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Tribal Council Meets in Tampa

By Chris Jenkins

TAMPA — The Tribal Council met at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino on Nov. 16. They passed 47 resolutions on the regular agenda including:

Resolution 16: Service line agreement (289' X 18') between Lee County Electric Cooperative and the Seminole Tribe of Florida-Immokalee Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 17: Service line agreement (325' X 20') between Glades Electric Cooperative and Edna Tommie-Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 18: Service line agreement (400' X 25') between Glades Electric Cooperative and Rudy Mariann Billie-Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 19: Grant of Easement for right of way to Florida Power and Light Company for Seminole Water Treatment Plant-Hollywood Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 20: United States Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service Grant application to fund the Seminole Tribe of Florida Wildlife Management Program proposal for fiscal years 2008, 2009, 2010;

Resolution 21: First Amendment to the Twentieth Annual Work Plan submitted to the South Florida Water Management District by the Seminole Tribe of Florida;

Resolution 22: United States Environmental Protection Agency grant application to fund the Seminole Tribe of Florida Watershed Management Base Program Clean Water Act, Section 319 non-competitive grant program proposal for the Tribal fiscal year 2009;

Resolution 23: Hillsborough River State Park memorandum of agreement to provide in-kind services in-lieu of mitigation for the restoration and enhancement of selected wetland and upland buffer habitats;

Resolution 24: Kronos Incorporated Sales, software license and service agreement, and depot exchange support agreement for Timeclock Equipment, software and related services for the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino-Tampa;

Resolution 25: Engagement letter for audit of the combined Seminole Gaming Enterprises financial statements, and for the combined financial statements for the Hollywood and Tampa Enterprises,

◆ See COUNCIL, page 14



(Front Row, L-R) John Wayne Huff, president of the Brighton Veterans Group, Moses B. Osceola, Archie Johns, Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Brighton Board Rep. Johnnie Jones, Brighton Council Rep. Roger Smith, Stanlo Johns, President Richard Bowers Jr., (Back Row, L-R) Coleman Josh, Sammy Gopher and Wonder Johns.

Florida Seminole Veterans Center Groundbreaking

By Susan Etchebarria

BRIGHTON — In the spirit of true Seminole warriors, the veterans at Brighton never gave up. For several years they proposed, planned and pushed for a dream, and finally their dream has come true.

Due to their diligence and perseverance a new "star" is born. The star is that of the pentagon-shaped, 24,321 square foot Florida Seminole Veterans Center being constructed in Brighton. Site preparation began the first week in December.

On Nov. 15 a groundbreaking ceremony for this building took place. Those in attendance learned that this center will serve the needs of all Seminole Tribe veterans, as well as be used for community and official Tribal meetings.

In attendance were Tribal officials, architects, designers, contractors, builders, well-wishers and veterans and their families.

The Color Guard posted the colors, and Governor's Council on Indian Affairs Liaison, and Color

Guard member, Steven Bowers, officiated as emcee. The first thing Bowers did was recognize the Tribe's veterans, those who have passed away and those with special honors. He also recognized Seminoles on active duty and the warriors who died fighting for freedom.

He then welcomed a special speaker to the podium, John Wayne Huff, president of the Brighton Seminole Veterans. Huff said the Brighton vets began

◆ See VETS, page 6

Litefoot Wows Ahfachkee Audience

By Judy Weeks

BIG CYPRESS — Award-winning Native American actor, rap artist and motivational speaker, Litefoot, has visited the Big Cypress community before, but each time he arrives it is like the first time. When he and his wife Carmen walked out of their motor home on Nov. 27, the children at Ahfachkee were waiting with anticipation.

Last year, this member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, visited 211 reservations in 40 states and traveled more than 54,000 miles in 12 months during his Reach The Rez Tour. He initiated his 2007 tour this past August and by December will have reached 50 reservations delivering a powerful message to Native

Americans of all ages. The Seminole Tribe of Florida, The Pequot Tribe and The Cherokee Nation, are major sponsors of this unprecedented effort.

In addition to Litefoot's Reach the Rez Tour, he has starred in ten films and television programs, released 10 albums and won seven

Native American Music Awards, including Best Hip Hop/Rap Recording, Best Male Artist, and he was 2005's Artist of the Year.

Litefoot's new album, *Relentless Pursuit*, will be his first major label release and will hit the stores nationwide during the spring of 2008.

His very successful businesses are making their mark in the music and fashion industry.

Dividing the school body into two groups, he began with the pre-kindergarten to fifth graders first thing in the morning. Litefoot is extremely adept at adjusting his message to reach the level of all age groups and has the unique ability to make his listeners believe that he is talking with them, not at them.

The younger crowd hung on his every word as he described his travels and accomplishments while instilling in them the desire to reach their potential and recognize their self-worth.

Reaching out to the sixth grade through high school he said: "I see the war on drugs, but I want to see better results on the battle field. Don't smoke! Don't Do Drugs! Become a direct example

◆ See LITEFOOT, page 10



Traditional dancers perform for the DNA crowd.

Gordon Oliver Wareham

Discover Native America Pow-Wow & Music Festival

By Elgin Jumper

TAMPA — When they occur, successful comebacks are always a good thing. And the Discover Native America Pow-Wow & Music Festival, held in Tampa at the Florida State Fairgrounds' Entertainment Hall — located next to the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino — Nov. 16-18, was definitely a clear success.

The gates opened at 9 a.m. each morning and closed at 10 p.m. nightly. This much-needed pow-wow was organized by Frank Moore Jr., Clara Billie-Guerue, Wanda Bowers, Christine McCall, Britney Yescas and Oliver Wareham, among others.

"They were all a big help, a big part of the success," said Moore Jr. "The [Tribal] Council was happy, and they want us to do it again next year."

Seminole Tribal leaders who attended this immensely important event were: Chairman Mitchell Cypress, President Richard Bowers, Hollywood Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., Big Cypress Council Rep. David Cypress, Brighton Council Rep. Roger Smith, Trail Liaison William Osceola and Big Cypress Board Rep. Cicero Osceola.

◆ See DNA, page 16



With his arm around Lariah Balentine, Litefoot talks to the student about the Creator.

Judy Weeks

Thanksgiving Holiday in Immokalee

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — The Immokalee Seminole community looks forward to the Thanksgiving holiday each year when they set aside time to count their blessings and reflect on the many achievements of the previous year. Thanksgiving is a time for strengthening family ties and renewing friendships as everyone takes time out of their busy lifestyle to relax and enjoy a bountiful dinner together.

Immokalee Preschool
 The Immokalee Preschool students and their parents gathered at the Senior Center on the evening of Nov. 8 for their annual Thanksgiving Dinner. The hall had been decorated for the occasion in fall colors with traditional designs, characters and symbols of the seasonal harvest.

The lavish buffet included both turkey and ham prepared by the Preschool staff. This was accompanied by generous side dishes contributed by the parents, who had made allowances for a kid-friendly menu to satisfy all age groups.

Seminole Preschool Director Leona Tommie Williams remarked: "Although Immokalee is a small community with a limited number of preschoolers, the families are very supportive of their children, as evidenced by



Spencer Aguilar is thankful for dessert.

Judy Weeks

this evening's turnout. Your commitment to these youngsters helps to lay the foundation for the future of the Seminole Tribe."

Speaking on behalf of her staff, Preschool Manager Michelle Ford said: "We are

◆ See THANKS, page 27

Photo Challenge



Tribune Archive Photo

Who are we?

Please see the January 18, 2008 issue of *The Seminole Tribune* for the answer.

Tribune Submission Form

Attention Seminole Tribal citizens and employees: If you would like to submit an announcement (birthday, new baby, marriage, etc.) or story idea to *The Seminole Tribune*, and to insure correct spelling, please fill out the information provided below. If you have any questions about deadlines, etc., please call *The Seminole Tribune* at (954) 985-5702, Ext. 2, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Our fax number is (954) 965-2937, or e-mail tribune@semtribune.com.

Write Your Announcement Below (Please Print Clearly)

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The Seminole Tribune

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Happy Holidays



To all of my people ... I wish you the joys of this holiday season. Remember that the best present we can receive from one another is sharing a blessed holiday with our loved ones. Please don't drink and drive.

We must continue to remember the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces stationed in Iraq and other places in the world, and pray for their safe and quick return.

As members of the Seminole Tribe, we all have so much to be thankful for this holiday season. Keep the spirit of Christmas in your heart always and let us all rejoice and celebrate as we look forward to the New Year!

Mitchell Cypress

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year,
Mitchell Cypress, Chairman
 Seminole Tribe of Florida



Season's greetings! As we roll into this holiday season, let us take a few moments from our feasting and merrymaking to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. We are overwhelmed with commercialism, telling us to buy the most expensive gifts, and Santa's reindeer and Grinch are the theme. It is easy to lose sight of why Christmas is celebrated.

Peace on Earth and goodwill to all! Visit your elders, take your babies to church and say a prayer for our people far from home in the military, or whatever has them away from home.

The Seminole people have been blessed by the Creator in many ways. As we enter the New Year of 2008, let us all keep our spirituality true and we shall all prosper and provide a positive role model for our fellow Native Americans.

Merry Christmas & Sho Na Bish,

Richard Bowers Jr.

Richard Bowers Jr., President
 Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.

Letters: Naak-enchaok-hocheshfeeke · Nakhoce Acentuthoyvt

Dear Editor,

We thank the Seminole Tribe of Florida for its generosity in giving the Big Cypress RV Resort and Campground a complete Thanksgiving dinner. We felt privileged to stay at such a beautiful place.

Sincerely,
Jim and Jean DeSmidt

Dear Editor,

I attended the DNA Pow-Wow with my family, and we have not seen a better pow-wow since we went to the Denver March Pow-Wow two years ago. We go to a few pow-wows in Florida and yours has, by far, been the very best. It was great to see so many Native people in the same place.

We loved the dance competitions and the energy from everyone in the circle and in the stands. J.P. and I danced with the veterans and it was very heartwarming being there in that circle with other veterans. Thank you for honoring those who have served this country and who continue to serve and protect.

We also loved the humor from the emcee: he was great. Everyone did a great job. Well done.

Until we meet again,
Barbara Dorr AKA Shadow Pony
 (I ride a 1996 Honda Shadow motorcycle)
 Orlando, Fla.

Dear Editor,

I was dancing in the women's Fancy

Shawl, 40 and older category, at the DNA Pow-Wow, and I really enjoyed my time there, and in Florida. The entertainment was great and all the craft booths were awesome. I want to come down in February for the Tribal Fair celebration.

Thank you for sharing your wealth and generosity with all the Tribes.

Thank you,
Shirley Hill, Siksika Nation
 Alberta, Canada

Dear Editor,

Remembering when ... I remember the day I saw grandma getting up on cold mornings making coffee and sofkee and cooking bacon and pan bread outdoors on open fire. I remember the day when we lived in chickees with no electricity, no brick walls and no television. I remember taking baths in a canal or a bucket. I remember the days when we had to go to work in the orange grove and tomato farms and we had to cut palms/buds so that we could have what we needed. Those were the days.

Now I hear all this bickering about what they don't have and what is being done, but we all have new homes and new cars. I think people have forgotten where we, the Seminole people, came from. I even remember when we received nothing and then started getting \$25, \$50, \$100; and after so many years we started getting more.

Yes, we have now and it is because of our leaders and non-member

employees who work for the Tribe. Some might be too young to remember, but I haven't forgotten.

On the behalf of myself and others that see what I have seen and know what I know, I would like to say to the Chairman Mitchell Cypress, David Cypress and Max Osceola, and all the other representatives who are there now and all the leaders who came before them. Thank you all for a job well done.

Sincerely,
Shamy Tommie Sr.
 Bird Clan

Photo Challenge Answer



Willie Jumper and sister Annie Tommie.

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Community News



Chris Jenkins

The Tribal Council cuts the ceremonial ribbon. (L-R) Brighton Rep. Roger Smith, Hollywood Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., Chairman Mitchell Cypress, BC Rep. David Cypress and President Richard Bowers Jr.

Ribbon Cutting Held for Tampa Hard Rock Expansion Project

By Elgin Jumper

TAMPA — The \$120 million dollar casino complex expansion of the Tampa property, at the corner of Hillsborough Blvd. and Orient Rd., celebrated its grand opening with a special ribbon cutting ceremony on Nov. 16 at 1 p.m.

The enthusiastic ceremony took place at the all-new WonderWall. One press release describes it as "an intriguing, \$2 million dollar interactive water feature composed of crystalline water and a state-of-the-art projection system which emblems video onto the sheeting water, as it runs down its clear walls."

The WonderWall is located underneath the staircase just to the south of the vast gaming floor, beside the Whammy Bar. The wall is outfitted with a giant chandelier and skylights above it, which moves in a semicircle together with the grand stairway, and links up with the expanded casino floor, the new restaurants, and other sparkling amenities.

And as Vicki Kuracka, director of marketing and research for the Tampa Hard Rock pointed out, "the planning of the grand opening ceremony was a very detailed process and required the assistance of several departments."

Planning for the ribbon cutting ceremony, noted Kuracka, was started back in June, when a Grand Opening Committee was formed. This included marketing, corporate marketing, an executive team, a media agency, an advertising agency and a public relations firm.



Chris Jenkins

Manager of Tampa Seminole Hard Rock John Fontana

Bar, a one-of-a-kind corner bar, which provides light fare.

According to a fact sheet provided by the Tampa Hard Rock, the expanded gaming facilities now have interactive memorabilia, concerning important artifacts and of course, the artists behind them. These valuable pieces of rock 'n' roll history are now furnished with "musical selections either by the musician or by another musician who inspired the artist, photos of the artists or locations and video clips."

Seminole Tribal leaders participating in this exceptional ribbon cutting ceremony were: Chairman Mitchell Cypress, President Richard Bowers Jr., Hollywood Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., Big Cypress Council Rep. David Cypress, Brighton Council Rep. Roger Smith, and community leader Bobby Henry, who delivered a heartfelt invocation in Mikasuki. The abundantly-esteemed Seminole Color Guard was also on hand for the occasion. "We just want to thank everybody for supporting us throughout Florida, throughout Tampa, and in Hollywood, making sure we continue to progress," stated President Bowers. "With this expansion, with John Fontana's staff, we'd like to commend him for all he has done for the Tribe and the Tampa area."

"This is the No. 1 gaming facility in the world and that's not just because of the staff, but because of all the patrons here," declared Hollywood Council Rep. Max B. Osceola, Jr. "We're No. 1, because you're number No. 1. I want to give thanks for all people for coming here to share in this, and for making us all No. 1 ... and let's all rock on!"



Chris Jenkins

Tampa's Fresh Harvest features seven live-action cooking stations.

Manager of Tampa Seminole Hard Rock John Fontana, who emceed the ribbon cutting ceremony, was also involved in the fervent dynamics behind the \$120 million dollar expansion.

"I'm blessed with the finest casino staff, I believe, in the world," acknowledged Fontana during the ceremony. "They are some hard-working, talented, and dedicated people who come here and make what you see happen everyday. This is a very large and complicated business, and they're so very good at what they do."

There were 1,100 new gaming machines added to the gaming floor, increasing the total number of games to 3,180. Previously popular games with titles such as: Wheel of Gold, Wheel of Fortune, Double Diamond and Triple Diamond will now take their place beside newer games such as: Twelve Times Pay, Double Four Times Pay, I Dream of Jeanie, Twilight Zone, and Lucky Wheel.

Three new restaurants were added to the casino complex as well. These are Council Oak Steaks & Seafood, a fine dining steakhouse; Fresh Harvest, with its seven live-action kitchens preparing cuisine to order; and the Whammy

Hard Rock Donates to Children's Charity



Chris Jenkins

During the ceremony, the Tampa Seminole Hard Rock donated \$5,000 to Global Angels, an international children's charity.

History Museum Debuts Seminole Exhibit

By Robert Zerbe

TALLAHASSEE — The exhibit, *Seminole People of Florida: Survival and Success*, saw its grand opening on Nov. 15 at the Museum of Florida History. The exhibit, which will run through June 1, 2008, drew a large crowd. Many people showed up for

Browning, as well as many of the event's other speakers, took time to thank everyone that had a part in the planning and realization of the exhibit. Many names were mentioned, and it helped to convey how much work went into the exhibit.

Also on hand to welcome the guests was Tribal Director of Museums Tina M. Osceola, and a representative of the Tribe's Historic Preservation Office. Osceola expressed the Tribe's pleasure with the exhibit.

"This is definitely a good example of the partnership between native Tribes here in this state and our state government and the non-Tribal people who make up this wonderful state we all enjoy," Osceola said.

In a separate interview after her opening remarks, Osceola spoke about the exhibit's ability to reach new groups of people.

"One of the benefits that the Tribe has to reap from an exhibit like this, is the fact that the knowledge is going to be shared with people who ... may not be able to get down to Big Cypress or to Hollywood to visit our museums down there," Osceola said.



Robert Zerbe

A museum patron admires the exhibit.

a pre-opening lecture by Dr. Brent Weisman from the University of South Florida, and of course, to see the new exhibit itself.

Wanda Richey, part of public relations for the museum, said she thinks the exhibit will be popular with the public. "I think that we're going to get a good [amount of] visitation," Richey said.

Richey said other museum programs will work in conjunction with the exhibit, such as their Second Saturday Family Program, and more lectures.

Museum Director Dr. Jeana Brunson welcomed everyone to the exhibit opening. She said the Seminole exhibit is the "most significant" of all exhibits the museum has shown in its 30 year history. "We're really pleased to have worked with so many people to be able to create and produce this exhibit for you," Brunson said.

Secretary of State Kurt Browning provided a few words at the opening, informing the audience that the exhibit was special to him because a Seminole jacket that his grandmother gave him is on display.

"I am thrilled that that's in there and I hope you enjoy it as much as I have and continue to," Browning said.



Robert Zerbe

Director of Museums Tina M. Osceola speaks to the crowd.

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Community News

Seminole Citizen Explores Kung Fu from its Chinese Birthplace

Everett Osceola Performs for Martial Arts Grand Master Wong Gong

By Everett Osceola

CHINA — My trip to China in November had been in the making for five years with my kung fu school, John Wai's Kung Fu Academy. I was blessed to have the best teachers, who were diverse in the different styles of martial arts.

I started with the school about six years ago, going off and on, but still my energy and heart belonged to Choy Lay Fut, a southern style of kung fu from China. Over the years I trained with grand masters and learned the form of Dragon Dance from the top teachers of Hong Kong. Later, I trained with a Shaolin Monk, thanks to my Sifu (teacher) John Wai and his school.

One of the grand masters I studied under, Grand Master Wong Gong, is considered a living treasure in the Jiangmen Province of southern China. I was taught the single-double ended staff a long form of 122 different movements within the form. Earlier this year, my Sifu made an announcement for the trip to China for Wong Gong's 80th birthday celebration.

Sifu John Wai made all the arrangements to visit China's cities of Beijing, Shenzhen, Jiangmen, and Hong Kong. Sifu had a big surprise for us, not only did we perform at Wong Gong's birthday in Jiangmen, but we also had the opportunity to see the birthplace of Choy Lay Fut, the unique martial arts style we train in.

We started off in Beijing, the capital of China, seeing the famous Great Wall of China for the very first time. It was an experience of walking up pathways and stepping on stones that were more than a thousand years old and getting to the top of one of the structures and wondering how this was all built so many years ago. The next day we went to Tiananmen Square, learning about the tragic time in 1989 when peaceful protesters were killed in front of Tiananmen Square by soldiers and tanks.

Afterwards, we went into The Forbidden City. The city was only built for the emperor and his entourage to exclusively live in. It only recently opened its huge doors for the public to visit. We were able to see the different entryways to the Forbidden City and realize the importance of each structure and for what purpose it served the emperor.

After Beijing, my group hopped onto a plane for the city of Shenzhen. When we reached Shenzhen, a lot of people in our group said it looked similar to South Miami. We spent two days there, resting and relaxing, before we headed to Jiangmen for the big birthday celebration.

In Jiangmen we settled at a five star hotel called the Yucca Hotel. We also met up with another Sifu, Grand Master Doc-Fai Wong and the students from his school in California. They were also performing at the birthday banquet.

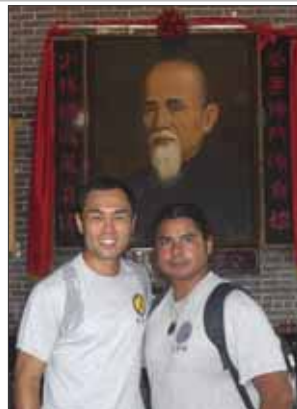
Early the next day, we traveled to King Mui Village — the birthplace of Choy Lay Fut. Here we saw where the founder of Choy Lay Fut, Chan Hueng,

lived more than 150 years ago. We walked down narrow cobbled streets to find the very first school of Choy Lay Fut. Along with Doc-Fai Wong's school we paid homage to Chan Hueng and the teachers he taught to keep Choy Lay Fut's style alive today.

The people who live in this small village were very humble and treated us very warmly, a feeling I have not felt in a long time. Even though they were struggling with their lives and their clothes were tattered, they were rich in history, genuinely happy and always looking out for one another. This was one



(L-R) Everett Osceola and Choy Lay Fut Grand Master Wong Gong.



(L-R) Sifu John Wai and student Everett Osceola.



(L-R) Osceola and US Grand Master Doc-Fai-Wong.



