



The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

www.seminoletribe.com • 50¢



Volume XXX • Number 2

February 27, 2009

Hollywood Hosts, Wins 9th Annual Rez Rally

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Participants donned team shirts and sweatshirts representing their reservation as Tribal citizens and employees from all reservations filled the registration tent in the early morning hours of Jan. 17.

In competition for the grand prize trophy for the most participants from each reservation, more than a thousand participants attended the 9th Annual Rez Rally, held this year on the Hollywood Reservation.

The Rez Rally has continued to get bigger and bigger each year, and the competition between the reservations has boosted participation.

"Everyone wants the trophy," said Chairman Mitchell Cypress. "Reservations compete and it makes it interesting."

Everyone wants the trophy, however, only one reservation would receive it; and this year, it was Hollywood/Ft. Pierce/Trail with an even 600 race participants. Brighton/Tampa snagged second with 398 participants, Big Cypress came in third with 334 and Immokalee/Naples took fourth with 102.

Please see RALLY ♦ Page 4C

Seminole Casino Expands, Gets New Look

Celeb Ty Pennington Emcees Unveiling Event

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

IMMOKALEE — The Seminole Casino Immokalee got its own extreme makeover on Feb. 12.

In an elaborate unveiling, special guest Ty Pennington of the ABC network's *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* reality show emceed the unveiling. The Emmy® Award-winning program centers around making home renovations for deserving families.

"To see what the Tribe has done here is incredible," Pennington said. "I build homes for a living and this is truly a success story."

A crowd of Tribal citizens, dignitaries and invited guests gathered at the main entrance of the 43,700-square-foot facility

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Tribal Council Convenes for Meeting

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Tribal Council met on the Hollywood Reservation Jan. 26. They passed 26 resolutions from the agenda including:

Resolution 12: Service agreement with Burns and McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc., to provide professional engineering and resident project representative services on the Big Cypress Reservation for the Critical Restoration Project;

Resolution 13: Second amendment to annual Work Plan Twenty-One submitted to the South Florida Water Management District by the Seminole Tribe of Florida;

Resolution 14: U.S. Department of Homeland Security Public Safety Interoperability Communications Grant;

Resolution 15: Approval of lease modification agreement by and between Seminole Properties Retail, LLC, and Cache, Inc.;

Resolution 18: Ratification of the Seminole Tribe of Florida filming permission letter granting SPAD Films, Inc., permission to film a motion picture on the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 19: United Community Management Corp. property management agreement with the Seminole Tribe of

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(L-R, Bark Row) 2008-2009 Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Amber Craig and 2008-2009 Miss Florida Seminole D'Anna Osceola with newly-crowned 2009-2010 Little Mr. Seminole Lance Howard and 2009-2010 Little Miss Seminole Aubee Susie Billie.

Little Mr., Miss Pageant Held During Tribal Fair

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Dozens of children donned their traditional Seminole fashions in hopes of becoming the 2009-2010 Little Mr. and Little Miss Seminole as friends, family and members of the community gathered in the Hard Rock Live arena for the annual contest on Feb. 13.

After the results were in, Aubee Susie Billie, 5, daughter of James E. Billie and Maria Billie, and sister of the 2008-2009 Little Mr. Santiago Billie, from Brighton, was crowned as Little Miss Seminole. Lance Howard, 7, son of Larry Howard and Danielle Howard, from Brighton captured the Little Mr. title.

The contestants were judged on complete outfit, answer of a question asked by Miss Florida Seminole D'Anna Osceola, overall appearance, mannerisms and their smile.

Both sets of contestants circled in front of the judges and waved before they were asked questions such as what is their favorite color, favorite pet and favorite food.

The Little Miss contestants were first to strut in front of the judges. A popular answer to the favorite color question for the girls was the color pink.

Little Misses then took the stage and pranced for the judges and the audience to see. Many of the children said they liked zebras, horses and pigs.

Little Mr. Seminole winner Lance Howard was asked what his favorite animal was and he said he liked dogs the most.

Prior to the winners being announced, the judges were each presented with a gift from the princess committee as a token of appreciation for judging the pageant. Miss Indian World Nicole Colbert, Co-Director of Gathering of Nations Pow-Wow and Coordinator of Miss Indian World Pageant Melonie Mathews and Native American recording artist, Lifetime, judged this year's pageant.

Each participant also received a trophy for taking part in the pageant.

Princess Committee Chairwoman Wanda Bowers also presented co-emcee Moses "Big" Jumper Jr. with a participation trophy for always helping at the annual pageant. Past Miss Florida Seminole Princess Brittany Yescas co-emceed the event with Jumper.

The two introduced the Seminole royalty, dignitaries and the princess committee members present at the event.

In attendance were Miss Florida Seminole D'Anna Osceola, Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Amber Craig, Brighton Miss Seminole Jaycya Baker, and the outgoing Little Mister and Little Miss royalty, Santiago Billie and Brianna Bowers.

Members of the Princess Committee who attended included, Chairwoman Wanda Bowers, Vice-Chairwoman Salina Dorgan, Secretary Mercedes Osceola-Hahn, Tabulator Charlotte Burgess,

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Tribal Delegation Attends Presidential Inauguration

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

WASHINGTON, DC — In celebration of the 56th Presidential Inauguration, members of the Seminole Tribe participated in several activities Jan. 19-21 in the nation's capital.

The historical week began fittingly on Jan. 19 with the nationwide acknowledgment and celebration of the legacy and birth of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The day concluded with two other events. The American Indian Society of Washington sponsored the 11th annual American Indian Inaugural Pow-Wow Ball featuring several styles of traditional dance including gourd, southern straight, fancy shawl, grass and northern traditional.

An all-star ensemble of musicians also gathered at the Hard Rock Café as part of Native Music Rocks, sponsored by the Seminole Tribe, with performances by Levi

and the Plateros, actor, musician, cultural activist and filmmaker Gary Farmer, the Micki Free Experience with Shea, Bill Miller, Derek Miller, Martha Redbone, Keith Secola and other Native American musicians.

On Jan. 20 the nation witnessed the swearing in ceremony of President Barack H. Obama, the 44th president of the U.S. The hysteria leading up to the day reached a fever pitch with everything from Obama pins and T-shirts to rugs and socks sold by street vendors.

"I thank Mitchell [Cypress, Seminole Tribe Chairman] for inviting us," Naples Liaison OB Osceola Jr. said. "It was great that he had the vision to help make the Tribe a part of all of this."

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Chris C. Jenkins

(L-R) Tribal citizen Pedro Zepeda and wife, Laura, watch the crowd arrive for the inauguration from a private viewing room.



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2009 TRIBAL FAIR SPECIAL SECTION ♦ D

❖ Inauguration

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"It is different when you are at home watching it, but to be there, you could just feel the energy and excitement," Osceola said.

Tribal citizen and Broadcasting Dept. Assistant Director Sunshine Frank attended the historic event to see the president being sworn in, but also to support her nephew, Joshua Cypress, 17, who took part in the presidential parade with the McCrossan Boys Ranch in Sioux Falls, S.D. Frank said in addition to experiencing the event, seeing what a positive influence the trip had on her nephew was also a highlight for her.

"I will probably never see anything this historic again in my life," she said. "There are no words to use."

The National Museum of the American Indian broadcast the event among dozens of other locations throughout the city.

Close to two million visitors and guests showed their support in low 30 degree weather at the \$170 million celebration, marking the beginning of a new direction and leadership for the country.

"I was coming even if I had to drag myself here on crutches," 80-year-old Mildred Osborn, an African-American from Jackson, Tenn., said. "This is the best thing that has ever happened to black people in this country. It is like the old Sam Cooke song which said, 'A change is going to come.'"

Like Osborn, many others said they would not have missed out on such a historic day and braved the cold weather and large crowds to support the new president.

"Where I come from there is a new hope and someone who will actually hear and listen, and I am excited about that," said Monolito Sneyzy of the San Carlos Apache Tribe of San Carlos, Ariz.

Later that night, the American Indian Society of Washington, DC hosted representatives from various Tribes in celebrating the historic event at the 11th Annual American Indian Inaugural Ball, one of several parties and galas also held in the city.

The day brought together individuals from all walks of life politically, economically and racially from Seminole Country and nationwide.

"I am from Collier County and a republican" said Tribal citizen and Tribal Chief Historic Resources Officer Tina M. Osceola. "This is the first time in a long time I did not vote that way."

"As a female and a mother of a female I see more hope for women," Osceola

added. "For once someone actually asked us what we want and hope for. I think it all engages me and others to the point of some positive action in our lives."

"In the few statements he has made about Tribes he has spoken highly about protecting Tribal sovereignty, which is very important among our people," she concluded.

Washington Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Tourism Coordinator Ed Hall echoed Osceola's remarks.

"I think we have someone who truly embraces diverse opinions and inspires every voice to participate," said Hall. "Hopefully he will be proactive in the Indian communities bringing about a much better ability to take care of the issues of all of the people as opposed to a powerful few."

As one of only three Native Americans to have served as a U.S. senator, Northern Cheyenne Tribe of S.E. Montana member and former Colorado Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell said he hopes President Obama can help tackle the many issues still plaguing Native communities.

Among those, he cited healthcare, economic development and education as the most pressing issues. Nighthorse Campbell emphasized that he remains positive about the moves the new president said he and his new cabinet team will make.

"I have been really impressed a lot with the number of young people who have shown an interest now in politics and in this new administration," Nighthorse Campbell said. "Indian Country has overwhelmingly supported him and many Tribes see hope in him."

Two such young people, Desiree Busigo, a recent Fairfax, Va. Robinson High School graduate, and Rebecca Na, who attends Robinson High School, said they remain hopeful and encouraged about Obama's intentions among young adults.

"I hope he fixes the situation with our economy in general. I hope him being in office will help students like me," Busigo remarked.

The 17-year-old said she plans to attend college with student loans and other financial assistance.



Chairman Mitchell Cypress takes a snap shot with a cardboard replica of President Barack Obama during the inauguration festivities.

"As a young person, I see my family struggling, so I see him helping out with that," Na said.

Born in Hawaii, Obama served on the Illinois State Senate since 2004, becoming just the third African American since the Reconstruction Era to be elected to the U.S. Senate. He served until his resignation on Nov. 16, 2008.

The graduate of Columbia University and Harvard Law School also served for 12 years as a professor at the University of Chicago Law School, teaching constitutional law. He won the presidency with more than 52 percent of the popular vote.

During his inauguration speech he touched on a multitude of issues including the economy, U.S.-Arab relations, education and U.S. interests, both foreign and domestic.

"I say to you that the challenges we face are real," President Obama said. "The time has come to reaffirm our spirit."

"Our patchwork heritage is one of our strengths," he added. "We must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off and restore the dignity of our country."

Vice President Joseph Biden Jr. also joined the Commander-in-Chief for the swearing in ceremony. The 65-year-old once served as the senator of Delaware before assuming the second highest position in the country. Similar to Obama, Biden also taught seminars on constitutional law as an adjunct professor at Widener University School of Law since 1991.



(L-R) Tribal citizens S.R. Tommie and Tina M. Osceola with Washington Dept. of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Tourism Coordinator Ed Hall (Far Left) and Cima Georgich (Far Right) in front of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC prior to the presidential inauguration.



(L-R) Chairman Mitchell Cypress and former Colorado State Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell (Northern Cheyenne).



(L) Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Big Cypress Rep. David Cypress (R) with special guest and Extreme Makeover: Home Edition TV show host Ty Pennington (C).

❖ Makeover

Continued from page 1A

in front of a custom-tailored charter bus. After the Tribal Council did the ceremonial ribbon cutting, Pennington motivated the crowd to shout the "move that bus" command, just as he does on his reality show before they reveal each renovated house to the family featured on that episode.

"God has been good to us and we are blessed to have something here now," said Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar. "It has been hard work and this has been one of our dreams to have something here on this reservation."

Seminole Casino Immokalee General Manager Tony Sanchez Jr. said he is optimistic about the positive impact the newly-renovated facility will have on the local community.



Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar is all smiles as she gives thanks for the support.



Members of the Tribal Council and casino personnel cut the ribbon during the ceremony.

Tribal Council Convenes for Special Meeting

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Tribal Council met on the Big Cypress Reservation Jan. 23, passing one resolution on their agenda.

Resolution 4: Exchange of 2,409.09 +/- acres of vacant land owned by S.T.O.F. Holdings, Ltd. for a five acre mixed use property with improvements.

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❖ Council

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Florida - First Amendment ratification;

Resolution 23: Renewal of revocable permit for Donna S. Turtle D/B/A Prohads Multi-purpose Club for Carwashes and Detailing services for Tribal vehicles - Hollywood Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 24: Issuance of revocable permit to Lorena Arteaga for a carwash and detailing services - Immokalee Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 27: Credit Card Policy - Version 2 - January 2009; and,

Resolution 29: Ainsworth Game Technology limited master gaming device lease and license agreement.



Minnesota Secretary and Treasurer of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Tribe Keith Anderson (L) signs a custom painted canvas by artist Connie Neely of Fort Lauderdale (R) of a medicine wheel entitled "Boundless Healing: North, South, East and West." The painting was signed by Tribal leaders and given to President Barack Obama as a gift.



Arizona's San Carlos Apache Reservation Ms. Mt. Turnbull Lena Moses watching the inauguration.

The Seminole Tribune

is a member of the Native American Journalists Association. Letters/e-mails to the editor must be signed and may be edited for publication. Subscription rate is \$35 per year by mail. Make checks payable to The Seminole Tribune, 3560 N. State Rd. 7, Hollywood, FL 33021

Phone: (954) 985-5702

Fax: (954) 985-2937

Or subscribe on the Internet at

www.seminoletribe.com

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The following deadlines apply to all submissions for inclusion to The Seminole Tribune:

Issue: March 27, 2009

Deadline: March 11, 2009

Issue: April 24, 2009

Deadline: April 8, 2009

Issue: May 29, 2009

Deadline: May 13, 2009

Please note: Late submissions will be posted in the following issue.

Advertising:

Advertising rates along with sizes and other information may be downloaded from the internet at:

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Postmaster:

Please send address changes to: The Seminole Tribune 3560 N. State Road 7 Hollywood, FL 33021



Community

A



Howard Osceola performs during the alligator wrestling demonstration. He said he would retire from the sport of alligator wrestling after this performance at the Okalee Indian Festival.

Seminole Okalee Village Hosts First-Ever Indian Festival

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Native Americans from across the country gathered for the traditional Indian activities, foods and crafts at the Okalee Indian Festival, held Feb. 6-8. Vendors and attendees came from as far away as Wisconsin, Arizona and Oklahoma to buy and sell native arts and crafts at this inaugural event.

General Manager of Okalee Indian Village Leona Poore said plans for this event were in the works for nearly two years, but were coordinated in the past six months. She also added that Okalee village will scale down on the smaller events to focus more on this event for the coming year; however, events will still maintain a Tribal theme.

