague, ricin, botulism and smallpox. Most first responders have never confronted weapons of mass destruction but they have chosen a career that may face such dangers in the future in a world without peace.

The first responders studied radiological and explosive agents. Explosive and incendiary devices are commonly used by terrorists, inflict mass casualties and destroy property. Not a day goes by that the use of dirty bombs and Improvised Explosive Devices, or IEDs, is not reported on television news.

The instructors left nothing out. Their course objective stated that the learners will recognize when an incident is terror-related; they will learn to implement personal and public protection measures, they will learn to perform appropriate decontamination, they will learn to implement unified command and inter-agency and intra-agency communication systems and they will learn when and how to provide appropriate emergency medical care.

The first half of the day was indoors with interactive lectures and slide shows but the afternoons were practice drills outdoors in the heat of the day. One drill included learning how to suit up using personal protective equipment, or PPE.

The suits they have allocated to them are Level C which allows them to work a disaster scene as long as they are outdoors. The suits do not protect them indoors in a building that is contaminated. That would require Level A suits.



Susan Etzebarria

University instructor trains paramedics how to handle a terrorism victim.

cultural use. But he agreed that the large Tribal casinos have more potential as targets for terrorism because they attract large crowds.

Cornell said the old stereotype of firefighters sitting around the fire house playing cards is not the way it is in real life.

"We are always training," he said. "We train every single solid day on some thing. Mostly we train within our own E.M.S. but about every two weeks or so we bring in someone from the outside."

Cornell said 33 of the 52 participants were the Tribe's employees who attended the training on their days off.

"They could have been at the beach but they gave up two days just so they can be better at Emergency Management Services for the Tribe," he said.

Cornell heard about the University of Miami's specialized course and he obtained a grant to pay for the class to be conducted at Big Cypress. In addition to the paramedics and EMT's of the Seminole Tribe, first responders from all over South Florida were invited to attend. Many did, including first responders from the Miccosukee Tribe, Collier County EMS, Hendry County EMS, Ochoppee Fire Rescue, South Trail Fire Rescue, Seminole County Fire Rescue and more.

McBride takes Home Gold 2006 ATA X-Treme Weapons World Championships

Congratulations to Tyler McBride!! A trip to Little Rock, Ark., turned a Miccosukee Tribal citizen and West Palm Beach, Fla. resident into a world champion.

Tyler, son of Faye Frank, Miccosukee Tribal citizen, and Michael McBride, is a second degree black belt in the American Tae Kwon Do Association. He outperformed nine other top 10 finalists from throughout the world and took home the gold in 2006 ATA X-Treme Weapons at the World Championships.



Faye Frank

Suited up in protective gear the learners role play life saving techniques.



Faye Frank

Tyler McBride (left) stands with ten finalists from throughout the world.

Small Business Development Opportunities

Become part of Broward County's Small Business Development Program. If you are a Tribal member, own a business and want to receive information about contract opportunities with Broward County, Broward County School District, Broward County Sheriff and Broward County Hospital District, call (954) 357-6134. Or log onto www.broward.org/smallbusiness. Applications can also be obtained by visiting the Small Business Development Office located at 115 South Andrews Avenue, Suite A640, in downtown Fort Lauderdale. Getting certified with Broward County is free and easy.

***Please note that they are currently accepting applications for concession business at the Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport.

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Andy Bowers, Happy Jones and Kay Bowers.

Susan Etchebarria

Happy Jones Celebrates Her 78th

By Susan Etchebarria

BRIGHTON — It was Happy Jones' 78th birthday and she asked her pastor, Wonder Johns, to give a sermon just before her guests ate a fabulous dinner held on the lawn of her home on July 14.

Pastor Johns talked about the importance of reading the Bible to really understand God and he read a scripture from *Colossians* 3:20. He said that Happy has been a faithful member of Brighton's First Indian Baptist Church.

"Happy's been a good witness and she understands who He is," he said. "When she comes to church she always says 'God blesses me,'" he said. "She always says it is He who keeps her going and she doesn't give up; and she keeps getting around as long as God keeps her going."

Johns told the guests that this Tribal elder is a strong supporter of the mission church at the Immokalee reservation.

"Every Thursday she loads up her wheelchair and goes there," he said.



Kitty Bates and Happy Jones.

Susan Etchebarria

everyone they are "sisters." Bates recalled their childhood time when their fathers worked cattle, fished and hunted together. She said she didn't speak Creek and Jones didn't speak English but just the same they played together and became good friends.

Bates said as a child Happy was: "just as sweet as she is now—but ever once in a while she has a devilish streak."

"Happy likes to tease," Bates said with a chuckle.

Bates didn't see Jones for many years after reaching adulthood. Bates got married but her first husband would not allow her to go to visit Happy on the reservation. Bates said she finally put her foot down and went anyway. She told Happy then that "no one will ever keep us apart again." Now Bates is re-committed to John Bates and they both love Happy, and come to visit her whenever they can.

At the birthday party both Jones and Kitty



Michael and Erick Garcia.

Susan Etchebarria

The First Indian Baptist Church at Brighton and the Baptist Church at Big Cypress have joined forces to help the Tribal citizens at Immokalee build their own church building.

Jones, a member of the Bird Clan, was in good spirits on her big day. She was surrounded by her family and friends.

"I woke up today at 6 a.m. and made sofkee," she said. "I guess God doesn't think I am ready to go yet."

Everyone settled down under the shade of a white tent to heaping plates of food served buffet style. J.R. Huff grilled the chicken and steak. Molly Shore brought green salad and sweet potatoes. Judy Gopher brought potato salad and Lorene Gopher brought fry bread. There were many other dishes as well.

Jones opened her gifts as her lifelong girlfriend, Kitty Bates, sat by her side; Jones always tells



Robbie Jones and Paladin Willie.

Susan Etchebarria

Bates enjoyed recounting their best times together. Jones said after her mom and dad had moved to Brighton, she didn't see Bates for a time. When Happy became an adult she went to work for the forestry service and worked 30 years until her retirement. During this time she took night classes and learned to read, write and speak English. Bates attended Jones' retirement dinner.

"Those guys didn't have nothing but praise for Happy," she recalled. One guest said she wishes everyone to know that Happy Jones means a lot to her and what a special person she is. Louise Gopher said Jones would often visit her son, Patrick Jones, before he died. He was in the hospital in a coma.

"Happy would rub his hands, pray with him and sing to him," said Gopher. "Happy told me she knew Patrick could hear her." These words and actions greatly consoled Gopher. "That's the kind of person Happy is," Gopher said with gratitude.



Happy Jones examines her gift doll.

Susan Etchebarria

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The youth had lots of fun bouncing the balls on top of the parachute.

Virginia Mitchell

Celebrating Cultural Diversity and Practicing Team Building Tribal Citizens Attend Annual Youth Conference

By Robert C. North Sr.

ORLANDO, FL — RC North Jr., designated emcee of the 2006 Hollywood Seminole Youth Conference, led the group in an opening prayer. He then introduced youth conference participants as they entered the ballroom at the Royal Pacific Hotel in Orlando, Fla. during a "mini grand entry." This entry was done at the suggestion of the Pine Ridge Sioux participants from South Dakota.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress led the procession of youth from the SueAnne BigCrow Boys & Girls Club in Pine Ridge, S.D., who were dressed in their full dance regalia. Bobby Henry, a Tribal elder and medicine man, also helped lead the procession dressed in full Seminole regalia. Charles Billie Hiers was more than happy to help lead the procession as well, representing the Seminole Veterans.

Cypress then officially welcomed all of the participants to the Sixth Annual Seminole Hollywood Youth Conference. This was the opening scene of what was billed as the biggest Hollywood Seminole Youth Conference yet, with the approximately 327 registered participants and visiting presenters from New Mexico and South Dakota. This year's youth conference was sponsored by Hollywood Council Representative Max Osceola and the Boys & Girls Club of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

The youth conference planning committee and support staff consisted of departments and programs from Family Services, Health/Allied Health, Seminole Police Department, Seminole Broadcasting, Seminole Preschool and Hollywood Board Representative Gloria Wilson.

This year's theme was "Inter-Tribal Cultural Exchange and Team Building." This explains why there was representation from the Pine Ridge Indian

Reservation of South Dakota, Pueblos of New Mexico and Miss New Mexico USA, Onawa Lacy (Navajo). Chairman Cypress stressed the importance of visiting with other Indian Nations and sharing cultural similarities and differences. President Moses Osceola welcomed Seminole youth, parents, grandparents, and visitors to the conference and further stressed the importance of cultural diversity.



Virginia Mitchell

Jewel Alice Frank attends her first conference.



Virginia Mitchell

Leanne and Destiny Diaz.

Seminole Tribal Health Nutritionist Doris Mir was pleasantly surprised with Miss New Mexico, USA's keynote address which stressed to youth the importance of good health early in life.

"She went over all of the important points of a healthy lifestyle," she said. "Smaller portions of food during meals, regular exercise... setting positive realistic goals... Her message was very good for the younger audience."

Hollywood Language and Culture Coordinator and Chief Professional Officer of the Boys & Girls Club of the Seminole Tribe of Florida Jo Motlow North has served as the youth conference coordinator for the past six years. She explained that the core curriculum of the conference was a continuation of classes that were executed during the 2005-2006 after-school activities.

"The 2006 youth conference is the coming together of Tribal departments and programs with youth initiatives which co-sponsored classes and activities at the Boys and

Girls Club throughout the school year," she said. "After a year of trying out different things we know pretty much what will work with the participating youth... we want the material to be educational but relevant to the youth we are serving. For example, the Boys & Girls Club youth conference class required participants to use team work to send their teammates through a web made of yarn and PVC pipe without touching anything."

"The activity looked simple, but it required team planning before executing," she added. "Our [Youth Conference] Culture Class was constantly busy with parents, grandparents and youth involved in woodcarving, basket making, beadwork, doll-making or sewing. It was hard to shut the class down each night. But it was all good...everyone was working together."

Cornelia Osceola said the following about the culture classes: "There's been a big interest in basket making by more of the younger girls. More people are becoming aware of why the cost of the baskets is so high, due to the effort it takes to make one."

The core classes offered at the youth conference were as follows: Boys & Girls Club - Team building: The staff of the Boys & Girls

Youth Conference Creative Writing Contest Winners

As I was there it was so much fun. As I walked there it was a stun.

It was so cool and so great, Even as we went through the gate.

I met so many people, let my mind explore. It was so awesome of days I wished we could stay more.

To all of the people I have met, I say good bye. And as I leave I give a big sigh.

—Rayel Billie

When I first thought of coming to the youth conference I imagined coming here and sitting in a class for hours while listening to a teacher lecture, but I later found out it's so much more.

This conference allowed me to meet different natives from everywhere. Not only have I seen the Seminole culture, I've also gotten the chance to see other tribes like the traditional dancers. The classes have been an amazing experience. I feel that the classes have made me realize the really important factors such as drug use, personal hygiene and teamwork.

One of the classes was teambuilding with the Boys & Girls Club. It was so unbelievable. There were so many activities for the whole class. I'm the quiet one. But the classes brought me out of my shell. I was becoming a leader in some of the activities and giving my advice. Working with many people with different opinions was interesting. The whole experience has left me with many memories and facts to pass on.

—Summer Billie



Photo Provided by Tommy Doud and Robert North

Youth conference attendees stop for a moment to gather for a photograph.

Club presented various interactive exercises to promote team work and team building.

Health - By providing the youth with a modified game of jeopardy called "Make the healthy choice jeopardy," learning about nutrition, exercise and hygiene, fun and memorable.

Seminole Police Dept./Family Services - Classes involving what to do when confronted by drugs and strangers and drug education.

Family Services - Full Sail Film and Broadcasting Technical College Field Trip.

"Legends" workshop - Emergence Productions of New Mexico presented exercises exemplifying working together as a family, community, and tribe and learning to interact with the "outside" world.

Youth Showcase I - Highlighting youth that practiced a song for on-stage performances

Youth Showcase II - Creative Writing reporting out the highlights of the drug education class, and group song.

Lakota Sioux Youth of Pine Ridge, South Dakota - Traditional song and dance demonstrations.

Interactive Booklet - Questions and answers on the history of the State of Florida, creative writing and other critical thinking written exercises.

At the closing of the 2006 Hollywood Seminole Youth Conference President Moses Osceola applauded all of the families that participated and the staff that put the conference together. Osceola paid particular attention to the cultural activities.

"It is good to see young people interested in the traditional arts and crafts of the Seminole Tribe of Florida," he said. "Because these crafts are becoming harder to find, the price has gone up significantly...a Seminole Tribal member could make a good living from making and selling our traditional crafts. Keep up the good work!"



Photo Provided by Tommy Doud and Robert North

The ladies worked on beadwork with the loom.



Photo Provided by Tommy Doud and Robert North

Little ones enjoyed themselves playing with the big kids learned.



Photo Provided by Tommy Doud and Robert North

It took teamwork to pass through the yarn web without touching.



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Tampa Incentive Awards 2006



Paul Bowers Jr. congratulates student Kyle Henry.



Brighton Representative, Johnny Jones congratulates the award winners.



Silver medalist of the 13, 14 year old boy's basketball team Josie Balentine (grey shirt) poses (L,R) with Dwayne Schintzius, and Representatives Bowers and Jones.

By Chris Jenkins

TAMPA — On July 21, some of the best and brightest among the Seminole Tribe were honored and reminded of the importance of education as the Education and Incentive Awards were held at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

Medicine man Bobby Henry opened the ceremony with an invocation. A dinner followed and a few encouraging words from guest speaker and former NBA player Dwayne Schintzius. In addition, several gifts were presented on behalf of the tribe including certificates of achievement, trophies, hats, T-shirts, jackets and more.

Tampa Liaison Richard Henry, Brighton Council Representative Andrew Bowers Jr. and Brighton Board Representative Johnnie Jones all attended. The three congratulated the students on behalf of the entire Tribal Council and Board of Directors.

Aaron Frank, 22, who was a double medal winner for Tae Kwon Do in the North American Indigenous Games was acknowledged for his accomplishments. He has been involved with the awards program since the age of 11. He explained that it all feels good and that such an honor gives him a reason to keep striving.

"It all keeps me doing my best and my dad pushes me to keep training," Frank said.

Schintzius called the awards a positive motivator. "I wish I would have had role models in the community to come and talk to me about staying in school and trying to do as well as I could in school," he said. "I'm just

trying to give back, and I love working with kids. We're all winners, and we need positive people in our lives to convey that to everybody."

Maintaining feelings of pride and accomplishment are essential for the honorees according to Liaison Richard Henry.

"We show them that we do care," he said. "As I was growing up we didn't have any incentive to keep us motivated, so we did the bare minimum, and just got through it, but these kids have got an opportunity today where they're actually getting paid to make good grades. We're trying to make it more



Representatives Jones, Bowers and Liaison Henry unveil a fun motivational slogan for the kids.



Kevin Frank proudly poses with his awards from the evening.



Summer Carrol receives a certificate and congratulations from Brighton Representative Johnny Jones.



Tampa Liaison, Richard Henry with friend and guest speaker Dwayne Schintzius.

interesting to keep them motivated."

Henry has been involved since the beginning with the awards and spoke of the importance of staying in the main lesson behind the annual event. "We have such a high drop out rate in the tribe and this incentive program is something to help keep them going, because they are our future leaders," he said.

Incentive Sports Award Recipients

The youth and adults receiving incentive sports awards were: Josie Balentine, basketball, Anazette Billie-Saxton, cheerleading, Phaydra Clark, basketball, Joel Foret, football, soccer, volleyball, Mason Foret T-ball, Nick Frank, karate, Caitlyn Garcia, piano and show choir music, Cavan Guzman, karate, Andrew Henry, basketball, football, gymnastics, softball, Dante Henry, gymnastics, Kyle Henry, hunting and rifle shooting, Ohana Henry, cheerleading and gymnastics, Reese Henry, basketball, football, softball, Tommie Lee Jackson Jr., baseball, basketball, Tyrek LaSane, flag football, Tae Kwon Do, Jessica Motlow, gymnastics, Justin Motlow, baseball, bowling, football, soccer, Jacob Santiago, baseball, Jeremiah Santiago, baseball, football, Clayton Simmons, wrestling, Jacob Smith, basketball, soccer, Nicholas Smith, basketball, soccer, Summer Kay Smith, basketball, soccer, Stacy Smith, girl's football, Brenna Walton, bowling, co-ed football, soccer.