Osceola (C) and his fellow Choy Lay Fut classmates at the Temple of Heaven in Beijing.



Everett Osceola on his excursion to the 4,000 mile long Great Wall of China, seen in the background.

ping, while others checked out the local Buddhist Temple. I went to see the big tourist attraction, the legendary Bruce Lee's statue overlooking the harbor.

Hong Kong was a great way to end a long and very enlightening journey through China, all in all, everyone had a good time in Hong Kong.

This journey into China, its places, history, and people, is something I could have never imagined doing. How many martial artists can say they rubbed shoulders with grand masters along with seeing the place where the style was founded? Not many.

Martial arts, in my opinion, are a lifestyle in themselves. If you have respect for it, it will have respect for you. This kind of goes along the lines of what Bruce Lee said: "Any knowledge, ultimately means self-knowledge," and I learned a lot about myself performing in front of the grand master, meeting the people of King Mui Village, being a part of history by climbing the steps of the Great Wall, and more.

For those out there who play basketball, football, soccer, or those who are artists or painters, I suggest they stick to pursuing whatever makes them happy; you never know where it might lead you. For myself, it led me to China and if you ask anyone I grew up with, they will tell you that is all I ever thought about or talked about while growing up.

So thank you Sifu, for the experience that I will never forget. To my family, who told me to go when I was having second thoughts, and my mom, who took me to my first Kung Fu movie and pushed me when I was younger to train to do what you used to say: "Stick with it."



Osceola stands about face at this Chinese pagoda.

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Community News



Felix DuBois

Veterans and others alike lined up in front of The Wall, the most visited memorial in all of Washington, DC, to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the memorial.

Seminole Vietnam Veterans Honored in Washington at Memorial Wall

National Memorial Celebrates 25th Year

By Felix DuBois

WASHINGTON, DC — The official program of the 25th anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall stated: "In the aftermath of America's longest war, it seemed as if the nation simply wanted

to forget the war had ever happened. Throughout the 1970s, Vietnam veterans were cast aside and forgotten by the country for which they had fought and died.

"A decade later a group of Vietnam Veterans and their supporters began steps to right this injustice. They successfully won the right to erect a national memorial honoring those who served and sacrificed in Vietnam."

On Nov. 10, Vietnam veterans and their families celebrated the 25th anniversary of the dedication of The Wall, the Vietnam War Memorial, designed by Maya Lin. The memorial is located on the National Mall adjacent to the Lincoln Memorial, as a tribute to honor the servicemen and women who died during the Vietnam War.

What really makes this monument unique is the fact that more than 58,000 names are inscribed on the black granite wall for visitors to somberly view. An additional list of names also is being added annually from Vietnam vets succumbing to war-related complications.

Patriotic speeches honoring the tough and on going struggles of Vietnam War veterans and their dedication and sacrifices were presented to the thousands of assembled veteran groups. Military bands and a chorus of young women sang national songs to get the crowds pumped up before the big parade got underway.

Seminole Color Guard spokesman and Vietnam veteran Stephen Bowers organized this event for Seminole Veterans and their families. Bowers is also a lifetime member of Fort Lauderdale's VVA Chapter 23.

On a cloudy, windy and cold day at the National Mall, with his bad knee screaming, Bowers proudly marched with his group of vets, holding the Seminoles Veteran Flag tightly against his chest for the three hour patriotic parade down Constitution Avenue and ending at The Wall.

"It's a great day for all veterans that served in Vietnam," Bowers said. "All these veterans; It reminds



Felix DuBois

Stephen Bowers (C) waves the Seminole Veterans flag proudly as he continues down the parade route.

me of the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian, when we were here back in 2004. All I can see is thousands of flags representing the United States, flags representing the different branches of the military and units of the Army, Marine Corps, Air Force and the Navy; it's just awesome."

The parade was led by vets representing their motorcycle groups, including the Nam Knights of America, MD Chapter. About 100 riders on big Harley Davidsons revved it up as hundreds of veteran organizations from across the nation followed behind with a grand parade of flags, banners, patriotic floats, marching bands and marching Vietnam Veterans. There were also smiling spectators lining both sides of the sidewalk, some shouting support and applauding the Vets with calls of "Welcome Home" and waving handheld Old Glory's.

Later that evening, at the Hilton Crystal City at Reagan National Airport in Arlington, Va., The Seminole Tribe of Florida proudly sponsored and hosted a Welcome Home Dinner for the Seminole veterans and Vietnam veterans from Fort Lauderdale's VVA Chapter 23, and sister branch locations. While invited guests, vets and loved ones dined on a delicious gourmet dinner, they were treated to large screen display of several hundred photos of the 25th Anniversary parade event they had eagerly participated in earlier that day.

Vietnam Veteran Joe Day introduced her warmly as the good colonel, but with her dynamic personality everyone who she meets would agree she should be a general. Connie Christensen, LTC AN USAR (Retired), and current President of VVA Chapter 23, were both excited to welcome everyone to the evening festivities and grand dinner.

Christensen said with a radiant smile: "I'd just like to say that we are delighted that all of you have joined us here tonight ... we've got the Massachusetts group, we've got the Michigan group and we have the Seminoles that have become such a vital part of our organization, and a happy birthday to the Marine Corps — 232 years."

Stephen D. Bowers, Tribal liaison of the Governor's Council on Indian Affairs, was presented with an inscribed glass trophy for his dedication and contributions to the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 23.

Bowers said, "Welcome home brothers," before he introduced each of the Seminole vets seated at their table, to warm applause from the audience. As Bowers said their name, each vet stood up and waved back to the audience. Those in attendance were: Sammy Gopher, Jack Smith Jr., Joe Lester John and wife Julie, Coleman Josh and wife Dorothy, Archie Johns Sr., and daughter Monica, and Stephen Bowers' girlfriend, Elizabeth Bates.

Bowers spoke to the assembled audience with compassion, saying that it was a great honor to be there and explained sadly why so many Florida Seminole veterans decided not to come to Washington, D.C. because of fragile health issues and the cold, rainy weather. He said he hoped everyone would enjoy the special video that the vets were to view, produced about ten years ago by the video department of Haskell Indian University in conjunction with Seminole Broadcasting.

The invited audience got to see a little visual history of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and interesting interviews with an assortment of Seminole veterans from the Tribe. In these interviews, they shared

memories and described what their military experiences and hardships were like during the Vietnam Era. Some of the vets that participated in this fine documentary and sharing their heartfelt stories were: Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Andrew Bowers, Stephen Bowers, Dan Osceola and Paul Bowers.

On the next day, Nov. 11, the nationally-observed Veteran's Day, the Seminole veterans and loved ones boarded a bus for a five hour tour of Washington, D.C.'s landmarks. The first stop was the new Vietnam Soldiers Memorial, followed by The Wall, which was close by, and off course, very crowded with vets and tourists reading the inscribed names. The Lincoln Memorial was just a few hundred steps away and presented the vets a picturesque view of the Reflecting Pool, leading to the Washington Monument about a mile away; and the famed U.S. Capitol Dome was just behind it.

The Seminole vets also wanted to see the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian and searched every floor for the Seminole Tribe's exhibit. Unfortunately, it had been rotated out to give other North American Tribes a chance to exhibit their culture as well.

The next stop was Arlington National Cemetery for the changing of the guard ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier — and that wasn't the only thing changing. Colorful leaves on the trees had gone into a burst of fall colors accenting the thousands of neatly stacked rows of white crosses marking the final remains of veterans that have sacrificed themselves through their service to protect freedom.

The vets all agreed it was a fine trip and will certainly be happy to salute the next celebration marking the 50th Anniversary of The Wall.



Felix DuBois

(L-R) Joe McCain and Stephen Bowers.



Felix DuBois

The Tribal group at The Wall: (Front Row, L-R) Elizabeth Bates, Stephen Bowers, Archie Johns, Julie and Joe Lester John, (Back Row, L-R) Jack Smith Jr., Sammy Gopher and Coleman Josh and wife Dorothy.

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Felix DuBois

Bowers holds the vets flag, with the famous Washington Monument behind him.

Community News

♦ Vets

Continued from page 1

discussing the need for a place they could meet as far back as 15 years ago.

"One day a friend said to me if you want anything to happen, first you have to get organized," Huff said. "So we formed a group and would get together for breakfast. Then we picked a president, vice president and secretary. Then we started talking about getting a place of our own to meet, play cards, hold seminars..."

The next speaker, U.S. Army veteran, Stanlo Johns, continued the story.

"About two or three years ago we would meet once a month and we started measuring this ground to see how much fill dirt would be needed," Johns said. "It was a pretty lengthy sum; five feet three inches." [The building will actually occupy 9.3 acres on a 9.5 acre plot of ground, according to the Sr. Project Manager of Tribal Community Planning Jim Horton.]

Johns also told the audience the Brighton vets would meet and talk about a design. They submitted ideas and the pentagon shape is what they decided they wanted.

"We had a lot of opposition at first to the shape," said Johns. "People would ask, 'Why do you want the shape of a star?' I knew we would have opposition but I would say, 'This is not like an ordinary building, but we are not ordinary people.'"

He said the Brighton vets talked often to Tribal officials and to the community, but still seemed to be getting nowhere. Some of the vets got disgusted and gave up, however, Johns said, he and others just kept pushing.

"I told the vets to keep coming to the meetings and it will happen," he said. "Now, I want to thank Roger Smith who got us put on the Tribal Council's agenda when he was in office a couple years ago. Also, I want to thank Chairman Mitchell Cypress for pushing me to push these guys (Council)."

Brighton veteran Jack Smith spoke up next. "This is going to also be used as a multi-purpose building for Tribal use," Smith said of the center. "We will be able to hold council meetings here, a Christmas party; whatever we wish."

Emcee Bowers said: "Everyone can come up with an idea but when it involves a building you really have to look around the Tribe for your support. Luckily we have a veteran on the Tribal Council. Our vets had a need for a building; a place where we can talk and maybe get some counseling."

Bowers then introduced the Chairman Mitchell Cypress, himself a veteran. "I think this is a unique building we are going to build here, better than the Pentagon in D.C.," Chairman Cypress said. "This tells you that the Seminole Tribe is always behind our veterans. Veterans are the ones that keep us free."

"We are not going to be like the federal government. We're not a one-way Tribe that sends you to war and forgets you when you come back from the wars. The vets are the most important people in this country, especially to us in the Seminole Tribe."

"This group of vets came to the Council and voiced their opinions and we listened. Sometimes you have to do that to get what you want. You have to get a group together. You can't always get things done by yourself alone. This 'star' is born at Brighton and we will be the star because no other Tribe has a building like this one."

Gregory Hall, the architect, followed. "The 'stars' that are shining are the vets in attendance today," said Hall. "This is truly an honor to work for the Tribe."

Hall explained that the star shape represents each branch of the U.S. military: Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard. He said outside the building, the vets will have a memorial or ceremonial courtyard with seven bronze sculptures flanking



Susan Etsebarria

The veterans group at the Bronze by Cooley studio in Lamont, Fla., making the final approval of the life-sized sculptures that will be on display at the Brighton Veteran's Center.

flagpoles, to observe and enjoy. The courtyard will feature flags, including an American flag, the state of Florida flag and the Seminole Tribe of Florida flag.

The Bronze by Cooley sculptures are of soldiers representing each branch of the service including a WAC and one of the warrior Osceola. The sculptors Brad Cooley Jr. and Brad Cooley Sr. have a reputation as America's leading artist team representing Native Americans in public places.

Hall said the center space inside the pentagon-shaped building will be able to seat 450 people in theatre-type seats with stage that can collapse and be pushed back against the wall for large gatherings. He said there will be a special room for exhibits and memorabilia of the Seminole veterans who have served our country; there also will be a kitchen in another wing.

The wing to the left will be the Veterans Hall. The wing to the right will house offices and a conference room. Another entertainment wing will have pool tables and card room and another will be a space for lectures and a classroom. The building can also be used as a hurricane shelter.

Next Donald E. Murphy, the contractor who will construct the building took the podium.

"I remember when my office picked up the plans; it was described not as a building as much as a monument," he said. "I said 'This is something! We really want to work on this project.'"

"I am a vet and my son is serving in Iraq," Murphy added. "This building is very special to me."

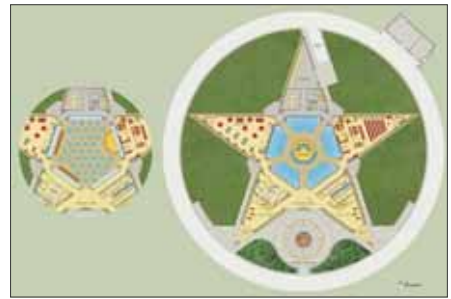
Murphy said he hopes to start site preparation in December, do the fill in February and March, lay foundations in April, be ready for inspection by August and do the stone work and the exterior by October.

"By April 2009 we want to complete the interior," he said.

The final speaker was Carlos Rainwater, the state of Florida Veterans Program Director, who works with disabled veterans.

"Why do we need to recognize our veterans?" he asked rhetorically. "They are a very special group. To be accepted in the service you must be the brightest and the best."

"They have fought wars to preserve our freedom. Native peoples have a long tradition as warriors defending this country of ours. On behalf of all Native



Rendering Courtesy of Florida Seminole Veterans

Floor plan, with optional layout for the central multipurpose space at the left of the sheet, and the perspective view from CR721-A.



Photo Courtesy of Linda Cooley

The sculptures for the Brighton Veterans Building, designed by Bronze by Cooley.

Americans who have served in the armed forces, I salute you!"

After the blessing by Dan Bowers, lunch was served by Renegade Barbecue, banana pudding served by Angel Baxley Garcia, pumpkin bread by Mary Jo Micco, frybread by Timi Bearden and sofkee by Jenny Johns.

Another speaker during the ceremonies was Seminole Princess Jennifer Chalfant. The children of Pemayetv Emahaky Charter School recited the Pledge of Allegiance and sang a patriotic song in Creek. Pastor Wonder Johns gave the invocation and the First Baptist Church Choir sang a Creek hymn. There were special video and slide presentations, coordinated by Noella O'Donnell, Jim Horton, Steven Bowers, Jodi Goodman and Jack Smith.



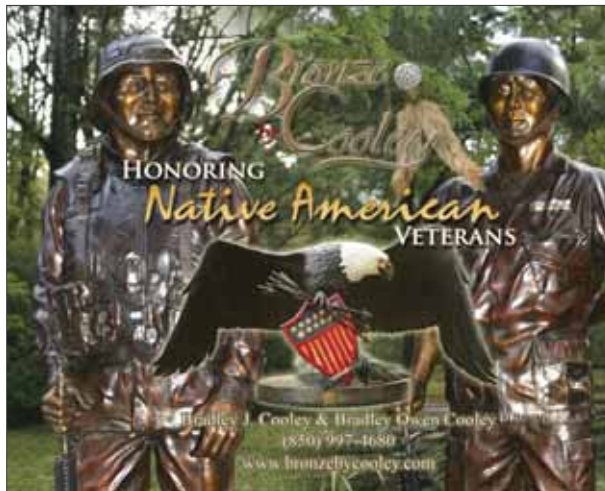
Susan Etsebarria

Students from the Pemayetv Emahaky Charter School recite the pledge with Seminole Color Guard members Stephen Bowers and Paul Bowers Sr.



Rendering Courtesy of Florida Seminole Veterans

Architectural rendering of the Veterans Building.



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Community News

Big Cypress Hosts 20th Annual Veteran's Day Celebration

By Judy Weeks

BIG CYPRESS — Veterans representing all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, family and friends joined Native American veterans at the Seminole Tribe's 20th Annual Veteran's Day Celebration on Nov. 8 at the Big Cypress Entertainment Complex.

This annual event began as a small barbecue organized by Roy Nash Osceola, Jacob Osceola and Chairman Mitchell Cypress, years ago to pay tribute to our veterans for their service to their country. Roy's son had recently lost his life in the Marine Corps and they wanted to acknowledge the sacrifice made by all veterans.

Unfortunately, Roy passed away before the celebration, but they proceeded in his memory. Joined by other vets from Big Cypress Reservation, they planted the seed in 1986 for what has grown into a monumental outpouring of respect for those men and women who defend our freedom.

What started so long ago in Big Cypress, spread to other Native Americans and comrades in arms across the U.S. This year's celebration has again increased in volume and encompassed a crowd of more than 300 people devoted to veterans past and present who have made great sacrifices in the name of freedom.

This year's emcee was Dale Oldhorn, a distinguished delegate of the Crow Nation, college professor, renowned commentator and rodeo announcer.

During his opening remarks he said: "Respect your elders and

to protect," Rep. Osceola said. "In many other countries when they get their freedom, they receive a monarchy or appointed official to govern them. Thanks to our veterans we have the right to vote."

"It is an honor to stand before so many veterans here today and remember those who have given the ultimate price for our freedom," said Brighton Council Rep. Roger Smith.

"If you think about it, the United States is a melting pot of many cultures," remarked Oldhorn. "Our land has always been inhabited by Native Americans who believed in freedom. I like to think that the immigrants to our land came to learn how to respect each other as human beings, as they fled the bondage in their previous countries."

Immokalee Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar became emotional during the magnitude of the moment when she said: "As you grow older you come to realize that all of our Native American people have always been soldiers, regardless of age, as they fought to remain in their homelands and preserve their freedom. It is only understandable that they would answer the call to fight for freedom whenever it is necessary."

On a much lighter note, President Richard

Bowers Jr. began by saying: "Welcome home veterans. We consider you a part of our Seminole Tribe. I was underage during the Vietnam War, but I was honored, privileged and humbled by my two brothers, Dan and Paul, who were serving in the Marines."

Laughing, President Bowers said: "Dan trained to be a drill sergeant and when he came home on leave, it was the worst time of my life. You can imagine life at 4 a.m. with a Marine. Running, exercises, breakfast and square corners on bed sheets until you could bounce a quarter. And all this came before school every morning. I laugh about it, but I am glad that he gave me the opportunity to share in the experience. It is because of men like my brothers that we are the unconquered Seminoles."

"Our children need to grow up knowing how fortunate they are to be free and recognize their ancestors and the veterans who provided that freedom," said Brighton Board Rep. Johnnie Jones. "I am glad that we now have our own school and can provide them with the opportunity to learn about the past as they prepare for the future."

He then invited everyone to attend the ground breaking ceremony for the new Veteran's Building.

"Although I may look like the front line of the Miami Dolphins, I am humbled as I stand before you men and women who have given so much in the name of freedom," remarked BC Board Rep. Cicero Osceola.

Hollywood Board Rep. Gloria Wilson made a very astute observation when she said: "It is very important that you continue to pray for the soldiers who are serving in our armed forces today and ask for their safe return. Their actions today, insure our freedom tomorrow."

Speaking in Mikasuki, Immokalee Board Liaison Delores Jumper talked about her brother, Harley Jumper Jr. who served three tours of duty in Vietnam. She said she feels an overwhelming pride at the presentation of the colors and her prayers go out to all our veterans.

OB Osceola Jr., Naples Liaison said: "It is an honor to be here today in the presence of so many who have given so much. When I look at the roll call of Seminole Veterans, I feel great pride in my people. My ancestors have all been veterans of the fight for freedom."

"I consider it an honor to say just these few words, 'Thank you!' remarked Joe Frank, acting superintendent of the BIA. Tampa Liaison Richard Henry, William Osceola from the Trail Community, and Holly Tiger-Bowers, representing all non-residents, each expressed their gratitude and respect. It was noted that at present, there are 48 veterans still living within the Seminole Tribe.

Miss Seminole Princess Jennifer Chalfant pointed out that on Veteran's Day we should all take part in the poem she was about to read by Norma W. Beard. Her emotional presentation of The Soldier is My Friend had a profound effect upon everyone at the celebration.

Fort Pierce Liaison Sally R. Tommie began by saying: "We must remember those men and women who fought for our freedom, not just today, but every day. It is very important to make our own contributions. I was very moved 10 years ago when I first heard the poem Four Hats to Remember, and I am going to read it for you today. In dining halls in all branches of the service since Vietnam, a table is set in memory of the Missing in Action veterans."

During the reading of the poem, Jo Leigh Jumper assisted by draping the white table cloth for the pure of heart; a plate with lemon and salt to signify their bitter fate; a black napkin for their sorrow and misery; and a red rose that they may someday return. She then placed four hats representing the various branches of the service upon the table, as the words read, "Remember Us Please."

Tommie concluded by saying: "Each man and woman who has served is a hero to me."

Seminole youth had been challenged to write an essay for the occasion of the 20th anniversary. The winners came forward to read them. Echo Wolf wrote a thank you to the soldiers and their families for their sacrifices. Sara Osceola talked about the Vietnam War and its significance. Malari Baker's "911" gave remembrance to the civilians who died and the soldiers that are fighting today.

Phillip Koon, a member of the Alligator Clan, was born into the Creek Nation in 1919, received his education in Indian schools and graduated from Haskell Indian Nations University in 1941. Volunteering for service in September of 1941, he fought in WWII, was captured by the Japanese in 1942 and spent four and one half years as a prisoner of war. During this time he endured the Bataan Death March, incarceration in the hot Railroad Cars and the Hell Ships.

This distinguished warrior was the guest speaker for the celebration and colorfully told the story about his military career, civilian life and the men who served beside him. Discharged from active duty in 1946, he has received the following honors: Cross of Valor from the state of Oklahoma; American Defense Ribbon with one Bronze Star; Asiatic Pacific Campaign Ribbon with two Bronze Stars; Philippine Defense Ribbon with one Bronze Star and Distinguished Unit Badge with two Oak Leaf Clusters.