"My goal is to draw more people to the village and to educate others on our Seminole culture," Poore said.

Canoe races, alligator wrestling, musical performances and a Native dance troupe were only some of the activities held at the festival.

Six teams of two competed in the canoe races on the lake on the outskirts of the Seminole Paradise. The teams raced down the lake and around buoys. The top three teams were Kevin Osceola and Christopher Osceola, Frank Billie Jr. and Kenny Tommie and Robert C. North Sr. and Tommy Doud, respectively.

Hundreds of spectators filled the stands of the amphitheater to witness the events, including alligator wrestling from all parts of Florida demonstrating their deep water alligator wrestling skills.

Wrestlers Billy Walker, Steven Billie, Marco Zeno, Austin Billie and Howard Osceola, and several others, had a time limit of 12 minutes, seven in the water and five on land. They displayed different tricks such as the bull dog and the Florida smile. David Weathers, Paul Simmons and President Richard Bowers Jr. judged the wrestlers' skill, as the three all knew what to look for from their own personal alligator wrestling experience. They awarded first through third places to Marco Zeno, Steven Billie and Jimmy Riffe, respectively.

A Seminole fashion show also took place on the performance stage. The Language and Culture Dept. modeled various Seminole clothing portraying old style and modern styles. These fashions included various patchwork designs, jackets, dresses and even big shirts.

Jo Morlow North emceed the fashion show while dressed in a traditional Seminole skirt made by her mother that dated back to the 1960s. North explained each piece and described how the styles changed throughout the years, mentioning how incorporating old coins onto clothing was a tradition of the past. She also added that seamstresses each used specific patchwork or designs to differentiate their work.

Live music and entertainment was provided by Tribal citizens.



Three Feathers Native American Dance Troupe of North Dakota member Carmel Olson performs the traditional women's fancy dance. Her Indian name, Bayshawakadakequay, means beautiful cloud woman.



(L-R) Jo Morlow North describes the details on Ebony Tommie's traditional attire.

zens Stephen Chad Billie, AKA Lil SCB and the Andy Buster Band. Litefoot (Cherokee), comedian Don Burnstick (Alexander First Nation) and The Three Feathers Native American Dance Troupe of North Dakota also performed for the audience.

The amphitheater had a theatrical event featuring David "Cobra Kid" Weathers. He displayed and discussed several types of snakes, both venomous and non-venomous, for the audience and had a face-off with a cobra so the cobra could flare its neck for the crowd to see.



Lifote performs for the audience at the Okalee Indian Festival.

Hollywood Celebrates Presidential Inauguration

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. and Hollywood Board Rep. Gloria Wilson held an inauguration celebration at the Hollywood Headquarters Auditorium on Jan. 20.

Tribal citizens and employees gathered for a historic event as the 44th President of the U.S. Barack Obama was sworn in to office. Rep. Wilson attended the event and thanked everyone for joining in on such a historic day. She said she had been an Obama supporter since 2004, but admitted she was pulling for Hillary Clinton during the primaries.

"Yesterday they celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and today the dream is fulfilled," Rep. Wilson said. "The president was not chosen for the color of his skin but for the content of his character."

Tribal Treasurer Mike D. Tiger, who attended the gathering, said it has taken 200 years for the country to get this way, but hopes to see improvement within the next four years.



Hollywood Board Rep. Gloria Wilson wears her Barack Obama T-shirt for the inauguration event.

"We are looking for a closer relationship with this administration, for us and for all American Indian Tribes," he said.

Tiger said he hopes healthcare reform, education improvements and economic development will be among the positive changes to come out of the Obama administration.

Healthcare is essential in the livelihood for all people not only American Indians," Tiger stated.

Acting Director of Human Resources Shelia Elliott, during a speech at the event, thanked Rep. Wilson for donating T-shirts, framed Obama art and even a copy of an inauguration invitation that were raffled off. Proceeds from the raffle helped purchase much needed antibiotics and medication for the Tribal employees going on the second Mission Haiti trip to offer relief in the island nation.

Minutes before Obama took his oath, with the attendees in the Hollywood Auditorium chanted "Obama, Obama" and rose to listen to their new president. Cheers and applause carried on for a few minutes as Obama made his first speech as president. Obama is the first African American to hold the office and the first president born in Hawaii.

The year marked the 56th presidential inauguration, and the theme, A New Birth of Freedom, commemorated the 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president.

Rep. Wilson said there is now someone in office who can better represent Native Americans. She also urged everyone to do their part and make an effort, saying President Obama cannot do it alone.

Tribal HR Dept. Expansion, Renovations Complete

Fellow Employees Tour New Offices at Open House

BY SHELLEY MARMOR
Assistant Editor

HOLLYWOOD — Employees in the Human Resources (HR) Dept. opened their doors to employees from other departments to tour their recently-renovated offices during the Open House event on Jan. 27.

The department, located on the first floor of the Hollywood Headquarters building, nearly doubled in size during the remodel, according to Acting Director of Human Resources Shelia Elliott. She said her department gained the space in the office next to them, the former location of the Utilities Dept., which is now housed in the Public Works trailer behind the old World Ford building on State Road 7.

According to Elliott, HR needed to expand while also remaining on the first floor of the Hollywood Headquarters building because that location "is the most accessible to employees." She said the size of the HR main lobby also expanded and will now accommodate more prospective hires awaiting their interviews.

Other new room additions will also streamline the daily operations of the Human Resources Dept. Elliott said her department now has its own conference room, which will mainly be used to conduct interviews and department meetings.

The second room addition in the department is a secure file access room. This room contains employee personnel files and only those with appropriate levels of access can swipe their badge to enter the room.

"When employees come into our offices they can rest assured their information is confidential," Elliott said.

Elliott said the 17 employees in the Human Resources Dept. now work together in their space, when at one time, some

worked in other department's offices. The Benefits Program, which was formerly located in the Payroll Dept. offices, but after the renovations, this program, along with the other six HR programs, can now work side-by-side in one office.

In addition to the physical remodel, the department had a structural reorganization as well. The Payroll Dept., once a part of HR, is now a separate entity with 15 year veteran employee Diane Marks serving as director of the department and Newton Muir as assistant director.

Former director of HR, Lee Zepeda, has taken the position of Chief Human Resources Executive Officer and Elliott has moved up to acting director of HR.

Other changes made during the restructuring include five year Tribal employee Glen Altman taking the position of administrative services manager, Sandra Melvin assuming the duties of acting recruitment manager and Bea Juliao accepting the position of compensation and classification analyst.



(L-R) Acting Director of Human Resources Shelia Elliott and Chief Human Resources Executive Officer Lee Zepeda inside the new Human Resources Dept. conference room.

Shelley Marmor



Marisol Gonzalez

(L-R) Event Coordinator Linda Bird, Hollywood Board Rep. Gloria Wilson and Broward County Women's History Coalition President Patti Lynn.

Reps. Wilson, Osceola to Host Broward Women's Hall of Fame

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — In recognition of March as Women's History Month, Hollywood Board of Directors Rep. Gloria Wilson and Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. will sponsor the annual Broward County Coalition Women's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.

The event will take place on March 22 at 12:30 p.m. at Okalee Village in Seminole Paradise.

Rep. Wilson was inducted into the Hall of Fame in March 2008, and with the help of Rep. Osceola, will host the 18th annual ceremony. Rep. Wilson was the second Seminole inducted into the hall of fame; Betty Mae Jumper also received this honor in 1995.

She said this is the first year that the Tribe is hosting the ceremony and hopes it will show that the Tribe respects the accomplishments of women, both within the Tribe and the local communities.

"Taking part to honor and recognize how women are significant is a positive way to expose the Tribe," Rep. Wilson said.

Among this year's nominees are Laura Mae Jumper Osceola, daughter of Katie Tommie Huff and Josie Jumper, and mother

of Rep. Osceola. She served as the Tribe's secretary/treasurer from 1958-1967.

Rep. Wilson said Laura Mae Jumper Osceola would be a great candidate because she was a part of getting the Tribe federally recognized, as well as instrumental in forming the Tribe's government. She also helped establish the Seminole Princess Pageant, which led to the recognition of Tribal women.

In addition to hosting the event, Rep. Wilson has played a part in the planning process, along with Event Coordinator Linda Bird and President of the Broward County Women's History Coalition Patti Lynn.

Lynn said nominations are open until the first week of March and anyone who has lived in Broward County for at least 10 years and who has made an effort to promote women can be nominated. There is no limit to how many nominees are inducted annually. To date, 164 people have received this honor, including county leaders and elected officials.

Admission to the event is \$15 and includes a luncheon. The event is open to the public. The Broward County Women's History Coalition is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. For more information please contact (954) 722-8805.

BIG CYPRESS

Rez Radio Broadcasts Over BC Airwaves

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Big Cypress Reservation has one more way to communicate within their community with radio station BC-Rez-Radio 103.3 FM.

The idea came during community business meetings and the BC residents voted that they wanted the station broadcasting on their reservation. Reverend Arlen J. Payne pastor of the Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church helped spearhead the project.

"I have enjoyed now being able to communicate more to the gospel community," Payne explained.

Operating under Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules and regulations, the 10 watt station is located inside the original New Testament church and operates under a micro-powered frequency. Payne said the strength of the signal is usually dependent on the weather conditions. He said the coverage usually reaches about 2 miles, with up to a 3 mile radius on cloudy or cooler days.

The musical format is a southern gospel mix. It has also featured community artists on its music play list such as Jonah Cypress and Keyno King. Payne emphasized that adding more Native talent to the play list continues to remain a goal. CD selections can be dropped off at the church.

"I think it is all great because there are not a lot of radio stations in Florida that play

this type of music." Tribal citizen and 20-plus year church member Lindsey King pointed out. "We know there are some people who cannot come to church because they are sick or elderly so we wanted to also allow them to still hear the service."

According to Payne the station serves to obey the Great Commission, which says "Go ye into the world and preach the Gospel." It also offers a resource for Christian music on the reservation and provides a community service in communication by making announcements from Tribal departments.

Payne said hours of operation vary during the week, with a schedule usually around three times per week on air from 4-6 p.m. The time has been designated for announcements on community and church events, scripture readings and other messages. There is a live broadcast on Sundays for the 11 a.m. service.



Chris C. Jenkins

Reverend Arlen J. Payne, pastor of the Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church, discusses the functions of the equipment for the station.

"I love the idea of the station and think it is great," said BC Board Rep. Cicero Osceola. "I think it is great because information can now be broadcast as well as using fliers. It is definitely going to continue to help in putting stuff out there to the community."

With the help and continued support of Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress, there are also eventual hopes for a power upgrade and possible venue change.

Payne and wife, Lana, have been residents in the BC area for close to four years, originally residing on the Hollywood Reservation. The two spent 15 years as a part of the Chickee Baptist Church.

The father of three said he has learned and grown a lot in his time spent among the Tribe and its citizens throughout the years. He recognized among others the late Bill Osceola, former pastor of the Mekuskey Independent Baptist Church.

"He helped me in the early days get established into the Indian community and part of the reason why I am here today," Payne said. "I learned a lot from him on the history of the Seminole churches."

In year's past, Payne has also written for *The Seminole Tribune* as a columnist in the early 1990s with spiritual writings and announcements of influence entitled, *The Pastor's Pen*. He now has a book in the works set for a print date of April entitled "Consider His Word."

For more information call (863) 983-9333 or (954) 448-4431, log on to www.bigcypressus.com, or e-mail pastor@bigcypress.us.



Chris C. Jenkins

Payne goes through his CDs and makes his musical selections as he prepares to go on the air.

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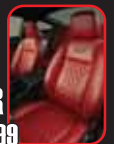
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BIG CYPRESS

Annual BC Winterfest Events Draw Attendees, Competitors

Chili Cook-Off, Car Show, Bingo Competitions at Event

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — An arctic blast of cold weather descended on the Florida peninsula just in time for Big Cypress Winterfest on Jan. 31.

Early morning temperatures that approached near-freezing created the perfect atmosphere for a snowy mountain and winter games at the annual event. A gradual rise in the thermometer made for a pleasant afternoon for the games, car show and chili cook-off competition.

Wearing jackets, hoods, stocking caps and gloves, the youngsters tackled the artificial snow mountain. BC Assistant Recreation Dept. Director Stan Frischman was the first to reach the summit, where he gave a crash course in safety, courtesy and proper behavior on the slope.

Small mounds of snow surrounded the base of the mountain and created the opportunity for numerous snowball fights and an occasional attempt to build a snowman. Unfortunately, the texture of the artificial snow building material made it difficult to get past the snowman's lower torso.

Taking time out to thaw, the youngsters visited the numerous booths provided by the administrative and service departments of the Big Cypress community.

The tent housing the booths was filled with games, prizes and educational materials. Balloon dart, bottle ring contest, candy ring toss and the snowball obstacle course were just a few of the offerings. Participants vied for prizes of toys, jewelry, sporting goods and candy.

Ryan Pratt, Shana Baletine and Bradin Jin won soccer and basketballs, while Caitlin Cypress took home an MP3 player for first place in the Wheel of Health Raffle, sponsored by the Allied Health Dept. and the BC Wellness Center.

Manning this booth, Edna McDuffie and Barbara Billie handed out samples of "White Chili." This flavorful delight posed a healthy alternative to standard recipes.

Employing the use of ground chicken, white beans, an assortment of condiments and low-fat cheese, it's just what the doctor ordered for a healthy, cholesterol lowering diet, and it drew raves from the crowd.

Natasha Perez of the Fitness Dept. conducted a survey among the community youth in an effort to lay the ground work for their upcoming spring schedule of activities. Targeting pre-kindergarten through high school-aged students, Perez obtained a list of suggestions that included gymnastics, karate, dance, track and swimming competition.

The young people alternated their time between the winter games and the carnival midway. Shouts and laughter filled the park as they played on the Ferris wheel, flying swings, and bounce houses.

During the lunch hour, Billy Walker drew an enormous crowd for his alligator wrestling demonstration.

In addition to working the 9 foot specimen, on loan from Billie Swamp Safari, Walker gave an extensive presentation on the physical capabilities, habitat and general lifestyle of this modern-day descendant of the prehistoric era. Captivating his crowd, Walker straddled the reptile's back and held its powerful jaws beneath his chin.

The Car Show competition drew quite a variety of entries in its 16 divisions, with contestants coming from as far away as Hollywood, Naples and Clewiston. The first arrivals began setting up their vehicles at about 10:30 a.m., with the exhibition continuing to grow until just before the judging began at 3:30 p.m.

A classic car enthusiast, Recreation Dept. Director George Grasshopper circulated among the entries and then set up shop beside his classic truck entry. He entertained a steady stream of people throughout the afternoon as they traded information about material sources and craftsmen of the trade, while swapping tales about their collection adventures.

