

## Tribal Wellness Conference Now In Its 15th Year

BY CHRIS JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**MARCO ISLAND, Fla.** — Attendees at the annual Seminole Wellness Conference, held July 14-18 at the Marco Island Hilton resort, took in valuable health- and addiction-related information and powerful messages, while still managing to have fun.

The conference, now in its 15th year, featured guest speakers and experts from all across the U.S., including Native motivational speaker Denise Alley (Cherokee, Shawnee, Ojibwa, Delaware) who traveled all the way from Gilbert, Ariz. to attend. Alley, along with the other speakers, gave personal testimonies and advice that coincided with the addition recovery 12 Step Program.

Attendees, who included Tribal citizens as well as Council and Board representatives, also learned about topics ranging from alcohol and drug dependency, to HIV and dental health.

"[The Wellness Conference] is a good cause," President Richard Bowers Jr. said.

"Today in the modern world there are so many things which are not good for us."

Trail Liaison William Osceola and Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith agreed.

Please see WELLNESS ♦ Page 2A

## Naples Students Given 'Incentive' to Continue Education

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**BONITA SPRINGS, Fla.** — The 2008 Education Incentive Awards Banquet for the Naples community students took place the evening of June 18 in the Great Egret Ball Room at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Naples Council Liaison OB Osceola Jr. addressed the award recipients in the audience.

"Speaking on behalf of your Tribal leaders, I want to congratulate each of the students being rewarded here this evening," Liaison Osceola said. "You have done a tremendous job in school."

"In addition, your parents are to be commended for the wonderful support that they provide," he added. "A good education requires total family effort."

The awards ceremony began with Higher Education Advisor Linda Iley recognizing Jessica Ann Osceola, who had earned her bachelor of fine arts degree from Florida Gulf Coast University in June. Her cousin, Liaison Osceola, also presented her with a watch.

Please see INCENTIVE ♦ Page 2A

## 34 Resolutions Passed at Tribal Council Meeting

BY CHRIS JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**TAMPA** — The Tribal Council convened at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino for their regular meeting on July 21.

They passed 34 resolutions including:

Resolution 17: Service line agreement (560' x 20') between Glades Electric Cooperative, Inc., and Seminole Tribe of Florida for location of an electric power line for the Everglades Restoration Project - Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 18: Service line agreement (200' x 20') between Glades Electric Cooperative, Inc., and Seminole Tribe of Florida for location of an electric power line for the Everglades Restoration Project - Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 19: Service line agreement (508' x 20') between Glades Electric Cooperative, Inc., and Seminole Tribe of Florida for location of an electric power line for a Sewer Lift Station - Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 20: Service line agreement (1,500' x 20') between Glades Electric Cooperative, Inc., and Seminole Tribe of Florida for location of an electric power line to the home site of James E. Billie - Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation;

Please see COUNCIL ♦ Page 2A

# Princesses Crowned at Annual Pageant



(L-R) Chairman Mitchell Cypress, 2008-2009 Miss Florida Seminole D'Anna Osceola, 2008-2009 Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Amber Craig and President Richard Bowers Jr.

Stephen Galla

## D'Anna Osceola Crowned Miss Florida Seminole, Amber Craig Jr. Miss

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Princess Committee pulled double duty for this year's Seminole Princess Pageant, not only crowning the princess and junior miss, but also honoring the Seminole princesses of the past, in a ceremony held in the Hollywood Auditorium on July 26.

Sixteen young ladies competed for the title and the chance to represent the Seminole Tribe of Florida, 11 competing for the Jr. Miss crown and five competing for the honor of being crowned Miss Seminole. However, only two would take home crowns — 2008-2009 Miss

Florida Seminole D'Anna Osceola and 2008-2009 Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Amber Craig.

Sally R. Tommie, Fort Pierce liaison, and Tribal citizen Everett Osceola co-enced the pageant. They started the evening out by welcoming everyone to the pageant and then introduced a video that coincided with this year's theme, "Honoring the Seminole Women of the Past, Present and Future," and featured former princesses.

The Seminole Princess Pageant is now in its 51st year. As a tribute to the ladies who have held the crown in the past, the Princess Committee presented those past princess in attendance, including the first-ever princess,

Connie Frank Gowen, the 1957 princess, with a Swarovski crystal replica of a princess crown.

Following the video, the emcees introduced the Princess Committee, Tribal officials and the judges, Miss Florida USA Anastasia Pierre, Miss Indian World Nicole Alek'aq Colbert, Brad Cooley of the Bronze by Cooley sculpture team, and Miss Indian World Pageant Program Coordinator Melonie Matthews. The contestants then introduced themselves to the audience.

The Jr. Miss contestants took the stage first. Those vying for the crown included: Jaryaca Baker, 13, Dakota

Please see PRINCESS ♦ Page 1E



## PRCA Rodeo Honors Josiah Johns' Memory

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Cowboys and cowgirls from all across the southeastern U.S. converged on the Fred Smith Arena to compete in the Josiah Johns Memorial Rodeo on July 4 and 5.

The Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association (PRCA) sanctioned event schedule read like a "Who's Who" in the southeastern circuit.

Brighton Council Rep. Roger Smith said: "Josiah Johns was known for his riding and roping ability and was instrumental in establishing the Seminole rodeo tradition,

(Pictured Left) Josiah Johns' rodeo legacy lives on. His well-known riding and roping ability were instrumental in the forming of the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA).

Tribune Archive Photo

which eventually gave birth to the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA). His rodeo legacy lives on in his descendants. His son Marty is a rodeo stock contractor and daughter Lisa competes in the EIRA along with his many grandchildren."

This year's rodeo had all of these main ingredients of a traditional Fourth of July celebration, from the grand entry parade to the fireworks finale. However, one of the main reasons for the event, honoring Johns' memory, was apparent.

Board of Directors President Richard Bowers Jr. recalled Josiah Johns' contribution to his community.

"Josiah was born into a family of cattlemen about the time that the Seminoles were establishing their first herds on the Brighton and Big Cypress Reservations," President Bowers said. "He grew up on the back of a horse and worked long hours in the cow pens helping to provide a future for his family and fellow Tribal members."



## Wellness

Continued from page 1

"This is one of the best causes we could have and support," Liaison Osceola said. "Addiction does not have an age or type."

Rep. Smith added: "I was glad to see everyone there to take advantage of the opportunity to improve themselves."

Former drug and alcohol addict Sonya Bealand, who now serves as a counselor with Hudson Health Services, a recovery center in Salisbury, Md., spoke candidly about her past experiences.

"I have a disease that talks and tells lies to me in my own voice," Bealand said. "I could be whatever I needed to be to get into your space."

Ironically enough, she admits her battles with heroin and alcohol, and eventual homelessness, benefitted her and helped her become the person she is today.

"I am grateful that I am a drug addict otherwise I could not stand in front of people today," she explained. "It is only by the grace of God that I am here."

Mary Baxley, now in her third year volunteering with youth at the conference, said this year's youth theme was "Earth." Youth ages 5-8, learned tips on how to Preserve and protect the planet for generations to come.

"We wanted to do something that was about learning but in a way that they enjoy," Baxley said.

Nationally known poet, performer and activist Devin T. Robinson of Ft. Lauderdale also opened some eyes with his performances on the devastating effects of the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV.

"My focus is to give information and make sure they know what to do with it," Robinson said.



Tribal citizen Eyanna Lee Billie (R) shows off one of her Earth-themed projects with teacher and Wellness Center volunteer Mary Baxley (L).

Robinson, though an HIV speaker/activist, said neither he nor any of his family members have the virus. He admits this is not the norm among his fellow speakers who publically discuss this topic.

"I just wanted to switch things up in the game to save these kids before it is too late," he said.

"Think before you act because you never know," Robinson added.

Rick Benson, director of the Algamus Recovery Centers, a treatment center for compulsive gamblers, spoke about the problems associated with having a gambling addiction. He said, like compulsive drug

and alcohol abuse, gambling is a disease that is just as devastating and just as widely ignored.

"Most people start with a winning face in this addiction," Benson said. "The dilemma of the gambling addict is that his or her problems can be solved by gambling again."

Tribal citizen Charlie Tiger Jr. agreed with Benson, also offering his personal testimony that chronicled his battle to overcome a gambling addiction.

"I used to think gambling was not a problem for me, just like I did with drugs and alcohol," he said.

Wellness Conference Co-Founder/



Performer/activist Devin T. Robinson informs the audience about health-issues in a skit.

Organizer and Family Services Dept. Director Helene Buster said she hopes attendees will learn from all the information distributed at the conference and win their battle with addiction.

"When we started this we needed to teach our people so they could take care of themselves and how to deal with our issues," Buster said. "Recovery is possible one day at a time and [the conference] is an avenue to see other people from different communities recover."

"It has been a good program for all of our people, so it has become more and more well known," she added.



President Richard Bowers Jr. offers a few words of encouragement to those in attendance.



Professional speaker and performer Denise Alley (Cherokee, Shawnee, Ojibwa, Delaware) uses props as she speaks to the audience about the positive aspects of Native American culture.

## Incentive

Continued from page 1

The graduate recently returned from a tour of European museums, a gift from her parents, Douglas Jr. and Sandy Osceola. She will continue her education at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, N.M., she said.

Human Resources Director Lee Zepe-da introduced the members of the Education Dept. staff, who presented the rest of the awards. The department representatives, Immokalee Education Advisor Diana Rocha and her assistant Victoria Presley, Intervention Specialist Lynn Seavey, BC Education Advisor Pat McElroy and Assistant Tribal Education Advisor Marie Dufour, each briefly addressed the gathered crowd.

Following the awards, Liaison Osceola announced that each recipient and their family were invited to Busch Gardens in Tampa in recognition of their educational achievement. In addition, interested youngsters were also invited to attend a basketball camp with Miami Heat shooting guard Dwayne Wade, which took place the first three days in July.



Students and their families joined staff members from the Education Dept. of the Seminole Tribe of Florida for the 2008 Naples Community Incentive Awards Banquet.

### Naples Award Recipients

Kindergarten: Serena Zepeda, Dominic Osceola-Lugo  
4.0 GPA: Matthew Billie  
3.76 GPA: Kaitlin Billy, Marissa Osceola, Bryce Osceola, Nicholas Zepeda  
3.0 GPA: Corrine Zepeda, Ross Zepeda, Victoria Tucker, Nicole Slavik, Courtney Osceola  
Advanced Classes: Marissa Osceola, Bryce Osceola  
Perfect Attendance: Nicole Slavik  
Nearly Perfect Attendance: Ross Zepeda, Courtney Osceola  
Special Effort Award: Kaitlin Billy, Corrine Zepeda, Nicholas Zepeda, Matthew Billie, Ross Zepeda, Serena Zepeda, Courtney Osceola



The Osceola family, (L-R, Front Row) Dominic and Joseph Osceola-Lugo, (L-R, Back Row) Jessica, Marissa, Douglas Jr. and wife, Sandy, celebrate their family's academic achievements.



Corrine Zepeda (L) receives an award from Immokalee Education Assistant Victoria Presley.



(L-R) Naples Liaison OB Osceola Jr. and Higher Education Advisor Linda Jey present an Incentive Award to Florida Gulf Coast University graduate Jessica Ann Osceola.

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**Editor-In-Chief:** Virginia Mitchell  
**Editor:** Elizabeth Leiba  
**Assistant Editor:** Shelley Marmor  
**Graphic Designer:** Stephen Galla  
**Reporters:** Marisol Gonzalez, Chris C. Jenkins

**Photo Archivist/Reporter:** Felix DoBosz  
**Receptionist:** Valerie M. Frank  
**Contributors:** Judy Weeks, Elgin Jumper, Valerie Marone, Paul "Cowbone" Buster, Briana Abitton, Fred Cicetti

## Council

Continued from page 1

Resolution 21: Service line agreement (262' x 5' and 139' x 5') between Embury FKA, Sprint-Florida, Inc., and Seminole Tribe of Florida for location of a buried telephone cable to the Brighton Veteran's Center - Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 22: Service line agreement (450' x 10') between Lee County Electric Cooperative, Inc., and Seminole Tribe of Florida for relocation of an Electric Power Line for widening of Dorothy Billie Jimmie Way - Immokalee Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 23: Fifth Amendment to the Twentieth Annual Work Plan submitted to the South Florida Water Management District by the Seminole Tribe of Florida;

Resolution 24: United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Fish, Wildlife and Parks Programs on Indian lands for funds to establish the Seminole Tribe of Florida Fish and Wildlife Program for all reservations of the Seminole Tribe of Florida;

Resolution 25: United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Fish, Wildlife and Parks Programs on Indian lands for funds to establish the Seminole Tribe of Florida Fish and Wildlife Program for all reservations of the Seminole Tribe of Florida;

Resolution 26: Lawn Boyz LLC Service Agreement for invasive exotic plant removal work on pastures on the Big Cypress and Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 29: Approval of the agreement between the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. for the site work for Tamiami Trail Camps/Preserve Housing; ratification of execution of the agreement by the Chairman of the Tribal Council;

Resolution 31: Bally Gaming, Inc. Release and Settlement Agreement; ratification;

Resolution 32: WMS Gaming, Inc. Master Lease Agreement; ratification;

Resolution 33: Winterfest, Inc. Title Sponsor Agreement - 2009-2013;

Resolution 34: Cancellation (write-off) of outstanding Tribal Council loans of deceased Tribal citizens;

Resolution 35: Request for technical assistance to develop an alternative definition of adequate yearly progress;

Resolution 36: Re-naming of the Emergency Services Department as the Fire Rescue Department;

Resolution 38: Approval of Second Amendment to the amended and restated operating agreement of Seminole HR Holdings, LLC;

Resolution 41: Approval of First Amendment of the Seminole Tribe of Florida gaming deferred bonus plan for the Gaming Division; and

Resolution 42: Aristocrat Technologies, Inc. Master Gaming Device Lease and License Agreement; ratification; limited waiver of Tribal sovereign immunity.





# Community

A



Judy Weeks  
Larissa DeLaRosa's feet create their own music as she tap dances her way across the stage.

## Immokalee Girls Perform In Dance Recital

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

LEHIGH ACRES, Fla. — Chelsey Ford, Larissa DeLaRosa and Jillian Rodriguez, all from the Immokalee community, participated in a dance recital at Lehigh Senior High School on June 14.

The young dancers, who have attended Patty's Dance Studio for several years, gave performances at both the afternoon and evening shows.

Dancing in unison, Ford was part of the hip-hop chorus line in "What Time Is It?" and "Best of Both Worlds."

An avid dance enthusiast, DeLaRosa, has studied tap, hip-hop, tumbling and ballet. Displaying her expertise in each of these fields, she donned several costumes to perform in "Twilight Zone," "Sadie Hawkins Dance," "Move, Shake and Drop" and "Barracuda."

Ford and DeLaRosa made a quick transition with costume, hairstyle and makeup before reappearing in the ballet spectacular "Cloud Castles." Proureting and gracefully fluttering through the air, they earned a standing ovation from the audience.

Appearing as a cute little lavender flower in "True Loves Kiss," Jillian Rodriguez wowed the audience, only to return as a shimmering little turquoise fish in "Under the Sea."



Photo Submitted by Judy Weeks  
Jillian Rodriguez, who performed "Under the Sea" in the recital.



Judy Weeks  
Chelsey Ford dances in the ballet performance of "Cloud Castles."

## Community Participates in Culture Workshop

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

NAPLES — Nearly every child from the Naples community, along with the parents and grandparents, participated in a cultural workshop, held July 16 at the Community Center.

Community Recreation Events Coordinator Sandy Osceola is the director of the new culture program, which hosted the workshop.

"It is our goal to provide the next generation with access to the rich culture of their ancestors in a comprehensive manner with qualified instructors," she said.

Osceola, along with her assistant Wanda Osceola Zepeda, Pedro Zepeda of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and Jessica Osceola, who recently graduated from Florida Gulf Coast University with a degree in fine arts, led the class.

At the workshop's introduction, the youngsters learned the names of the materials for the items they were crafting and other objects in the room. They were then frequently asked to repeat what they had learned.

Osceola also showed the class two large Seminole dolls in traditional clothing provided by Tahama Osceola and Ingraham Billie Jr., which she called "a perfect example of our teaching tools."

"They provide an insight into historical clothing styles, patchwork and construction

of palmetto fiber dolls," Osceola said.

In addition, Pedro Zepeda presented the nearly-lost art of weaving palmetto baskets. In future classes, he said he will assist in gathering the materials, preparation of the raw products and construction of these baskets.

The students also examined several woodcarvings, basic utensils and stickball rackets that they will be reproducing under his instruction.

During each presentation, they learned a brief history of the product, including its use and cultural significance. During opening classes, the children made drawstring leather pouches decorated with beadwork and began jewelry projects and individual scrapbooks, using an enormous assortment of crafting materials.

Beadwork courses will range from simple projects with pony beads to intricate patterns in faceted cut beads creating many forms of ornamentation and jewelry.

The new culture program will also include instruction in leather work, beading, patchwork, basket making, woodcarving, doll making and scrapbooking. Tribal citizen Tammy Billie, assisted by Wanda Osceola Zepeda, and several senior volunteers, will also teach a class on the Mikasuki language in the near future.

The new program will be offered on a regular basis throughout the year and adults and children are encouraged to participate as both students and contributors.



Judy Weeks  
Kindergartener Serena Zepeda concentrates on lacing her pouch together.



Judy Weeks  
Coordinator of the Naples Community Cultural Program Sandy Osceola shows the students a large Seminole doll in traditional attire.



Judy Weeks  
(L-R) Pedro Zepeda teaches a class in leather crafting to Matthew Billie, Serena and Ross Zepeda.



Judy Weeks  
(L-R) Marissa Osceola and Corrine Zepeda use leather strips to sew their pouches together.

## Seniors Travel to South Dakota's Black Hills

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

BLACK HILLS, S.D. — Six seniors from the Immokalee community left on June 12 for a five day trip to the Black Hills region of South Dakota.

Pete and Elaine Aguilar, Linda Frank, Nancy Motlow, Linda Beletso and Elizabeth Olea spent time exploring the historical sites that abound within a 100-mile radius.

Spending a day in the Old-West themed town of Deadwood, S.D. was like taking a trip back in time as they witnessed reenactments of life in this lawless cow town of the late 1800s. Here, they visited the famed tavern with wagon wheel windows where Wild Bill Hickock met his early demise while playing cards.

For hundreds of years the Black Hills were considered to be sacred ground by the Native Americans inhabiting the Great Plains, who fought fiercely to defend them from the settlers and miners of the Gold Rush era.

The travelers crammed as much sight seeing into their short trip over this hallowed ground as they could. But they barely scratched the surface of learning all the history the area had to offer.