His son and grandson have followed in his footsteps in the U.S. Army.

Upon completing his presentation, Koons presented Chairman Mitchell Cypress with a shirt and a framed copy of an artist's conception of his military career.

The recipient of many awards, Locust retired after 22 years as a



The Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 23, Color Guard.

Judy Weeks



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Stephen Bowers, OB Osceola Sr., Paul Bowers Sr. and David Billy, OB Osceola Sr. and David Billy received plaques of recognition.

follow the ways of your forefathers. They were the first veterans who fought for this country's freedom."

Rev. Salaw Hummingbird of the Big Cypress First Baptist Church gave a brief presentation and then led the assembly in an opening prayer. A silence of deep respect fell over the room as the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 23 Color Guard carried the symbols of our nation, armed forces and respective governments to the front of the room for the Presentation of Colors.

Members of Team Seminole led by Edna McDuffie with representatives from each of the reservations, marched down the center aisle in support of our troops, wherever they may serve. Students of the Ahfackee School led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A-Wa-Sa-Ka-No-Gi-Sgi, or Sings Alone, performed the National Anthem a capella, allowing her magnificent voice to be the music for the presentation. Shea Keck, as she is known to the outside world, is a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee and an accomplished, award-winning recording artist. The Color Guard then posted the colors.

Seminole Tribal member, and published poet, Moses Jumper Jr. wrote a poem, Son of a Native Vet, in respect for his father and uncle; both of whom served in the military. After reading this first offering, he surprised everyone with his latest creation, We Were There, inspired and written the night before for this celebration.

Oldhorn's next introduction was Michael Savenelli, who is touring the U.S. with the Traveling Wall of the Vietnam Veterans of America. He gave a brief presentation of the profound affect this long awaited national acknowledgement had had upon veterans and observers everywhere he travels.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress began by saying, "Welcome home veterans," before giving a brief history of the Seminole Veteran's Day Celebration.

"Protesters

don't understand that freedom isn't free and veterans have made it possible for them to disagree," Chairman Cypress said. "In 'God We Trust' and we support our troops because they defend our freedom. In times of conflict, we all become brothers and sisters. We are comrades for life."

Big Cypress Council Rep. David Cypress lightened the air with his wonderful sense of humor when he remarked: "It is an honor to stand before you. I was a comical, overweight, 5-foot, 4-inch young man just out of school and they wouldn't have me. [They] thought I might keel over on them, I guess. Well I didn't and I'm still here today to welcome you home and show my respect for everything that you have done for me and my fellow Americans."

Hollywood Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. talked about his travels across the U.S. and compared it with his recent trip to Asia. "It has been a fantastic experience to see how other people live around the world, but it makes me very happy to return home to this land of freedom and opportunity that you men and women have fought so hard

We Were There

We were there when the Spanish came from across the sea...

We were honored to show them our generosity

We were there when countries claimed to own the Florida land

We fought and told them it was made by the creator's hand.

We were there when the red coats tried to take our liberty.

We knew we would die to remain free.

We were there when the U.S. told our people we had to go.

We knew we would have to make a stand and tell them no!

We were there on foreign soil fighting for all races of this land.

We knew equality was meant for every man.

We were there when an evil force attacked this

Country of the great red, white and blue.

We fought for a country that to our people has not always

Been true.

We were there when Lori Pestewa was laid to rest.

Remember these men and women of today who gave it all,

And have passed the test.

We were there when their warriors passed into the spirit land.

We will remember, we will honor what they gave to make this

stand.

We were there when we heard their voices from the past.

Warrior spirits telling us we are free at last.

We were there in all wars fighting for freedom with men

And women of a different race.

We were all warriors and we knew freedom was not free and for

This we would not be disgraced.

We were there together with you warriors who are here today.

Your dreams and visions and the price for freedom many of

These warriors had to pay.

Yes we were there, and for those that have went on,

We will never forget.

It is because of them and my men and women here today

We honor and thank you.

The American Vet.

— Moses Jumper Jr.

Lieutenant Colonel and is currently in the federal service of Immigration and Customs, Department of Homeland Security. This distinguished Native American was born in a log cabin in Oklahoma, furthered her education with the GI Bill and dedicated her life to serving her country. Her oldest son served in the Gulf War and her youngest son is a 2nd Lieutenant and works with the Patriot missiles.

Seminole Veterans Paul Bowers Sr. and Stephen Bowers made a posthumous presentation to the family of James F. Tiger Sr. His sister, Dorothy Tommie and his son, Imahaggi James Frank Tiger Jr. came forward to accept the plaque and recognition.

Two Seminole Tribal citizens from Collier County received special recognition for their role in the Armed Forces and were added to the list of veterans. OB Osceola Sr. and David Billy were presented plaques by Stephen Bowers and Paul Bowers Sr.

Tribal elder OB Osceola Sr. volunteered for the U.S. Army in the mid-1950s and was trained as a member of the artillery. Following his honorable discharge, he returned to support his parents and family. A hard worker, he is known for his very successful chicken building business and frybread concessions.

Currently an officer with the Collier County Sheriff's Department, David Billy enlisted in the U.S. Air Force following high school in July of 1982. A graduate of the Security Specialist School at



Judy Weeks

The Ahfackee School children led the Pledge of Allegiance.



Judy Weeks

Guest speaker and WWII prisoner of war survivor Phillip Koon (Creek Nation) discusses his POW experiences.

Lackland AFB, he was deployed to guard nuclear loaded B-52 bombers and KC135 refueling aircraft. During his military career, he performed protection services for several well known public figures and foreign dignitaries. Since leaving the military, he has distinguished himself in law enforcement and is a member of a SWAT Team.

Stephen Bowers asked that Gabriel Coppedge and his family be remembered in everyone's thoughts and prayers. He joined the Army in 2004, served his country in Afghanistan from 2006-2007 and currently serves as an E5 Sergeant. Coppedge was deployed to Iraq at the end of November.

Shea Keck came forward to make a special tribute to the Seminole Tribe.

"We all have heard the song 'Seminole Wind' hundreds of times, but somehow the music overpowers the lyrics. These are powerful words and I am going to sing them to you today a capella."

As her beautiful, clear voice filled the auditorium, a sense of honor and commitment filled the audience. Tears streamed down cheeks and the chests of warriors filled with pride.

Lee Juan Tyler, John Kutch Sr. and Adam B. Hill of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Council in Fort Hall, Idaho, made a special recognition of all Seminole veterans and guests by singing "The Veteran's Honor Song." Their awesome presentation encompassed the crowd.

Following the three hour celebration, Rev. Tom Payne made the closing remarks.

"I am honored to be here today as a former Marine Corps veteran," he said. "Today and everyday has special meanings for me. My son, Corporal Tom Payne Jr., served in Iraq in 2003, Afghanistan in 2004 and was killed on July 7, 2004, while on reconnaissance patrol. Like Christ, he climbed a rocky hill with a pack on his bag and died for the freedom of others."

The silence in the room was deafening when Payne finished speaking and then led the closing prayer. John Branzar signed his bugle and played "Military Taps."

The Seminole Tribe provided each of the veterans in attendance with a bound book commemorating the 20th Annual Veteran's Day Celebration and its participants. Inside the back cover was a list of deceased Seminole Veterans: Roley C. Buck, Noah Billie, Billy Cypress, Billy L. Cypress, Herbert Cypress, Charlie S. Gopher, Henry J. Gopher, Lester L. Gopher, Cecil Johns, Bert C. Jones, Moses Jumper Sr., Earl Nelson, Herman Osceola, Jack Osceola Sr., Roy Nash Osceola, Clifford Sanchez, Fred Smith, Jacob Sturm, Clyde Tiger, Howard Tiger, James F. Tiger Sr., Joseph Quinn Tiger and Jackie Willie Jr.

The Seminole Tribe served a buffet luncheon following the celebration and T-shirts were given to veterans and spectators in honor of the occasion.



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Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School Students of the Week

Students Recognized for the Week of Nov. 12-16



Kindergarten: Miss Robinson's class: Jaylen Baker, Mrs. Webber's class: Katie Beck
First Grade: Mrs. Davis' class: Raelay Matthews; Mrs. Ringstaff's class: Andrew Fish
Second Grade: Mrs. Hudson's class: Rylee Smith
Third Grade: Mrs. Clements's class: Courtney Gore; Mrs. Pryor's class: Diamond Shore
Fourth Grade: Mrs. Tedders' class: Dezmund Shore; Mrs. Williams' class: Thomas Bearden
Fifth Grade: Mrs. Finney's class: Cam Youngblood

Students Recognized for the Week of Nov. 26-30

Kindergarten: Miss Robinson's class: Sage Motlow; Mrs. Webber's class: Jason Sampson
First Grade: Mrs. Davis' class: Oscar Yates; Mrs. Ringstaff's class: Krysta Burton
Second Grade: Mrs. Ball's class: Layne Thomas; Mrs. Hudson's class: Isaac Osceola
Third Grade: Mrs. Clements's class: Jerry Smith; Mrs. Pryor's class: Bailey Tedders
Fourth Grade: Mrs. Tedders' class: Kalgary Johns; Mrs. Williams' class: Donovan Osceola
Fifth Grade: Mrs. Hawthorne's class: Korvette Billie; Mrs. Finney's class: Toby Gopher



Red Ribbon Week Door Decorating Contest



(L-R, Front Row): Logan Ortiz, Dyami Nelson, Elijah Billie, Rylee Smith, Jenessa Smith, Sunni Bearden, Dalton Clark. (L-R, Center Row): Cheyenne Fish, Isaac Osceola, Cryus Smedley, Mrs. Hudson, Reed Gopher, and (Back Row) Ms. Rodriguez.

Mrs. Hudson's second grade class was the winner of the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School Red Ribbon "Say No to

Drugs" door decorating contest. They were treated to a pizza party as their award.



The winning door from Mrs. Hudson's class.

Cultural Exchange Held in Immokalee

By Judy Weeks
IMMOKALEE — Students at the Village Oaks Elementary School in Immokalee have been learning about Native Americans during November's National American Indian Heritage Month. Pre-kindergarten through third grade students have been doing art projects with Native American themes, while the older children have been studying Florida State history, which includes the Seminole Indians.

The Immokalee Seminole Culture Department visited the school on Nov. 20 and set up tables in the courtyard to demonstrate Seminole crafts for the students. During the all day event, 32 classrooms visited the exhibitions and participated in a cultural exchange.

While they showed an interest in everything, the younger children seemed to be particularly intrigued with the beadwork being done by Amy Clay. They couldn't resist the temptation to reach out and touch

the colorful skeins of beads and run them through their fingers. They watched in awe as she waxed the thread and inserted the needle into the beads creating a work of art right before their eyes.

Victor Billie sat close by entertaining the children with stories and

answering the multitude of questions asked by the young scholars. They were extremely fascinated with tales of alligators and listened intently as he talked about life in the Florida swamps.

Beautiful baskets created by Lorraine Posada adorned her table and caught the eye of both boys and girls. Allowing them to touch her bundle of sweet grass, they moved in close as she made the base for her next creation. She had several different shapes on display and answered their questions about the beadwork design that decorated one of the completed objects.

Valence Clay made Seminole patchwork on her hand crank sewing machine while Crystal Billie talked about the traditional clothing on display. The girls carefully examined the strips of fabric and reverse side of the completed designs, while the boys couldn't take their eyes off the sewing machine. Very few of their parents own sewing machines to say nothing about a hand cranked model. They were fascinated by its operation and the beautiful designs that were being created.

The students at the Village Oaks Elementary School come from a wide variety of cultures and many of them speak English as a second language. The school staff expressed their appreciation to the Seminole Tribe for sharing their culture and broadening the children's horizons.



Judy Weeks

Second graders wearing paper headdresses toured the Seminole booths at their school.



Judy Weeks

Lorraine Posada shows the children a completed basket after discussing the raw materials used in its construction.

Children Visit Immokalee Seminole Ranch

By Judy Weeks
IMMOKALEE — The Immokalee Seminole Ranch created a unique experience for approximately 200 youngsters from Village Oaks Elementary School on Nov. 16, when they invited the pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and special education students to a small rodeo.

After being bused to the ranch at about 8:30 a.m., the children were treated to a morning snack and then climbed into the bleachers for a first hand look at the life of a rodeo cowboy.

Assistant Ranch Director Gabriel Acosta introduced his paint horse, Hidalgo, to the children and then put him through his paces for their entertainment. Hidalgo danced, side passed, counted and backed around the arena for them, while they clapped in delight. Acosta gave a brief presentation about horses and their care and eating habits.



Judy Weeks

A portion of the students from Village Oaks Elementary pose with the cowboys and staff from the Immokalee Seminole Ranch.



Judy Weeks

Justin Aldridge gives an excellent bull riding exhibition.

Standing up in their seats, the children turned around to watch as the cowboys brought the herd of Corriente roping steers from their pasture and headed them into the arena for a demonstration. They saw as a cow separated from the herd and learned about the reasons for roping, branding and doctoring livestock.

As the last cow exited the arena, a van entered from the opposite end and delivered a seven foot alligator in a large wooden crate. Fascinated, the youngsters watched as Victor Billie worked the reptile and then wrestled it for them. They laughed in delight when he rolled on the ground, flipping the gator and then putting it to sleep.

Following the exhibition, Ranch Director Kenny Joe Davis passed out pumpkin bread to each of the children and told them about the way his family used to cook their meals over an open fire in a chicken.

Moses Jumper Jr. provided a brief history of the Seminole Indians and cattle before reading his poem, *Indian Cowboy Dreams*. Explaining that rodeo is one of the most dangerous sports in the country, he advised them not to try anything that they were about to see.

Then Justin Gopher and Naha Jumper team roped a

steer, while Moses explained the reason behind roping, steer wrestling and working cattle. Talking on a level that they could understand, he told them about the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association and the Indian National Finals Rodeo before introducing them to some real cowboys.

Justin Aldridge, Sonny Robbins and Timmy Smith took turns riding the bulls while the children cheered. Then 2007 EIRA Champion Justin Gopher gave them a thrill when his bull bucked the length of the arena and he waved to the young audience as he passed in front of the bleachers. They all waved back and yelled with delight.

Naha Jumper risked life and limb when he bull dogged a steer on foot, right out of the box and then wrestled it to the ground. Then Scooter Johns gave a barrel racing exhibition.

The children and their teachers enjoyed a picnic lunch, talked to the cowboys, had their pictures taken and received western rings from the ranch to remember their visit.

One classroom at a time they boarded the horse drawn carriage so that Bob and Frank, two big white draft horses, could take them for a ride around the ranch before returning to their school. Climbing onto their buses, they waved and yelled goodbye to their newfound friends at the Immokalee Seminole Ranch.



Judy Weeks

Naha Jumper wrestles a steer on foot and flips it to the ground.

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WQCS 88.9 FM Hosts Radio Presentation About Seminole History

By Susan Etsebarria

VERO BEACH, Fla. — For nearly a month prior to the Nov. 9 event date, WQCS 88.9 FM, which broadcasts National Public Radio (NPR) from its Fort Pierce station, featured promo spots for its program about Seminole Tribal history and culture. The broadcast took place at the Vero Beach Public Library.

The radio announcement brought a large audience of interested people to hear Brighton's Willie Johns and Louise Gopher talk. The panel included Joe Crankshaw, historian and writer. Each speaker spoke 20 minutes.

WQCS General Manager Madison Hodges introduced the panel, beginning with Johns as cultural outreach coordinator for Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and a graduate of Palm Beach Atlantic University and Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Ga.

"I have 20 minutes to tell you 400 years of history," said Johns, as he began his presentation. "Our history goes back long before the Europeans came to America," he continued. "Our people come from the dominant Tribes of the southeast, including what is called the 'Five Civilized Tribes of America.' These Tribes can be traced back to right after the Ice Age. Our languages varied but our religion was the same, known as the Green Corn Dance," he said. Johns went on to explain about the wars and atrocities that were brought upon these Tribes with the European invasion. Other important highlights of his talk included the Seminoles' cattle industry, which began in the early 1700s, and saw the Tribe trading with Cuba and the new American colonies.

Johns also talked about how the Indian Removal Act and the Trail of Tears was a terrible tragedy for Native

Americans. The remaining Seminoles of Florida who survived were forced to give up their lands and cattle and retreat to the wilderness of the Glades.

Gopher was asked to talk about the history of the educational programs of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. She explained how the Seminole people did not want to receive a

public school education for many years after the Seminole Wars.

"My people had a lot of mistrust of the white man's schools after the [Indian] Removal Act," she said. "They were scared to send their children to school in

Affairs, taught the students. The school operated from 1930 to 1950, before Brighton children started attending public schools in Okeechobee City or Moore Haven, Fla.

Meanwhile, students at other reservations including Big Cypress went to their own small one-room schools, according to Gopher. Eventually these children began attending schools in their nearest school districts as well, or attended accredited private schools. By then, the Tribe had established an education department.

"We were really busy then trying to catch up with the 20th Century and learning English," said Gopher. "We weren't paying attention that we were losing our language."

2003 to teach Seminole children their culture, history and language. The program "pulled out" students from their regular Friday classes to be instructed on language and culture.

It required the blessing and cooperation of the state of Florida and Okeechobee School District, which it received.

"We went from 40 children in the beginning to about 90 children three years later and we were running out of room," she said.

Still the children were only receiving an hour of language instruction one day a week, and parents wanted more. All of this led to the establishment of the state-of-the-art Brighton Charter School Pemayetv Emahaky, which opened its doors this fall with 150 students, Gopher told the audience. Now the children receive an hour a day of Creek language class.

"The Tribe always likes to say that education is the number one priority and I think this year they proved it," she told the audience.

The next speaker expanded on what the two previous speakers had said. Crankshaw is a Stetson University graduate and 50 year veteran journalist, writing for publications including *The Miami Herald* and the *Vero Beach Press Journal*. He has written more than 2,000 columns about Florida history, and recently received a lifetime achievement award from the Florida Historical Society.

Crankshaw talked about the Seminole Wars a great deal, as well as other topics.

When the lectures concluded, the audience asked questions and many stayed after the adjournment to speak with the three presenters.



Audience members ask Willie Johns questions after the lecture.

Susan Etsebarria

He went on to talk about historic battles waged against the Indians including the Battle of Okeechobee, which he called "one of the most important battles we fought."

Johns brought his historical talk up to the 1950s when the reorganization of the Tribe restored its sovereign rights. But, it forced the Seminoles to adopt a new system of government, which for thousands of years prior was based on the clan system.

Then, he explained the present-day government of the Tribe. Johns outlined the Tribal Council's step-by-step advancement to become a Floridian business leader, especially in the cattle industry.

Hodges next introduced educator Louise Gopher, graduate of Indian River Community College and Florida Atlantic University. Hodges told the audience Gopher recently received the prestigious Westcott Award at Florida State University's Homecoming celebration for her achievements in education.

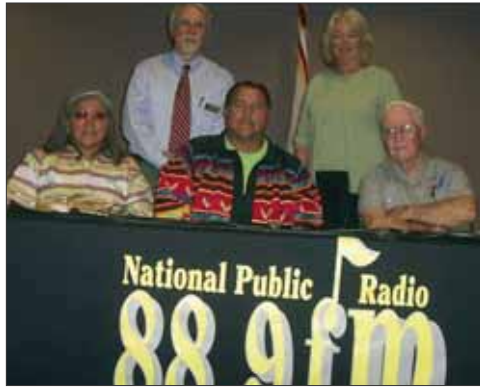
fear they would be taken away by force to Oklahoma to the (severe) boarding schools as some of the elders had been."

She said that most Seminoles, from the late 1800s through the 1930s, only spoke the Muskogee Creek and/or Mikasuki languages. That is, until two influential women, Betty Mae Tiger Jumper and Laura Mae Jumper Osceola, went to public school and began to urge other Tribal citizens to get a formal education and learn English.

Gopher said the first "public" school at Brighton Seminole Reservation was the Indian Day School, where William and Edith Boehmer of the Bureau of Indian

As a result of public school education, the traditional languages began to disappear. The first effort to counteract this loss was a resolution the Tribal Council passed in 1982 to create a voluntary culture program. But, that still was not enough.

To preserve the Tribe's culture, Gopher explained how the Brighton community created the Pull-Out Program in



Susan Etsebarria

(L-R) Louise Gopher, WQCS General Manager Madison Hodges, Willie Johns, WQCS Oral Histories Specialist Janie Gould and Joe Crankshaw.

✦ Litefoot

Continued from page 1

for the people around you and show them what is right. Strive to get the education that you deserve and reestablish the traditions of your culture.

"Pray, pray and pray some more! It is simple and will take you back to what makes a leader and give you the strength to care about yourself and your people."

During the afternoon he returned to the school and visited individual classrooms. Whether standing in front of the class or sitting down in the middle of their desks, Litefoot has the ability to make each and every student feel important and talks directly to them on a one on one basis.

It didn't matter if he was in the second grade classroom or high school; the students were listening, not talking.

"Listening is respect and I thank you for it because I, too, respect you," he said, before turning the classrooms over to the students for a question and answer session. "Listen to your heart because it will guide you."

Regardless of age group, the youngsters made some very insightful inquiries and got some very good advice. The conversations ranged from religion to education, acting, sports, travel, peer pressure and family relationships to self respect and the ability to make a difference.

