



Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Brighton Council Rep. Roger Smith present Team Brighton with the championship trophy for the 4th Annual Senior Trike Fest.

Judy Weeks

Brighton Wins Senior Trike Fest Championship



Claudia Doctor manipulates the tight turns of the maze on her trike.

Judy Weeks

BY JUDY WEEKS
 Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — A large group of Seminole seniors congregated at the Big Cypress Aviation Hangar on Nov. 13 for the 4th Annual Senior Trike Fest, sponsored by the Fitness Dept.

Despite a valiant effort on behalf of all five reservation teams, Brighton participants for the second year in a row racked up sufficient points to take home the Trike Fest Championship Trophy.

Upon their registration, the participants were divided into age categories: Seniors, ages 55-59, Super Seniors, ages 60-65, Golden Seniors, ages 66-69, and Diamond Seniors, ages 70 and older. They each received a team classification wrist band, Team T-shirt, raffle ticket and a gift bag claim check that included rolling luggage.

Following a healthy breakfast, Howard Micco led the invocation. An exercise warm-up and detailed course instruction session prepared the assembly for the day's activities.

Prior to the event's start, and recognition of the Department of Elder Affairs' site managers, Chairman Mitchell Cypress said a few words about the importance of health at every age.

"By the time we are recognized as seniors, it becomes more important that we evaluate ourselves and look for ways to improve our fitness, rather than settling into a sedentary lifestyle," Chairman Cypress said. "You have all worked hard to prepare for this year's competition [but] don't let it end here today; a healthy lifestyle is a year round project."

During the competition, the seniors rode their trikes while competing against their peers as they maneuvered through the difficult courses in the Maze, Double Figure 8, Cone Weave and Ball Toss events. Speed, dexterity, depth perception and agility came in handy during each of these events, as the athletes vied for a chance to place in the winner's circle for their age and gender category.

Combining individual scores into

Please see **TRIKE FEST** ♦ Page 2A

Citizens Attend FSU Homecoming

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
 Staff Reporter

TALLAHASSEE — The Seminole royalty delegation and their families attended the Florida State University (FSU) Homecoming activities Nov. 14-15.

Miss Florida Seminole Princess D'Anna Osceola, Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Princess Amber Craig, Little Miss Seminole Brianna Bowers and Little Miss Seminole Santiago Billie, along with Seminole Princess Committee chaperone Wanda Bowers, took part in the FSU Homecoming parade, Powwow 2008, the Alumni Association's Homecoming Awards Breakfast and the Homecoming football game.

The annual Homecoming Parade, held Nov. 14, included FSU student and Olympic® bronze medalist, Walter Dix as grand marshal, President of FSU Dr. T.K. Wetherell, and many floats made by FSU's fraternities, sororities and campus/community groups.

Homecoming court for chief and princess also participated in the parade. Seminole royalty rode in convertible cars and waved to the attendees. The Seminole Tribe of Florida Color Guard Veterans Stephen Bowers, Paul Bowers Sr. and Theodore S. Nelson Sr. also participated, representing the Seminole Color Guard.

Next on the agenda, the guests attended Powwow. Please see **FSU** ♦ Page 2A

Hope Sneed Accepted to UM Pre-Law Program

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
 Staff Reporter

Hope Patrice Sneed, daughter of Margaret Wilcox, Bird Clan, and Ira Jay Sneed, recently got accepted into the University of Miami (UM) and will major in pre-law. She has not yet decided what type of law she will study.

She said a conversation with her mother sparked an interest in applying to UM, and she told herself, if it was meant to be it would be. She said things happen if they are destined to, and added "God may not come when you call him, but he is always on time."

She added: "I have always had a passion for law since I was younger."

Sneed is relocating to Miami during her time in school, but will travel to the Ft. Pierce reservation



Marisol Gonzalez
 Hope Sneed

Please see **SNEED** ♦ Page 2A

Council Holds Regular Meeting in Big Cypress

BY CHRIS JENKINS
 Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Tribal Council met on the Big Cypress Reservation for a regular meeting on Nov. 20. They passed 42 resolutions on their agenda, including:

Resolution 23: Service line agreement (130' X 20') between Glades Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Seminole Tribe of Florida for location of an electric line to the homestead of Toi Justin Mae Andrews - Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 24: Service line agreement (4,030' X 5') between Embury FKA Sprint Florida Inc. and Seminole Tribe of Florida for location of a telephone cable to the Tower site telephone cable to the radio tower site - Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 25: Earthmark Southwest Florida Mitigation, LLC Mitigation Credit Purchase and Deposit Agreement to provide Mitigation Credit Purchase and Deposit Services to the Seminole Tribe of Florida - Immokalee Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 29: Southern Progress Custom Publishing, Inc. D/B/A Spocnest Master Custom Publishing Agreement; ratification;

Resolution 30: Gemaco, Inc. playing card sale contractors for the Seminole Tribe of Florida gaming facilities; ratification;

Resolution 31: Ratification of the Seminole

Please see **COUNCIL** ♦ Page 2A

Naples Community Members Celebrate Thanksgiving

BY JUDY WEEKS
 Freelance Reporter

NAPLES — Approximately 90 members of the Naples community gathered at Stoney's Steakhouse to celebrate Thanksgiving on the evening of Nov. 25. Taking over a private dining room, the occasion took on the atmosphere of a family reunion.

"The first Thanksgiving was a historical crossing of cultural lines, when Native Americans joined the European settlers in a celebration of a bountiful harvest," said Naples Liaison O.B. Osceola Jr. "However, oral and archeological history indicate that Native Americans practiced various forms of Thanksgiving for centuries prior to the arrival of the Europeans.

"There is an old saying that "we reap what we sow,"" Liaison Osceola continued. "As citizens of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, we are very fortunate to share

in the benefits of a relatively stable economy while many of our neighbors are struggling with uncertainty. Our ancestors gave us the strength and perseverance to endure under adverse conditions and the leaders to carry us forward."

Before the serving of the meal, Cory Billie led the group in a meaningful blessing. After giving thanks, he asked for continued good health, family guidance and wisdom for our leaders.

In a mixture of Mikasuki and English, Tahama Osceola conveyed the spirit of the evening.

"Once we were few," said Osceola. "We have been blessed and grown into many. There are four generations of our people here this evening and they represent our past, our present and our future. This is our blessing."

More Thanksgiving Coverage

9A



(L-R) Broden Hagen, Bryce Osceola, O.B. Osceola III and Victoria Osceola join their grandmother, Joann Osceola, at the Naples Thanksgiving dinner.

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PRESCHOOLERS RACE FOR CHARITY ♦ 5A

Community

A



Preschoolers Send Cheer to Troops Overseas

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Children from the Seminole Preschools helped spread some holiday wishes by sending the troops overseas handmade holiday cards.

From infants to 5 year olds, each child, with the help of their teachers, made a card for the Holiday Mail for Heroes campaign, sponsored by the Pitney Bowes postage service and the American Red Cross.

In total, the preschoolers made 150 cards; all sure to bring a smile to the faces of the men and women in uniform this holiday season.

After Sheila Elliott, assistant director of the Human Resources Dept., sent a global email about the Holiday Mail for Heroes campaign, Preschool Director Leona Tommie Williams coordinated her efforts so the preschoolers could participate. They completed the cards and turned them in to the Human Resources Dept. on Dec. 3.

The goal of the campaign was to collect and distribute one million holiday cards; 150 of those came directly from the Seminole preschoolers.



Meet SPD Officer Angie Margotta

SUBMITTED BY THE SEMINOLE POLICE DEPT.

Officer Angie Margotta graduated from the Police Academy in 1997, and has served with the Seminole Police Dept. since May 2000. She has patrolled on the Hollywood Reservation and has a great rapport with several Tribal and non-Tribal community members.

Margotta has been productive within the community as a road patrol officer, field training officer, school resource officer, narcotics officer, detective and as a sergeant, although has recently gone back as a road patrol officer on the day shift squad.

Through her dedication with the Seminole Tribe, Margotta has been requested for several Tribal events with the Hollywood and Brighton communities, including the Annual Youth Conferences, Rez Rally, Red Ribbon Week, Preschool

Field Day, Halloween festivities and the Annual Seminole Princess Pageant. She said she has had great experiences assisting at each of these yearly events.

In 2004, Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. and community members Jo and Robert North and Herbert Jim, requested Margotta to participate in the Tribe's first Boys & Girls-sponsored trip, the Ultimate Warriors Challenge. She said she was honored to attend what turned out to be an eye opening experience.

During her career with the Tribe, she has continued her education by attending Barry University working on her bachelor's degree in public administration. Margotta said she hopes to finish in the near future.

On a personal note, Margotta dedicates her accomplishments and drive to her father, Vinnie, who has been battling a terminal illness since May of last year.

"My dad has always been my inspiration, more now than ever," she said. "Of all the things he has taught me throughout my life, one thing I know now for sure is not to take any day for granted."



Five generations of Minnie Doctor's family gather for a family reunion to celebrate the holidays and memorialize their loved ones.

Minnie Doctor Hosts Family Reunion Celebration

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Five generations of Minnie Doctor's family members joined in a family reunion / Christmas / memorial celebration at her Hollywood reservation home on Dec. 2. This was the first time all five generations joined under one roof.

In conjunction with the reunion, a table was set up which displayed pictures of family members who passed away.

Minnie Doctor, Big Town Clan, is a mother to nine children, as well as a grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother to dozens, maybe even more than 100 grandchildren.

Doctor, 83, had six sons and three daughters. Mary Jean Buster, Martha Doctor, Nettie Stewart, Ronnie Doctor, Patrick Doctor, Virgil Doctor, Leon Osceola, Beottner "Ruggy" Jumper and Joe Doctor.

Two of Doctor's daughters, Mary Jean Buster and Martha Doctor, were memorialized as well. Nettie Stewart is

the only surviving daughter left to Doctor, and said she was pleased to see the family unite.

Marilyn Huggins was also present and said that she hopes the family can continue on with family reunions because her grandmother deserves to have the family together. She also added that nobody would be here without her.

Huggins said: "Whatever grandma says goes."

The families enjoyed a musical performance by Paul "Cowbone" Buster, a Christmas dinner catered by Betty's, and also received gifts from Doctor.

Although this was the first ever reunion for the families, they plan to continue the tradition to keep their family bond close.

Huggins added: "There might be few of Big Town, but we are still strong."

Minnie Doctor was born in Hollywood and raised in a traditional Seminole camp known to many as the Miami River Camp. She now resides on the Hollywood Reservation.



Natashia Osceola (L) and Nettie Stewart (R) assist Minnie Doctor (C) in handing out presents to her guests at the party.

Mildred Bowers Celebrates Birthday, Retirement

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Mildred Bowers retired after 37 years of working with the Tribe on Dec. 4. Bowers also celebrated her 70th birthday with her family, friends and co-workers.

Turning 70 years old, Bowers shared memories of her life with family, friends and co-workers at her residence on the Hollywood reservation.

Some attendees included Sarah McDonald, Suresh Greer, Laura Sa, Teresa Colaluca, Esther Gopher, Elsie Bowers, Gloria Wilson and daughter, Paula Bowers-Sanchez, to name a few.

She shared memories of working in the accounting dept for the majority of her years. She also was given gifts from the accounting dept that Sarah McDonald picked especially for her.

Bowers said: "I liked working for accounting."
"I remember when our building was where the Hard Rock is now," she added.

She started working for the Tribe's Head Start program in 1971, where she remained for eight years. Bowers then took a year off and stayed home to care for her children and grandchildren.

After caring for her children she decided to go

back to school to attain her GED. She then participated in the Native Youth Core Program for nine months; it is similar to today's Youth Work Experience Program, offered through the Family Services Dept.

In 1989, Bowers started full time in the Accounting Dept. and has been working on and off since then.

Her co-workers wished her well and were happy to celebrate this day with Bowers.



(L-R) Paula Bowers-Sanchez, Gloria Wilson, Mildred Bowers, Andrew Bowers and Elsie Bowers celebrate Mildred's birthday and retirement at her party.



Mildred Bowers receives jewelry and a handbag from her former co-workers in the Accounting Dept.

HOLLYWOOD

B&G Club Members Help Decorate the Community

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Children from the Boys & Girls club decorated a 15 foot Christmas tree on the corner of 64th Ave. and 30th St. on Dec. 5.

With a little help from employees at the Housing Dept., and the office of Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. who supplied the tree, the members of the Boys & Girls Club brought some holiday cheer to the Hollywood Reservation.

Director of the Boys & Girls Club Robert North Sr. also helped out by getting on a 12 foot ladder to decorate the harder to reach places on the top of the tree. This is the first year the club decorated in the community.



The club members stand in front of their finished product.

Marisol Gonzalez



Della Harjo (R) lifts Jennifer Holdness (L) so she can reach the middle of the tree.

Marisol Gonzalez



Boys & Girls Club Director Robert North Sr. adds ornaments to the tree, located outside the club.

Marisol Gonzalez



Andy Buster (C) and his band perform at the Okalee Indian Village Holiday Marketplace, held the weekend of Dec. 6-7.

Marisol Gonzalez

Okalee Hosts Annual Holiday Marketplace

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Okalee Indian Village held its annual Holiday Marketplace the weekend of Dec. 6-7 at Seminole Paradise.

This year, event organizers added live entertainment, a wildlife show and deep water alligator wrestling demonstration to the line-up. Traditional Indian food vendors, along with jewelry and clothing vendors, also highlighted the festivities.

The wildlife show included animals such as iguanas, tarantulas, raccoons, snakes, crocodiles and alligators. Okalee Indian Village Wildlife Supervisor Dexter Osborn narrated the show and shared facts about each animal and interacted with the children in the audience to see if they could guess fun facts about each animal.

The deep water alligator wrestling demonstration wrapped up events at the Okalee Indian Village. James Holt dove into the alligator water pit, putting on a show for the attendees. After the show, attendees were allowed take pictures on top a large alligator as a keepsake.

Santa Claus also attended the event, joining in the fun to take a picture mounted on the alligator.

Seminole Okalee Indian Village General Manager Leoma Poore said during the month of December night wildlife and deep water alligator shows will take place on Friday and Saturday evenings.

The Okalee Indian Village will also host their first ever Indian Festival, Feb 6-8, 2009. Events will include drum contest, Native American dancers and performers. For more information please contact Okalee Indian Village at (954) 797-5551.



Santa Claus takes a break from delivering presents to demonstrate alligator wrestling at the Okalee celebration.

Marisol Gonzalez



(L-R) Samuel C. Osceola Jr. and James Holt show the audience the difference between an alligator and a crocodile during the wildlife show.

Marisol Gonzalez



The children watch the otters swim; one of several animal attractions at the Okalee Indian Village.

Marisol Gonzalez

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Winterfest Kicks Off With Black Tie Ball

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The 2008 Seminole Winterfest Boat Parade festivities kicked off in style on Dec. 6 as the Hard Rock played host to the annual Black Tie Ball.