Three full days were spent touring the beautiful wilderness parks, staring into the



Photo Courtesy of Pete Aguilar  
(L-R, Back Row) Nancy Motlow, Linda Beletso, Pete and Elaine Aguilar, (L-R, Front Row) Elizabeth Olea and Linda Frank at the Crazy Horse Memorial monument.



Photo Courtesy of Pete Aguilar  
(L-R, Back Row) Pete and Elaine Aguilar, Linda Frank, Nancy Motlow, (L-R, Front Row) Linda Beletso and Elizabeth Olea visit the Tatanka Monument.

eyes of the four American presidents carved into the rocky face of Mount Rushmore and walking in the moccasin tracks of many Native American heroes.

In the Crazy Horse National Park, they watched wild horses and buffalo grazing on the rich grassland, posed beside the magnificent wild horse statues and journeyed to the rock promontory that is home to the carving of Chief Crazy Horse.

A highlight was the Tatanka Monument, recently commissioned by actor Kevin Costner of "Dances with Wolves" fame. Comprising numerous stampeding buffalo and mounted Sioux hunters, these life sized figures have been cast in bronze and are on display in the beauty of a natural setting.

The final day was spent taking in the more than century old atmosphere of Rapid City, it's memorabilia and fine arts district while taking time out to shop in the quaint little old-fashioned establishments.



Photo Submitted by Housing Dept.  
Clarissa Jumper, who came up with the name Eight Clan Estates for the former Hollywood Townhomes residences.

## Hollywood Townhomes Become Eight Clan Estates

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ  
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Housing Dept., in conjunction with Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., hosted a community barbecue on July 31 so the community could come together to rename the Hollywood Townhomes.

Community members got their creative juices flowing as they entered a contest to see who could come up with the best name for the residences. Clarissa Jumper came up with the winning name, Eight Clan Estates.

"Since there are eight Clans, and housing is for every Clan, it should be called Eight Clan, and Estates makes it sound fancy," Jumper said.

Housing Dept. Service Manager Lori Milano also attended the gathering.

"Housing strives to play an active part in the Tribal community, by providing quality housing that enriches, maintains and sustains the livability of the reservation," she said. "Establishing a name for the townhomes works to achieve that goal by promoting pride and ownership, which are the building blocks of a great Seminole reservation."

Milano also said that the Housing Dept. will continue to provide quality housing and repairs for all Tribal citizens.



# SPD's McDaniel, Selko Represent Tribe at Law Enforcement Games

## Both Competitors Bring Medals Home to SPD

BY WILLIAM R. LATCHFORD  
Chief of Police, Seminole Police Dept.

SARASOTA, Fla. — Major Robert McDaniel and Officer Marie Selko represented the Seminole Police Department at the 2008 Law Enforcement Games, hosted by the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office in Sarasota June 15-21.

These games, which began in 1985, are open only to Florida law enforcement and firefighter personnel.



Officer Marie Selko



Major Robert McDaniel

McDaniel competed in two sports, men's bowling and men's triple volleyball. He took home a gold medal in bowling and a silver medal in volleyball. Selko competed in the 10 kilometer race and won a bronze medal.

The two were part of the more than 5,000 competitors, representing more than 200 different agencies, who competed in 45 Olympic-style sporting events. Some of the games played included archery, mountain biking, bowling, indoor soccer and table tennis.

# Lt. Donnie Yates Completes Law Enforcement Class

BY WILLIAM R. LATCHFORD  
Chief of Police, Seminole Police Dept.

TAMPA — Lt. Donnie Yates, supervisor of police operations for the Brighton and Fort Pierce Reservations, graduated from the 54th Southern Police Institute Command Officer Development Course, held at the Hillsborough Sheriff's Office Training Bureau in Tampa on June 13.



Lt. Donnie Yates

This prestigious law enforcement training course lasted five months and covered a range of topics which included legal issues, budgeting, organization, communication, and many more. Yates received an A grade average at the end of the training.

The course also provided the latest innovations in law enforcement training and gave those attending the added skills and knowledge they will need in their roles as commanding officers. The training Yates received will enable him to better prepare his staff to meet the needs of the Tribal community.

His wife, Cathy, and several SPD officers attended the graduation ceremony to congratulate Yates on his achievement.



Chris C. Jenkins

Family Services Counselor Fred Mullins (L) plays a game with the children.

# Youth Attend Summer Jam Party In Big Cypress

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Summer Jam was a party with a purpose, giving Big Cypress youth a place to catch up with friends and also providing a safe place to enjoy a summer day.

Tribal youth and teens, ages 6-17, participated in the Jam, held July 26 in the gym.

At the event, sponsored by the BC Recreation Dept., the younger children danced and played games including Limbo, while the teens were able to enjoy their favorite tunes and show off some of their own dance moves.

"That's a good way to stay in [contact] with the kids as well as stay current during the summer months," said Family Services Dept. Intervention Specialist Julie Bennett. "It is all safe and a safe place to come with their peers."

"So many kids are sitting at home playing video games and are unattended," Bennett added. They can come and be with their friends and relatives here."



Chris C. Jenkins

The popular hip-hop song "Soldier Boy" has these teens grooving to the beat.

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Staff members from the Recreation Dept. joined the youth for a game of tag in the pool.

Chris C. Jenkins

## Youth Cool Down at Summer Water Blast

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Big Cypress Recreation Dept. sponsored Water Blast brought community youth together for a day of poolside fun at the Aquatic Center on July 8.

"I wanted to figure out something less expensive to do . . . and the kids love water, especially on a hot summer day," said Junior Culppeper, BC Recreation.

The day was also for learning as first year Tribal Family Services Prevention Specialist Fred Mullins discussed issues such as peer pressure, drugs and moral behaviors. He also kept the youth entertained with music and community-building activities.

"We want to continue to show how important it is to have a positive peer group around you," Mullins said. "Character building is also our focus at any and all department events in the Tribe."

He said through activities like Landmines, an activity dealing with the peer pressures and obstacles today's youth face, they were able to "focus on the forces out there that try to knock you off course."



Community youth relax and talk at the Aquatic Center.

Chris C. Jenkins

## Tina Osceola Discusses Museum, Tourism, Preservation

**Dept. Director Explains the Historic Resources Office**

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**IMMOKALEE** — The Immokalee community enjoyed a luncheon presentation, hosted by the Tribal Historic Resources Office on July 28 at the Senior Center, and conducted by its director, Tina M. Osceola.

Osceola began by reviewing the organizational chart of the officers currently administering the daily operations of the Seminole Tribe and their basic duties, before addressing her own position.

said, explaining the importance of interim accreditation. "This has not been the case with the Seminole Tribe, but we are actively planning for solicitation for sponsorship of future projects. With our interim accreditation status this should be a viable possibility."

Since accepting the position vacated by the late Billy Cypress, Osceola has implemented the expansion of the museum services and staff, whose mission is to preserve the past in order to guarantee a future for the next generations of the Seminole Tribe.

"Through our past we define who we are, where we came from and where we are going," she said. "The museum does not teach language and culture; this must be taught by Tribal citizens."

"Our current assets and capabilities are used for the benefit of the Tribal community and we are here to serve your interests," Osceola added.

Also during the presentation, Osceola placed emphasis on the large number of artifacts protected within the museum vaults, as well as the increased capabilities of the staff concerning preservation techniques. She encouraged Tribal citizens to make an appointment to view the contents of the vaults, which she said can open doors to their rich heritage.

Federal law requires the Seminole Tribe conduct historical surveys of their lands and reservations which are administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Tribal Historical Preservation Office shoulders the responsibility of environmental, archeological and topographical surveys under the capable guidance of

Willard "Bill" Steele.

"[The Tribal Historical Preservation Office] is the watchdog and Bill sniffs out the problems and sifts through the facts to accurately document every available piece of evidence," said Osceola. "Through [the Tribal Historical Preservation Office], archeological material, oral histories and obscure data is collected for preservation."

As the name implies, the Seminole Tourism Dept. promotes the facet of the Tribal economy involving tourism. This department aims to enhance the favorable impact of the Seminole Tribe of Florida upon the general public and advertise its attractions.

"Most museums and related facilities depend heavily upon outside funding," she



Tribune Archive Photo

Tribal Historical Resource Officer Tina Osceola

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Birthday girl Alice Sweat with her children, (L-R) David Jr., Dallas, Daniel and Theresa Nunez.

# Surprise Party Held for Tribal Elder

BY CHRIS JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Friends, family and coworkers helped Tribal elder Alice Sweat celebrate a milestone birthday on Aug. 8.

With no signs of her slowing down, the energetic 60-year-old attended her surprise party in a packed room at the Cattle and Ranch Building.

"It meant a lot to her for everyone to be there,"



Alice Sweat (R) and husband, James, (L) at the party.

said her son, Daniel Nunez. "It was definitely tough to keep a secret from her."

The 20-plus year veteran Tribal employee has impacted many lives throughout the years as the director of Community Care for the Elderly (CCE). Sweat had worked with seniors on the Brighton and Big Cypress Reservations, and wherever else anyone needed her help.

"She is a blessing to all of us, a blessing to the Tribe, and we love you with all our hearts," CCE Assistant Director Rhonda Goodman said.

With four biological children, 16 grandchildren, and three she has adopted, Sweat inspires both to those in her immediate community, and in the entire Tribe.

"She has always cared and has always thought of others' welfare," son, Dallas Nunez, said.

With the distractions and of traditional birthday fare all around, and an Elvis Presley tribute artist entertaining the gathering, those in attendance still couldn't stop speaking Sweat's praises.

"We are all happy she is here and hopefully she will be here for another 60 years," Chairman Mitchell Cypress said.

However, her children honored their mother best.

"She has been out here [in the community] ever since I was a teenager teaching us and others the right ways spiritually," said son, Daniel. "When we all fall she is always there to pick us back up."

"I have earned the seniors' trust through her," he continued.

Daughter Theresa Nunez added: "I thank God for her because she is so strong. I thank her for putting up with me for 37 years."

## NATIVE BOOK REVIEW

BY RAMONA KIYOSHI

*The Birchbark House* is Louis Erdrich's first venture into juvenile fiction, and has been compared to the popular *Little House* series by Laura Ingalls Wilder. Taking place in roughly the same time period and same geographical area as the Wilder books, *The Birchbark House* and its sequel, *The Game of Silence*, are based on a typical family in an Ojibwe community rather than a group of white pioneers.

*The Birchbark House* is set in mid-1800s at the height of western European expansion, when whites (chimoikomang) and the indigenous people (Anishnawbe) were living side-by-side on the "frontier." The daily activities of the Ojibwe in their tribe's ancestral home on an island in Lake Superior are portrayed with authenticity and warmth. Ms. Erdrich gleans details from her personal family history. Born to Ojibwe and German parents, the author has achieved international esteem for her adult fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Her bookstore/gallery, Birchbark Books, in Minnesota showcases Native American literature and art.

The Ojibwe (Chippewa) were farmers, who hunted, fished and collected wild fruit and rice. The tribe lived according to the seasons, moving out of their summer winter log house in town when spring arrived. The summer birchbark home by the lake was surrounded by gardens and fish-drying racks. It was also where they tanned hides and prepared food for the long winter. After another temporary camp, they harvested wild rice.

*The Birchbark House* is the story of one family, told through the eyes of the youngest daughter, Omakayas (Little Frog). The household includes her three siblings, a wise, kind grandmother and a strong, loving mother. Omakayas' father, Mikwan, is a hunter, as well as a community adviser and leader. His hunting and trading excursions take him away from home for long periods of time. Omakayas' close companion is her pet crow, Andeg. Her best friend is a quiet cousin named Twilight. Her favorite job is taking care of her baby brother.

As part of their training, the village children perform the day-to-day chores of sewing, cleaning fish, hauling wood and water, and picking berries. Still they manage to find time for rowdy encounters with cousins and friends, stately swims in the cold lake, snatches of maple sugar candy and snuggling up for songs and stories by Nokomis (grandmother). Their mother's fragrant stew and tasty bannock are treats the youngsters relish.

A virulent outbreak of smallpox takes Omakayas' beloved baby brother, Neewo, and scars the face of her beautiful sister, Angeline. Omakayas does not get the disease, and in an extraordinary story, Old Tallow, an ancient huntress in the Tribe, explains to her why she was spared.

*The Birchbark House* is the first in a series by the author, which proposes to follow Omakayas into old age and provide a history of the Ojibwe people near Lake Superior.

Readers who enjoyed *The Birchbark House*, the first entry in this two-volume series, will welcome *The Game of Silence*, the continuing story of Omakayas, the young Ojibwe girl whose life is complicated by her pesky younger brother and her beautiful, but sometimes distant older sister.

*The Game of Silence* was developed to keep the children quiet during council meetings when the adults dealt with serious issues. Native people rarely left their children home alone. Community gatherings began with singing and a feast. Afterward, when the adults discussed business, the children were enticed into silence by gifts members of the community contributed. They allowed the youngsters to look over the pile of treasures, deciding which they hoped to win, motivating them to work harder than ever at being quiet.

This sequel opens with the family enjoying life in their summer home by the lake. Omakayas is down by the water, skipping stones when she sees visitors approaching in the distance. A dozen women canoes are weighed down with what could be described, in today's terms as refugees. The raggedy ones, as they came to be known, were driven from their homes by white settlers. They had been relocated to the traditional territory of the hostile Lakota (Bwanaag) Nation, who in turn drove them out. Half starved and almost naked, the ragtag survivors ask for asylum and food. Since they are also Ojibwe and some even relatives of the people in Omakayas' camp, they are taken in and provided for.

While life resumes, with the newcomers absorbed into the community, it is apparent that something is happening that will have a profound impact on the future of the Ojibwe people.

Negotiations with the U.S. government are breaking down. The members of the tribe, in peace, kept their word to let their white neighbors live in have, find that the whites do not intend to stick to the terms of paying money and providing food in exchange for land. The food they are given is tainted and many die from eating it. The money promised never materializes.

When winter returns and the family moves back to their log house in town, Omakayas joins her older sister at the school where they struggle with the foreign concepts of reading and writing. In the evenings at home, they teach their father to read, so that he can better understand the documents the white men give him to sign.

Finally, the Tribe is told to move from their island, as the white people need it for expansion. Heartbroken, Omakayas asks her grandmother why they don't ignore the order and stay. Nokomis tells her granddaughter about the Tribes in the East and Southwest, who were either killed or removed by soldiers, many dying on the long walk to their new homes. She says they must move.

Preparing for the journey was sad, since the canoes can only carry so much, they abandon many treasures. Omakayas may have to leave her precious dog, Makatzwazi.

The group travels westward through enemy territory, paddling noiselessly under the cover of night. The Game of Silence, played at tribal council meetings with prizes for the children, now becomes a game of survival, as the youngsters bite their lips, and hope they will not be discovered by the hostile Bwanaag.

Although frightened, Omakayas embraces the adventure and is hopeful.

For information on authors Louise Erdrich, please visit [www.louiseerdrichbooks.com](http://www.louiseerdrichbooks.com).

# Boys & Girls Club, SPD Offer Driver's Ed

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Boys & Girls Club and the Seminole Police Department offered a point reduction and first time driver's course at the Teen Center on July 28.

Victor and Shelli Osceola from Hollywood and Ryan Osceola from Big Cypress attended the four hour course which is required to get their learner's permit, also known as a restricted license.

Richard Smith, training coordinator from the Tampa Reservation, educated the Tribe's youth in Hollywood. He travels to each of the six reservations and teaches various courses in driver's education.

Smith shared important facts about the do's and don'ts of driving. He also stressed that having a driver's license is a privilege and not a right.

"What the state gives you that can easily take it away," Smith stated.

Some of the facts the teenagers received included learning that if they receive 12 points in 12 months they will lose their license for 30 days; 18 points in 18 months and they will lose it for three months; and 24 points in 36 months and they will lose it for one year. Smith also

told them that if they are charged with a DUI, it will stay on their record for 75 years.

Smith also shared that the state of Florida is required to make a teen's driving record available to parents via the Internet.

At the conclusion of the course, each attendee completed a short exam in order to receive a certificate so they could get their learner's license.



(L-R) Training Coordinator Richard Smith discusses facts about drugs and alcohol, and their effects while driving, to students Victor and Shelli Osceola.



Smoke Shop Manager Roman Gubenko (L) and staff members.

# Board Opens Eighth Smoke Shop

BY CHRIS JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**FORT PIERCE** — The Tribe celebrated the opening of its eighth enterprise in the tobacco and cigar industry on Aug. 4 at the grand opening of the latest Smoke Shop, located in the Ft. Pierce community.

Tribal citizens, along with Council and Board members, attended the event including: President Richard Bowers Jr., Fort Pierce Liaison S.R. Tommie, Brighton Board Rep. Johnnie Jones and Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith.

"We have been talking about coming here to Fort Pierce for some time and we are finally here," President Bowers said. "We have been at this for some time, and I guess we are still at it."

Fort Pierce Smoke Shop Manager Roman Gubenko said the discount store will naturally attract and serve the immediate areas of Fort Pierce and Port Saint Lucie, but will hopefully also involve several other cities including Boca Raton, Boynton

Beach, Cocoa Beach, Daytona Beach and others.

"I think at this location business will go well beyond within about a six month period," Gubenko said.

"We are going to bring a different kind of business from the north because nobody else really provides this kind of service."

Tribal elder and Smoke Shop General Manager Elsie Bowers has held her position for 16 years, though she has worked for the Tribe for 33, even serving as Health Dept. director. She said the smoke shop establishments date back into the 1970s, and the Fort Pierce development has been a long time coming. Bowers said with the logistics, politics and other obstacles aside, it is now time for the business at hand.

"I am just glad the day finally came," she said.

Fort Pierce Liaison S.R. Tommie agreed with Bowers. She said the community she serves welcomes the new addition.

"This is a very close knit community and we are happy the Board has endeavored on this new opportunity," Liaison Tommie added.



Smoke Shop General Manager Elsie Bowers



(L-R) Brighton Board Rep. Johnnie Jones, President Richard Bowers Jr. and Brighton Council Rep. Roger Smith cut the ceremonial ribbon to signify the official opening of the Ft. Pierce Smoke Shop.





Photo Submitted by Wanda Bowers

(L-R) Hollywood Senior Center Site Manager Patricia Ferreira, Leona Fewell, Corneila Osceola, Bobbie L. Billie, Wanda Bowers, her daughter, Christine McCall, Mary Moore, Dorothy Tommie, David Jumper and Hollywood Senior Center Administrative Asst. Leanne Carman at Niagara Falls.

## My First Trip with the Hollywood Seniors

BY WANDA BOWERS  
Contributing Writer

I couldn't wait to go on my first senior trip to Upstate New York, where myself and several other Hollywood seniors attended the Seneca Nation's Salamanca Veteran's Pow-Wow on July 18 at the Seneca Allegany Hotel & Casino.