"The entries are incredible for an exhibit of this size," said BC Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress. "There is in excess of one million dollars worth of customized

vehicles here today."

"Acquiring your ride is just the tip of the iceberg," Rep. Cypress continued. "You have to visualize its potential, develop a plan for restoration and then make it materialize. Finding the right craftsmen, equipment and materials can be an expensive adventure."

Ronnie Billie Sr. has been an avid collector for a long time. His exhibit included examples of luxury cars, custom classics, a 4 X 4 truck, motorcycles, bicycles and vintage toy pedal cars. He spared no expense in the restoration process and customized equipment that made his hobby outstanding.

Eric Osceola's custom classics displayed the extreme possibilities employed to turn a vehicle into a work of art. Following a University of Miami Hurricanes' theme, his metallic orange Chevy Caprice had mirrors under the hood, interior, trunk and hubcap upgrades. Whether examining the basket weave or ostrich interior of his vehicles, or the spotless chrome adorned engine compartments, the spectators appeared to be in awe.

Osceola took home numerous awards at the Car Show including: best at show, best interior and best custom classic.

Complete winners were: Best ATV/Side X Side: Tony Osceola; Classic: 1. Les Howell, 2. Jeff Maroon, 3. George Kielce; Luxury: 1. Sonnie Billie, 2. Jolo Osceola; Two-Door: 1. Ricky Doctor, 2. Jackie Pardue, 3. Tony Lee Osceola; Stock: 1. Michael Onco, 2. Jamie Onco, 3. BC RV Resort; Custom Classic: 1. Eric Osceola, 2. Eric Osceola, 3. Ronnie Billie Jr.; Trucks, Classic: 1. George Grasshopper, 2. Lonnie Billie; Trucks, Large: 1. Tony Osceola, 2. Michael Onco, 3. Cale Rex Osceola; SUV/Trucks, Small: 1. Curtis Canton, 2. Bill Bevenue, 3. Katherine Billie; Trucks, X 4: 1. Timmie Marin, 2. David Layport, 3. Ronnie Billie Sr.; Off-Road ATV: 1. Kei-Ya Le Osceola, 2. Lenny Jim, 3. Valik Marinex-Osceola; Off-Road Rez Ride: 1. Bronson Hill, 2. Mary Jene Koenes; Off-Road Side X Side: Tyler Cypress, 2. Tony Osceola, 3. Beverly Alumbaugh; Off-Road Jeep: 1. David Cypress, 2. Ronnie Billie Sr., 3.



Mary Jane Robbins participates in the 15-game Bingo competition.



Sabre Billie rides a tube down the snowy slopes of Mount Winterfest in Big Cypress.

Cherelee Hall; Motorcycles, Custom: 1. Larry Lowman, 2. Ronnie Billie Sr., 3. Ronnie Billie Sr.; Motorcycles, Stock: 1. Michael Onco, 2. Bronson Hill; Motorcycles/Children's Bicycles: 1. Ronnie Billie Sr., 2. Ronnie Billie Sr., 3. Harmony Cypress.

Bingo enthusiasts participated in 15 rounds of their favorite game. During the competition, they played numerous variations of Bingo, including Letter L, Postage Stamp and Picture Frame.

Restricted to Tribal citizens only, the games drew a large crowd of adult and senior players with the following results: 1. Cathy Jumper, 2. Cathy Jumper, 3. Louise Billie, 4. Mary Tigertail, 5. (tie) Vanessa Billie, Arica Osceola, Mary Tigertail, 8. Arica Osceola, 9. (tie) Mary Tigertail, Louise Osceola, 11. (tie) Mary Tigertail, Lorraine Billie, 13. Tonia Cypress, 14. Myra Jumper, 15. Cathy Jumper, 16. Klaressa Osceola, 17. Almira Billie, 18. Claudia Jumper, 19. Louise Billie.

Contestants in the Chili Cook-Off were divided into Tribal citizens and non-Tribal categories. Armed with their favorite recipes and fresh ingredients, the entrants fired up their gas grills, crock pots, hot plates or fires at about 10 a.m. to begin the slow process of concocting their version of this all time winning meal.

With names like "Just Chillin'," "It Ain't Yo Mama's Chili," and "Two Bean Special," the recipes piqued the interest of the observers. However, most of the cooks took great pains to guard the identity of their special ingredients until the contest was over.

The mouthwatering aroma of the simmering meat, beans, peppers and special condiments tantalized the crowd throughout the afternoon. Winterfest attendees came back time and again to check on the progress of the competitors.

Janice Osceola kept a tight lid on her cast iron kettle, but finally divulged her secret ingredient, a fresh pork shoulder, at the end of the day. No canned beans for her sister, Beverly Alumbaugh, who said she prefers to simmer her own and serve it up with warm pieces of fry bread.

Competitor Stan Frischman said he gets his unique flavor from fresh mushrooms and green, yellow and red



Big Cypress Recreation Dept. Assistant Director Stan Frischman rides the slopes.

bell peppers. Cherelee Hall uses ground turkey and two kinds of beans in her concoction. A variety of fresh, ground and dried peppers, as well as canned and fresh tomatoes abounded throughout the tent.

"My hats off to the chefs," said Chairman Mitchell Cypress as the competition drew to a close. "Now that the contest is over and all the kettles are empty, the crowd's appreciative smiles are testimony to some great recipes. I watched the judges labor over their decisions and was grateful that it wasn't my job."

As the Chili Cook-Off winners were announced, Chairman Cypress distributed their awards.

Tribal: 1. Charlie and Wendy Cypress; 2. Cherelee Hall; 3. Lydia Cypress; 4. Alicia Billie; Non-Tribal: 1. Mike and Judy Davio; 2. Bill Bevenue; 3. Jim and Marlene Smith.



Elijah Billie participates in a snowball fight.



Samuel Osceola walks around in the snow.



Eric Osceola shows off his Chevy Caprice Classic, customized with a University of Miami Hurricanes theme.



Janice Osceola keeps a tight lid on the secret ingredients in her chili.

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BRIGHTON/TAMPA

Bobby Henry Keeps Tradition Alive

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

TAMPA — Bobby Henry is no stranger within the Seminole Tribe or community. A traditional medicine man, Henry can be found at most Tribal events saying a prayer or talking about the history and importance of culture.

He has traveled all over the world representing the Seminole Tribe of Florida. He even made his way to Singapore in 1998. While there, he presented a gift to the people of Singapore and taught them about Seminole culture, demonstrated stomp dancing, sold Tribal arts and crafts and even told Seminole legends.

A member of the Otter Clan, Henry was born in 1937 and raised in the swamps of the Everglades. When he was a child there was no traditional schooling so that led him to spend most of his days hunting, wood carving and fishing.

School in the Seminole community in those days was held once a year and was taught by medicine men. Henry learned the Seminole way of life in lessons that included how to get married, how to hunt and how to survive.

Henry has become known for his impressive wood carvings, a trade he learned from his father, Jimmy Henry. When he was about 10-years-old, Henry approached his father and asked for more wooden knives after his had been broken or misplaced.

"Next thing he did was hand me some wood and a knife," Henry laughed.

From that point on, Henry began making his own knives.

Over the years he practiced and honed his skill and then began making bigger and better things. He carved tooth poles and 15-foot long canoes that were used for transportation and alligator hunting. He also went on to build chieftains. He has been considered one of the best master builders in the Seminole Tribe and has created a celebrity clientele that includes Tommy Lee Jones and Burt Reynolds.

In 1956, at the age of 19, Henry married his wife, Annie, also of the Everglades. They went on to have five children, Susie, Joani, Barbara, Linda Lee and James, and reside today in Tampa. They have been residents of the Tampa community for nearly 35 years.

Henry became a culture teacher at the Seminole Indian Village, located on what used to be the Tampa reservation. His grandfather urged him to keep the culture and beliefs strong, something Henry took to heart and said he has spent his life trying to do.

"We need to try to keep tradition going in younger people," Henry said. "Try to make them understand. You do that by talking to old people and sticking with it."

Henry said he believes that not just Seminole youth need to be educated, but everyone should be taught



Rachel Buxton
Bobby Henry continues to carve knives like this one, which he also sells in his store.

about the Seminole culture.

"Sometimes non-Indians come in and say they want to learn things," he said. "I say 'OK, let's talk about it.'"

He said no one needs to read history books and take notes to learn, admitting its best to "learn it in your head and your heart."

In 1985 the state of Florida called upon Henry and asked him to use his culture and traditions to help. Henry was bestowed the title, Rainmaker, after learning the gift from his uncle.

The state was in the middle of a severe drought and Henry was approached by news stations to perform a rain dance. This gave him the opportunity to clear up the misconceptions of what a rainmaker truly does. He said there was no dancing or jumping up and down. He used his shakers and with the help of members from his family he performed the ritual and prayed to God. Within 15 minutes lightning struck and rain followed.

Henry has since been asked to perform his rituals at sporting events to prevent rain from coming.

In November 2008 Henry opened a retail store with his title's namesake in Tampa's Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. The store, Rainmaker, sells authentic Seminole Indian garments and jewelry. Inventory also includes items from other Native American Tribes, including Cherokee blankets.

Opening a gift shop was a dream Henry had for years even before the construction of the building.

"I think about it, dream about it and do it," Henry said.

His village may be gone but his teachings continue in his store. He said his store gives him the opportunity to teach others about his Native history and to keep his culture alive.

"Don't talk about it, do it," he said.



Tribal citizen Bobby Henry's Rainmaker shop inside the Tampa Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

Tribal 'Rainmaker' Opens Shop in Hard Rock

BY JP HOLATA
Contributing Writer

TAMPA — Reds, yellows, oranges and many other bright, vibrant colors that have always decorated Native American Tribes beam through the windows and noticeably draw casino visitors into the Hard Rock's newest gift shop for a closer look, and an unexpected lesson in history.

Owned by Seminole Tribal citizen and well-known medicine man Bobby Henry, the shop's name originates from Henry's own family's Tribal namesake and their history of being able to "make rain." The store offers authentic Tribal-wear and a variety of other Native American art pieces.

"Bobby Henry has been a friend for over 20 years, and I cannot think of a more respected person, both inside and outside the Seminole Tribal community, to bring the long anticipated opening of this shop and its authentic representation of Native American culture and crafts to our property and the entire Tampa Bay area," Seminole Hard Rock Tampa President John Fontana said. "We are very proud to have the Rainmaker here and the response already has been nothing short of great."

According to Rainmaker Shop Manager Toni Maxwell, the crowd that stops in to look and to buy seems mixed in cultural background. She said they almost always have an inquisitive mood, wanting to know about the meaning behind the pieces, and seem eager to hear the brief history lessons that come with their purchases.

"I think that because we are not your average place of business, we draw in more than the average number of people," Maxwell said. "Especially people who do

not know Native American history come in and want to know what is behind all of our inventory ... You can see it in their eyes, and we do our best to give them what this shop is, after all, [a piece] of Native America."

Henry said he wants to continue his original direction with the shop, bringing in pieces of all types of Native American culture and history that he finds in his travels. A self-described "mover," he takes pride in offering bits and pieces of all that is Native American, not just Seminole, in his shop.

"The Rainmaker has been something I've been planning for years now," Henry said. "My family and I wanted to open more than just a gift shop ... I see the culture and language get lost and passed over by 'regular education' and today's times more and more and wanted to help keep it alive with the authentic things we sell and display in our store."

Henry also gives live demonstrations at Rainmaker of centuries-old Tribal practices like woodcarving and other historical Tribal activities. This endeavor could possibly involve his daughters with live beading demonstrations as well, according to Maxwell.

"We've also got a whole line of Native American foods and toiletries, like handmade soaps and lotions, coming in that are made 100 percent vegetable oils and completely authentic," Maxwell said. "We do our best to give helpful and accurate historical descriptions of everything that (Bobby Henry) brings in and welcome customers and questions from all walks of life."

To reach the Rainmaker shop directly for schedules of future live demonstrations, product availability, hours and days of operation, or for any other information, please call (813) 627-7805, or visit in-person at the Tampa Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.



(Foreground, L-R) Courtney Gero, S.W.A.M.P. President Thomas Bearden, Cheyenne Fish and other S.W.A.M.P. members at the Brighton Youth Prevention Committee meeting.

What Exactly is the S.W.A.M.P. at the Brighton Community?

SUBMITTED BY VALERIE MARONE
Family Services Dept.

The S.W.A.M.P., which stands for Seminoles Without Addictions Make Progress, is a room at the Brighton Gymnasium that has been rededicated as a drug-free zone. It is open Thursdays from 6-8 p.m., and is a joint program run by the Family Services/Prevention and the Recreation Departments.

The S.W.A.M.P. is a gathering place for Brighton youth, ages 7-18, to come and eat together and participate in drug-free, fun activities!

The Brighton Youth Prevention Committee meets one Thursday per month, lead by S.W.A.M.P. President Thomas Bearden. There are senior and junior club officers that work with S.W.A.M.P. Advisor Valerie Marone of the Family Services/Prevention Dept., to plan drug-free events and community service projects.



Isaac Osceola and other S.W.A.M.P. members play a game of dodge ball.



Rachel Buxton
Henry's Rainmaker store sells native art and clothing made by craftspeople from various Tribes.

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SEMINOLE PRINCESS PAGEANT WORKSHOPS

Princess Pageant Workshop Features Miss Florida USA

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

CLEWISTON, Fla. — The second in a series of educational workshops designed to prepare and inspire candidates for the Miss Florida Seminole and Junior Miss Florida Seminole pageant took place on Jan. 24 at the Clewiston Inn. The program centered around public speaking tips and featured a special guest appearance from Miss Florida USA Anastasia Pierre.

Past princess and Chairperson for the Princess Committee Wanda Bowers hosted the workshop. Providing a brief history of the program series, Bowers summarized the first class in Seminole history. The initial clinic took place in November 2008 at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, in conjunction with the American Indian Arts Celebration.

Bowers emphasized the duties of the Seminole princesses during their reign and the advantages of preparing for the office as well as the pageant.

"What you learn in these workshops will go far beyond the pageant and hopefully, you will benefit from this knowledge as you journey through life," said Bowers. "You should bear in mind that as a Tribal member, you are a representative of the Seminole Tribe of Florida everywhere you go, every day of your life. This is a broad responsibility that you can carry with pride and dignity and our goal is to assist you."

Hollywood Board Rep. and past princess Gloria Wilson co-hosted the Public Speaking Workshop. A very accomplished speaker, she sought to motivate the program participants by calling upon her extensive experiences in the public forum.

Recognizing the apprehension of first time speakers, Rep. Wilson discussed her youthful fear and nervousness in front of audiences. She told the workshop students about how she started with public speaking, first doing so in her church, school and during the pageant, to large events such as when she crowned the FSU Homecoming Queen before an audience of thousands. She has also spoken before a congressional representation in Washington, DC and is often called on to speak at Tribal and community events.