As a big event in the community each year, it is also now known as the largest holiday gala in Fort Lauderdale, and one of the most anticipated formal events in South Florida.

Featuring an array of glitz and glamour, the bash came complete with go-go dancers as well as Elvis Presley, Pee-wee Herman and Santa Claus impersonators. A cocktail party, music, dinner, dancing and recognition of the event's title sponsor, the Seminole Tribe, also highlighted the affair.

"Thanks goes to the Seminole Tribe of Florida because they have once again enabled us to take this international levels with their continued support," said Winterfest President Lisa Scott-Found.

Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola



Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. (Second from Right) and guests.

Chris C. Jenkins

Jr., who also serves as Winterfest's chairman elect, represented the Tribe at the event.

"We have gone from spectator to title sponsor," Rep. Osceola said. "What a great way to show the way South Florida spends its holidays."

"We used to have to float down the canal on boats, now we are on yachts," he added. "The evolution continues and it is a great way to spread the joy of the holiday season."

Both live and silent auctions also offered a vast selection of collectables including: a 2009 IS250 JM Lexus vehicle, a Miami Dolphins game suite, a seven night cruise from Costa Cruises, an autographed mini helmet autographed by Miami Dolphin greats Don Shula, Dan Marino, Bob Griese and others, an autographed picture of National Basketball Association legend Michael Jordan, and guitars autographed by music legends Garth Brooks and Bob Dylan.

The evening served as a precursor to the Winterfest Grand Marshal Reception, as well as the 37th annual Winterfest Boat Parade, which took place in Ft. Lauderdale's waterways on Dec. 13.



Hollywood Board Rep. Gloria Wilson (C) enjoys the cocktail party festivities with Tribal citizens Elsie Bowers (L) and Judy Jones (R).

Chris C. Jenkins

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BRIGHTON



Rachel Buxton

Ysla Meras, 3, and Derrick Smith, 4, in bumper-to-bumper traffic.

Brighton Preschoolers Race for Charity

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Brighton Preschoolers banded up as they hopped on their tricycles to participate in a Trike-A-Thon, held at the preschool on Nov. 19. The proceeds from the event benefitted the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Teachers and parents assisted the children as they were brought out to ride in different age groups, ranging from 1 to 5.

The 1-year-olds kicked things off as Keanu Bert took an early lead. Next up, the 2-year-olds pedaled away as much as their little legs would let them. The older children followed with determination, as they rode around and around the school's circular driveway, not even breaking a sweat.

Members of Brighton's Fire Rescue and Seminole Police Department cheered the youngsters on alongside the track.



Rachel Buxton
Keanu Bert, 1, looks ahead to the finish line.



Rachel Buxton
Deagan Osceola, 4, rides full speed ahead.

Financial Literacy Seminar Offered to Young Adults

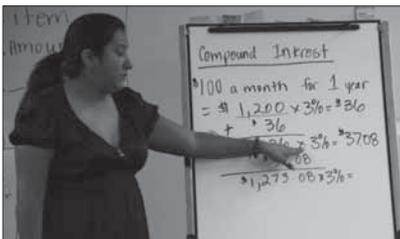
BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Young Tribal adults attended a financial literacy seminar at the Pemayetv Emahaky Charter School Administrative Office Dec. 6 to help teach them how to successfully manage money. The all-day event included games, activities and discussions touching on different financial topics.

Jennifer Villalobos (Tohono O'odham) of Vrencik & Associates, a Los Angeles-based company she founded specializing in bringing financial literacy, entrepreneurship and leadership workshops to reservations and urban communities, taught the class. Villalobos started things off with a prayer and then led into introductions where everyone told the group what they knew about money so far.

Some students talked about how having jobs has helped them about money. Others mentioned how the struggling economy and the financial increase of products have opened their eyes when it comes to finances.

"I learned the hard way," Villalobos shared. "I've



Rachel Buxton
Class instructor Jennifer Villalobos, of Vrencik & Associates, guides the class through a problem to figure out how to compound interest.

afford to go to college and I think we should work in the real world to gain experience."

During the class, the students learned about long- and short-term saving goals. Their instructor also taught them how to manifest those goals and to make them reality.

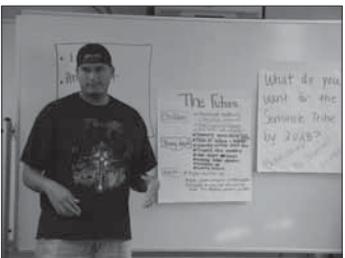
"The first step to making goals happen is to write them down," said Villalobos.

She told them they should keep track of their purchases and accurately manage their checking and savings accounts. They also learned about different types of checking accounts, interest rates, credit cards, loans and how to decide on a bank to use.

In addition, Villalobos explained different types of expenditures, including fixed, flexible and luxury purchases. She distributed monthly expense worksheets which outlined different life scenarios that the students used to determine how each person in the scenario would have to divide their monthly income. One scenario was a single parent with no job, another was a full-time student working a part-time job and another was a married individual with children.

The seminar helped show the young adults that there is more to just having and spending money. Some students even took extra copies of the monthly expense worksheet home to help create a personal monthly budget.

The next financial literacy seminar will take place in Hollywood in February 2009.



Rachel Buxton
Victor Osceola, 17, shares his group's vision for the future of the Tribe.

made a lot of mistakes and if someone like me who went from no money, bad credit, to where I'm at now, anyone can."

The first discussion showed how a community such as the Seminole Tribe is affected by the economy. Villalobos showed the students a diagram that illustrated where many people spend their money. Through this diagram the students surprisingly found out the majority of Tribal spending takes place outside of the Tribe, referred to as a leaking economy.

The students then split into groups and brainstormed about the future of the Tribe and where they hope to see it in the year 2028. Each group presented their ideas, with many suggesting the Tribe spend money on spiritual and cultural aspects, such as language preservation, in the coming future. In addition, some of the students expressed an interest in opening smaller movie theater, grocery store and nail salon businesses for the Tribe to maintain spending within the community.

They then had to envision themselves and their own financial situations 20 years down the road.

"We have the opportunity to do anything," said Summer Billie, 19, a sophomore at Florida Gulf Coast University. "We can



Rachel Buxton
Siblings Cody, 17, and Summer Billie, 19, brainstorm about their financial future.

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BIG CYPRESS

Tribe Holds First Intercessory Prayer Gathering

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Tribal ministry, council members, citizens and community members gathered in the name of faith on Nov. 22 at the Big Cypress Rodeo Arena.

The Tribe's first Intercessory Prayer Gathering brought locals from the Big Cypress community,

Cypress, aim to eventually have similar gatherings on a monthly or quarterly basis.

Tribal citizen Moses Jumper candidly admitted to a non-Christian faith in his younger years, but said God's presence now remains strong in his life.

"I am glad the faith was put in me to come and offer my own words of strength, faith and courage," he expressed. "I think it was a great thing and thank the Tribal leaders for bringing us together."

The day also offered an opportunity to renew hopes and beliefs.

"If it were not for Him, I would not be here today," Brighton Council Rep. Roger Smith stressed while discussing his survival of a heart attack in his past.

"Me and my brother [Chairman Mitchell Cypress] grew up in the church, but somewhere along the lines we let it go by the wayside, so this is good to bring us all back," BC Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress pointed out.

"I grew up in a house of the Lord, and I pray everyday because without the Lord you will be lost," Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. said.

Immokalee Tribal citizen Fredona Garcia said she got an invite from mother, Delores Jumper, Immokalee's Board of Directors liaison.

"Something brought me here but I do not know what," Garcia revealed. "I think it is nice having such a meeting. This unites us and our Tribal leaders."

The Tribe's future and leadership development were also discussed.

"We have a gap today in the church and we need our younger people here," President Richard Bowers Jr. said. "The root of all evil is the love of money, not money itself."



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal citizen and First Indian Baptist Church of Brighton Reverend Wonder Johns emceeds at the gathering.

Immokalee and Hollywood, as far away as Tampa, and everywhere else in between, for the event.

First Indian Baptist Church of Brighton Reverend Wonder Johns emceed the event, which could be described as a spiritual revival.

"God is a forgiving God," Johns said. "We always will need help in cleaning up our sins."

"This kind of day was a joyful day," Chairman Mitchell Cypress said. "I am glad the ministry came together to help deliver a good message."

Others involved also included: BC First Baptist Church Pastor Bruce Pratt, and BC New Testament Baptist Church Reverend Arlen J. Payne.

"In God is our life, in God is our hope, in God is our health," Pratt explained.

The idea for the day came from the Chairman and other leaders in the ministry. All those involved expressed a need to bring more humility, support for Tribal leadership, a message of love and help within the Tribal communities. The event's organizers, the Tribal ministries and Chairman Mitchell



Chris C. Jenkins

BC First Baptist Church Pastor Bruce Pratt offers words of encouragement in his sermon.



Chris C. Jenkins

ATV raffle winner Tiffany Billie (R) sits on her prize next to President Richard Bowers Jr.

BC Residents Usher in Holiday Season with Luncheon

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Tribal citizens, employees and community members got into the holiday spirit a little early on Dec. 1 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium for the annual Community Christmas Luncheon. The gathering featured songs, food, picture taking and a good time for all.

Tribal citizens also enjoyed prizes and raffles including: portable DVD players, digital cameras, Blu-ray® disk players and the grand prize, a 2008 Can-Am ATV four wheel-er vehicle.

"This is when the community needs to definitely come together," said President Richard Bowers Jr. "Everyone gets to see their friends and family... It is also about the real meaning of Christmas, which is celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ."

"It is always a good time to get together for a feast," Chairman Mitchell Cypress said of the catered spread.

Brighton residents and sisters, Ethel and Beulah Gopher, came into town for the day to see their grandchildren. They enjoyed the day as well, making their first visit to

the event.

"It was nice to be in the BC community," Ethel Gopher said. "This is the kickoff of the Christmas season, so it is really nice to celebrate it with everybody."

Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church Pastor Arlen Payne agreed.

"It was a great start to the upcoming Christmas season," Payne expressed.



Chris C. Jenkins

(L-R) Birthday mom Maranda Osceola, and daughter, Vanessa, enjoy the food and fun.

2009 Big Cypress 4-H Officers Elected



Photo by Crystal Burkett; Caption by Justin Roff, 4-H Reporter

The new Big Cypress 4-H officers were elected at the Oct. 4-H meeting. The officers are (L-R) Dara Koenig, Tana Bear-Osceola, Tyler Tigertall, Andre Landin, Reagan Tigertall, Cooper Rivers and Justin Roff.

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

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

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IMMOKALEE

4-H Swine Program Kicks Off in Immokalee

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Nov. 24 was a big day for the 4-H participants in Immokalee who plan to raise a swine project for the 2009 4-H Show and Sale.

On that day, Immokalee/Big Cypress 4-H Coordinator Alphonso Tigertail arrived with a trailer load of pigs for the children to select for their livestock.

Although some of the youngsters had made arrangements to acquire their pigs from different sources, two-thirds of the group saw their swine for the first time as the trailer backed into the barn entrance. The remainder of the animals had already arrived or would be there within the next few days. Excitement filled the air as the children rushed to catch a glimpse of the long awaited livestock.

All swine specimens are carefully chosen for conformation, breed characteristics, weight limitations and growth potential. It is paramount that all of the animals arrive in good health and they are closely monitored throughout the project to insure these standards.

Pen selection took place during the previous week, followed by a thorough cleaning of the barn and then installation of feeders and water suppliers. Tigertail congratulated the youth on their achievements and gave them a briefing on the initial care of their new responsibilities.

"In order for your pigs to prosper and become a successful project, they must remain healthy, and have

clean water and feed at all times," said Tigertail. "Their pens must be kept clean and free of insects. Prevention of disease takes a lot less work and expense than treating sick animals. Sufficient exercise is mandatory, if you are going to succeed."

Following the initial instructions, the participants' names went into a hat. Upon the drawing of their name,



Immokalee 4-H President Jessica Lopez examines one of the new swine projects. July Weeks

each child took a turn going into the trailer and picking out their pig. Their parents or sponsors then assisted in transferring the animal to its new home.

Although a first time experience for some of the group, many had raised pigs before, and quickly entered their pens to begin the adaptation process. Upon giving names to their animals, the projects officially got underway.

Immokalee's new 4-H officers, President Jessica Lopez, Vice President Alexis Aguilar, Treasurer Spencer Jock, Secretary Demi Garza, Sergeant at Arms Kenyah Yzaguirre and Recorder Larissa DeLaRosa, quickly accepted responsibility for their new duties.

The group held their first meeting on Dec. 2 to determine their progress and address any concerns related to their projects. Prior to the meeting, Tigertail and parent volunteers administered penicillin shots, health examinations and attached identification tags to each of the pigs.

The official weigh-in will take place in mid-December; after which the group will have approximately 120 days to complete their project and prepare for the annual show and sale.



Jon Jimmie rubs the back of his new pig as they get acquainted. July Weeks



Immokalee/Big Cypress 4-H Coordinator Alphonso Tigertail gives initial instructions for the swine projects. July Weeks



Elk bulls and cows on the snow-covered Mountain View Elk Ranch property in Riggins, Idaho. Submitted by Erica M. Deitz



Erica Deitz, and husband, Bruce, with the bull elk and the Remington .338 rifle. Submitted by Erica M. Deitz

Tribal Citizen Goes on First Elk Hunt

BY ERICA M. DEITZ
Contributing Writer

RIGGINS, Idaho — I always wanted to go big game hunting, but always seemed to be too busy to actually plan for the big hunt. With a lot of planning and logistical help from my parents, who said they would watch the kids, I signed up for an elk hunt with the Mountain View Elk Ranch located outside of Riggins, Idaho, for a November hunt.

The elk ranch is located within a 1,200 acre mountainside, with panoramic views of the Seven Devils and the Salmon River Mountain Ranges. At 6,000 feet elevation, one feels as though they are on top of the world with beautiful mountain landscapes in every direction.

This was my first attempt at a big game hunt and it became a lot more involved than what I had anticipated. Fortunately, I had a great coach, my husband, Bruce, who also did my reloading.

I was also fortunate to be outfitted with the appropriate firearm, a Remington .338, we purchased from my father-in-law, Harvey. The .338 was glass-bedded, machined throughout, and had a custom fitted muzzle break. In other words, it was a good rifle that was made into an even better one.

Prior to the hunt, I went on several outings with my husband for target practice at a rifle range near our home in Emmett, Idaho. I practiced shooting the rifle until I was confident and consistent with my tight grouping on and around the 10 mark.

The day before the hunt, my husband and I drove 2 and a half hours from Emmett to just east of Riggins. Even with the beautiful countryside to watch from my truck window, I thought of the hunt all the way there. In the meantime, Bruce and I would go over what could happen and how to execute a good shot.