In addition to the seniors, my daughter, Christine McCall, attended the trip to chaperone me. She had a great time hanging out with us. We stayed at the Seneca Niagara Casino Hotel in Niagara Falls, N.Y. on our trip.

On our first day, we headed to the Pow-Wow and then made our way into the city. They had a nice sized mall that we also visited during our stay. We eventually found the Hard Rock Café - Niagara Falls down the street from our hotel, and went there also.

You would think we didn't have any T-shirts back home because the group bought so many of them there. I asked Connie Gowen who she bought so many shirts for; she said her granddaughter and grandson, so it was OK. I jumped on the bandwagon and bought one for my daughter, myself and a few other people.

The next evening, the group split up for supper. Half went to a steak house in town and my half went right back to the Hard Rock Café for a nice supper. And wouldn't you know, the ladies in my group went back to the gift shop for more T-shirts.

The next day, July 19, we took a Niagara Falls boat ride. Not everyone could go, but the ones who did had

a great time. We got a little wet, but we had our hooded Niagara Falls ponchos on and they kept parts of us dry.

We went as close as we could to the falls and the boat stopped there for a second so we could take in this God-made marvel. Lawanna Osceola Niles thought we sat there for longer than we needed to and said, "It sure is taking a long time to turn this boat around!"

Eventually she saw a sign for a tour company that takes the more adventurous on a "Journey Under the Falls." She screamed over the loud noise of Niagara Falls that she wanted to do that too, which she did the next day. We also caught a glimpse of Canada on the other side of the falls from our tour boat.

From the American side of Niagara Falls, we could see the Hard Rock Café, and my daughter Christine and I decided we would go the next day after we ate breakfast.

On July 20, our fellow traveler Priscilla Sayen headed straight to the airport but Christine and I made the trip across the border to the Hard Rock Café and gift shop. This time, however, we didn't buy T-shirts; we bought Hard Rock Café - Canada sweatshirts instead. We then made a dash for the airport to catch up with Priscilla and make our way.

I would like to thank Patricia Ferreira and Leanne Carman from the Senior Center for a job well done. They catered to all our needs during the trip, as they always do, but probably don't hear as much as they should.



Photo Submitted by Wanda Bowers

(L-R) David Jumper, Lawanna Osceola Niles, Wanda Bowers, Christine McCall, Naomi Fewell, Connie Gowen and Larry Frank enjoy a dinner together on their trip.

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## Friends, Colleagues Honor Rep. Cypress

BY CHRIS JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress celebrated his 57th birthday amongst more than 300 Tribal citizens, employees, invited guests and family members on Aug. 5 at the gym.

The nearly 20 year Tribal Council representative received well wishes from both the Council and Board members in attendance including his brother, Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Immokalee Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar and Fort Pierce Liaison S.R. Tommie.

Tommie spoke about his inner strength and dedication to his people.

"He is a man of strength and integrity," Tommie said. "He has taught me the lesson of no matter what people do to you, you can be there for them. At the end of the day all that matters to him is what he gives to others."

The chairman reflected on their childhood youth, telling humorous stories and expressing his love for his brother, David.

"We have different political opinions sometimes but whatever is good for the Tribe is what it is all about in the end," Chairman Cypress said. "Outside of our political life, he is just my little brother and I love him."

Dale Grasshopper, Rep. Cypress's longtime assistant, said the BC native has always had many supporters that volunteer every year for his birthday event. She said that reflects on him as a man and a leader in his community.

"There has always been plenty of hands and help," Grasshopper said. "It is oftentimes an opportunity to just come together for a good time. I just set the date and it becomes a community effort."

Performances by Elvis Presley and Rod Stewart tribute artists entertained the crowd, along with other traditional birthday fare.



Chris Jenkins

Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress (C) with mom, Mary Frances (R), and brother, Terry (L).



Chris Jenkins

Rep. David Cypress prepares to blow out the candles on his birthday cake.

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# Tribe Represented at National Day of the American Cowboy

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**OKEECHOBEE, Fla.** — In 2005 President George W. Bush recognized the importance of the American cowboys' contribution to the history and growth of the nation by proclaiming the fourth Saturday in July of each year as the National Day of the American Cowboy.

In celebration of the proud heritage of the cattle industry in Florida, the city of Okeechobee, in conjunction with the Okeechobee Cattlemen's Association, held its second annual cattle drive on July 26. Last year's event was the first celebration held east of the Mississippi in recognition of this holiday.

"Looking back through history, you will find that Florida was the first place in the United States with cattle, horses, pigs and citrus due to the Spanish colonization," said cattle owner Paul Bowers. "Our Native American ancestors were at the root of building the agricultural heritage of Florida and were the first cowboys in the region."

The Seminole Tribe of Florida supplied the cattle for the drive using long horn roping steers from the Brighton Reservation. These closely resemble the cracker cattle, the founding stock of the Florida cattle industry.

The cattle were released onto State Road 70 in downtown Okeechobee at 10 a.m. under the supervision of cowboys from all the major ranches in the area. Okeechobee's honorable trail boss, Pete Clemons



Judy Weeks

**(L-R) Brighton Council Rep. Roger Smith and Norman Bowers participate in the trail drive in Okeechobee, which honors the contributions of cowboys throughout U.S. history.**

shouted "Head'em Up and Move'em Out," as he led the drive down the 3.5 mile stretch to the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center.

Adding to the authenticity of the event, the Seminole Tribe supplied a stagecoach, mule-drawn jail and covered camp wagon.

Surrounded by a mounted brigade of cowboys and cowgirls, they slowly followed the herd to its destination through the crowd of spectators.

Speaking to the group assembled, fifth generation cattle owner and Tribal history buff Norman Bowers provided a brief history of Seminole cattle beginning with Cowkeeper. He also discussed how his own ancestors supplied the Confederate Cow



Judy Weeks

**Assst. Director of Natural Resources Alex Johns provides an overall view of the Seminole Tribe's cattle program while on horseback.**

Cavalry with cattle during the Civil War, and later participated in the early cattle drives to the livestock barges at Punta Rassa for shipment to Cuba.

"In order to appreciate the hard work of

these first cowboys, you will need to remember that there were no roads, just trails, and it took three days to travel from here to Fort Pierce by dugout canoe," Bowers said. "Imagine gathering cattle from the dense bush and driving them across swamps, prairies and rivers to the shipping docks."

Brighton Council Rep. Roger Smith added: "In more recent generations, the Seminoles have established their own herds, gone from open range grazing to improved pastures and now rank among the top 10 cattle producers in the United States."

As Assistant Director of Natural Resources, Alex Johns supplies the Seminole Board of Directors with industry research and development information, in addition to overseeing daily cattle operations at Brighton.

"We have come a long way from cracker cows to the Brangus bulls and high quality breeding stock that we raise today in an effort to provide the American people with some of the healthiest and most nutritious beef on the market," Johns said.

Rounding out the event, Okeechobee Cattlemen's Association President Matt Pearce introduced a ranch rodeo, which exhibited the basic skills employed in keeping a ranch running. Representing the Seminole Tribe, Alex Johns, Matt Arizeta and Tommy Rodgers, joined the Newcomers Ranch team, which competed in ranch doctoring, bronc riding, wild cow milking, team branding and a stampede race.



Judy Weeks

**(L-R) Rowdy Osceola and his grandfather, Rudy, represent a family that has spent generations working cattle for the Seminole Tribe.**



Judy Weeks

**(L-R) Driver Dennis DeVoegh joins Paul Bowers, riding shotgun, and passenger, Linda Bowers, in the Seminole Tribe's stagecoach.**

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## Museum Celebrates Women in Cattle at Forum

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum hosted a forum on July 8 that recognized the contributions of the Tribe's female cattle owners. This esteemed group of women has helped shape the thriving Tribal cattle business since the first female cattle owners purchased stock in the 1950s.

Three of the 19 women seated on the Cattle Owners Committee of the Brighton and Big Cypress Reservations, Janice Osceola, Mary Tigertail and Louise Gopher, spoke at the forum.

Tigertail, the BC Cattle Committee chairwoman, Gopher, a Brighton committee member, and Osceola, a cattle owner, gave their perspectives on different aspects of the cattle business. The three discussed topics ranging from growing up in the industry, to how it has changed throughout the years, and more.

Osceola and Gopher specifically recalled long days and little resources. They also admitted they could not have achieved success today without female cattle pioneers such as Eddie Tommie and Mabel Frank, and the traditions their family members started.

"Back then the Tribe was poor and you had to provide your own resources, and those resources were your family," Gopher said.

Osceola added: "[My siblings and I] used to get up early in the morning and be the human fence lines to keep the cattle back; from early on it was a lot of hard work."

Gopher said these experiences helped shape her thoughts on the cattle industry as a whole, and helped her become the successful owner she is today.

"In the beginning I was not paying much attention," she said. "As kids we were just human robots; we



Chris C. Jenkins

**Janice Osceola reminiscences about her days growing up in the cattle business.**

just did what we were told. But when I became an owner it was a wake up call."

"My whole life has been about cattle and I would not know what to do without it in my life," Gopher added.

Tigertail said while growing up with her two brothers, as well as the Tribal Cattle Program, helped her learn the business. She said the program aims to assist cattle owners with everyday operations, forsee and help resolve complaints, budgeting issues and more.

"I became an owner when there was help around so I have always had it," Tigertail said. "They have been a great help. Without them I would not be able to manage things."

The three agreed nowadays the cattle business can be expensive and time consuming. However, they added that changes in the business throughout the years, with technology improvements, cow pen developments and more, have made things easier.

"There have been a lot of changes, but things have gotten better," Osceola said.

According to the Florida Department of State, Florida is the leading beef producing state east of the Mississippi River, and today remains in the top five in North America. The Seminole Tribe ranked in the top 15 beef producers in the nation in 2001, a figure that has greatly increased throughout the years, most recently with the Board of Directors' Seminole Beef venture.

"It is a good program and good idea," Osceola said.

Tigertail agreed, however, cattle owners' concerns about expansion for individual cattle owners.

"We need more land and more cattle if we were to sell and go international," Tigertail observed.

Their comments made during the forum will be a part of a special exhibit planned by the museum, scheduled for Sept. 25.

"It is a realization of history within the Tribe," Museum Director Anne McCudden said. "A lot of Tribal members thought this was a topic where the story should be told."



Chris C. Jenkins

**Mary Tigertail responds to questions posed at cattle forum.**



# Tribal Youngsters Attend 13th Annual Brighton Conference

BY CHRIS JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

ORLANDO — More than 300 Tribal citizens, employees and special guests took part in the festivities at the lavish Loews Royal Pacific Resort, the site of the 13th annual Brighton Youth Conference, held July 28-Aug. 3.

The weeklong event, as in years past, helped the Tribe's younger members gain further insight into their culture and her-

itage. The conference also highlighted topics including teamwork, child computer and transportation safety, health, community planning, education and finances, to name a few.

Co-Creators/Organizers Diane Smith and Salina Dorgan say the idea to have the youth conference came years ago as a way to enrich, teach and draw families closer. Thirteen years later, their idea paid off as the conference is still going strong.

"Growing closer as a family is the main theme each year," Smith said. "It is good to see all the families that are interested in participating."

Dorgan added: "I also enjoy watching the children because they look forward to it every year."

Dorgan said the increase in attendance throughout the years has been one of the biggest changes, but added that the intent remains the same with Tribal citizens learning more about themselves, their community and other topics.

Tribal elder Lorene Gopher, director of the Culture Dept., said she has always placed an importance on maintaining the heritage and legacy of the Tribe. Her efforts date back to 1979 when she, Louise Gopher and others, began scripting the Creek language to ensure its continued use.

"We want to always preserve our traditions," Gopher said. "Whatever you can learn keep it because you can pass it down."

Dorgan said one of the other things the youth gain from the conference is learning more about the functions and structure of Tribal departments and the programs available to them.

Heidi Shafraan, director of Tribal Community Planning and Development, said she



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal elder Nancy Shore concentrates on her bead and medallion work.

and her department attended the event to teach the youth about different aspects of Tribal housing and site building.

"We wanted to familiarize the kids on how things get built and decisions on how lands and sites get picked," Shafraan said. Motivational speaker Chance Rush (Hidatsa/Dakota/Arapahoe) of Shawnee, Okla., spoke to the youth and encouraged them to use their talents for personal growth.

"I just wanted them to look at their qualities and use them to live a healthy lifestyle," Rush said.

In another session, sponsored by Family Services Dept., the fourth and fifth graders learned how to achieve a "natural high."

"I just of times we encourage kids to don't do drugs, but we do not encourage them to do other things," Community Events Coordinator Valerie Marone said.



Chris C. Jenkins

Miss Indian World 2008 Nicole Alek'aq Colbert (C) joins the fourth and fifth graders as they display their "Natural High" posters.

"We looked at their passions and encouraged them."

"They do not have to turn to drugs to get high in life," she added.

Even the parents had a chance to learn a few things at the Youth Conference. They received tips and information from the Seminole Police Department and other crime prevention units about child care and computer safety.

"I have always told her about all kinds of crazy people out there," Tribal citizen Michael Micco said about 11-year-old daughter, Baylee. "She has got a pretty good head on her shoulders so she let's us know

if there is anything crazy going on out there."

SPD officers also emphasized vehicle safety with classes on proper use of ATV's and seat belt safety awareness.

In addition, Miss Indian World 2008 Nicole Alek'aq Colbert (Yupik Eskimo) was on hand for the conference. The Napakiak, Alaska native said she was impressed with the Seminole culture and hospitality throughout her stay.

"I learned so much about the rich and beautiful culture of the Seminole people, and I loved it," Colbert said.



Chris C. Jenkins

Vinson Osceola teaches the third graders about cypress woodcarving.



(L-R) Seminole Fire Rescue's Mike Hopkins and Caitlyn Olivarez.



Chris Jenkins

David Nunez Jr. entertains the audience as 1960s rock 'n' roll icon Ike Turner in the talent show.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal youth learn a traditional Polynesian dance at the Luau.

## Seniors Attend Second Annual 'Service Round-Up and Fun'

BY CHRIS JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Representatives from various Tribal departments participated in the 2nd Annual Seniors Service Round-up and Fun, held July 28 in the Senior Center.

The purpose of this event is for the seniors in the Big Cypress community to meet those who serve them.

"We wanted to be able to make all our seniors aware and let them know all these services are in place for them," Senior Center Site Manager Cecilia Solano said.

"We figured it was another opportunity to pass on more updated information and numbers on our programs."

Thirteen departments participated in the event including: Seminole Fire Rescue, Health and Wellness, Family Services, the Seminole Police, Housing, Broadcasting, Fitness, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and the Tribal Board, to name a few.

Since coming up with the idea for the event last



Chris Jenkins

Tribal citizen Lydia Cypress (C) talks to Senior Center Assistant Manager Melissa Guzman (L) and is escorted to the Department of Elders booth by Senior Center Manager Cecilia Solano (R).

year, Solano said it has continued to grow with added departments and more senior participants. She said updating contact information, identifying seniors and establishing more interaction and communication in the community were also major benefits for the gathering.

Lieutenant Robert Brown of the Tribe's Fire Rescue Dept. said he is a strong supporter of the event. He added that gaining more Tribal contacts, responding to more questions, and establishing future problem solving solutions are a part of many hopes for his department each year.

"I think it is a great idea because it gives everyone a chance to get in one place to talk," Brown said.

He explained that programs such as the Senior Life Safety Inspector Program, the Senior Safety Program and Risk Watch are all important in maintaining and establishing a positive safe environment for one of the Tribe's most prized assets — its elders.



Chris Jenkins

Geneva Shore (L) has her blood sugar tested at one of several booths at the event.

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Marisol Gonzalez

Seminole Police Dept. motorcycle officers lead the pack on the one mile walk through the Hollywood Reservation.

# Community Participates in National Night Out to Prevent Crime

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Seminole departments including Police, Fire, Security, Emergency Management and the Boys & Girls Club joined the Tribal community for a one mile walk through the Hollywood Reservation on Aug. 5 in honor of National Night Out to Prevent Crime.

Now in its 25th year, National Night Out aims to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for anticrime programs, strengthen police-community partnerships and send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized, according to the official event website, [nationalnightout.org](http://nationalnightout.org). The event is observed annually on the first Thursday in August and sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch.

"It is important to observe the National Night Out in order to spread the awareness and prevention regarding drugs and crime," said event organizer and Seminole Police Dept. Lt. Powell Morris. "[By] building a partnership within the community and the departments, we can help raise awareness."

Morris, an eight year SPD employee, said this was the first year the Tribe has participated in National Night Out. The Tribe has now joined a large list of participants in this event, which according to the event website, indicates last year's National Night Out had 35.4 million participants in 11,310 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide.

Morris said he generated interest in the event by distributing flyers door-to-door, sending mass e-mails and through television broadcasts. He said this resulted



Marisol Gonzalez

Lt. Powell Morris, event organizer, speaks to the crowd about the history of National Night Out to Prevent Crime.

in a successful turnout and dozens of Tribal citizens, employees and guests participating.

In addition to the walk, Hollywood Reservation residents could show their support for National Night Out by turning their porch lights on at 6 p.m. and leaving them on all night.

Following the one mile walk, participants also listened to the music of Paul "Cowbone" Buster and heard some guest speakers talk about the importance of National Night Out.

Seminole Security Director Chris Osceola, Boys & Girls Club Assistant Director Thommy Doud, Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., SPD Chief William Latchford and Lt. Morris all spoke at the event. Each person made an individual speech, but they all had a similar message that encouraged attendees to help prevent crime and drug abuse within the Tribe.

"The only thing needed for evil to succeed, is for good to do nothing," Rep. Osceola said.



Marisol Gonzalez

(L-R) Elizabeth Frank and Evan Pratt participate in the walk and hold a banner with some of their peers' signatures on it, which show their support for the event.

### Big Cypress and Immokalee

Employees from the Seminole Police and Fire Departments joined together at the Big Cypress Gym and met with the community to take a stance against crime on Aug. 5.

Several police officers attended the event to greet community members, answer questions and hand out crime prevention material and T-shirts, provided by SPD.

The Seminole Fire Dept. also had members on site handing out fire prevention material.

In Immokalee, SPD officers and community members met at the gym to show their support for National Night Out to Prevent Crime. Officers went door-to-door to Tribal residences to hand out T-shirts and meet community members who remained at home due to the inclement weather.

### Hollywood

In Hollywood, members of the community, along with members of the Boys & Girls Club, Seminole Security, Fire and Police Departments, and distinguished guests, including Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., met in front of the SPD facility and participated in a one mile walk through the community. In total, about 150 people attended.

After the walk, the community members enjoyed

music by Paul "Cowbone" Buster and chicken and ribs cooked by SPD Officer Scott Akin, as well as received T-shirts for their participation. In addition, representatives at crime and fire prevention booths distributed information to those interested.