The youth receiving academic incentive awards include: Josie Balentine, GPA 3.0-3.75, Brannon Billie, GPA 3.0-3.75/advanced class, Anissa Billie-Saxton, attendance, Anazette Billie-Saxton, GPA 3.0-3.75/attendance, Sumner Carroll, GPA 3.0-3.75/attendance, Christina Clark, GPA 3.0-3.75/attendance, Phaydra Clark, GPA 3.0-3.75/attendance, Carissa Colon, GPA 3.0-3.75, Miguel Dillon, kindergarten, Ricky Dillon, GPA 3.0-3.75, Mason Foret, GPA 3.0-3.75, Peter Foret, GPA 3.0-3.75/attendance, Tiffany Foret, advanced class, Nick Frank, GPA 3.0-3.75/attendance, Kevin Frank, GPA high school graduate/GPA 3.0-3.75, Christopher Garcia, GPA 4.0/advanced class/awards & certificates, Caitlyn Garcia, GPA 3.0-3.75/attendance, Andrew Henry, GPA 3.0-3.75/attendance, Dakota Henry, GPA 3.0-3.75/attendance, Dylanne Henry, advanced class/attendance, Ohana Henry, GPA 3.0-3.75/attendance, Kyle Henry, GPA 3.0-3.75/advanced class/honors class, Kaylin Henry, high school graduate/GPA 3.0-3.75, Justin Motlow, GPA 3.0-3.75, Jessica Motlow, GPA 4.0/attendance, Preston Osceola, awards and certificates, Ashley Santiago, GPA 3.0-3.75/honors class/attendance/awards, Jacob Santiago, GPA 3.0-3.75, Jeremiah Santiago, GPA 3.0-3.75, Clayton Simmons, honors class/awards & certificates, Ethan Smith, GPA 3.0-3.75, Jacob Smith, GPA 3.0-3.75/attendance, Joshua Smith, GED certificate, Nicholas Smith, GPA 3.0-3.75, Summer Smith, GPA 3.0-3.75/attendance, Taryn Storm, GPA 3.0-3.75/attendance, Trystyn Storm, GPA 3.0-3.75, Danelle Thomas, GPA 3.0-3.75, Ruby Thomas, kindergarten, Ryanna Thomas, GPA 3.0-3.75, Issac Urbina, kindergarten, Melody Urbina, GPA 4.0, Jamie Walkington, GPA 3.0-3.75, Kanika Walkington, GPA 3.0-3.75, Brenna Walton, GPA 3.0-3.75.

Osceola Receives High School Diploma

By Emma Brown

BRIGHTON — Congratulations to Nicki Osceola of the Brighton reservation who received her high school diploma in the spring of 2006. Nicki is the daughter of Larry and Joanne Osceola of the Brighton reservation.

She left school during her senior year only a few credits away from graduating. Director of Education Louise Guyher would encourage Nicki each time she saw her to pursue her GED. Nicki took time this year to attend classes in Okeechobee, Fla. to complete the credits she lacked and earned her high school diploma. Gopher congratulated her at the Brighton summer school celebration and said she can finally leave her alone now.

Nicki proved that having children and a family doesn't mean that achieving your educational goals is no longer possible. She has opened the door for herself now to achieve bigger and better things through higher education if she chooses.



Proud grad Nicki Osceola

Emma Brown

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Native Youth Writing Competition 2006

Co-Sponsored By Native Women in Agriculture

Submitted by Polly Hayes

The 2006 Native Youth Writing Competition's paper topic is "My Family's Land in Agriculture." To help you in thinking about this topic, here are some ideas:

Write about your own family's land history... where is your family's land? What sort of status is it? Is it leased out to someone? Is it leased out by your Tribe? Is your family working that land in agriculture? What is your family doing with their land in agriculture? What do you grow?

What is your family's land history? If your family doesn't own agriculture land or farm, what happened to that land? Was it sold to someone in the Tribe? Was it sold outside the Tribe? When did that happen? What were the circumstances around that happening?

If your land is no longer in your family's hands or in agriculture that you know of, where was that land? Could you find it on a map? What year did the land leave your family? What is going on with that land right now?

If your land, your family's land, or your Tribe's lands or not in Tribal control right now, why did that happen? When did it happen?

Does your Tribe have a plan for identifying

and planning what happens on Tribal land? What is that plan?

We are looking for papers that provide a history of your own family's land. We are also looking for papers that describe what happened when your family's land went outside your family's control, if that is the case.

Here are some people to talk with in researching your paper topic: your family—your parents, your grandparents, your great-grandparents—elders in your Tribe, Tribal government employees or leaders who know something about land. These people might be: members of the Tribal Council, elected leaders of your Tribe, realty, environmental, natural resource, lands leasing or other employees who have responsibility for land.

Also, be sure and visit the Indian Land Tenure Foundation website at www.indian-landtenure.org. They have lots of great resources that will help you and your family learn more about Indian land and Indian land tenure problems and what can be done to address these problems.

Don't forget to follow the guidelines for paper size, font size when typing, citation of sources, etc. that are on the flyer announcing the topic. Good luck!

Wanted: Seminole Youth Writers

By Susan Etxebarria

BRIGHTON—Polly Hayes Osceola has put out a call. She wants all Seminole Tribe of Florida youth, boys and girls, who will be entering grades nine through 12 this fall, as well as 2006 high school graduates, to enter the 2006 Native Youth Writing Competition. The subject of the essay is "My Family's Land in Agriculture."

The competition is co-sponsored by Native Women in Agriculture (NWIA), the Indian Land Tenure Foundation and the Intertribal Agriculture Council.

Hayes is a board member of NWIA and is the 4-H Director for the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.

"The Seminoles have a rich history in cattle and agriculture from our forefathers," she said. "We would like to see a Seminole student represent the Tribe in this competition."

She said there is a number of historical resources available in the Tribe's libraries and museums that the writer can use to help create a good essay.

Urban and rural Seminole youth can enter and they do not have to be members of 4-H. They should have family that has been involved in ranching or farming as a way of life.

"They can spend a little time talking to their fathers and grandfathers to get a little history," said Hayes.

The essay must be three to six typed pages, double spaced, one inch margins and 12 point font.

For a little work there are big rewards. But it takes commitment.

The five finalists are announced at the October 2006 Intertribal Agricultural Council and Indian Nations Conservation Alliance annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev. on Dec. 4-8. The finalists also serve as ambassadors in 2006 and 2007. As an ambassador they will have opportunities to travel, said Hayes. They are awarded other prizes as well.

The essays are judged on creativity, quality of sources, grammar, spelling, punctuation, organization, length of entry, documentation of sources—the essayist must interview or quote three to five sources—and how well the information relates to the topic.

All entries must be accompanied by a separate sheet containing the student's name, address, telephone, e-mail, if available, school attending, and Tribal affiliation. All writers entering the contest must be a member of a federally recognized Tribe.

Hayes said that any student that wants guidance on this project, or just wants to talk it over, can contact her or Michael Bond, the Seminole Tribe of Florida extension agent. They will be happy to help with guidance on the paper topic or answer any questions. Hayes or Bond can be reached at the Cattle & Land Headquarters at Brighton at (863) 763-5020.

All entries should be sent by Sept. 15 to Native Women In Agriculture, C/O Polly Hayes, Cattle & Land Operations, Rt. 6, Box 767, Okeechobee, Fla. 34974.



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EMAHAKV VPELOFV Open House Celebration in Brighton

By Emma Brown

BRIGHTON — The Cultural Education department in Brighton offered their two week summer program again this year for students of the first through sixth grader Brighton students. The program ran during the weeks of July 10-21 from 8-11:30 a.m.

This year was the second year that the program offered shorter days only having four classes during the morning. The students and staff seemed to be adjusting to this new schedule and enjoying it because it offers students with a free afternoon to enjoy the rest of their summer.

Each year summers seem to get shorter and much busier for students and it is extremely important not to "burn" students out when it comes to their education. It is also important to offer the teachers a break as well.



Emma Brown

Diamond Shore shows off her pillow.



Emma Brown

Mason Micco receives award from teacher Jade Braswell.

They teach at the Pull-Out Program all year and graciously give up between three and four weeks of their summer planning and teaching at the summer program. The staff works very hard to create a program that is full of fun while learning at the same time.

There were four classes this year including arts and crafts, Creek reading and writing, English reading and math. Each class was taught by a head teacher and assisted by either assistant teachers or junior teachers. The junior teachers were Brighton high school or middles school students.

Each year the program offers students this age with an opportunity at exploring the field of teaching, not only in the English language, but mostly in their native language.



Emma Brown

Ruben Burgess with math teacher Mary Johns.



Emma Brown

Pull out program staff.



Emma Brown

Lewis Gopher Jr wears the shirt with his drawing.

During the first few days summer school all of the students participated in an art contest during arts and crafts. It was not just any contest though; the art work designed by each student was to be specifically centered on Seminole culture. The students were told that the two best designs would be used to design the T-shirts for the program that would be given out at the final celebration.

This year's winners of the contest were Lewis Gopher Jr. and Kirsten Doney. They created two very beautiful artistic designs that depicted the Seminole way of life.

On July 21 family, friends and the citizens of the Brighton community were invited to an open house celebration hosted by the staff and students of the summer program at the Education department. The open house provided an opportunity for visitors to visit the various classes offered and to talk with teachers about the different subjects that the students studied for the two weeks.

The teachers also had all of the student's arts and crafts and other work on display. There were patchwork T-shirts and beautiful patchwork pillows made by each student.

During the celebration program, Brighton Council Representative Andrew Bowers and Brighton Board



Emma Brown

Parent Farrah Jones takes a look at designs made by her children.

Representative Johnnie Jones spoke about the importance of listening, watching and learning from their teachers and elders. Each one in their own words stated the fact that the culture and history of the Seminole people is sacred and should be valued as such.

Director of Education Louise Gopher explained to the audience that the summer program was initially started more than 10 years ago for students who were struggling in school. It became so popular that eventually all students were invited to be a part of the enrichment program.

Once the introductions were over students led everyone in the Creek blessing and a wonderful lunch provided by Lewis and Tony Gopher was served. This year's program was another great stride made by the Cultural Education department, which proves their daily perseverance at preserving the Seminole culture.

Those with any questions about this program or the Pull-Out Program may contact the Brighton Culture department at (863) 763-7501.



Ryan Osceola, Melanie Jones, Jewel Buck, Ravenne Osceola, Sheila Jones.

Yearling Middle School End of the Year Sports Banquet

By Brandi Clay

OKEECHOBEE, FL — Coaches, students and parents gathered in the gymnasium for the end of the year sports awards. The coaches gave out awards to the students who were involved in school athletics this past school year. All of the coaches had a few words to say about all these and their great potential.

Ryan Osceola, 14, received the basketball varsity award and a special trophy. Ryan's parents are Stacy Jones and Mitch Osceola.

Melanie Jones, 14, also received the varsity

baseball award and a special trophy. Melanie's parents are Jennifer Osceola and Danny Jones.

Jewel Buck, 14, received the varsity basketball award. Her parents are Emma Jane and Jessie Urbina.

Ravenne Osceola, 13, was also awarded the varsity basketball award. Her parents are Brande' Clay and Milo Osceola.

Sheila Jones, 12, received the junior varsity volleyball award. Her parents are Jennifer Osceola and Danny Jones.

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

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 expressed are his own. If you would like to ask a question, please write fred-cicetti@gmail.com. All Rights Reserved © 2006 by Fred Cicetti.]

Q: I'm pretty sure I have arthritis in my knee. Is there any danger this will spread?

A: First, anyone who thinks they may have arthritis should see a doctor. Self-diagnosis is hazardous to your health. Now for some information about arthritis all seniors should know.

Arthritis
This comes in different forms, but is basically inflammation of the joints. Osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis and gout are the three most common forms of arthritis among seniors. Osteoarthritis is the most prevalent. None of these types are contagious.

Osteoarthritis
You get osteoarthritis when cartilage, the cushioning tissue within the joints, wears down. This produces stiffness and pain. The disease affects both men and women. By age 65, more than 50 percent of us have osteoarthritis in at least one joint.

You can get osteoarthritis in any joint, but it usually strikes those that support weight. Common signs of osteoarthritis include joint pain, swelling, and tenderness. However, only one-third of people whose x-rays show osteoarthritis report any symptoms.

Treatments for osteoarthritis include exercise, joint care, dieting, medicines and surgery. For pain relief, doctors usually start with acetaminophen, the medicine in Tylenol, because the side effects are minimal. If acetaminophen does not relieve pain, then non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as ibuprofen and naproxen may be used.

The dietary supplements glucosamine and chondroitin sulfate are used by many who say the

supplements can relieve the symptoms of osteoarthritis.

Rheumatoid Arthritis
Rheumatoid arthritis, which is characterized by inflammation of the joint lining, is very different from osteoarthritis. It occurs when the immune system turns against the body. It not only affects the joints, but can also attack other parts of the body such as the lungs and eyes. People with rheumatoid arthritis may feel sick.

There's symmetry to rheumatoid arthritis. For example, if the right knee is affected, it's likely the left knee will suffer, too. Women are much more likely than men to get rheumatoid arthritis.

Treatments for rheumatoid arthritis include exercise, medication and surgery. Reducing stress is important.

Some drugs for rheumatoid arthritis relieve pain. Some reduce inflammation. Then there are the DMARDs, or disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs, which can often slow the disease. New types of drugs called biological response modifiers also can help reduce joint damage.

Gout
Gout usually attacks at night. Stress, alcohol, drugs or an illness can trigger gout. It's caused by a build-up of crystals of uric acid in a joint. Uric acid is in all human tissue and is found in foods.

Often, gout affects joints in the lower part of the body such as the ankles, heels, knees, and especially the big toes. The disease is more common in men. Early attacks usually subside within 3 to 10 days, even without treatment, and the next attack may not occur for months or even years.

Most people with gout are able to control their symptoms with treatment. The most common treatments are high doses of oral non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, or corticosteroids, which are taken by mouth or injected into the affected joint. Patients often begin to improve within a few hours of treatment.

Ask The Counselor

Dear Counselor,

Your advice always seems to help people who are in need of help. I hope you can help me.

I am a 26-year-old single male who works as a clerk in an accounting firm. I meet a 22-year-old lady at work who I have been dating for the past six months. Everything about her is perfect except for the fact that she smokes constantly.

Please advise me about the danger of cigarettes smoking so I can share it with her.

Signed,
Concern

Dear Concern,

I commend you for gathering information to help your girlfriend. Smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death in the U.S. Yet, nearly 23 million American women still light up, and some 1,500 begin smoking daily.

Here is some information your girlfriend needs to know from the frightening result of cigarette smoking:

A heart attack on a woman smoker is likely to be

fatal. Women who smoke risk a heart attack nineteen years sooner than women who don't.

Smoking is the major cause of heart disease in women, especially the ones younger than 50.

A woman 44 or younger who smokes a pack a day or more is seven times more likely to have a heart attack than a non-smoker.

As scary as these statistics are, there is hope. Quit smoking, and after a year the risk of heart disease is cut in half.

Within five to 15 years the risk of stroke is equal to that of a non-smoker.

Within 10 years your risk for lung cancer is the same as someone who never lights up.

Within 15 years you have the same risk of heart disease as a lifetime of a non-smoker.

Hopefully, this information will convince your girlfriend to make a lifetime change effort to stop smoking and also for you to continue being a support to her.

Signed,
The Counselor



Resli Phillips
M.S. Mental Health Counseling
Letters of interest from the community

All letters should be sent to
ASK THE COUNSELOR
Family Services Department
3006 Jessie Riffe Avenue
Hollywood, FL 33021
hasilphilips@seminole.com

Earth Talk Column

From the Editors of E/The Environmental Magazine

Q: The soda bottle I'm holding only lists a few U.S. states and deposit amounts on it. Aren't there more than just a few states requiring that bottles be returned for recycling?

Calvin Terry, Castro, ME
A: Currently 11 American states have "bottle bill" laws on the books that require a deposit of usually five or 10 cents on beer and soda cans and bottles that can be redeemed when empties are returned to the store.

The state of Oregon pioneered such legislation, passing the first U.S. bottle bill back in 1971. Hawaii has the newest one, enacted in 2002. Meanwhile, all but two of Canada's 13 provinces, the remote Northwest Territories and Nunavut, have bottle bills. As with the American laws, Canada's provinces require deposits on all beverage containers other than those containing milk.

The Container Recycling Institute (CRI), an advocacy group based in Washington, D.C., works for the passage of new bottle bills and the strengthening of existing ones. According to CRI, bottle bills make sense because they encourage recycling and, in conjunction with curbside recycling programs, extend the life of landfills by keeping cans and bottles out. Indeed, recycling rates in states with bottle bills can be as much as three times higher than in states without them.

Such programs also help reduce litter. Studies have shown that beverage container legislation has reduced total roadside litter by as much as 64 percent in regions with bottle bills. Another documented benefit has been a reduction in incidences of glass laceration, simply because fewer glass bottles end up broken on sidewalks, streets and in kids' play areas. One Massachusetts study attributed a 60 percent decline in reported childhood glass lacerations

to the state's bottle bill went into effect.

Despite these benefits, however, many beverage manufacturers oppose bottle bills, arguing that the five to 10 cents added to the price of their products deters customers even though the deposits are refundable. The companies have effectively squelched bottle bills in many U.S. states through the sheer power of their lobbying efforts. Anheuser-Busch, Coca-Cola and Pepsi and others have spent millions fighting bottle bills, complaining that such legislation duplicates community recycling programs already in place.

But CRI says the argument has been "wrongly cast in either/or terms," that refundable deposits and curbside recycling programs are not mutually exclusive and should be part of a comprehensive approach to recycling. "If the goal is to maximize recovery of recyclables [and] reduce reliance on raw materials for manufacturing new containers... then a combination of recovery options should be employed to ensure the highest... recovery rates possible."

Beverage sales are growing, especially bottled water and other non-carbonated drinks. And the waste has been growing as well. According to CRI, some 118 billion aluminum, glass and plastic beverage containers were discarded and not recycled in 2002 alone, more than double the number 20 years earlier. The main issue is really who should pay the costs of recycling. Refundable deposits are fair, says CRI, because they put the costs on the producers and consumers of the beverages instead of on the local communities and taxpayers.

Got an environmental question? Send it to: EarthTalk_c/oE/TheEnvironmentalMagazine_P.O.Box5098_WestPort,CT06881, submit it at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/thisweek, or e-mail: earthtalk@emagazine.com. Read past columns at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/archives.php.