"Just please do not shoot the elk in the guts," my husband asked of me at different times in our conversations about the hunt.

When we arrived at our intended destination, the hunting lodge, we immediately felt quite comfortable with our new surroundings. Our accommodations were very nice and the lodge was a great place to have our meals. After we turned in for the night, all I could think about was the hunt awaiting me the next morning.

The elk hunt was something I took seriously, and even though you prepare as best as you can, nothing truly prepares you until you actually do it. We drove with our guide through switch backs on loggin roads until we started spotting good sized elk. When we decided on the elk I was going to take, I began stalking it on foot.

It was exciting to get close enough to the intended target and then settle down to a good vantage point to take a shot. All I could think about was to not move the rifle too much, and aim the crosshairs in the middle of the elk just behind the shoulder. I squeezed a shot and reloaded again.

The one shot was enough to put the elk down; the bullet did its job by decimating the heart. The rifle was sited in at 100 yards and the shot was taken at about 200-250 yards from the target. The 6 X 6 bull elk weighed more than 1,000 pounds, and the antlers Safari scored at 373 2/8 with impressive daggers.

I was in awe of how huge an elk could get and very happy that I didn't miss. It was a very humbling and memorable moment that added to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Tribal citizens Erica and Bruce Deitz reside with their three children in the rural town of Emmett, Idaho.



The Mountain View Elk Ranch Lodge, with the picturesque Seven Devils Mountain Range in the background. Submitted by Erica M. Deitz

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'Seminole Wind' Recognized at American Indian Film Festival

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

SAN FRANCISCO — The American Indian Film Institute (AIFI) celebrated the best of the best in native filmmaking at the 33rd Annual Film Festival, held Nov. 15 at the historic Palace of the Fine Arts.

The Seminole Tribe held top billing as the event's title sponsor once again this year and also entered a six minute video and song remake of the John Anderson country classic "Seminole Wind" in the Video-Short Film category.

The award in this category, however, went to singer/songwriter Crystal Shawanda for her crossover hit, "You Can Let Go." With more than 150 total entries in the festival from both the U.S. and Canada, the competition was fierce.

Deputy Director of Promotions Micki Free directed the Tribe's entry video and Cherokee recording artist Shea sang lead vocals. The two also performed the song live at the event.

"It was just such an honor to be there," Shea expressed.

She said the song brings back strong memories of her late uncle, who introduced her to the song years ago.

"It was an extremely personal project for me and when the song came out, it gave a strong personal reflection on Native Americans," Shea said.

Video director Micki Free said although the video did not win, it brought recognition to the Seminole Tribe and the dedication of the Tribal citizens.

"We had the facilities, the Tribal members, and the support, and that is what we wanted, but in a real setting," Free said of the video-making process. "Even



Chris C. Jenkins

Shea performs "Seminole Wind" on stage.



Chris C. Jenkins

A host of musicians and supporters perform together on stage in a tribute performance to the late Native American singer/songwriter Floyd "Red Crow" Westerman (Dakota).

though it did not win, it was a nice feather we can put in the Seminole Tribe of Florida cap."

As the most prominent nationwide source for Native American films, the festival premieres new feature films, shorts, public service announcements, music videos and documentaries.

"This festival is the cornerstone of our community," AIFI Founder and Director Michael Smith explained. "We really want to continue to promote this as an empowerment tool for American Indian families especially."

In addition to Free and Shea performing "Seminole Wind," the show also featured other live entertainment. Performances and appearances included: violinist Swil Kanim, actor Michael Horse, comedian Charlie Hill, actress Tonantzin Carmelo and the Yaw Tei Yi Dancers of Juneau, Alaska.

Among the other categories, and 14 awards presented, the 2008 AIFI winners included: Best Film: "Before Tomorrow," by directors Marie-Helene Cousineau and Madeline Piujuq Ivalu; Best Director: Georgina Lightning for "Older than America;" Best Actor: Trevor Duplessis for "In a World Created by a Drunken God;" Best Actress: Candace Fox for "Moccasin Flats: Redemption;" Best Supporting Actor: Wes Studi for "Older than America;" Best Supporting Actress: Misty Upham for "Frozen River;" and Best Documentary Feature: "River of Renewal" by



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal Deputy Director of Promotions Micki Free introduces "Seminole Wind" in the Film Festival's Best Video-Short Film category.

director Carlos Bolado. According to its website, aifis.com, the AIFI is a non-profit media arts center founded in 1979. It hopes to foster an understanding of the culture, traditions and issues of contemporary Native Americans. The event also falls in conjunction with National Indian Heritage Month, observed annually in November.



Chris C. Jenkins

AIFI founder Michael Smith (C), along with wife, Cindy Spencer (Second from Right), receive authentic Seminole patchwork gifts from Trail Liaison William Osceola (R), and sisters Beverly Aumbaugh (L) and Janice Osceola (Second from Left).



How to Select the Right Tax Return Preparer

SUBMITTED BY RSM MCGLADREY
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The United States Treasury published several bulletins warning taxpayers against tax preparers who may take advantage of them.

Subsequently, the Treasury recommends following these helpful hints when choosing a tax return preparer: avoid tax preparers who claim they can obtain larger refunds than other preparers; use a reputable tax professional that signs your tax return as a paid preparer and provides you with a copy for your records; and, consider whether the tax professional offers electronic filing options and other payment options that you want.

You should also consider the following: whether the individual or firm will be around to answer questions about the preparation of your return, months, even years, after the return has been filed; and, whether the tax professional can represent you if the IRS audits your return.

As members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, you should be aware of tax issues specifically relating to you.

Recent changes signed into law by President Bush have raised the "Kiddie Tax" age limit to 19-24 for full time students. Previously this only applied to members under the age of 18. Failure to correctly compute tax due by ignoring the Kiddie Tax could result in penalties and interest.

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THANKSGIVING

Hollywood Seniors Celebrate Thanksgiving

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Seniors and community members gathered for the annual Thanksgiving luncheon, held at the Senior Center on Nov. 19.

The Tribal elders came together to give thanks at the beginning of the holiday season. Coleman Josh spoke to the crowd and thanked everyone for joining in on their holiday meal.

Among those present were: Hollywood Board Rep. Gloria Wilson, Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. and Chairman Mitchell Cypress. Each



(L-R) Wanda Bowers, Sonny and Christine Nevaquaya enjoy spending time together at the Thanksgiving party.



Dorothy Tucker signs for the prize she won in the raffle.

shared a few words on what they were thankful for.

Rep. Osceola thanked God and his elders and went on to share memories of both his high school years and growing up close to his family.

Rep. Wilson joined the gathering and thanked the Hollywood community for all the support they give her.

"I am pleased to have a strong community that reacts and joins together," Rep. Wilson stated.

The event also included raffles and Bingo games.



Chris C. Jenkins

Grassy South performs at the event.



Chris C. Jenkins

(L-R) Ronnie Billie Sr. and Chairman Mitchell Cypress extend their best Thanksgiving and Christmas wishes.

BC Community Celebrates Thanksgiving Holiday

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Tribal employees, citizens and the community members gathered once again to celebrate the 300-plus year tradition of Thanksgiving on Nov. 26 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress, BC Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress and BC Board Rep. Cicero Osceola also joined in for some music, food and good times.

Many in attendance gave thanks and expressed what the day means to them.

"It is a good day," Rep. Cypress said. "You have to give thanks and you have to be thankful every day."

"We have been very blessed as a Tribe," Rep. Cypress added.

Thursday, and in some cases Wednesday, as to not interfere with the Sabbath.

In centuries past, the Sabbath was widely regarded as a very important day. Saturday was a day of preparation and Monday was reserved to give the Sabbath its proper respect. With such restrictions and maneuvering, Thursday became the logical and best choice.

The first national celebration of Thanksgiving occurred in 1777. The one-time only event occurred at this time as a way to celebrate the American defeat of the British at Saratoga. In 1941, Congress declared it to be the fourth Thursday in November.

Many Tribal citizens and employees in attendance also shared their thoughts on the importance of taking the time out to be thankful.

"It means family, fun, happiness, love and food," said Minnie Tigertal. "We definitely cannot forget about that."

Almira Billie said she was thankful for "being with my family for dinner and cookouts."

Tribal employee Nancy Rojas of the Big Cypress Community Center also said Thanksgiving helps her remember what's important in life.

"It means family, giving thanks and I think we have lost the meaning of that," Rojas explained.

Tribal citizen Geraldine Osceola attended the event with her family. She said she enjoyed reuniting with old friends and acquaintances.

"It is also about getting together and seeing people," Osceola stated. "A nice time to do that is at Thanksgiving."

The first Thanksgiving celebration held in America occurred in 1619. How the day came to be held on a Thursday is not widely known. Many believe that the first Thanksgivings were held on a



Chris C. Jenkins

Tommy W. Billie relaxes while enjoying the entertainment.



Rachel Boston

Kendra Thomas, 2, said she is thankful to have her mom, Kelly.

Brighton Community Members Give Thanks

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Brighton community put things on hold to give thanks and spend time with friends and family at their many Thanksgiving luncheons. Thanksgiving is a time to remember the past and be grateful for the present, and that's just what Brighton did.



Jennie Shore takes part in the holiday festivities.

Senior Thanksgiving

Brighton seniors celebrated their Thanksgiving on Nov. 20 at the Senior Center, where they indulged in friendship, good food and fun times. The room was decorated in a fall theme with turkeys and scarecrows.

Before dining on the feast, the seniors worked up an appetite playing Bingo and Plinko for festive prizes.

Board of Directors Rep. Johnnie Jones Sr. thanked the seniors for all they do for the community, especially with the children. He also spoke on the importance of keeping traditions alive.

In an effort to keep one Seminole tradition going, he passed out packages of country milled grits he brought back from Tallahassee so families could enjoy soft-kee on Thanksgiving.

Pastor Wonder Johns offered the invocation before the seniors then enjoyed turkey, ribs and all the trimmings.

Preschool Thanksgiving

Family and friends were invited to a Thanksgiving lunch with the preschoolers on Nov. 24 under the chieftan at the school. Tables were adorned with handmade turkey centerpieces by the children. The 4-year-olds welcomed the guests with their rendition of "Did You Ever See a Turkey?"

Children and their visitors filled their plates with turkey, ham, yams, green beans and corn, and then



Rachel Boston

(L-R) Sue Ellen Johnston and Happy Jones give thanks for friendship.

topped it off with pumpkin pie.

Community Thanksgiving

The Brighton Tribal Offices closed for lunch on Nov. 25 and welcomed the community and staff to the gymnasium for a Thanksgiving meal that included entertainment and door prizes.

The gym was decorated with autumn flowers, cornucopias and even an inflatable turkey. Community members and staff enjoyed music from the all-female band Inside Out, and Thanksgiving staple foods catered by Renegade Barbeque.

The meal was spent catching up with old and new friends and sharing plans for the upcoming holiday season.

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THANKSGIVING

4-H Hosts Thanksgiving Turkey Shoot

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

Members of the Seminole 4-H Program held their annual Turkey Shoot in Big Cypress on Nov. 20 at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena, and again on Nov. 22 at the John Jimmie Memorial Rodeo Arena in Immokalee.

According to Seminole 4-H Project Coordinator for Big Cypress and

Immokalee Alfonso Tigertail, the 4-H Program does more than just teach youngsters how to raise animals, and this event showcased that.

"Teaching responsibility, building self-respect and nurturing family values is at the foundation of our organization," Tigertail said. "While these turkey shoots are fundraisers, their primary goal is bringing families and communities together in support of our youth."

"Children look for leadership," continued Tigertail. "Tools for life come from the home and parents are the role models that shape the lives of the next generation. A successful 4-H program brings the whole family together."

During the annual Turkey Shoot, the 4-H participants worked shoulder to shoulder with their family members maiming the registration booths, operating the concession stands and selling raffle tickets. The result was a well organized operation that participants of all ages enjoyed.

The Turkey Shoots comprised 20 rounds each, with 10 targets per round. Contestants received the option of using their own 12-gauge shotgun or one supplied for the occasion with a field load of bird shot ammunition. The rounds accommodated categories for men, women, youth and mixed competitors.

The ability to simply hit the target with a cluster of pellets provided a winning opportunity for each individual; the rest came down to luck. Judges examined the

targets peppered with lead pellets and determined the winner by the shot closest to the center. Prizes for the rounds alternated between turkeys and hams.

The Seminole Police Dept. took an active part at both locations and offered safety instruction in the use of firearms. Officers distributed targets, established the shooting lineup and judged the results for each round. Helping the youngsters support the shotgun, several officers volunteered their shoulders to accept the recoil.

Though temperatures dipped into the low-50s, participants and spectators in Big Cypress still enjoyed the Turkey Shoot. Gathering around a big bonfire, they consumed bowls of hot chili and roasted marshmallows. A picnic atmosphere surrounded the Immokalee concession with homemade donations and meat sandwiches hot off the grill.

In the week prior to the events, 4-H's sold raffle tickets for each reservation. Limited Edition Unconquered Seminole commemorative long barrel .22 caliber rifles were raffled off at each location. Manufactured by the Henry Repeating Arms Co., these collector firearms drew numerous admirers, and helped 4-H raise a considerable amount in ticket sales.

The rifle etching memorialized the Seminole Wars from 1817-1838 and included the following engagements: 1835 Battle of Withlacoochee, 1835 Dade Battlefield, 1836 Battle of Wahoo Swamp and 1837 Battle of Lake Okeechobee.

Charlie Cypress and Pete Aguilier Sr. held the winning tickets for the rifles. Fred Phillips received a beautiful Seminole jacket and Abe Rockwell took home a handsome sum from the 50/50 Raffle.



Seminole 4-H Project Coordinator for Big Cypress and Immokalee Alfonso Tigertail (R) congratulates Pete Aguilier Sr. (L) upon winning the "Unconquered Seminole" commemorative rifle at the Immokalee shoot.



SPD Officer Jerry "Gator" Zapp helps Ethan Aguilar locate the target with his shotgun sights.



Alfonso Alvarado checks his target for the shot that won him a ham at the Turkey Shoot.



Alfonso Tigertail (L) braces the shotgun stock against his shoulder to reduce the recoil for Zeph-miah Roberts.



Tony Bert (R) watches his brother, Cody, compete for a turkey.

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Participants in the 4-H Turkey Shoot, held in Brighton, wait for the results of the competition.

Community Members Attend 4-H Turkey Shoot

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Brighton 4-H held their annual Turkey Shoot on Nov. 22 at the Brighton Golf Range.

Men, women and children competed to win a turkey or ham for their family to enjoy on Thanksgiving.

Shooters could sign up to participate in 22 rounds, with the last two sponsored by Andrew Bowers.



Jewel Buck, 16, aims and shoots at the target.



Amos Tiger takes careful aim.