### Brighton and Fort Pierce

On the Fort Pierce and Brighton Reservations, SPD instructed members of these communities to turn on their porch lights at 6 p.m. in support of National Night Out to Prevent Crime.

Members from both communities, along with SPD officers, enjoyed a spaghetti dinner prepared by Mary Jo Mico, and sponsored by Brighton Board Rep. Johnnie Jones, Fort Pierce Liaison Sally R. Tommie provided a tent and table arrangements for the Fort Pierce walk.

Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith agreed to let the event organizers use the Brighton Tribal Office for the Brighton walk. In Brighton, residents walked from the Brighton Tribal Office through the community located on Village Street. While in Fort Pierce, residents walked from the SPD facility through the community.

Several community members from both reservations walked the designated routes more than once in support of the event.

# SPD Starts Youth, Elderly Welfare Unit

SUBMITTED BY SEMINOLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Seminole Police Department (SPD) has created a Youth and Elderly Welfare Unit to help that segment of the Tribal population solve problems that affect the community in the areas of crime, disorder, violence and drug abuse.

The department's policies and programs are based on the collaborative efforts of SPD and Tribal citizens in non-threatening and supportive interactions. These interactions include efforts by police to listen to the youth and elderly, take their concerns seriously and solve the problems they identify.

Program goals include improved citizen and police interaction, improved police attitudes toward citizens and more effective and efficient police service to the community. The focus is on problem identification and analysis and utilizing systematic problem solving techniques in order to build a strong community partnership.

SPD's objective is to obtain cooperation between the police and citizens, while encouraging a willingness

to work together to improve neighborhood stability and community relations. SPD aims to educate and assist the youth and elderly in crime prevention by implementing an action plan to meet each community's needs.

The department's Youth and Elderly Welfare Unit will establish an effective partnership with the community. SPD hopes to accomplish this by conferring with leaders from the Senior Center, youth groups, the Recreation Dept., Education Dept., Boys & Girls Club, Family Services Dept., religious and community organizations and non-law enforcement agencies.

Interactions between SPD and the Tribal community will include mentoring the youth, attending field trips, monitoring truancy issues and problems, helping the seniors, and educating both the youth and elderly to lessen their chances of falling victim to crimes.

The department looks forward to working with Seminole community members and developing these very important partnerships as SPD makes all reservations a safer place to live and grow, pray and play.





Phylliss Laine Jefferson from the Hollywood Classic Casino sings along to Irene Cara's 1980 hit "Fame."



Phylliss Laine Jefferson went on to win the talent competition.



Kellie Heburn of the Coconut Creek Casino performs the 1990s hit "What's Up."

# Employees Compete in Seminole Superstar Talent Show

## Popular Talent Competition Now In Its Fourth Year

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ  
Staff Reporter



Kyla Danielle Whelchel from Brighton beat out nine other performers to make it to the finals.

**HOLLYWOOD** — This year's Seminole Superstar talent show competition, held at the Hard Rock Live on Aug. 11, brought out Tribal employee contestants representing various Seminole gaming facilities.

Employees from Tampa, Brighton, Immokalee, Coconut Creek and Hollywood competed for a chance to win the grand prize.

Phylliss Laine Jefferson, from the Hollywood's Classic Casino, performed Irene Cara's 1980s hit song "Fame" along with an entourage of 10 members rounding out her group.

Pulling out all the stops, Jefferson had custom-made shirts for her group, dancers, paparazzi, a costume change and even a bodyguard.

Her performance wowed the judges more than all the others and Jefferson took first place in the competition.

"My group is like a family," Jefferson said. "We have a good time and enjoy entertaining; it really is a group effort."

Members of Tribal Council and casino managers attended the event and took in the performances. Quacie Gilchrist, the 2007 Seminole Superstar winner, and Hollywood Hard Rock employee, also performed for the audience.

Actor-comedian Sal Richards,

who has appeared in several well-known television shows including The Sopranos, emceed the event and kept the crowd entertained during the set changes between each act. He introduced the judges, all American Idol look-a-likes, with a mock Randy Jackson, Paula Abdul and Simon Cowell on hand, and also the contestants.

The first performer, Kyla Danielle Whelchel from the Seminole Casino - Brighton, said she ultimately wants to make it in the entertainment business. She performed Journey's "Lovin', Touchin', Squeezin'" in her first Seminole Superstar competition performance.

Amanda Fox, 22, from the Tampa Hard Rock, performed the Evanescence rock ballad "My Immortal." Fox said she appreciated the opportunity to perform and enjoyed visiting the Hollywood Hard Rock.

Kellie Heburn, a poker dealer from Seminole Casino - Coconut Creek, competed in previous Seminole Superstar talent shows, saying this was her third time. She performed "What's Up" by 4 Non Blondes.

"I love doing this," Heburn said. "It's so much fun and it is such a great thing that the Tribe does for us."

Following Heburn, Mayatta Cummings of the Seminole Casino - Immokalee count team, serenaded her mother, Mae, with Trina's song "Mama." Cummings said that she gets

her inspiration from her mother and her 5-year-old daughter Heaven.

"I do everything for my mother and daughter," Cummings said. The evening's final act, Lamar Blandin, a server at the Blue Plate restaurant inside the Hollywood Hard

Rock, performed his rendition of Al Green's hit "Let's Stay Together." Blandin said he has been singing since he started talking, adding that he only gets nervous during the first note of his song.



(L-R) Emcee Sal Richards stands on stage with Mayatta Cummings and her mother, Mae, who Mayatta dedicated Trina's song "Mama" to.

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# Education

Incentive Awards . . . 2B

B

## Ahfachkee Summer School Students Recognized

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## Youngsters Attend Babysitter Training Class

BY FELIX DOBOSZ  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — More than a dozen Hollywood community teenagers learned basic babysitting skills from the American Red Cross's Laurie Anne Lewis in a class held at the DSO building on Aug. 11.

This 7.5 hour program taught the youngsters valuable skills all babysitters should know, including lifesaving CPR skills.

The Education Dept. sponsored the course, designed mainly for 11-15 year olds to learn about caring for youngsters and infants. It teaches babysitters to make responsible decisions when solving problems and handling emergencies.

"I can learn how to babysit better when I'm baby sitting my little brother and sisters," said student Whitney Osceola, 15.

During the class, students participated in drills with life-sized baby dolls so they could learn how to perform tasks including how to change a diaper, as well as first aid and CPR techniques, with certified Seminole EMS instructors on hand. At the class's completion, each student received their American Red Cross certification in baby skills, first aid skills and CPR.

The course also provided the students with information about how to become good role models and leaders. It also featured some beginning instruction on how to write resumes and fill out job applications.

This is the second year the American Red Cross presented their babysitter training course to the Tribal community. The Education Dept. also sponsored this class in Big Cypress and Immokalee during the same week.



Felix Dobosz

The students practice putting diapers on dolls at babysitter class. They also learned valuable first-aid skills and CPR.

## Book Report Collage Project Winner Announced



Photo Submitted by John Fraser, Big Cypress Library Director

Thomlyn Billie stands next to her Book Report Collage Project, one of the collages on display at the Willie Frank Library, and part of the Big Cypress Summer Enrichment Program coordinated by the Culture and Education Departments, and the Library.



Chelsea Mountain, 18, with Mom Esther Gopher  
Clan: Snake  
Reservation: Hollywood School, American Heritage

Future Plans: Attend Broward Community College for one year before transferring to either Haskell Indian Nations University in Kansas or Seminole State College in Oklahoma, to major in sports medicine and minor in business



Photo Submitted by Christine McCall

Colorful houses line the hillside in Manarola Cinque Terre, Italy, one of the stops on Christine McCall's travels throughout the country.

## Christine McCall Completes Studies in Italy

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ  
Staff Reporter

Christine Elizabeth McCall, 21, Deer Clan, recently returned from a six week semester abroad, studying in Italy.

"If you go to college and look into studying abroad, you will find it like going to another reservation," McCall said. "Everyone should try it to broaden your horizons and go open minded."

While in Italy, McCall took elective classes, such as Survey of Studio Art and Photography, in order to enjoy her time in another country. She said she learned about and appreciated the culture in Italy, and added that as a Seminole, she is very focused on culture.

She said she also saw famous works of art she would have otherwise only seen in textbooks, such as Botticelli's "The Birth of Venus," Michelangelo's "David" and Leonardo Da Vinci's "Last Supper." She also ate various traditional Italian dishes, including gelato, the Italian ice cream, and rode on a gondola, a boat commonly seen throughout Italy.

Although McCall admitted learning another language had its difficulties, she said she did pick up words, phrases and customs during her time abroad. She said she made an effort to speak the language, and the Italian people showed appreciation for her efforts, even though she didn't pronounce words properly.

McCall also took in some of Italy's famous landmarks including the Colosseum,

the Forum, the Fontana di Trevi, Duomo Cathedral, also known as "God's House" and the Leaning Tower of Pisa. She said she also visited the Italian cities of Sienna, Venice and Florence, and also went body rafting and canyoning in Switzerland through ice cold waters that came from a glacier. McCall and her roommates stayed in Switzerland one weekend out of their trip.

While in Italy, she lived with seven other female students who attend various universities throughout Florida. McCall said living with different personalities was not easy.

"It was just like reality television so we had to try and avoid conflicts," She said.

McCall said she received her passport at age 17, though her mother, Wanda Bowers, only recently attained hers. She said she wants to take her mother to visit Italy next summer and give her the chance to enjoy the country as much as she did during her semester abroad.

McCall encourages more Tribal youth to take advantage of all the opportunities offered through the Education Dept., including studying abroad.

"If it wasn't for the education department I wouldn't have gotten to go to Italy," McCall said.

McCall is scheduled to graduate from FSU in the spring of 2009 with a bachelor's degree in social work and plans to apply to graduate school to attain a master's degree in social work. She said she hopes to come back and work for the Tribe's Family Services Dept. after completing her studies.



Photo Submitted by Christine McCall

Christine McCall holds up the famous Leaning Tower of Pisa, located in Pisa, Italy.

## Charter School Students Increase FCAT Scores

BY CHRIS JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Receiving test results can be nerve-racking for teachers, parents and students, but the students from the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School had a reason to celebrate on July 8.

They received the results from the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) and posted a more than 90 percent improvement since last year.

The annual test, given to Florida students in grades three through 11, aims to measure and increase students' academic achievement in multiple subject areas by implementing higher standards.

The Seminole Education Dept. and Charter School officials were thrilled with the results.

"The Charter School has exceeded its expectation of being an outstanding school and the FCAT scores are just one of the areas that this has proven to be true," said Education Dept. Director Emma Johns. "Hats off to the faculty, staff, and parents of the students for being supportive and encouraging throughout the year — especially during FCAT testing time."

A standing ovation goes to the students of [the Charter School] whose efforts, dedication and determination have set the bar for other Charter and public schools throughout the state and the nation," she added.

Pemayetv Emahakv Principal Russ Brown said the feat was all the more impressive for the 90 percent minority school because it was the very first year for testing at the school. The 90 percent improvement rate was based on the students' scores from last year's test given at the various public schools they attended in the area. He explained that the gains also surpassed many of the bordering county schools.

"There were a lot of naysayers in the beginning," Brown said. "There was a lot of uncertainty as to whether the kids could be a success as a [Native American] population."

He credits several factors for the rise in

scores. The students learn in smaller classes, with an average of 12 students per class. He also explained that there is a high quality teaching staff that uses advanced technology and teaching materials, including laptops and iPods®. There is also a more than 90 percent attendance rate and a rewards and recognition teaching environment throughout the year.

Johns said that in spite of the school's success, the controversy and debate will continue about the use of the test, especially in high minority attended schools such as Pemayetv Emahakv.

"Like most other state standardized tests, the FCAT is geared towards the white suburban culture and lacks sensitivity to other cultures," she said. "A great deal of controversy also comes with

the pressure placed on administrators and faculty to ensure great performance on the FCAT because of the monetary incentives and school grades that are given based on FCAT scores."

"What people fail to realize more often than not is that there are many factors that can affect the outcome of school performance on the FCAT such as the socio economic status or ethnicity of the majority of the population attending the school," Johns added. "Society focuses on a letter grade to gauge a school's competency rather than focusing on whether or not a school made significant academic gains from the previous year."

For more information on the FCAT, please log on to [fcatt.fldoe.org](http://fcatt.fldoe.org).



Photo Submitted by Michele Thomas

(L-R) Cam Youngblood, Daniel Nunez, Jennifer Tommie and Korvette Billie use their laptops while in class.



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SoBe Edition | White, Cadillac Escalade, 2008, 20 Passenger



Freedom Edition | Black, H2, 2008, 25 Passenger



Chrysler 300 Lambo | White, 2008, 12 Passenger



Tribal Edition | White, H2, 2008, 22 Passenger



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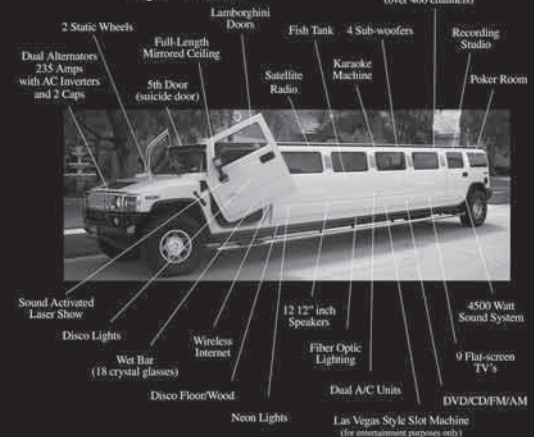


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## INCENTIVE AWARDS



Incentive Award honorees and representatives from the Trail community at their awards ceremony, held June 11.

## Trail Community Holds Incentive Awards Ceremony at Popular Entertainment Center

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ  
Staff Reporter

**MIAMI** — Representatives from the Education Department handed out the first batch of 2008 Incentive Awards at Dave & Busters in Miami for the Trail Seminole on June 11.

The students recognized were: Cassidy Bert, Kelin Bert, Morgan Bert, Danny Billie, Jonah Billie, Osceola Cypress, Destiny (Jim) Harper, Jasmine Holdiness, Jennifer Holdiness, Jessie Holdiness, Ozzie Holdiness, Lucas Huggins, Elena Jim, Hunter Jim, Katherine Jim, Lauren Jim, Floon Keyser, Angelina Osceola, Darian C. Osceola, John Kyle Osceola Jr., Keylene Osceola, Alaina Roberts, Donavin Tiger, Madison Tiger and Stephen Tiger.

Each student received an award certificate, a gift certificate and a jacket. In order to qualify for this honor, students had to maintain a GPA of 2.5 or higher and a good attendance record.

Several Tribal leaders attended the affair and thanked the community for attending, including members of the Education Advisory Board and Trail Liaison William Osceola.

"Congratulations to all for doing such a good job, and to the parents as well," Liaison Osceola said. "You all help the Tribe to prosper, and you are the future of our Tribe. We depend on you."

The Trail families then listened to guest speaker Nat Moore, formerly of the Miami Dolphins, talk about the importance of education.



Trail Liaison William Osceola addresses the gathering.

## BC's Private School Students Receive Incentive Awards at Presentation

Guest Speaker Jarrid Smith Discusses Education, Sports, More

BY CHRIS JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Big Cypress private school students attended their Incentive Awards ceremony at Dave and Busters restaurant and entertainment center on Aug. 16.

Alfred Billie, Darnell Billie, Sierra Bowers, Jean Capricien, Raini Cypress, Brittany Huff, Annie Joe, Anthony Joe, Callie Joe, Christopher Joe, Jason Melton, Symphony Osceola and Troy Yescaas all received awards during the ceremony.

In addition to raffled prizes and the awards themselves, attendees listened to a speech from guest speaker Jarrid Smith. Smith, a graduate of Florida Atlantic University, as well as member of the

football team, discussed topics such as drugs, peer pressure, sports, career ambitions, education and overcoming hardships to triumph.

"At some point in your life you are going to have to ask yourself 'What do I want to do with my life?'

Do I want to keep messing up, or do I want to do something with myself," Smith said.

"Whatever you do in life, people are going to know about it."

BC Education Advisor Patrick L. McElroy said the ceremony went very well and the students deserved all the recognition they received.

"The kids did really well this year, and their GPA's went up as well," McElroy said. "Our numbers are up as well from last year for private school enrollment."



Guest speaker Jarrid Smith answers questions from parents and students.



Big Cypress's private school Incentive Award recipients at their luncheon at Dave & Busters on Aug. 16.



## INCENTIVE AWARDS

## Incentive Award Recipients, Families Attend Carnival

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Members of the Hollywood and Fort Pierce Tribal communities joined together at this year's Incentive Awards Carnival, hosted by the Education Dept. on Aug. 1.

Instead of the usual dinner and certificate presentation, the Education Dept. staff decided to put a spin on things. This year, they held a community carnival at the Hollywood ball field for those receiving an award, as well as their families and guests.

"Hollywood wanted the entire community to enjoy the event, not just award recipients," said Education Dept. Director Emma Johns.

The carnival featured traditional activities including rides, carnival foods and games, to name just a few. Additional activities included mock-sumo wrestling, bull riding, a magic show, stunt bike riders, musical entertainment by Paul "Cowbone"

Buster and his band, and even a Hula dance performance.

The Hula dancers asked members of the audience to participate and learn the ancient Hawaiian dance.

The younger children took the stage first with about a dozen kids joining in. Next up, the gentlemen, including Chairman Mitchell Cypress, showed off their moves.

The dancers introduced him as "The Big Kahuna" and dressed him in a grass skirt, coconut brazier and a bamboo hat. The attendees watched and applauded as "The Big Kahuna" and three other men performed the Hula.

Although this year's Incentive Awards for Hollywood and Fort Pierce did not have a ceremony as previous years have, the recipients received their awards in the mail. At the carnival, however, they did receive a backpack filled with goodies for the upcoming school year.



Marisol Gonzalez

Chairman Mitchell Cypress, AKA "The Big Kahuna," learns how to Hula.



Marisol Gonzalez

(L-R) Justin Frank and Blige Cypress battle it out on the jousting mat at the Hollywood Incentive Awards carnival, held Aug. 1 at the ball field.