Following his presence at the Ahfachkee School, Litefoot moved to the gym during the evening to meet with the members of the Big Cypress community.

"I encourage you to do what the Creator intended for you to do," he said. "This is what is inside of you and this is what makes you Seminoles. We only have a short time to make a difference on Earth and we must not waste it. As Native Americans we are an incredible people with an inner strength and strong survival instincts. This is what



Judy Weeks

Litefoot speaks with the Ahfachkee students.

makes us warriors!"

Litefoot concluded: "Don't react to problems. Be pro-active. We all have a reason to live — not survive. Get an education and know yourself. We all learn something everyday of our lives. As I leave you, I won't say goodbye, but rather, until we meet again. If it isn't here, it will happen somewhere else!"



Judy Weeks

The second graders took a group photo with Litefoot (back row, center)

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New Health and Faces within the Tribe

Shannon Brown, Family Nurse Practitioner

I am Shannon Brown the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) for the Immokalee Health Clinic. I joined the health department in July 2007. I received my Bachelor's degree in Nursing from the University of Wisconsin in 1996, and went on to receive my Masters in Nursing from Barry University in 2000. Prior to joining the Tribe I worked as a FNP in a private physician's office, focused on infectious disease and internal medicine.

My role here at the Tribe consists of providing comprehensive health care to the Tribal members, from newborns to elders. Mainly I care for Tribal members on the Immokalee reservation, though occasionally I do see Tribal members from the other reservations or other Tribes.

I am so excited to be a part of the health model the Tribe has in place. I look forward to developing lasting relationships with the Tribal members and helping guide each one to their fullest state of health and well-being.

I must say I am really enjoying my newfound place within the Tribe. I have felt welcomed and needed by everyone I have interacted with. I especially enjoy the personal one on one attention and care I am able to provide. I see my role as advocate, mentor, provider, and confidant. I hope to challenge each of you to become fit and healthy, for this can only intensify the success of the Seminole Nation in generations to come!!!



Shannon Brown

Toma Hunter, Nutritionist

I'm from Pawnee, Oklahoma, and I just graduated from Oklahoma State University. I'm the nutritionist for the Hollywood Clinic, and I've been here about one month. My goals are to promote healthy food choices through nutrition education for all members of the Seminole Tribe with an emphasis on diabetes, heart disease, child nutrition and nutrition for the elderly. I welcome everyone that would like to know more about making healthy eating choices to give me a call and I'll schedule you an appointment! Thank You! My number is 954-962-2009 EXT 10311.



Toma Hunter

Dr. Juan K. Packer, Dental Program Director
Dr. Packer received his undergraduate degree from the University of Southern Mississippi

and also graduated from its School of Dentistry. He is the Dental Program Manager for the Seminole Tribe of Florida. In that capacity, he oversees all four Tribal dental clinics and all personnel employed by the Tribe. He and his department provide comprehensive dentistry to the Tribe through diagnosis and treatment of oral diseases that affect



Dr. Juan Packer

the patients overall health.

Dr. Edward Michael Czop, Pharmacy Program Manager

Dr. Czop came to the Tribe in July 2007 from Palm Beach Atlantic University. He offers critical care, general clinical practice and pharmacokinetics specializing in adult critical care. Some of his challenges include providing medication compliance, better education awareness, personal consultations and provider awareness. His future goals are to ensure all timely prescription processing and that all Seminole Tribe health providers have access to appropriate patient information



Dr. Mike Czop

Evelyn Beilman, Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner

I am originally from Wisconsin. I came to Florida in 1995 to attend the University of Miami. I graduated in 1997 as a nurse practitioner with a Master of Science in Nursing with a family practice specialty. I began employment with the Tribe on April 15, 2007. I work as a family practice nurse practitioner at the Big Cypress clinic. My personal goals are to help all clients to understand their health needs in understandable terms so they can successfully complete treatment. I have worked with various cultures and love learning about their music, art, history and culture.



Evelyn Beilman

Ask The Counselor

Basil Phillips
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Dear Counselor:

I am a 28 year old young lady I am in a great relationship with a young man who is 32 years old. We have been dating for over two years. My boyfriend is a great guy, but my problem with him is that he is always late.

Every time we schedule a date, he is never on time. How can I discuss this situation with him without hurting his feelings? He is somewhat sensitive and I do not want to hurt his feelings.

Signed:

Tired

Dear Tired:

By not addressing a problem, it probably won't be resolved. Explaining how you're feeling will give him a chance to respond, without him feeling insulted. Someone who is always late is inconsiderate and if you don't call him on it, he'll

keep being late. Just be straight up and say you don't like being disrespected. In your discussion with him, the game plan is to be more positive than negative.

Because he is a sensitive guy, be as positive as you can. If you want to complain about how he's always late, try something like "You know, I love that you're so laidback and easygoing, but it really bothers me when you show up so late. I'm sure you can still be the fun guy I adore and also be on time."

Tired, here are words of wisdom from the Counselor: "The road to a successful relationship is always under construction."

Signed:

The Counselor

Staying Safe This Holiday Season

Tips from Fire Prevention Division

Submitted by Chief David Logan, Fire Marshal, and the Fire Prevention Division

The pleasure, joy, and wellbeing of our families are foremost in our minds. We need to raise our level of awareness to the many underlying hazards that can arise in a moment and place our loved ones in jeopardy and danger. An unwelcome, unintended fire can change a joyous celebration into a frightening and heartbreaking situation faster than we ever thought possible.

Candles are an intricate part of the holiday's ambience of light and fragrance. Never leave them unsupervised; keep them out of reach of children and animals; place all candles in sturdy fireproof holders; and never use candles on trees.

Trees: Many artificial trees are fire resistant. When buying one look for a statement specifying this protection. A fresh tree will stay green longer and be less of a fire hazard than a dry tree so be sure to check for freshness. Fresh trees are green; needles are hard to pull from branches; when fresh needles are bent between your fingers, they do not break; and the trunk butt is sticky with resin. To accomplish this, cut off about two inches of the trunk

to expose fresh wood for better water absorption. Next, use a sturdy, water holding stand with wide spread feet, and lastly always keep filled with water.)

Lights: Use only UL approved lights; check for damaged sockets or broken, frayed wires; use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord; trees can become electrically charged from faulty light, causing someone to be shocked; check all lights before using them; and keep "bubbling" lights away from children. These can tempt small children to break the glass and cut themselves and possibly drink the fluid contained inside the bulb, which contains a hazardous chemical.

Make certain your home has smoke alarms, preferably one in each bedroom and hallway on each level. Have at least one fire extinguisher in the kitchen and one in the garage. Develop a family escape plan and practice it with your family.

The Fire Prevention Division will supply any Tribal citizen with fire extinguishers, smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms, and also install them.

The Fire Prevention Division can be contacted at (863) 983-2150, Ext. 12472.



'Tis the Season for Pet Holiday Safety

Help Your Pet Avoid Danger, Stress

Submitted by Ava John, Environmental Health Program

The holidays are a wonderful time to celebrate with family and loved ones, but it can be a stressful and dangerous time for your family pet. Now that the holidays are upon us, Seminole Tribe of Florida Animal

Control Services would like to offer the following tips to help keep your pet safe.

Keep poinsettias and mistletoe out of reach. The leaves, stems and flowers of the poinsettia and mistletoe berries can be dangerous to pets.

Foods and drinks such as chocolate, nuts, salt, tea and coffee can be harmful to pets.

Never feed pets food from the dinner table. Many bones can shatter and choke cats and dogs.

Keep your Christmas tree well secured.

Pine needles, when ingested, can puncture holes in a pet's intestine.

Keep ornaments, tinsel, garland and stringed lights out of the reach of pets.

These decorations can easily attract pets, but they are choking and shocking hazards.

Avoid adding chemical preservatives to the Christmas tree water. It can be toxic.

Keep holiday candles out of reach. Tape electrical cords down. Pets may want to chew or claw at them and could be electrocuted. Snow globes often contain antifreeze, which is poisonous to pets.

Use a protective screen on your fireplace or wood-burning stove.

Put away toys after children open their gifts. Small plastic pieces and rubber balls are common causes of choking and intestinal blockage in dogs. Ingested plastic or cloth toys must often be removed surgically.

Holiday guests and other activity can be very stressful and even frightening to pets. It can also trigger illness and intestinal upset. Make sure pets have a safe place to retreat in your house. And make sure they are wearing current I.D. in case they escape out a door when guests come and go.

Reduce stress by keeping feeding and exercise on a regular schedule.

Always make time to care for your pets.

Please, don't spoil the holiday season with an unnecessary medical emergency. The Animal Control Program requests that you call the Health Department at (954) 962-2009 with any animal control issues.



The Healthy Senior

By Fred Cicetti

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

Q: What is the leading cause of hospitalization of older people? Is it heart attacks or strokes?

A: The number one reason people over age 65 go into the hospital is congestive heart failure (CHF), or simply heart failure. If you have CHF, your heart can't pump enough blood. This condition develops over time.

Heart failure is most common in older people, and is more common in African-Americans. Men have a higher rate of heart failure than women. But, because women usually live longer, the condition affects more women in their 70s and 80s.

In normal hearts, veins bring oxygen-poor blood from the body to the right side of the heart. It is then pumped through the pulmonary artery to the lungs, picking up oxygen. From there, the blood returns to the left side of the heart. Then it is pumped through a large artery called the aorta that distributes blood throughout the body.

Heart failure is caused by other diseases or conditions that damage the heart muscle. It is often caused by coronary artery disease, including heart attacks. Diabetes and high blood pressure also contribute to heart failure.

Coronary artery disease is the leading cause of death in men and women. It happens when the arteries that supply blood to the heart become hardened and narrowed. People who have had a heart attack are at high risk to develop heart failure.

There are a number of things that you can do to reduce risk of coronary artery disease and heart failure. For starters, you should keep the following levels down: body weight, cholesterol, blood pressure, sugar, alcohol and salt. Exercise

regularly. And, if you smoke, quit.

The most common symptoms of heart failure include shortness of breath, fatigue, and swelling, which usually occurs in the ankles, feet and legs. Swelling is caused by fluid buildup in the body and can lead to weight gain, frequent urination and a cough.

Because the symptoms are common for other conditions, your doctor will determine if you have heart failure by doing a detailed medical history, an examination, and several tests.

Tests that are given to determine heart failure include an electrocardiogram (EKG), a chest X-ray, and a blood test for BNP, a hormone that increases in heart failure.

Tests that can identify the cause of heart failure include: an echocardiogram that uses sound waves; a Holter monitor, which is a small box that is worn for 24 hours to provide a continuous recording of heart rhythm during normal activity; and an exercise stress test that reads your EKG and blood pressure before, during, or after exercise to see how your heart responds.

There is no cure for heart failure, but it can be controlled.

People with CHF are usually put on a low-salt diet to prevent fluid build-up. Their doctors may also tell them to lose weight, quit smoking, and reduce alcohol intake.

Medications that are used include: diuretics, AKA water pills, to reduce fluid; ACE inhibitors to lower blood pressure and reduce heart stress; beta-blockers to slow your heart rate and lower blood pressure; Digoxin to help the heart beat stronger.

People with severe heart failure may also be given a mechanical heart pump. A heart transplant is an option when all other treatments fail to control symptoms.

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Keri Cook (R) presents a certificate of appreciation to Dr. Kavita Kohli (L) and Wendy Nelson (C).

Dental Program Holds Training for Physicians

By Sandy Hamilton

HOLLYWOOD — Most parents wouldn't put soda in their baby's bottle because they know it can damage their teeth, but many parents will put a baby to sleep with a bottle of milk. According to the Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC), the problem is that both drinks can deposit acids in the mouth, which can in turn lead to a disease called caries.

Also according to the CDC, American Indians have the highest rate of caries among all other demographic.

Caries is an infectious disease that damages tooth structure. The more carbohydrates and sugars consumed the more at risk a person is to getting dental caries.

On Nov. 13, Dr. Kavita Kohli, a pediatric dentist used by the American Academy of Pediatrics

as a preceptor, and authority figure in her field, addressed pediatricians and other community health care professionals in the Hollywood Tribal Headquarters Auditorium. Kohli intended to educate them about caries and its prevention.

The CDC recommends a few simple steps that can be taken to prevent caries: Don't put a child to bed with a bottle unless it contains water; do not soak the baby's pacifier in honey because the sugar can cause acids to form; keep snacking down to less than three times daily; only give children juice during meals; make sure children are getting fluoride in the water they drink or through topical fluoride which includes toothpaste, mouth rinses, or gels; and be on the lookout for white spots on children's teeth. These spots are a sign of fluorosis which means that your child is getting too much fluoride.



Save A Life Tour Reaches Hearts and Minds

By Susan Etebarria

BRIGHTON — Wearing Fatal Vision® Simulation Goggles, curious teens thinking it would be easy to walk a straight line while intoxicated quickly discovered the dangerous effects of alcohol on the brain. The goggles had the same effect as drinking six alcoholic drinks.

Almost every child wobbled and weaved, experiencing a feeling of being out of control on the Drunk Driving Simulator during the Save A Life Tour.

"It really makes you feel helpless," said Kristina Osceola, 14. Seminole Police Department (SPD) officers brought this Field Sobriety Test demonstration to the Save A Life Tour Open House, held Nov. 10. It was one of many demonstrations throughout the day designed to show the serious consequences of drugs and alcohol.

The Family Services Department organized a full day of activities at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium, in cooperation with the Chairman's Office, the Non-Resident Liaison's Office, SPD, Emergency



Valerie Marone watches teens trying to throw football wearing Fatal Vision® Simulation Goggles.

one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

The highlight of the day was the Drunk Driving Simulator. Participants had the chance to experience what it is like to sit behind the wheel of a car driving under the influence of alcohol levels that keep increasing. Many youth gathered around the participant sitting at the screen; everyone wanted a turn.

At first, the sober driver maneuvers the car very well. However, as the simulated alcohol level increases, it becomes obvious how control over steering the car was quickly lost on the simulated roadway.

No matter how hard the participants tried, they could not beat the system. Under the influence of alcohol, driving the 87 mile course, with its unpredictable traffic and variable weather, proved near-impossible with each driver becoming less proficient, and some even crashing into other virtual cars and pedestrians.

At another booth in the gymnasium, the Brighton



Youth crowd around the Save A Life Drunk Driving Simulator.

Management Services, the Brighton Health Department and the Recreation Department.

Family Services had a booth where people put on the Fatal Vision glasses and tried to hit a simple target with a foam football but most failed and went far off the mark. There, Family Services Coordinator Valerie Marone handed out information about alcohol and drugs.

"These goggles show people how alcohol can affect your reflexes, your coordination and depth perception," she said. "We do this to show youth what it is like going through this experience of actually drinking six beers. It's not just about driving a car drunk but how you walk, about going up stairs, operating a 4-wheeler in this condition."



Kristina Osceola attempts to walk in a straight line during the Brighton leg of the Tribal-wide Save A Life Tour.

Health Clinic stressed nutritious eating habits and gave out canvas shopping bags attendees could fill with fresh vegetables. Here, the participants were given information about combating diabetes.

Increasing the fun and participation was a car show on the softball field and 30 cars or vehicles were brought for judging and show. This event was sponsored by the Non-Resident Liaison's Office. A fabulous lunch was served under tents by the gym and nearby were children's activities including climbing the spider web and bungee jumping.

Later in the day, the Seminole Fire Rescue performed a Jaws of Life demonstration. The demonstration featured the tool, manufactured by the Hurst Company, used to pry open a vehicle involved in an accident when a person is trapped.



Steven Wright of Seminole Fire Rescue helps judge the Car Show.

"We want kids to know that sobriety is an option," Marone added. "They don't have to drink." One of the information sheets explained drinking behaviors after consuming five drinks in a 2.5 hour period of time. The brain area affected in the top frontal lobes is saturated by the alcohol and the drinker feels dizzy and delirious. It affects vision, speech and balance.

This level of consumption is a 0.10 percent blood alcohol concentration and motor skills are very impaired. At this level, driving is extremely dangerous and a driver can be cited for driving while intoxicated, or DWI. With a DWI, a person faces many criminal penalties including loss of license, fines and more.

To illustrate the seriousness of the crime, another hand-out explained how DWI penalties in other countries are even more severe than those in the U.S. In Finland it is one year in jail doing hard labor. In France, the penalty is a three year loss of license,

Tribal Support Groups

"Safe Place" Teen Support Group
Mondays, 4-5 p.m.

Parenting Group
Wednesdays, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

AA Meeting
Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.

Adult Support Group
Wednesdays, 12 p.m.

Support group meetings held at Sober House. Tribal citizens are encouraged to call the Brighton Family Services Department at (663) 763-7700, or stop by the offices at 17201 Civic Street, for information and support.

Health · Chah-nee-ken chao-ke · Evfeknety onakv

Save A Life Tour Makes a Stop at Immokalee Reservation

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — Family Services, Allied Health, the Seminole Police Department and Fire & Rescue made a combined effort to reach the Immokalee community on Nov. 17, and raise awareness on some very important issues.

Family Services brought the Save A Life Drunk Driving Simulator and set it up for community members to have an opportunity to experience firsthand the effect alcohol and drugs can have on reflexes and judgment.

Julie Bennett of Family Services joined staff members in guiding people through an obstacle course of cones while wearing Fatal Vision®

Impairment Simulation Goggles, which give the viewer the sense of being under the influence. It was hysterical to watch children and adults unsuccessfully negotiate the course and see

their reaction after removing the eye wear. Games, prizes and literature were distributed to participants.

Brenda Bordogna, Chantal Rogan and Charlotte Porcaro from Allied Health kept a steady stream of children occupied with a ball toss contest, prizes and open fruit and vegetable market. As they threw the ball at targets for prizes, the youngsters learned about exercise, proper eating habits, the food pyramid and diabetes.

November is National Diabetes Month and careful attention was paid to the debilitating effect it can have upon the entire physical system and ways to

prevent or control a diabetic condition. Bordogna's baskets of produce, healthy recipes and snacks were very appealing and she distributed attractive shopping bags for the group to take home.

On a more sobering note, the Seminole Police Department discussed graphic photos taken at accident scenes and the pain and heart-break that could have been avoided by making responsible choices. Although the



Manuel Garza won first place with his classic chopper.



SPD Officer Van Orman talks with the youngsters about the gruesome photos taken at accident scenes that involved alcohol.



Vanessa Billie winds up for a shot in the ball toss contest.



Julie Bennett helps Alexis Aguilar negotiate the obstacle course.



Family Services' Fred Mullins (L) awards a first place trophy in the car show to Mario and Lorraine Posada and their children Lauren, Lindsey and Brandon.



Kenny Joe Davis put a lot of work into his champion truck entry.

pictures were horrible, they seemed to portray the magnitude of the problem and send the gruesome message home.

Family Services' Linda Freeman took registrations, while Fred Mullins judged the Car Show in the parking lot of the Administration Building. There were motorcycles, trucks, cars and SUV's. Classic, modified and contemporary vehicles entered the appropriate classes. Trophies were received by Kenny Joe Davis, Mario Posada, Manuel Garza, Raymond Mora, Lorraine Posada and Jennifer Ramos, in multiple categories.

A delicious barbecue picnic was served with fresh fruit and vegetable salad trays were provided by Immokalee Board Liaison Delores Jumper and her assistant Edward Aguilar.

The Immokalee Seminole Ranch provided the public address system and background music for the event. Staff talked with the children about healthy activities that are an alternative to life on the streets.

Results from the Save a Life Car Shows

Hollywood:

Sports Cars: 1. Pernell Bert, 2. Joseph Osceola, 3. Tasha Osceola
Custom Cars: 1. Eric Osceola, 2. Eric Osceola, 3. Chris Osceola
Classic Cars: 1. Ollie Balentine, 2. Moses

Jumper, 3. Moses Jumper
Motorcycles: 1. Ollie Balentine, 2. Joshua Sneed, 3. Joshua Sneed
SUVs: 1. Jerome Davis, 2. Leslie Osceola, 3. Mercedes Osceola-Hahn
Rez Rides: 1. Chris Osceola, 2. Michelle

Osceola, 3. Leslie Osceola
Trucks: 1. Pernell Bert, 3. Leslie Osceola, 2. Joshua Sneed
Classic Trucks: 1. Moses Jumper
4X4: 1. Eric Osceola, 2. Pernell Bert

Honorable Mentions:

Best Interior: Eric Osceola; Best Paint: Eric Osceola; Best of Show: Eric Osceola

Brighton:

Sports Cars: 1. Ricky Doctor, 2. James Girtman, 3. Selena Billie
Custom Cars: 1. Margaria Fudge, 2. Lupe Osceola, 3. Ronnie Billie
Classic Cars: 1. Ronnie Billie, 2. Claudia Olivarez
Motorcycles: 1. Ronnie Billie, 2. Larry Howard, 3. Joyce Piz
SUVs: 1. Danielle Howard, 2. Edna Tommie, 3. Joyce Piz
Rez Rides: 1. Sandy Billie, 2. Justin Gopher, 3. Reese Bert
Trucks: 1. Wayne Nelson
Classic Trucks: 1. Sandy Billie, 2. Justin Gopher, 3. Darrin Osceola
4X4: 1. Edna Tommie, 2. Betty Billie, 3. Joyce Piz

Honorable Mentions:

Best Interior: Margaria Fudge; Best Paint: Margaria Fudge; Best of Show: Ricky Doctor



Eric Osceola's first place car from the custom division.