Each round consisted of 10 shooters shooting a 12 gauge shotgun at an 8.5" x 11" target with a picture of a turkey on it. After each round, members of the Seminole Police Dept. collected the targets and judged each one, determining which shooter hit closest to the center.

Jason Tommie, Erena Billie, James Weimann, Brandon Billie, Yahola Buck, Jerry Smith, Preston Smith and Quinton Smith won.

Members of Brighton 4-H sold tickets to raffle off a Seminole commemorative 22-inch long rifle lever action gun, which Emery Billie won.

Members of 4-H, along with the Steer and Swine Clubs, sold hamburgers, hotdogs and baked goods as fundraisers.

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving Celebrations Abound in Immokalee

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — The tradition of the Thanksgiving holiday began when Native Americans joined the newly-arrived European settlers for a celebration of the fall harvest several hundred years ago. In more recent times, the U.S. government has declared by proclamation that November should be recognized as National American Indian Heritage Month.

In celebration, the members of the Immokalee community participated in numerous events throughout the month of November. Themes for the occasions centered on fruit and vegetable harvests, fall colors derived from the changing of leaves, traditional foods and family gatherings.

"We should be grateful every day for our Seminole heritage and the rich culture that has been passed down to us through our ancestors," said Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar. "Thanksgiving is a time to count our blessings and realize how fortunate we are to have each other."

"In many ways we are like one big family and it is important that we set aside our differences and embrace our Native American traditions and family values," Liaison Aguilar added.

The Immokalee Seminole Preschool staff and parents, under the direction of Site Manager Michelle Ford, coordinated their annual Thanksgiving dinner on the evening of Nov. 6 at the Senior Center. Turkey and ham were prepared by the preschoolers, while the parents supplied a multitude of side dishes to complete the feast.

Despite a small school enrollment, the event was an overwhelming success. The guest list numbered in excess of 100 people. Intrigued by the holiday decora-

tions, the young hosts and hostesses greeted their family members and took them on a tour of the dining room before joining in the blessing of the meal.

The Immokalee seniors' Thanksgiving Luncheon got underway at 10 a.m. on Nov. 12 with a Bingo competition. Visitors from Big Cypress, Naples and Trail joined the Immokalee seniors for the festivities.

The customary gossip and banter that generally accompany gatherings of old friends and family members filled the room. Ingraham Billie Jr. and his daughter, Maggie Porter, joined his sister, Mary R. Billie, her granddaughter, Mary Jane, and great-granddaughter, Kaitralyn, for a rare family picture. This resulted in a chain reaction and before long, numerous people gathered in front of the harvest display for a photo opportunity.

Big Cypress Board Rep. Cicero Osceola brought each of the Immokalee seniors a large fruit basket for the holiday. They, in turn, presented him with a T-shirt and souvenir statue from their trip to North Carolina.

Raffle tickets were distributed, giving everyone a chance to win picture frames, glasses with football logos and gift cards from Walmart, Joann's and Red Lobster. Bingo winners were as follows: Regular Bingo: Pete Aguilar Sr.; Double Bingo: Linda Frank; Letter T: Pete Aguilar Sr.; Kite: Minnie Billie; Full Card: Nina Billie.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress hosted an employee appreciation luncheon at the Immokalee Casino on Nov. 26.

"There is an old saying, 'A chain is only as strong as its weakest link,'" Chairman Cypress said. "As employees, you have proven to be strong links in the chain through your dedication to your jobs. Your efforts help to make the Seminole Tribe strong."

The Immokalee community Thanksgiving Party took place at the Immokalee Seminole Ranch on Nov. 26. A carnival with rides and games created entertainment for the youth throughout the afternoon. In addition, Ranch Director Kenny Joe Davis Sr. loaded the youngsters into wagons and carried them through the woods for hay rides.

Early in the evening, Tribal citizens and community members gathered for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Louise Motlow offered the blessing after asking everyone to reflect on the many good things that had taken place during the past year and then pray to the Creator for guidance in the future.

A Polynesian dance troupe provided the entertainment for the occasion and took the assembly on an imaginary trip to Tahiti and Hawaii. The male fire dancers awed the crowd with their athletic ability and incredible use of flaming batons. The Luau dancers made frequent costume changes and introduced their audience to the various expressions of dance native to the South Pacific cultures.

Inviting volunteers to join them on the dance floor, the performers gave instruction to individual groups of men, women and children. The resulting exhibitions proved to be hilarious as the appreciative crowd laughed and cheered for their fellow community members.

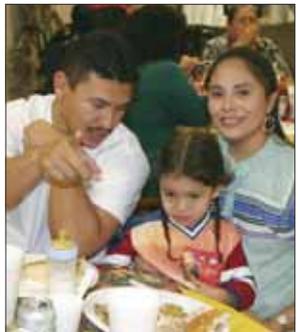
Partygoers participated in a fun-filled cake walk and then joined the youngsters around the bonfire for a marshmallow roast.



A Hawaiian dancer teaches Ethan Aguilar to use his arms to indicate the motion of the sea as he dances to Luau music.



Big Cypress Board Rep. Cicero Osceola presents a Thanksgiving fruit basket to Ruth Osceola.



(L-R) The Posadas, Mario, Brandon and Lorraine, join other preschoolers and their parents for a Thanksgiving dinner.



The Immokalee senior Thanksgiving celebration turns into a small family reunion for the Billie family. (L-R, Back Row) Kaitralyn Billie, Mary Jane Billie, Rachel Billie, Ingraham Billie Jr., Maggie Porter, (L-R, Front Row) Martha Billie and Mary R. Billie.



Immokalee's seniors show their appreciation to Big Cypress Board Rep. Cicero Osceola for helping sponsor their trip to North Carolina. (L-R) Ruth Osceola, Rachel Billie, Dolores Jumper, BC Board Rep. Cicero Osceola, Elaine Aguilar, Nancy Motlow and Linda Frank.

Preschoolers, Families Attend Thanksgiving Lunch

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Hollywood Preschool held their annual Thanksgiving lunch at the gym on Nov. 25.

The children gathered with their families to enjoy a traditional Seminole Thanksgiving meal and share what they are thankful for.

Posters made by the children were displayed throughout the gym, and centerpieces featuring the children's pictures were also made as a keepsake for the families.



Alyssa and Betsy Bowers prepare their plates for the Thanksgiving lunch.



Jose Puento Jr. is ready to have lunch with his family.

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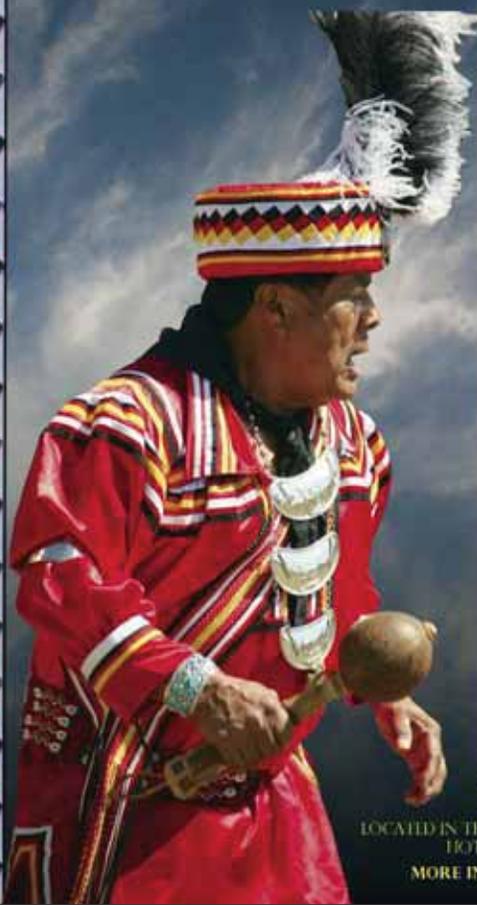


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Education

B



Chris C. Jenkins

(L-R) Cassie Alexander and Eliza Billie look through a book about the alphabet.

Ahfachkee School Hosts Book Fair

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Ahfachkee School hosted its Winter Scholastics Book Fair on Dec. 1-8.

The event allowed students the opportunity to enjoy a large and varied selection of reading materials including: facts and statistical books, easy readers, adventure books, advanced readers, mysteries and historical biographies.

"I think it is good because kids are getting things they actually need for their classes," Ahfachkee student and Tribal Council Vice President Tia Osborne said.

Ahfachkee ninth grader Kaylee Jumper purchased the *New York Times* No. 1 bestseller and fiction book, "The Invention of Hugo Cabret" by author Brian Selznick, at the event. She said she enjoys the Book Fair because it gives her a chance to read books other than what the school's library offers.

"We encourage them to get different reading experiences," Ahfachkee Librarian Margarita Lugo said. "You can often tell the kids that read books. Those that do have and make excellent book choices."

Lugo said the school hosts book fairs twice a year, and she has high hopes for the next one in May 2009 because half-off sales will be offered.

"The good thing is that [the students] are actually anticipating the next fair," she explained.

Lugo said the events also help to bring the community closer together. In addition to the Book Fair, other activities take place throughout the week, including a family night and a community day.

According to Lugo, the school profited around 60 percent from the sales. All book sale profits will benefit the expanding school library, as well as the teachers' individual libraries in their classrooms.

Ahfachkee teacher Alison McCulloch helped launch the program years ago through the supplier, Scholastics Books. Known as a global children's publishing, education and media company it supplies children reading and learning information.

For more information please log onto www.bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/ahfachkee.



Chris C. Jenkins

Second grader Carlos Romero looks at the latest in the "Star Wars" book collection.



Rachel Buxton

Students and teachers from the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School walk backwards to raise their heart rates during the American Diabetes Association fundraiser on Nov. 26.

Pemayetv Emahakv Students Walk for Diabetes Awareness School's Fundraising Efforts Collect \$7,554 for American Diabetes Association

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — In honor of Diabetes Awareness Month, students and teachers at the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School participated in a walk to honor the fight against diabetes on Nov. 26.

For two weeks prior to the walk, students held a fundraiser for the American Diabetes Association (ADA). Parents sold hotdogs and hamburgers at the Halloween Carnival to help raise money. Students collected donations up until minutes before the start of the walk. Together the students and parents raised a total of \$7,554 on behalf of the school for the ADA — more than double their goal.

Students gathered in the breeze-way to begin the walk. Beth Morlang from the Seminole Health Dept. spoke about the deadly disease.

"Diabetes is serious," she explained, "but the good news is that Type 2 diabetes can be prevented with a healthy lifestyle."

As they made their way around the walk route, signs lined their path with positive and helpful tips such as one that read "Get healthy as a family, its fun for everyone."

Different zones were set up along the walk where specific exercises had to be performed. At one zone participants had to walk backwards and at another everyone had to do 10 pushups. The Seminole Fire Dept. was on hand to assist and make sure everyone exercised safely.

According to a study by the ADA, American Indians under the age of 20 have the highest rate of Type 2 diabetes. Diabetes, however, is a self-managed disease. By eating healthy foods and being physically active, diabetes can be controlled and even prevented.

"Easy on sugar and junk food," Morlang told students. "Limit your computer and TV time to two hours a day, go outside and play; and parents, I urge you to join them."

In addition to the walk, teachers in various classes were encouraged to have a poster contest on topics about fighting diabetes, healthy eating and/or exercise. The top three posters from each participating class were displayed along the walk path.

Many classes also decorated T-shirts to wear for the event. Ms. Duncan's kindergarten class opted to make paper hats to wear that sent the message, "Walk for Diabetes."



Rachel Buxton

Charter School student Tava Harris runs for good health.

Second Seminole Symposium Held at Broward College

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

PEMBROKE PINES, Fla. — For the second year in a row Broward Community College held its Seminole Arts And Culture Symposium on Nov. 20.

Tribal citizens featured their talents to students and members of the community. Participants included Elgin Jumper, Moses "Bigg" Jumper Jr., Paul "Cowbone" Buster, Carol Cypress, Gordon O. Wareham, and Pedro Zepeda, to mention a few.

Buster sang to the crowd and shared stories. "Telling stories was our way of entertainment in the past," he said.

Wareham played songs on his flute and told stories to the crowd. He also expressed his interest in photography and shared a photo of alligator wrestler Billy Walker with his head inside an alligator's mouth.

Elgin Jumper recited his poetry while displaying his artwork and Cypress showed off her beading. Zepeda displayed and discussed beadwork on his Bandoier bag; he also explained some rules about the Bandoier bag making pertaining to Seminole tradition.

Each exhibitor brought history and knowledge of their culture to the group.

Project Director Kyra Belan from Broward Community College, and also the event's planner and coordinator, said the event was a great success and plans to continue scheduling more events to make the Seminole presence known throughout the college campus.



Marisol Gonzalez

Elgin Jumper recites his poetry and displays his artwork at the symposium. This was his second year participating.



Marisol Gonzalez

Paul "Cowbone" Buster plays the guitar and tells stories to the crowd.

Outstanding Charter School Students Honored

Students Recognized for Sept. 1-12



Kindergarten:
Mrs. Duncan - Kobe Jimmie
Mrs. Webber - Destiny Elliott

Second Grade:
Mrs. Ball - Raely Matthews
Mrs. Moss - Aleina Mico

Fourth Grade:
Mrs. Williams - Drayton Billie
Mrs. Tedders - Sean Osceola

First Grade:
Mrs. Davis - Mallorie Thomas
Mrs. Ringstaff - Kamani Smith
Mrs. Hudson - Katie Beck

Third Grade:
Mrs. Clements - Aiyana Tommie
Mrs. Pryor - Rudy Juarez

Fifth Grade:
Mrs. Dobbs - Zach Hudson
Mrs. Finney - Jaron Johns

Students Recognized for Sept. 15-26



Kindergarten:
Mrs. Duncan - Caylie Huff
Mrs. Webber - John Beck

Second Grade:
Mrs. Ball - Alicia Fudge
Mrs. Moss - Krysta Burton

Fourth Grade:
Mrs. Williams - Crysten Smith
Mrs. Tedders - Andrew Dobbs

First Grade:
Mrs. Davis - Sage Motlow
Mrs. Ringstaff - Marcie Osceola
Mrs. Hudson - Kai Osceola

Third Grade:
Mrs. Clements - Shalynn Josh
Mrs. Pryor - Easton Moss

Fifth Grade:
Mrs. Dobbs - Rayven Smith
Mrs. Finney - Lahna Sedat



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Close-up Washington, DC trip for 9th- 12th Grade Students



The Close Up program in Washington D.C. will be held from **February 8th- 14th, 2009**.

We would like all 9th-12th graders to join us on this exciting, close up look at US government, Explore Korea, Vietnam and WWII Memorials. You will also meet many other Native Americans your age from various tribes along the Eastern Seaboard. There is a lot to see and do and we hope you can join us.