## Hollywood's Incentive Award Recipients

Cindi Adair, Joel Arroyo, Claireese Avila, Kalani Bankton, Jaden Bankston, Kyler Bell, Kiana Bell, Adrienne Bell, Pernell Bert, Paul Billie, Kayla Billie, Cody Billie, Nelson Billie, Rayel Billie, Julian Billie, Alisia Billie, Gabrielle Billie, Fairuza Billie, Maurice Billie, Hunter Billie, Bri-ana Bildeau, Tyler Bildeau, Brianna Blais-Billie, Devan Bowers, Mariah Bowers, Trinity Bowers, Boryalys Cypress, Alycia Cypress, Shelby Dehass, Daniel Dehass, Chandler DelMayo, Destiny Diaz, Celena Doctor, Gabrielle Doctor, Jason Dodd, Kaiya Drake, Howie Drake, Jennie Eagle, Tyonda Farnior, Jonathon Frank, Raevin Frank, Brent Frank, Elizabeth Frank, Cachalani Frank, Jean Frank, Damian Frank, Sharka Frank, Robert Frank III, Tomasina Gilliam, Katiynn Gorney, Delia Harjo, Tyler Harjoche, Michael Horvey, Dana Holt, Valentino Huggins, Katrina Huggins, Jonathan Idle, Maleah Isaac, Analysé Jimenez, Joseph John, Shania Johns, Cecil Johns, Brooke Johns, Clarissa Jumper, Doran Jumper, Eden Jumper, Arak Jumper, Franklin Jumper, Gordon Jumper, Nicholas Jumper, Cameron Jumper, Phoenixsun Jumper, Kylen Jumper, Heather Kippenberger, Kathlyn Kippenberger, Cheyenne Kippenberger, Carson Knaby, Victoria Lacey, Zechariah Lacey, Brady Latchford, Bradley Latchford, Brendan Latchford, Kach Madrid, Silas Madriga, Keana Martin, Randee McDonald, Amanda Micco, Jesse Mitchell, Dominique Motlow, Kenzie Motlow, Chelsea Mountain, Jallyn

Mowatt, Randy Osceola, Sheyanna Osceola, Meaghan Osceola, Audrey Osceola, Jordan Osceola, Kendrick Osceola, Whitney Osceola, Marissa Osceola, Courtney Osceola, Huston Osceola, Aaron Osceola, Tristina Osceola, Anissa Osceola, Cameron Osceola, Elden Osceola, Royce Osceola, Tyson Osceola, Marsha Osceola, Milla Osceola, Cameron Osceola, Skylia Osceola, Ashley Osceola, John Osceola, Drew Osceola, Denise Osceola, Phyllis Osceola, Sheldon Osceola, Victor Osceola, Shelli Mae Osceola, Jack Osceola, Knananochet Osceola, John Osceola, Chahechom Osceola, Cady Osceola, Faith Osceola, Joshua Osceola, Matthew Osceola Jr., Isaiiah Pichardo, Kiara Pichardo, Leonna Pichardo, Isaac Pichardo, Richard Primeaux, Joey Puente, River Randall, Savannah Redbone-Osceola, Tucamah Robbins, Adakai Robbins, Jesse Sanchez, Samuel Sanchez, Audriahna Sirotta, Italia Sisto, Garhett Smith, Chloee Smith, Mariah Smith, Donavin Spiva, Roy Stewart, Raylene Stewart, KeiShawn Stewart, Victoria Stivers, Mary Stivers, Jerome Stivers, Robert Stivers Jr., Marisa Stockton, Dean Stokes Jr., Tyler Storm, Rhiannon Tiger, Rhett Tommie, Lavontae Tommie, Marty Tommie Jr., Lorelei Tommie, Mardravious Tommie, Quentin Tommie, Jack Turtle, Maurice Tyler, Rebecca Vazquez, Colton Vazquez, Jackie Willie, Echo Wolf, Silver Wolf, Tianna Young, Katelyn Young, Krystie Young, Tarina Young, Irisa Young, Jade Young,



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**Rascal Flatts**  
**Stone Temple Pilots**  
**American Idols Live**  
**Boston**

**Kenny Chesney**  
**John Mayer**  
**Jonas Brothers**  
**Switchfoot/Third Day**  
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# INCENTIVE AWARDS

## Tampa Community Recieves Incentive Awards

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**TAMPA** — The Tampa Hard Rock played host to acknowledging some of the brightest students in education for the annual Incentive Awards on July 29.

Director of Education Emma Johns emceed the event, which was all about [raising] them for the wonderful academic year they had," Johns said.

Tribal citizen Stephanie Johns, who received Incentive Awards for earning both her associate of arts and associate of science degree, offered encouragement to those still in school.

"Stay in school, do your best and keep trying," Johns said. "Education is the one thing that can never be taken away from you."

In addition to the awards presentation, the recipients, their family members and invited guests listened to motivational speaker Chance Rush (Hidatsa/Dakota/Arapahoe). Rush has spoken at numerous Tribal functions to date and offered the students and parents advice on how to succeed in life.

"[Native Americans] can offer so much if we want to," he said. "Just because we can progress doesn't mean we can erase our past as a people."

"Parents, be in your children's lives every step of the way," Rush added.

Although absent for the evening's event, Tampa Liaison Richard Henry sent well wishes via a letter his assistant Jackie Smith read.

"This is not the end for some of you; you are all the face of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and you are the future," said Smith, reading Henry's letter.



Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith awards James Williams with his education certificate.

### Tampa's Incentive Award Recipients

- AA/AS Degree: Stephanie Johns  
High School Diploma: Ashley Santiago, Nick Frank General Equivalency Diploma (GED): Joseph Santiago  
Honors Class: Andrew Henry, Dakota Henry, Kyle Henry, Phaydra Clark  
Advanced Class: Nick Frank, Peter Joel Foret  
Attendance: Andrew Henry, Dakota Henry, Kyle Henry, Dante Henry, Phaydra Clark, Jacob Smith, Brenna Walton, Ohana Henry, Tyrek Lasane  
Awards & Certificates: Andrew Henry, Dakota Henry, Dante Henry, Ohana Henry, Phaydra Clark, Tyrek Lasane, Brenna Walton, Nick Frank, Annissa Billie-Saxton, Deven Osceola, James Williams Jr., Nicholas Smith, Preston Osceola, Sumer Carroll  
3.76-3.99 GPA: Deven Osceola, James Williams Jr., Tyrek Lasane  
3.0-3.75 GPA: Andrew Henry, Brenna Walton, Dakota Henry, Dante Henry, Jacob Smith, Kyle Henry, Nicholas Smith, Nick Frank  
Improved GPA: Annissa Billie-Saxton, Dante Henry  
Effort Award: Caitlin Garcia, Christopher Garcia, Issac Urbina, Melody Urbina, Shandra Cypress, William Cypress



(L-R) Associate of Arts/Associate of Science Degree recipient Stephanie Johns and Education Director Emma Johns.



Immakalee's Incentive Award recipients hold their Best Effort awards and new backpacks at the ceremony.

## Recipients Attend Oscar™-Themed Incentive Awards Ceremony

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Free Press Reporter

**IMMAKALEE** — The Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) in Immakalee transformed the gym for an Oscar™-themed Education Incentive Awards presentation on July 2.

Although formal attire was optional, three-quarters of the students and their parents dressed appropriately for the occasion in tuxedos and ball gowns.

The first awards presentation went to the high school graduates, Alexandra Colon and Christian Benson, who is already attending Florida State University.

Seminole Education Director Emma Johns emceed the presentation.

"The students of Immakalee have done an outstanding job of coming to school with great scores rising and enthusiasm escalating," Johns said. "Getting an education is hard work and you are meeting the challenge. Your parents are to be commended for their extraordinary effort; education trials in the home."

Immakalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar

was also on hand to commend the students on their hard work.

"I began my service to the community in the Education Department many years ago and have watched the program expand its goals and achievements," Liaison Aguilar said.

"I will unlock the door to the future, not only individually, but for the benefit of the Seminole Tribe. It is our job to see that these young people are prepared to shape the future in a responsible manner."

The Immakalee PAC officers and heads of local Tribal departments received individual acknowledgment for their contribution to both the banquet and yearlong support of the student body. Presentations included certificates, Oscar™-style trophies, embroidered backpacks, medallions and more. A professional photographer with a black drop featuring the famous stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, took photos of the attendees in their high fashion attire. Reminiscent of the Hollywood Walk, the students' names were embossed in gold on tiles that decorated the walls and distributed at the end of the event.



(L-R) Kenny Joe Davis Jr., Christopher Briscall, Immakalee Asst. Education Advisor Victoria Presley and K.J. Davis don their formal attire for the Oscar™-themed awards banquet.

## Brighton Incentive Award Recipients

Perfect Attendance: 1. Jaycya Baker, 2. Justice Baker, 3. Tyra Baker, 4. Larissa Cortez, 5. Kirsten Doney, 6. Ashlee Gopher, 7. Lewis Gopher Jr., 8. Lance Howard, 9. Frank Huff, 10. Deven Jones, 11. Malcolm Jones, 12. Rumor Juarez, 13. Rodolpho Juarez IV, 14. Brydgett Koonz, 15. Bakari Micco, 16. Cheyenne Nunez, 17. Daniel Nunez, 18. Brooke Osceola, 19. Delaney Osceola, 20. Yopalakio Osceola, 21. Alexis Osceola James, 22. Eric Puente, 23. Lahna Sedatol, 24. Lanie Sedatol, 25. Kamani Smith, 26. Hunter Strickland, 27. Layne Thomas, 28. Layton Thomas, 29. Aiyana Thomas, 30. Tavis Jumper  
Three or less days absent: 1. Jahbah Arnold, 2. Billy Bailey, 3. Ridge Bailey, 4. Alyke Baker, 5. Ivess Baker, 6. Kassandra Baker, 7. Kylier Baker, 8. Lois Billie, 9. Ruben Burgess, 10. Krysta Burton, 11. Deliah Carrillo, 12. Alexis Gore, 13. Aniya Gore, 14. Hunter Howard, 15. Aliana Micco, 16. Mason Micco, 17. Apollonia Nunez, 18. Imilakiyo Osceola, 19. Jessi Osceola, 20. Rubie Osceola, 21. Rylee Osceola, 22. Crysten Smith, 23. J.T. Smith, 24. Julia Smith, 25. Desiree Snow, 26. Camryn Thomas, 27. Connor Thomas, 28. Mallorie Thomas, 29. Cody Tiger, 30. Joshua Tiger, 31. Quintinn Tiger, 32. Aidan Tomlinson, 33. Rosa Urbina, 34. Acealyn Youngblood

Straight A's All Year: 1. Nailen Billie, 2. Bly Davidson, 3. Destiny Nunez, 4. Daniel Nunez Jr., 5. Kama Puente, 6. Aiyana Tommie

Kindergarten: 1. Jahbah Arnold, 2. Liza Bernet, 3. Marcia Osceola, 4. Jaylen Baker, 5. Laila Bennett, 6. Ozzy Osceola, 7. Waylyn Bennett, 8. Boyin Billie, 9. Ruben Osceola, 10. Myron Billie, 11. Redheart Billie, 12. Jason Sampson, 13. Santiago Billie, 14. Delance Carrillo, 15. Tanner Shore, 16. Nyah Davidson, 17. Keira French, 18. Julia Smith, 19. Edward Gacuin, 20. Alexis Gore, 21. Kamani Smith, 22. Aniya Gore, 23. Hunter Howard, 24. Kai Osceola, 25. Malcolm Jones, 26. Jace Jumper, 27. Madisyn Osceola, 28. Alana Micco, 29. Sage Mottow, 30. Caillou Smith, 31. Janessa Nunez, 32. Lauren O'Donnell, 33. Dante Thomas, 34. Mallorie Thomas, 35. Aleah Turtle, 36. Araya Youngblood, 37. Isaiah Bishop, 38. Luzana Baker, Todd Pierce

First Grade: 1. Blake Baker, 2. Jayana Venzor, 3. Aleina Micco, 4. Keely Billie, 5. J-Wayco Billie, 6. Alyke Baker, 7. Jarrett Bert, 8. Nailen Billie, 9. Ridge Bailey, 10. Alexis Fudge, 11. Lance Howard, 12. Drake Lawrence, 13. Krysta Burton, 14. Hunter O'Donnell, 15. Tavis Jumper, 16. Kama Puente, 17. Gage Riddle, 18. Connor Thomas, 19. Aidan Tommie, 20. Joseph Toneyes, 21. Oscar Yates

Second Grade: 1. Ivess Baker, 2. Edgerrin Billie, 3. Elijah Billie, 4. Brian Bishop, 5. Jonathan Buck, 6. Choe Chalfant, 7. Bly Davidson, 8. Marquis Fudge, 9. Reed Gopher, 10. Jaylann Jones, 11. Rodolpho Juarez IV, 12. Morgan King, 13. Bakari Micco, 14. Mason Micco, 15. Logan Ortiz, 16. Isaac Osceola, 17. Joseph Osceola, 18.

Cyrus Smedley, 19. Janessa Smith, 20. Rylee Smith, 21. Hunter Strickland, 22. Camryn Thomas, 23. Layne Thomas, 24. Billy Yates, 25. Aiyana Tommie  
Third Grade: 1. Jermine Bennett, 2. Bethany Billie, 3. Drayton Billie, 4. Ruben Burgess, 5. Deliah Carrillo, 6. Robert Fudge, 7. Erik Garcia, 8. Odessa King, 9. Joshua Madrigal, 10. Apollonia Nunez, 11. Rylee Osceola, 12. Samuel Osceola, 13. Alexis Osceola-James, 14. Eric Puente, 15. Sean Osceola, 16. Lanie Sedatol, 17. Diamon Shore, 18. Kellen Smedley, 19. Crysten Smith, 20. Jerry Smith, 21. River Osceola

Fourth Grade: 1. Tyra Baker, 2. Lizzie Buck, 3. Allison Gopher, 4. Michael Garcia, 5. Elizabeth Harmon, 6. Ashlee Gopher, 7. Harley Johns, 8. Chastity Johns, 9. Kalgary Johns-Mottow, 10. Jobe Johns, 11. Brydgett Koonz, 12. Rumor Juarez, 13. Cheyenne Nunez, 14. C.W. Ortiz, 15. Donovan Osceola, 16. Imilakiyo Osceola, 17. Royce Osceola, 18. Yopalakio Osceola, 19. Trista Osceola, 20. Lahna Sedatol, 21. Jayce Smith, 22. Rayven Smith, 23. Richard Smith

Fifth Grade: 1. Justice Baker, 2. Ashton Beer, 3. Brenna Billie, 4. Korvette Billie, 5. Joshua Bormel, 6. Larissa Cortez, 7. Toby Gopher, 8. Lewis Gopher Jr., 9. Anthony Johns, 10. Deven Jones, 11. Braceton King, 12. Airiana Nunez, 13. Daniel Nunez Jr., 14. Deandre Osceola, 15. Delaney Osceola, 16. Tyler Osceola, 17. Myrick Puente, 18. Dezmon Shore, 19. J.T. Smith, 20. Layton Thomas, 21. Jennifer Tommie, 22. Cameron Youngblood, Brooke Osceola

Sixth Grade: 1. Kylier Baker, 2. Brianna Burke, 3. Kirsten Doney, 4. Frankie Hunter, 5. Skyler Nunez, 6. Jaide Micco, 7. Jessi Osceola, 8. Rhina Robinson, 9. Randal Shore, 10. Joseph Snow, 11. Joshua Tiger, 12. Acealyn Youngblood, 13. Everett Youngblood

Seventh Grade: 1. Jaycya Baker, 2. Kassandra Baker, 3. Garrett Huston-Thomas, 4. Amelia Nunez, 5. Destiny Nunez, 6. Minnie Osceola, 7. Trent Osceola, 8. Austin Sampson, 9. Janet Smith, 10. Desiree Snow, 11. Cody Tiger, 12. Rosa Urbina, 13. Joshua Quintinn Tiger, 14. Lois Billie, 15. Stevie Brantley, 3. Marge Dorgan

Eighth Grade: 1. Ty Huff, 2. Farrah Lytle, 3. Alicia Nunez, 4. Creeja Smith

Tenth Grade: 1. Jewel Buck, 2. Duellie Gore, 3. Cordy Jumper, 4. Ryan Osceola

Eleventh Grade: 1. Damen Bert, 2. Allyson Billie, Emily Cortez, Amber Craig, Tallbird Pewo

Higher Education Awards: 1. Howard Madrigal (BA) 2. Jarrod Smith (GPA)

High School Grads: 1. Brittany Smith, 2. Clint Bowers, 3. Heather Peterson, 4. Mary Huff, 5. Shelby Huff, 6. Lindsay Sauls



Brighton's kindergarten through third grade 2007-2008 Incentive Awards winners at the Hawaiian-themed ceremony.

## Incentive Awards Distributed in Brighton

BY CHRIS JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Brighton's Incentive Awards recipients and their families attended a Hawaiian-themed awards ceremony, held in the gym on Aug. 14.

With more than 10 categories recognized, Tribal youth and adults received honors for their scholastic accomplishments.

Tribal Council and Board representatives, including Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith, Brighton Board Rep. Johnnie Jones and President Richard Bowers Jr., also attended the ceremony.

With a 70 percent eligibility rate to brighten students to receive awards this year, President Bowers said the community

made education a high priority.

"Brighton always pushes their kids to go to school," President Bowers said. "I want to congratulate all the parents."

"Education is probably the most important thing you could have," he added.

Rep. Jones agreed, adding, "We want everyone to get an education; that is why we have these awards."

Special guest speaker Chance Rush (Hidatsa/Dakota/Arapahoe) of Shawnee, Okla., a known friend of

the Tribe, also offered some inspirational words to those in attendance.

"When we want our children to make choices in life they are going to follow their own path," Rush said. "What lives they are home

lingers into school and other areas."

"We are the smallest population in the world and it is up to us whether or not we are going to stay with such a rich culture," he added.

There was also a special recognition award made in the memory of Brighton Tribal

citizen and second grader J-Wayco Billie, who passed away in June. In addition to all the other festivities, attendees also took part in a best dressed contest, in keeping with the Hawaiian theme. Krysta Burton, Brydgett Koonz, Kirsten Doney, Amber Craig and Suriyah Smith won.



Incentive Award winners from the fifth grade display their certificates.