"Our goal is to teach you how to communicate and explore the many venues available to shape your future," Rep. Wilson said. "Communication is a key that will open many doors. The members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida have learned that they must sell themselves, their business opportunities and legislative goals through communication."

Following the criteria of the workshop, she stressed objectives pageant contestants should strive for, including motivating and inspiring others, showing passion and researching and being informed about their topic. She suggested always speaking clearly and distinctly and using hand and body

language and eye contact to captivate the audience.

The student body, ranging in age from 13 to 19, participated in assignments that required composing their thoughts, making introductions, and attempts to captivate their audience. Following each presentation, other members of the group critiqued their performance and offered suggestions. Rep. Wilson and Bowers added valuable feedback.

As the session progressed, the young ladies learned about each other and more about themselves through communication.

Joining the girls for the afternoon segment of the workshop, 2008-2009 Miss Florida USA Anastasia Pierre made a guest appearance. Her poise, grace and overall appearance wowed the audience. Taking command of the situation with her opening remarks, she emitted confidence and genuine sincerity. The girls later remarked that through eye contact, they immediately felt as though she was speaking to them individually.

Following a brief background presentation, Miss Florida USA talked about her ongoing education, future plans and the limitless opportunities that come from learning to communicate with the public.

"Preparation is the key," Pierre said. "I have a life on the go and had to learn to manage my time, present my objectives to an audience and network my skills."

"In addition to the demanding schedule of my duties as Miss Florida USA, I have education and personal responsibilities," added Pierre. "I lend my voice to the goals of the people that I represent. I cannot stress enough that you must know who, what and why you are representing. Avoid crutch words and phrases and make eye contact. Use cue cards with key words because you cannot read your speech verbatim."

She then offered tips on how to best break the ice with the audience, proper conduct during personal interviews, preparation of essays and what to expect from judges. "When speaking in public, sound conversational, change the tempo from time to time, be interesting and do not fear spontaneity," Pierre said. "Remember that each of you are unique, but only one can win the pageant. The upside is the fact that the experience does not end there. Every contestant is a winner and has a bright opportunity to meet new challenges and give purpose to an outstanding career."

Spending time with the young ladies after the workshop, Pierre visited with the group and answered their questions on a wide variety of subjects from personal to professional. She also took individual photos with the girls, which she autographed.



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Cooper Rivers, Alexis Aguilar, Miss Florida USA Anastasia Pierre, Krystle Young, Ragan Osceola and Stevie Brantley attend the Miss Florida Seminole Public Speaking workshop.



Judy Weeks

Krystle Young talks passionately about the sport of basketball.



Judy Weeks

(L-R, Front Row) Hollywood Board Rep. Gloria Wilson and Seminole Princess Chairperson Wanda Bowers conducted a public speaking workshop for Ragan Osceola, Cooper Rivers, Krystle Young, Stevie Brantley and Alexis Aguilar.

Seminole Princess Homefufus Attend Etiquette Workshop

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

CLEWISTON — Candidates for the Seminole Princess crown attended the third in a series of workshops at the Clewiston Inn on Feb. 7 to learn etiquette skills. The event was sponsored by the Princess Committee with Mercedes Osceola-Hahn as coordinator.

Celeste Jones of the Elementary Etiquette Society conducted the group study. With a master's degree in

educational leadership, a bachelor's in English literature and certificates in protocol and French cuisine, Jones brought a wealth of information to the table. Her career has included extensive business and fashion exposure, as well as an introduction into the field of cosmetics.

"I cannot place enough emphasis on the rewards of proper etiquette in every facet of your lifestyle," said Jones. "The skills that you learn here today will carry you far beyond the Princess Pageant. They will open doors for you in the social, educational, business and political world. Your private and public demeanor continues to leave a lasting impression on everyone you encounter long after you have left the room."

The workshop used an informal, interactive instruction method, which permitted the young ladies to use their newly acquired skills during the learning process. Following a crash course in introductions, the group concentrated on communication skills, body language and proper demeanor for a variety of situations.

"You want others to perceive you as confident and believable," Jones said. "Use eye contact to your advantage and conversation openers that will permit you to elaborate on your unique qualities and create an opportunity for your audience to respond."

Using each other for partners, the girls received instruction on dealing with controversial and difficult situations that may occur at a dinner party, on a date, during a business conference or before an audience. Through conversation games, they expanded their vocabulary and increased their confidence.

The program emphasized casual and formal table manners, as well as proper table settings and tactful eating habits.

Lunch was served in a round table situation to allow the instructor to answer questions and critique the young ladies' behavior. As the meal progressed, the girls drew trivia pursuit etiquette cards and answered questions that introduced new topics and tested their knowledge of the activities from the classroom.

The afternoon curriculum dealt with room entries, body language on a runway or stage, grace under scrutiny, handling of difficult situations and apologies.

After being offered a series of possibilities, the girls selected makeup as their final topic. Jones provided an extensive cosmetic kit for this segment of the workshop, but also offered a disclaimer.

"Less is more," she said. "Makeup is not intended for a disguise in daily or social use. It should be used sparingly to enhance your natural beauty and accentuate your facial features."



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Krystle Young learns introductions from instructor Celeste Jones as she greets Jaide Micco.



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Jones shows the proper handling of table utensils to Jaide Micco, Alexis Aguilar and Krystle Young.

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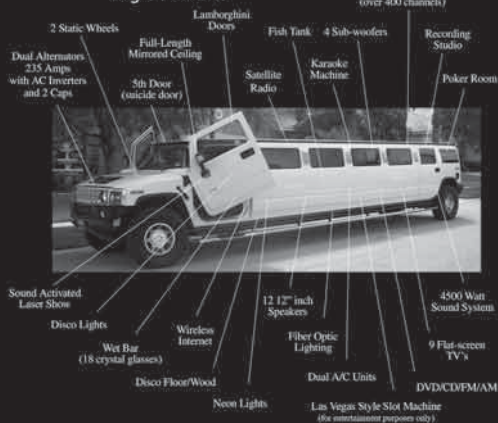


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Seminole Actor Attends 50th Anniversary Movie Screening

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

FORT LAUDERDALE — Tribal citizens and the public enjoyed one of South Florida's rarely seen pieces of cinema Jan. 24 at Cinema Paradiso, a small, independent theatre in downtown Ft. Lauderdale.

The Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival (FLIFF) held the 50th anniversary screening of the drama/romance, "Wind Across the Everglades." The copy of the film supplied to FLIFF for the viewing remains one of only a handful still in existence.

Tony® and Emmy® Award-winning actor Christopher Plummer headlined the movie. However, the film also features appearances by Tribal citizens Cory Osceola and daughter, Mary Osceola-Moore.

The veteran actor Corey Osceola played the role of Billy One-Arm. At just 16 years of age at the time, Osceola-Moore made her feature film debut playing the character Suzy Billy.

Osceola has had one other film role to his credit, appearing in the 1955 film "Yellowneck." "Wind Across the Everglades" is Osceola-Moore's only film appearance.

"I was so young at the time, when [the film makers] came to me at the time I did not know what to do," Osceola-Moore pointed out. "[My family] agreed to do it but I was kind of shy and afraid but once I got on the set everyone made me feel so comfortable. We had a good time filming the movie."

"I enjoyed the excitement of it all and the celebrities involved," she continued.

She attended the event with sons, Frank and David, and daughter, Barbara Osceola-Butera, who called her mom "such a natural."

"She felt really good about that night," said son,



Chris C. Jenkins

Mary Osceola-Moore stands and receives recognition from the audience after the film's screening.

David. "It felt nice to see her that happy."

Shot in Everglades National Park, the film played in both Los Angeles and New York in August and September upon its release in 1958. It was a one-time collaboration between director Nicholas Ray, known in the industry for the classic film "Rebel Without a Cause," starring James Dean, and Budd Schulberg screenwriter for the film, "On the Waterfront," starring Marlon Brando.

Foster Hirsch, professor of film and film historian at New York's Brooklyn College said the unusually cold Florida weather and mosquitoes proved to be just a few of the challenges during filming in the winter of 1957.

"The film has a great local significance," he said. "But it is also a wonderful portrayal of man and nature."

Plummer, a Canadian theater, film and television actor, and the film's lead actor, has gone on to become one of the most respected and successful actors in the business. At the time, the film was just the second of his career.

In a career spanning more than 50 years, to many fans Plummer's best known role came as the iconic Captain Georg Von Trapp in the classic movie-musical, "The Sound of Music."

He attended the post-screening of the movie to promote and sign copies of his recent autobiography, In Spite of Myself. Osceola-Moore also presented him with a custom-made Seminole jacket and dolls for his family, and he received a Lifetime Achievement award from the FLIFF.



Chris C. Jenkins

(L-R) Osceola-Moore and the film's lead actor, Christopher Plummer, in the Seminole jacket she presented to him.



Chris C. Jenkins

Mary Osceola-Moore (Second from Left) enjoys the movie screening of her movie, "Wind Across the Everglades," with son, David (L), daughter, Barbara Osceola-Butera (Second from Right), and son, Frank (R).

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Tribal Employee Visits Athens, Cairo Hard Rocks

BY PEGGIE REYNOLDS
Contributing Writer

[Editor's Note: Peggie Reynolds works in the Grant's Dept. in Hollywood as a grantsmanship coordinator and regulatory liaison. The opinions she expresses are her own. Peggie can be reached at preynolds@semtb.com.]

Now that Hard Rock International is an established part of the Seminole family, Tribal citizens and employees tend to seek out Hard Rock Cafés when traveling throughout the world.

On a vacation to Greece, the Greek Isles and Egypt in November 2008, I had the chance to visit the Hard Rock in Athens, Greece and Cairo, Egypt, as well as meet the staff and collect Hard Rock pins.

The café in Athens, Greece provided a few surprises, beginning with the lively clerk in the Hard Rock Gift Shop, who had a full butterfly painted on her face. The Hard Rock Athens was bustling with a lot of locals and tourists stopping by for food, drinks and shopping.

The staff showed me a prized, framed photo of the Tribal Council as well as the resolution from the March 2007 signing ceremony that took place under the Council Oak on the Hollywood Reservation, and signified the Tribe's purchase of Hard Rock International. It was a great way to show all visitors the connection between Hard Rock and the Seminole Tribe of Florida.



Peggie Reynolds

A framed photo of the signing ceremony and passing of the Tribal Council resolution that signified the Tribe's purchase of Hard Rock International inside the Hard Rock in Athens, Greece.



The entrance to the Hard Rock Café in Athens, Greece.

A short flight to Cairo, Egypt led me to the land of camels, ancient pyramids and truly exotic and magical surroundings. It was amazing to be on the streets of Cairo where donkey carts and water buffalo vie for space alongside thousands of cars. Then, from nowhere, dozens of pedestrians weave in and around the carts, vehicles and animals, to create what the Egyptians called the "24 Hour Rush Hour."

The Hard Rock Cairo is located in more tranquil and comfortable surroundings at the Grand Hyatt Cairo. Set on the banks of the Nile River, this Hard Rock provides a beautiful setting for guests to take in while they enjoy lunch or dinner.

The staff members were exuberant, always ready to pose for photos and could not have been more gracious.

General Manager of Hard Rock Café Cairo Vatche Yacoubian has been with the company for about 17 years and has managed a number of cafés in Europe and the Middle East. It is clear that he is not only a dedicated employee, but also very proud to be associated

with Hard Rock International.

It is always a thrill to travel and meet people of different countries and cultures. It has been even more rewarding to get acquainted with the staff of the Hard Rock Cafés around the world and bring a bit of Seminole Country to their homelands.



Peggie Reynolds

The view of Cairo at sunset from inside the Egyptian Hard Rock.



The inside of the Hard Rock Café in Cairo, Egypt.

Peggie Reynolds



Peggie Reynolds

Bartender Tony Mod enjoys his work at the Hard Rock in Cairo, Egypt.

4-H Youth Compete in Hog Show at State Fair

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

WEST PALM BEACH — Members of the Seminole Tribe 4-H program headed to the South Florida Fair in West Palm Beach Jan. 23 to participate in the Youth All-Breed Market Hog Show.

The eight participating children from the Tribal community have shown in the state division fair in year's past. Many have competed at state level for the past several years.

Jessica Lopez, a nine-year 4-H veteran, placed first in her weight class. Rosa Jane Urbina and Rylee Smith also showed their experience, both placing second in their respective weight classes.

When youth exhibitors show their hogs, the judges look for confirmation of the animals as well as how the children handle their animals to determine the winners.



Rachel Buxton

Drayton Billie preps his hog for the show.



Rachel Buxton

Erena Billie strives for showmanship by making eye contact with the judge while she is in the ring.

"It is obvious who worked with their animals," said Seminole 4-H Extension Agent Michael Bond.

The 4-H members spent the past few months preparing for the show. Lopez exercised her hog for 30 minutes a day to keep it in shape.

"It takes a lot of work," said Breanna Billie, who placed seventh. "You have to give them water, feed them, wash them, clean out their pen. It keeps me going."

Jacob Cotton, Erena Billie, Drayton Billie and Rayven Smith also spent the months prior to the fair preparing their animals for the show. They placed fifth through eighth, respectively, in their weight classes.

To be eligible for market animal shows each entrant must reside in designated counties, be between the ages of 8 and 18 and enrolled in school or a certified home school program. Hogs must also weigh a minimum of 230 pounds at weigh-in held the day before the show.

The South Florida Fair recently started mandating that all youth participants must attend a youth livestock show ethics and animal care workshop. The class helps to teach children the importance of proper animal handling and management, along with the difference between animal welfare and animal rights. The program is endorsed by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

Members of 4-H use a learn-by-doing approach to help youth develop the necessary skills to become a competent, caring and contributing citizen.

"It teaches children to be proud and have good sportsmanship," said Bond. "It gives them a sense of responsibility and develops leadership skills."

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SEMINOLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Meet SPD Officer Angie Margotta

SUBMITTED BY SEMINOLE POLICE DEPT.

Officer Angie Margotta graduated from the Police Academy in 1997 and has served with the Seminole Police Dept. since May 2000.

Margotta has patrolled on the Hollywood Reservation and has a great rapport with several Tribal and non-

Tribal citizens in the community. She has been productive within the community as a road patrol officer, field training officer, school resource officer, narcotics officer, detective and a sergeant, although she 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 within the Hollywood and Brighton communities. These include Youth Conferences, Rez Rally, Red Ribbon Week, Preschool Field Day, Halloween festivities and the Seminole Princess Pageant, which she said have all been great experiences.

In 2004, Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., community members Jo and Robert North and Herbert Jim requested Margotta to participate in the Tribe's first Boys & Girls Club-sponsored trip, the Ultimate Warrior Challenge, which took place in Snake River, Idaho. She said she was honored to join such an eye-opening experience.

During her career with the Tribe, Margotta has continued her education by attending Barry University working on her bachelor's degree in public administration. She said she hopes to join such an eye-opening experience.