Tribe Loans Lifesaving Equipment to Okeechobee

By Susan Etxebarria

OKEECHOBEE, FL.—On July 26, Armando Negrin, director of emergency services and chief of Seminole Tribe fire rescue, presented state-of-the-art life saving equipment to the Okeechobee County Commission at their regular commission meeting.

Two LIFEPAK® 500 Automated External Defibrillators are on loan to Okeechobee County Fire Rescue. The LIFEPAK® is used by first responders when dealing with life threatening cardiac emergencies. It determines which level of electric shock is right to give the patient, and ensures safe, simple delivery.

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For years there has been a mutual aid agreement between Okeechobee County and the Tribe in which their Fire Rescue responds to Brighton Seminole reservation emergencies, if needed; and vice versa.

"On behalf of the Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue we want to express our appreciation to Okeechobee County," said Negrin. "The Tribe wants to show appreciation to its surrounding communities because there are no jurisdictional lines when it comes to responding to crime, accidents and emergencies."

Emergency Services' Public Information Officer E. M. Corder has been times when the scene of an accident on State Road 70 and begin rescue operations before Okeechobee's Fire Rescue arrived. They do this because Brighton's Fire Rescue is closer.



Armando Negrin

Susan Etxebarria

Nick Hopkins of the Okeechobee County Fire Rescue. "They will be greatly used here and it is extra equipment we don't have to purchase."

Also, Chief Hopkins said part of the mutual aid agreement includes allowing Brighton's Fire Rescue paramedics to get additional training by riding with Okeechobee Fire Rescue. There are not as many paramedics at Brighton so this opportunity to ride with Okeechobee helps paramedics keep up their skills.

Okeechobee, with a population of 40,000, and more in the tourist season, is one of the busiest fire rescue departments in Southwest Florida, said Hopkins. However, he said he has only 33 personnel to cover the entire county. Therefore this arrangement helps the Tribe provide experience to its paramedics and Okeechobee County gets the extra help it needs.

Brighton Council Representative Andy Bowers and Executive Administrator Ken Fields were also present at the commission meeting.

Board of County Commission Chairman John W. Abney Sr. expressed his gratitude on behalf of Okeechobee County. The First Vice Chair Cliff Betts Jr. also added kind remarks about the Tribe's loan to the county.

"Okeechobee County really appreciates everything that the Seminole Tribe does for us," he said.



Susan Etxebarria

Fire Fighters Medic Willie Weeks; Fire Fighters Medic David Harris, Mr. Andrew Bowers, Mr. Ken Fields, Chief Armando Negrin.

However, once Okeechobee County's team arrives, they take over command of the operation because it is in their jurisdiction.

"We appreciate the LIFEPAKS," said Chief

Firefighter Safety Month Observed by Seminole Tribal Fire Rescue

Submitted by Eva Cain, PIO, Department of Emergency Services

The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Emergency Services Department joined thousands of fire departments across the U.S. and Canada for the 2006 International Firefighter Safety Stand Down.

Beginning on June 21, and continuing until all four shifts of the Brighton and Big Cypress Stations had participated, firefighters suspended all non-emergency activity to focus on fire fighter safety. They began each day with a moment of silence for fallen brothers and sisters that lost their lives in the line of duty.

The department responded to all emergency calls as normal, but between calls, firefighters, officers and Chiefs conducted safety training and drills; reviewed safety-related standard operating procedures; discussed accident reports and had an open conversation about firefighter safety in the department. The

focus of the Stand Down is on emergency vehicle safety—in particular, on seatbelt use and safe driving through intersections.

"The Department of Emergency Services is committed to serving the residents of the Tribal communities," said Chief Armando Negrin. "Keeping our firefighters safe and healthy helps us respond effectively and keep our community protected. While firefighter safety is always a priority of Emergency Services, the Stand Down is an opportunity to dedicate a significant amount of time to the safety of our personnel."

Last year, 106 firefighters died in the line of duty in the U.S.; 26 of these deaths occurred in emergency vehicle-related accidents. Thousands more were injured while on duty. The purpose of the stand down is to call international attention to these unacceptable numbers of line-of-duty deaths and injuries and devote an entire day to the critical issue of firefighter safety.

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Staying Healthy with Diabetes

Submitted by the Seminole Health Department

Having diabetes means having to make changes to the way you live your life, but you can live a full and healthy life with diabetes if you check your sugars, eat healthy, exercise and get regular check ups. By following these guidelines you can prevent complications like kidney disease, heart disease, and eye disease that are all too common with diabetes.

Blood Glucose (Sugar): To keep your glucose at a healthy level you need to keep a balance between three important things: what you eat and drink, how much physical activity you do and what diabetic medications you take. You should also get an HbA1c test done at least two times a year to determine what your average blood glucose is during a two to three month period.

Healthy eating: By watching your portion sizes and fat intake you can better control your diabetes. Try some of these helpful hints to making changes in your diet a little easier.

- Eat a variety of foods
- Consume less than 10 percent of calories from saturated fatty acids and less than 300 mg/day of cholesterol, and keep trans fatty acid consumption as low as possible (Check food labels for amounts and types of fats)

- Have most fats come from sources polyunsaturated and monounsaturated fatty acids, such as fish, nuts, and vegetable oils

- When selecting and preparing meat, poultry, dry beans and milk or milk products make choices that are lean, low fat, or fat free

- Choose fiber-rich fruits, vegetables and whole grains often

- Choose and prepare foods and beverages with little added sugars or sweeteners

- Check with the nutritionist at your reservation to help you make healthier food choices

Blood Pressure: High blood pressure and diabetes increase your risk of developing eye disease, heart disease, kidney disease and stroke. Blood pressure readings should be taken at each doctor's visit.

Cholesterol: Diabetes and cholesterol are connected with heart disease and stroke. Test your blood lipids: total cholesterol, LDL "bad" cholesterol,

HDL "good" cholesterol and triglycerides at least once a year

Weight: By losing seven to 10 percent of your body weight you can control your blood glucose, blood pressure and cholesterol. Check with the nutritionist at your reservation to help you lose weight the healthy way through diet plans specific to your needs

Smoking: Smoking raises your blood glucose, cholesterol, and blood pressure. When you have diabetes and use tobacco, the risk of heart and blood vessel problems is even greater. By quitting smoking, you lower your risk for heart attack, stroke, nerve disease, kidney disease, and oral disease

Kidney Disease: People with diabetes are at higher risk for developing kidney disease. Test your urine and blood to check your kidney function at least once a year.

Foot Care: If you have diabetes you are at greater risk for foot injury and infection. Check your feet for sores and injuries at every doctor visit and get a thorough foot exam at least once a year

Nerve Damage: Diabetes also increases your risk for nerve damage. Tell your doctor if you feel numb or have "pins and needles" sensations in your feet or legs.

Dental Health: People with diabetes are at higher than normal risk of oral health problems. You should get a dental check up twice a year

Physical Activity: Becoming physically active decreases your risk of heart disease and stroke, lowers your blood glucose and blood pressure, decreases the bad cholesterol and increases the good cholesterol, and improves body's ability to use insulin. If you have type 2 diabetes you should do at least 150 minutes of aerobic exercise a week.

You are the one in control of your health. Taking care of your diabetes takes some work, but by following these guidelines you are one step closer to taking charge of your diabetes and preventing the sometimes deadly complications of uncontrolled diabetes in the future.

For more information about taking control of your diabetes please contact your reservation's nutritionist or health educator.

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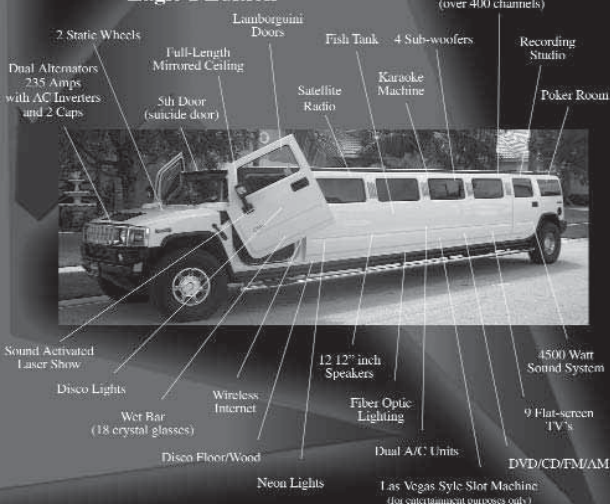
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Brighton Honors Young Athletes

By Emma Brown

OKEECHOBEE, FL— Sports and academics go hand in hand; these were a few words of encouragement offered by Brighton Council Representative Andrew Bowers. Bowers served as emcee at Brighton's annual sports banquet on July 13 at the KOA facility in Okeechobee, Fla.

The evening began with an invocation followed by a buffet style dinner featuring steak, chicken and all the sides. The children had their own buffet with all of their favorite dishes included an ice cream sundae bar which was a huge hit.

After dinner, Bowers gave a little history of some of the best Seminole athletes since the 60's until current time mentioning past sports legends like Russell and Jo Dan Osceola. He said Brighton folks have been a part of Okeechobee sports since he can remember and that the relationship with Okeechobee County continues till this day. Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. President

Moses Osceola attended the sports banquet and had the following to say to the Brighton people.

"You have a rich history in sports," he said. "Many of your grandparents were great athletes and you should be proud."

Osceola also reminisced about the once-held reservation Field Days, where reservations would compete against each other in different sports. He expressed his desire to see those types of events return to the reservations.

Following Moses was Okeechobee High School Head Football Coach Chris Branham.

Not yet 30 years old, Branham has accomplished a great deal in his life. He graduated from high school in 1995 and said that he can remember how good Seminole athletes were in school. He walked on to West Virginia State College as the second string quarterback and played until a neck injury ended his career as a football player. He stayed on as a coach with West Virginia until coming back to Okeechobee to fulfill the position as dean of the drug and alcohol program and soon after he became head coach.

Branham had a very good message to share with the kids of Brighton.

"Do what you are supposed to do in school, everything you do and learn can never be taken away," he said. "Don't be another face in the crowd and work to be remembered in a positive way and never give up on your dreams."

Following Branham was a presentation of a special award that was given on behalf of the late Fred Smith's family in his honor. Smith was always a big sports fan and supporter of youth sports. His family wanted to honor their father by giving an award to a top student and athlete.

The award will be called The Brighton Warrior Athletic Award and will be given each year to one athlete who has excelled at both sports and academics for the year. This year's recipient of the award was Smith's grandson Jarrod Smith. He is a student and football player at Florida Atlantic University and was most deserving of the award.

Finally it was time for the presentation of awards for all of the young boys and girls that participated in sports throughout the year. Each young athlete was presented with a beautiful plaque and medalion for each sport that they participated in for the year. This awards program was sponsored and hosted by the Brighton Recreation department and encourages youngsters to continue in sports.



Kids enjoy a little line dancing after the sports awards banquet.

Emma Brown



(L-R) Andrew Bowers, Jarrod Smith and Moses Osceola stand proudly in front of display set up to honor the late Fred Smith.

Emma Brown



Assistant Director Leroy Boyett hands Korvette Billie her medalion for each sport played.

Emma Brown



The big smile on Satie Rico's face expresses her pride in her award.

Emma Brown



Siblings Yopalakiyo Delaney and Imlakiyo Osceola smile proudly after receiving their awards.

Emma Brown



Richard Smith

Emma Brown



Alex Johns, Jarrod Smith, recipient of Seminole Warrior Athletic Award, Andrew Bowers and Camilla Osceola, Jarrod's mother.

Emma Brown

AAA Boys American Baseball League Champions

By Brande' Clay

This past season the Surfin the Net team earned the championship for the first and second half of the season. They had to play eight other teams and they still came out on top in their division.

Four Tribal citizens contributed to this winning team. Milo Osceola was the assistant coach and he, along with three other Tribal citizens, shared in the victory.

Brandley Osceola, 11, was the starting pitcher for the team. Brandley's parent are Brande' Clay and Milo Osceola.

Daniel Nunez Jr., 9, was an aggressive outfielder on the team. Daniel's parents are Peggy and Daniel Nunez.

Richard Smith, 9, was also an outfielder for the team. Richard's parents are Joni Smith and Vernon Baker.

After the regular season, Brandley Osceola and Daniel Nunez was drafted to the AAA American All Star Team. The team competed in the Dixie Youth



Milo Osceola (top row/far right), Brandley Osceola (1st row/3rd person), Richard Smith (1st row/far right), and Daniel Nunez Jr. (bottom row/center).

Brande Clay

Baseball District Tournament that was hosted in Okeechobee County, June 23-27.

The tournament had eleven teams from near surrounding counties. The American All Star Team finished third in the tournament. The team fell one game short from going to the state tournament.

Chobee Firestix NSA Softball Traveling Team

By Brande' Clay

OKEECHOBEE, FL— This was the first year that Okeechobee County had an eight-year-old and undertraveling team.

Six of the Chobee Firestix players were Seminole Tribal citizens. They played three tournaments in Jupiter and Palm Beach, where they sometimes had three games in one morning. These little girls practiced three times a week for two hours or more. But, all of these girls had a lot of heart. Whether they were in the heat of the Florida summer or caught in thunderstorms they were still smiling and ready to play ball.

It was a learning experience for everyone involved but it paid off. One of the tournaments they came in fourth place.



Brande Clay

(Top row L-R)Cheyenne Nunez, Lanie Sedatol, Ashley Gopher, and Rumour Juarez (Bottom L-R) Lahna Sedatol and Mila Osceola

Team Roster

Cheyenne Nunez: Pitcher, age 9, parents: Peggy and Daniel Nunez
Lanie Sedatol: Outfield, age 8, parents: Mona and Preston Baker
Ashley Gopher: Outfield, age 8, parents: Tonya and Lewis Gopher
Rumour Juarez: Infield, age 7, parents: Wendy Snow and Rudy Juarez
Lahna Sedatol: Shortstop, age 8, parents: Mona and Preston Baker
Mila Osceola: Third base, age 7, parents: Brande' Clay and Milo Osceola

Coaches: Kim Hargraves and Heather Stillfians. The two coach the Okeechobee High School softball team and have both played college softball

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All-Indian Fastpitch Event Tournament of Year for American Indians

Every year, American Indians from across the country flock to Oklahoma City. They come for softball. But the annual All-Indian Fastpitch Tournament is more than just one of the biggest sporting competitions in the country for American Indians. It's an event.

By Eric Bailey/World Sports Writer/Tulsa World
(Editor's Note: This is a reprint of a Tulsa World article. It is reprinted with permission. ©2006 Tulsa World)

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK — Skeet Bemo was a softball player without a team. The 35-year-old Creek Indian from Sapulpa spent part of Friday night grudgingly watching games at the 54th Oklahoma All-Indian Fastpitch Tournament.

To miss out on this event—one of the prestigious Native American sporting events in the country—would be heartbreaking.

"I just want to see if someone needs some help," said Bemo, who had played in the tournament standing around like he wanted to play.

The three-day event is an annual festival for Native Americans. Teams from across the nation converged on Wheeler Park, just south of downtown Oklahoma City. Some teams had matching uniforms. Others wore T-shirts and basketball shorts. Some players were muscular. Others were shaped like softballs.

All shared the same smile.

"Everybody out here has a good time, regardless of their shape and size," said Nolan Willis, a tournament organizer. "They just enjoy playing ball."

The tournament topped the 100 team plateau in its prime, but has dipped over the years. This summer, gas prices kept a lot of teams from making the trek. Games used to run deep into the night, with action ending at about 1 a.m. on July 9. That wasn't the case years ago.

"I remember being at Eggeing Stadium on Monday morning and watching people drive to work while games were still playing," Bemo said.

Donnie Has No Horse, an Ojibwa Sioux from South Dakota, said competition is what pulls his team on a 13 hour drive south.

"When you want to play the best softball teams, you come to Oklahoma," Has No Horse said. "This is the who's who of fast-pitch softball."

Bemo's love for the game brought him unattached to Oklahoma City. Just moments after looking for a team, he's scooped up. He was asked which team he was playing for.

"I don't know," he said, just happy to be playing in the softball tournament of the year for Indians.

"Four bases and a field. That's my sanctuary."

Sonny Perkins' playground has always been a softball diamond. The 33-year-old pitcher can dominate the fastpitch game. His ability to blaze fastballs and change speeds arguably made him the top thrower at this year's tournament.

Perkins, a Choctaw-Navajo, prefers to talk about his responsibility as the only American Indian on Team USA men's fastpitch team than throwing an 0-2 fastball past a batter.

"Fastpitch softball is becoming a dying sport,

and I want to help keep it going," Perkins said after beating a talented Duck Creek team in extra innings on July 8.

"Being on Team USA is important because I'm helping to rep present all Native Americans," he said.

Perkins grew up watching his parents play fastpitch. His desire to pitch grew serious five years ago, and he's spent the past four seasons playing for the Florida Seminoles. After competing on an international level, he still gets butterflies at the Oklahoma City event.

"Playing in Eggeing Stadium on Sunday

night in the championship game in front of a packed house is the biggest thrill," he said.

Age is just a number for many. Some players probably have AARP cards, while others like Adam Washington are just learning the sport.

Washington is a 21-year-old and former high-school baseball star from Kansas. He played in his third Oklahoma City tournament and he's still learning about the sport.

"Some of these players, as they get older, they sure get a lot smarter," Washington said.

Donnie Has No Horse probably spoke best for the hundreds of softball players this weekend.

"Four bases and a field," he said, "that's my sanctuary."