Moses Jumper Jr.'s classic truck took top honors in its category.

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Community News



The Courtyards of Seminole Winds show Christmas cheer.

Holiday Cheer in Hollywood

By Melissa Sherman

HOLLYWOOD—With a twinkle of his nose, and a jingle of his bells, all of Santa's workers brought Christmas magic and cheer to the Hollywood Reservation. Thanks to the collaborative efforts of Hollywood Council Representative Max Osceola Jr. and the Housing Department, a decorative array of choo-choo trains, presents, Christmas trees and reindeer were hung with care throughout the Hollywood

townhomes and apartments. In light of the Hollywood representative's favorite pastime, a cool Santa on a motorcycle can even be spotted. So, to ward off ole' Ebenezer Scrooge this year, be sure to grab a cup of hot cocoa and take the kids for a winter stroll through Hollywood to enjoy the light display. No need to rush though, the decorations will be displayed until the end of the year.

✦ Council

Continued from page 1

and to express an opinion on the fairness of the Hollywood and Tampa Enterprises schedule of income available for debt service required (the "Schedule") for the fiscal year ended Sept. 30, 2007;

Resolution 26: Engagement letter for tax return work by Deloitte Tax LLP for the tax years ended Sept. 30, 2007 or Dec. 31, 2007;

Resolution 27: United Healthcare Insurance Company administrative service agreement and excess risk insurance policy for Seminole Tribe of Florida Gaming Employees Health Plan;

Resolution 46: Brighton Village Phase Two subdivision plan for the Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 47: Osceola Circle East subdivision plan for the Hollywood Seminole Indian

Reservation;

Resolution 49: Max B. Osceola, III, loan for operating capital for Seminole Auto Salon LLC, and completing final development;

Resolution 50: Blake Osceola loan application to purchase, renovate and sell houses;

Resolution 51: Ratification of the Seminole Tribe of Florida Filming permission letter granting Spectrum Video Productions, Inc., permission to film a television show on the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 52: Revokeable permit between Jacob Osceola (permittee) and Pinpoint Marketing, D/B/A, A Flower Depot (permittee)-Hollywood Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 54: Appointment of land use commission members for a term of two years from Jan. 1, 2008 through Dec. 21, 2009;

Seniors Enjoy an Afternoon at the Culture Village

Famed Native Artist Litefoot Enjoys a Meal with the Community

By Judy Weeks

BIG CYPRESS—Cooking over the open fire, the ladies from the Culture Department prepared a traditional Seminole dinner for the Big Cypress seniors and their special guests, Litefoot and his wife Carmen, on Nov. 27.

BC Seniors Site Manager Cecilia Solano was quick to mention that the successful dinner was a joint effort.

"President Richard Bowers supplied the freshly caught fish, while B.C. Board Rep. Cicero Osceola provided the firewood," she said. "BC Council Rep. David Cypress sponsored the event. Recreation organized the Horseshoe Tournament, and of course, Community Care for the Elders always plays a big role in all senior activities."

The Cowbone Band provided entertainment with Paul Buster singing and playing his guitar accompanied by Paul Houlihan on the dobro or steel resonator. Their country and gospel music transported the partygoers into a bygone era and created a pleasant change from the hectic atmosphere of the 21st Century. It was easy to get caught up in the mood, which was

evidenced by Chairman Mitchell Cypress taking a quick spin around the chicken with Carol Cypress to a Hank Williams classic.

Litefoot is always a hit with the seniors who have encountered him on the road as well as at home. Instead of making a formal presentation, he and his wife mingled with the group as one of their own and enjoyed a leisurely afternoon of down time with old friends.

George Billie brought two vintage photographs depicting his younger years as an alligator wrestler and bow and arrow instructor that were quite a hit. Displayed in a prominent location, they received a lot of traffic.

The Men and Women's Horseshoe Tournament took a couple hours with some very stiff competition on both sides. However, like all senior activities, it was a pleasant afternoon with cheerful banter as they interacted with each other.

Results of the Horseshoe Tournament were as follows: Men's: Thomas Billie, Rudy Osceola, George Billie, Billy Brown and Jonah Cypress; Women's: Mary



George Billie adds a Litefoot photograph to his collection.

Tigertail, Laura Clay, Louise Osceola, Louise Billie and Violet Jim.

Jonah Cypress then offered the blessing, which was followed by a magnificent dinner with a wide variety of Seminole dishes prepared in the old time, family tradition. It wasn't hard to talk Litefoot into taking a second helping on everything, especially the sofkee and frybread.

Door prizes for the event included a wide assortment of massage equipment, which was gratefully received.



Judy Weeks

The ladies from the Culture Dept. created a succulent dinner over the fire.



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Thomas Billie and George Billie are a formidable pair in the horseshoe tournament.

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Community News



Susan Etzebarria

Jenny Billie holds a photo of Alice Osceola, surrounded by Alice's descendants.

Memorial Tournament for Alice Osceola

By Susan Etzebarria
BRIGHTON — "It's a beautiful day and mom must be looking over us," said Juanita Osceola on the occasion of the 3rd annual Alice Osceola Memorial Horseshoe Tournament, held Nov. 10. Her mother passed away in February 2005.

Alice Osceola was a resident of Brighton and a member of the Panther Clan. All her children were born at Brighton, but some of her descendants have

since moved to Hollywood, Trail and Big Cypress. Present for the honoring were Alice's daughters Juanita Osceola and Jenny Billie, and sons Howard, Jim and Russell Osceola. There were also many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews present as well. Passed on are two daughters Mary Billie and Theda Osceola.

Jenny Johns said a Creek prayer to start the day. Juanita Osceola next thanked the Brighton Recreation Department staff for assisting with the tournament, and Brighton Council Representative Roger Smith for providing the prizes.

In addition to horseshoes, there were skillet throws and axe throwing. An excellent noontime picnic was served to the happy gathering. With family and friends, there were well over 70 guests enjoying the sunny but shady area under the giant oaks.

"I want to thank all the people for coming out and supporting this memorial," said Juanita, who organized the event. "I am happy to see so many kids all over the place. If you don't have family I don't know what you have; that's really all you have that counts."

One of the cousins, Alice Sweat, spoke highly of Alice Osceola.

"She was very important to us at Brighton," she said. "She contributed so much to this community and we miss her."

The Alice Osceola Memorial Horseshoe Tournament is usually held in September. However, this year the family had to reschedule due to other commitments.



Susan Etzebarria

Daughter Jenny Osceola pitches a horseshoe.

Tribe Attends FSU Homecoming Activities

By Wanda Bowers

TALLAHASSEE — Miss Florida Seminole Jennifer Chalfant and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Alicia Nunez, and their families, had the privilege of attending the weekend activities at the Florida State University (FSU) Homecoming, held on the weekend of Oct. 26-28.

The festivities started off with a dinner on Oct. 26 at the Silver Slipper Restaurant, one of Tallahassee's finest. Louise Gopher hosted the dinner, and took the time to welcome all her friends who made the trip up from South Florida to see her receive the Westcott Award during FSU's Homecoming.

Gopher was also the honorary grand marshal in the Florida State University Homecoming Parade through campus. Jennifer Chalfant, Alicia Nunez, the Tribal Color Guard, including Steven Bowers, U.S. Army, and Joe Osceola Jr., U.S.



Wanda Bowers

Miss Florida Seminole Jennifer Chalfant in the parade.

parade. Seminole dolls with garnet and gold clothing were a big hit at the parade as well as the necklaces with garnet and gold colors and arrow head hanging from it just like the spear that Osceola sticks into the ground.

During the halftime activities, FSU's Marching Chiefs band performed as the cheerleaders entertained the crowd. Following the entertainment, Tribal President Richard Bowers Jr. and Brighton Council Rep. Roger Smith escorted Louise Gopher to the 50 Yard Line to meet President T.K. Wetherell, who explained why Gopher was so deserving of the Westcott Award.

There was a video up on the big screen that showed Gopher's accomplishments, both within the Tribe and FSU. It highlighted her dedication to her people and showed how determined she was, through her efforts as the Tribe's Education Department director, to improve education for all Tribal citizens. After a short appreciation speech from Wetherell, he presented Gopher with the distinguished award.

Shortly after came the announcement of the winners for Homecoming Queen and King, by none other than Miss Florida Seminole Jennifer Chalfant. Chalfant would also crown the 2007 King Matt Tomaszewski, along with Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Alicia Nunez crowning 2007 Queen Nichole VanderYacht. The Tribal princesses are always glad to be apart of the Florida State Homecoming festivities every year.



Wanda Bowers

Miss Florida Seminole Jennifer Chalfant and Jr. Miss Alicia Nunez hold the FSU Homecoming king and queen crowns, before presenting them to the chosen recipients.

Army, both from the Hollywood Reservation, and Paul Bowers Sr., Marine Corp, from the Big Cypress Reservation, also represented the Tribe.

All the floats were from FSU's different sororities, fraternities, clubs, football players, track team members, along with the FSU Homecoming Court and Tallahassee city officials. As long as I've been attending the FSU homecoming festivities, the parade seems to get bigger and better, with all the university and the city involvement.

I think the highlight of the weekend was that the FSU students and alumni were anxious to purchase Seminole arts and crafts from our Seminole lady vendors. Bobbie Billie from Big Cypress and Connie Gowen from Hollywood, who sold their creations at the VIP area during the



Wanda Bowers


FSU alumna Stephanie Lamb (C) chaperoned and coordinated the princesses at the FSU Homecoming festivities.



Wanda Bowers


Bobbie Billie (L) and Connie Gowen (R) sold arts and crafts at the FSU Homecoming parade.

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◆ DNA

Continued from page 1

"We had a really good turnout," explained Moore Jr. "We had approximately 10,000 people who attended over the three days. So we're really happy. We had over 600 children ... six schools attending."

Educating the crowds about Native America was one of the prime motivations at stake here. Working diligently in a group effort, organizers brought the DNA Pow-Wow & Music Festival together, and superbly carried the event through to its triumphant conclusion. There was some exceptional competition to boot, that is, a Native American Dance Contest, with more than \$100,000 in prize money, and a Native American Drum Contest, with some \$30,000 in prize money.

The announcers for the occasion were: Dale Oldhorn of the Crow Agency, Montana, along with Lawrence Baker from North Dakota. The drum judge was Wayne Silas Jr., while the dance judge was Jonathan Windy Boy, whereas arena director duties were accomplished by Duane Whitehorse. The host of

the Northern Drum was High Noon of Alberta, Canada, and the host of the Southern Drum was Scissortail from Shawnee, Okla.

Native American food, arts and craft vendors galore, and long lines were rather prevalent throughout the entire three day event.

"We invited vendors from last year's Tribal Fair; Natives from all over the country," said Moore Jr. "The Native American bands who performed on the Seminole Hard Rock stage, emceed by Junior Battiste, were Martha Redbone, and Derek Miller, and the Blackhawk Blues Band."

Tribal citizen Spencer Battiste gave an impressive rendition of the National Anthem, as moving tributes were bestowed on the men and women of the U.S. military. The much-venerated Seminole Color Guard, whose members on this occasion included: Steven Bowers, Ted Nelson, and Paul Bowers, were also on hand. Tampa community member Bobby Henry graciously delivered prayers and blessed the grounds, insuring the event would be carried off with flying colors.

The DNA dancers were out in full-force. The Seminole, Aztec and Anikithwa dancers, among others, gave powerful performances every single time, while the sound of the drums and singing reverberated throughout the Entertainment Hall. And outside, on the Seminole Hard Rock Stage, flute player Sonny Nevaquaya, delivered brilliant performances. Nevaquaya is part Comanche/Chickasaw/Choctaw from Apache, Okla.

One particular song written by Nevaquaya is entitled, "Vietnam, Why Did You Take My Only Son?" and was first performed in 1986 at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington, D.C.

"I think the turnout is really nice, with the schools and the young kids," said Nevaquaya. "And there seems to be more and more people coming in all the time."

"We worked with MacDill Air Force Base on doing a school program for them over there, and that gave us the idea."



Esta Liederman

Jona's Fry Bread was a popular and tasty choice for festival participants.



Esta Liederman

Native women and men took part in the drum competition at the DNA Pow-Wow.



Esta Liederman

Connie Gowen displays her handmade Seminole dolls and patchwork clothing for sale at the festival.



Esta Liederman

Miss Florida Seminole looks at native arts and crafts available at one of the booths at DNA.

Discover Native America Pow-Wow Pool Tournament

By Elgin Jumper

TAMPA — Though the Discover Native America (DNA) Pow-Wow Pool Tournament, open to all Native Americans, was put together on such short notice. Still, there was a wonderful turnout for the event, held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in conjunction with the DNA Pow-Wow & Music Festival. The Pool Tournament took place on Nov. 16-17 and was hastily arranged by Big Cypress Council Rep. David Cypress, main DNA Pow-Wow & Music Festival organizer, Frank Moore Jr., and the Big Cypress Recreation Department. Play began at 6 p.m. on Nov. 16, and resumed again at noon the following day.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Big Cypress Council Rep. David Cypress participated in the tournament, while pool enthusiast, Joe Billie of Big Cypress, could be seen prominently in the hotel billiards room with his custom-made cue and its exquisitely-crafted leather case.

"The turnout was excellent," indicated Steve Frost of the Big Cypress Recreation department, "considering the short notice everyone had."

There were a couple of noteworthy performances. Theresa Nunez won all three events she played in. And Rosie Billie, a senior from Brighton, who has been having health problems, finished third

in the 18 and over 9-ball event, and fourth in the Scotch Doubles with her partner, Jack Billie."

Complete results are as follows:
8-Ball: Senior Women, Ages 60 and Older: 1. Juanita Osceola, 2. Jane Doctor, 3. Louise Osceola, 4. Rose Jones, 5. Louise Billie; Women, Ages 18-49: 1. Theresa Nunez, 2. Claudia Olivarez, 3. Teonna Rock, 4. Juanita Osceola, 5. Dale Grasshopper; Senior Men, Ages 50-59: 1. David Cypress, 2. Gary Clay, 3. Lonnie Billie, 4. Roy Snow, 5. Buddy Sweat; Senior Men, Ages 60 and Older: 1. Joe Billie, 2. Russell Osceola, 3. Keeno King, 4. Billy Micco, 5. George Osceola; Men, Ages 18-49: 1. George Grasshopper, 2. Tony Billie, 3. Gary Clay, 4. Jack Billie, 5. Roy Snow.

9-Ball: Women: 1. Theresa Nunez, 2. Rosalie Henry, 3. Rosie Billie, 4. Debbie Ray, 5. Donna Antunez; Men: 1. Gary Clay, 2. Nick Tiger, 3. Jack Billie, 4. Randy Clay, 5. Russell Osceola.
Scotch Doubles: Seniors: 1. George and Dale Grasshopper, 2. Parker and Rose Jones, 3. Joe Billie and Jane Doctor, 4. Buddy and Alice Sweat, 5. Lonnie Billie and Louise Osceola; Adults: 1. Roy Snow and Theresa Nunez, 2. Randy Clay and Debbie Henry, 3. Russell and Juanita Osceola, 4. Jack and Rosie Billie, 5. George and Dale Grasshopper.



Esta Liederman

Native American pride was present during the Grand Entry of the Pow-Wow.

said Moore Jr. "We just wanted to acknowledge them and show them some respect for what they're doing. We had other Tribal veterans there. The Seminole Color Guard and all the councilmen participated. They were there for all the grand entries."

Major Native American events such as these have traditionally been multi-colored affairs, sacred, immersed in Native ways, and this one was no exception. From the feathers, the beads, the ribbons, the people, the drums and songs, the drums and the stunning regalia, it was an unforgettable scene of thrilling native sound, overpowering motion and amazing color, to be sure.

"The pow-wow was great for us," said Oliver Wareham, who was also involved in the pre-planning. "It helps bring our communities together. We all come together, and we're one."

Moore, Jr. also referring to the substantial benefits gleaned from such a worthy enterprise, affirmed: "It just gives us a reason to be proud. We've got a lot to be proud of. It exposes us to more tribes. Plus the community, the Tampa area, they love pow-wows. We're hoping to make it an annual event. The chairman wants to make it annual event, the council agreed. Plus, working with MacDill Air Force Base, we're also hoping to put together a traveling program."



Esta Liederman

Navajo Artist Rex A. Begaye shows his acrylic paintings to DNA attendees.

"I love the pow-wow," declared Tony Dees, personal trainer to the chairman. "It's the first one I've ever attended. It's really exciting, electric! I didn't know the variations of dances that they had. It's really enjoyable."

As were various other Tribal leaders, Chairman Mitchell Cypress presence was quite visible during the pow-wow.

"Next year we're hoping to promote the event even more so that even more people will come out and learn about our DNA Pow-Wow & Music Festival, and our native ways," he said. "So I think this is very educational for non-Native Americans, and also for the different Tribes who attend."

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Results from Veteran's Day EIRA Rodeo
Held November 8 at the Moses Jumper Arena

Bull Riding		Team Riding	
1. Justin Gopher, 80		1. Mike Brown/Happy Jumper, 13.2	
		2. Marvin Brown/Hilland Gopher, 16.2	
Barrel Racing		Breakaway Riding	
1. Brian Jumper, 16.494		1. Brian Jumper, 3.9	
2. Michaela Jumper, 16.499		2. Liza Davis, 4.6	
3. Lorretta Polanco, 16.828		3. Jack Jumper, 12.5	
4. Marilee Jumper, 17.063		2. Justin Gopher, 19.5	
		3. Hilland Gopher, 22.8	



(L-R) Mondo Tiger, Michelle Lenire, Cicero Osceola, Ernest Riley, Sandy Pendleton, Virginia Billie, Raymond Garza, Lawrence Osceola and Charlie Cypress.

Turkey Skins Golf Tournament

By Judy Weeks

CLEWISTON, Fla. — The sun slowly emerged from the early morning mist on Nov. 24 as golfers took to the links at the Clewiston Country Club for the Turkey Skins Tournament, sponsored by the Seminole Tribe of Florida. The overcast sky was quickly transformed into a bright sunny day with a cool, gentle breeze that beckoned the contestants onto the course.

The last golf cart departed the clubhouse around 8 a.m. without fanfare. The sounds of laughter and playful chiding drifted back from the first tee as each successive contestant began their journey around the course. This happy-go-lucky group of approximately 20 players quickly became

scattered down the fairways. It was every man and woman for themselves as "skins" implies "with no handicaps." By 11:30 a.m. bags of clubs were being unloaded at their final destination and the time of reckoning had arrived. Tournament Coordinator Charlie Cypress gathered up the score cards and a sharp pencil to make the tally.



(L-R) Charlie Cypress and Cicero Osceola measure the distance to the pin.



Virginia Billie checks her score card.



Mondo Tiger and Lawrence Osceola are off to the links.

Players lounged on the porch outside the Pro Shop reliving their birdies, pars and bogies awaiting the results. This is a tough bunch to play with as they rib each other about past experiences that would best be forgotten. Thanks to your buddies, it was obvious that there is some baggage you will wind up carrying around for the rest of your golfing career.

Mondo Tiger quietly played his air violin to accompany the saga of bad sand traps, greens that are too fast, trees that suddenly appear out of nowhere and balls that go for a final swim. Charlie Cypress confirmed how Cicero Osceola's ball went straight for the cup on the tenth hole, hesitated and then circled the edge and wound up five feet away. Everyone agreed that it's all a part of the game and these are the things that make it an interesting competition.

Finally the results were completed and Cypress announced that the women, Virginia Billie and Michelle Lenire,

would be splitting their share of the pot evenly. The Men's Long Drive belonged to Mondo Tiger. Other results include: Closest to the Pin: Men's KP-Charlie Cypress and Raymond Garza; Women's KP-Michelle Lenire; Senior Men's KP-Ernest Riley and Lawrence Osceola. Least Amount in the following order: Darrell Bird, Sandy Pendleton, Ricky Doctor, Lawrence Osceola, Ernest Riley, Cicero Osceola, Mondo Tiger, Raymond Garza and Charlie Cypress.

BC Community Honors Michele Cypress
Sixth Annual Pool Tournament Held in Her Honor

By Judy Weeks

BIG CYPRESS — The 14 pool tables at the Big Cypress Gym rarely lay idle during the two day 6th Annual Michele Cypress Pool Tournament, held Nov. 23-24. Each year, this Tribal and affiliate event draws an enthusiastic crowd from all of the Seminole reservations and surrounding areas who enjoy the game and celebrate the memory of Michele Cypress.

Following a shout to rack 'em up at 6 p.m. on the evening of Nov. 23, the Tournament officially got underway. The seniors played Men and Women's 8-Ball Singles and 9-Ball Scotch Doubles until well after midnight during this first leg of the event.

The following morning, the seniors returned to join the adult players for registration at 11 a.m. for Men and Women's Adult 8-Ball Singles, Scotch Doubles, Men and Women's Team 8-Ball and the 9-Ball Opens. Play began at noon and continued non-stop until about 6:30 a.m. the next morning. Despite the all night play, the crowd didn't begin to thin out until around 4 a.m.

During opening ceremonies, Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Council Representative David Cypress and Board Representative Cicero Osceola welcomed players and provided an oral tribute in memory of Michele Cypress. The three leaders also asked those in attendance to remember the less fortunate in their prayers during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress requested: "Please pray daily for the safe return of the men and women who are fighting for our country. Remember the veterans who have made their sacrifices for the freedom that we enjoy. Freedom isn't free and they have paid the ultimate price."