On a personal note, Margotta dedicates her accomplishments and drive to her father, Vinnie, who has been battling a terminal illness since May 2007.

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



Photo Courtesy of SPD

Seminole Police Dept. Officer Angie Margotta

Immokalee SPD Looks Out for Community

SUBMITTED BY SEMINOLE POLICE DEPT.

IMMOKALEE — The Seminole Police Department (SPD) remains actively involved in Tribal community policing efforts on the Immokalee Reservation.

Some of the recent activities in Immokalee include: Officer Lynn Howard recovered a vehicle which had been taken in a carjacking incident in nearby Lehigh Acres, Fla. Officer Howard arrested the occupant who had chosen the parking lot of the Immokalee Casino to take a nap. Fortunately, the subject was not involved in any criminal activity on the reservation.

Officer John Hill recovered an abandoned, stolen vehicle in the parking lot of the Immokalee Casino while on routine patrol.

Officer Stephanie Sanchez, working with a newly-

issued flyer concerning a juvenile runaway Tribal citizen from Big Cypress, located the child in Immokalee and returned him to his parents.

Finally, at the community meeting on Jan. 20, Lt. Gator Sapp addressed the issue of utilizing recreational four-wheel vehicles in wetland areas of the Immokalee Reservation, which had been designated as natural ponds.

Lt. Sapp briefed about 24 participants concerning elements of the Clean Water Act (CWA). These include the need to preserve the natural habitat of the federal lands, which comprise the reservation, and an explanation of the severe criminal and civil penalties — a \$25,000 per day fine and a year in jail — for violation of the CWA, as enforced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB



Photo Courtesy of the Boys & Girls Club

Members of the Seminole Boys & Girls Club with 3 Doors Down (Back Row) before their concert on Jan. 30 in Boca Raton.

Boys & Girls Club Members Attend 3 Doors Down Concert Sound Check

BY THOMMY DOUD
Boys & Girls Club

BOCA RATON, Fla. — Fifteen members of the Hollywood Reservation Boys & Girls Club got the chance to attend a sound check before the rock band, 3 Doors Down, played their show at the Mizner Park Amphitheatre in Boca Raton on Jan. 30.

"Witnessing a sound check of this caliber is a good experience for our youth," said Boys & Girls Club Director Robert North Sr. "When they can meet musicians and watch them prepare for a major concert, the youth soon realize that the key components to a musician's success is practicing and discipline — the hair, tattoos, etc. are just 'window dressing.'"

"Also, this type of experience may open some doors for aspiring Tribal member musicians in the near future," he added.

The club members, ranging in age from 11 to 18, witnessed the Billboard Chart-topping band perform three of their recent hits, check their sound levels and make sure their instruments were tuned properly.

Tribal citizen and aspiring musician Victor Osceola needed only one word to describe his experience — awesome.

After the sound check, the youth met with the

members of 3 Doors Down for a meet and greet/question and answer session. The meet and greet presented the participating youth with an opportunity to meet the band members up close and personal.

They sat only inches away from the band, known for their work ethic and charitable contributions. The participants asked questions ranging from how they came up with their name to what it takes to become a famous musician.

The band members answered every question and then posed for a picture with the Tribal youth.

This is the second "sound check event" for members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, made possible by the Grammy Foundation. The Grammy Foundation is one of the many on-going partnerships that the BGC/STOF maintains.

"The Boys & Girls partnership initiatives, such as the case with the Grammy Foundation, are critical to introducing youth to positive aspects of the world," said North.

After the event was over, the youth made their way to a local restaurant for some good food and a chance to reflect on the day's activities.

"It was a lot of fun and it was a great experience to meet the band," said club member Delia Harjo. For more information about the Boys & Girls Club please see www.seminolebge.org.



Photo Courtesy of the Boys & Girls Club

The band 3 Doors Down during their sound check.

Hard Rock Sponsors Club Fundraiser

BY THOMMY DOUD
Boys & Girls Club

HOLLYWOOD — Staff and Board Members of the Boys & Girls Club of the Seminole Tribe of Florida accepted a check for \$3,000 from the Hard Rock Cafe at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino on Jan. 12.

The check represented proceeds to the BGC/STOF from the Hard Rock Cafe's Annual Hard Rock Pin Collectors Convention, which took place in Jan. 27-28, 2008. Pin collectors from all over the country participated in the weekend event, with all proceeds raised from the sale donated to selected local non-profit organizations.

As one of the selected charities, the BGC/STOF set up a booth inside the convention center using video technology to showcase the events and activities provided by the club to Tribal youth.

Fundraising and sustainability is an important part of the Boys & Girls Clubs of

America philosophy and as a chartered club, the BGC/STOF welcomes the opportunity to participate in fundraising activities.

For more information about the Boys & Girls Club please see www.seminolebge.org.



Photo Courtesy of the Boys & Girls Club

(L-R) Staff member Jody Bert, Hard Rock Retail Manager Chip Turman, BGC/STOF Director Robert North Sr., BGC/STOF Chief Professional Officer Jo Motlow North, BGC/STOF Board Member Diane Buster, staff member Jordan Billie, Hard Rock Sales Manager Robyn Melvin, Hard Rock General Manager Scott Jacobs, BGC/STOF Chief Volunteer Officer Roger Nisley and staff member Velma Osceola.

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VALENTINE'S DAY



Christa C. Jenkins
 Esther Buster looks for the winning numbers in a game of Bingo.



Christa C. Jenkins
 Mary Tigertail is a triple threat with food, a Valentine's Teddy bear and flowers.

Seniors Celebrate Valentine's Day

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
 Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Tribal seniors of the Big Cypress community got into the spirit of Valentine's

Day with their own celebration Feb. 11 at the Senior Center.

The gathering allowed the seniors to spend time together and play games including Bingo and the Hershey's Kiss® guessing game. Several lucky winners even walked away with Valentine's-themed door prizes.



Christa C. Jenkins
 Mabel Jim (L) tries to guess how many chocolate kisses are in the jar during the Hershey's Kiss® guessing game.

Big Cypress Elder Services Site Manager Cecilia Guzman said the day still remained a success even with the passing of Tribal elder, Leona Roberts Cotto.

"I think it all went well in spite of the funeral," Guzman said. "We normally would have had even more fun, but it was still good."

Visitors from both the Hollywood and Trail Reservations were unable, but scheduled to, attend the festivities.

Traditionally, Valentine's Day is associated with the mutual exchange of love notes in the form of "valentines." Heart-shaped figures and items, doves, and the figure of the winged Cupid are often symbols of its meaning. In Roman mythology, Cupid is the god of love and beauty, and was the son of Venus, the goddess of love.

Community Celebrates Valentine's Day

BY JUDY WEEKS
 Freelance Reporter



Judy Weeks
 Alexis Jimmie (R) holds up Denise Gonzales (L) so she can grab a Valentine's treat.

IMMOKALEE — Members of the Immokalee community celebrated Valentine's Day on the evening of Feb. 14.

Staff members from the Recreation Dept. transformed the gym to create a party atmosphere for the occasion using traditional red, white and pink decorations with hearts and flowers.

The partygoers in Immokalee embraced the opportunity to share the companionship that has created this close knit community. Dining on the generous buffet, they listened to the music, danced and treated themselves to some of the delicious desserts.

A group of youngsters claimed the open portion of the basketball court to shoot a few hoops and play some one-on-one, while the younger children created Valentine's cards to give to their friends and family.



Judy Weeks
 Kenny Joe Davis Jr. participates in a little one-on-one basketball at the Valentine's Day celebration.



Judy Weeks
 (L-R) Maxine Jock and Elsa Zamora share a Valentine's Day hug while Destinee Jimmie samples the buffet.

Community Attends Holiday Bowling Tourney

BY JUDY WEEKS
 Freelance Reporter

LEHIGH ACRES, Fla. — The Immokalee Recreation Department hosted a Valentine's Day Bowling Tournament for the couples in the community at the Bowlands Alley on Feb. 14.

The participants formed eight teams, which played four games. The team members were alternated for each game in order to diversify the players' skills and increase the challenge. Winning places were awarded to the top four teams in each game.

Regular Bowling: 1. Ralph Escobar and Noemi Escobar, 2. Cecilia Pequeno and Arturo Herrera, 3. Felicia Garza and Josh Garza, 4. Kenny Joe Davis Jr. and Jennifer Ramos.

Scotch Doubles: 1. Kenny Joe Davis Jr. and Cecilia Pequeno, 2. Josh Garza and Gale Boone, 3. Ralph Escobar and Ashley Billie, 4. Michael Alvarado and Jennifer Ramos.

Odd & Evens: 1. Noemi Escobar and Arturo Herrera, 2. Josh Garza and Juanita Martinez, 3. Trey Boone and Cecilia Pequeno, 4. Michael Alvarado and Susan Davis.



Judy Weeks
 Felicia Garza helps her team take third place in the Regular Bowling game.



Judy Weeks
 Jennifer Ramos puts a little action on the ball during the Scotch Doubles.



Judy Weeks
 Ashley Billie picks up a spare in the Scotch Doubles.



Judy Weeks
 Kenny Joe Davis Jr. practices for the day when he will take the winning slot.

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Education B

Charter School Names Teacher, Employee of the Year

Jeanine Gran, Pam Rhodes Honored with Prestigious Titles

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Jeanine Gran was given the honor of being named the 2008-2009 Teacher of the Year for the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School.

Gran wears many hats as the guidance counselor for the school.

"Jeanine Gran is a key part to the success of our school," said Principal Russell Brown.

Gran is among the first to work each day, where she makes it a point to greet everyone from teachers, students and any visitors on campus.

"It's just not like work," she said. "It's a joy getting up. I love being at school."

Gran has been with the school since its opening in August 2007. In her two years as guidance counselor she has helped organize and create many events for the students.

Guest Reader Day that took place last December was among her favorites.

"It was something I did," she explained. "Just to see so many people from all over come to read was amazing."

Gran knows all 166 students by name and takes great pride in being a child advocate.

"Her conscientious efforts to get to know the students and their families and her comforting approach provide our students the confidence necessary to give their best," said school Principal Russell Brown.

A resident of Okeechobee since 1987, Gran has been involved in education for 29 years. Before joining Pemayetv Emahakv she was a music and band teacher at the Fifth and Sixth Grade Center, now known as the Freshman Campus, for four years, as well as a music teacher at North Elementary for four years and a guidance counselor at Central Elementary for 12 years.

On the weekends Gran enjoys gardening, playing with her new dog T.J. and riding on her motorcycle with husband of 22 years, Tom.

You won't find Gran spending too much time away from her 166 kids.

"When I'm away from them I miss them, they are like my own," she said.

Pam Rhodes was named Non-Instructional Employee of the Year at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School for 2008-2009.

Rhodes has been the receptionist at the school for two years and said she can't imagine a better job.

"You come to work and you enjoy it," Rhodes said cheerfully.

Rhodes was nominated and chosen for the honor by her colleagues.

She said she was shocked when she was awarded the title of Non-Instructional Employee of the Year.

"I usually don't give myself enough credit," Rhodes admitted. "It has definitely been rewarding to know your coworkers thought that much of you."

Typical duties for Rhodes include answering and maintaining the school telephone site system, processing payroll, inputting attendance, record keeping, processing personnel applications and general clerical duties. However, Rhodes does so much more than answer phones.

"Ms. Rhodes brings to the table the desire to provide the best for our students, the families of our students and the staff," said Principal Russell Brown.

She is not designated to a specific subject or grade so she gets to see and help all the students.

"I get to nurture them and see their smiling faces," Rhodes said.

Rhodes is a 22-year veteran resident of Okeechobee and is the mother of two, Tyler, 17, and Brady, 10, a third grade student at Pemayetv Emahakv. Her two boys keep her busy running from baseball to football games.

When she isn't at work or in the stadium cheering, Rhodes can be found playing racquetball or taking a run.

Rhodes said her new career in education has been an absolute blessing.

"When I came to Pemayetv Emahakv, I had no idea how rewarding this job would be," she said. "It has truly been a wonderful



Vocalist and camp instructor Matt Kramer (C), former lead singer of the band Saigon Kick, teaches Raylon Eagle (L) and Chloe Chalfant (R) how to sing on key.

Seminoles Learn Singing Techniques at Music Camp

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Seminole youth got a taste of stardom as they took the stage and participated in the second Seminole Star Search Music Camp, held Feb. 7 in the Brighton Gym.

The Seminole Star Search Music Camp is a continuation from last year's Seminole Star Search contest. It featured 26 finalists fighting to win a chance of a lifetime, the opportunity to sing and record with Grammy® Award-winning artist Micki Free.

Free is the director of Seminole Heritage Events and Promotions that heads up the music camp. The camp was created to show Tribal citizens the tools to get their game together for the next Seminole Star Search competition, but also to help them in their everyday life, Free said.

"They will take self-confidence home with them," he said. "This will help the way they look and feel about themselves; it's more than just music."

Free also stressed that music can be used as an outlet for children and young adults.

"They can go down the right road or the wrong road," he added. "We are trying

to give them an avenue in the middle, which is the arts, to excel."

Comprised of highly accomplished instructors, the camp offered guidance on all aspects of the music industry including vocals, songwriting, stage presence, hip-hop and image.

The instructors included Free himself, who explained his knowledge of song writing and biography composition, Matt Kramer, vocal coach and former lead singer of the band Saigon Kick, Cima Georgevich who has worked on stage presence with the likes of R. Kelly and Foxy Brown, Prince Markie Dee, one of the original members of the hip-hop group, The Fat Boys, and Ft. Pierce Liaison Sally Tommie, a former student and instructor at the Barbizon School of Modeling.

Tommie did an exercise with the participants where they viewed music videos from all genres and then dissected them to study the elements needed to obtain a viewer's attention. Participants discussed what the artists were wearing, what they were doing in the video and what they were singing about.

"Music is medicine for the soul," Tommie said referring to Britney Spears'

Please see CAMP • Page 2B



(L-R) Mom and daughter, Salina and Alissa Dorgan, harmonize together singing "Amazing Grace."

Pemayetv Emahakv Holds Safety Patrol Induction

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Members of the Seminole Police Dept. inducted Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students into the first-ever Safety Patrol Unit at a ceremony Jan. 14 held in the breezeway of the school.

Students, teachers and members of the Seminole Police Dept. attended as Chief of Police William Latchford swore nine students in, Michael Garcia, Katlin Brown, Melany Williams, Tamea Allen, Erik Garcia, Trevor Thomas, Sean Osceola, Jaden Puentes and Diamond Shore, as honorary members of the department.

"[The Safety Patrol Unit members] want to help you grow," Chief Latchford told the younger Pemayetv Emahakv students. "Leadership is about people."