"It's really just like home"
The parking lot in Wheeler Park is filled by vehicles dotted with Tribal tags. Muscogee, Seminole, Kiowa, Cherokee, Apache—nearly every Oklahoma Tribe is represented. Bobby Martin is miles from his Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. He appreciates the support from steady crowds watching on a humid afternoon.

"When you see the people and crowds, with all the natives around, it's really just like home," the Lakota Sioux Indian said.

The tournament is an annual event for some families. Reunions often are scheduled for the first weekend after Independence Day with competitive softball being the centerpiece. Angela Barnett watched her cousins, brothers, friends and son play.

"This is the tournament of tournaments,"

Barnett said. "You have some of the best teams from all across the nation, not just Oklahoma. And, it's not restricted to a certain age group. There's guys almost 60 out there and they're still playing."

Dawn Leclerc, a Prairie Band Pottawatomie Indian, seemed more focused on finishing up some beadwork rather than rooting for her father's team. But when asked a rules question during a game, she looked up from her necklace and let the coach know the answer.

"I've grown up in the ballpark," said Leclerc, from Mayetta, Kan.

She recently returned from a bronze medal fastpitch softball performance in the North American Indigenous Games in Denver, Colo.

"This is tradition, coming to Oklahoma City," Leclerc said. "This has always been the place to be."

Andy Girty is a former player, coach and sponsor of a softball team. On Friday night, the 71-year-old Cherokee was in a dress shirt and khakis watching

others play ball. "Indian people are just familiar with softball," Girty said after waving to longtime friends. "Even when you're too old to play, you become a spectator and see all of your old friends."

It's also where kids learn to leave the tournament. Around midnight on July 7, a darkened softball field is lit up by the headlights of a truck. At the plate were kids playing softball while their dads played under nearby stadium lights.

"You were looked at as one of the best teams around"

George Tiger vividly remembers the game. After pitching 19 strong innings, Tiger and his Haskell Indians team dropped a 2-1 championship final to the rival Sapulpa Bucks. Tiger tossed 12 elimination games over a two day period and tossed more than 70 innings that Sunday as his team fought through the losers bracket in the 1977 tournament in Oklahoma City.

"Even on [the following] Wednesday, I still felt like my arm could fall off," Tiger jokes today.

More than 100 teams competed that season, with everyone vying for a title game bid.

"When you won that tournament, you were

looked at as one of the best teams around," said Mike Tosee, Haskell's shortstop.

While Tiger was throwing all 19 innings, Bucks pitcher Roger Ogle met him pitch for pitch.

"I don't think George and I pitched that well, but everyone was getting so tired," Ogle said. "That's one game I won't forget."

The Bucks scored the game's first run, followed by a Haskell run. In the 19th, the Bucks scratched across a two-out run. Haskell was retired in the home half of the inning, and a standing ovation greeted both teams at a packed Eggeing Stadium.

"A lot of people still mention and talk about that game," Tosee said. "In my mind, that's the most memorable game that I played in Oklahoma City."

"We've known about this for years"

The best of the Sioux nation make up the 18-

player roster of Red Leaf. The Tribe's all-star team made the long trip to Oklahoma to try to capture its first championship.

"It took us 13 hours to get here," Bobby Martin said. "We all got gas at the same time and enjoyed the ride."

This year's trip was funded by a \$2,000 first prize in a Fourth of July Tournament at home. The talented team always challenges for a championship, with a high-water mark of second place in the 2003 tournament.

"We really want to win first," Martin said, his friendly face morphing into a competitive look in an instant.

One of the best teams could measure its trip

in minutes, not hours. Duck Creek, a Tribal community between Tulsa and Okmulgee, fields one of the best teams.

"This is a big event for us," said Robbee Harry, one of the team's coaches. "We come from a small community, but we've known about this for years. We've come a long ways from playing two games and going home."

A Canadian team made a 24-hour drive in a large van and a car. Two-and-out was a close prospect. "We're heard about this tournament every year since we've started playing," said Barry Stonefish, a 53-year-old first baseman from southern Ontario. "This year, my son and I said we were going, no matter what."

After an early morning loss on Saturday, the team stayed alive in the double-elimination tournament with an 8-5 win. There would be no two-and-out for this squad.

"That was a big relief off our shoulders,"

Stonefish said.

The "Four Corners" Team is made up of Navajos near the New Mexico-Arizona-Utah-Colorado border. They could also be the "Four Brothers" team. The Andersons-Rondell, Ron, Tommy and Phil—are siblings.

"This is always like a family reunion for us," said Tommy Anderson, from Farmington, N.M.



Seminole's J.D. Bowers dives safely back to second base Saturday at the 54th Oklahoma Annual Indian Fastpitch Softball Tournament.

Submitted by Mike Simmons, Tulsa World

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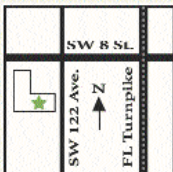
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Seminole All Stars Shine on O.C.R.A. All Star Teams



(L-R) Delaney Osceola, Kilyier Baker, Brionna Billie, and Korvette Billie

Brande Clay

By Brande' Clay

TAMPA — Four young ladies were drafted from their regular teams in Okeechobee to play on the 10 and Under Girls All Star Team. The girls all star team played in some tournaments in Palm Beach, Jupiter and also competed in the state tournament that was held in Tampa on June 29-July 1.

Delaney Osceola is 10 years old and her parents are Dana and Richard Osceola. Kilyier Baker is 10 years old and her parents are Mona and Preston Baker. Brionna Billie is 10 years old and her parents are Jeanne and Emerson Billie. Korvette Billie is nine years old and her parents are Selena and Keith Billie.

By Brande' Clay

PANAMA CITY, FL — The rookie league is the next league after T-Ball. There were five young boys who were drafted to play in the county district tournament. Most of these boys have been playing together since they started T-Ball.

They defeated the other team and went on to play in the state tournament that was held in Panama City, Fla. This group of boys definitely looks like they have many more home runs ahead in the future.

The team consisted of: Jerry Smith, 8, parents are Jennifer and Jerry Smith, Layton Thomas, 8, parents are Laverne and Jason Thomas, Yopalakiyo Osceola, 8, parents are Dana and Richard Osceola, Jayce Smith, 8, parents are Crystal and Jamie Smith and Immilakiyo Osceola, 8, parents are also Dana and Richard Osceola.



Brande Clay

(L-R): Jerry Smith, Layton Thomas, Yopalakiyo Osceola, Jayce Smith and Immilakiyo Osceola.

Osceola Brings Home the Gold



Tara Osceola Leonard

Lorri Osceola is seen here with Joel Frank Sr., at the 2006 Indigenous games in Denver, Colo., where she played on Team Oklahoma. Her team went 7-0 to bring home the gold. She is the daughter of Curtis Osceola Sr. of Hollywood, Fla. and Tara Osceola Leonard of Anadarko, Okla. She would like to thank God, the Seminole Tribe, the Chickasaw Tribe, Coach Amy Lampkin and her team.

Joel Frank and Lorri Osceola at the Indigenous Games.

♦ Clifford

Continued from page 1

and defensive tackle. The six-foot-one 220 pound Clifford was considered small for these positions but it was where the team needed him most.

For the All Star game, Cliff wanted to play linebacker, a position he had practiced at and always wanted to play. After his graduation from high school he spent the rest of his summer dedicating himself to learning the new position as well as getting into prime shape.

He practiced hours a day with his personal trainer and personal football coach Kenny Bayon. He would workout with weights in the morning and then would go out in the middle of the day to practice the intricacies of the position. Finally, he would finish the workout with sprints, most of the time with a parachute, which it is a piece of equipment to help gain speed.

At camp, Cliff's daily routine was to wake up and eat breakfast. That would be followed by morning football practice, mostly individual drills and then have lunch. After an hour of rest they would head back to the lake and resume afternoon practice, where it was more team oriented.

"It wasn't all that bad; I had a lot of fun and consider it an honor to be playing in such a prestigious game," he said. "A few times we got to go to a water theme park to cool off and hang out and meet all of my teammates from around the country as well as go hiking in the mountain which was really nice."

After all the practicing and conditioning, the time was finally here. Because of his great week of practice, Cliff was selected as one of the co-captains of the team. As one of the team captains, he was able to walk out to midfield and engage in the coin toss.

The first half was a tough beginning for Cliff's team as they trailed early on and never could get into rhythm. It was the second half where Cliff showed why he was capable of playing this type of



Kenny Bayon

Clifford Sanchez #55 walking out on the field for coin toss.

game. He simply dominated his side of the ball and even made a few bone crushing tackles behind the line of scrimmage.

Even though the final outcome was lopsided, all these athletes participated in a once in a lifetime game. The game was in honor of the great Jim Thorpe.

Jim is known throughout Indian country as the greatest athlete that ever lived. In the 1912 Stockholm Olympics he won gold medals in the decathlon and pentathlon. Thorpe was a three time all-American in football star while at Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania. He was a professional football world champion as a member of the Canton Bulldogs and in 1920 was the first president of what is now called the NFL; formerly the American Professional Football Association.

Jim was named the greatest athlete of the first half-century in 1950. In 1999 both houses of Congress honored Jim Thorpe by designating him as the athlete of the century and in 2000 ABC's Wide World of Sports honored him as their athlete of the century. He is enshrined in the following Hall of Fames: NFL, College Football, Track & Field, Indian Athletic, Olympic, Oklahoma and Pennsylvania.

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A Trip to the Heat Parade

By Shelli Osceola

MIAMI FL — The Miami Heat parade was very exciting. I went with my father, my step mom, stepisters and my brother. It was held in Miami last month. It took a long time for it to start because the people were still fixing the floats; so we waited and waited.

After a while they brought out the 1977 Ford Maverick car. This was the same car that BIG 105.9 DJs Paul and young Ron smashed at a Heat pep rally on June 13. Everyone got excited thinking the parade was starting, but it wasn't so



Shelli Osceola

The Maverick didn't stand a chance.

we waited and waited.

Finally it began after two hours. But it was awesome the way the people did this. The players were on these big trucks labeled "Duck Tours." I only saw Dwayne Wade holding the trophy, which symbolized the Heat's victory.

Then they had the greatest part of the parade, a huge banner with a picture of the whole team on it. After seeing that I went home knowing if they can do it twice after a few tries they're sure to do it again.



Shelli Osceola

2006 NBA Championship MVP Dwayne Wade holds the trophy.



Victor Osceola

Shelli (right) and friends cheer on the Heat.



History of the Indigenous Games

By Ramona Kiyoshk

"The Mission of the North American Indigenous Games is to improve the quality of life for Indigenous peoples by supporting self-determined sport and cultural activities which encourage equal access to participation in the social and cultural fabric of the community they reside in and which respects Indigenous distinctiveness."

A history of the North American Indigenous Games

A victory group led by John Fletcher sowed the first seeds of the North American Indigenous Games, originally the National Indian Athletic Association, in 1990, in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

That first planning committee started with fastball, but their vision was to expand into other sports.

The next logical move was to include the United States, home to many Indigenous nations with their own legacies, cultural exchanges and social interaction would take place, creating a sense of pride and support between athletes and communities in both countries.

This name change occurred before the games were held in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada in 1992. The new name, North American Indigenous Games, would include each province of Canada, each state of the U.S. and all their territories.

1990 - Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

The inaugural North American Indigenous Games, Olympic-style sports events, were held in 1990 in Edmonton, Alberta.

More than 3,000 sport participants and numerous cultural performers from Indigenous communities across Canada and the northwestern United States participated.

1993 - Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada

The 1993 North American Indigenous Games in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, involved 4,400 sport participants who competed on behalf of the Indigenous peoples of their Province, Territory or State.

In addition to the sporting events, the 1993 North American Indigenous Games included a cultural festival that attracted several hundred cultural performers from across North America.

In 1993, the North American Indigenous Games Council was created as the permanent governing structure for the North American Indigenous Games.

1995 - Blaine, Minnesota, U.S.

The 1995 North American Indigenous Games

held in Blaine, Minn., marked the first time the North American Indigenous Games has been held in the United States.

According to sport participation levels, the 1995 Games were the largest to date with approximately 8,000 competitors. These numbers reflected the American enthusiasm for athletics as witnessed by community support for sports at all levels.

1997 - Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

In 1997, Victoria, British Columbia played host to the North American Indigenous Games.

Twenty-six athletic teams (nine provinces/territories and 17 states) participated. In total, 5,000 athletes took part in the sport competition and more than 3,000 fans and performers participated in the cultural festival.

2002 - Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

This version of the North American Indigenous Games involved 5,500 sport participants from 27 teams (12 Provinces/Territories and 15 states) and a cultural festival that drew participation of approximately 3,000 cultural performers from across North America.

2006 - Denver, Colorado, U.S.

The 2006 North American Indigenous Games were presented in Denver, Colorado, in July 2006. The Colorado's Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute tribes pledged \$1.2 million to sponsor the events after the North American Indigenous Games Council took the games away from Buffalo, N.Y., when the local committee fell behind schedule.

Team and individual sports competitions took place at Invesco Field at Mile High, and cultural events were celebrated at the nearby Denver Performing Arts venue.

2008 - Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Journey of a Generation

With the support of other central Vancouver Island First Nations and the non-aboriginal community, the Cowichan Tribes are hosting the 2008 North American Indigenous Games in August 2008.

More than 7,000 athletes are expected to compete in 16 sports. In addition, there will be 2,000 cultural performers and more than 3,000 volunteers.

As well as the sporting events, the Games will include opening and closing ceremonies with over 20,000 participants and spectators expected, the largest ever Tribal Journeys Canoe Regatta, and a Cultural Village with entertainment, artisans, merchandise, and cultural activities.

It is estimated that the 2008 Games will contribute more than \$30 million to the local economy.

Wrestling

By Kenny Bayon

DENVER, CO — The North American Indigenous Games had some of the best athletic talent from the Seminole Tribe. It's been four years since the last games were held in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Now in Denver, Colo., Team Florida came prepared.

Team Florida's expectations were high following the success the team had during the last games. The team had high hopes as they were returning four wrestlers who had medaled in the previous few games. Additionally, there were two new wrestlers who came into the games with much experience and enthusiasm. Also returning was the coach who was rumored to have had practice three times a day during the last Indigenous Games; thus, giving Team Florida the only gold medal in 2002.

Life in general can be cruel and these games were no exception. By the time the airplane landed in Denver, only two wrestlers made it to the games. Tyrell Osceola, a heavyweight and a bronze medalist in the last year's games, and Clayton Simmons, the young 189 pound senior to be from Brandon High School in Tampa.

Both came in with the expectations of winning the gold. Both also approached the task as an opportunity to repeat and or win the gold for the Tribe. The plane had barely landed and as soon as they checked into their hotel room they were off to the gym to lift weights and run. Running and keeping in shape was essential to prepare for the difficult competition that lie ahead.

Denver isn't that the Mile High City for nothing. It's a mile above sea level which makes the air very hard to breathe and takes time and effort to get accustomed to; especially for Floridians. Clayton was so serious about his training that he ran from the opening ceremonies at Invesco Field back to the hotel. The distance was at least three miles and he had to run in the dark.

The wrestling tournament began starting early in the morning. It wasn't until the afternoon that Team Florida had their time.

First up was Clayton Simmons. He looked sharp but, was up against a tough kid from Wisconsin. The wrestler was named Evan Shepard. The first period was a back and forth battle as neither could really do anything against the other. Then he got a single point on Clayton but it was enough to win the first period.

The second period was much like the first but Evan got an advantage halfway through the match and got a few take downs against Clayton. Clayton had a golden opportunity as he caught Evan in an inside cradle but couldn't finish the move. Evan went on to win

the second period and win the match.

Tyrell Osceola was next competitor from Team Florida. His opponent was Tyrell Roberts from Team Iowa. The winner of this match would be wrestling for the gold medal match. The first period was a complete and total annihilation of an opponent. Osceola put his opponent on his back numerous times and should have been a pin—which was clearly evident on video.

Tyrell was taking a 6-0 lead and seconds left on the clock when he attempted to throw his opponent out of bounds. Although he succeeded, they both were out of bounds. Unfortunately, Tyrell fell on his bad shoulder; thus same shoulder that has been troubling the young giant for years. Furthermore, this shoulder was due for surgery up until a few months before the games.

Knowing he wouldn't be able to have the surgery and recover in time he decided to go ahead and compete, thus losing the first period. In the second period Osceola's shoulder was so badly damaged he couldn't even pick up his arm. Roberts took advantage of this and barely won the second period. The winner of the third period is the winner of the match which means first wrestler to score wins.

Osceola, looking determined but injured, tried a "fireman's carry" move. However, he didn't get it and Roberts got the take down and victory. Because of Osceola's injury, he was out for the rest of the tournament.

Although Clayton lost the first match, he was able to compete in the tournament. The next day, Clayton's next match was against Arren St Vincent from North Dakota. The start of the match couldn't have been any better for Clayton as he simply dominated. He was able to execute a single leg take down for points. Furthermore, he was able to put his opponent on his back from an over under position.

Clayton took control and won the first period 6-1. The second period began much of the same as Clayton scored often and early. Then it happened! A costly mistake from Clayton gave Arren the break he needed.

He was reversing a move by Clayton and ended up not only getting the reverse but, by twisting his knee ended up putting Clayton on his back and got the pin for victory. That was the end for Team Florida Wrestling as they were shut out. However, Team Florida will be better prepared for 2008 in British Columbia. Team Florida will have another opportunity to give a different story.



Opening Ceremonies

By Kenny Bayon

DENVER, CO — The majority consensus as Team Florida walked into Invesco Field for the opening ceremonies was the same for all the Seminole athletes. Clayton Simmons expressed it best.