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Tribal Citizen Sponsors Cultural Presentation

BY SHELLEY MARMOR
Assistant Editor

DAVIE, Fla. — Gem Osceola, along with wife, Linda, arranged for a cultural presentation and wildlife show at the Gloria Dei Lutheran Academy in Davie, Fla. on Nov. 25.

The school's students, including the Osceola's children, Faith, 7, and John, 9, first attended a cultural presentation given by Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., before heading outdoors for a wildlife show.

During the presentation, Rep. Osceola discussed the history of Thanksgiving, Seminole culture, including the Green Corn Dance, the clans, clothing and hairstyles, and even taught the students and their teachers a few Mikasuki words, such as "chee-hun-ta-mo," meaning "hello."

When discussing the history of the Thanksgiving holiday between the Pilgrims and the Native Americans, Rep. Osceola said that the two cultures honored each other and celebrated by sharing food. He told those in attendance that these two groups provide a good example on how to respect other cultures.

"In the end, we're all human beings," he said. "We need to always treat each other with respect."

After a question and answer session with the students and their teachers, the group made their way outside to see an alligator and snake show.

Brothers Jimmy and Andy Riffle, who both formerly worked at the Seminole Native Village, led the wildlife show.



Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. gives a cultural presentation to the students at the Gloria Dei Lutheran Academy.



Jimmy Riffle does an alligator wrestling demonstration for the school's students.

Jimmy Riffle gave the children a brief history of alligator wrestling, beginning with Henry Copping Jr., the first known wrestler, and then discussing the how the Seminoles made money wrestling alligators for tourists.

He then captivated his young audience by mounting the 8 foot alligator named Tiny and demonstrating common alligator wrestling techniques. To close the show, Riffle showed the youngsters a speckled cobra snake and finally, let them pet some baby alligators.



(L-R) Lt. Bryan Stepanenko and Firefighter Victor White talk to children about fire rescue.

Charter School Students Learn Fire Safety

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue Dept. put on a fire prevention demonstration on Nov. 26 at Pemayetv Emahavk Charter School to teach students about fire safety.

"Fire prevention is a life-safety issue and if something bad happens, kids need to know what to do," said Inspector Bruce Britton.

The demonstration took place at four separate stations, three having Fire Dept. vehicles, including a fire engine, rescue vehicle and wildland fire truck, which is designed to combat fires in areas unreachable to conventional engines. Students from each class took turns visiting the three vehicles.

At the fire engine, firefighters Matt Lofton and Gus Ajuz showed students the different tools found on the truck, along with the hose and the Jaws of Life.

Rescue Lt. Bryan Stepanenko and Firefighter Victor White took kids on a tour of the fire rescue vehicle showing them equipment and tools used in medical emergencies. Children were able to crawl through and explore the inside of the vehicle.

Firefighters Michael Lightsey and Leroy Yates educated the students on the wildland fire division and vehicle. Yates was dressed head to toe in fireproof gear that he showed off to the students. Lightsey explained the different duties of a wildland firefighter such as suppressing wildfires to protect natural wilderness. He also talked about the need for controlled burning to help renew the land.

In addition, Inspector Bruce Britton, Chief David Logan, Lt. Robert Brown and Firefighter Lisa Kinchen, performed a puppet show to educate students about the difference between smelling smoke and being on fire, and what to do in each circumstance.

"We want to eliminate the confusion," said Chief Logan. "We go into a house and we find children rolling on the floor who are not even on fire."

The puppets sang jazzy songs to help kids remember to crawl low if they smell smoke and to stop, drop and roll if their clothes catch on fire.

Fire safety and prevention pamphlets were handed out to the students.



Inspector Bruce Britton and his sidekick, Sparky, tell the students to stay low to the ground in the event of a fire.

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Health

2009 STOF Member Health Plan Books Have Arrived

SUBMITTED BY CONNIE WHIDDEN
Health Dept. Director

The Seminole Tribe of Florida Member Health Plan Book has been revised for 2009. New Health Plan Books will be mailed to primary policyholders soon, so please be on the lookout for your copy. If you do not receive the book in the mail, please contact your area clinic for a copy.

The new Health Plan Book will be effective Jan. 1, 2009. Some of the changes to note include: change in dental benefit, addition of clinic contact information, prescription required for durable medical equipment, addition of residential treatment center definition, and change in Medicare enrollment.

Please review the book and keep it on hand.

Please contact the Health Plan Office at (866) 505-6789 if you have any questions about your benefits.

Change in Tribal Citizen Dental Care Benefits

SUBMITTED BY CONNIE WHIDDEN
Health Dept. Director

Effective Feb. 1, 2009, you must come to the STOF Dental Clinic to receive dental care if you reside within 60 miles of the Dental Clinic. If the Dental Clinic determines that a referral is necessary, a referral will be provided to you for outside services.

If a referral is not obtained prior to receiving services from an outside dental provider, the bill will not be paid by the Member Health Plan, and you will be responsible for payment.

If you reside more than 60 miles from all STOF Health Clinics, you may receive dental care at the Dental Clinic or may use the Member Health Plan card to receive treatment by a Dentemax dental provider. The dentist must submit a treatment plan to the Health Plan Office prior to beginning treatment. Please have your dentist contact the Health Plan Office at (866) 505-6789.

If you require emergency treatment, regardless of where you reside, you may obtain the necessary care, and then you or someone acting on your behalf must notify the STOF Dental Clinic within 72 hours for the services to be paid by the Health Plan. If the Dental Clinic is closed, please provide your name and contact information on the clinic's voice mail and we will contact you to get the treatment details.

The reason this change is being made is to ensure you receive the highest quality of care. Please contact the Health Plan Office at (954) 981-7410 or (866) 505-6789 if you have any questions.

The location and telephone number of each Dental Clinic is listed below for your reference: Hollywood Dental Clinic, 3006 Josie Billie Ave., Hollywood, FL 33024, (954) 964-3411, Monday-Friday; Brighton Dental Clinic, 17201 Civic St., Oklawaha, FL 34974, (863) 763-0271, Monday-Friday; Big Cypress Dental Clinic, 30851 Buffalo Jim Loop Rd., Clewiston, FL 33440, (863) 983-5151, Monday, Wednesday and Friday; Immokalee Dental Clinic, 1120 South 1st St., Immokalee, FL 34142, (239) 867-3410, Tuesday and Thursday.



Alanis Baker, 4, and Jarrett Beecham, 3, crawl through the Hula hoops, learning how to have fun while staying in shape.

Rachel Buxton

Preschoolers, Seniors Get Fit at Field Day

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Fitness Dept. got preschoolers and seniors up and moving for their Get Fit Field Day held on Nov. 18, to help promote physical education.

"Physical education is very important, especially at a young age," said Youth Fitness Coordinator Gina Allardce. "It helps build self esteem and gives children a chance to challenge themselves."

The day started off with music playing and 51 preschoolers cheering and dancing. Trainers stretched with the children before they split up and headed off to training circuits where the real fun began.

The gym was divided into four different circuits, with each station focusing on an exercise activity that helped develop hand-eye and foot coordination. Some of the activities included a soccer relay, beanbag toss and a classic, the ball on a spoon race.

The preschool field day ended with all students receiving a ribbon for their participation and enthusiasm.



Wonder Johns balances an egg on a spoon to improve his hand-eye coordination.

Rachel Buxton

Following the preschoolers, members of the Fitness Dept. headed to the Senior Center to engage Brighton seniors in a little physical activity. Seven seniors showed up to show off their physical fitness at their first ever Get Fit Day senior event.

"Mitchell Cypress has a vision for individuals to live happy, healthy and long lives, and that's what we're trying to do," Fitness Trainer Natasha Perez told the seniors.

There were lots of laughs as the seniors split into two teams to compete in similar activities to the preschoolers. Onnie Osceola was cheered on as she got three for three in the ladder ball competition; an activity where two balls on a string is tossed onto rungs of a ladder for points.

Get Fit Day left the seniors asking for more.

"We should have more of these," said Mable Haught. "It gives me and others a reason to keep going, no matter our age."

Ahfachkee School Hosts Diabetes Carnival to Educate, Raise Awareness

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The annual Ahfachkee School Diabetes Carnival, held Dec. 4, gave students a valuable education on a disease affecting close to 10 percent of the American population. Games and activities highlighted the event with T-shirts and giveaways, racing relays, a baseball throw, HBAIC target games, ring toss and milk bottle games and an inflatable funhouse for grades pre-kindergarten through high school.

"This setting allows them to learn and have fun also," said Edna McDuffie, of the Tribe's Community Outreach Program. "We want to start now so that they know whether they should or should not eat certain things early on."

Third grade student Cartaya Billie said she learned a lot at the event. She said she now understands that the wrong health decisions could also be fatal.

"I have learned not to do certain things in your diet because it could kill you," Billie said.

Sue Tigertall, Ahfachkee third grade teacher, said raising awareness about diabetes will help her students with prevention.

"Just being aware of this disease is important because it affects families, and it can affect anyone," Tigertall said.

According to the American Diabetes Associ-

ation, the disease often goes undiagnosed because many of its symptoms seem harmless initially. The cause of diabetes continues to be a mystery, however, although both genetics and environmental factors, such as obesity and lack of exercise, play some role.

There are four major types of the disease. Type 1 diabetes results from the body's failure to produce insulin, the hormone that "unlocks" the cells of the body and allows glucose to enter and fuel them. Type 2 diabetes results from insulin resistance, a condition in which the body fails to properly use insulin combined with relative insulin deficiency. The majority of Americans who are diagnosed with diabetes have Type 2.

Gestational diabetes forms immediately after pregnancy. Pre-diabetes is a condition that occurs when a person's blood glucose levels are higher than normal, but not high enough for a diagnosis of Type 2 diabetes.

Potential diabetes' symptoms could include: blurry vision, irritability, fatigue, extreme hunger, frequent urination and unusual weight loss.

Some common myths are: contracting the disease from someone else, the inability to eat sweets or chocolate, eating too much sugar causes the disease, and those with diabetes are more likely to get colds and other illnesses.

For more facts and information, please log on to www.diabetes.org.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal Nutritionist Suzanne Fundingsland (R) talks about nutrition and food value to the youth.



Chris C. Jenkins

Zephaniah Roberts gets strapped in on the bungee trampoline ride.

THE HEALTHY SENIOR BY FRED CICCETTI

[Editor's Note: Fred Ciccetti is a syndicated columnist who writes about issues concerning senior citizens' health. The opinions he expresses are his own. This is the second part in a three-part series on breast cancer, part three will appear in the Jan. 23 issue. If you would like to ask a question, please, write fred@healthyzeezer.com. All Rights Reserved ©2008 by Fred Ciccetti.]

The most common breast cancer symptom is a lump. Other symptoms include swelling, skin irritation, nipple pain or retraction, and an unusual discharge.

Early diagnosis saves lives. The combination of a mammogram, a clinical breast exam and self-exams is recommended by healthcare experts to reduce breast-cancer deaths.

A mammogram is a breast x-ray. If mammography finds an abnormality, confirmation by biopsy is required. In a biopsy, a tissue sample is taken for analysis.

About 2/10 percent of mammograms lead to a cancer diagnosis. About 10 percent of women examined will need another mammogram. Only about 10 percent of those women will need a biopsy. Out of those biopsies, 80 percent will come back negative for cancer.

Women 40 and older should have an annual mammogram and breast exam by a healthcare professional. As long as a woman is in good health and would be a candidate for treatment, she should continue to get mammograms and exams.

Research has shown that self exams help find breast cancer. Self-examination teaches women how their breasts feel normally and to notice changes.

Ultrasound and MRI are other diagnostic tools. Ultrasound uses high-frequency sound waves to outline a part of the body. Breast ultrasound can focus

on something picked up by a mammogram. Magnetic resonance imaging, or MRI, uses radio waves and strong magnets instead of X-rays. They can be used to examine cancers found by mammogram.

Most women with breast cancer have some type of surgery. Surgeries include lumpectomy to remove only the breast lump and surrounding tissue, a mastectomy that removes part or all of the breast or can be more extensive to include lymph nodes and muscle tissue.

Radiation therapy is another form of treatment. It uses high-energy rays or particles that destroy cancer cells. This treatment may be used to destroy cancer cells that remain in the breast, chest wall, or underarm area after surgery.

Medicines are also used to treat breast cancer. Chemotherapy employs intravenous and oral drugs that can kill cancer cells in most parts of the body. The anti-estrogen drug tamoxifen has been used for more than 20 years to treat breast cancer.

Hormone replacement therapy (HRT) to treat menopause symptoms and its relationship to breast cancer has become a controversial issue. Unfortunately, many women experience menopausal symptoms after treatment for breast cancer.

In the past, doctors had offered HRT after breast-cancer treatment to women suffering from severe symptoms. However, recently, a study found that breast cancer survivors taking HRT were much more likely to develop a new or recurrent breast cancer than women who were not taking the drugs. This study discouraged doctors from recommending HRT to breast-cancer patients.

Phytoestrogens, estrogen-like substances, may be safer than the estrogens used in HRT. However, there is insufficient data on phytoestrogens to evaluate their safety for breast cancer survivors.



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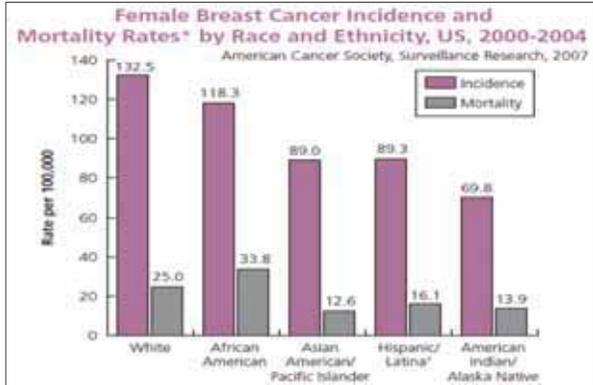
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Ed Morse Sawgrass Auto Mall is now offering all Seminole tribal members and employees really great deals! That's right, all tribe members and employees, including everyone who

works at the Seminole Hard Rock Casino, can now get big savings and all financing incentives for which they qualify on five GM brands of new vehicles and over 150 used vehicles.

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'Tis the Season for Holiday Safety

Tips for Keeping Your Family Safe this Season

BY AVA JOHN
Environmental Health Program

It's that time of year again — the holidays — a time to celebrate, give thanks and reflect. They are also a time to pay special attention to your health. Give the gift of health and safety to yourself and others by following these holiday tips.

Wash Your Hands Often

Keeping hands clean is one of the most important steps you can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. Wash your hands with soap and clean running water for at least 20 seconds. If soap or clean water is not available, use an alcohol-based product.



Watch the Kids

Whether you're traveling across town or around the world, do your part to help ensure safe travels. First and foremost, don't drink and drive and don't let someone else drink and drive. Wear a seat belt every time you drive or ride in a motor vehicle. Always buckle your child in the car using a child safety seat, booster seat, or seat belt according to their height, weight and age.