Michael Garcia was named captain. Brown named sergeant and Williams and Allen named lieutenants of the Safety Patrol Unit. The students will hold their titles for the complete semester, finishing out the school year. New members will be inducted at the beginning of the next school year.



Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's Safety Patrol (Bottom Row, L-R) Diamond Shore, Erik Garcia, Sean Osceola, Jaden Puentes, (Top Row, L-R) Melany Williams, Tamea Allen, Trevor Thomas, Katlin Brown and Michael Garcia.

The Safety Patrol Unit members were selected based on a nomination from teachers considering their leadership abilities and classroom performance. As safety patrols, they are expected to set good examples and assist the younger children at all times.

The honorary students received a certificate along with their very own Seminole Police Dept. I.D. badge at the ceremony.

Safety patrols will be responsible for the raising, taking down and folding of the flags. They will also be assigned posts on school grounds and will report to it daily.

Chief Latchford urged the other students to look at the Safety Patrol members as role models.

"Have the goal to be like them when you get old enough," he said.



Safety Patrol Captain Michael Garcia (C) with Police Officer Darryl Allen (L) and Chief of Police William Latchford (R).



(L-R) Geneva Garcia, Jessica Osceola, Alex Wooten, AKA DJ Alio, Eliza Mora and Cartaya Billie attempt to fade and blend their music.

Youth Learn DJ'ing Techniques in Class

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — The Dept. of Education's Adult Vocational Program provided Immokalee residents with an opportunity to learn the basic skills necessary for a career as a disc jockey on the afternoon of Jan. 21 in the Conference Room of the Administration Building.

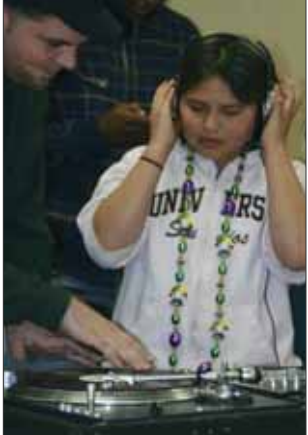
The overview course was conducted by the Scratch DJ Academy, which was founded in 2002 and has locations in Miami, New York City and Los Angeles. Their graduates have been able to obtain employment on board cruise ships, in the radio industry and at night clubs and private parties.

Instructors Jamie Keogh, AKA DJ Immortal and Alex Wooten, AKA DJ Alio, taught the introductory course. Timing their presentation to include the younger generation, the afterschool program included both youth and adults.

Keogh began the class by giving opening remarks including a brief history of the profession, basic equipment and musical theory.

"With the advent of the computer age, the industry is gravitating toward the return of turntables and instruction in scratching techniques. Wearing headphones, they responded to the beat and attempted to blend and fade their favorite songs. Each participant received a DJ Scratch Academy dog tag acknowledging their efforts.

The second portion of the program allowed the students to receive hands on training on the turntables and instruction in scratching techniques. Wearing headphones, they responded to the beat and attempted to blend and fade their favorite songs. Each participant received a DJ Scratch Academy dog tag acknowledging their efforts.



(L-R) Jamie Keogh, AKA DJ Immortal, shows Eliza Mora a scratch technique on the turntable.

Tribal Citizens Learn Music Basics in Course

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Tribal citizens got the chance to try their hand at one of the most popular music industry careers Jan. 14 in the Big Cypress Municipal Building.

With four scheduled reservation appearances, the art and discipline of disc jockeying, or DJing, provided an opportunity to learn the basics in a hands-on lecture course for those interested in starting a career or developing a new hobby.

"DJing has a variety of opportunities which are very popular nowadays although it was not that way back in the 1980s," said 20-year DJ veteran Ken Eversley, better known as DJ K-Razor on the work scene.

The focus centered on equipment setup, basic mixing and blending, scratching, beat making and other techniques, according to Eversley.

"I see a lot of the teens in the community I work in that are interested in music and hip-hop and thought this would be a good opportunity to introduce them to that world," said Tribal Education Dept. Adult Vocational Administrator Jasmine Porter. "You know it has definitely gone over well when you see all the smiles on the faces of everyone."

One of the attendees, Tribal citizen Leana Billie, said she found out about it through her grandmother, Sue Burton.

"I just wanted to see it and try it out," Billie said.

Eversley said he specializes in hip-hop DJing and selects and plays music using multiple turntables and in many cases, the DJ also backs up one or more emcees.

Other types of DJing include: radio DJs, known to



(L-R) Tribal citizen Sue Burton mixes it up with Ken Eversley, AKA DJ Razor, watching.

introduce and play music broadcasting on AM, FM, shortwave, digital, or online radio stations, club DJs that specialize in selecting and playing music in bars, clubs, discos, at raves, or game stadiums and mobile DJs. They are an extension of original radio disc jockeys. They travel with or go on tour with mobile sound systems playing from a collection of recorded material for a specific audience.

Eversley currently works within the Miami night club scene and has toured with artists such as Lil' Flip, Noreaga, Phatlip, Monica and Kelly Clarkson.

He is part of the Scratch DJ Academy, the world's first DJ school, with locations in New York City, Los Angeles and Miami.

The school has celebrity DJ instructors, copyrighted curriculum and equipment for students to learn on. Scratch DJ Academy offers three courses, from beginners through expert level.

It was founded in 2002 by the late Jason Mizell, known in the hip-hop world as Jam Master Jay, the DJ from legendary rap music pioneers Run-DMC.

According to the Scratch DJ Academy website, scratch.com, the academy aims to legitimize, validate and extend the role and importance of the DJ and producer into new arenas by highlighting and showcasing the art form's intrinsic value.

For more information please call (205) 535-2599.



(L-R) Alex Wooten, AKA DJ Alio encourages Leana Billie as she learns scratching techniques.

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Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Amber Craig brushes up on her stage presence with camp instructor Cima Georgevich.

❖ Camp

Continued from page 1B

music video of her song "Stronger." "You get to tell your story."

The 2008 Seminole Star Search winner David Billy also attended the camp and spoke.

"I started right where you are sitting," Billy told the contestants. "I gave it a shot and here I am."

"The Star Search Winners" CD featuring Billy will be available soon at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

Another contestant from last year's competition, Salina Dorgan, took the stage to encourage the Tribal youth to use this opportunity to the Tribe is offering.

"I'm glad the Tribe has this program for you," Dorgan said. "You got it, you just don't realize it. That's what this camp is for."

At the end of the day those at the music camp attended private sessions with each instructor to hone their skills. They worked on pitch and tone, how to command attention on the stage and how to portray a positive image.

"Confidence is the greatest accessory you could ever acquire in life," Tommie told the youth.

Alissa Dorgan gained enough confidence and courage and took the stage to give a performance of "Amazing Grace," accompanied by her mother, Salina. Kramer commented on Alissa Dorgan's performance saying, "It starts as a dream and turns into a craft."

Free wrapped up the camp with encouraging words.

"If I can do it, you can do," he said.



Micki Free speaks to the crowd about the importance of dedication.

Pemayetv Emahavk Charter School Students Honored

Awards for Nov. 24-Dec. 5



Kindergarten
Mrs. Duncan – Daven Buck
Mrs. Webber – Tayla Burns

First Grade
Mrs. Davis – Jahbain Bennett
Mrs. Ringstaff – Edward Garcia
Mrs. Hudson – Laila Bennett

Second Grade
Mrs. Moss – Lucas Osceola

Third Grade
Mrs. Clements – Cyrus Smedley
Mrs. Pryor – Dalton Girtman

Fourth Grade
Mrs. Tedders – Lanie Sedatol
Mrs. Williams – Erik Garcia

Fifth Grade:
Mrs. Dobbs – Donovan Osceola
Mrs. Finney – Tamea Allen



Awards for Jan. 5-16

Kindergarten
Mrs. Duncan – Justin Gopher
Mrs. Webber – Haylie Huff

First Grade
Mrs. Davis – Araya Youngblood
Mrs. Ringstaff – Caillou Smith
Mrs. Hudson – Bevyll Billie

Second Grade
Mrs. Ball – Satie Rico
Mrs. Moss – Oscar Yates

Third Grade
Mrs. Clements – Bly Davidson
Mrs. Pryor – Chloe Chalfant

Fourth Grade
Mrs. Tedders – Jermaine Bennett
Mrs. Williams – Odessa King

Fifth Grade
Mrs. Dobbs – Tyra Baker
Mrs. Finney – Cheyenne Nunez

Ahfachkee Honors Second Quarter Students

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Ahfachkee School honored more of its best and brightest students Jan. 23 in the Second Quarter Awards ceremony, held at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.

Students in grades pre-kindergarten through 12 received 140 awards at the event.

Fourteen-year school veteran employee, and School Coordinator Eileen Hager, said the amount of awards handed out represented the highest number in all her years at the school.

"I am so proud of these students," Hager said. "There is an incredible feeling of pride and honor in receiving recognition for hard work."

"Our students are taking the right steps at an early age to ensure that they are college bound," Hager added.

Ahfachkee School Principal Walt Swan

Porter, Timothy Tigertail, Spencer Aguilar, Kobe Billie, Kamari Ivey, Ramona Jimmie, Henchoo-Ye Jumper, Shana Balentine, Carlee Billie, Brandon Frank, Leilani Gopher, Alena Stockton, Abigail Tigertail.

Ahfachkee Achievement: Nicholas Andrews, Athena Bert, Keaton Billie, Sontino Billie, Lauren Doctor, Dacio – Osceola, Hermione Calderon, Brandi Osceola, Canaan Jumper, Willie Smith, Amaya Solano, Brianna Bowers, Tash-Sho-Tah-Che Jumper, Thoya Robbins, Ezekiel Roberts.

Ahfachkee Honors: Cameron Alexander, Caniah Billie, Caleb Billie, Ivan Billie, Elijah Cook, Harmony Cypress, Tauni Cypress, Cale Osceola, Daleen Osceola, Aleah Rodriguez, Valhally Frank, Adrian Mendoza, Camden Rhymes, Liberty Robbins, Richard Billie, Jalycia Billie-Valdez, Kylan Jumper, Ricky Rodriguez.

Second through 12th Grade

Ahfachkee Scholars: (4.0 GPA): Aguilar, Alexis; (3.99-3.5 GPA) Marco Flores, Sarah Osceola, Destiny Robbins, Justin Roff, Leana Billie, Kaitlin Osceola, Ignacio Rodriguez, Sierra Kirkland, Cartaya Billie, Ryanne Pratt, Brendan Otero, Whiteshield, Herrera Billie, Evanne Pratt, Jack Aguilar, Cassandra Alexander, Alyssa Burnett-Osceola, Leslie Gopher, Katesa Kirkland, Emmitt Osceola, AJ Tigertail.

Ahfachkee Achievement (3.49-3.0 GPA) Bionca Acosta, Taylor Tigertail, Anthony Cypress, Savannah Tiger, Levi Billie, Elyse Frank, Gloria Brooks, Katherine Bert, Sabre Billie, Christian Alexander, Esyra Frank, Candelario Landin, Haden Littlebear, Mika Lopez, Kyle Alvarado, Ethan Aguilar, John Robbins, Rodrick Bert, Darius Friday, Dayra Koenes, Elisah Billie, Esyana Billie, Bluesky Friday, Kevin Ivey, Charles Alexander, Isaiha Alvarado,



Photo Courtesy of Ahfachkee School Staff

Principal Walt Swan Jr. (far left) with students from Mrs. Iglesias' second grade class.

Thomlynn Billie, Mya Cypress, Romeo Garcia, Mazzy Robbins, Eliza Billie, Katrina Huggins, Clayton Milicevic.

Accelerated Reader Awards: Abigail Tigertail, Shana Balentine, Richard Billie, Kylan Jumper, Katesa Kirkland, AJ Tigertail, Marley Billie-Herrera, Bluesky Friday, Joeli Frank, Katherine Bert, Caitlin Cypress, Elyse Frank, Esyra Frank, Candelario Landin, Haden Littlebear, Mika Lopez, Rayce Noah, Leandra Rodriguez.

Culture Awards: Harmony Cypress, Spencer Aguilar, Alena Stockton, Romeo Garcia, Eyanna Billie, Darius Friday, Christopher Alexander, Candelario Landin, Savannah Tiger, Tyler Cypress, Corey Garcia.

Staff Culture Awards: Abelardo Solano, Rebecca Jimenez.

Read Right Graduates: Stevie Billie, Bianca Fernandez, Corey Garcia, Chloe Hendrickson, Allen Hernandez, Ivy Johns, Justin Roff.



Photo Courtesy of Ahfachkee School Staff

Mrs. Parrish (C) with first grade award recipients.

Jr. echoed Hager's sentiment, adding that the best is yet to come for his students.

"I think it is very important we continue to celebrate our successes, but I think the kids know they are capable of a lot more," Swan Jr. explained.

This was just the second awards event Swan has attended since taking the position as principal of the school. He said he feels even greater aspirations lie ahead for the students.

"The important part is that we have to think bigger with our kids," he said. "We are a part of a multi-level national corporation, so we need to continue to prepare these kids for a bigger future."

Second Quarter Awards Recipients

Pre-K, Kindergarten, First Grade
Ahfachkee Scholars: Evan Cypress, Charlie Osceola, Gabriel Hendrickson-



Photo Courtesy of Ahfachkee School Staff

Billy Walker (L) and Sissy Cook (R) of the Culture Dept. with Ahfachkee School student award recipients.

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NATIVE BOOK REVIEW BY RAMONA KIYOSHK

[Editor's Note: Ramona Kiyosk is a freelance writer and member of the Ojibway First Nation of Walpole Island, Ontario. The opinions she expresses are her own. She can be reached at satin.mccasins@gmail.com.]

White Fang, Treasure Island, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and Legend of Sleepy Hollow, move over. Make room on the shelves for the new kid on the block. Night Sun and the Seven Directions is the first in a series of fast-moving adventure stories about a Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) youth who comes of age during the final days of the American frontier.

The story, woven around historical events, chronicles those uncertain times through the eyes of a fictional Native American family. It is a compelling mixture of mysticism, mythology and indigenous spirituality. It moves along at a breathtaking pace and the players become so real they almost fly out of the pages.

Pioneers in covered wagons moved across the prairies, like a plague of locusts, consuming the forests, animals and societies that thrived in "the New World" side-by-side for millennia. Soon railways would expedite the waves of settlers. Many Indian Tribes would be decimated by disease and starvation, or murdered by the U.S. Army. Others were moved from their traditional homes by the U.S. government, with promises of protection, only to be forced to move again to make room for a fresh onslaught of homesteaders.

The Winnebago hunting grounds covered most of Illinois and Wisconsin. The men, hunters and trappers, sold furs to the merchants at the trading posts. They returned from their trading expeditions with household items including blankets, hunting knives, fishing lines and steel traps, and gifts for their women and children.