"This is awesome!" said Simmons, a Seminole Tribal citizen and a Tampa resident. "This is so exciting. I can't wait to compete."

It was time for the games—the North American Indigenous Games, that is. While the games may have been delayed but it was back and better than ever. July 1 was a day that many thought was a dream but, now it's a reality.

Not even the rain coming down and thunderstorms near by could dampen this day. The day shined at Invesco Field in Denver. These games were supposed to be held in Buffalo, N.Y. in 2005 but because of financial difficulties they were cancelled but this didn't stop the NAIG Council and the Colorado Indigenous Games Society (CIGS) to have the games in the U.S.

Although, many thought it would be impossible, the North American Indigenous games was a reality in style.

This is not any event but the event in Indian Country sports. The North American Indigenous Games is a large scale multi sport and cultural celebration offering competition in 16 sports for youth and adults that are of Native American heritage. It features



Team Florida waits patiently to enter the field.

an opening and closing ceremonies as well as a cultural village. Some like to call this event like the Native American Olympics.

The event began in the afternoon with a preshow by DJ Abel giving some NAIG and Indigenous Olympic facts. Then DJ Abel put on a performance with DJ Tribal Touch and Denver native break dancers. Then it was back to DJ Abel and DJ Tribal touch along with Shatta-1, Julian B, MC Meta, Blackhouse drum group and Denver Native Hip Hop dancers.

After the preshow performances, the NAIG opening ceremony began. It started with the Denver native youth welcome ceremony followed by a grand entry by the NAIG Drum Groups. Now it was time for the Parade of Athletes as 7,700 athletes and coaches from North America began to enter the stadium to a roaring crowd one delegation after another.



Tribal representatives present check to NAIG.

Team Florida was led by the Seminole Tribe Color Guard which consisted of Gary McInturf, Paul Bowers, Steven Bowers and Joe Osceola Jr. and Hollywood Council Representative Max B. Osceola Jr. Team Florida was small but was big on enthusiasm and spirit; chants "Florida, Florida" could be heard. The NAIG hosted a record 23 U.S. delegates as well as 11 Canadian delegates.

Returning to the games from the U.S. states were: Florida, Colorado, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Prince Edward Island, South Dakota, Washington and



Invesco Field at Mile High during Opening Ceremonies.

Wisconsin. Returning from Canada were: Alberta, British Columbia, Eastern Door of the North, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Northwest Territories, Nova Scotia, Nunavut, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Yukon.

There were also new participants representing states that did not attend the previous North American Indigenous Games. They were Arizona, California, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Montana, Mississippi, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Utah.

Everyone finally got to their seats after an exciting entrance and was greeted by the 2006 NAIG "Honor Song" by the host Ute Mountain Ute host drum. Then it was time for the opening prayer by Austin Box & He was followed by the welcoming of the athletes. This presentation was done by the legendary Billy Mills.

Mills is one of Indian country's greatest athletes. He was born in Pine Ridge, S.D. and attended Haskell Indian School in Lawrence, Kan.

After earning an athletic scholarship to University of Kansas, he went on to participate in the 1964 Olympic games in Tokyo, Japan. Billy went on to be the first American to win the gold medal in the 10,000 meter run.

Former Colorado Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell then read a letter by President George W. Bush. The letter stated how proud he was of the games and wished everyone well.



Team Florida entering Invesco Field.

Minutes later the crowd was treated to various National Anthems. The first being the Canadian Anthem, which was beautifully sung by Souled. Then it was time for the U.S. anthem, played by Justin Vince Redhouse.

A series of musical performances by a variety of Indigenous groups provided additional entertainment for the opening ceremony. Leading off was Red Power Squad. This group was featured performers at the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards. As well as playing during the opening and closing ceremonies at the 2002 North American Indigenous Games in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

This was followed by a welcome from the host tribe Ute Mountain Ute. After the welcome, some members of their tribe both young and old put on their annual spring time dance, the Ute Bear Dance.

Souled was the next musical performance. Based out of Kahnawake, Quebec, the four band members have been around for about 10 years and they cover an impressive musical catalog which includes rock, blues, disco, alternative and pop music.

Finally, it was time for the closing of the NAIG ceremony. This included the "Flag Song" played by the Southern Ute host drum, entrance of the NAIG flag and the NAIG flag raising. A final musical performance by Martha Redbone and Robert Mirabal brought the ceremony to close.

After a salute to the athletes it was over and time for the games to begin.

Indigenous

Continued from page 1

Frank, also made a splash as a first year competitor and coach. He was originally slated to only coach, but had the opportunity to fill in as a replacement. As a result, Frank took home the silver medal in the senior prone division. From an athlete standpoint his goal was always clear.

"You just go out and you try your best," Frank said. "I'm grateful to the Tribe for allowing me a chance to go on this trip."

Team Florida rifle shooting also consisted of: Rhonda Roff, Kyle Henry and assistant coach Richard Henry.

In the sport of archery another athlete who shined was Cheyenne McInturff, 15. The first time NAIG competitor of Immokalee, Florida made an impressive debut with a gold medal performance in the female midjet traditional category. Coming into

competition the goals were simple for McInturff.

"I just wanted to do the best I could and represent for Team Florida because I knew there weren't very many people in Team Florida archery," McInturff said.

She explained that wanting to learn archery, along with her background growing up and Seminole heritage were all part of the decision to compete.

Twice a week practices for a three month period were part of her routine. She admits however, that she definitely did not expect to do as well as she did.

"It's cool, to get gold, and go home with the gold. Knowing that there are seniors and older people on Team Florida, that I got gold and they didn't," McInturff said.

She now has her eyes on the next NAIG.

"I plan on coming to the next games for sure, and keeping it up," she said.

McInturff's other teammates on Team Florida archery included: Danette Bowers, tied for bronze in

the female senior traditional, but lost on points, Jack Turtle and Don Osceola. The coaching staff was: head coach John Waterhouse and downers Steve Young.

Tae Kwon Do was also represented very well by the Frank brothers of Lakeland, Fla., Aaron, Nick and Kevin. The three came away with four medals.

Aaron received a silver in the sparing division and bronze in the Poomsae, or non-combat-form-pattern fighting, division. Brothers Nick and Kevin received bronze in the sparing division. Coach Ryan Frederick has been teaching and training the brothers over a year. The former junior and national champion was very confident in the brother's medal potential.

"They brought the talent and ability to the competition, as well as sportsmanship," Frederick said.

The hard work behind the scenes was also important in the success of the games. Assistant Chef de Mission Peggie Reynolds felt the performances surpassed all expectations coming in because of the short

71 days of preparation.

"It's fantastic that we did as well as we did," Reynolds said. "Everybody pitched in and did what they needed to do."

Reynolds was also impressed and surprised with the attention given to the youth in providing them an enjoyable experience.

"We weren't allowed to lose track of the fact that this was for the kids," Reynolds said. "People taking responsibility for their kids and their safety made it worthwhile. There was a lot of spirituality and profound purpose for the kids to shine."

All told, Team Florida 2006 won 10 medals; three gold, three silver and four bronze. This number is up six from 2002, when Team Florida won four total.

NAIG 2008 will be held in Victoria Island, British Columbia, Canada.

Team Florida Plays Hard at NAIG 2006

By Felix DoBoz

DENVER, CO — "The Spirit, Strong, Brave, True," was the rallying cry for the 2006 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG), which was a celebration of sports and culture in an Olympic style sporting event that was held from July 2-8, 2006.

This grand event was sponsored and hosted



Terri Hahn brings home the gold medal in Women's Golf.

by the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute Tribes of Colorado. The Seminole Tribe of Florida also presented a check to the 2006 North American Indigenous Games committee in April.

More than 7,000 Native Athletes from "Turtle Island," which includes Canada and the U.S., participated; this included 38 states and seven Canadian provinces.

There was competition in 16 different sports



Team Florida's Aaron Billie and Alissa Dorgan.

for youth between the ages of 13-19 and adults aged 20 and older, all going for the chance to win a gold medal in their sporting event. Twenty-five sporting and cultural venues were set up around beautiful mile-high Denver, Colo. metro area for this weeklong event. Although some athletes and visitors had difficulty getting acclimated to the thin Rocky Mountain air, most adjusted as best they could for the sporting



Team Florida's women's basketball team.

competitions.

Track & Field events: Aaron Billie, 48, a Hollywood reservation citizen and Housing department construction manager, competed in the 5,000-meter race. Billie came in 19th place overall.

Track coach John Jumper said: "The Air is a little thin here, and this is the first time Aaron has run in the Indigenous Games, its great accomplishment just to be here to compete with other Native American Tribes. This is good for the Seminole Tribe too, due to the fact that track & field is not a major priority in the

Seminole Tribe, its kind a lost event; a lost sport. From our tribe only two track competitors are here competing. Aaron Billie and Alissa Dorgan from Brighton reservation, running in the 200 meter."

Aaron Billie finished the 5,000 meter race winded and sweating heavily but said chuckling.

"I was wore out, but the atmosphere is a killer, and that was my best time," he said.

When asked if he was ready for tomorrow's tough 10,000 meter race, he said, "Not right now, I'll see how I feel later."

The following day was the long 10,000 race, but Billie's knee was so sore after the first race he could not run without feeling extreme pain in his knee.

Alissa Dorgan, 13, felt no pressure in her race and was glad that her 200 meter run was finally over. Although disappointed with her performance, and nursing a sore leg after the race, she said she was happy that she participated and completed her track event.

Basketball events: Team Florida was well represented from the performances of the boys 14-15 year old team. Coaches Eddie and Gloria Redd had their team ready for a morning of heavy competition against an outstanding basketball team from the great state of South Dakota. In this tight game the half time score was 19 to 12 with South Dakota ahead.

Coach Eddie Redd talked to his team during the break, telling them this is what they have been working so hard to get to the

important medals round. The time clock displayed three minutes and 50 seconds left in the second period and the score was a tight 44-43 with the South Dakota team staying on top.

The teams battled back and forth with great efforts made by both young teams to the wildly enthusiastic audience shouting their never ending encouragement for their favorite players. At the end of the competitive game the score was heading into overtime at 46-46.

These teams played hard with the focus on heavy defense while performing and executing with precision from both sides of the court. The final score at the end of the nail biting five minute overtime period was South Dakota 52, Team Florida 53.

Team Florida won this thrilling game by one point in overtime to make it to the next round for the gold medal competition.

Everyone around Team Florida was happy for the players and coaches but there was little time to celebrate this great victory. That very afternoon, Team Florida would have to play again, this time against a highly rated team from Washington State for the final gold medal.

At half time the score was a lopsided 41-26 with the Washington team running up and down the court almost at will. It appeared that the fight was taken out of the Team Florida from the earlier overtime win game they had briefly enjoyed a few hours earlier. Perhaps it was the fact that they ate a low quality fast food lunch in between games or possibly the stress of playing two big games only a few hours apart and with not enough time to rest in this Mile High City.

The players and fans for Team Florida were understandably very disappointed with the outcome of this final gold medal round, but they did manage to win second place and bring back the silver medals.

Coach Eddie Redd said excitedly at the end of the game. "We just game together just to play, yeah, we came awful close to getting that gold

medal," he said. "In the first half of the game we had our lead down from the kids but they really wanted it. They played hard but got worn down early, I still wouldn't do anything different though, we would play like we played in the brother's medal potential, we weren't contesting none of their shots from the three point, we knew before going in there that they were three point shooters and I told them [the players] to stay in their face, it was a good game. A couple of kids were let down just a little bit, they wanted it so bad."

When the coach was asked if the kids were tired from the earlier game they had played that day Coach Redd said: "No, that wasn't a factor, the kids were ready, and the kids wanted it really bad they never come to this level in the medal round so they wanted it real, real bad. They're learning to come together and not depend on just one player, it's the whole team, they did great, they did excellent, I was impressed with a lot of kids to get this far. It's a building process, next year we'll be back at them, no let downs."

Golfing Events: Lawrence and Max Osceola shared a golf cart at the Saddle Rock golf course for the seniors golfing tournament. Terry Hahn was proud to receive a gold medal for her excellent performance



Tyler Harjochee drives to the basket.

ance in the senior women's golf tournament. **Awards Banquet at the Adams Mark Hotel and closing ceremonies:** The outdoor closing ceremony was marred only by the rainy afternoon weather, but the excitement for the games was quite evident in



Brighton Seminole wait patiently before opening ceremonies.

the spirit of the native teams that had gathered to celebrate these sporting events. This was another great demonstration of native people's unity and how spectacular sharing cultures and competitiveness brought the great tribes together to make this a magnificent competitive event for all to enjoy.

Joel M. Frank Sr., director of the Grant & Government Relations department, was master of ceremonies at the award dinner for the Florida Team. A delicious buffet style dinner was set up for invited guests to enjoy in the beautiful ballroom of the hotel. Frank congratulated everyone that was able to come and participate at NAIG.

"You all didn't get medals, but that's OK, you were able to participate and that's the important thing," Frank said. "We're looking forward to having another team Florida for the 2008 games if the council will approve. I think that the council is very pleased with the outcome of this program."

He told the audience that the Seminole Tribe "won three gold medals, we won three silver medals and four bronze medals" for a total of 10 medals.

"Any Johns took home two medals gold and bronze, and Joe brought the silver; so we had all three in the rifle competition. Congratulations to our rifle team. As far as Archery is concerned, John



Team Florida's men's basketball team.

Waterhouse who is the coach, Don Osceola and Annette Bowers, we had Cheyenne McInturff who won a gold medal for the Archery team," he said.

Frank also acknowledged Tae Kwon Do Coach Mingo Jones his three-medal victory in sparing. Baron Frank took home a silver, Nick Brown won a bronze and Kevin Frank took home a bronze. Baron also took the bronze in foms.



Pete Osceola Sr. helps distribute Team Florida apparel.

In women's golf, Terry Hahn took the gold. "We got a gold medal winner," Frank said before congratulating Coach Eddie Redd for his hard work.

Frank then called on Big Cypress Board Representative Paul Bowers Sr. to offer a few words of congratulations. Following Bowers, Tampa Liaison Richard Henry spoke to the gathered audience and offered his congratulations to all the competitors and support staff.

"We're looking forward to 2008, y'all are the best, and hope to see you then," Henry said. Steven Bowers, liaison for the Governors Council on Indian affairs and Seminole Color Guard member said: "The other afternoon I saw the 13 to 14 year old boys lose to team Washington, I told 'em, I said, 'Hold your head up high, because we never give this far. You can go further just keep practicing, because the Seminole Tribe of Florida is in a position to back you,'" remember that.

Frank also introduced Recreation department Coordinator Steve Young to warm applause from the audience.

He said: "I just want to congratulate everybody on the fine week we've had at the Indigenous



Wrestling team and coach, Kenny Bayon.

Games, and our medal winners."

Young went on to thank others that helped organize and support these games for Team Florida with less than 71 days to prepare and train, like Peggie Reynolds and Pauline Good.

That concluded the evening's awards ceremonies with everyone chatting about what a great experience they enjoyed at the 2006 Denver NAIG games and looking forward to the 2008 games to be held in the beautiful Canadian province of British Columbia.

The final results of the NAIG 2006 Team Florida are as follows: three gold medals, three silver medals and four bronze medals; for a total of 10 medals.

Team Florida



Wanda Bowers



Chris Jenkins



Wanda Bowers



Wanda Bowers



Wanda Bowers



Wanda Bowers



Virginia Billie



Chris Jenkins



Rhonda Roth



Felix Delbour



Felix Delbour



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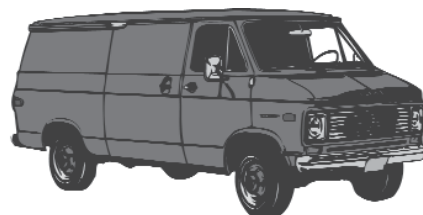
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Thursday, September 28th, 2006

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Big Cypress Senior Center

Full Men & Women Division
Ages 60-90 and 90 & up
South Dade

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Hard Rock, Etc. Hosts 'Champion' Boxing Match

Champion is Part of ESPN's Friday Night Fights Series

By Chris Jenkins

HOLLYWOOD — As the old saying goes, hard work pays off. On July 28, Warriors Boxing and Promotions, Golden Grain Promotions, Sampson Lewkowicz, and the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino hosted a championship boxing card entitled simply, *Champion*. Two of the heavyweight divisions' strongest contenders tested this belief. Six other action packed bouts were also part of the national ESPN2 Friday Night Fights coverage.

In hopes of a future shot at the International Boxing Federation (IBF) title, Warriors fifth ranked contender, Sultan "The Russian Bomber" Ibragimov (19-0, 16KOs) squared off against Golden Grains' number two ranked contender, Ray "The Rainman" Austin (24-3-3, 16KOs). In this eliminator bout the winner would take on current IBF champion Wladimir Klitschko.

The road to glory was a good one for both prior to their match up. Ibragimov rode the wave of his biggest win to date in a seventh round TKO versus fellow Warriors' boxer, Lance Whitaker at the Hard Rock last December. Austin had the momentum of a 12 fight winning streak dating back to 2001, including an April win by TKO against Jeremy Bates.

The showdown resulted in a fight filled with exciting moments and a controversial draw decision, although Ibragimov looked to be controlling the fight throughout. Round four saw Ibragimov use some strong combinations managing to catch Austin with a crushing right to his left temple sending the six-foot-six mountain

to the mat.