Children are at high risk for injuries that can lead to death or disability. Keep a watchful eye on your kids when they're eating and playing. Keep dangerous toys, foods and household items out of their reach, including choking hazards like coins and hard candy. Learn how to provide early treatment for children who are choking. Make sure toys are used as per the manufacturer's instructions.

Prevent Injuries

Injuries from falls and fire-works often occur during the holidays. Use step stools instead of furniture when hanging decorations. Leave the fireworks to the pro.

To prevent residential fires, keep candles away from children, pets, walkways, trees and curtains. Never leave fireplaces, stoves or candles unattended. Don't use gasoline or charcoal burning devices inside your home or garage. Install a smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector in your home; test them once a month and replace batteries twice a year.

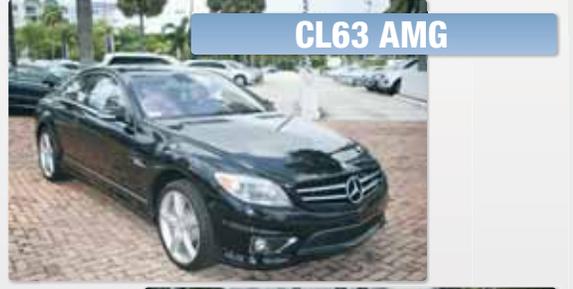
Handle and Prepare Food Safely

As you prepare holiday meals, keep you and your family safe from food related illness. Wash hands and surfaces often. Avoid cross-contaminating by keeping raw meat, poultry, seafood and eggs (including their juices) away from ready-to-eat foods and eating surfaces. Cook foods to the proper temperature. Refrigerate promptly. Do not leave perishable foods out for more than two hours.

SAFE COOKING TEMPERATURES		
Internal temperature as measured with a food thermometer		
Ground meats & Meat Mixtures	Hot	
Beef, Pork, Veal, Lamb	160°F	Fresh (not)
Turkey, Chicken	165°F	Pre-cooked (to reheat)
Fresh Beef, Veal, Lamb		Eggs & Egg Dishes
Medium-Rare	147°F	Eggs
Medium	160°F	Egg dishes
Well Done	170°F	Sealed
Poultry		Fish/Pish
Whole poultry and poultry parts	165°F	in thick to opaque & separate easily with fish.
Stuffing (moist alone or in bird)	165°F	
Fresh Pork		
Medium	160°F	Loafmeat & Corned
Well Done	170°F	Loafmeat & Corned



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Sports

C

Community Adults, Seniors Attend Brighton Bike Races

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Seven adults and two seniors got up early to compete in Brighton's second bike race of the year, held on Nov. 22 at 8 a.m.

Race participants entered in either the male or female categories, which further



Rachel Buxton

Adult Men's Division winner Robert Youngblood makes his way to the finish line, which he crossed in a time of 48:40.

and orange slices at the checkpoint. Waldron and Bowers didn't waste any time reaching the finish line. Waldron came in at 34:30 and Bowers followed right behind at an even 35 minutes.

In the adult men's division, Robert Youngblood and Lenny Jim of Big Cypress fought for the lead, with the two neck-and-neck throughout the race. Youngblood, however, captured the win with a time of 48:40. Jim crossed the finish line not even a minute later at 49:15.

The winner in the women's division wasn't far behind. Avalon Puente captured first place, crossing the finish line at 54:52, making her the third adult to finish.

The remaining bikers came in shortly after: Brenda Youngblood, 58:53; Norman "Skeeter" Bowers, 1:02:00; and Carla Gopher, 1:03:00.

Competitor Sean John fought hard, but in the end he had to take an incomplete.

divided cyclists into senior and adult divisions. The senior trail consisted of a 6 mile bike ride, while the adults raced to a 12.5 mile finish.

The bikers jumped and stretched to stay warm on the brisk fall morning as they waited for Seminole Police Dept. officials to stop traffic for the start of the race. A hand was waved, signaling the start as the competitors looked ahead to the finish line.

Competing in the senior race were Patty Waldron and Andrew Bowers, each in their own division. The adult race consisted of four men and three women.

Along the adult trail, bikers reached a turn where they received a string of beads showing they had reached the turning point. They were also able to rehydrate and refuel with water



Rachel Buxton

Adult Women's Division winner Avalon Puente crosses the finish line in a time of 54:52.

Celebs, Tribal Council Attend Annual Charity Pro-Am Pool Tournament

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The best men and women on the professional billiards scene came together for a good cause, the annual Celebrity Pro-Am, sponsored by Seminole Sports Management (SSM) and held at the Hard Rock Live on Nov. 12.

The 16 team tournament allowed Tribal citizens, Tribal Council and Board members the chance to mingle and show their wears in tournament style pool action. The teams consisted of five members with each having one celebrity and one professional pool player.

Proceeds from the event went to the charity Vivian's Kidz named after Women's Professional Billiard Association (WPBA) tour player and fan favorite Vivian "The Texas Tornado" Villarreal. The charity is dedicated to eradicating the problem of missing and exploited children.

"It is a good cause because there are so many kids out there suffering. If this can help anybody out there get their child back

it is definitely worth our time," Tribal citizen and first year participant Dale Grasshopper said.

Supporter Jeanette Lee better known to fans as "The Black Widow" said giving her support every year to the charity has been a pleasure.

"It is always good to be involved in a good charity and the Seminoles have always been great," Lee said. "Any time you can help kids it is a great thing."

"There was a lot of energy at the event and it was definitely the place to be," she added.

Tribal citizen and SSM Assistant Director Philmon Bowers said the demand became higher than the supply of teams which was a great sign of success.

"It was a long process and it started about four months ago," Bowers explained. "I enjoyed seeing everyone come here and collaborate, relax and have fun."

"I was excited to be involved although I do not play pool a lot. I really liked the

Please see **POOL** ◊ Page 3C



Chris C. Jenkins

The Celebrity Pro-Am's winning team members (L-R) David Cypress, Mark Clayton, Dale Grasshopper, Corey Duele and Phaly Osceola.



Chris C. Jenkins

As part of her fitness regimen, Candy Osceola runs on the treadmill during her workout.

Osceola Sisters Prove Hard Work Pays Off

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Working hard and staying fit are two important ways of life for the Osceola twins, Claudine and Clorine.

Even in the midst of busy work and family schedules, finding time is not hard to do. Workouts in the gym or running are their places of choice for recreation and comfort each morning.

"They eat and sleep fitness," Big Cypress Fitness Specialist Neal Prager said. "They also have a pain tolerance and work ethic I have never seen before."

Born in Clewiston, the two Wind Clan members are also affectionately known as Candy and Cathy to family and friends in the B.C. community.

They have one other sibling sister and two brothers with mother, Lydia Cypress, heading up the household. With an increased awareness among the Seminole community of fitness and exercise now more than ever, Chairman Mitchell Cypress said he admires their work ethic.

"They are role models for our females," Chairman Cypress said. "They are really into fitness and have accomplished a lot."

"They've impressed me the most by committing themselves every morning," he continued.

The journey into the fitness and running world began far both in their early teens. Candy said she saw getting in shape as a motivator to overcome her weight issues at the time. She said the peace and tranquility of running are her

main draws, however.

"There is no one waiting for me; it is just me and the road," she explained. "It is a solo sport and I enjoy that aspect of it."

Cathy, who is the younger of the two by a few minutes, said it is a nice distraction for her.

"It takes my mind away from things and I can compete against myself," she said.

She admits that what keeps her coming in day after day are new challenges.

"The challenges come in the weight room really," Cathy said. "What I do in there helps me out there running ... I want to see where my body will take me and see how far I can go."

At 36-years-old, neither seems to be

slowing down either. Prager said their routine usually involves three to five days of sprints, cardio, free weights, plyometrics, agility bag training and abdomen work.

"When they say and use the description 'unconquered' I understand," Prager assured.

The 17 year veteran trainer has been training both sisters for several years and been a part of the Tribe's Fitness Dept. staff for close to four years.

"Their drive to be the best they can be is unmatched," he said. "I have had to use everything I have learned in my 17 years of training with them."

"They really help keep me fresh in my approach," he added.

While both have become increasingly competitive over the years, Candy is busy finishing up her studies in business at Florida Atlantic University. To relax, she takes a load off by reading and doing traditional Seminole custom beadwork. She says she learned the hobby from cousin, Diane Hall.

"I enjoy the finished product," Candy said. "To sit there for hours and string something together to create is nice."

As a mother of four, Cathy said she got her start through competing at annual Rez Rally's. She continues to step up her level of competing taking on the challenges of 5k and 10k's, plus running competitions.

"No matter what happens in their lives, it is all good to them," Prager said. "They do not seem to let anything keep them down."



Chris C. Jenkins

Cathy Osceola works up a sweat on the Stairmaster machine.

Turkey Skins Golf Tournament Held for Thanksgiving

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

LEHIGH ACRES, Fla. — The Big Cypress Recreation Dept. invited Seminole Tribal citizens, their spouses and employees to participate in the annual Turkey Skins Golf Tournament, held Nov. 24 at the Copperhead Golf Course. An ample crowd of golf enthusiasts gathered on the links for tee off at 10 a.m.

"While this is not the most difficult golf course in the country, it is certainly one of the most challenging in South Florida," said Raymond Garza Jr., who competed. "Nearly all of its fairways have established boundaries and the majority of the roughs have been designated as wetland preserves."

"If your ball lands in one of these areas, it results in a drop and can cause you precious strokes in your score," Garza added.

A favorite destination for Tribal golfers, the beautiful and well maintained course boasts rolling hills, a multitude of bunkers and lakes and ponds that surround it, creating lateral hazards.

Three of the holes require teeing off over water and then crossing bridges to reach the fairway. Hole 10 follows the edge

Please see **SKINS** ◊ Page 3C



Judy Weeks

Ray Garza Jr. (R) holds the flag as Virginia Billie (L) sinks her ball on the eighth hole.

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Men's MVP Amos Huggins (C) makes the basket during the championship game.

Marisol Gonzalez

Fifth Annual Randall Huggins Memorial Basketball Tourney, Car Show Held

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The fifth annual Randall Huggins Big Ballers Basketball Tournament and Strictly Business Car Show took place at the Hollywood gym and ball field Dec. 4-6.

The basketball tournament, hosted by the Huggins family, brought out native athletes from throughout Indian Country.

Nineteen men's teams and 12 women's teams competed for the cash prize and bragging rights for the highly anticipated competition. After countless games, the Men's Big Town team and Women's C-Ballers team emerged victorious.

On the men's side, J.E.G. NDN Ave. and Iron Five placed second through fourth, respectively; and in the women's bracket, the Redskins, Outlaw Women and X-Factor placed second through fourth.

Big Town had players from states including Mississippi, Arizona and New Mexico competing. Team members included Huggins family relatives Julius Willis, Josh Williams, James Denson, Roddell Denesto, Adrian Nabors, Eric Batty Gary Parker, Jerome Huggins and Amos Huggins, who received MVP honors. This was Big Town's third win in this tournament.

The C-Ballers from Oklahoma won against the Redskins, who put them in the losing brackets in a previous game during this tournament. Team members included Teresa Dorett, Shavon Lewis, Babbette Dossan, Cece Komaley, Maria Thorpe Katie Birch, Mahgan Miles and Chantay Frazier, who was named MVP.

Team member Katie Birch said winning feels awesome and the team knew what they had to do.

The Strictly Business Car Show, held the last day of the tournament weekend, was open to the public. The competition included more than 100 vehicle entries in various categories such as best paint, best interior and best sound equipment.

The scoring system for the sound equipment contest was based on the size and amplification of the vehicle's speakers and sound system.

Southern Upholstery and Prestige Auto provided Term-LAB, the same software used by NASA to measure the sound intensity inside of a vehicle, to get an accurate winner for the sound system contest.

Despite the title, the Strictly Business Car Show included not only car entries, but also additional categories for trucks, golf carts and bikes.

William Johnson of Ft. Lauderdale placed first in the Truck 30+ category with the highest score of 148.4 points. Johnson said he had never entered his 1997 Chevy Tahoe in any car show, but will do so again in the future after his win. He said he won because his stereo has a very high wattage and a lot of power.

Following the car show, the Huggins family hosted a traditional Indian dinner onsite for all the attendees to enjoy.

Norman Huggins, wife, Kathy, and their children, Marilyn, Kelvin, Adriana, Bianca, Karilyn and Lucas, coordinated the weekend's events. They said the basketball tournament is the biggest one the Tribe hosts all year.

Norman Huggins said his son, Randall, started the basketball tournament and car show years ago. He said the family continued with the tournament but turned it into a memorial tournament to memorialize his late son. "The participants help us more than we help them," he said. "They help keep his memory alive."

The fifth annual tournament is scheduled for Dec. 3-5, 2009.



Contestants line their cars up for judging in the annual car show.

Marisol Gonzalez

Results of the Strictly Business Car Show

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Classic, Mild</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Javier Rodriguez, 1964 Chevy Impala Brandon Becklin, 1971 Chevy Impala Nelson Tomatis, 1971 Chevy Caprice | <p>Stock</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Natoshia Osceola, 2008 BMW Fete Osceola Jr., 1952 Pick Up Mercedes Osceola-Hahn, 2002 Mercedes G500 | <p>Lowrider Bike</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Danny Rodriguez Kerini Oscar Mora |
| <p>Classic, Wild</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Eric Osceola, 1971 Chevy Impala Keoni Teixeira, 1978 Monte Carlo Eric Osceola, 1971 Chevy Impala | <p>SUV, Mild</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Joey Roche, 1993 Toyota 4 Runner "Pacman", 2002 Toyota 4 Runner Ronnie Billie Sr., 1999 Jeep | <p>Gulf Carts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Oscar Rodriguez Kenneth Lawrence Adriana Huggins |
| <p>Domestic, Mild</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Joseph Lett, 2005 Mustang GT Eric Osceola, 1986 Chevy Caprice "Marian", 1993 Cadillac Fleetwood | <p>Truck</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Leon Wilcox, Chevy 3500HD Rickie Lett, 2007 Ford SVT Raymond Stewart, 2007 Ford F-350 | |
| <p>Domestic, Wild</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Luis Torres, 1995 Cadillac "Pacman", 2006 Pontiac Grand Prix Lindsay Diaz, 2005 Ford Focus | <p>Bike Class</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Brandon Hill, Suzuki Hayabusa "Frag", Yamaha R1 Ronnie Billie Sr., Harley-Davidson Sottali Cross Bones | |
| <p>Foreign, Mild</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Carmen German, 1995 Toyota Corolla Ray Rodriguez, 2005 Acura TL Dell Benz, 2005 Mercedes C320 | <p>Senior Class</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> William Jim, 2008 Dodge Max Osceola Jr., 280 SF Leodra Osceola | |
| <p>Foreign, Wild</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> "Skep", 2005 Nissan Maxima Miriam Varela, 2000 Kia Sephia Dru Cepeda, 2001 Kia Spectra | | |



Norman Huggins (R) presents Eric Osceola (L) the trophies he won in the car show.