Maroon long and short sleeve T-shirts were distributed in memory of the occasion. Refreshments and a fully loaded buffet provided sustenance for the crowd throughout the tournament.

Pool enthusiasts formed a steady audience at the awesome display of pool cues, cues and memorabilia at the entrance. Craftsman Mike Dewitt remained busy plying his trade by replacing tips, polishing and refinishing cues on site. Many of the players in the room had either custom ordered or won examples of his fine artwork and proudly exhibited them.

Being a perfectionist, DeWitt emphasizes the need for proper weight, balance and a blemish free finish. Each of his productions is a much coveted work of art that includes inlays of wood, precious stones and beadwork. These masterpieces are not only works of art but must also be versatile equipment for the game of pool.

Results of the tournament are listed beginning with first place in each category.

Nov. 23 Events:

Senior Women's 8-Ball: Juanita Osceola, Jane Doctor, Shirley Pigeon, Laura Clay, Diana OnlyAChief; Senior Men's 8-Ball: George Grasshopper, Billy Brown, David Cypress, Roy Snow, Rocky Pigeon; Senior Scotch Doubles: Billy Brown and Esther Buster, Roy Snow and Bess Bowlegs, David Cypress and Laura Clay, Keeno King and Louise Billie, Buddy, Alice Sweat; Senior Women's 9-Ball: Bess Bowlegs, Louise Osceola, Shirley Pigeon, Diana OnlyAChief, Esther Buster; Senior Men's 9-Ball: Gary Clay, Roy Snow, Rocky Pigeon, Daniel Gopher, Billy Brown.

Nov. 24 Events:

Women's 8-Ball: Phalyn Osceola, Hope Baker, Theresa Nunez, Donna Antuna, Linda Jones; Men's 8-Ball: George Grasshopper, Rocky Pigeon, Josh Garza, Nick Tiger, Jack Billie; Scotch Doubles: Tony Billie and Donna Antuna, Moses Billie, Jr. and Louise Osceola, OB Osceola and Linda Jones, Raymond Garza and Virginia Billie, Nick Tiger and Carla Cypress; Women's 9-Ball: Phalyn Osceola, Dale Grasshopper, Jane Doctor, Juanita Osceola and Virginia Billie; Men's 9-Ball: Randy Clay, Gary Clay Woody Wilson, Raymond Garza and Arnold Cypress.

Women's Teams: 1. Cue T's: Theresa Nunez, Phalyn Osceola and Laura Lindauer; 2. Forty 9-Sixty 9: Tonya Jumper, Donna Antuna and Christina Castaneda; 3. Troubled Shooters: Dale Grasshopper, Shirley Pigeon and Sherry King; 4. Triple Threat: Connie Williams, Pauletta Bowers and Virginia Billie; 5. 2 Indians and a Hutkey: Teonna Rock, Louise Osceola and Rena Blissett.

Men's Teams: 1. 3 Injuns & a "Honky": David Cypress, George Grasshopper, OB Osceola and Troy Frank; 2. Seminole: Tony Billie, Randy Clay, Gary Clay and Glen Olson; 3. Outkast:



The men's team of 3 Injuns and a "Honky" took first place. (L-R) David Cypress, George Grasshopper, Troy Frank and OB Osceola Jr.



(L-R) Sherry King, David Cypress and Lonnie Billie oversee registration.

Leon Micoe, Roy Snow, Joe Billie and Bill Wilson; 4. Motown: Raymond Garza, Josh Garza, Roy Garza Jr. and Lonnie Billie; 5. Jack's: Jack Billie, Ryan Osceola, Raonson Hill and Jesse Urbina.



Gary Clay (R) shakes hands with Chairman Mitchell Cypress (L) after running the table.



Mitchell Cypress awards the Cue T's. (L-R) Laura Lindauer, Phalyn Osceola and Theresa Nunez, the women's team championship prize.



Steve Frost (L) congratulates Louise Osceola (C) and Moses Billie Jr. (R) for second place in the Scotch Doubles.



Steve Frost (R) awards Billy Brown (L) and Esther Buster (C) for winning first place in the Senior Scotch Doubles event.



George Grasshopper took first place in the Senior Men's 8-Ball.

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Lila Osceola-Heard

E-League champions, Sabiki, take their championship home to South Dade.



Lila Osceola-Heard

(L-R) Boettner "Rugby" Roger Jumper and Jerry Hart, ISA director



Lila Osceola-Heard

(L-R) Terry Tartsah and Kristin Duda work hard.



Lila Osceola-Heard

The RBJ Team proudly wear their Roger Jumper T-shirts as team jerseys.



Lila Osceola-Heard

Nutz from South Dade fall short of reliving top honors and took home the second place E-League trophy.



Lila Osceola-Heard

4 in the Dip from Homestead take the D League Championship home.



Lila Osceola-Heard

Cutler Ridge's Hit Squad takes the 2nd place in the D-League.

Softball Enthusiasts Gather From All Over State for Competition

Roger B. Jumper's Memorial Softball Tournament

By Lila Osceola-Heard

COOPER CITY, Fla. — Roger B. Jumper passed away on June 20, 2005 at the age of 21. His birthday, Nov. 16, started off a weekend full of homerun hits and great defensive plays in his honor.

The tournament hosted 39 total teams, with seven women's bracket teams, nine D League men's and 19 E League men's teams. The venue, the Brian Piccolo Park softball fields, was a better location for the tournament because of all the fields that they had access to, helping the tournament run smoothly.

"Roger was my only son, and he had all kinds of friends, liked to go to the mall and concerts, he loved football and softball, he would've enjoyed this tournament," said Glenda Jumper, Roger's mom, who also thanked everyone involved.

As the tournament progressed into its second year, the Jumper family made improvements by adding a D-League tournament. The D-League means everything gets better the further up a player plays.

This tournament was an Independent

Softball Association (ISA) sanctioned tournament, which according to isasoftball.com, is the most dynamic version of the game played.

ISA originated the employment of rules such as the ISA pitchers box, base stealing, the base burglar and legitimate home run rules in accordance with today's bats and balls. No longer dependent on offense only, ISA has reincorporated defense as an integral facet of the game.

Boettner "Rugby" Roger Jumper, Roger's dad thanked all the people who helped make the tournament possible. He said he felt it was a great success.

"It's not about the money; it's about the tournament and what it represents and keeping Roger's memory alive," he said. "Last year [the tournament] was in August, but this year the first day of the tournament was on Roger's birthday."

The family wanted to thank everyone who helped in making this tournament a hit, Rhonda Moffitt, Jerry Hart, ISA Director, Jeff Whitman, ISA Director, Keith Alercon, ISA Director, Eloise Daloney, and recreation staff, Terry Tartsah and Kristin Duda. Mr. M's Subs provided lunch and Eric's Barbeque provided everyone with dinner.



Lila Osceola-Heard

The Nuttin' Nice team, two-time champions.



Lila Osceola-Heard

New Moon Blue Crush, the second place finishers.



Lila Osceola-Heard

Milo Osceola tries to make a double play.

New Recreation Dept. For Immokalee

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — In just two months time, the Immokalee Seminole Recreation Department has undergone a complete transformation. New director in Recreation facilities John Boone and his assistant, Virginia Garcia, have established a comprehensive program to meet the needs of the community.

After doing a complete study of the age groups, interest levels and time schedules of the community's potential participants, programs were orchestrated to offer a varied curriculum that would benefit everyone. Existing programs for the enhancement of education were taken into consideration, as well as work schedules for the employed, in order to benefit the greatest number of people without creating any hardship.

Employee job descriptions were reviewed to allow for instructors and sports supervisors to be placed in the positions where they would be the most beneficial. In addition, a regular pick up and delivery schedule has been established for the recreation bus to transport children to and from lessons, events and sports activities.

The old ball field and Recreation Department area buildings have been cleaned and refurbished. There is a brand new layout for the baseball diamond, new clay and sodded playing field with freshly painted dugouts.

The golf driving range has been transformed from a vacant field into a well lit and carefully maintained practice area with adequate barriers for protection. Shade and seating have been provided for the players and spectators in close proximity to the tees. And to the delight of both young and old, a miniature golf course has been provided to allow for teaching, practicing and honing of skills.

The new youth center has found a home beside the gym and is in the final stages of completion with occupancy planned for the not too distant future.

Programs already in operation are Kids' Pool Night on Mondays from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Pool Hall located on the Immokalee Seminole Ranch. Children are picked up after school, homework and tutoring sessions and transported to the Hall, where they receive instruction appropriate to their age groups. Healthy snacks and refreshments are provided. In just a few short weeks, the group of participants has swelled to more than 35 kids.

Adults make use of the same pool facilities on Tuesday nights at 6:30 p.m., when they participate in the Immokalee Community Pool Tournaments.

The Wednesday afternoon Kids' Golf Clinic from, 4-6 p.m., has become very popular with children participating from 4 years and older. Equipment for all sizes is available ranging from toddlers to adults. As the bus pulls in, the children pile out with squeals of delight

and the fun begins.

Small fry and children from the lower grades are given instruction on the miniature golf course, while the more advanced group take lessons on the driving range. The popularity of the Clinic has been growing by leaps and bounds. When 60+ kids roll around, parents have been coming to join their kids and are quickly replacing them on the golfing range.

To meet the growing needs of this popular sport, the Immokalee Recreation Department would like to introduce PGA Golf Professional Woody Doherty. He has more than 25 years of experience teaching the game as a professional. Starting as an assistant pro, he eventually became director of instruction at the Charles River Country Club in Newton, Mass. In 2004 he moved to Naples and became head golf pro at the Valencia Golf and Country Club.

Doherty is now helping run the golf tournaments for Recreation, giving instruction at the Kids' Golf Clinics and is available for lessons at the driving range complex. He can be reached through the Recreation Department or directly by calling (239) 682-2989 or by e-mail at woodydoherty@pga.com.

The Immokalee Gym is now open to the children for supervised games every Thursday from 4-6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Fridays have been designated as Kids' Movie Night from 6-10 p.m. Ages 5 and older are welcome and popcorn, pizza and drinks are served.

A basketball league is the organizational stages and for other supervised sports contact the Immokalee Recreation Department.



Judy Weeks

Rick Burgess gives James Mora a little extra height at the pool table.



Judy Weeks

Immokalee Recreation Department facilities have undergone a transformation.



Judy Weeks

The new baseball diamond and sodded playing field are being prepared for the up-coming season.



Judy Weeks

PGA Golf Pro Woody Doherty shows Aaron Alvarado the proper grip on a golf club.



Judy Weeks

Spencer and Jack Aguilar have a blast playing pool.



Judy Weeks

Ozzi Garza, 5, practices his swing at the Immokalee Driving Range.



Judy Weeks

Carlize Bermudez, 4, can't get enough of miniature golf.

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GO DRAGON



Master McCarthy helps little warrior Thomly perfect her sidekick as Mr. Bill holds the target.



Yellow belt Justin Roff practices his mighty flying sidekick.



Go Dragon yellow belt teammates Ricky Joe Alumbaugh and Justin Roff trade kicks in a class drill.



Team Dragon yellow belt Katie Bert spars with concentration.



Little Warriors Brianna, Cale and Alina really display great concentration and determination while focusing on their next moves.

Photos by Irena Loleski

Big Cypress	Little Warriors I	Little Warriors II	Team Dragon	Adults 14+
	ages 3-5	ages 6-7	ages 8-13	5:30
	3:30	4:00	4:00	

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Pro Tour Concludes with Mizerak Championship

By Felix DuBoz

HOLLYWOOD — On Nov. 29 the Seminole Pro Tour Steve Mizerak Championship kicked off with the Seminole Pro Tour Celebrity Charity Pro-Am event at the Hard Rock Live. The tournament got started with a group of local sports celebrities enjoying a fun-filled competitive round of 10-ball pool.

This event was hosted by Seminole Spots Management (SSM) in conjunction with the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Professional pool celebrities, along with host and baseball legend Andre "The Hawk" Dawson, helped make this event a success.

The Pro-Am also featured a silent auction of famous celebrities' unique sports memorabilia presented by Field of Dreams that guests could bid on. Guests also enjoyed music, food and drinks with all proceeds benefiting the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County. Some of the items up for auction were football legend Jim Brown's autographed helmet, another football great Lawrence Taylor's #56 autographed uniform jersey, and a framed autographed photo of Hall of Famer Dan Marino in action, just to mention a few.

Kevin Pickard, SSM Tournament and Events Coordinator, did a marvelous job emceeing this charity event.

Pickard said, "We got 16 teams competing with the people that bought in to play, including Seminole Tribal members with professional pool players and former professional athletes also competing on 16 pool tables, with everything going to the Boys & Girls Club."

Some of the Tribal citizens participating included: Chairman Mitchell Cypress, BC Council Rep. David Cypress, BC Board Rep. Cicero Osceola, George Grasshopper, Bobby Frank Sr. and his son Robert Frank Jr.

"I'm here to try to win the 10-ball," said Robert Frank Jr.

He was on his dad Bobby Frank's team and they did a good job, coming in third place. Everyone said they enjoyed this fun-filled competition and a chance to meet some of their favorite sports athletes from the past and present, including Andre Dawson, Donnell Willis, OJ McDuffie and Vivian Villareal.

Winners of the Seminole Pro Tour Celebrity Charity Pro-Am event were: 1. Smart Water/Glen Johnson's team, Louis Ulrich, 2. Renegade/DJ Laz Team, Stevie Moore, 3. Bobby Frank's Team.



Chairman Mitchell Cypress prepares to take his shot.



Felix DuBoz

All proceeds from the silent auction went to the Boys & Girls Club of Broward County.



Felix DuBoz

(L-R) Robert Frank Jr. and Aunt Mary Bowers look at the sports memorabilia presented by Field of Dreams.



Felix DuBoz

Participants wait for their turn to shoot in 10-Ball.



Felix DuBoz

Big Cypress Board Rep. Cicero Osceola takes aim with the cue ball.

Seminole Compete in VNEA Fall League

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — Members of the Seminole Valley National 8-Ball Association 2007 Fall League met at the pool hall at the Immokalee Seminole Ranch at 8 p.m. on Nov. 26 for their Awards and End of Season 8-Ball Tournament. The league is sponsored by the Seminole Tribe of Florida and Big Cypress Recreation Department.

Twelve teams participated in the Fall League. First through third place received both the League Trophy and other awards. In addition, individual awards went to the players on the first place team. Results were: 1. Hustlin', 2. Kick Shot, 3. Live Oaks, 4. Seminoles, 5. Motown Boys, 6. Instigators, 7. U Know It!, 8. Patch Grabbers, 9. Los Burros, 10. Thunderstixx, 11. Predators, 12. Native Women.

The results of the End of the Season Tournament played on the evening of Nov. 27 were as follows: Men's Division: 1. Jake Cox, 2. Todd Vail, 3. Tom Cook, 4. Bill Wilson, 5. Troy Frank; Women's Division: 1. Sherry King, 2. Dale Grasshopper, 3. Virginia Billie, 4. Connie Williams, 5. Teonna Rock.



Judy Weeks

Bill Wilson, captain of the Hustlin' team, accepts the first place trophy from Steve Frost.



Judy Weeks

Craftsman Michael DeWitt (R) made Louise Osceola's turquoise-inlaid pool cue.



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Big Cypress Hosts Sports Banquet

By Judy Weeks

BIG CYPRESS — The Big Cypress Recreation Department hosted an awards banquet on the evening of Nov. 10 to honor Big Cypress Athletes of Yesterday and Today.

Following an invocation by Pastor Salaw Hummingbird, a catered dinner was served in the Gym, which had been decorated in Tribal colors.

A football sports review and documentary were projected onto the wall of the Gym during the meal. Native American youth from across the nation, and representing a myriad of sports, were featured in the film by Native Vision Sports. There were several testimonials by sports participants in support of these athletic programs.

Big Cypress Recreation Director Stan Frischman introduced the evening's emcee Jim Warne. A member of the Oglala Lakota Sioux Nation, he was a starter for Arizona State University's 1987 Rose Bowl. Following his football career, he advanced his education and currently organizes challenging programs for Native American youth through both athletics and academics.

Warne talked about the ups and downs of an athletic career and the importance of an education. "You must achieve success through balance

with the power of mind, body, soul and heart. When we are out of balance, abuse takes over our lives. In order to overcome obstacles, you must hit the books, not others."

The keynote speaker for the event was William "Refrigerator" Perry. This former player for the Chicago Bears was a member of the Super Bowl XX Championship Team.

After a brief introduction, Warne interviewed Perry asking questions about his career and the years following his retirement. A general discussion ensued in which Perry gave candid answers to some very pertinent questions and emphasized the negative side of a sports career when you neglect your education. The discourse ended with a question and answer period that included the audience.

At the end of the evening, William "Refrigerator" Perry autographed the picture and footballs for his fans. Participants in the Awards Program received a gift bag from Big Cypress Recreation and a T-shirt commemorating the occasion.

Seminole Tribal leaders, Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Council Representative David Cypress and Big Council Board Representative Cicero Osceola made opening remarks before presenting the award plaques to the athletes of the Big Cypress Community.

Team Accomplishments:

11 & Under Boys: Champions: Source Tip-Off Classic; Champions: Virgil Billie Memorial Basketball Tournament; Champions: Lakeland Classic; Champions: Coral Springs; Champions: Auburndale Hoops; 3rd Place: Sunshine State Game; 3rd Place: Main Event Plantation.
12 & Under Boys: 2nd Place: Space Coast Fast Break Challenge; 14 & Under Boys: Champions: Space Coast Fast Break Challenge; Champions: 39th Annual Howard Tiger Memorial Basketball Tournament; Champions: Florida Sunshine State Game; 2nd Place: Clash in Clearwater; 2nd Place: North American Indigenous Game.
17 & Under Boys: Champions: 39th Annual Howard Tiger Memorial; 4th Place: Space Coast Fast Break Challenge



Judy Weeks

(L-R) William "Refrigerator" Perry, BC Council Rep. David Cypress, Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Native American athletic legend Jim Warne at the annual BC Sports Banquet.

Sports Banquet Award Recipients

Adam C. Billie (In memoriam)-Basketball: (#25) 4 years, State Semi-finalist 1997-1998; Track-1 year 1996-1997; Football- (#42) 4 years, Defensive State Semi-finalist 1999-2000.