Austin would get his revenge in the 10th, with a little controversy attached. Late in the round, an overhand left and a little extra pull, saw Ibragimov go down. Despite the decision, Ibragimov still has hopes and aspirations of winning a championship.

Leon Margules said he was very unhappy with the decision.

"I'm upset about it, and I think Sultan won the fight," Margules said. "I thought Sultan didn't have the best performance of his career, but he definitely won that fight."

Margules said he plans to submit a for-

versus the number three contender in the IBF, Calvin Brock.

Other bouts on the venue included Eylon Keden and Angel Luis Torres in a draw in four rounds among featherweights. Richard Abril moved to 5-0 versus Flud Lawson in a first round KO in junior welterweights. Randall

Bailey over Russell Stoner Jones in four rounds of another junior welterweight tilt. Samuel Miller remained undefeated in a unanimous decision win over Jason Naugler in eight rounds in the middleweight division. Jameson Bostic beat Felix Cepeda in six rounds by majority decision in another middleweight match-up. Finally, Eliezer Cepeda stayed perfect moving to 2-0 over Jesse Francisco in a first round KO of junior middleweights.

The Tribal Council showed their support and enjoyed the action as well. Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Representative David Cypress, Fort Pierce Liaison Sally Tommie and Big Cypress Board Representative Paul Bowers were in attendance.

The celebrity scene included legendary boxing trainer Angelo Dundee. Well known past and former champions including light heavyweight Glen Johnson, heavyweight Shannon Briggs and heavyweight Gerry Cooney all made appearances.

The next action set for the Hard Rock is scheduled for October.



Sultan Ibragimov (left) tries to dodge a strong right cross from Ray Austin (right).



Samuel Miller gives a quick right jab through Jason Naugler's gloves to the head.



Samuel Miller is declared the winner in a hard fought bout versus Jason Naugler.



Sultan Ibragimov and Ray Austin get into the swing of things and battle through 12 grueling rounds.



Richard Abril (right) launches a left jab on Flud Lawson (left).



Richard Abril won his match against Flud Lawson.

onship. Coming in he explained that the American boxing scene is the best.

"It would mean a lot to become heavyweight champion because America is where the best fighters are," Ibragimov said.

Executive Director of Warriors Boxing

quest for the IBF title facing the winner of Klitschko versus Shannon Briggs, this November, remains on hold. Either an Ibragimov-Austin rematch will take place in November or December, or a possible match up



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Conference closed with recovery countdown.

Judy Weeks



Benny Antone interacted with kids at pool.

Judy Weeks



Eric Bricker and Suzanne Davis on an early morning walk.

Judy Weeks



Delores Alarez and Mark Billie react to presentation.

Judy Weeks



(L-R) Ginger Tiger and Bonnie Cypress on a morning beach walk.

Judy Weeks



Tribal citizens at the Wellness Conference donned costumes for party.

Judy Weeks

❖ Wellness

Continued from page 1

ties had a long, eager waiting list. Beginning at 5:30 p.m., organized sports and pool activities awaited the conference attendees before they gathered in the dining hall for a gourmet meal. Fitness Director Vickie Barogiannis said, "It is our goal to help you establish a physical regime that is both safe and healthy so as to enhance your lifestyle. Becoming unfit does not happen overnight nor does achieving your new fitness goals. It takes both time and work, but the rewards are limitless."

Quoting Charles Buxton, she said, "You will never find time for anything. You must make it."

Tables had been set up in the entry hall and were manned daily by members of Family Services, Health and Nutrition departments. They distributed brochures, healthy snacks, conference memorabilia and good advice daily. Wellness is not just a personal thing, but a community effort and it is the Seminole Tribe's goal to assist its members in obtaining the rewards of their hard work toward a better lifestyle.

The conference got underway on the morning of July 17 with opening ceremonies. Several Tribal dignitaries took advantage of this opportunity to express their support to those individuals in recovery and those who are making an effort to

individual, but the whole family are affected. You cannot control the lives of others, but by controlling yours, you can affect theirs in a positive manner.

Mike Lewandowski brought his message all the way from Kalamazoo, Mich. Being an addict and involved in recovery programs for numerous years, he is well qualified to say that all addiction is a mental health problem. Working on this premise, he did an in depth study of the Twelve Step program. Injecting personal experiences and humor into his presentations, he held a captive audience.

The group graciously welcomed back the lovely and talented Denise Alley. Having participated in several conferences in the past few years, she has become an old friend with a familiar, but interesting message. Her subjects included forgiving and letting go as well as dealing with guilt and shame. However, she did not limit herself to these topics. Her message stresses personal well being, self-respect and a balanced, happy life style that can only be achieved if we unload our burdens and move on with our lives.

Alley's son, Ben Antone, travels with her. Over the years the conference participants have slowly watched him grow up before their eyes. He has developed quite a connection with the younger set as he enjoyed their company in the pool and other activities in the past years.

Following high school graduation, he is now counseling and has become a role model for the youth program. A very talented dancer, he uses his abilities to captivate his audience and deliver his message. The youngsters adore him and hang upon his every word. A member of the Lakota Sioux Tribe, Chani Phillips hails from Yakima, Wash. Dealing with the very sensitive topic of domestic violence, she first established



Judy Weeks

Movie characters brought joy to kids of all ages.

build stronger minds and bodies. Healthy individuals become members of strong families and the ultimate result is the Seminoles Stand Strong.

Addressing the group were: Chairman Mitchell Cypress, President/Vice-Chairman Moses Osceola, Brighton Council Representative Andrew Bowers, BC Council Representative David Cypress, Hollywood Council Representative Max Osceola and Trial Liaison William Osceola.

A diverse group of very well qualified speakers had been assembled to complete the week long schedule. Conference participants recognized many familiar faces and welcomed new additions to the program. Helene Buster made opening remarks.

"I thank my creator for every day and take one day at a time," she said. "Think, think, think! Whatever works for you is the path for you to take: whether it is Twelve Steps, NAA, Church, Indian Medicine, Rehab or so many other options. Remember, testimony is powerful. Participate and reap the rewards."

A very dynamic speaker, Clayton Small, had returned to share his personal triumphs and motivate his audiences. His subjects were personal healing, codependency and relationships. A Northern Cheyenne, who was raised on a reservation, he had experienced first hand many of the same situations and challenges experienced by his captive listeners. Small is a very animated speaker and invites audience participation. Drawing upon volunteers, he energizes the room with dancing, chanting, invoking laughter and reaching out to the individuals. His method includes such topics as conditioned behavior and breaking cycles. Regardless of the type of addiction: alcohol, drugs, eating disorders or financial, not just the

group on forgiving and letting go in order to develop a whole, healthy human being equipped to meet the challenges of daily life and become a survivor rather than an aggressor or victim. His second topic, aftercare, was the logical progression of the same subject and expounded on winning the daily battles to achieve the ultimate goal.

The abuse, dependency and treatment for methamphetamine is Dr. Robert Perkinson's expertise. Coming from a very dysfunctional family, he grew up with a speech impediment of stuttering, low self-esteem and followed the road to drug dependency. Beating overwhelming odds, he has acquired several degrees and is currently the clinical director of the well-known Keystone Treatment Center.

"If you're an addict and shake your family tree, drunks will fall out," Perkinson said. "God changes the world one person at a time and it is never too late to make the change." Perkinson captivates his audience by playing the guitar and singing as he delivers his message.

Dealing with grief, guilt and shame are things which Larry Long is well equipped to tackle. Grief affects everyone at some time or another; whether it is the loss of a loved one because of death or the loss of a lifestyle wasted. There are positive steps to overcome this suffocating situation and move on with your life. Shame and guilt carry the same burdens and healthy people must lay those burdens down.

Mary Baxley tackled the crippling disease of codependency. All too often families create the atmosphere that allows addicts to function without realizing their participation. The harm this causes is two fold. The addict has a way to continue down the road to destruction and the family is destroyed by all the inevitable side effects. Everyone's life is



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Harold Baxley dressed as "Tonto" and Martin Gopher is "The Lone Ranger."

tion to the problem, which is a no tolerance policy. You must break the cycle to become a survivor and this will lead to becoming a thriver.

Suzanne Davis from the Allied Health department tackled the difficult subject of healthy beginnings. Beginning with preconception, conception, nutrition which includes diabetes, and finally the healthy birth of the next generation, she covered all aspects of the subject very professionally.

Unfortunately, it was necessary for her to dwell on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and pre-natal addictions.

However, the end result was a very informative and rewarding presentation, which should be taken to heart to insure a bright future for the Seminole Tribe.

Beth Moriang joined Davis in a very innovative health presentation which included a game of Jeopardy®. Dividing the room into two teams, there was full audience participation. A lively game ensued in which some very difficult health question and topics were introduced and it was amazing how well informed the participants were on a variety of subjects; particularly diabetes and the food pyramid. Everyone enjoyed the game and would have welcomed a rematch.

Martin Farley tackled the men's group on forgiving and letting go in order to develop a whole, healthy human being equipped to meet the challenges of daily life and become a survivor rather than an aggressor or victim. His second topic, aftercare, was the logical progression of the same subject and expounded on winning the daily battles to achieve the ultimate goal.

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tom apart by the control they allow the addict to have over them. You must love yourself first. In order to make the right decisions and survive.

An old friend returned in the form of Jerry Moe. He is a very animated and audience captivating speaker with a message for young and old that gives hope to every circumstance. This red haired, freckle faced man wins his way into your heart as you think of him as "Opie of Mayberry," the down home boy of your dreams who experiences life as it comes his way. As he speaks he delivers a message of hope and recovery to everyone and promises a better life.

Bringing a panel of Gamblers Anonymous with him, Rick Benson discussed the life destroying addiction of the runaway gambler. He stresses that he does not object to gambling for pleasure when you can afford it. But you must not let it control your life and destroy it along with the lives of those around you.

Addictions Program Administrator Eric Baker gave a very informed presentation on street drugs. Describing the telltale signs of drug abuse, he explained the nature of the beast, how to recognize it and how to deal with it. The so-called club drugs can easily be slipped into your lives without your knowledge and the effects can be devastating.



Louise Osceola, Elaine Aguilar, Delores Jumper in hotel lobby.



Chani Phillips talks domestic abuse.

Whether you are taking the drug willingly, have it forced upon you unsuspectingly, or are a victim because of drug abuse by a loved one, everyone is a loser. You must learn to recognize the problem, seek help and find a solution. Your Family Services are waiting for your call and will assist you 24/seven, according to Benson.

A very extraordinary individual appeared in the form of Don Bartlette. Born with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, a hair lip and cleft palate, he was cast aside by his family. In time he was rescued by a kind, wealthy woman who recognized his potential as a human being, but did not hand the world to him. She made him work for his own successes.

Giving him jobs she provided him with food and clothing, but made him see that there is no free ride in this life. She encouraged his schooling and admonished him when he didn't go or did poorly. She gave him the strength and determination to fight for his own future.

Not every Fetal Alcohol Syndrome story has a happy ending, but Bartlette can tell you that you must never give up. His benefactor saw him through seventeen surgeries and a psychology degree. It was a very rocky road with twists and turns along the way, but with her help he was able to find the strength to make the journey.

Others can't travel the road for you, this is a trip you must take, according to Bartlette. However, if you try hard enough, you will succeed on your own or someone else may recognize your potential and give you a hand up.



Dr. Parkinson played guitar to send his message.

Mental Health Counselor Basil Phillips opened with an invigorating piece of music and got right to the meat of his subject.

"By honoring your elders and their values, you can honor yourself and

the future generations," Phillips said. "The legacy they left for you is one that involves pride and self-respect. Accept the will, be a role model for others and pass the legacy of your people along to your



Youth group with motivational speaker.

descendants. Through you the Seminole Tribe will prosper and survive."

Financial wellness walks hand in hand with physical and emotional well being. Nancy Lowery explained that attitudes toward money affect stress and self-

esteem. When you are physical-ly fit, you can perform your job better. When you have emotional stability you are in line for higher rewards both in the work place and your personal life. Education can help you learn to take control and make wise decisions that will affect your future and those around you.

Food addiction has one bottom line-early death. Kay Sheppard invoked thought when she pointed out that food addiction not only can trigger diabetes, but suicidal thoughts and fears, lost interest in others and your surroundings. Your self-esteem flies out the window and denial runs rampant.

Using a slide show to enhance her presentation, she concluded by saying, "Recovery is a process, not any event. An event is fixed in time and unchangeable. A process is on going."

Family Services, under the direction of Helene Buster, put together a delightful skit which was entitled "Relapse! What Now?" This subject affects every family in some way because we are all part of the human experience that involves abuse, recovery, despair and hopefully triumph. If it is not in every household, it unfortunately dwells somewhere within our neighbors. The cast did a wonderful job of writing, producing and portraying the consequences of relapse.

One of the most empowering parts of the conference took place each afternoon as individual speakers offered testimony and members of the audience volunteered their participation. Watching from the sidelines, one could not help but feel their pain and identify with their struggle. This is a very emotional event and invokes deep thought for everyone present. Through personal testimony, you not only see others more clearly but sometimes find the strength to delve into your own recesses and draw strength to make changes.

On the afternoon of July 20 everyone gathered in the conference room for a final review and the long awaited "sobriety countdown." Helene Buster proudly announced that participants in the morning walk peaked with 70 fitness-minded people. She thanked everyone for their assistance in making the conference possible and reiterated how dependent she was on her staff who had given 100% to make it happen.

Beginning the countdown for years of sobriety, the longest time was 32 years. As Buster called out the years the individuals stepped forward and joined hands making a circle around the room. Total count was 375 years, eight months and 18 days.

A tremendous amount of planning went into this year's youth agenda which was divided into two age groups. The four to seven year olds enjoyed the "sea life adventure," which included story telling, crafts, songs, movies and supervised pool activities.

The eight to 15 year olds joined in the fitness program and entertained speakers from the Allied Health department, Basil Phillips, Jerry Moe and Ben Antone. Afternoon activities included the Naples Zoo, charter fishing excursion, the movies and awesome games and swimming activities.

Following each evening meal, there were AA meetings with Andy Buster, Gary and Allen McInturf. The women's group held their own council with Linda Ling, Denise Alley and Yvonne Courtney. Culture classes with Amy Clay included the crafting of Seminole doll pins and beadwork.

The culmination of a wonderful, productive week came on the evening July 20 when participants met in the ball room for the "Come As Your Favorite Star" party. Costumes ranged from Tonto and the Lone Ranger, Sesame Street, Shrek, Marilyn Monroe, Elvis and Snow White to a multitude of characters. The room was filled with jubilant partygoers who enjoyed a fantastic buffet, followed by an evening of dancing to a marvelous and very versatile band.

The 13th Annual Seminole Wellness Conference is over but its affects will hopefully carry on through the coming year and have a positive lifetime reward for its participants.



Audience participates in forgiving and letting go.



Harold Baxley, Andy Buster, Mark Billie worked on conference.



Ben Antone showing dance moves.



Conference was filled monday morning.



Tracy DeLaRosa gives massage therapy.

Beach Fest 2006

Beach Fest 2006 Celebrates Fun in the Sun

Employee Appreciation Day is just a Summertime Groove

By Felix DeBosz

DANIA BEACH, FL—The festivities started after 10 a.m. as another hot, hazy, humid day, which is typical for South Florida's July weather. Upon arriving to the festivities on July 29 guests were greeted by the shimmering teal Atlantic Ocean on the east and phenomenal costumed stilt walkers at the front of the welcome stand. Greeted and serenaded by a wandering Jimmy Buffet look alike and sound alike guy and his tropical painted guitar was a sign this was going to be a fun filled day.

Smiling people waited in short, orderly lines getting their orange wrist bands put on. Guests yelled out their size preferences before receiving beautiful beach bags filled with free gifts from the well-organized Tribal volunteers that did a heck of job keeping things cool. Gifts included a big red beach towel, beach ball, white hat, suntan lotion, T-shirt, water bottle and a personal battery fan, all with the Tribal Council logo emblazoned on them.

Employees arrived with great expectations to a huge white tent pitched along the beach. The tent stood next to about 100 wooden picnic tables stacked neatly in rows covered with burlap sacks.

Young people of all ages lined up to get air brushed tattoos painted on different parts of their bodies. Others lined up for free caricature pictures from a talented artist to treasure the beach bash moment forever. Little kids were happy to get their faces painted with colorful butterflies and flowers from talented face painting clowns that also doubled making balloon animals for the kiddies.

Rock climbing was a fun experience for some older kids and several skill games along the portable midway next to the beach provided more wholesome entertainment. Some of the games included darts, crazy cans, baseball toss and milk bottles. There were canoes, kayaks and beach tricycles and fishing activities for guests to enjoy the water sports with their families on the each side of the beach.

A tropical flavor was in the air as music poured out from a Caribbean steel drum playing that was not only relaxing but put everyone in a partying mood. There were more games to participate in, such as the limbo and hula-hoopin under the long white tent. The Jimmy Buffet impersonator gave a friendly performance of Buffet's hit songs that everyone seemed glad to hear.

The food line opened at 11:20 to great anticipation from the gathered crowd. The delicious beach food consisted of mouth watering baby back barbecue ribs and chicken, with all the fixin's, conch fritters and off course foot long hotdogs and hamburgers. Another food stand laid out chilled sliced watermelon and had a machine making fresh popcorn every few minutes.

Joel M. Frank Sr., director of Government Formulations & Grant Relations, was asked about today's beach bash turnout.

"I think it's fantastic," he said. "I remember years ago we had smaller groups of celebrations for employees. Looking around now I see we have a huge amount of employees working hard for the Tribe. The vision of our Tribe's leadership and commitment goes along with what makes it happen, finding good people dedicated to the sharing the same vision."