### Immakalee's 2007-2008 Incentive Award Recipients

Perfect Attendance: Alexander Nikkiso Alvarado Jr., Bonnie Davis, Nikkiso Davis, Chesley Ford, Larissa DelaRosa  
Straight "A" Honor Roll: Alexis Aguilar, Demi Garza, Joshua Colon, Larissa DelaRosa  
3.75 GPA: Cleofa Billie, Lindsey Posada, 3.5 GPA: Charlie Osceola  
Christian Benson, Cleofa Yzaguirre, 3.25 GPA: Jack Aguilar, Jillian Rodriguez, Kyle Alvarado, Lauren Posada, Miah Davis, Negemiah Roberts, Chesley Ford, Negemiah Reynolds, Haylie Holloway, Keniya Yzaguirre, 3.0 GPA: Aaliyah Mora, Alycia Mora, Amber Alvarado, Billie Walker Jr., Bonnie Davis, Cassandra Jimmie, Cheyenne McInturff, Gherri

Osceola, Jasin Alvarado, K. J. Davis, Neo Mottow, Priscilla Alvarado, Ashley Faz, Colia Reynolds, Nicholas Correa, Paul Tahchawickah, Shyanna Escobar  
2.75 GPA: Alexander Alvarado Jr., Alexis Jimmie, Dennis Alvarado Jr., Chelsea Storm, Penonis Gonzales Jr., Ezekiel Roberts, Jon Jimmie, Kenny Joe Davis Jr., Star Sanchez, 2.5 GPA: Crystal Garcia, Geneva Garcia, Jade Tapia, 2.0 GPA: Cameron Garza, Chad Mottow, Damian Garza, Destinee Jimmie, Nikki Davis  
Best Effort: Aaron Alvarado, Aiyana Gonzalez, Antonio Hernandez, Brandon Frank, Brittany Yzaguirre, Christopher Briscall, Cody Mottow, Corey Garcia, Cuauhtemo Hernandez, David Billie III, Deirda Hall, Edward

Yzaguirre, Eliza Davis, Ellyse Frank, Erica Mata, Esmeralda Billie, Esyra Frank, Ethan Aguilar, Hellenia Yzaguirre, Janessa Jones, Joeli Frank, Jonathan Rodriguez, Jordan Rodriguez, Joseph Rodriguez, Juliza Martinez, Leandra Mora, Leonardo Yzaguirre, Makayla Gonzalez, Marissa Sanchez, Mauro Perez Jr., Michael Shaffer II, Rafael Sanchez Jr., Rande Osceola, Raymond Mora, Robert Yzaguirre, Salena Perez, Solita Perez, Spencer Koz, Vanessa Billie, Zephania Roberts, Yanissa Yzaguirre, Camisha Cedartrine, Chesley Alvarado, Damian Escobar, Edward Aguilar Jr., Issiah Alvarado, Jack Tahchawickah, Jonah Alvarado, Kenau Correa



# Sports

Rodeo .....	2C
Fishing .....	3C
Golf .....	6C

C

## Tribe Hosts NAYO Softball, Baseball Games

BY FELIX DOBOSZ  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Hollywood Recreation Dept. hosted the Native American Youth Organization's (NAYO) two-day baseball and fast pitch softball sports extravaganza on July 18-19.

A total of 31 teams of Tribal youngsters, along with their coaches and family members, traveled from throughout the southeastern U.S. — with Iroquois Tribal representatives coming all the way from Upstate New York — to compete in this year's NAYO games.

To accommodate all the games in only two days, teams played games at three different local venues, the Seminole Field, Driftwood Field and Hollywood Christian Field.

Tribal citizen from the Hollywood community, Kristen Billie, 15, daughter of Esther Gopher, played for the Brighton Seminole Girls 17 & Under fast pitch softball team as their pitcher and shortstop.

Gopher said she was proud after watching her daughter compete against the visiting teams and even prouder that her team came in first place. The Brighton Seminole Girls 17 & Under team stayed undefeated in the competition, beating out their five opposing teams.

Three times a week, this dedicated mom would drive her daughter from Hollywood to Brighton so she could practice, also offering her time as a team volunteer. Billie and her teammates practiced for several hours at each practice, even during Florida's hot summer weather.

"All those practices finally paid off in a big win," Gopher said.



Felix DoBosz  
Brighton pitcher Delaney Osceola winds up.

### Results of 2008 NAYO Games

Boys: 12 & Under: 1. Choctaw, 2. Poarch Creek, 3. Red Hawks (Choctaw); 15 & Under: 1. Hurricanes (Choctaw), 2. Sooners (Choctaw), 3. Poarch Creek; 17 & under: 1. Poarch, 2. Cherokee.  
Girls: Girl's 12 & Under: 1. Brighton Seminole, 2. Lil Creeks (Poarch), 3. Lil Divas (Choctaw); Girl's 15 & Under: 1. X-Treme (Choctaw), 2. Divas (Choctaw), 3. Lightning (Seneca); Girl's 17 & Under: 1. Brighton Seminole, 2. Lady Warriors (Choctaw), 3. Southern Fire (Choctaw).



Judy Weeks  
Naha Jumper ties his steer's legs after roping it to the ground in the fastest time for a first place win in the Big Cypress Calf Roping event.

## Eastern Indian Rodeo Competitions Abound Dual Competitions Take Place in Brighton, Big Cypress

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

July was a busy month for the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) members, who competed two weekends in a row.

On July 12, the participants took part in the Josiah Johns Memorial Rodeo at the Fred Smith Arena in Brighton and then competed in a second rodeo in Big Cypress on July 19.

As a tribute to Josiah Johns, one of the founders of the EIRA, and a prominent Seminole cattlemen, first place winners in each event received buckles. There was a slight variation in competitors between

productions. But the events remained the same.

The junior rodeos took place at 5 p.m., beginning with the Mutton Bustin' event. Echo Billie and Norman Osceola took the first two winning slots, with Nicholas Andrews coming up fourth in an impressive line-up that included 14 riders working hard to stay on the backs of their sheep at Brighton.

Creek Gopher, the son of champion bull rider Justin Gopher, made his debut with a fifth place win, beginning the long climb up the ladder to follow in his father's footsteps. Nicholas Andrews moved into first place in BC with Madison Osceola, Ozzy Osceola and Creek Gopher hot on

his heels.

Andre Jumper traded in his fourth place win at Brighton in the Pony Riding, where Austin Holmes came in first, for the top position at BC. Meanwhile, Kelton Smedley held a consistent third place two weeks in a row.

Calf Riders Mark Holmes and Calgary Johns battled it out at BC, claiming the two top scores, respectively. Calgary had held her second place from the previous lineup, but Mark Holmes had managed to push his way from third to first place, previously held by Kirkland Boney.

There was a great deal of action in the

Please see EIRA • Page 2C



Judy Weeks  
(L-R) Virginia Billie and Ray Garza Jr. size up the direction between the ball and the hole.

## 'Honor the Warrior Osceola' Golf Shootout Held

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**LEHIGH ACRES, Fla.** — Two-man golf teams converged upon the Copperhead Golf & Country Club on July 19 for the Honor the Warrior Osceola Golf Shootout.

The popular event drew players from Immokalee, Big Cypress, Brighton, Hollywood, Trail and the Micosukue Tribe. At least one Tribal citizen was required to complete each team with both players wearing either a Seminole shirt or vest. Their colorful attire attracted a lot of attention from the non-tournament players and created numerous inquiries about the historical aspects of the event.

The shotgun start took place at 8:30 a.m. with a series of special guidelines in the initial format.

Please see OSCEOLA • Page 6C



Judy Weeks  
Immokalee Board Liaison Delores Jumper, wearing her Edna Cypress Memorial T-shirt, racks up the balls for her next game of pool.

## Final Leg of 'Take A Kid Fishing' Tournament Concludes

BY CHRIS JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — On Aug. 7 Tribal and community members came together for the third and final leg of the Take A Kid Fishing tournament.

The tournament's overall winner, Blevyns Jumper, received the grand prize, a trip to Walt Disney World in Orlando. He has participated in all three stages of the tournament and said he has been fishing for three years.

"I wanted to win the whole thing and get a lot of the [gift] cards," Jumper said in reference to the prizes from Outdoor World for the winners.



Chris C. Jenkins  
Blevyns Jumper

With participants coming from other reservations, including Brighton and Hollywood, Recreation Dept. Director Moses "Bigg" Jumper Jr. said he was pleased with the participation at each leg of the first-year tournament.

"We have had a good crowd every time," Jumper said. "I think it turned out great; these guys got an opportunity to give back a little."

"Hopefully, we are on our way to turning these kids into future fishermen," he added.

Tribal citizen and longtime fisherman Lenny Jim participated in the final stage of the tournament. He said he has learned a lot throughout the years he has participated in the sport.

"Fishing has actually taught me," Jim said. "Growing up on the reservation it was one of the only things you could do, you could eat what you brought home also."

Jim says the garfish is still the most traditional and common catch for him and has been a staple of Seminole cuisine for centuries.

Gift cards were given to everyone from the retail sporting goods chain Outdoor World. The winners from Leg 3 of the tournament were: 1. Barney Tiger, 7 pounds, 19 ounces, 2. Hunter Billie, 6 pounds, 69 ounces, 3. Kenny Deeschine, 5 pounds, 53 ounces, 4. Josh Blevyns, 3 pounds, 46 ounces, 5. Anthony Cypress, 2 pounds, 65 ounces.



Chris Jenkins  
(L-R) Dad Mitch Osceola baits his hook while son, Conchade, watches how its done.



## RODEO





## FISHING



Chris C. Jenkins

(L-R) First place winner Blevyns Jumper, Josh Santiago and Josh Jumper all take their turns pulling in the big catch.

## Leg Two of Fishing Tourney Draws Participants

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Fishing enthusiasts including Josh Jumper and Amos Tiger did just as the name implies — they went fishing with a child — during Leg 2 of the annual Take a Kid Fishing tournament, held July 10.

“The sport of fishing has become so big that we want to continue to preserve that so [the youth] can do it for years to come,” Jumper said.

He participated in the tournament with youngsters Josh Santiago and Blevyns Jumper, who took top honors in Leg 2 of the tournament with a 7 pound, 5 ounce catch.

“What I would like to see more of is guys with boats come out and take these kids fishing,” Jumper added.

Tiger said he enjoyed the tournament because he likes to catch saltwater fish in the BC area. He competed with his partner, Wyatt Amos Hines, in Leg 2.

“This is good for the kids because it shows that they like to fish as well,” Tiger said. “[Wyatt] loves to fish so I thought it would be a good idea for him.”

“Whether you win or lose, it is good to be out for a good day of fishing,” he added.

The day’s activities started just as they did in Leg 1 with some good eats. The BC Recreation Dept. treated the participants to lunch at the Swamp Water Café. Tournament play began afterwards.

Hollywood Recreation Dept. Coordinator Steve Young said the three-part series

continues to be a hit with more interest shown at each stage.

“We do the series so we can get different folks to show up,” Young said.

Like Leg 1, winners received gift certificates to the retail sporting goods chain Outdoor World. Overall winners will receive a trip to Walt Disney World in Orlando at the tournament’s conclusion.

Leg 2 youth division tournament winners were: 1. Blevyns Jumper, 7 pounds, 5 ounces, 2. Alycia Cypress, 6 pounds, 4 ounces, 3. Tyler Cypress, 2 pounds, 9 ounces, 4. Jake Cotton, 2 pounds, 2 ounces, 5. Ryan Cypress, 1 pound, 6 ounces.



Chris C. Jenkins

Participants in Leg 2 of the Take A Kid Fishing Tournament.

## My Granddaughter Catches A Big One

BY PAUL “COWBONE” BUSTER  
Contributing Writer

I am very proud of my granddaughter, Kirstin Metcalf. She will be 8-years-old in September. I love her very much! I call her “Taykooche,” which means “little girl.”

This summer she has been very busy helping her mom with chores in and around the house. She also helps her mom by taking care of her baby sister. Babies are a big responsibility and her mom needs help; Taykooche is always willing to help.

Aside from all the chores at home, Taykooche and her dad, Jesse, find time to do some fishing. They pack up all the necessities in his big truck and embark on their journey for the day, sometimes for the weekend.

Taykooche is very good at landing a big bass. She cleans the fish and provides food for the family. Taykooche is learning the basics of life: fishing, hunting, helping at home, helping with her grandparents, and, most importantly, going to church, learning about God and reading her Bible.

Taykooche does not limit herself to freshwater fishing. She and her dad go deep sea fishing every now and then. Her dad has a big boat that is made for the ocean waters. They go fishing for tuna or dolphin, and sometimes a shark may linger around her bait, but she doesn’t mind.

Recently she caught a dolphin almost as big as she is. She was very proud.

I love my grandbabies and I also know that you love yours too. Let’s take care of them, love them and teach them about what is good in life — it will make a difference. Let’s catch a big one!



Photo Submitted by Paul “Cowbone” Buster

(L-R) Kirstin Metcalf and dad, Jesse, show off the dolphin the two caught on one of their fishing trips.



Photo Submitted by Paul “Cowbone” Buster

Kirstin Metcalf holds one of her prized catches.

Photo Submitted by Paul “Cowbone” Buster  
Paul “Cowbone” Buster

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## BASKETBALL

# Youth Attend 'Take it to the Hoop' Camp

BY CHRIS JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Community youth and teens, ages 6-17, had an opportunity to improve their basketball ability, shooting skills and enhance game awareness on July 9-11.

Both novice players and those with more experience attended the Take it to the Hoop Basketball Camp, held at the BC Gym. The Big Cypress Recreation Dept. sponsored the event and Tom Kane, president of Winning Ways Basketball in Orlando, directed it.

"Depending on the age group we can tailor the camp to the group," Kane said. "We just want to give kids a good experience."

"My goal is always two fold: learn something and execute and have fun," he continued. "These things will hopefully peak their interest to learn more."

Kane said he has trained everyone from 4-year-olds to college players, assisting at the University of Tampa, and even with the professional Orlando Magic team.

About 13 youngsters attended the morning and afternoon camp sessions. Kane, however, said the relatively small group helps the students learn best because



Instructors (L-R, Top Row) Zoran Viskovic and Tom Kane give the students instruction before they begin an exercise.

he can give each person more individual attention, saying "too much coaching and not a lot of teaching" can plague the young players.

"I would, a lot of times, rather have a small group that wants to learn than a large group," he explained.

Tribal citizen and participant Karlito Wargolet said the camp helped him better learn the game as well as gain more experience on the court.

"It was a good opportunity to try to get better," Wargolet said. "I wanted to work on how to get more explosive and have a quicker first step."

The variety-based camp aims to better players in several areas including: proper mechanics, setup and delivery, three-point setup, shooting off the pass, rebounding, proper floor spacing, foul shooting mechanics, proper footwork, shooting off the dribble and mental aspects of the game, to name a few.

Director of Player Training and Development for Winning Ways Basketball, and former University of Valparaiso college standout, Zoran Viskovic, said he has noticed a negative and reoccurring trend among players, even those at the professional level. Fundamentals and work ethic issues continue to slow even the best efforts made by both U.S. and international teams, he said.

The 6'10" Croatia-native played center overseas for several teams in France, China and Germany throughout the years, but is best known in the U.S. for his All-Conference honors at Valparaiso, where he led the team and conference in blocked shots. He is also known for his team's three NCAA Tournament March Madness appearances in the late 1990s.

"Basketball is a game of details," Viskovic said. "You can never get enough fundamental work and practice."

"Our area is to really focus on their skill development," he added.

For more information about Winning Ways Basketball camps, call (239)357-3020 or e-mail tom@winwaysinc.com.



Chris Jenkins

Gianna Wargolet goes to the hoop during the lay-up drills.

## POOL



Chris Jenkins

Betty Osceola concentrates on her next move.

# Juanita Billie Honored at Annual Tourney

BY CHRIS JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — The 7th annual Juanita Billie Memorial Pool Tournament paid homage to Billie, a Tribal pioneer who is credited for her work as an organizer, negotiator, writer, interpreter and senior leader.

In years past, both Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress and Chairman Mitchell Cypress have credited Billie for her tireless work in helping form the Tribe and its constitution as well as obtaining federal recognition "without any personal fanfare," according to the Chairman.

In the double elimination tournament, held at the Senior Center on July 24, the Big Cypress community seniors played in 8-ball and scotch doubles games.

Billie's sons, Ruben and Edmond, said the annual gathering is a way to both credit and remember their mother, as well as the values she taught them.

"It is a way of honoring her because she was always in the background," Ruben Billie said. "She taught us the values of being a Native American and showed respect for everyone else."

He added that she was an avid lover of pool, even though early in her life she was not allowed to play in many billiards establishments since she was a Native American woman. Ruben also recalled his mother's good sense of humor and her accomplishments, including being one of the first Seminoles to attend high school and how she spoke three languages, English, Creek and Mikasuki.

BC Senior Center Site Manager Cecilia Guzman has been involved with the event since its inception and said it is still nice to be a part of the tournament.

"It was a pleasure to see everyone there," Guzman said. "It is pleasing to me to still see people come out and support her and her memory."



Chris Jenkins

Edmond Billie prepares to take his next shot.

## Pool Tournament Results

Senior Men, Ages 55-59: 1. Edmond Billie, 2. Ruben Billie, 3. Joe Osceola; Ages 60 and Older: 1. Joe Junior Billie, 2. Paul Bowers Sr., 3. Russell Osceola

Senior Women, Ages 55 and Older: 1. Juanita Osceola, 2. Louise Osceola, 3. Louise Billie

Scotch Doubles: 1. Annie Jumper/Joe Billie, 2. Juanita Osceola/Russell Osceola, 3. Esther Buster/Rudy Osceola

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# GOLF

## Osceola

Continued from page 1C

It was play your own ball for the best score on holes 10-18, and a two person scramble for the best scores 1-9. The 10th hole could be played with irons only, but if a player hit their ball into a designated circle, they got to take a free shot. No putters were allowed on the 18th hole and there was no pin to guide the participants when they played the fifth hole.

To further complicate matters, several contests overlapped the tournament play. It was time to break out the measuring tape on the four Par 3 holes, where the top three players landed closest to the pin received a prize on each hole. The person with the longest drive on hole 8 in all divisions was awarded. During the break, between the front and back nine holes, a sand trap and putting contest took place at the rear of the clubhouse.

It was extremely hot with temperatures topping 100 degrees and only an occasional breeze to offer any relief. It takes dedicated golfers to play under these conditions, as Mondo Tiger pointed out.

Osceola would have welcomed rolling fairways and a golf cart when he fought his way across the wild Florida landscape," Tiger said. "It was the determination and strength of warriors like him that made it possible for us to be here today."

Following the tournament, Tiger gave a brief historical tribute to Osceola. He also acknowledged the many other brave warriors and their families who sacrificed themselves and their possessions in an effort to remain in their chosen homeland.

The proposal that this become the first tournament in a series of three met with unanimous approval. Tiger stated that dates for the two future competitions would be announced and suggested Hollywood as one of the locations for play.

Woody Doherty, golf professional for Immokalee Seminole Recreation, distributed awards as follows: Putting & Sand Shot: 1. Virginia Billie, 2. Ray Garza



(L-R) Mondo Tiger and Jahna Smith watch the measuring during the Closest to the Pin competition.

Jr., 3. Lawrence Osceola, 4. Randy Collins; Closest to the Pin: Hole 3: 1. Lawrence Osceola, 2. Manny Correa, 3. Elliott Young; Hole 6: 1. John Martin, 2. Randy Collins, 3. Elliott Young; Hole 11: 1. Keeno King, 2. K.B. Campbell, 3. Jessica Young; Hole 14: 1. Keeno King, 2. K.B. Campbell, 3. J.R. Alvarado; Longest Drive: Seniors: Ricky Doctor; Ladies: Virginia Billie; Blue Team: Josh Garza; Black Team: Elliott Young.