Alena Stockton-Martial Arts: Best Overall Little Warrior 1, Exemplary Attitude, Excellent Athlete. Alice Billie-Basketball: NAYO Allen Mark Billie-Football. Allen McInturff-Basketball: 1980s Undeclared in NAYO

Amos Billie, Sr.-Basketball and Softball Anthony Balentine-Basketball: Most Assist Billy Cypress-Basketball: Most Improved Bradin Jim-Martial Arts: Best Overall Little Warrior 2

Breanna Robbins-Basketball: Most Assist Brendan Otero-Martial Arts: Excellent Attitude Brett Spencer-Basketball: Seminole Power Awards Carlee Billie-Martial Arts: Excellent Attitude Chief Billie-Basketball: Most Rebounds & Best Free Throw

Christian Alexander-Martial Arts: Excellent Attitude Christopher Alexander-Martial Arts: Excellent Attitude Cicero Osceola-Basketball: 1980s Undeclared in NAYO

Cypress Billie-Basketball: Most Steals and Most Assists Daisy Buster-Softball Danny Billie-Basketball

Danny Tommie-Basketball Darius Redd-Basketball: Best Rebound Dariah Cypress-Basketball: Best Defense David Cypress-

Wrestling DeForest Carter-Basketball: Most Valuable Player & Seminole Power Award Demetrious Allen-Basketball: Best Free Throw

Duane Tigertail-Basketball: Feb. 16, 1972-June 16, 2007 Duelle Gore-Basketball: Most Blocks Edna Cypress-Basketball, Pool and Softball

Emmitt Osceola-Martial Arts: Outstanding Attitude Eric Sanders-Basketball: Best Rebounds Eugene Furmer-Basketball: Most Blocks Ferlin Buster "Chunky"-Football

Frances Tommie-Horseshoes and Softball Gary McInturff-Basketball: 1980s Undeclared in NAYO

Graysun Billie-Martial Arts: Most Improved Team Dragon Student, Perfect Attendance Helen Billie-Horseshoes

Hunter Osceola-Basketball: Best Defensive Player Hurley Johnson-Basketball: Most Valuable Player Ira Buster-Football

Isadora Jumper-Martial Arts: Excellent Attitude Janette Cypress-Softball Jerry Balentine-Basketball: 1980s Undeclared in NAYO

John Williams-Basketball: Best Defensive Player Jonah Cypress-Basketball & Football Jorge Rodriguez-Basketball: Most Valuable Player

Joshua Cypress-Basketball: Most Assist Josie Balentine-Basketball: Most Three Points, Most Blocks Justin Roff-Martial Arts: Excellent Yellow Belt

Katy Bert-Martial Arts: Excellent Yellow Belt Kelcie Jumper-Basketball: Seminole Power Awards Kenny Tommie-Basketball: 1980s Undeclared in NAYO

Kevin Hincapie-Basketball: Most Steals Korliss Jumper-Basketball: Most Steals Larrah Balentine-Basketball: Most Valuable Player Leroy Billie-Wrestling

Louise Jim-Basketball Malachi Baker-Basketball: Seminole Power Awards & Most Three Points Malari Baker-Basketball: Most Three Points

Malcolm Tigertail-Basketball: April 29, 1974-June 4, 2000 Manuel "Mondo" Tiger-Football and Basketball

Martha Tiger-Martial Arts: Perfect Attendance, Best Attitude Mary Tigertail-Softball Merle Buster-Football Mike Smith-Basketball: 1980s Undeclared in NAYO

Minnie Billie-Horseshoes and Softball Natasha Billie-Basketball: Most Improved O'Shae Ne Cypress-Basketball: Most Improved Phillip Jones-Basketball: Most Assist

Rashaun Jim-Basketball: Most Valuable Player and Seminole Power Awards Ray Billie-Basketball Ricky Joe Alumbaugh-Martial Arts: Excellent Yellow Belt

Robert Cypress "Bush"-Horseshoes Roderick Bert-Martial Arts: Most Improved Team Dragon Student

Ryan Osceola-Basketball: Most Three Points Samuel Hunter II-Basketball: Most Steals Savannah Tiger-Martial Arts: Tournament Champion, Outstanding Leadership

Shana A. Balentine-Swimming: Best Attendee Shana Balentine-Martial Arts: Excellent Attitude Shirley Clay-Basketball

Sierra M. Bowers-Swimming: Outstanding Attitude Ta-Sho-Ta-Che Jumper-Martial Arts: Excellent Attitude

Terrina Cypress-Basketball: Most Blocks Terri Baker-Basketball: Best Free Throws Theresa Jumper-Horseshoes & Softball

Thomlynn Billie-Martial Arts: Outstanding Attitude Tia Osborne-Basketball: Best Rebounds

Tommie Jackson-Basketball: Best Rebounds Tommie Marshall-Basketball: Best Free Throw

Tracey Smith-Basketball Trent McInturff-Basketball: Best Free Throws, Most Improved Troy Lee Cantu-Martial Arts: Best High Jumper

Virgil Billie-Basketball Virthavous Robinson-Basketball: Best Defensive Player Coach-Eddie Redd

Coach-Carlton Banks Coach-Justin Osceola Coach-Eileen "Faye" Waggerby

Coach-William Lee Jumper Coach-Eric Sanders Sr. Coach-Jeremiah Hall

Jessica Lopez-NAYO Softball 4 Time Most Valuable Player Don Osceola-Football & Track

Paul Bowers-All State & All Conference Football Player Rudy Osceola-Rodeo Legend

Moses "Big Shot" Jumper Jr.-Seminole Sports Hall of Fame & All Conference All County Football and Baseball Player

Cory Wilcox-Outstanding High School Basketball Player Josh Jumper-3 Year Letterman in High School Football & Baseball, 8 Time Qualifier for Indian

National Finals Rodeo Andre Jumper-Outstanding 4 Sport Athlete competing for Seminole & Clewiston Youth League, All Around Champion Rodeo Contestant in EIRA

Blevins Jumper-Football, Seminole Youth League Baseball Player, EIRA Youth Rodeo Contestant Ahnie Jumper-Played on Seminole Youth Fast Pitch Team which ranked 4th in the State; Barrel Racing Champion in her age Division for EIRA

Carlton Wilcox-Outstanding High School Football and Baseball Player Richard Bowers-Outstanding Football Player & 3 Year Letterman in High School

Demetria Tigertail-Outstanding High School Basketball Player Tyrone Cypress-Professional Fisherman, Competes for State and Local Bass Tournaments

Charlie Cypress-Outstanding Golf Player, Competes Around the Nation Golf Tournaments Cecil Jumper-Lettered in High School Football & Golf

Aileen Martha Cypress-Basketball Beverly Alumbaugh-Basketball Roy Cypress-Basketball & Softball Janice Osceola-NASA Softball, Awarded Most Valuable Player in Basketball

Samuel Osceola-Football & Basketball Rochelle Osceola-NASA Softball Darwin Roy Cypress-JV Football, Track and Field



Judy Weeks

BC Board Rep. Cicero Osceola (L) and Chairman Mitchell Cypress (R) present Moses "Big Shot" Jumper Jr. (C) with an athletic award.



Judy Weeks

William "Refrigerator" Perry autographs his photo for the Jumper family.



Judy Weeks

Master Rob of BC's Go Dragon martial arts school hands Graysun Billie his Martial Arts Award.

Rodeo · Ko-waa-ye Esh-ham-palêesh-ke · Curakko Ohapokety

EIRA Holds First Annual Rodeo in Honor of Veterans

By Judy Weeks

BIG CYPRESS — The Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) held its first annual Veteran's Day Rodeo on Nov. 8 at the Moses Jumper Arena in Big Cypress. Scheduled to take place immediately following the 20th Annual Veteran's Day Celebration, the sanctioned events started at 4 p.m.

Beginning with Tie-Down Calf Roping, Josh Jumper caught his steer right out of the box, flipped and tied it within 12.5 seconds for the first place position. Justin Gopher caught his steer half way down the arena, which cost him precious

seconds on the clock, but put him in the second slot with a 19.5. Third place went to Hilliard Gopher with a 22.8.



Of the six entries in the Women's Breakaway Roping, Boogie Jumper won by the skin of her teeth with an awesome 3.9 seconds. Second place went to Lizzie Dixie who recently placed 11th in the national average at the Indian National Finals Rodeo. Trina Bowers took third place.

It was a great night for the cows and a bad night for the Team Ropers. Of 16 teams only two scored — but what great scores they had! Wilson Bruishead and Happy Jumper took first with an 8.2 second run, plus a five second penalty for catching one hind leg. Marvin Bowers and Hilliard Gopher had the same problem, but it only put them three seconds behind the first team.

Of the 15 barrel racers, the four top scores were only thousandths of a second apart. EIRA Barrel Racing Champion Boogie Jumper, who placed 6th at the Indian National Finals Rodeo in October, took first with MacKenzie Johns squeaking in just 0.0005 second behind her. Loretta Peterson and Marilee Johns completed the winners list.

Three of Marki Rodeo's top bulls cheated Justin Aldridge, Seth Randolph and Dayne Johns out of the money in the Bull Riding competition. However, they were no match for the 2007 EIRA Grand Champion Justin Gopher, who scored an 80 point ride on Colorado Red, and threw his hat in the air as his feet hit the ground.



Seth Randolph's bull was airborne right out the shoot.



Hilliard Gopher takes third in the Calf Roping event.



Perrie Whidden clears the first barrel.



Lizzie Dixie catches the head and turns the cow for Trina Bowers in the Team Roping event

The Professional Rodeo Cowboy's Association Southeastern Circuit Finals

The performance times are as follows:

Friday 8:00 pm, Saturday 3:00 pm, Sunday 2:00 pm

Gates open 2 hours prior to start time.

Texas Jack Fulbright is the contract act, he is a renowned trick roper and does a whip act.

We will have alligator wrestling and the Culture Camp will be open.

The competitors are in the Top 12 in their event from the southeast's 9-state circuit, including:

Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina and Arkansas.

Some of these contestants will have already competed in this year's National Finals Rodeo.

For more information, please contact Mollieetha Gomez, Secretary, Fred Smith Rodeo Arena (863) 467-6039



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Florida Artists Discuss Artwork at Museum Exhibition in Avon Park



Bradley J. Cooley's *Osceola* greets visitors to the Museum of Florida Art and Culture.



Anne Reynolds museum board of trustees displays past found Florida artifacts to museum guests.

By Elgin Jumper

AVON PARK, Fla. — On Nov. 20 Floridian artists Guy Labree, Bradley J. Cooley and Theodore Morris participated in an Artist Forum and Meet and Greet as part of the Florida Native American Heritage Exhibition at South Florida Community College (SFCC).

The SFCC Museum of Florida Art and Culture was the splendid setting for the exhibition, which ran from Oct. 31-Nov. 30, and also featured sculptor Bradley Owen Cooley and artist Dean Quigley, who unfortunately were not in attendance.

"We're proud to be here," said sculptor Bradley J. Cooley. "This is a really nice museum, and we were honored to be chosen as one of the participants."

"We love anything that's Native American-related. A lot of research goes into just one, but I've been doing this for so many years that I know where to look when I want to find something. But I never fail to check and make sure of something. I talk to a lot of Seminoles as well."

Anne Reynolds, who is an avid collector of Floridian artists, and also serves on the college's Board of Trustees, was instrumental in not only helping get the museum opened, but also in helping get the Florida Native American Heritage exhibition underway in its early stages. She also works with the Kissimmee Valley Archeological Group, organizing artifacts for the museum.

"There is really a lot of interest in this community," revealed Mollie Doctorow, curator of the Museum of Florida Art and Culture, as well as a woodcutting artist and leading figure in the pre-planning of the event, "and I think there's a support here for anything that relates to the heritage and history of Florida. And that's what we want to showcase."

"The main idea for the exhibition," explained Doctorow, "is to inform the people in this area about the Native American heritage, that is, in the center part of the state, who aren't really all that aware of the Native American heritage. So there's certainly an interest here, as we've had a lot of school groups coming to see the work."

The artwork on display was phenomenal! The oil paintings and sculptures resonated with power, color and vibrancy. One bronze sculpture of The War Leader, Osceola, holding a long-stemmed pipe fashioned from a plume holder, stood proudly at

the front doors of the gallery. This considerable work by Bronze by Cooley is absolutely amazing, as it captures in bronze the enduring as well as endearing vitality of this great Seminole leader.

"Anything that has to do with the Seminole Tribe, I try to get as close and as accurate as I can get it," pointed out Guy Labree. "Lots of people will sit down with me, and say, 'Well, this isn't what we did or that isn't,' and also different clans, like they'll tell me some did do something, while others didn't, so I have to do a lot of research. And the Seminoles have been very helpful."

Indeed, Labree's Seminole-oriented oil paintings have captivated and dazzled Seminole and non-Seminole alike for decades now. And whether the subject is concerned with Seminole conflict, as in the Battle of Okeechobee, legends, daily life or Florida wildlife, the Arcadian artist's regard for the truthful representation of the Seminole people has been first and foremost in heart and mind.

Bradley Owen Cooley, though busy transporting sculptures from another show back to Lamont during this official opening, nevertheless, had on display an awe-inspiring sculpture of Tampa leader, Bobby Henry, entitled *The Medicine Man* among numerous other meticulously-created works in bronze.

Theodore Morris's oil paintings has a force that confronts the viewer. The portraits of natives from different tribes, some no longer here, immediately makes eye contact with the viewer and holds it.

"I like that connection," said Morris, shedding some light on his work, "and the painting has to be accurate, or it isn't worth doing."

The brilliant red in Morris's Billy Bowlegs is a memorable sight.

Yet, as with the combined works of all the artists and sculptors involved with the Florida Native American Heritage Exhibition, the images of the remarkable art stays with the viewer. Surely, this is one of the indispensable hallmarks associated with great art.

"It's awesome and it's educational," said Kim Sandoval, a visitor from Arcadia, Fla. "A lot of people have no idea about the history of Florida, and here, you can see how things were utilized when you look at the art."



The Offering by Bradley Owen Cooley.



Bradley Cooley Jr.'s sculpture *Medicine Man*.



Theodore Morris' oil painting of Billy Bowlegs.



Guy LaBree's *Battle of Okeechobee*.



Bradley J. Cooley discusses his bronze sculptures with museum visitors, and the museum's curator and staff.



Artist Guy Labree points to one of his paintings while speaking with guests of the museum.



Elgin Jumper shakes the hand of aspiring artist Elizabeth Bellotte.

Annual Celebration of American Indian Arts Draws a Crowd

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — November was designated National Indian Heritage Month and in recognition, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum held its 10th Annual American Indian Arts Celebration, held Nov. 9-11 at the Big Cypress Reservation.

Noted one of the Southeast Tourism Society's top 20 events of November 2007, it is a celebration of arts, dance and music. Throughout the year, the staff reviews the work of Native Americans artists across the country and carefully selects the contributors for this annual event. The end result is a fantastic Indian market with a wide variety of top quality exhibitors, Native American entertainment and indigenous food.

Winner of a Grammy and four Native American Music Awards, Micki Free coordinated this year's celebration. The three day event began on Friday at 10 a.m. when Free offered an opening prayer and nationally acclaimed Sonny Nevaquaya played the Honor Song on his flute.

Each year the Museum has set aside Friday as Kid's Day to allow an opportunity for school field trips and scouting troops to experience the celebration and enjoy an informative guided tour of the Museum to enhance their studies of the Native American culture.

Among the many young people in attendance were bus loads of students from Lee County's Cypress Lake Middle School. An educational facility of this size is a cross section of many cultures and nationalities and the majority of the youngsters were enjoying the Native American experience for the first time. It was incredible to witness how little they knew about the first Americans and how eager they were to learn.

The members of Cub Scout Pack 21, known as the Webelos from Poinciana Elementary School in Naples, were just some of many who enjoyed the celebration. The Webelos plan to take advantage of the museum's scouting program at a future date.

Seminole Tribal leaders including Chairman Mitchell Cypress, President Richard Bowers Jr. and Big Cypress Board Rep. Cicero Osceola took turns visiting the celebration and welcoming the audience to Indian Country. Junior Miss Florida Seminole Alicia Nunez participated in the opening ceremonies and joined the Seminole dancers.

A grand entry of performers in their colorful attire welcomed the observers each day and gave them an opportunity to preview the quality entertainment that lay ahead.

Brian Zepeda and the museum's very popular Seminole Stomp Dancers performed three traditional dances preceded by a short explanatory presentation by Zepeda. The dancers' clothing depicted a variety of styles from different eras in the history of the Seminole Tribe, ranging from the late 1700s until present day.

Seminole Culture's Victor Billie led the chanting men, while the women's shakers set the tempo for the legendary dances. Working together, they brought the songs to life and then invited the audience to join in the Friendship Dance. Pouring out of the stands, the guests joined hands with the performers and snaked back and forth around the stomp ground.

Alligator wrestler Billy Walker wowed the crowd when he transported a 6 foot specimen from Billie's Swamp Safari onto the stomp ground and skillfully worked the reptile for the audience. Throughout the presentation, he gave a very well informed narrative, put the animal to sleep and tucked the creature's powerful jaws beneath his chin.

Sonny Nevaquaya's exemplary flute presentation was a perfect example of the original Native American musical instrument at its best. This very accomplished musician used a variety of handmade wooden flutes to create the beautiful, haunting notes and melodies that transported the audience into another place and time.

When the Great Plains Indian Dancers entered the grassy arena for their daily performance, each new crowd gasped in awe at the extraordinary, colorful costumes worn for the various styles of dance. Each dancer received an introduction which included their Tribal affiliation, style and description of costume and explanation of the dances which



Larry Chino exhibits his one of a kind pottery.



The Seminole Stomp Dancers exhibit various forms of Seminole attire.



The Anikihwa Dancers line up for the presentation.



Cub Scout Pack 190, Pine Island District, pose with the Great Plains Dancers.



Following family tradition, Mary R. Billie has been making baskets all her life.



Fine silversmithing was just one of the example of the jewelry on display.



A few of the members of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum staff greet the public.



Seminole children play with a puppy while their parents dance.



Weeks of work go into making a bone breastplate of this quality.

they skillfully executed.

A Payne/Oto, Pat Moore wore a lavishly beaded Men's Northern style outfit and was emcee for the day. The Warrior's Dance was performed by Kiowa Straight Dancer Terry Zolaw. Muskogee/Creek Shawl Dancer Leslie Deer adorned her beaded cape and leggings with iridescent pink and regal purple appliqued shawls that gave the appearance of a gorgeous butterfly in flight.

The audience was mesmerized by Cheyenne/Arapaho Grass Dancer B.J. Yabola and Ponca Fancy Dancer Graham Primo with their feather bustles, fringes, horse hair ornamentation, porcupine hair roaches and pounds of heavy beadwork. Considerable time was spent following each performance while people took advantage of this photographic opportunity.

The Anikihwa Dancers in trade shirts, leather leggings, breechcloths, amulets, glass trade beaded moccasins, shaved heads, scalp locks and war trophies appeared as their ancestors would have in George Washington's day. These impressive historians are sticklers for detail in their traditional dance as well as costume and create a formidable appearance right down to the ball war clubs.

Although slightly apprehensive at first, members of the audience eventually joined the Anikihwa for the Bear and Friendship Dances. Attacking and clawing the air, they circled the dance floor giving way to their animal instincts.

There was a slight change in tempo when Blues Nation took the stage and the crowd responded to the heart wrenching notes of the saxophone and melodies that reach into the soul of Americans and foreigners alike. This extraordinary group of musicians did justice to this classic form of music born in the heart of America.

Keith Secola and the Wild Band of Indians have a repertoire that reaches all ages and spans continents. Popular with music lovers wherever they perform, the group of accomplished musicians drew a large crowd. A jam session with Micki Free and Blues Nation followed their outstanding presentation.

The aroma of Tribal cuisine hung in the air. Mouthwatering fumes drew crowds of appreciative diners throughout the celebration. How could anyone resist Indian tacos, barbecue, beef tips with rice and more. Long lines formed in anticipation of Susie Jumper's frybread.

The Indian Marketplace was spread across the lawn encompassing several tents. Seminole vendors including Virginia Osceola, Jane Billie, Victoria Osceola and Mary Jane Billie, displayed patchwork, jewelry, Seminole crafts and beads of the highest quality.

Mary R. Billie's sweetgrass baskets, ranging from thumb size to five gallon, were created in a variety of graceful shapes and adorned with simple ornamentation. A steady group of spectators hung around her booth watching as her adept fingers worked the long strands of grass into useful vessels.

Tribal citizens Brian and Pedro Zepeda exhibited their sculptures, oil paintings and photographic art as well as more traditional wood carving, palmetto baskets and beaded bandoliers.

Contemporary artist Tony Tiger from Shawnee, Okla., gave spectators a rare treat as he worked on one of his masterpieces which incorporate vintage photographs, pieces of cloth and a variety of media.

Examining the exquisite Acoma and contemporary pottery of Larry Chino, the vibrant red glazed finish takes on a luster of unblemished perfection. Each piece is hand turned on a pottery wheel, receives an undercoating of iron oxide and then a copper overlay prior to firing at extremely high temperatures. The result is a red color that lends depth and beauty to the finished product.

Artist Patty Fawn, from Washington State, incorporates fossil ivory, bone, silver and bronze in her hand crafted jewelry and artwork. She is quick to point out all of the ivory she uses in her carving is fossil, and said that can be documented. She said she abhors the harvesting of whales, walrus, elephants and rhinos for their precious ivory and will not condone the use of ill-gotten raw materials.

The staff of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and Tribal Historic Preservation Office were also on hand to greet the public and make them aware of the services that are available throughout the year. A comprehensive presentation documented the intense work being conducted by the preservation department and its archeological team to protect the past for future generations.

Museum members were available with a generous display of research materials and information concerning educational programs.

BC 4-H Hosts Turkey Shoot

Submitted by Crystal Burkett

BIG CYPRESS — The Big Cypress 4-H'ers had their annual Turkey Shoot on Nov. 15. There was a large turnout this year, as each year's shoot gets bigger and better.

The 4-H Club would like to thank Richard Bowers for sponsoring the rounds that were for the 16 and under co-eds. That really got the kids more involved. The Big Cypress Baptist Church donated some food to sell. We also would like to give thanks



Crystal Burkett

Seminole Police officers inspect the target.

to: SPD, Broadcasting, Junior Cypress Rodeo, and all the parents that helped out.

The winner of this year's shotgun raffle was Janice Osceola. The winner of the 50/50 raffle was Beverly Osceola.

There were 20 rounds that were \$5 a shot and the winners were: Philip Turtle, Fonda Dalton, OB Osceola, Andre Jumper, Bernard Robbins, Joe Simone, Salaw Hummingbird, Joe Frank, Jessie, Joey Simone, Fred Phillips, Janice Osceola, Daniel Beddingfield and Willie Burkett.



Crystal Burkett

Participants aimed at their target in the annual Turkey Shoot.

Gopher Hosts Thanksgiving Feast



Susan Etxebarria

Louise Gopher gets ready to serve Ruben Burgess.



Susan Etxebarria

(L-R) Trisha Osceola and Louise Gopher

Food and Fun For Gloria Dei School



Felix DeBosz

John Jones holds a baby gator as students from the Gloria Dei School ask questions during wildlife show. Gem and Linda Osceola, with son John, watch from the back.



Felix DeBosz

Host Gem Osceola (R) places a food tray down for the hungry students at Gloria Dei School in Davie during the annual Thanksgiving luncheon, which the Tribe has sponsored for the past four years.



Judy Weeks

The Ahfachkee cafeteria was filled to capacity with students and their families.

Big Cypress Celebrates Thanksgiving

By Judy Weeks

BIG CYPRESS — According to community members, every day is Thanksgiving in Big Cypress, and they are grateful.

Improvements to the community are everywhere you look. Throughout 2007, there have been numerous ground breakings and ribbon cuttings for housing, roads, service department headquarters, public utilities, an entertainment complex, landscaping and church facilities.

The Seminole Tribe and its members have prospered throughout the year and the prospects for 2008 are even better. Future development plans cover the drawing table and opportunities abound. Family units are expanding and growing stronger through education and cultural pride.

As families and friends gather to celebrate this holiday, they count their blessings and share one common prayer for the safety of the men and women who are serving in the armed forces to insure freedom for all.