The weather changed rapidly around 1 p.m. The sky got cloudy and windy as a rain front moved in off the ocean towards the beach, trying to dampen the spirit of the celebration. Some guests left the beach quickly as they saw lightning strikes nearby and sought refuge; others stayed and partied on. They hung around together under the big white tent playing games as the rain moved in for a heavy 20 minute downpour.

As the rain stopped, people came out from under the tent into the fresh sunshine. Guests continued to have fun and enjoyed the rest of the family activities with the professional game master getting people to get up and dance and share some more of the fun and games with happy co-workers and their families.

"This is my first time going, I enjoyed it, the food was great and it was a great turnout," Darline Buster, business manager for the Communications department said. "My family and I had fun with all the activities."



The rock climbing wall was both fun and good exercise.

Felix DeBosz



Caricature artists were happy to do portraits for employees and guests.

Felix DeBosz



Carnival-style games kept the kiddies and employees entertained.

Felix DeBosz



Whitey Richardson from Buildings & Grounds and Joyce.

Felix DeBosz



Kids and adults alike enjoyed cruisin the waters on these bikes.

Felix DeBosz



The Hula hooping contests drew out some fierce competition.

Felix DeBosz



(L-R) Belkys Bueno and Judy Parks of the Dental Office take a break from the fun.

Melissa Sherman





Felix DeBoer

Making it look easy in the Hula hooping area, under the big white tent.



Felix DeBoer

"Jimmy Buffet" entertained the crowd.



Melissa Sherman

JD Huggins spent time kayaking.



Felix DeBoer

Balloon artists shaped creations of all types.



Felix DeBoer

This temporary tattoo artist gets to work creating a masterpiece.



Melissa Sherman

Shana and daughter Alani Frank.



Felix DeBoer

Good Valaquez from IT smiles and waves.



Melissa Sherman

Shawna, Bradley, and Alyssa O'Kane were all smiles.



Sherry Maraj

Nikki Derienzo with her baby Lexis doing the limbo.



Felix DeBoer

There was lots of entertainment at the Beach Fest, such as these clowns.



Felix DeBoer

Many of the youngsters took advantage of the temporary tattoo station.



News From Indian Country

Largest Fundraiser for American Indian Education

American Spirit Award Dinner Honors Tribal Chairman Maurice Lyons

Submitted by Heather Dower, Council of Energy Resource Tribes

DENVER, CO — On July 16 the Denver-based Council of Energy Resource Tribes (CERT), a consortium of 56

American and Canadian Indian Tribes, and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe announced where the American Spirit Award Dinner 2006 will be held.

The dinner, a leading fundraiser for Indian education, will be hosted by the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe at their Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort on Aug. 8.

The dinner is part of a two-day Indian Energy Solutions conference focusing on the opportunities of the Tribal Indian Energy and Self-Determination Act and Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act of 2005 (Title V). The conference will also outline how appropriations for the act facilitate partnerships between Tribes, government and industry. This allows for overcoming barriers toward addressing Tribal needs and the U.S. goal for increased energy production.

Tribal representatives nationwide, energy industry officials, state and federal elected leaders, and press are expected to attend.

The conference and the dinner celebrate the growing cooperative relationship between industry and American Indian Tribes," said A. David Lester, CERT executive director. "The dinner itself was conceived 30 years ago as a prestigious event, hosted by Indian leaders, to further Indian education goals. This concept has gone on to assist hundreds of Indian students and promises to

provide assistance for thousands more."

Nearly \$6 million has been raised for CERT education programs through the American Spirit Award Dinner.

This year's dinner will present the prestigious American Spirit Award to Maurice Lyons, Tribal Chairman of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians. For the first time in 2005, the American Spirit Award Dinner and Indian Energy Solutions Conference were held on Tribal land, made possible by the generosity of the

Morongo Nation. CERT member-Tribes maintain complete management of their valuable resources. Tribes participate in all aspects of managing their resources - from negotiating agreements, protecting the environment, realizing the value of water and other resources to verifying revenue payments.

"The Council of Energy Resource Tribes (CERT) was founded in 1975 by 25 energy resource owning American Indian tribes who believed they could chart a new course of tribal development that would address Tribal priorities and values while contributing to a more secure energy future for all Americans," said Lester. "Since the inception of CERT, Tribal leaders have dramatically restructured the federal-Indian relationship regarding mineral development on Indian lands and have forged alliances and partnerships with industry."

The Council of Energy Resource Tribes can be reached at (303) 282-7576, faxed at (303) 282-7584 or mailed to 695 S. Colorado Blvd, S-10 Denver, Colo. 80246. To inquire about event sponsorships, please visit www.certreearth.com.



Photo submitted by Heather Dower
Chairman Maurice Lyons

Local Support Sustains Native Law Clerk Program

Submitted by the Native American Rights Fund

BOULDER, CO — The Native American Rights Fund (NARF) announced on July 27 that its summer law clerk program was a success. This is all thanks to a gift of \$12,000 from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law (DU) and the law firm of Lindquist & Vennum, PLLP. The gift sponsored the cost of two law clerk positions for NARF's 2006 Summer Law Clerk Program.

NARF relies on its law clerks to assist in achieving its mission of defending the most important rights of Indian tribes and individuals through legal advocacy within the limit of available resources. Furthermore, NARF is committed to the professional development of new attorneys in the field of Indian law. Each year the organization conducts a nationwide search for law school students to participate in its clerkship and internship programs in all three of its offices.

The NARF summer law clerkship is a 10-12 week program for students who have completed their second year of law school.

"This past fall the Summer Clerk Program was in jeopardy due to budget constraints," said NARF attorney

and clerk program supervisor, David Gover. "Without support from DU and Lindquist & Vennum the program would have been severely limited if it occurred at all. We are grateful for their support and have secured top notch law clerks for this summer's program. We look forward to continue working with DU and Lindquist & Vennum in the future."

This year's Lindquist & Vennum Native American Rights Fund clerk is Molly Barnett and the University of Denver Native American Rights Fund clerk is Amy Bowers (Yurok). Both are third year law students at the University of Denver, Sturm College of Law. NARF summer clerks also include Karol Dixon (University of New Mexico), Eric Stegman (University of California Los Angeles) and Natasha Singh (University of Washington).

"We are thrilled that Amy,

Molly and future DU Sturm College of Law students will have the opportunity to work with a premiere organization such as NARF," said Tim Henderson, DU's assistant dean of career development.

To learn more about NARF and its programs or to make a contribution contact David Gover at (303) 447-8760 or visit www.narf.org.

Call for Entries: 10th Annual Native Film & Video Festival

Submitted by ECSIUT

COLUMBIA, SC — Eastern Cherokee, Southern Iroquois & United Tribes (ECSIUT) of South Carolina is calling for entries to their successful annual Film Festival.

ECSIUT will once again bring images, stories, documentaries and dramatic feature films in celebration of National Native American Indian Heritage Month to the audiences of the Southeastern U.S.

On Nov. 1-5 ECSIUT and the Columbia Film Society of South Carolina will once again bring images, stories, documentaries and dramatic feature films in celebration of National Native American Indian Heritage Month.

"We are a non-profit organiza-

Deadline for submissions is September 19

tion that feels this is important...We have been successful getting new independent Native American and Indigenous Filmmakers and movies to new audiences," said the Film Festival's Founder and Coordinator

Dr. Will Moreau Goins.

For an application or more information contact: ECSIUT, Film Festival of Southeastern USA, P.O. Box 7062, Columbia, S.C. 29202, (803) 699-0446, taygoines@aol.com, Attn: Dr. Will Moreau Goins, film festival coordinator/presenter.

To get application form for submission with film/video VHS preview go to the website, <http://www.cherokeesof-southcarolina.com>.

Casino

Casino Hosts Talent Show Semi-Finals

Seminole Casino had the best talent in 2005.

"We're little, but we're loud," Johns told the crowd. "Brighton Seminole Casino is the little guy on the block and we got them. It still gives me chills."

Employee Montie Spivey, a singing sensation, won the semi-finals at Brighton in 2005 and went on to sweep the finals at the Hard Rock Live. He was rewarded with a cash prize and brought home the glory to the employees at Brighton Seminole Casino.

To warm up the audience at this year's semi-finals, Spivey was asked to sing last year's winning song, "Dream On." He belted out the Aerosmith song from the specially lighted stage that was erected in the darkened Bingo Hall for the event.

Other Brighton Tribal employees were in attendance and the dinner was served to an appreciative audience. Everyone enthusiastically gave the nervous performers lots of whistles, cheers and applause.

Who knew all that talent was hiding under one roof?

Performers Jessie O'Neill, Shylunda Augustine, Montie Spivey, Christy Hardin and Roxanne Tate all sang songs in the competition. Dottie Wilson and Mark Lemley played the piano, and a band called the "Poker Posse" performed.

The Posse comprised members who all work in the poker room including Brian Wright who played the

keyboard, David Stiles, lead guitar, Mark Lemley who sang the vocal and played rhythm guitar and Dottie Wilson who also played rhythm guitar.

In between the acts there were drawings for prizes and Marti Johns, with his usual sense of humor, cracked jokes so it was a fun night for these employees who had the opportunity to party together.

The judging of the acts was performed by special guests who were asked to score the competitors on their originality, poise, physical appearance, stage presence, creativity, overall impression and talent. Judges were professional musician Reese Thomas, WOKC/WAFC Account Executive K.C. Kelly and the Brighton Chairman's Assistant Jo Leigh Jumper.

Their top choice for first place was once again, Montie Spivey. Spivey won the semi-finals prize but since he won last year's employee talent show at Hard Rock Live, he was not allowed to perform again the following year in the finals. That leaves the job of representing Brighton at the finals to first runner-up Jessie O'Neill. Second place was awarded to Poker Posse and third place went to Mark Lemley.

Kim Johns, director of Human Resources at Brighton Seminole Casino, was responsible for organizing the event which she did superbly with the help of her volunteer committee that included Erika Harvey, MacKenzie Johns, Jan Sutton, Pam Arnold, Mark Lemley and Charlotte Burgis.



Susan Etzbarria

(L-R) Montie Spivey gets the winning check from General Manager Marti Johns.

By Susan Etzbarria

BRIGHTON — No guts, no glory, it is said. Well, 13 Brighton Seminole Casino employees had the guts to perform live on stage and compete in the employee talent show semi-finals on July 10. It was their big chance to go for the glory.

They were competing against each other for the ultimate thrill to perform at the magnificent Hard Rock Live in the Second Annual Employee Talent Show in August. The annual talent show semi-finals and finals are sponsored by the Human Resources Department of Seminole Gaming, Inc.

Only one talent or act at the Brighton semi-finals could be selected to go forward to the finals where they will compete against the top talent from Hollywood, Tampa, Coconut Creek and Immokalee.

"It takes courage to get up on that stage," said Brighton Seminole Casino's General Manager, Marti Johns, who emceed this year's 2006 semi-finals.

He didn't miss the chance to remind the audience that Brighton



Susan Etzbarria

Dottie Wilson gets ready to perform her comedy act.



Photo Courtesy of Tom Craig

Bon Jovi's members pose with Gaming CEO James Allen (left), Chairman Cypress (third from left) and other lucky fans.

Bon Jovi Keeps It Real at the Hard Rock Live

By Felix DuBoz

HOLLYWOOD — Bon Jovi fans came out to the Hard Rock Live early for this nearly sold out show on July 10. The only tickets available at the box office for this internationally popular rock group were priced at \$300.

A local band that won a battle of the bands contest received the honor of opening for Bon Jovi. They played their hearts out for nearly a half hour with some rocking down home music that got fans screaming for more. Bon Jovi in the meantime, was backstage doing a meet and greet with VIP's such as Chairman Mitchell Cypress and CEO of Seminole Gaming James Allen and friends.

The evening's headline act's got off to a great start playing their well known pop hits to the enthusiastic support from their legion of fans gathered to hear classic hard rocking sounds.

Jon Bon Jovi, 44, fronts the band and plays vocals, guitar, keyboards, and harmonica; Richie Sambora plays lead guitar; David Bryan is on keyboards and



John Bon Jovi

Felix DuBoz

vocals; and Hector "Tico" Torres pounding master drummer; and Hugh McDonald on bass guitar and vocals, make up Bon Jovi. They have continuously performed for more than 20 years with great appeal from their music rock fans in large stadiums and small arenas.

In a recent article, *The Chicago*

Sun-Times quoted Jon Bon Jovi saying: "Our band has lasted so long because we are friends first and foremost and we truly do like each other's company." Bon Jovi says, "You don't necessarily have to be friends offstage to have a successful band, but that's how it is with us. There's mutual respect and a definite hierarchy. Everyone knows where they fit in and no one's ego gets in the way. That really just comes with age, time and experience. And respect."

According to wikipedia.com, the free online encyclopedia, "Bon Jovi has sold more than 33 million albums in the United States, and over 100 million albums worldwide, and has played live concerts in major cities in Asia, Europe, Australia, Canada, and South America, in addition to a large number of cities in the U.S."

Some of the big hits that have made them famous are rock staples such as: "You Give Love a Bad Name," "Wanted Dead or Alive," "Livin' on a Prayer," "Bad Medicine," "I'll Be there for you" and "It's My Life;" just to name a few.

Announcements ❖ Ahaaheek ❖ Nak-ohkērkēcetv

Happy Birthday

Happy 4th birthday to my big girl, **Jalycia F. Billie-Valdez**. I remember when you were just a baby and started preschool; now you're turning four and graduating from there. I'm going to miss you not being in preschool anymore, but I hope you have fun at your new school. We'll be there every step of the way. We love you.

Love,
Janie
(Mom), **little bro Javian**
Cypress and **little sis Jaylee**
Cypress



crawling all over the place, you look funny. Either way, we still love you. Happy birthday!

Love,
Janie
(Mom), **little brother Javian**
Cypress and **big sister Jalycia Billie-Valdez**



Happy birthday wishes to Rachel Billie and Mitch Oscola on Aug. 3 and 4. Mai-Kai stage again?
With love,
Steve O. and Jackie T.



Happy 7th birthday to our "Bink," **Amaya Elle Baxley**, Bird clan. We all love you and want your day to be as special as you are.

Love,
Dad Luke Baxley Sr., Mom Janine Cypress, siblings Daija Baxley, Juke Baxley Jr., Aden-James Cypress and Grandparents Carol and Carl Baxley and Regina and Ned Thinn



Happy belated first birthday to **Jaila Rae Yzaguirre** on July 19. We want to wish you a happy birthday. You put the sparkle back in our eyes.

Love,
Grandma Norita, Grandpa Ray

New Kid



We would like to welcome **Markell Alan "Skooter" Billie** into our lives. May your life be an adventure worth writing about.

Love,
Melissa Cline (mom), Markell Alan Billie (dad), Siblings Jazmine Billie, Michelle Jimmie, Delia Harjo, Brandon Brown and Grandparents Sonia Cline (mother's side), Eva Billie and Bobby Billie (father's side)

Poems

In Loving Memory of Karen Sue Cypress
(December 19, 1986 - July 28, 2005)

You came to us as a little child,

In a small torn dress and running wild.

Here to stay for just a day or two, The family voted, we needed you.

With our children grown, How could we have known?

For our eyes could not see, What a blessing you would be.

For the girls a real, live baby doll to bathe and dress,

For the boys an angel to spoil and caress.

As you grew, you had doubts and fears,

But always our love throughout the years.

You turned the world upside down and left us in a daze.

One minute you were shy and hid behind the door,

The next you craved attention and asked for more and more.

You said you were ugly and no one would look at you,

But the mirror shouted that wasn't true.

Many knew you as the girl on the four-wheeler with Webster, the dog,

Or working in 4-H, raising a steer or a hog.

But you were so much more, we must brag.

At rodeos and horse shows you carried the flag.

Competing in barrels and poles on Big Grey or Old Bill,

Watching you ride gave us a thrill.

You expressed yourself in your secret talent of art,

By drawing, sculpting and painting in part.

Puppies, kittens, hamsters, gerbils and more,

You had a place in your heart for animals galore.

Finally you entered your young adult years,

Filled with sadness, joy, laughter and tears.

You began to doubt your self-worth,

And wondered, did you even have a purpose on earth?

To those who loved you, the answer was clear.

As we look back on our memories so dear.

Your nieces and nephews thought you were dandy,

As they reached in the snack drawer for candy.

Your love for your brothers knew no limits.

And your dream of the future, held them in it.

You were a daughter, sister, aunt, cousin and friend,

And you were loved by all to the very end.

We think of you often, it's been a long year,

Your memory fills our hearts and we hold you so dear.

—The Aguilar Family

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2006 Princess Pageant



The Contestants (L-R): Summer Billie, Margie Dorgan, Stephanie Smith, Amber Craig, Tianna Garcia, Lazara Lanae Marrero, Jessica A. Osceola, Kurya L. Kippenberger and Brittany Yescas.

Stephen Galla

By Lila Osceola and Melissa Sherman

HOLLYWOOD— Oh how the time flies. At this time last year, 2005-2006 Miss Florida Seminole Christine McCall and Jr. Ms. Florida Seminole Jennifer Chalfant took center stage. As always, all good things must come to an end, and the time came to roll out the red carpet and crown a new 2006-2007 Jr. and Miss Florida Seminole.

The festivities would begin on July 26, and would go through July 30 with a variety of different events. Upon entering the pageant, every contestant was to prepare an essay, picture and their bio for presentation to the Princess Pageant Committee.