Marisol Gonzalez



(L-R) Vivian "The Texas Tornado" Villarreal watches as teammate, Chairman Mitchell Cypress, prepares to break.

Pool

Continued from page 1C

environment," said southpaw welterweight contender Juan Urango. "The games and the sharing time against the clock was exciting."

Other celebrities included: former Miami Dolphins wide-receiver greats Mark Duper, Mark Clayton, and Nat Moore, as well as professional bowlers Randall Bailey, Glen Johnson, and a host of others.

SSM's Tournament and Events Coordinator



Marcellus Osceola Sr. concentrates on a key shot in his match.

Chris C. Jenkins

Skins

Continued from page 1C

of a lake, goes over a hill, and then takes a dogleg to the left around a wooded projectile, before reaching the green more than 500 yards away.

Many of the greens are located on steep slopes and surrounded by sand traps, which present their own unique hazards, such as the unexpected competition on the eleventh hole.

A five foot alligator suddenly rose up out of the sand trap on hole 10 and crawled nonchalantly down the hill to confront Mondo Tiger on the 11th Tee. Unfazed, Tiger gave him directions to the nearest lake and continued with his game.

Despite the fascinating layout of the course, obstructed views, unlimited hazards and very fast greens, the tournament players rallied to the challenges and had some remarkable scores.

There were numerous birdies and a multitude of ties with the following results: 1. Charlie Cypress, 2. Art Liebowitz, 3. Ray Yzaguire Jr., 4. Elliot Young, 5. Marcellus Osceola, 6. Ray Garza Jr., 7. Lawrence Osceola, 8. David Osceola, 9. Mondo Tiger, 10. Keeno King, 11. George Grasshopper, 12. Jason Tommie, 13. Mitch Osceola, 14. Abe Rockwell, 15. Ricky Doctor, 16. (tie) Cicero Osceola, 16. Virginia Billie, Closest to the Pin on all the Par 3's: Senior Men: Lawrence Osceola, Art Liebowitz, George Grasshopper, Keeno King; Adult Men: Charlie Cypress, Mondo Tiger, Mitch Osceola, Cicero Osceola.



Charlie Cypress tees off at the tournament.

July Weiss



Keeno King takes a shot from behind a tree and onto the green.

July Weiss

Monica Webb Wins WPBA Championship

BY LORI FISHER
Freelance Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — England's Kelly "Kwikfire" Fisher matched up against top ranked Monica "The Assassin" Webb for the last day of the Women's Professional Billiard Association (WPBA) Championship, held Nov. 12-16 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

Webb had never been to the finals, while Fisher competed for her third championship of this year. Both were at the top of their games.

Having already secured the number one ranking for year's end, Fisher aimed to hold both major 2008 titles.

Fisher broke in the second game, but failed to pocket a ball. The cue ball settled less than three inches from the one ball and Webb debated her options. She finally chose to bank the ball into the corner pocket, making it, and moving on to round two. Showing that she was there to play, Webb didn't blink as she finished off the rack to tie the match up at one all.

Vivian "The Texas Tornado"

Villarreal, who is sponsored by the Seminole Tribe of Florida and holds 16 titles, watched the final match along with President Richard Bowers Jr. and Assistant Director of Seminole Sports Management Philimon Bowers.

Webb broke and made a ball, being left thin on the one down the rail and overcut the shot, fortunately leaving Fisher with no open shot.

Only needing one game to win the championship, Webb went in to game 11 with the break and the fate of the title in her hands. After yelling "Let's go, baby!" she made a tough cut on three and got a perfect position on the four ball. With only four balls left, she carefully negotiated each shot then finished the rack.

There were shouts of encouragement throughout the game from the audience; both players stepped up their game but in the end Webb took her first WPBA Championship home.

President Richard Bowers Jr. presented first, second, third and fourth place trophies to Monica Webb, Kelly Fisher, Vivian Villarreal and Sara Rousey, respectively. Emotions ran high for Webb as tears of excitement accompanied her speech as she thanked her sponsors, the WPBA, her fans, and fellow women's billiards players, Jeanette Lee and Helena Thornfield.

The event was sponsored by the WPBA in association with the Seminole Tribe of Florida and Seminole Sports Management, and hosted by the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.



Monica Webb receives her trophy from President Richard Bowers Jr.

Lori Fisher

Steve Moore Wins Mizerak Championship

BY LORI FISHER
Freelance Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Steve Moore and Gabe Owen duelled for a chance to take home the Seminole Pro Tour's Steve Mizerak Championship's top honors on Nov. 16, at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

Just when it looked as though Moore would come away victorious after Moore fell short, los-

ing to Owen 8-5, Moore had wins against Ron Park and Mark Haddad on his way back to the championship.

The 8-7 win against the Shane Van Boening earned Moore another shot against Owen in the finals, and he took full advantage as he cruised to a 9-2 win.

Owen, Van Boening and Corey Deuel came in second through fourth, respectively.



Steve Moore lines up his shot on his way to victory.

Photo Courtesy of Seminole Broadcasting

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Tribal Gymnasts Shine in Competition

Carson Knaby, Raevin Frank Compete in Harvest Challenge

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

STUART, FL.— Tribal citizens Carson Knaby, 10, and Raevin Frank, 11, are well on their way in the gymnastics world.

The two made more headway in their young careers during competition at the Harvest Challenge 2008 Meet, held Nov. 1-2 at YMCA of The Treasure Coast.

Frank placed second on the bars and fourth in all-around at the meet. Knaby placed 10th in all-around.

"I was ecstatic they competed so well," said Youth Fitness Coordinator Gina Allardyce with the Tribal Fitness Dept. "They were both a little on the nervous side, but they pulled through."

Both train six to eight hours a week and compete throughout Florida as part of Park Avenue Gymnastics team, located in the Cooper City and Weston.

Park Avenue offers classes for boys and girls of all

ages and skill levels, from "Mom and Tot" classes, through competitive team classes. The classes are tailored to help improve strength, flexibility, speed, balance, power, coordination, discipline, cognitive and motor skills.

The facility also has a designed multi-colored star system, called Rainbow Stars, to chart or measure youth progress. The process works by placing them in the appropriate class according to the skills they can successfully demonstrate. The student will then move and progress through, while advancing and learning more difficult gymnastics techniques.

Up-coming scheduled events for Park Avenue competitors include: the Level 4-10 "Le Bons Temp Rouler" Invite, held Jan. 16-18 in Louisiana, the Level 2-10 Cruise Classic, held Jan. 23-25 in Cooper City and the Level 2-10 2009 Gasparilla Classic, held Feb. 27-March 1 in St. Petersburg.

For more information call (954) 605-8909, (954) 434-0099 or (954) 659-8717.



Carson Knaby



Raevin Frank

Gina Allardyce

Gina Allardyce



Marisol Gonzalez

The participants in the Preschool Trike-A-Thon raised money for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Preschool Trike-A-Thon Benefits St. Jude's

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD

The Hollywood preschoolers, as well as parents and community members, joined together for an outing in the neighborhood; but this time they brought along their tricycles.

The annual Trike-A-Thon took place outside the gym on Nov. 20. Prior to the event, the parents of the preschoolers collected donations, and all proceeds benefited the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Parents and teachers led the children in a walk/ride around the community. The Seminole Police Dept was also on hand to ensure everyone would have a safe and fun time.



Marisol Gonzalez

Officer Michele Daza (R) helps Sarah Robbins from the 2 year old class stay on the course during her ride through the Hollywood community.

Students Compete in Dodge Ball Tournament

BY CHRIS GOODWIN
Pemayevt Emahakv PE Teacher

BRIGHTON

The Pemayevt Emahakv Charter School's Second Annual Dodgeball Tournament took place on Nov. 14.

There were 13 student teams and 10 parent/faculty teams. School spirit ran high with teams making uniforms and dressing up for battle.

"Six-Pack," a fourth grade team, emerged victorious after a shocking defeat against the heavily-favored fifth grade team, "The Unknowns."

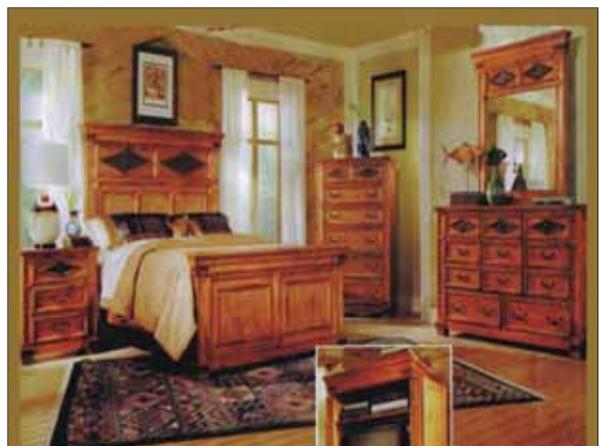
The winning team consisted of Crysten Smith, Robert Fudge, Andrew Dobbs, Demetrius Clark,

Trevor Thomas and Bailey Tedders. The Unknowns included team players Cheyenne Nunez, Trista Osceola, Imillakayo Osceola, Yopalakiyo Osceola, Jayce Smith and CW Ortiz.

The "Average Joe's," a fifth grade team, placed third. Teammates included: Rayven Smith, Royce Jones, Michael Garcia, Donovan Osceola, Melanie Williams and Keyana Nelson.

The first ever School Spirit Stick, also handed out at the event, went to Mrs. Pryor's third grade class.

On the adult side of the tournament, the Nobody's beat the Hot Shots in the finals, to end an exciting dodge ball tournament.



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Michele Thomas

The Six-Pack team: (L-R) Crysten Smith, Robert Fudge, Andrew Dobbs, Demetrius Clark, Trevor Thomas and Bailey Tedders.



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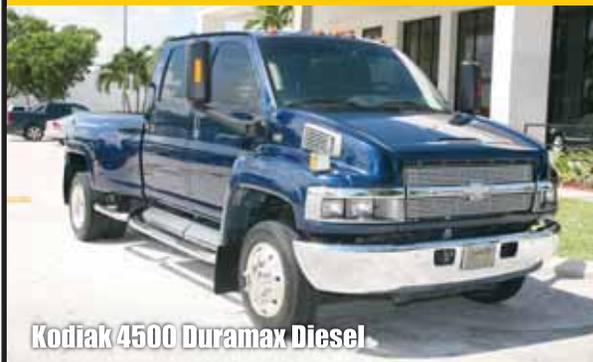
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CASINO

Charlie Daniels Rocks Out for Charity

Tampa Hard Rock Hosts Charitable Event for The Angelus

BY JENNIFER PRIDEMORE HOLATA
Freelance Reporter

TAMPA — When one-year Angelus resident Chris Smik was asked who his favorite singer at the Charlie-palooza Country Concert would be, his face immediately lit up as he yelled “Charlie Daniels!”

The Angelus, founded in 1979, is a full-time residential facility for the severely handicapped who can’t care for themselves. A self-described “place to live, to love and to learn,” the property, located in Pasco County, Fla., has four group homes with a total of 29 residents.

From Dec. 4-6, the Tampa Hard Rock Hotel & Casino hosted the 18th Annual Charlie Daniels Celebrity Golf Classic, Celebrity Poker Challenge and Charlie-palooza Country Concert to benefit The Angelus. In addition to the Charlie Daniels Band, other performers at the Dec. 6 concert included Confederate Railroad, the Marshall Tucker Band and Bo Diddley.

“We have hosted this event for the past four years at the amphitheatre nearby,” said Tampa Hard Rock President John Fontana. “This year, when The Angelus came to us with concern about not being able to hold the event this year because they could not work out the arrangements with the amphitheatre, we volunteered, without hesitation, to host the concert portion of the event on-property.”

Through the success of this event, the Tampa Hard Rock and The Angelus have formed a mutually beneficial relationship. Unlike holding the concert at the amphitheatre or other location that charges The Angelus a percentage for their hosting, the Seminole Hard Rock is far more generous, according to Fontana.

“This is a win-win situation for all parties involved,” he said. “By holding the event and concert on-property, everything raised goes to The Angelus, and the kids,” as we call them.

“We plan to hold this event here in the coming years as well,” Fontana continued. “With the people

and fans drawn in by the event, the Hard Rock benefits with those people stopping in for lunch or dinner and to gamble; it helps our business as well as this amazing charity that is so deserving.”

The Angelus prides itself on serving the severely handicapped and their families, most of which who have become too old or too tired to handle the everyday tasks such as heavy-lifting. According to Garfan Williams who heads the center, The Angelus staff helps out by providing the constant care it takes to act as caregivers, and offers a loving alternative to nursing home placement or independent living.

“Our people are not sick and do not need nursing home placement,” Williams said. “They simply need a secure place to call home.”

“We checked out several places for Chris, and none of them seemed to fit his needs,” said Nancy Smik, mother of resident, Chris. “Then someone told us about this incredible place and it was divine. We opened the car doors and stepped out onto the grounds and just knew this would be the place for Chris.”

“We heard that there was a waiting list a mile long; but that didn’t matter,” she added. “Due to Chris’s situation, they got Chris right in.”

But perhaps the event’s main act, Charlie Daniels himself, described the work of The Angelus best. He said he started working with the center in 1990, and looks forward to coming back each year.

“I was brought over to the property to meet some of the ‘kids,’ as we all call them, and volunteers that head up the operation,” Daniels said of his first few years working with The Angelus. “Right then, I was hooked and ... have come back every year with this benefit in Southwest Florida and visit over there about three times a year. I have gotten to know most of the kids’ and parents’ names.”

“I say this sincerely, go out to the property and visit once, just once, it will change your life forever,” he added.

For further information on The Angelus please visit their web site, www.theangelus.com.

Tampa Hard Rock Hotel & Casino’s Upcoming Entertainment Events!!



Paul Rodriguez



Bruce Hornsby

Paul Rodriguez Comedy Show: Paul Rodriguez will perform in the Ballroom on Dec 29 at 8pm. General admission tickets cost \$50, and are available through Ticketmaster and Hard Rock Shop.

Bruce Hornsby and The Noisemakers Concert: The band will perform in the Ballroom on Dec 30 at 8pm. General admission tickets cost \$60, and are available through Ticketmaster and Hard Rock Shop.

Buy tickets to Paul Rodriguez and Bruce Hornsby for only \$90!



Jennifer Pridmore Holata

Charlie Daniels (C) and friends perform at the concert to benefit The Angelus, an assisted living facility in Pasco County, Fla.