Night Sun was born into a very traditional family of healers and leaders. At his birth, it was declared by the spirits guarding the Tribe that the firstborn Night Sun would become a shaman. His great-grandfather, Mahkani-gah, a powerful Medicine Man, would be his teacher and mentor. His grandfather, Chief Fire Cloud, a Tribal elder, would help with Night Sun's education in ethics and spirituality, training all the children received. His father, War Eagle, would teach him the skills and ways of the hunter and warrior.

On a typical day, the families rose with the sun to begin their duties. The elders offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Night Sun, who adopted an orphaned wolf,

would take his pet for a morning run with his buddies or one of his brothers. At age 12, when he began his shaman training, Night Sun added the thanksgiving prayers to his morning ritual.

In an interview in the *La Crosse Tribune*, columnist Geri Parlin quoted author Spencer G. Lone Tree: "I learned the ethics of my people from sitting around the fireplace with my grandfather. I'm probably one of the last generations to experience that. I'm trying to pass on the culture."

In a society that did not have a written language and relied on the oral traditions of professional storytellers, the old ways were dying with the old people. Lone Tree, age sixty-something, began writing this series of books to help keep the knowledge alive.

When it became evident the Tribe would have to adapt to co-exist with the whites, some of the older boys, including Night Sun, were sent to a government boarding school to learn to read and write. Parents were forbidden to visit, as it would interfere with their education, officials at the school insisted. A sadistic army dropout was in charge at the school, causing the students to huddle in terror. Pawnee scouts were hired to track down runaways who would be starved and beaten when they returned to the school.

The children struggled with the unreasonable rules and the sadistic beatings for the slightest infractions. One evening, during a snowstorm, the young half-breed in charge of administering the whippings, cornered Night Sun in the deserted barnyard and threatened to kill him. The boy fought back and accidentally knocked the older youth unconscious.

Desperate, Night Sun recruited the other boys from his village. They stole horses from the school's stable and fled despite the blizzard, commencing a heart-stopping chase across the plains. This pursuit in freezing weather would test the acumen and fortitude of both the prey and their trackers.

Night Sun and the Seven Directions is well written and depicts the American Indian's point of view of a turbulent era. Author Lone Tree also drew the engaging, detailed illustrations.

This book, and others in the series, is definitely a must read for the reading lists of American history courses. It is also recommended to anyone who is up for a wild ride across the plains when sparkling rivers snaked around herds of buffalo grazing on never ending prairies.

To get your copy, contact Spencer G. Lone Tree, P.O. Box 178, Postville, Iowa 52162. You may also send your request to sglonetree@neilnet.net.



Night Sun and the Seven Directions
By Spencer G. Lone Tree
Young adult fiction
Trade Paperback 2004
376 pages

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Janice Osceola

Former Indian National Finals Rodeo tour champion Justin Gopher offers some tips on bull riding.

Clinic, Council vs. Board Rodeo Held

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) and the Tribal Council sponsored the annual bull riding clinic and Board vs. Council Rodeo on Feb. 7 at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena.

As the major hit of the day, the clinic offered several dozen youth and young adults, ages 4-18, the opportunity to learn and participate in sheep, calf, steer, junior and adult bull riding.

The Tribal Council emerged victorious with the winning team roping and branding tandem of Josh Jumper, Naha Jumper and Ahnie Jumper.

"I was very pleased overall," Rodeo Arena Director Josh Jumper said. "I always like to help the kids and will do anything I can for them. It also liked competing with my kids."

Tribal citizen and event emcee Moses "Bigg" Jumper Jr. has had a major role in the establishment of the event and said he was pleased with the day.

"As far as the clinic, it was one of our biggest," Jumper explained. "Josh and his rodeo crew did a great job in setting things up."

Jumper said crowd cuts almost contributed to the event being cancelled this year, but support from Tribal Council and the community helped put on another successful gathering.

"It has always traditionally been a great way every year to start our rodeo season," he said.

Jumper said the events also served as a chance to attract more interest and gain more members in the EIRA through a mem-

bership drive held at the event.

Tribal employee and bull riding participant Daniel Castro said he enjoyed the opportunity to ride for the first time. He said adrenaline, curiosity and peer pressure all played a role in him taking the risk.

"I enjoyed that I did not get seriously injured, of course, but that I also got the opportunity," said Castro. "It was like jumping out of a plane or riding a fast street bike."

"I also liked the sense of danger," he added. "I was lucky because I walked away with just a charley-horse."

Results: Adult Barrel Racing: 1. Bogie Jumper, 2. Loreta Peterson, 3. Resha Doctor; Ribbon Roping (Co-Ed Teams): 1. Hilliard Gopher and John Anna Gopher, 2. Josh Jumper and Ahnie Jumper, 3. Naha Jumper and Kalgary Johns; Trailer Racing (3 Person Team): 1. Josh Jumper, Ahnie Jumper and Bennie Hernandez, 2. Happy Jumper, Justin Gopher and Ashley Parks, 3. Shelby DeHass, Tina Billie and Byron McIntosh; Breakaway Roping: 1. Hilliard Gopher, 2. Naha Jumper, 3. Bogie Jumper; Steer Riding: 1. Kelton Smedley, 2. Ravon Smith, 3. Andre Jumper; Senior Bull Riding: 1. Ethan Gopher, 2. Justin Gopher, 3. Ernie Cournon; Team Penning: 1. Kalgary Johns and Ahnie Jumper, 2. Al Tigertail and Tyler Tigertail, 3. Happy Gopher and Justin Gopher; Barrel Racing, Ages 11-16: 1. Heather Parks, 2. Ashley Parks, 3. Tyler Tigertail; Calf Riding: 1. Rayven King, 2. Dayra Koenes, 3. A.J. Tigertail; Mutton Busting: 1. Myron Billie, 2. Nicholas Andrews, 3. David Descheene; Kids Calf Scramble: 1. Blevyn Jumper, 2. Rayvon Smith, 10 and Younger Barrel Racing: 1. Ahnie Jumper, 2. Cyrus Smedley, 3. Sarah Descheene.

Zechariah Lacey Receives Black Belt

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

DAVIE, Fla. — Zechariah Lacey received his black belt in Taekwondo during the 19th annual Hodori presentation, held at the University Center at Nova Southeastern University on Jan. 23.

ent movements including kicking, punching and self-defense techniques.

Acquiring his first degree black belt is only the beginning, Lacey stressed. He plans to continue his career in martial arts and receive his second degree black belt by the end of this summer.

Practicing nearly every day for five hours has given Lacey insight in many areas of martial arts. He now assists with instructing classes with students ranging from 4 to 30 years old at Master Sang's Weston, Pembroke Pines and Cooper City schools.

"I like feeling good and feeling strong," he said. "I also like to teach the kids and you also gain respect and confidence."

He said he would highly recommend any of the martial arts classes because with fitness comes strength, awareness and confidence. He called it a great activity for body and mind.

Lacey, along with about 25 of his fellow students, also took part in another TNT demonstration at the Miami Heat's halftime show in their home game against the Minnesota Timberwolves on Feb. 18.

Lacey said he admires the work of Master Sang Koo Kang and hopes to partner with him in the future to open training centers within the Tribe. He is also planning to travel to South Korea to visit some of the martial arts centers there.

If he doesn't open a center he would like to pursue a career with government law enforcement as a martial arts instructor. Lacey said he plans to further his education by attending either Florida State University or the University of Miami to study business or law.



Submitted by Tina Lacey

Master Sang Koo Kang, black belt recipient Zechariah Lacey and grandmother, Connie Gowan.

Hodori is the name of the Korean Taekwondo National Demonstration Team, and also a cartoon tiger symbol that represents the friendly and hospitable traditions of the Korean people.

Lacey is an eighth grader at American Heritage School in Plantation, Fla. He has been active in martial arts on and off since he was 3 years old. For the past two and a half years he has attended classes at Master Sang's TNT Academy. His 15-year-old sister, Victoria, also attends.

TNT, a unique martial arts system developed by Master Sang, stands for "Taekwondo, Ninjitsu, Taijiquan." Lacey said he has grown up doing martial arts including Karate, Taekwondo and even Muay Thai. Each art focuses on differ-

Players Compete for Basketball Title at Jones Memorial Hollywood Ladies, Big Town Teams Claim Top Spots in Tourney

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The heat was on as reservations came together in Brighton the weekend of Jan. 23-24 to compete for the championship at the 25th Annual Bert C. Jones Memorial Basketball Tournament, hosted by the Brighton Recreation Dept.

"Some of you have been coming since you were a teenager and are still here bringing your children," said Louise Gopher, sister of the late Bert C. Jones, as she welcomed spectators. "I appreciate that."

Seminole Tribal citizens, as well as Tribal members from throughout Indian Country, teamed up, and went head-to-head to win the grand title.

The tournament was broken into two divisions, men and women. Five men's teams competed and four women's teams competed. To be eligible for the tournament, players had to be at least 16 years old and a Tribal member.

Day 2, Jan. 24, was an exhausting day for players as the tournament kicked off at 9 a.m. and teams began to climb their way to the finals, held later that evening.

The Lady Ballers started strong, defeating the Brighton Ladies in the first round. The team then went on to the finals where they took on the Hollywood Ladies.

The Hollywood Ladies controlled the court in the first half,

leaving the Lady Ballers trailing by 13 points. Intensity grew during the second half as the Lady Ballers fought hard to close the gap in scoring. The Hollywood Ladies just wouldn't back down, however, keeping the Lady Ballers at bay.

The Hollywood Ladies snagged the win, 46-37, to claim the championship title. Team members included JoJo Osceola, Tasha Osceola, Stephanie Huggins, Virginia Osceola, Jeanie Osceola and Anna VanStappen.

In the Men's Division competition, Big Town dominated the competition early on. Big Town players Amos Huggins, Jerome Huggins, Josh Williams, Brigham Bert, Shawn Doherty and Eric Beatty kept the ball in their control all the way to the finals.

Big Town and DemBoyz played back-to-back games, including a double overtime game against team Uprising, before claiming a spot in the finals.

Big Town and DemBoyz went head-to-head, giving the growing crowd something to yell about. Shouts could be heard as the referees made penalty calls. At the half, Big Town held the lead, 47-34, leaving DemBoyz dragging.

The crowd hoped DemBoyz would get their second wind in the second half, but it didn't happen. DemBoyz just couldn't keep up with Big Town. Big Town won with a 30 point lead, naming them the champions of the tournament.



Rachel Buxton

Jerome Davis shoots a lay up, and gives his team the lead in double overtime.

Seminole Soccer Team Completes Inaugural Season

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole soccer team played their final soccer game at Driftwood Field against Driftwood Team 3 on Jan. 29.

The team played more than a dozen games throughout the course of their inaugural season, which began in October of last year.

Coach Ron Ward from the Seminole Recreation Dept. said the young soccer enthusiasts got better and better with each game they played. He said most of the children expressed an interest in continuing to develop and improve their ability and awareness of the sport even after the season ended.

"The kids made big improvements in skill and knowledge of the game," said Ward.



Submitted by the Seminole Recreation Dept.

(Back Row, L-R) Coaches Chuck Osceola, Ron Ward and Sunny Frank, and players (Center Row, L-R) Alani Frank, C.J. Osceola, Jaden Banksten, Analise Jimenez, Meleah Smith, Jessilyn Osceola, Chandler DeMayo, Jallyn Mowatt, (Front Row, L-R) Bella Sisto, Teijo Smith, Italia Sisto, David Descheene, Janae Banksten, Helesi Two Shoes and Jolee Melcalf.

'Hard Knocks' Hit the Hard Rock at Boxing Event

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Two of boxing's top contenders kicked off 2009 in style Jan. 14 at the Hard Rock Live.

Seminole Warriors Boxing's "Hard Knocks at the Hard Rock" brought Edison "Pantera" Miranda and Sechew "The Iron Horse" Powell back into the spotlight in the middleweight and light heavyweight divisions.

Both had something to prove coming in, and had impressive showings. Powell held top billing in the main bout with Miranda as the co-main attraction, along with seven other bouts on the slate.

Powell (24-2, 14 KOs) grabbed a

unanimous decision win in his last outing over Clarence Taylor on the eight rounds last October. He faced veteran Christian Lloyd Joseph (20-7-1, 7 KOs) in a scheduled 12 rounder. Joseph came in a loser of two straight. The veteran International Boxing Association intercontinental light middleweight title was up for grabs to the victor.

Miranda (30-3, 26 KOs) returned to action trying to rebound from a devastating fourth round TKO loss to International Boxing Federation middleweight champion Arthur Abraham last June. He faced an ill-equipped Emmanuel Esparza.

Powell would handle his business quick and easy taking Joseph out with a third round TKO at the 2:30 mark. The dismantling began with a power right hook by Powell. He then finished Joseph off with a barrage of flurries before the referee stopped the fight.

"After the first round, I saw then how he reacted to my pressure," the new champion Powell pointed out. "This is a huge win and it is my first belt. I am going to be excited for long time."

"I am going to sit back now and let my team handle things," he continued.

Miranda had similar positive results. Controlling the fight from the opening bell, he used his jab early building momentum knocking

Esparza down and wobbling him. At the 52 second mark in the third, a beaten Esparza buckled under Miranda's power being counted out.

In other action, Jose Nieves faced Jose Garcia Bernal in the bantamweight division. Nieves came out with the win by a unanimous decision in a scheduled six rounds.

Among welterweights, Miami local Antwone Smith picked up his 14th win by a unanimous decision against Ben Ankrah in eight rounds. Jonathan Gonzalez and Alejandro Arteola, both welterweights, made their professional debuts. Gonzalez impressively won by TKO in the third round.

In lightweight action, Stalin Lopez picked up his first professional win against Jean Petit Homme by a unanimous decision in four rounds.

In a scheduled four-rounder, Jonathan Cepeda stayed undefeated against Marvin Blair in middleweight action, winning by a unanimous decision.

Yathomas Riley and Evjen Starbustsev, both out of Miami, squared off with Timothy Taggart and won by a unanimous decision in four rounds. Deets lost six straight fights prior to his fight against Taggart.

The Seminole Tribal Council, including President Richard Bowers Jr. and Fort Pierce Liaison S.R. Tommie, showed their support and enjoyed the action at the fights.

Glen Johnson will headline the next action for Warriors, set for Feb. 27.



Photo Courtesy Redline Media Group

(L-R) Edison "Pantera" Miranda looks to set up a jab on Sechew "The Iron Horse" Esparza in their scheduled eight round bout.

Health

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 third part in a three-part series on breast cancer. If you would like to ask a question, please write fred@healthygeezer.com. All Rights Reserved ©2009 by Fred Ciccetti.]

Q: I've heard the worst pain you can experience is from passing a kidney stone. True?

A: I have a friend who served in the Royal Air Force in World War II. On a bombing run over Germany, his co-pilot started to pass a kidney stone. The pain was so bad that the poor guy wanted to jump out of the plane. He had to be knocked unconscious.