Tournament Play awards went to: 1. Lawrence Osceola/K.B. Campbell, 2. Abe Rockwell/Randy Collins, 3. Ray Garza Jr./Mike LeBlanc, 4. Mondo Tiger/Jahna Smith, 5. Elliott Young/Jessica Young, 6. Raymond Garza/Virginia Billie, 7. Ricky Doctor/John Martin, 8. J.R. Alvarado/Fred Wright, 9. Roy Poole/Leoda Poole, 10. Josh Garza/Manny Correa, 11. Keeno King/Gary Ridler.



Winners of the Honor the Warrior Osceola Golf Tournament at Copperhead Country Club in Lehigh Acres, Fla.

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

## Players Compete in Four-Man Scramble at Annual Sonny Billie Golf Tournament

BY FELIX DOBOSZ  
Staff Reporter

MIAMI — Both Seminole and Miccosukee Tribal citizens competed in a friendly game of 18 holes during the 5th annual Sonny Billie Memorial Golf Tournament, held Aug. 8 at the Miccosukee Golf & Country Club.

Ricky Doctor organized the event in honor of his late father, Sonny Billie, a medicine man for the Miccosukee Tribe, and the tournament's namesake.

Twenty golfers showed up for the early morning shotgun start. The five teams consisted of four players on each team in this four-man scramble competition. In the featured Best Ball Shot game, players hit their ball off the tee on their first drive down the fairway, as in a regular game. They then got to move their ball next to whatever teammate's ball landed nearest to the hole on their first drive shot.

"It makes the game a lot more fun," said golfer Mitch Osceola, whose team came in second place. "It's almost like getting a free shot."

The team of Lawrence Osceola, Sid Poole, Terry Willie and Cicero Osceola placed first with a team score of 338. Each person received a brand new golf driver.

"I want to thank the Seminole Tribe of Florida for sponsoring this event and the Miccosukee Tribe for hosting it," said organizer Ricky Doctor.

He also acknowledged the contributions of Max Billie, Cicero Osceola, Elaine Aguiar, David Cypress, Johnny Boone, Richard Bowlers Jr. and Max B. Osceola Jr. for supporting the event and honoring his father's memory.



The first place team of (L-R) Terry Willie, Cicero Osceola, Ricky Doctor, Lawrence Osceola and Sid Poole hold their grand prize drivers.



Felix Dobosz swings low and hits dirt and the ball, falling it down the fairway toward the hole.

### Results of the 5th Annual Sonny Billie Golf Tournament

Four-Man Scramble: 1. Lawrence Osceola, 80, Sid Poole, 83, Terry Willie, 81, Cicero Osceola, 94, Total: 338; 2. Mitch Osceola, 71, Rusty Billie, 93, Steve Osceola, 84, Andrew Bert, 90, Total: 346; 3. Ruby Willie, 91, Eric Cypress, 88, Kahaine Osceola, 80, Richard Buster, 92, Total: 352; 4. Ricky Doctor, 89, Mondo Tiger, 88, Raymond Garza, 86, Virginia Billie, 94, Total: 357; 5. Mabel Doctor, 104, Ernest Riley, 98, Bobby Frank, 96, Ronnie Doctor, 97, Total: 395.

Closest to the Pin, Pin #4: Men: 1. Kahaine Osceola, 2. Mondo Tiger, 3. Terry Willie; Women: 1. Virginia Billie.

Longest Drive, Pin #5: Men: 1. Terry Willie, 2. Sid Poole; Women: 1. Mabel Doctor.

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

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# Health

The Healthy Senior . . 2D  
The Healthy Seminole 2D  
Announcements . . . 6D

D



(L-R) Andy and Helene Buster conducted a recovery meeting following the picnic lunch at Serenity in the Sun.

July Weeks

## Serenity in the Sun Members Enjoy Their Day in the Sun

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Writer

**IMMOKALEE** — The Family Services Dept. hosted a day of fun-filled activities for the members of the after-care program on June 14 at the Immokalee Ball Field and Recreation Complex.

Members of the program, called Serenity in the Sun, enjoyed a leisurely afternoon together doing various outdoor activities.

Aftercare Counselor Rudolph "Chip" Faircloth, organized games of horseshoes, chess, putt-putt golf and driving range competitions for the participants and their families who came from Big Cypress, Brighton, Immokalee and the Miccosukee Tribe.

Ray King manned the grill, while his wife, Jody, set up a picnic lunch. Family Services Director Helene Buster and her husband, Andy, conducted a recovery meeting.



Participants in the After Care Program participated in a horseshoe contest.

July Weeks

## Seniors Learn How to Combat Foodborne Illness

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**IMMOKALEE** — Seniors in the Immokalee community learned about the dangers of foodborne illnesses on July 28 during a presentation by Nutritionist/Health Educator Charlotte Porcaro.

Food contamination easily takes place on a regular basis, and can occur during preparation, serving and storage, according to Porcaro. During the summer months, this is especially true when heat and humidity become a factor as well as an increased amount of outdoor activities that include barbecues, picnics and open air vendors.

"Don't become a victim of foodborne illness,"

said Porcaro. "Full-blown food poisoning can be very debilitating and occasionally fatal. Infants, young children, pregnant mothers, older adults, diabetics and persons with weakened immune systems are most susceptible."

"Sometimes we have headaches, slight crampy feelings and do not feel up to par without realizing this is a result of our bodies attempting to fight off the effects of contaminated food," she continued. "This can be avoided by practicing proper procedures in food selection, handling, transportation, preparation and storage."

The presentation followed the proper path that food should take all the way from the grocery store

to the stomach. Highlighting cooking and storage temperatures as well as cleanliness, cross contamination and the rapid breeding ability of bacteria, the group learned how to battle this unseen foe.

"Do your part to avoid becoming a casualty of someone else's carelessness," Porcaro said while distributing food thermometers and pertinent literature. "Always make a quick analysis of the environment surrounding food offered by vendors, open air activities and family gatherings."

Concluding with a lengthy discussion on leftovers, the group, speaking in unison, repeated the valuable advice they learned in their class: "When in doubt, throw it out."



July Weeks

(L-R) Elizabeth Olea receives disposable thermometers from Nutritionist/Health Educator Charlotte Porcaro.



July Weeks

Nutritionist/Health Educator Charlotte Porcaro

## Seminole Dental Program Among Top in Area

SUBMITTED BY SEMINOLE DENTAL PROGRAM

**HOLLYWOOD** — Commander Tim Ricks, DMD, MPH, director of the Office of Public Health and Area Dental Officer of the Indian Health Service, Nashville Area — which includes Seminole Country — made a visit to the Dental Program's offices on April 30-May 1.

The purpose of his visit was to conduct a quality assurance review of the Seminole Dental Program and to provide staff with patient education documentation training. According to Ricks, the results of a quality assurance review showed the Seminole Dental Program "has significantly improved in productivity, efficiency, and quality of care provided in the past year."

Ricks' review found an increase in productivity by more than 10 percent thanks to the efforts of Dental Program staff members Dr. Claudia Otero, Big Cypress/Immokalee, Dr. Vincent McClane, Brighton, and Dr. Donald Woodlock, Hollywood. Furthermore, dental hygienists Belkys Bueno, Kerri Cook-Descheene, Rosie Garcia and Stacey Wilder-Handley, had a combined number of 1981 patient visits.

In addition to the increase in productivity, the Seminole Dental Program has seen significant improvement in chart documentation, as it scored the second highest among all 16 programs in the Nashville Area. Dr. Juan Packer, Dental Program manager and Dr. Maria Smith of Hollywood, ranked in the top five of the 24 dentists in the Nashville Area, with scores of 99 and 96, respectively. Ricks said Dr. Packer's score of 99 was the highest total score within his area.



## ERMD Seeking to Monitor Chronic Wasting Disease in Deer Population

SUBMITTED BY SARAH GRUBS  
Wildlife Biologist, ERMD

The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Environmental Resource Management Dept. (ERMD), in partnership with the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society, want to test for Chronic Wasting Disease within the Tribe's reservations. After testing, the ERMD hopes to provide Tribal citizens with information about this potentially damaging disease.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a disease similar to Mad Cow Disease, except that it affects deer populations. Very little is known about the behavior of this new disease, which is always 100 percent fatal. Infected deer will display droopy ears, excessive salivation and weight loss to the point they appear starving. The disease, unlike Mad Cow, has not yet been proven transferable to humans.

CWD has been detected in many states, with the closest being West Virginia. It has not yet been detected in Florida; however no monitoring program exists in Florida. In the Western U.S., many Tribes have already had their deer populations devastated by this disease.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida's ERMD would like to start monitoring for CWD within the reservations through voluntary sampling of deer. A \$25 handling fee will be paid for each deer sampled.

If you are an avid hunter on the Tribe's reservations, you can help. Please contact Linda Billie with the ERMD at (863) 902-3200, Ext. 13412 to learn more.



Submitted by the Seminole Dental Program

Award recipient Kerri Cook-Descheene (Third from Left) and (L-R) Dr. Harry Brown, CMO, Dr. Tim Ricks, ADO, and Dr. Cathy Hollister, Dental Support Center.

## Dental Program Staff Member Receives Top Award

SUBMITTED BY SEMINOLE DENTAL PROGRAM

**NASHVILLE** — Kerri L. Cook-Descheene, BSRDH, CDHC, received the 2008 Indian Health Service, Nashville Area, Dental Program's Leadership Award at the Nashville Area Health Summit on July 19.

Cook-Descheene received a certificate and a U.S. Public Health Service commemorative coin from Commander Tim Ricks, DMD, MPH, director of the Office of Public Health and area dental officer of the Indian Health Service, Nashville Area, M. Catherine Hollister, RDH, MSPH, Ph.D., director, United South and Eastern Tribe's Dental Support Center, and Dr. Harry Brown, chief medical officer, Nashville Area. Three other dental workers also received the award.

"This is the highest level of the Area Dental Awards Program and is established to recognize someone that has stood out over the past year in leadership in improving services to patients," Ricks said of Cook-Descheene.

A 14 year veteran employee with the Seminole Dental Program, Cook-Descheene currently serves as the prevention coordinator and administrative assistant. Her supervisor, and dental program manager, Dr. Juan Packer, nominated Cook-Descheene for the award.



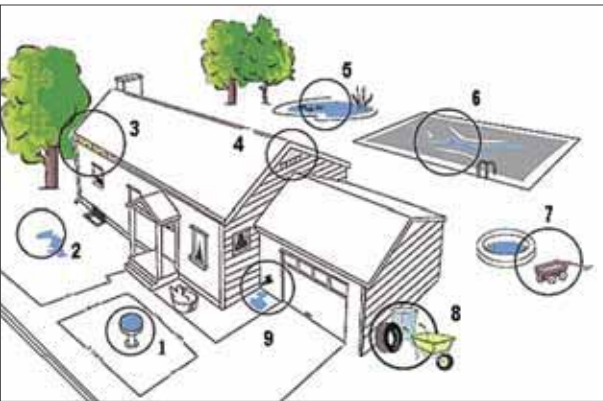


Photo Submitted by Tribal Environmental Health Program

The diagram shows areas around the home where mosquitoes most commonly breed.

## Reducing Mosquito Breeding Sites In, Near Home

BY AVA JOHN MPH, REHS & DOUG WILSON  
Tribal Environmental Health Program

Breeding can be one of the areas where mosquitoes like to breed can significantly reduce the risk of being bitten.

Following these tips will help prevent problems with one of Florida's most common insects. Water located in birdbaths should be changed every month and low-lying depressions in lawn areas where water can collect should be filled in. Leaves and twigs can block roof gutters and eaves troughs and prevent proper water drainage.

Open or broken window screens and attic vents offer perfect avenues for mosquitoes to make their way into your home. Window screens should fit snugly into the frame, vents should remain closed and for further prevention, windows should also be shut during the hours of day and dusk.

Stagnant water of any kind is another breeding area for mosquitoes. Pool covers and tarps used to cover boats can collect water and should be emptied right away. Store plastic wading pools inside or turn them over when not in use. Toys and other objects around the yard should be placed in an area where they won't collect rainwater.

Mosquitoes are often attracted to tires and other

containers with standing water that are left outside. To avoid this, turn over these items or remove if not being used. Dripping outside water faucets should be closed tightly as water build-up can create breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

The best way to keep mosquitoes from developing in or around your home or on your property is by following the 5 D's.

**Drain:** Reduce the amount of standing water in or near your property by draining and/or removing it. Mosquitoes lay eggs in areas with standing water.

**Deny:** Deny entry by mosquito-proofing your home with tight fitting screens on windows and doors.

**Dawn and Dusk:** When possible, avoid spending time outside at dawn and dusk.

**Dress:** Wear shoes, socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt when outdoors for long periods of time or when mosquitoes are most active.

**DEET:** For additional protection from mosquitoes, use an insect repellent containing DEET. Follow all instructions on the label. In most circumstances, products with 25 to 35 percent DEET provide adequate protection.

The Tribal Animal Control Program requests that those experiencing animal control issues call the Health Dept. at (954) 965-1300, Ext. 10363 for assistance.

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## Family Day

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National studies show that kids who have frequent family dinners are consistently less likely to smoke, drink or use drugs. Frequent family meals are also related to better nutritional intake, a decreased risk for unhealthy weight control practices and better grades.

Please, save this date and enjoy a wonderful evening with your family! Check out next month's Seminole Tribune for tips on how to have healthy and happy family meals!

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## THE HEALTHY SENIOR BY FRED CICETTI

[Editor's Note: Fred Cicetti is a syndicated columnist who writes about issues concerning senior citizens' health. The opinions he expresses are his own. If you would like to ask a question, please write Fred at [healthycicetti.com](mailto:healthycicetti.com). All Rights Reserved © 2008 by Fred[Cicetti].]

Q: You know, I brought maturity with its wider perspective on life would thank me some peace, but I'm more anxious now than when I was younger. Is that common among seniors?

A: Because the stresses of health problems, losses and other major life changes build up as we get older, we tend to become more anxious. Some surveys suggest that one in five older adults suffer anxiety symptoms that require treatment.

In addition to psychological causes, medical disorders common in older adults can be directly responsible

younger.

The following are some symptoms: pounding heart, perspiration, dizziness, numb hands, nausea, chest pain, feeling that you're smothering, fear of loss of control, a sense that you're losing your mind or about to die.

If you have obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), you may be haunted by unwelcome thoughts or the need to engage in rituals. You may be obsessed with germs or dirt, so you wash your hands repeatedly. You may feel the need to check things repeatedly.

The disturbing thoughts are called obsessions, and the rituals that are performed to try to prevent or get rid of them are called compulsions. Victims of OCD consume at least an hour a day with their compulsions.

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) can develop after a frightening experience. Often, people with

PTSD have repeated memories of the experience both during their waking hours and in nightmares. A person having a flashback may believe that the event is real.

Victims of PTSD may have trouble sleeping, feel detached, or be easily startled. They may have intrusive problems, they can become aggressive or even violent.

Social phobia, also called social anxiety disorder, involves excessive self-consciousness in social situations. People with social phobia are afraid of being judged by others and being embarrassed by their own actions.

Social phobias can be one type of situation or they may experience symptoms almost any time they are around other people. Symptoms include blushing, sweating, trembling, nausea, and difficulty talking.

A specific phobia is an exaggerated fear of one thing. Some of the more common specific phobias are triggered by heights, animals such as snakes, closed spaces, and flying.

Generalized anxiety disorder (GAD) means excessive worry about a variety of things or life in general. People with GAD experience a constant sense of uneasiness. Often, they have trouble falling or staying asleep.

Anxiety disorders are treated with medication and psychotherapy. Both approaches can be effective for most disorders. Anxiety disorders are not all treated the same, so it is important to determine the specific problem first.

Although medications won't cure an anxiety disorder, they can keep the symptoms under control and enable people to have normal lives.

## THE HEALTHY SEMINOLE

**Dear Health Educator,**

I am a grandmother. My grandchildren spend most of their time with me, including all their meals. I have noticed that my grandchildren really watch what I do and what I eat. If I decide to have some ice cream they want it too, or if I want to eat some of my sweets I am

hounded with "Please, grandma, please!" The other day at dinner my grandson would not eat his vegetables. I told him that it was important to eat them but his reply was that I don't eat my vegetables, so why should he?

I am also worried because my grandkids are gaining a lot of weight. They sit with me while I watch TV and when I tell them to go outside to play they say they want to stay with me.

I know the extra weight puts them at risk for many diseases including type II diabetes. I have not been as active as I used to be because I have been watching the children full time.

Please help me figure out how to change this pattern with my grandchildren.

Sincerely,  
**Me and My Shadows**

**Dear Ma and Ma's Shadow,**

It's a hard truth to accept, but children are watching us and learning from what we do. As adults and especially as elders you are looked to as examples because of your experience and wisdom. In all life's lessons children will knowingly or unknowingly look to the adults in their life. This also includes lifestyle choices such as healthy or unhealthy foods and exercise.

Setting a new routine or making a new habit is the way to go for you and your grandchildren. Both you and your grandchildren need to look at the foods you are choosing and at the amount of activity you are getting. But it is you as the adult who sets the groundwork for a healthy lifestyle, or an unhealthy one.

Here are some easy ways to begin making changes: Get rid of high fat, high sugar snacks in the house. Leave fresh fruits around the house as easily accessible snacks or make a vegetable platter with low fat dressing as an after-school snack.

There are many options available now that are low calorie, low fat and sugar free. An example would be 100 calorie packs, which come in cookies, cupcakes and even ice cream comes in 100 calorie portions these days. But limit yourself, just because it is 100 calories doesn't mean you can eat more of it.

Get off the couch. Watching TV can be relaxing and for some people, especially with children, it can be the only quiet time they get. Start a new routine with the children that can include some type of activity such as walking, playing at a park, swimming, jumping on a trampoline, etc. Ask them what kind of activities they like to do and come up with a plan to fit in one hour a day of activity.

Look in your community for events or sports teams your grandchildren may be interested in joining. Though you may not be able to do all the activities they want to, you can make a plan that includes activities like walking, swimming, even miniature golf which will be less taxing on your body. Sit down together and write out fun activities you, as a family, want to do. Make a reward and stick with it.

Plan yourself. Even making little changes is a start and if it's fun, kids will stick with it. Celebrate your achievements with non-food rewards. For example, if everyone eats all their vegetables for a whole month that equals a trip to their favorite place. Or if everyone sticks to the exercise plan, for three months that's a trip to an amusement park. Keep yourself motivated by looking toward the goal you set.

Come speak with your reservation's health educator or nutritionist. Making changes in the way we do



things can seem overwhelming at first. But your health educator or nutritionist can help you come up with healthy meal plans and snack ideas, and help you with a well rounded physical activity plan that keeps you motivated.

You, as a grandparent, are a great source of information and support for your grandchildren. You are also a role model to everyone around you. Your ability to make wise choices, stay strong, and share your knowledge is what ensures the future of your community and your family. Though there may be roadblocks, there is no such thing as being set in your ways.