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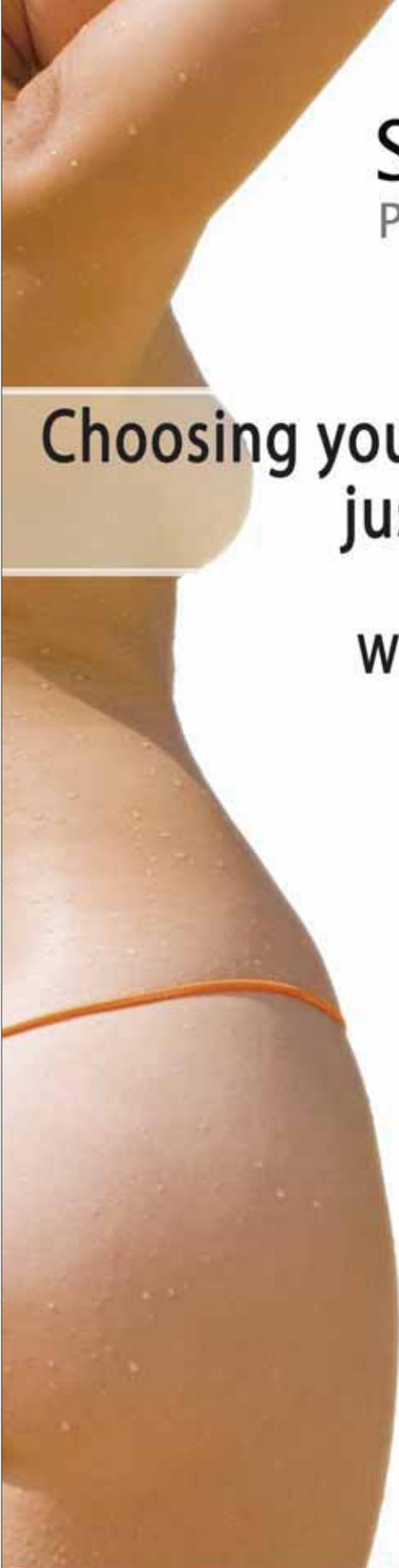
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Announcements D

POEMS

Homeboy, listen to what I'm saying.
I'll only say it one time.
I'll never apologize...
For saying what's on my mind.
I'm as proud as any of you.
My heart pumps 100% Seminole blood.
I was Big Town before my first breath.
I'll be Big Town when I'm laid into the
Brighton mud.
Have you ever seen a skin with no clan
lead a song at Corn Dance?
How about a skin with no clan, become a
medicine man?
Yeah, that's what I thought, you haven't
have you?
That's because it'll never happen.
You fool...
When I'm asked about these scratches on
my body,
I tell them all with pride.
And I'll get 'em till I die.
Did you bump your head, you seem to
have memory loss
You're quick to point out these
"stacks" that's really quite funny
'Cause what I recall from growing up,
We didn't always have this music.
It amazes me to see,
How fast our people tend to forget.
All the hardships our elders endured.
To get us where we're at.
You can think what you want to
think
And say what you want to say.
But we cannot afford,
To let another Clan slip away.
(Help teach our children the
importance, of maintaining our
Clans)

— J.R.
Big Town Clan
Nov. 14, 2008

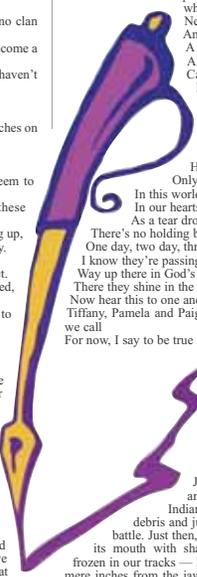
No One Knows What It's Like

There was a girl threatening to end
it all in the back room, where we
were having a party once, what
with all the heavy metal music and
native voices emanating forth and
everything. And since no one could
immediately decipher the reasons for
her despair, they gently bound her
arms and legs and kept a vigil beside
her, so she wouldn't hurt herself,
while still others resumed festivities
in earnest. Later on that night, how-
ever, after someone had put on an
album by The Who, the girl's soft
voice could be heard singing, "No
one knows what it's like..."

— Elgin Jumper
Dec. 4, 2008

Sisters Who Have Gone AKA Spam, Rice and Tomatoes

Tiffany, Pammy and Paige; sisters till the end
Tiffany, Pammy and Paige; sisters that we send
From all the days gone by



Up there they shine down from some-
where in the sky
Never knowing when or where
Angels, yes we know that they are there
A touch, a feel, a lonesome cry
All the time we ask why
Can you feel it, feel the pain
Inside us, a crying rain
As years go by, a month, a day
We sit down, we kneel and we pray
Our minds are in and out
Why did y'all go is what we shout
Hearts to tears and tears to heart
How can I bare witness to the
Only one standing in a crushing sea

In this world they are there
In our hearts they know we care
As a tear drops from my eye
There's no holding back as when I cry
One day, two day, three and four
I know they're passing through the Golden Door
Way up there in God's Great Hands
There they shine in the Promised Land
Now hear this to one and all
we call
Tiffany, Pamela and Paige; is what
For now, I say to be true

Tiffany, Pam and Paige;
we will always love y'all
— Jason D. Smith

The Crocodile

Once, in our youth, my brother
Joey and I were running and playing
armies behind the old Seminole Okatee
Indian Village; way in the back where
debris and junk are piled up like the aftermath of
battle. Just then, we see before us a 20 foot crocodile,
its mouth with sharp teeth gaping wide. Well, we're
frozen in our tracks — let me tell you — two Seminole boys
mere inches from the jaws a dark and menacing beast. Never
mind that the crocodile is really a gathering of crows set in
the form of an ancient reptile, which then soar away like in an old
Van Gogh painting, taking wing from Mother Earth in indigo-
blue multitudes. Sensing we've rolled up on a vision, fair and
lovely, we radio our troops in the field and coordinate an
artillery barrage. But, abruptly, the crows all redeploy and
reform and try the form of the crocodile again, this time with
crocodile tears: the powerful jaws glistening and the dim of bat-
tle hurtling in the air. Still, nothing changes, though, we are run-
ning and playing armies behind the old Seminole Okatee Indi-
an Village, way in the back where the heaps are piled high, like
the aftermath of battle. Just then, we see before us a 20 foot
crocodile; its mouth with sharp teeth gaping wide...

— Elgin Jumper
Dec. 4, 2008

LETTERS

To my family and friends,
I am in treatment at C.A.R.E.
I've been here six months. This has
been the best six months of my life.
I have started a new life here and it
is a life of recovery.

First of all, I thank God and I
have to thank Carol Tran with the
Family Services Dept. and the treat-
ment team. The way they got me
here is a blessing in itself.
This treatment center has been
a blessing too. The staff here has
embraced me and understands how
long I've been using alcohol and
drugs. My rehab used to be prison.
Here, they believed I needed treat-
ment to change how I was thinking
and build my self esteem up.

I have learned to take it one day
at a time. My heart has opened up
and gotten stronger. I know I have to
pass it on to whoever needs it. I will
come back soon and show my fam-
ily and friends how I want to help my
people live better and respect each
other and respect our children too.

Treatment here has shown me
that I have the tools to use when I
need it. I have learned that gambling
is an addiction too. Of all three
addictions, gambling has the highest
suicide rate.

My road has been very painful
and I used a lot of alcohol and drugs
to escape. Since I've been here I can
look in the mirror and see someone
who wants to help myself and my

people live better and free.
I believe God is always going
to be there for me, and show me
how to do this. I miss my people,
and I hope if someone is in trouble,
that they can give themselves a
chance at treatment with C.A.R.E.
I'll be here to help anyone in any
way I can.

This treatment center has saved
my life and made my family happy.
God bless my children, mom,
sisters, nieces, nephews and
cousins, and God bless the Tribe.

— Charlie Tiger
Panther Clan

Dear Mary Jene Koenes,
I cannot thank you enough
for your very personal and very
informative presentation to the
Greater Naples Leadership
(GNL) Master class on Oct. 22.
The class considered your
presentation on the Seminole
Tribe and its way of life the
highlight of their entire day and
we have been hearing from col-
leagues ever since that it was a
"home run!"

When I saw the bus arrive
half an hour early at the Court-
house of Everglades City, I was
quite surprised. Your willing-
ness to begin the presentation

early added an extra dimension
to the activity. You were able to
present your insights fully and
the class was more able to
come up with its own ques-
tions. There seemed to be a
very easy and respectful give
and take which added to the
openness of your presentation.

On behalf of the History
day Session team for the GNL
Class XIII, again thank you
very much!

Sincerely,
F. William Forbes
Co-Chairman
History Day 2008



CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Dorothy and Johnny Tucker who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. We wish you many more!
Love,
The Tucker Family

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory of Janthina V. Tommie

On behalf of Virginia Tommie and Missy Tommie,
we would like to send out our sincere appreciation and
warmest thanks to everyone that came out and helped
during our time of grieving.

Also, to those who came to show their sympathy
and to remember a daughter, a sister, a mother and a
friend that everyone loved so dearly.

In Loving Memory of My Baby Girl Pamela Rebecca Jean Doctor

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those
that were there for us in our time of need. I know this
letter is a few months late and I would like to apologize
as we have been going through a lot lately.

There were a lot of other people that were there for us,
and I apologize if I did not officially thank you.

Right now I would like to thank the Chairman's
Office, Max's Office and Gloria Wilson's Office for one-
thing or another. Also, I have to thank Jo Motlow Lon-
and her crew, Norman Huggins, Cattle & Range and the
Seminole Police Dept. for all of their assistance. I know

As I said before, I really appreciate everybody that
came by to give their condolences. Again, I would like
to thank everybody that came by and that helped out
one way or another.

— Virgil Doctor
Big Town Clan

CORRECTION

In the Oct. 31 issue of *The Seminole Tribune*,
David Billy was misquoted as saying he accompanied
Micki Free to Nashville, Tenn. to help record the Semi-
nole Star Search Grand Prize winner's new CD. Billy
did not travel with Free to work on the CD, but does

travel with him when working on Seminole Heritage
Events & Promotions events. Billy has no contact or
input with Seminole Star Search Winners Volume 1 CD.
We regret the error and any confusion this may have
caused.



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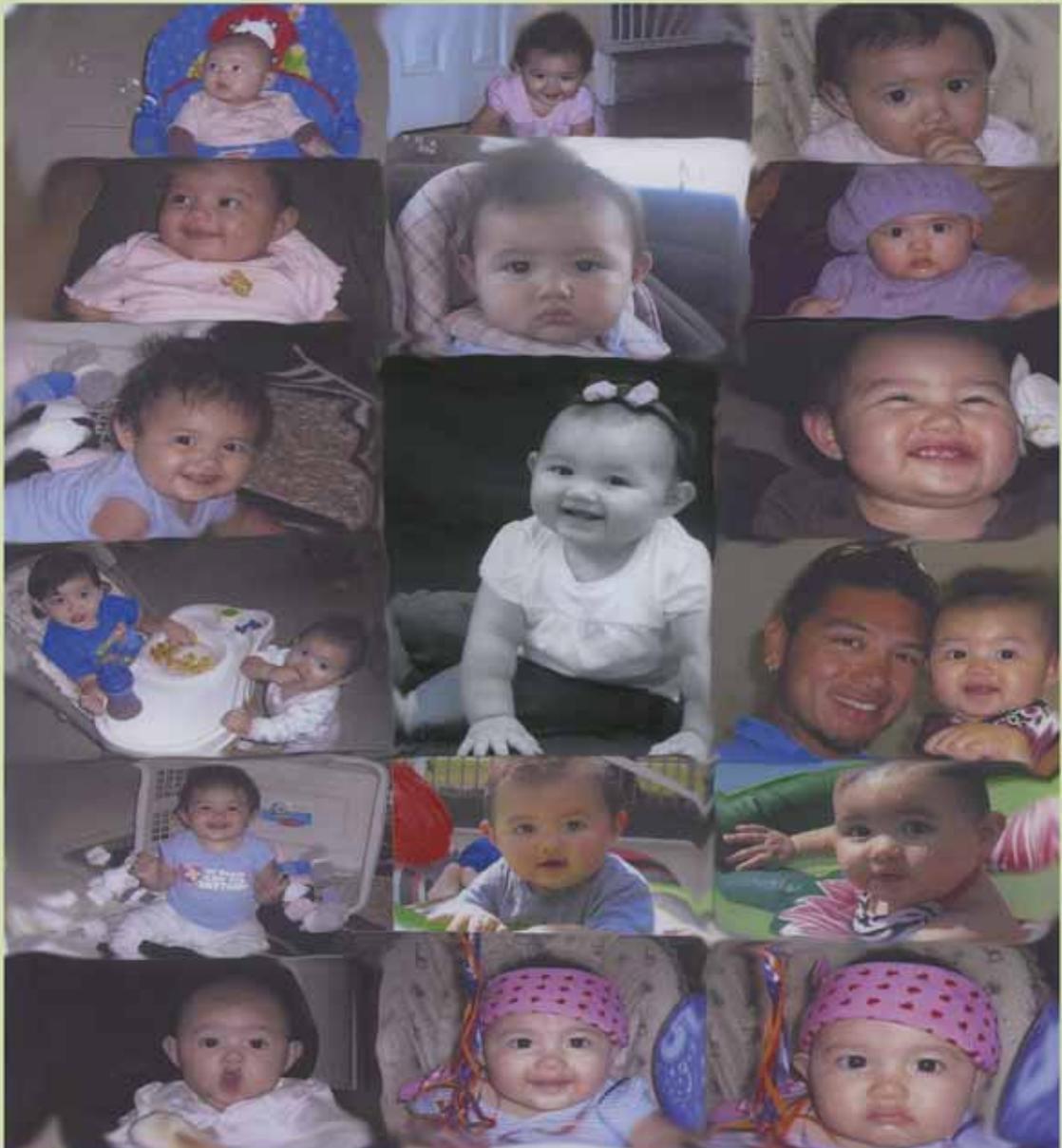
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In Loving Memory of Essence Young

*You went ahead to light our path so that we might find our way,
 Like a lighthouse in the distance, making sure our fragile souls don't go astray.
 For I know the Lord sent you for a reason, even though you could not stay for long,
 The earth continues to turn and the seasons will pass, still your presence remains strong.
 I continue to ask the Lord questions, like why you had to go,
 But when it's my time and I meet him fact to face, he will reveal all I need to know.
 Although I miss your kisses and your little angel eyes,
 I know that you are with us, watching at all times.
 So I send you all my love, and imagine your little hand wiping my tears away,
 I have faith that our souls will reunite again and look forward to that day.*

— Mom Jessica Young



*We miss you Baby Girl. You will forever live in our hearts and memories.
 You are everything we had ever dreamed of, and more.*

*To our beautiful angel,
 Mommy, Daddy, EanJay, Jade, Julian, Malacci*

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