Big Cypress Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon

Whenever two or more Big Cypress seniors gather together in one place, a good time is certainly on the way. They offer a cheerful attitude, enthusiasm, humor and wisdom to everyone they encounter. Their Thanksgiving celebration, on Oct. 14, at the Senior Center, was one of these occasions.

Playing Bingo in the holiday atmosphere created by the festively decorated room, they laughed and gossiped about family members, friends, new babies, conquered illnesses, up-coming surgeries and how fortunate they are to have each other. Fond memories of days gone by and hopes for the future abound.

Thanksgiving is a time when the seniors truly count their blessings.

Under the supervision of the Recreation Department, they played several types of their favorite game, which resulted in the following Bingo winners: Mary Robbins, Ruby Osceola, Lucille Jumper, David Jumper, Teresa Jumper, Virginia Tommie and Eddie Billie.

Jonah Cypress talked of past Thanksgivings and brotherly love before leading the group in prayer.

Raffle tickets for door prizes were drawn intermittently throughout the games and luncheon with the following winners: Thomas W. Billie, Jonah Cypress, Juanita Osceola, Alice Billie, Frances Teele, Dan Bowers, Mittie Tommie, Louise Osceola, Rosie Smith and Sally Tommie.

Thanksgiving Breakfast at Ahfachkee

The Ahfachkee School hosted their annual Thanksgiving breakfast on

Nov. 21 for their students, the parents and members of the Big Cypress community. This very popular event drew an enormous



Judy Weeks

President Richard Bowers Jr. gives Eddie Billie a Thanksgiving hug at the Big Cypress Thanksgiving luncheon.

crowd who filled the cafeteria to capacity.

The Ahfachkee students are very blessed to have families and friends who support their efforts and participate in their activities. The laughter and the beaming faces of the children were a testimony to the benefits of family participation and the pride they feel for their community.



Judy Weeks

Carlize Bermudas (R) takes time out from her breakfast to smile for the camera.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Council Representative David Cypress and Board Representative Cicero Osceola addressed the gathering. They talked about Tribal ancestors, past Thanksgivings and the blessings bestowed upon the Seminole Tribe in recent decades. The Chairman asked everyone to include our Armed Forces in their prayers and the veterans who have made our freedom possible.

The Ahfachkee School staff did a fantastic job of preparing and serving a very diverse and nutritious breakfast to such a large gathering which far exceeds the normal daily capability of their facilities.

Big Cypress Community Luncheon

All Big Cypress Tribal Departments closed at noon on Nov. 21 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Within 30 minutes, community members, employees, friends and affiliates began to flood into the Gym for the annual Thanksgiving luncheon.

As they entered the door they were greeted by the music of a live performance by Paul Buster and his Cowbone Band. Playing gospel and country music that spanned several decades, they were a welcome addition to the festive atmosphere and brought back memories of past celebrations. Buster and his guitar were joined by fellow musician, Paul Houlihan on the steel resonator or doughbro.

An additional surprise was the two foreign exchange students that are currently members of the Buster household. Yevgeniya Pashukevych plays the guitar and sings and her companion Piruza Shasopova joined her in vocals. The young ladies have traveled halfway around the world, coming all the way from the Ukraine to study in the U.S. Their musical repertoire includ-

ed songs in both English and Russian.

Thanksgiving tablecloths, centerpieces with a variety of autumn flowers, and a cornucopia of harvest fruits and vegetables adorned the banquet tables. Huge turkey balloons and brightly colored streamers hung from the ceiling transforming the gym for the holiday extravaganza.

A magnificent catered buffet offered an amazing variety of entrées that included shrimp, fish, roast beef, pork chops, grilled chicken and ribs with a multitude of side dishes for accompaniment. The menu was designed with the thought in mind that most families would be serving either turkey or ham the following day and would welcome a variation from the traditional cuisine. It was noted that in the not too distant past, any day a camp had an abundance of food to share with family and friends, it was Thanksgiving.

Rev. Arlen Payne of the New Testament Baptist Church spoke briefly before offering the blessing for the occasion.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress, President Richard Bowers Jr., Big Cypress Council Representative David Cypress and Big Cypress Board Representative Cicero Osceola took turns greeting the large extended family that represents the Seminole Tribe, its friends and affiliates.

The Chairman pointed out: "During the holiday season we should remember that there are many people less

fortunate than we are and they should be included in our prayers along with the men and women fighting for our country and freedom."

David Cypress said: "This is a time for families to set aside their differences, honor their elders and respect each other. Basically, we are one big family with a common heritage that has given us the strength to survive and will carry us into the future. Count your blessings, respect yourselves and have compassion for others."



Judy Weeks

Chairman Mitchell Cypress (L) and Big Cypress Council Representative David Cypress (R) wish their mother, Mary Frances, a happy Thanksgiving.



Judy Weeks

Nicodemus Billie attended the Thanksgiving party in traditional clothing.

Hollywood Preschool is Thankful for . . .



My sister
- Aden James Cypress



Mommy and daddy
- Anieya Cypress



Turkey
- Arissa Cypress



Pumpkin bread
- Grace Puente



Princesses
- Jaela Stewart



Mommy and daddy
- Jakailee Stewart



This "Happy Thanksgiving" banner welcomed attendees to the Preschool's luncheon.

Lila Osceola-Heard

Thanksgiving Time Brings Families to the Table Hollywood Preschool Hosts Thanksgiving Luncheon

By Lila Osceola-Heard
HOLLYWOOD — On Thanksgiving, many people take the time out to be with family and friends, relax, eat and be thankful for the things they have in this world. The students of the Hollywood Preschool hosted their annual Thanksgiving luncheon for their families at the gym on Nov. 20. Even in the midst of running around, playing with family and friends, there was still time to be thankful and to sit, eat and enjoy the good food catered by Dorothy's. Preschoolers of Hollywood were in festive spirit. The gym displayed lots of Thanksgiving décor and centerpieces made by the kids themselves ready to take home and decorate their homes.



Leona Tommie-Williams, preschool director, said: "I'm just so happy everyone is here," as she looked around to see all the families and friends.



Lila Osceola-Heard

Mitch Osceola is thankful for his sons.



Lila Osceola-Heard

The luncheon brought the Hollywood community together to celebrate the holiday.



Lila Osceola-Heard

Elliot Young and son Malacci.

Seniors Celebrate Thanksgiving



Elizabeth Leiba

(L-R) Irene Tommie, President Richard Bowers Jr. and Pat Bowers.



Elizabeth Leiba

(L-R) Lydia Cypress, President Richard Bowers Jr. and Claudia Doctor.



Elizabeth Leiba

(L-R) Maydell Osceola, Leslie Osceola and Donna Turtle with President Richard Bowers Jr.

By Elizabeth Leiba
HOLLYWOOD — Thanksgiving is a time to be grateful for family and friends. This was especially true for the seniors on the Hollywood reservation. They were treated to a bountiful Thanksgiving feast which included turkey, ham and all the trimmings at the Senior Center on Nov. 20. President Richard Bowers Jr. was in attendance, in addition to Hollywood Council Representative Max B. Osceola Jr. and Hollywood Board Representative Gloria Wilson. President Bowers visited every table, laughing and talking with each elder. As he shook each hand and wished all a happy Thanksgiving, the holiday cheer brightened the room.

After lunch the seniors enjoyed a spirited game of bingo, complete with prizes.



Turkey and my foods
- Jay Bowers



My family
- Joey Puente



Turkey
- Jose Puente



My family and toys
- Naomi Osceola



Baby sister
- Shailin Huggins



For being alive and well, and no bad news
- Leona Tommie Williams
Preschool Director

\$400,000

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* Excluding 12/30/07. Details at the Players Club. Management reserves the right to change or cancel promotion at any time.
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Happy Holidays

John Sr. and Louise Billie Annual Christmas Party

Sunday,
December 16, 2007
Big Cypress Reservation
Breakfast at 8:00 p.m.
Supper at 4:00 p.m.
Music * Entertainment * Kiddle Rides
Horseshoe Tournament
Sign-Up at 12:00 p.m.
Game starts at 1:00 p.m.

4th Annual Christmas At Maydell's

Corner of 64th & James E. Billie Dr.
"Christmas Eve"

Come Join Our Family For Dinner

At 6:00 pm
Singing
Give Aways
Raffles



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Everyone"
Fruit Baskets



The family of Tommie Roberts Jumper cordially
invites you to our:

2nd Annual Tommie Roberts Jumper Memorial Christmas Eve Luncheon.

Where: Tommie Roberts Jumper's
Camp, Big Cypress Reservation

When: December 24, 2007

Time: Lunch will be served
at 12:30 p.m.



Christmas gifts will be given to everyone. A
special baby layette will be given to the child
born closest to December 24.

The Huggins Family Invites You to the 9th Annual Ethel Osceola Huggins Memorial Christmas Party at the Huggins Camp

Sunday, December 23rd, 2007
Dinner at 5:00 pm.

Come and Enjoy
Live Music, Door Prizes
Gifts, Great Food and More!

You Are Invited To A
Holiday Breakfast
And
Christmas Dinner
At
Tiger's Village
(E-7400) on the Miccosukee Reservation
Monday
December 17th, 2007
Breakfast At 8:00 AM
Dinner At 5:30 PM
Live Band, Gifts And Door Prizes
Come Join Us!
Have A Safe & Happy Holiday



Announcements • Ahaaheke • Nak-ohkerkēcetv

Happy Birthdays

Happy birthday **Armani Cypress**. You are 2 years old this month! With love from, Mommy (Doreen), daddy (Chris), big brother Akol and big sisters Akira and Asiana and rest of the Bird Clan



Victoria, Dec. 2007. To a woman who is a very special person in my life, I wish you the best on this day made especially for you. I pray that all your prayers and wishes will come true. Happy birthday to you Miss **Victoria Mariana Mitz**.

Josh, never forget that you're in my thoughts always. And don't forget to smile because I will always be here for you no matter what. Aww snap, you're 29 this month. Thinking of you a beautiful butterfly.

Native love always,
Tewa Marie Martinez
OKLAS

Wishing **Leilani Jean Gopher** a happy birthday on Dec. 25. It's hard to believe that number 6 is here already; seems like only yesterday God blessed me and mom with our little princess.

You're growing and I cannot imagine you getting more beautiful as a person, but the more I see and hear, the more I become convinced. If I never receive another gift on Christmas, it does not matter because that Christmas morning, God provided the greatest gift ever! As you begin to blow out those candles on your cake, always know that daddy's right there inside, watching and smiling. I love you Lei-Lei. Always and forever,
Dad

Happy 1st birthday to our son,
Josie Hiddo Cantu.

Love,
Mommy (Alicia F. Wilson), daddy (Michael S. Cantu), and grandparents Mary Jane and Michael Cantu

Dylan – 3 Years Old



Happy birthday to my baby,
Wonk-a-doodles.

Love,
Mommy, daddy, Ashley, Kyle,
Talia, Kassiah

Classified Ads



For rent: 1 bedroom/1 bathroom/kitchen, \$400. Great for a single person/child. Located in Lakeport area near Brighton Reservation. Please call (863) 634-4384 for more info.

For sale: Single trailer. 12 feet x 60 feet. 3 bedroom/2 bathrooms. Near Canal. Please call (863) 634-4384 for more info.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Cheyenne Nunez** on receiving the Bronze Award and first place on your essay "Why it is important to be a Native American." We love you and are very proud of you.

Happy belated 10th birthday on Nov. 14! Love,
Mom,
Dad, Daniel and Courtney



Congratulations **Daniel Nunez Jr.** on receiving the Gold Award for this nine weeks of school. We love you so much and are very proud of you. Happy belated 11th birthday on Sept. 28.

A quote for you Daniel, from your sister Cheyenne: "Some people want it to happen. Some people wish it would happen. Some people make it happen. You make it happen. I love you brother." Love always,
Mom, dad,
Cheyenne and Courtney

Jarrid Smith and FAU Teammates Are Co-Sunbelt Champions

Congratulations to our Seminole son **Jarrid Smith** and the whole Florida Atlantic University football team, from Boca Raton, Fla., who are now the Co-Sunbelt Champions. Up next for Smith and his team is the New Orleans Bowl, to be broadcast on ESPN on Dec. 21.

Love,
Your family and friends

"Show them what an Indian can do, Son."

— Jim Thorpe's Dad



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American Idol Edition | Hummer-H2_2007_22 Passenger



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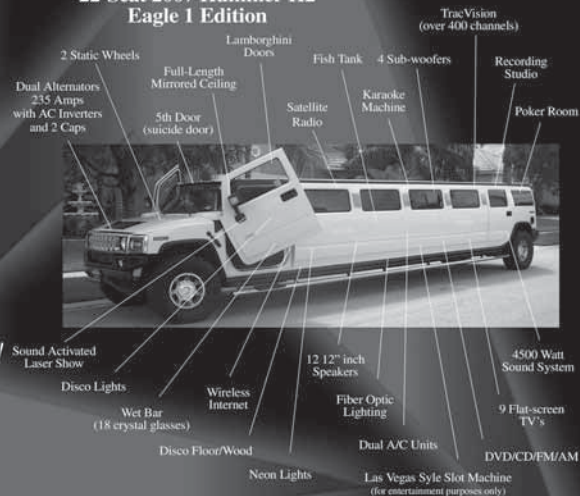
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Poems

Depart

I've heard a man can be reached through his heart
In such a way that from his errors he'd depart
If only the truth would lay a path and reveal
He'd march along with a gentle patience and a caring skill
Never would he succumb to an obstacle which appeared great
The joys and pains, to each other somehow he'd relate
Both become a reward in some strange way
How he longs to separate the lonely night from the long day
These words carry meaning yet there's an added twist
Searching the temptations one could not easily resist
The highs and lows, for there's not one without the other
Hidden glory is not easily discovered
The payment in tears is great in cost
Yet it flows freely for that which seems lost
With each trial, defeat lies in wait
The only guarantee is that death never runs late
Writing, I sit and wonder...
How can I reach out to others is a question I ponder
For me, experience offers much
With words maybe I can reach out to what hands cannot touch
Additions, a liar, a cheat, and a thief
Guilty of all and admitting forth a souls relief
To drug deals and gun play I was no stranger
There was a time I thrived in such danger
Am I better or worse than any; not at all
I only hope to help others avoid a fall
It won't be easy but something inside pushes me to try
It's time for us, warriors, to wipe the tears from our mother's eye
I've heard a man can be reached through his heart
In such a way that from his errors he'd depart

— Leslie J. Gopher



I Remember You

I remember you from back in the days very well; memories are all I have as I sit in this cell. Though many people have forgotten me I refuse to do the same. Anyway it was great to hear from you & I truly hope you continue to maintain.
After I received your letter & photo I said to myself maybe look what used to be mine, jet black hair beautiful & fine. Yes there's no doubt to you the years have been great; you know what song is going through my head right now? "For old times sake."
I wish I could be there & hear you speak the language of our Tribe; no doubt you are everything a warrior could want in an Indian bride.
You're traditional, you speak the language & you're into the culture as well, you're one that will not forget the struggles & for future generations you have stories to tell.
There is so much more to being a Seminole than getting paid, it's people like you within the Tribe that can pass that knowledge on to the ignorant about the progress we made.
You were always down to earth & I have much respect because you're still the same, no Indian should let white mans paper change them that's a black & white game.
Though it's been years it's great to know they haven't corrupted your mind, stay that strong, intelligent, defiant Seminole woman that's one of a kind.
I remember you after all these years I've been gone, much love & thank you for writing. Think of me when you hear "Life goes on."

— Ike T. Harjo
Panther Clan

Heavenly Child

Leilani, my heavenly child; Oh! So true!
Hawaiian in name, yet god has given more of heaven through you
Special I hope you'll know you always are
Even more than the times we'd sing itsy bitsy spider and twinkle, twinkle little star
So incredible, had you not been mine, never would I believe
That gifts are given each Christmas and in 2001, I did receive
This little princess forever my heart will hold dear
Even in my distortion your beauty remains clear
I'm at a loss for words because I wish I was more
All I have will never be enough for the girl I adore
Precious, I let you down by failing to do my best
Creating absence was the biggest mistake by a dad who simply became less
Each day I love you more and our memories I hold close
Never will these walls keep my heart from that it cherishes most
Inside us both we'll always stay together in our own unique style
I love you so much ... My Heavenly Child

— Leslie J. Gopher

Blue Day

These are miserable days when you feel lousy, grumpy, lonely and utterly exhausted
Days when you feel small and insignificant, when everything seems just out of reach
You can't rise to the occasion
Just getting started seems impossible
On blue days you become paranoid that everyone is out to get you
(This is not always such a bad thing)
You feel frustrated and anxious, which can induce a nail biting frenzy that can escalate into a triple-chocolate-mud-cake-eating frenzy in a blink of an eye!
On blue days you feel like you're floating in an ocean of sadness
You're about to burst into tears at any moment and you don't even know why
Ultimately, you feel like you're wandering through life without purpose
You're not sure how much longer you hang on, and you feel like shouting, "Will someone please shoot me?"
It doesn't take much to bring on a blue day
You might just wake up not feeling or looking your best, find some new wrinkles, put on a little weight, or get a huge pimple on your nose
You could forget your date's name or have an embarrassing photograph published
You might get dumped, divorced, fired, make a fool of yourself in public, be afflicted with a demanding nickname, or just have a plain old bad hair day
Maybe work is a pain in the butt
You're under major pressure to fill someone else's shoes, your boss is picking on you and everyone in the office is driving you crazy
You might have a splitting headache, or a slipped disk, bad breath, a toothache, chronic gas, dry lips, or a nasty ingrown toenail
Whatever the reason, you're convinced that someone up there doesn't like you
Oh what to do, what to do?
Well, if you're like most people, you'll hide behind a flimsy belief that everything will sort itself out
Then you'll spend the rest of your life looking over your shoulder, waiting for everything to go wrong all over again
All the while becoming crusty and cynical or a pathetic, sniveling victim
Until you get so depressed that you lie down and beg the earth to swallow you up or even worse, become addicted to Billy Joel songs
This is crazy, because you're only young once and you're never old twice

Who know what fantastic things are in store just around the corner?
After all, the world is full of amazing discoveries, things you can't even imagine now
There are delicious, happy sniffs and scrumptious snacks to share
Hey, you might end up fabulously rich or even become a huge superstar (one day)
Sounds good, doesn't it?
But wait, there's more!
There are handstands and games to play and yoga and karaoke and wild, crazy, bohemian dancing
But best of all, there's romance
Which means long dreamy star, whispering sweet nothings, cuddles, smooches, more smooches, and even more smooches, a frisky love bite or two, and then, will, anything goes
So how can you find that blissful just-sliding-into-a-hot-bubble-bath feeling
It's easy
First, step slinking away from all those nagging issues
It's time to face the music
Now, just relax
Take some deep breaths (in through the nose and out through the mouth)
Try to meditate if you can
Or go for a walk to just clear your head
Accept the fact that you'll have to let go of some emotional baggage
Try seeing things from a different perspective
Maybe you're actually the one at fault
If that's the case, be big enough to say you're sorry (it's never too late to do this)
If someone else is doing the wrong thing, stand up tall and say "That's not right and I won't stand for it!"
It's okay to be forceful
(It's rarely okay to blow raspberries)
Be proud of who you are, Native Americans, but don't lose the ability to laugh at yourself
(This is a lot easier when you associate with positive people)
Live every day as if it were your last, because one day it will be
Don't be afraid to bite off more than you can chew
So take a big risk
And never hang back
Get out there and go for it
After all, isn't that what life is all about?
Yes, I think so too.

— Willie M. Osceola
Panther Clan
Boca Raton, Fla.

Christmas Program

The Trail Indian Independent Baptist Church Christmas Program Presents
"A King is Born"
Sunday, December 9, 2007

Lunch at 12 p.m.
Dinner at 5:30 p.m.
Program to Follow

New Baby

Brian Billie Jr.
4 lbs. 14 oz.
October 25, 2007

Parents
Maritis Primeaux and Brian Billie
Maternal Grandparents
Darlene (Buster) Primeaux and Mitchell Primeaux
Paternal Grandparents
Patsy Billie and Mitchell Cypress

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Seminole Broadcasting is seeking a self-motivated & energetic Tribal citizen to take on the responsibilities of assistant director in the department. This great opportunity is open to any Tribal citizens with a four year degree in business, media arts, video production, broadcasting, communications or any other related field. Applications Available in Human Resources Department or at www.semtribe.com



Senior's Center Christmas Party

Wednesday December 19, 2007 • All festivities will begin @ 10:00 a.m.

Senior's Christmas Arts, Crafts & Yard Sale

Monday December 3, 2007 • At the Ballfield. Selling begins @ 7:00 a.m.
All Tribal citizens are welcome to sell
Tents and tables will be provided on a first come, first serve basis

WEEKLY RECOVERY MEETINGS SCHEDULE

MONDAYS

12:00 Noon Every Week

Big Cypress
Sober House

TUESDAYS

7:30PM Every Week

Brighton Sober House

WEDNESDAYS

12:00 Noon Every Week

Big Cypress Sober
House

8:30PM Every Week

Hollywood Admin.

THURSDAYS

7:30PM Every Week

Big Cypress Sober
House

2007 UPCOMING EVENTS

October -Annual 12 Step Retreat
November-Native American AA Conference
December-Attitude of Gratitude Banquet
For information contact Family Services-239.867.3480

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

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