They are your ways and this is your life, as well as your family's. You have the power to set healthy, life-long examples that will continue with each generation to come. Please come visit your clinic's health educator and nutritionist to start a plan toward a healthier life today. Remember, grandparents are their grandchildren's role models for a healthy today and tomorrow!

Best of luck,  
**Your Health Educator**

The column is submitted to *The Seminole Tribune* by members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Allied Health Department staff of nutritionist and health educators. We welcome all questions and provide one on one counseling as well as group lessons on a variety of health topics.

For more information about this topic mentioned in this month's column, please contact the health educator on your reservation.

Big Cypress Wellness Center, (863) 983-5798, Marjorie Meredith, Health Educator; Brighton Medical Clinic, (863) 763-0271, Barbara Boling, Health Educator; Hollywood Medical Clinic, (954) 962-2008, Tina Mennella, Health Educator; Immokalee Medical Clinic, (239) 867-3400, Charlotte Porcario, Dietitian/Health Educator.



# Announcements

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

*Happy birthday to my children  
Doneisha Jane Doctor and David Joe Doctor (RIP, Son)*

Neisha,  
Aug. 7 is a most special day. This is the day that you and your brother were brought into the world; a gift given to me from God above. You are loved so much and don't even realize it. I can't turn back the hands of time nor can I undo some of the things that hurt you deep within your soul. Unconditional love is all I have. "I'm sorry's," you've heard many times before. God has laid his loving arms on me. Now I am able to love me. Therefore, I am now able to love you better.  
Happy birthday Doneisha. I love you.

Your mother,  
Stacey Doctor Sanchez

To my son,  
It's been some time since you've been gone to be with the Lord. Because I know that's where you are. Trying not to be sad, trying not to feel guilty. I still loved you more than words can say.

So many things needed to be said, but no longer able. But I'll save that until we meet again in heaven. Your absence is still noticed. Things aren't the same with Crazy Ole Joe. I used to cry tears of pain. No longer are they tears of pain but tears of joy. And realizing that your father wanted you with him, I can't be mad! A little jealous, but not mad. I know you're in heaven's gates and now my guardian angel.

Happy birthday Lil Joe! You are missed and truly loved.  
I love you son, always and forever.

Your mother,  
Stacey Doctor Sanchez



Happy 6th birthday to **Dar'Rick**  
"Rick Rick" Christopher Nelson-Williams AKA "D-Dog" on Sept. 7

To my little Medicine Man,  
Son, you are the joy of my life. Words can't express how overjoyed I am to be blessed with an angel like you. I never want to lose you again; that's why we had to make some changes. I almost gave up a few months ago, but Devin is watching over us and she won't let anything bad happen to us.  
Son, life is short and now I realize that you are my purpose and I'm going to do right by you and stop being so selfish. You deserve so much love and I'm going to give it to you. It's our time to shine, Rick. Let me tell



you one thing and one thing only, never give up son. Now get ready to show the world what you are made of. I love you and always will.

Love,  
Mom (Carolee J. Anderson)

Happy birthday to my son and my little best friend, "D-Dog." Ricky, I am so proud that I am a part of your life and that I can see you grow into a wonderful young man and go to college. I will be there for you all the way.

May God continue to bless you with love, joy and happiness because he sure blesses me with you.

Love,  
Dad (Gary P. Anderson)

## IN MEMORIAM



### Sho-Naa-Bish Thank You

The Osceola Family wishes to express sincere thanks and appreciation to community members, friends, family and the Tribal Council and Board representatives for their support and kindness after the tragic loss of LySaundra Frances Apollonia Osceola.

The family also wishes to acknowledge the thoughtful expressions of kindness and support given by the Seminole Police Department, the speakers Pastor Wonder Johns, First Seminole Baptist Church of Brighton, and Bob Rose. Special thanks to the uncles Steve, Mitch, Jimbo for taking care of everything.

"Saunch" was a member of the Panther Clan  
Born September 30, 1987  
Died suddenly July 13, 2008

*"She has slipped away to follow her star  
In a land beyond our sight  
And we know she journeys there, as here  
In God's own bright light."*



### In loving memory of my cousin and sister Devin Mindy Cypress-Kimble

Sent from above to show us all how to love  
You were a part of my life, how God blessed us all  
Whenever life wasn't treating me kind one call to you made everything better and new  
Just to see your smile and feel your warmth made my happy

You didn't realize the strength you carried inside yourself

A beautiful person, wife, mother, sister and cousin

Your love, so pure and unconditional

When it came down to it, your spirit stood tall and gracefully with the sun

Your loving words and arms took away the pain

My loving cousin always kept me sane

Your heart is like home, I felt safe

No one understands the relationship you and I shared

Dev, thanks for letting me in

You taught me so much about life and myself, especially never to give up

You are truly missed  
I love you sister, cousin and friend  
No matter how far you go, I will follow you where ever you are

Love always,  
Carolee Nelson Anderson  
Fooshé Forever



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combo.

## ATTENTION SEMINOLE TV VIEWERS

In February 2009, older televisions that do not have a built-in digital tuner or receive over-the-air broadcasts with an antenna will not be able to view the digital signal unless they have a DIRECTV receiver, Comcast services (Cable or Box), Dish Network, or Embarq

Any Tribal member who does not have one of the options listed above will need a digital-to-analog converter box. In an effort to assist Tribal members in acquiring these converter boxes the Tribal member must notify the Broadcasting Dept. so one can be acquired before February 2009.

Broadcasting can provide them for \$50.

Those Tribal members who do not want to purchase one from the Broadcasting Dept. can fill out an application online at [www.dtv.gov](http://www.dtv.gov) or request one by phone from the Federal Communications Commission at (888) 225-5322 to receive a \$40 coupon which they can use to purchase a converter box. Limit two coupons per household.

For additional information,  
please contact your local  
Broadcasting Office:

Hollywood: (954) 985-5703  
Big Cypress: (863) 902-3217  
Immokalee: (239) 658-9256  
Tampa: (813) 621-2882  
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## ❖ Princess

Continued from page 1

Osceola Wheeler, 14, Erena Billie, 14, Alisia Billie, 12, Amber Craig, 17, Lariah Balentine, 14, Amelia Nunez, 13, Cassandra Jimmie, 16, Kirsten Doney, 12, Lorelei Tommie, 13, and Alissa Dorgan, 14.

The Miss Seminole contestants, JaMenia Thomas, 25, D'Anna Osceola, 21, Chelsea Mountain, 18, Dannette Bowers, 25, and Brittany Smith, 18, then took the stage for their introductions.

Following the introductions, the 16 ladies modeled traditional Seminole dress. Each participant's dress had to be handmade, all cotton, and include a long cape. The talent competition followed, with each girl given three minutes on stage to show their talent to the judges.

The Jr. Miss contestants went first, with Jaryca Baker singing a rendition of "Amazing Grace" in Creek, accompanied by flautist Sonny Nevaquaya. Poets Erena Billie, Alisia Billie and Amber Craig followed, reciting original works for the audience.

Erena Billie read "My Indian Warrior," a poem she wrote for her late brother, J-Wayco. Alisia Billie recited her poem "Osceola's Colors," about Osceola and the Seminole flag, which she wrote after visiting St. Augustine — where Osceola was imprisoned — on the 2005 Hollywood Youth Conference trip. Amber Craig shared her poem "The Unconquered," which she said represents being Seminole and proud.

The remaining young ladies chose to focus their presentations on Seminole culture. Lariah Balentine showed a short film on how to make the traditional beverage corn sofkee, from start to finish. Amelia Nunez gave a step-by-step presentation of making pumpkin bread, a staple of Seminole cuisine.

Cassandra Jimmie demonstrated the step-by-step construction of a chickee for the judges with a miniature one on stage, and also explained the history behind the traditional structures. Kirsten Doney gave a detailed description of the eight remaining Clans and explained how they came about.

Lorelei Tommie discussed the importance of language preservation, and detailed how the Tribal youth learn certain words, which she said in addition to preserving Seminole culture, is fun for them to learn. Dakota Osceola Wheeler told the judges about the prevalence of beadwork in the Seminole culture, displaying various beads and photos of Seminole women wearing them throughout the years.

Alissa Dorgan paid homage to one of the Tribe's first money-making enterprises — alligator wrestling and gave recognition to some of the Seminole alligator wrestling pioneers.

The Miss Seminole contestants then took the stage to display their talent for the judges. Their talents ranged from explaining Seminole clothing to culture and customs.

JaMenia Thomas explained how to make a traditional cape with the help of two models, while Chelsea Mountain discussed the evolution of Seminole clothing. Brittany Smith showed the judges traditional patchwork designs used in Seminole fashion and explained how they have changed throughout the years.

D'Anna Osceola shared the history of her family lineage, showing photos of her family and telling the story of Tribal matriarch Polly Parker. Dannette Bowers gave details of the Sabal palm tree, which Seminoles of the past used for food — the hearts of the palm are edible — as well as other everyday uses.

During the next portion of the pageant, the contestants had to answer impromptu questions which they pulled at random from a bowl. This portion showed the contestants' knowledge of their culture and Tribe, as well as allowing the judges to see how well they spoke in public, an important quality all princesses must possess.

After the questioning, the ladies changed into their crowning wear and awaited the final decision. At this time the Princess Committee, along with Chairman Mitchell Cypress, paid special recognition to the past princesses.

Princess Pageant Committee Chairwoman Wanda Bowers told the crowd this presentation took more than a year and half to finalize. Enceco Sally Iv Tommie then called those past princesses in attendance, including Bowers herself, to the stage and presented them with a replica of a princess crown made of Swarovski crystals and boxed for display. The crowns each featured the year that princess reigned.

Following this presentation, the judges made their way back to the stage and everyone took their seats as the tabulators gave the results to the emcee.

Special talent awards went to Amber Craig and D'Anna Osceola, who also both went on to win the Jr. Miss and Miss Florida Seminole titles, respectively. Miss Congeniality, an award in which the winner is selected by the contestants themselves, went to Kirsten Doney.

Next, the nervous contestants stood on stage as the Jr. Miss and Miss Florida Seminole winners were announced. The Jr. Miss contestants, Jaryca Baker, Erena Billie, Alisia Billie, Cassandra Jimmie, Lorelei Tommie and Alissa Dorgan, received special recognition for their participation.

The Jr. Miss first runner up was Amelia Nunez; second runner up was Kirsten Doney; third runner up was Dakota Osceola Wheeler; fourth runner up was Lariah Balentine.

First runner up for the Miss Florida Seminole title was Brittany Smith; second runner up was Chelsea Mountain; third runner up JaMenia Thomas; and fourth runner up was Dannette Bowers.

The two top spots went to 2008-2009 Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Amber Craig and 2008-2009 Miss Florida Seminole was D'Anna Osceola.

Craig, Bird Clan from the Brighton Reservation, said she competes in the pageants because they are fun, but admits she was determined to win this one.

"This is a dream come true," said Craig, the 2007-2008 Brighton Seminole princess.

She said she plans to represent her Tribe to the best of her ability. In the future, Craig said she would like to attend college and attain a degree in business administration or journalism. She credits her mother as an influence in her life because she said her mother is always there for her and supportive of her.

Osceola, Bird Clan from the Brighton Reservation, said this was her time to compete; it was also her first time competing. She is scheduled to graduate in the fall of 2009 from Florida State University and has hopes to continue attending graduate school to major in counseling.

She also said it was difficult to find documentation of her ancestors for her talent, adding, without the help of her family she couldn't have obtained the information she needed.

"My family has always supported me," Osceola said. "I wanted to do this for myself and the Tribe."



Miss Florida Seminole 2008-2009 D'Anna Osceola and 2008-2009 Jr. Miss Amber Craig after receiving their crowns.

Stephen Galla



Marisol Gonzalez

(L-R) Jr. Miss Contestants Jaryca Baker, Dakota Osceola Wheeler, Erena Billie, Alisia Billie, Amber Craig, Lariah Balentine, Amelia Nunez, Cassandra Jimmie, Kirsten Doney, Lorelei Tommie and Alissa Dorgan, with 2007-2008 Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Alicia Nunez (Seated, Center).





Marisol Gonzalez  
(L-R) Dakota Osceola Wheeler, Chelsea Mountain and Brittany Smith await the committee's instructions telling them what to expect at the pageant.



Marisol Gonzalez  
Erena Billie rehearses reciting the poem she wrote about her late brother, J-Wayco, titled "My Indian Warrior."



Marisol Gonzalez  
(L-R) Cassandra Jimmie and JaMenia Thomas converse with other contestants and the judges during a Princess Dinner held in the Hard Rock Ballroom.



Marisol Gonzalez  
(L-R) Jr. Miss Seminole contestant Kirsten Doney with Miss World Nicole Alek'ag Colbert. The two hold one of the Seminole dolls which two lucky attendees took home as special prize keepsakes.



Marisol Gonzalez  
Mother and daughter past princesses (L-R) Rita McCabe, 1990 princess, mom, Louise Gopher, 1965 princess, and Carla Gopher, 1984 princess.



Marisol Gonzalez  
Chairman Mitchell Cypress (L) speaks to the crowd about how happy he is to see so many girls participate in this year's pageant.



Marisol Gonzalez  
Cassandra Jimmie speaks about the history of chickees during a practice dress rehearsal.



Marisol Gonzalez  
The 2007-2008 Little Miss Seminole Brianna Bowers with 2007-2008 Miss Florida Seminole Jennifer Chalfant at the Princess Banquet.



Marisol Gonzalez  
(L-R) Jaryaca Baker practices singing "Amazing Grace" in Creek while Sonny Nevaquaya accompanies her on flute.



Marisol Gonzalez  
(L-R) JaMenia Thomas, D'Anna Osceola, Chelsea Mountain, 2007-2008 Miss Florida Seminole Jennifer Chalfant, Danette Bowers and Brittany Smith.



Marisol Gonzalez  
(L-R) Cassandra Jimmie and Miss Florida Seminole Princess 2007-2008 Jennifer Chalfant in their semi-formal attire.



Marisol Gonzalez  
Judge Bradley Cooley Sr. (C) talks with the contestants during a breakfast session of judging.



Marisol Gonzalez  
Weeks before the actual pageant, contestants attended a princess workshop to ask questions and prepare for the pageant. This was the first year the contestants took part in this workshop.



*Amber Craig*  
*2008-2009 Jr. Miss Florida Seminole*



*D'Anna Osceola*  
*2008-2009 Miss Florida Seminole*





# Princess Committee Meets After Pageant

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ  
Staff Reporter

**CLEWISTON, Fla.** — The Princess Pageant Committee met at the Clewiston Inn for a pageant follow-up meeting on Aug. 12. Committee Chairwoman Wanda Bowers called the meeting to assess the pros and cons at the culmination of this year's Princess Pageant. Tina Osceola, Christine McCall, Holly Tiger-Bowers, Brittany Yescas, Salina Dorgan, Priscilla Sayen, Lawanna Osceola-Niles, Connie Gowen, Charolette Burgess, Alice Billie, Mercedes Osceola-Hahn, JoJo Osceola and Gloria Wilson all attended.

The ladies shared their thoughts on the importance of having a Princess Pageant and how they plan to make next year's pageant better than those of previous years. In addition, they discussed contestant preparedness, the talent competition, talent expectations, contestant applications and committee involvement.

The committee decided that the 2009-2010 pageant will have contestant workshops where the young ladies will learn topics including etiquette, public speaking and leadership development.

Committee member, and past princess, Gloria Wilson said the workshops are a good idea.

"The princess is the ambassador for the Tribe," Wilson said. "The princess needs to be strong in etiquette and grammar."

Fellow committee member and past princess Holly Tiger-Bowers agreed.

"The committee works for one main goal; to get a new princess that is qualified to represent the Tribe," she said.

Marisol Gonzalez

(L-R, Back Row) Tina Osceola, Christine McCall, Holly Tiger-Bowers, Brittany Yescas, Wanda Bowers. (L-R, Front Row), Salina Dorgan, Priscilla Sayen, Lawanna Osceola-Niles, Connie Gowen, Charolette Burgess, Alice Billie and Gloria Wilson.



# Princess Judges Tour Big Cypress Reservation

BY WANDA BOWERS  
Contributing Writer

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Seminole Princess Pageant judges managed to squeeze in a trip to the Big Cypress Reservation on July 24 among the numerous activities that took place during the week of the pageant.

Their hosts Christine McCall, the 2005 Seminole Princess, and myself, Wanda Bowers, the 1968 Seminole Princess accompanied judges Miss Indian World Nicole Alek'aq Colbert (Yup'ik Eskimo), Miss Florida USA Anastasia Pierre, Brad Cooley of the Bronze by Cooley sculpture team, and Miss Indian World Pageant Program Coordinator Melonie Matthews (Santa Clara Pueblo Navajo).

Their first stop was the famous Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. The judges took in the story of the Clans, along with other Seminole history, which included a lesson about the Seminole Wars.

Their lessons then moved to the present day, with the 20th century in front of their eyes as the group learned about the Seminole Hard Rock Casino & Hotel. The judges said learning about it was interesting. Since some of them live out West, they had not previously known much about Seminole and their accomplishments.

Then we took a walk back into history on the next part of the tour. We were shown how the Seminoles used to cook, hunt and trade, as well as what transportation they used and what kind of clothing they wore. The group also learned about the Green Corn Dance and stickball games. We bought some Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum T-shirts and went down the road to our next adventure — an airboat ride.

We went deep into the swamp where we met Charlie — the biggest gator Miss Indian World Nicole Alek'aq Colbert said she had ever seen. Being from Napakiak, Alaska, Colbert said she loved everything except the intense Florida heat and humidity, so we didn't get to go out on the swamp buggy ride.

We had a nice lunch at the Swamp Water Café where the adventurous Colbert tried frog legs for the first time. She said they do not taste like chicken, as people say; however, she could not identify just what they did taste like.

After lunch we headed to the Seminole Veteran's Memorial, located on Mitchell Cypress Fitness Trail across from the Big Cypress Family Investment Center. We then started making our way back to the Hollywood Reservation for the evening's Princess Pageant Welcome Dinner.

I am always proud to show other Natives who visit our area a little bit of Seminole life and the history behind us. Thank you to thank Pedro Zepeda for a job well done and to Andrew Necoleitos, our airboat driver, for a very interesting ride.



The judges, (L-R, Front Row) Miss Florida USA Anastasia Pierre, Melonie Matthews, Miss Indian World Nicole Colbert and Brad Cooley (Back Row, Center) take an airboat ride at Billie Swamp Safari with (L-R, Back Row) their guide Andrew Necoleitos and host Christine McCall.



The Princess Pageant judges and their guide Christine McCall (C) visit the Native American Seminole Veterans Memorial Wall on their tour of the Big Cypress Reservation.