Wednesday, July 26

The Jr. Miss and Miss Florida Seminole contestants met with the Seminole Princess Committee for orientation in the auditorium of the Hollywood headquarters building. At this time they were given sashes, name badges, itineraries, scheduled interview times and a list of princess committee's names and numbers.

That evening the girls were set up for a dinner at the Hard Rock Cafe. The judges and committee members went to the Council Oak for dinner; judges and contestants were not to be together until the judging began.

A strict curfew was set with a 10 p.m. light out for every night of the pageant. Alice Billie and officers from the Seminole Police Department did room to room bed checks.

Thursday, July 27

Breakfast in the ballroom was provided everyday for all the contestants and judges. This morning was planned for the contestants to introduce themselves to all they could get acquainted. This day was set aside for practicing. After practicing all day they had a full dress rehearsal, with no parents or any other persons besides the pageant committee.

The first official judged event was the pool side luau, which was moved indoors to the ball rooms due to the questionable weather. The princess committee was able to transforming the ball room into a luau. Shrunken head centerpieces decorated the tables, bird statues stood upon the buffet tables while flute music played softly in the background until it was time for the first contestant to take their place on stage.

All the contestants and judges got their first opportunity to introduce themselves in front of the audience. Once introductions were over the then Miss Florida Seminole Christine McCall and Jr. Ms. Seminole Jennifer Chalfant handed out beautiful purple leis to everyone who was in attendance. Evening came to a close and two days down with more to come the next day.

Friday, July 28

After breakfast the whole day was set for the contestants to enjoy a wonderful day of manicures, pedicures, and hair do's at the Contour Day Spa. Talk about princess for a day, Robert Kippenberger had a glamorous photo shoot setup for the contestants at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Pool side, which would allow them to prepare for the banquet that evening.

Pier 66 Restaurant in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. was a prestigious venue for an engagement such as the princess pageant banquet. Each contestant arrived looking ravishing in their beautiful dresses emerging from the limo one by one, which was provided for the contestants and judges to cruise from place to place.

The atmosphere was set for a princess and some contestants looked nervous, although blossoming in front of the judges, friends, and family as the evening went on.

The night consisted of speakers, beautiful scenery while enjoying the rotating floor on the top of Pier 66. Camera flash went off every couple seconds, while people talking and having a good time all in an effort to support the young women on display.

Princess Pageant Chairwoman Wanda Bowers ended the evening with a speech to talk with all the contestants, judges and introducing the princess pageant committee.

I am proud to say another year has passed and Christine McCall has crowned her successor, our new Miss Florida Seminole Princess, a 2006-2007. The 2005-2006 Jr. Miss Jennifer Chalfant has also crowned her successor, Tianna Garcia, 13, from the Big Cypress reservation.

I remember Brittany Yescas saying to me she didn't care if she won because she was having so much fun, meeting new people, going to nice restaurants and staying in the Hard Rock Hotel. I told her to keep her spirits up, speak direct and be positive. I guess that worked. She was shocked when they called her name.

The Seminole Princess Committee has been meeting for the past four months getting ready for the big weekend, which started on July 26. The first of the pageant festivities was used mainly for registration and orientation for all committee members, contestants and chaperones.

Looking back on the weekend now, I was very proud of all my girls—the contestants—and especially my committee members for making it through the weekend. You know all my Princess Committee Members are also past princesses too.

mittee members and past princesses.

Saturday, July 29

The pageant day has finally arrived. Interviews for the ladies were scheduled from 9:30 a.m. through 12:30 p.m. The Jr. Miss contestants had a 10 minute interview and the Miss Seminole contestant had a 15 minute interview.

For lunch the contestants took the judges to Benihana via the limo. With the big night only a few hours away the contestants were given a little bit of free time at the hotel to prepare.

Finally, it was time for all of the practice pay off for the contestants. After many nerve racking speeches, dress rehearsals and spa treatments the princess contestants were in full bloom, each of them with hopes of being crowned.

The princess pageant started off with a community dinner for all to come and eat and celebrate a wonderful night of excitement. Pedro Zepeda, Panther clan, emceed the event and started off the 49th Annual Seminole Princess Pageant. He introduced Tribal elder Maggie Osceola to give an invocation. After the invocation President Moses Osceola said a few welcoming words in Miccosukee to welcome the judges and support the new candidates.

Osceola thanked everyone for attending. He sent out a special welcome to the Ochopee, Naples and Immokalee residents, then followed up with a call out to the rest of the reservations to rally them up.

"All of the pageant contestants are winners, and beautiful young ladies," Osceola said.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress thanked the judges and Miss Seminole Christina McCall for all her hard work during the last year.

She has done wonderful job representing the Seminole Tribe," he said.

Zepeda introduced the working Princess Committee and Tribal officials. He then called on 2005-2006 Miss Seminole Christina McCall on stage for some welcoming remarks. Miss Seminole sent a message to the audience.

"These young ladies are representing the tribe and have practiced hard and wanted to make you proud," McCall said.

Then Zepeda introduced the contestants one at a time and read aloud a short autobiography the contest prepared earlier.

First out was Jr. Miss Contestant Summer Billie of Big Cypress. She is oldest child of four children. Billie said she is interested in the medical field and the Special Olympics. She also attended John Casablancas' Modeling and Career Center.

Margie Dorgan, Panther clan, attends Grace Christian School. She said she likes science wants to become a science teacher.

Stephanie Smith, 17, from Plantation, Fla. Said she would like to attend college and help council Tribal teens with their struggles.

Amber Craig, 15, of the Bird clan grew up in Brighton and now resides in Boca Raton, Fla. She is an only child. Craig said she enjoys family sports such as mudling and holds a first degree black belt Ta Kwon Do.

Tianna Garcia, Panther clan, 13, from Immokalee is in ninth grade. She said she wishes to attend the University of Carolina.

Following the Junior Miss contestants the Miss Seminole Contestants took the stage on at a time.

First out was Lazara Marrero who attends Jackson University. She is majoring in English and French with a political science minor. She is also involved in a number of organizations including 4-H.

Jessica Osceola currently resides in Naples but was raised in Tamiel Trail. She said she wishes to create art about native's struggles and history.

Kurya Kippenberger of Hollywood is a youth counselor at the Hollywood Gym. She graduated from the American Heritage Program.

I can gladly say that my committee members out-did themselves again this year. Without the contestants there is no pageant. I think the more we work together year in and year out we tend, especially myself, to depend on each other. I depend on each committee member to come through with their particular function(s) and responsibility.

It is always the committee's intention to give all the contestants a wonderful weekend of glamour, nice restaurants and limousine rides. But also along with the dredge of having to do public speaking, answer questions from the judges, along with bed check.

I hope both the Tribal Council and the chairman are pleased on the selection of their new princess. I know I am. Their first trip out will be Schmitz 2006 Feet of Green Corn and Dance.

I want to give my thanks to all my committee members for coming through for me one more time. They are: Salina Dorgan, from the Brighton reservation is the Princess Tabulation Coordinator, Priscilla Sayen from the Hollywood reservation is the Treasurer, Holly Tiger, from the Hollywood reservation is the Princess Secretary

Brittany Yescas from Ochopee, Fla. is a Bird clan member, originally from the Miccosukee reservation. She also has an associate of art's degree in recording and also attended Walt Disney's Candidate Procession.

Next the contestants had a presentation of traditional outfits.

Junior Miss Seminole Contestant Summer Billie came out with pink dress designed by Louise Osceola; it was in the old style. Margie Dorgan wore a southwest printed material with a three part detachable cape made by her 84 year old grandmother. Stephanie Smith was dressed in a modern traditional outfit with a patchwork design was a man on horse; it was a gift from Boogie Johns jumper. Amber Craig presented a 100 percent cotton Seminole colors with the fire patchwork design. Tianna Garcia wore a 100 percent cotton pastel two design light diamond pattern dress.

Miss Seminole contestant Lazara Marrero took the stage with a lovely purple ribbon dress, decorated with fire and craftwork patchwork by Edna Frank. Jessica Osceola wore a two piece dress designed by Suzy Jimmy, with short cape and rattle snake design patchwork. Kurya Kippenberger's dress designed by Mary Tiger had a short cape and quarter sleeves and purple diamond patchwork representing the four directions. Brittany Yescas wore a purple and green two piece shirt and skirt with a 1920 fashion by Peggy Osceola.

The contestant next participated in the talent presentation.

Summer Billie demonstrated how to capture and alligator and to perform the "Seminole Wave." Margie Dorgan told the "Legend of the Rabbit and the Lion." Stephanie Smith demonstrated making traditional women's shakers out of carnation cans BB's cloth padding, an ice pick, cable wires and of cloth. Amber Craig had a slide show describing tourism and Seminole. Tianna Garcia stomped danced with a leader. Lazara Marrero demonstrated making sweetgrass baskets. Jessica Osceola stomped danced with leader Victor Osceola. Kurya Kippenberger showed the crowd how to make a beaded bracelet and loom. Brittany Yescas demonstrated how to make a patchwork, or traditionally, corn to make shoes.

The final hurdle for the contestants was an impromptu question that was picked out of a sweetgrass basket. After the many nerve racking moments the contestant made it through.

It was now time for a small intermission allowing the judges to tally up the votes and allow the contestant and audience a break while Miss Indian World Violet John told a story about how the tricksters lost his eyes.

After the story comedians James and Ernie told a few jokes.

"Our Navajo culture has similar shakers, like the Seminole, we call them salt shakers," they said.

Chairman Cypress and President Osceola thanked the judges and presented gifts to each one of them. The 2005-2006 Miss Seminole Christina McCall gave a farewell speech, showing scores of photos overhead and places she has been and people she has met. Junior Miss Seminole Jennifer Chalfant also gave a heartfelt farewell speech.

It was finally everyone was waiting for: the Junior Miss fourth runner up is Margie Dorgan, third runner up is Summer Billie, second runner up Stephanie Smith, first runner up Amber Craig and the new Junior Miss Seminole is Tianna Garcia.

Miss Seminole third runner up is Lazara Marrero, second runner up is Kurya Kippenberger, first runner up is Jessica Osceola, and the new Miss Florida Seminole is Brittany Yescas.

In addition, Junior Miss Seminole Tianna Garcia won the talent competition, Miss Seminole contestant Kurya Kippenberger won talent in her category and Miss Seminole Brittany Yescas won Miss Congeniality.

and Stage Coordinator, Connie Frank Gown, from the Hollywood reservation, Priscilla Sayen from the Hollywood reservation, Holly Tiger from the Brighton reservation is the Personal Interview Coordinator and Tabulator, Christine McCall, who couldn't wait to be a committee member, volunteered to be in charge of the glamour session for the girls and host the pageant judges for the weekend.

A gracious thank you to all my judges who were: Melonie Matthews, Miss Indian World Coordinator—I picked up a few tips from her this weekend—Violet John, Miss Indian World, Jenna Edwards Miss Florida USA from Miami, Fla., Oran Lacy, Miss New Mexico USA from Gallup, N.M., and as they say, last but not least, Lawrence Baker, from North Dakota.

Thank God everyone arrived in Florida safe and everyone got home safe.

Ma doe,
Wanda F. Bowers
Seminole Princess Committee Chairwoman

Council Oak and Hard Rock Cafe



Lila Osceola

Enjoying dinner at the Council Oak (L-R): Miss Indian World Pageant Program Coordinator Melonie Mathews, Lawrence Baker, Miss Indian World Onawa Lacy, Priscilla Sayen and Connie Gowen.



Stephen Gallia

Jessica A. Osceola, Lazara Lanac Marrero and Stephanie Smith talking over dinner.



Stephen Gallia

Contestants talking with Christine McCall.



Lila Osceola

The contestants gather outside the Hard Rock Cafe for a quick photo.

The Luau



Stephen Gallia

Miss Indian World Violet John and Amber Craig.



Stephen Gallia

Tianna Garcia talks with one of the judges.



Stephen Gallia

2005-2006 Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Jennifer Chalfant passes out the leis.



Stephen Gallia

Summer Billie, Lawrence Baker and Stephanie Smith enjoy dinner.

Pier 66



On top of the world (L-R): Brittany Yescas, Jessica A. Osceola, Tianna Garcia, Summer Billie, Amber Craig, Miss New Mexico USA Onawa Lacy, Miss Indian World Violet John, Miss Florida USA Jenna Edwards, Four Bears Community Board Treasurer Lawrence Baker, Stephanie Smith, Margie Dorgan, Kurya L. Kippenberger, and Lazara Lanae Marrero.



President Moses Osceola speaks at the dinner.



Helene Buster, Miss New Mexico USA Onawa Lacy, Shawn Henderson, President Moses Osceola.



Jr. Miss Contestants being judged.



Overlooking Fort Lauderdale (L-R): William Osceola, JoeDan Osceola, Virginia Osceola, and Mercedes Osceola.



(L-R) 2005-2006 Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Jennifer Chalfant, Miss Florida USA Jenna Edwards, Miss New Mexico USA Onawa Lacy, Miss Indian World Violet John, 2005-2006 Miss Florida Seminole Christine McCall.



Flutist Sonny Nevaquaya entertains.



The Pageant



President / Vice Chairman Moses Osceola

Stephen Galla



Chairman Mitchell Cypress

Stephen Galla



Judging the contestants.

Stephen Galla



Miss Indian World Violet John tells the story of Trixter and the Giant.

Stephen Galla



2005-2006 Miss Florida Seminole Christine McCall gives her farewell speech.

Stephen Galla



2006-2007 Miss Florida Seminole Brittany Yescas, 3rd runner-up Lazara Lanae Marrero, 2nd runner-up Kurya L. Kippenberger and 1st runner-up Jessica A. Osceola.

Stephen Galla



2006-2007 Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Tianna Garcia, 4th runner-up Margie Dorgan, 3rd runner-up Summer Billie, 2nd runner-up Stephanie Smith and 1st runner-up Amber Craig.

Stephen Galla



Comedy duo James and Ernie yukking it up.

Stephen Galla



Stagehands Garrett Anderson and Jarrod Smith set up for the next contestant.

Stephen Galla



Amber Craig presents a slideshow.

Stephen Galla



Summer Billie shows her alligator wrestling skills.

Stephen Galla



Kurya L. Kippenberger tells about her headwork.

Stephen Galla



Stephanie Smith shows how to make shakers.

Stephen Galla



Jessica A. Osceola picks her impromptu question.

Stephen Galla



Margie Dorgan tells the Legend of the Rabbit and the Lion.

Stephen Galla



Lazara Lanae Marrero demonstrates basketweaving.

Stephen Galla



Miss Florida Seminole



Stephen Galla



Stephen Galla



Stephen Galla



Stephen Galla



Stephen Galla



Melissa Sherman



Stephen Galla



Jr. Miss Florida Seminole



Melissa Sherman



Stephen Galla



Lila Osceola



Stephen Galla



Stephen Galla



Stephen Galla



Stephen Galla



The Backstage



Melissa Sherman



Melissa Sherman

Backstage Flash

By Melissa Sherman

HOLLYWOOD — After having cameras flashed in their faces for four days straight, the girls hardly noticed me snapping pictures after I slipped in the back door of the auditorium, which was transformed into backstage changing room. Busting around you could see capes being twirled, skirts straightened and beaded necklaces fastened.

The 2005-2006 Junior Miss Seminole Jennifer Chalfant sat quietly in her own space at the conference table. She was finishing up her farewell speech sandwiched between piles of colorful clothing, make up and jewelry, each item waiting for their turn on to be worn.

Christine McCall, the 2005-2006 Miss Seminole, assisted the contestants in what ever help they needed, advice or pinning skirts and sashes. "My thumb looks like a pin cushion," she said.

The girls were managing fine on their own. However, if anyone asked if they needed any help a small pause and relief would come over them. Most requests were simple, such as an untied necklace or tighter pinned skirt. Each one shared quietly advice and hope for the other. Some time group efforts were made for girls tucking in slips, hold this here, pin this here; together it made the process so smooth.

Times have changed for the princesses over the years. Now with the three LCD televisions mounted on the wall backstage they did not miss a beat, they really could see everything that happened play by play. Sometimes they would all freeze with hope for there opponent during a glitch, really hoping to

get the show rolling again.

Former princess and present committee member Connie Gowen was backstage offering her hand of expertise. She held up a necklace or two for Junior Miss contestant Margie Dorgan and placed them around her neck. Then would walk over to the next contestant straighten up a few loose threads and pin a skirt or two; always with style and grace.

I was struggling with a knot on contestant Kurya Kippenburger's necklace. The wax was sticky and there were a lot of strands. Connie walked up and said with a smile, "Pull this one down." The entire necklace released with ease.

Committee member Helene Buster could also be seen doing similar primping. At one point she tied on contestant Tanna Garcia's stomp shakers on her calves and after further investigation had to re-do them for comfort but this time, time was a factor so she hastily untied and tied them again.

Holly Tiger was working more on the technical side, in more ways than one. She spent time making sure the head set microphone made it over the girl's heads without messing up their hair. Things got a little tricky here and there for Holly with making sure the microphone was off while backstage, then back on again on stage, but she did a good job.

The stagehands, Jarrod Smith and Gerret Anderson, were not only a great help on stage they were like jesters to the girls. They cut up with them, kept their nerves down, helped them smile and keep their cool; after all, it is all in good fun!



Melissa Sherman



Melissa Sherman



Melissa Sherman

The Outtakes



Melissa Sherman



Stephen Galla



Stephen Galla



Lila Osceola



Melissa Sherman



Lila Osceola