Kidney stones have been inflicting extreme pain for at least 7,000 years; evidence of them was found in an Egyptian mummy.

In the U.S., there are about one million cases of kidney stones each year. The number of people in the country with kidney stones has been increasing inexplicably over the last three decades. Stones occur more frequently in men, and the frequency increases with age.

Kidney stones are composed of crystals of substances in urine. Many small stones pass unnoticed from the two kidneys down the tubes (ureters) leading to the bladder. But, if they are too large to pass, you may feel pain.

The crystals that make up stones are likely to form when your urine contains a high level of certain substances. Crystals also may form if your urine becomes too concentrated.

Kidney stones can be caused by heredity, diet, drugs, climate, infection and other conditions that create an increased concentration of calcium, oxalate and uric acid in the urine.

There are four primary types of stones. Calcium stones are the

most common; about 80 percent of kidney stones are composed of calcium. Struvite stones usually occur in women and are almost always caused by urinary tract infections. Uric acid stones can develop from a high-protein diet. Cystine stones are caused by a hereditary disorder.

Kidneys are located below the ribs toward the middle of the back. They're shaped like beans and they're about the size of your fist. The kidneys remove excess water and waste from the blood and convert it to urine. They have other functions, too, that affect blood.

The most common symptom of a kidney stone is severe pain that usually starts in the back or side just below the ribs. The pain may spread to the lower abdomen, groin and genitals if the stone moves down a ureter toward your bladder. Other symptoms include blood in the urine, nausea and vomiting, constant need to urinate, and fever.

There are various treatments for kidney stones. Taking a painkiller and drinking a lot of water with increased physical activity can work. Extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy (ESWL) uses shock waves to break up the stone. If the stone is very large, surgery may be needed. Medication or dietary changes may be prescribed to prevent more stones.

If you don't drink enough fluids, your urine can become more concentrated and that can lead to stone formation. People exposed to heat are more likely to get kidney stones. That's why kidney stones are more common in summer.

Here are a few tips for reducing the chances of getting a stone: drink about six glasses of water daily, and when it gets hot, try to drink twice as much; cut down on meat in your diet; reduce your salt intake and remember, most of the salt you eat is in prepared foods, not the shaker on your table; drink decaffeinated beverages because caffeine can dehydrate you; and, try to incorporate lemons into your diet, as they inhibit kidney stones.

Communities Celebrate National Wear Red Day

STORY AND PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY
The Seminole Health Dept.

Tribal citizens, community members and employees on the Big Cypress, Brighton, Hollywood and Immokalee Reservations took part in National Wear Red Day on Feb. 6 to show their support for the fight against heart disease.

National Wear Red Day, sponsored by the American Heart Association (AHA) and the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, aims to bring awareness to the devastating effects of heart disease in both men and women.

Heart disease is the number one killer of men and has become the number one killer of women as well, according to statistics published by the AHA. High cholesterol, high blood pressure and uncontrolled diabetes all contribute to heart disease and can lead to heart attacks and strokes.

Luckily, there are things everyone can do to prevent and improve their heart health. These include: not smoking; getting at least 30 minutes of exercise a day; choosing foods that are low in fats and sugars and high in fiber, such as fruits, vegetables and whole grains; getting friends and family involved and sticking to a plan to be healthier, which works better when those around you join in; controlling your stress level; and visiting your clinic for regular check-ups.



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Announcements

IN MEMORIAM

Forever Thankful

On behalf of the Jumper family, I cannot thank you, our friends, or for better words, our brothers and sisters for all you did. We were overwhelmed by the love and respect you showed us with your kindness in helping us through this time of farewell to our baby boy.

Though I'm sure many of you never got a chance to know little Landon, you took time out of your day to share with our family this special day at the church and burial grounds. I am forever grateful to the Creator that he has allowed me to live among people whose hearts were open and concerned by your many acts of love.

I know we will never get to thank you all personally but I do know this that God the Creator will bless those who bless others, and truly you have all been a blessing to us.

MATV,
Sho-nobish,
— Moses Jumper Jr.



Little Cowboy Angel

He couldn't play like the normal boys you would see But he was special to his Nana and me. No one could deny the toughness this little Indian cowboy had inside.

From the time he was born, life didn't give him an easy ride. Through his physical and mental hurts, he rode through the ups and downs.

He rode hard and he tied fast till that final whistle would sound.

And when he broke the barrier and the Great Judge said it was time to go. He told his Bigg Poppa and Nana he had to go to another show.

Today I know he would say don't fret too much for me.

The rodeos up here are painless and free.

And I know when in this world we make that last ride We'll see a little cowboy angel riding by the Great Judge's side.

— Bigg Poppa

Prose Poem for Catherine

I looked up and saw you near the twilight. You were drawing and writing, an angelic light, a youthful vision shining on, a morning star, exuberant! We'll meet again someday, on the outskirts of a glittering dawn, on the streets of a cherished morning, in the golden castles of poetry! We'll smile and laugh again in the happiest poems, like the hymns and the light which are your gifts from God. Let the brave and eloquent songs become your radiant wings. Let the dearest comfort speak to you, till we speak again. Emerge like a new butterfly, enduring.



fluttering upon your sacred journey, for I know we'll meet again. Write your poems. Draw your pictures. I want to read them and see them. An angelic light shining on. And Catherine, please remember, we will meet again on the outskirts of a glittering dawn, on the streets of a cherished morning, in the golden castles of poetry. And Catherine, please know that these words can never express the fullness of the love I feel for you. I'll miss you and will think of you all the days of my life.

— Elgin Jumper
January 31, 2009

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Lorri Osceola, daughter of Curtis Osceola Sr. of Hollywood and Tara Osceola Leonard of Anadarko, Okla., is a sophomore at Anadarko High School. She plays on the Lady Warriors basketball team and also plays softball for her school.

Lorri was recently elected the sophomore princess for the school's Homecoming 2009!

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2009 REZ RALLY

Rally

Continued from page 1A

People come out not only for the trophy but also in support of their health. Based on a study by the Seminole Tribe Health Dept., 18 percent of Tribal citizens have diabetes. The Annual Rez Rally has helped to raise awareness for the deadly disease that has affected so many. For some, it is the start of a life change.

"I've seen people I never thought would be out here," said Chairman Cypress. "If you set your goal and stop making excuses you can do it."

Some participants began training for the roughly 3 mile race months in advance, including Immokalee team captain Amy Yzaguirre, who said her family ran together to get ready for the big day. Reservations held practice walks to help people get in shape. Brighton included weight training and water aerobics in their workouts.

"It helps to improve the health of the community and brings families together," said fitness specialist Kai Setty.

At a little past 8 a.m. Rez Rally participants heard opening remarks and rules from the event organizers. Members of the Seminole Tribe Fitness Dept. led a warm-up session that included pre-race stretches.

Tribal officials were introduced and took part in the friendly competition cheering for their individual reservation. This year's host, Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. took the stage and showed off his team Hollywood sweater.



Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. (Center, Right) and native motivational speaker/comedian Vaughn Eaglebear (Center, Left) hold Hollywood/FL Pierce/Trail's winning Rez Rally trophy.



Giovanni Alvarez, of the Big Cypress Fire Dept., is the first to cross the finish line with a time of 15:05 for the roughly 3 mile race.

"There's the health aspect to the race, but also it promotes coming together," said Rep. Osceola. "There is the competition but together we are the Seminole Tribe of Florida."

Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith said it was "good to see something like this happen for our people" and Chairman Cypress joked with the crowd before the race officially got underway.

"I'm from Big Cypress but whoever wins, I'm with them," Chairman Cypress said.

Tribal citizen Paul "Cowbone" Buster of Hollywood offered the prayer and a moment of silence for the passing of recent Tribal citizens before the crowd then headed to the starting line.

Race categories were broken down by age, as well as divisions for walkers, runners, strollers, wheelchairs and employees.

The runners kicked things off with Rep. Osceola along with Nike® Native American Representative Sam McCracken signaling the start of the race with Rep. Osceola's signature phrase, "Let's wiggle and giggle."

There were a total of 1,434 participants from all reservations and walks of life.

Jennifer Chadwick of Big Cypress attended after being hospitalized during last year's rally. Chadwick admitted that her sister signed her up this year and that the Nikes® given out were an incentive. However, she said she knew the true meaning behind the event.

"We need to be in better health," Chadwick said. "I'll sign myself up next year and my husband."

After the race, individuals enjoyed a brunch under the tent with motivational speaker and comedian Vaughn Eaglebear.

Eaglebear is a member of the Lakota Sioux Colville Indian Tribe in Spokane, Wash. He wrote and performed the song "John Wayne's Teeth" for the Sherman Alexie film, "Smoke Signals." He is not only a multi-talented individual but also an inspiration to all.

Eaglebear said he once weighed more than 300 pounds and openly admits he has a daily struggle with food. He stressed how it is important to have a healthy lifestyle. "We don't have to be perfect," he said. "Progress, not perfection."

Eaglebear also announced other Rez Rally contest winners including the clan that had the most participants, the Bear Clan, the reservation with the highest Tribal citizen participation, Brighton/Tampa with 262 attendees, and the reservation with the most race winners, Brighton, with a total of 61 winners.



The runners take off for the nearly 3 mile Rez Rally, held Jan. 17 on the Hollywood Reservation.



Participants in the annual Rez Rally do some pre-race stretches to ensure their safety during the race.

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2009 Tribal Fair D



Marisol Gonzalez

With members of the Seminole Color Guard (Back Row) posting the colors and Medicine Man Bobby Henry (Back Row, Center) looking on, the preschoolers recite the Pledge of Allegiance during the Grand Entry on the first day of Tribal Fair.

Tribal Fair 2009 Kicks Off With Opening Ceremonies

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter



Chris C. Jenkins
Hip-hop artist Litefoot signs autographs for Tribal citizens during the Grand Entry.

HOLLYWOOD — In its 38th year running, the Tribe and other natives from across the country gathered to celebrate grand entry ceremonies for the Tribal Fair Feb. 13-15.

In today's hard hit economy, this year's version of the longstanding event saw a more quaint look and appeal. However, dignitaries, royalty, veterans, guests and a host of vendors made the trip from all over the U.S. and Canada to kick off the weekend's festivities.

"Compared to last year we did a lot of cut backs, the council got together and decided it was a good idea," Chairman Mitchell Cypress explained. "A lot of the vendors were still involved. Everyone still came out and got involved. We still also got to see old friends and as long as everyone was happy, so am I."

Third year Tribal Fair Director Frank Moore said coordinating this year's Tribal Fair was an enriching experience.

"Personally, each year this experience has empowered me, and I am glad the Tribe has continued to entrust me with this honor," Moore pointed out.

Tribal citizen and fair emcee JR Battiest also recalled the Tribal Fair's simpler time.

"I remember when it was just the rodeo grounds," Battiest said. "It was just a small venue before the emergence of the Hard Rock."

His son, and Seminole Star Search participant, Spencer, also performed.

"This event has come along ways in the 25 years I have been involved in this," he said. "I have seen it change from a regular festival to a grand event, and now back."

The scaled back ceremonies this year did not discourage Eastern Band Cherokee Indians Tribal citizen Eric Bird, who came all the way from North Carolina, from attending. This was his seventh year as a participant.

"I enjoy the energy and the atmosphere each year," Bird said.

Other performers included the Seminole Stomp Dancers, the Cherokee Anikihulwa Warrior Dancers, the Artec Fire dancers, Paul Buster and the Cowbone Band, storytelling from Tribal citizen Herbert Jim, the Deer Clan dancers, the Sky Smoke Dancers and many others throughout the day.

Cherokee/Chickasaw rap artist Gary Paul Davis, better known in the music industry, to fans and in the hip-hop world as Litefoot, came to this year's fair as a vendor. He sold custom T-shirts and other items from his line, Native Style, and of his likeness. He said he has been a part of the fair since early 2000.

"I enjoy seeing people every year from BC, Brighton, and everywhere, because you get to see people reconnect," he said. "I feel a responsibility to the Tribe ... It is a part of Seminole tradition to welcome everyone so graciously."

"I am also a role model for Indian Country and never run from that," Litefoot added.

Hollywood resident and third year vendor Leslie Osceola sold many items at her booth, including Tribal dolls custom-crafted by Tribal elder Maggie Osceola. Leslie Osceola said she likes many things about attending the annual gathering.

"I enjoy the atmosphere and seeing the people," she said. "It is fun."



Chris C. Jenkins
The Sky Smoke Dancers from Six Nations of the Grand River, Ontario, Canada perform one of their social dances on stage.



Chris C. Jenkins
Tribal citizen and Medicine Man Bobby Henry (R) leads Seminole Stomp Dancers Victor Billie (L) and Mercedes Osceola-Hahn (C).



Chris C. Jenkins
Vendor and Tribal citizen Leslie Osceola sells handmade Seminole dolls crafted by Maggie Osceola.



Marisol Gonzalez

First runner up Jagger Avery Gaucin waves at the judges during a round of modeling.



Marisol Gonzalez

Arissa L. Cypress makes her way around the judges throughout the competition. She was second runner up for the title.



Marisol Gonzalez

(L-R) Moses "Big" Jumper Jr. listens to the newly-crowned Little Miss Seminole Aubee Susie Billie as she explains that her brother, Santiago, won the title of 2008-2009 Little Mr. Seminole.

◆ Pageant

Continued from page 1A

Volunteer Leila Baksh and Alice Billie, who handled trophies and flowers.

The runners-up in the Little Miss contest, in first through sixth place, respectively, were Rudy Lin Osceola, Arissa Cypress, Analyse Ah-miah Stockton, Clarice DeMayo, Vennabella Sisto and Elle Thomas, with Aubee Susie Billie claiming the top honor.

Mom Maria Billie said she and Aubee practiced for the pageant for months and were both surprised and excited about the win.

"This was Aubee's first year competing," Billie said.

First through sixth place in the Little Mister contest went to Jagger Avery Gaucin, Chandler DeMayo, Krishawn D. Henry, Tiger John Youngman, Dante Lewis Thomas, and Aidan Jason Tommie, respectively, with Lance Howard taking home the title.

Dad Larry Howard said he was excited about his son's victory, especially given his second place win in last year's Little Mister contest.



Marisol Gonzalez

(L-R) Miss Florida Seminole adjusts the sash of the newly-named Little Mr. Seminole Lance Howard.



Marisol Gonzalez

(L-R) Chandler DeMayo is asked what his favorite animal is by Miss Florida Seminole D'Anna Osceola; DeMayo answered, a panda. He was also second runner up in the competition.

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Native Artists Perform at Tribal Fair

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Local artists performed at the 38th Annual Seminole Tribal Fair in the arena of the Hard Rock Live Feb 13-15.

Herbert Jim, Sonny Nevaquaya, Paul Buster and the Cowbone Band, R.C. North and Hybiskus, Billy Walker and Spencer Battisti entertained the crowds during the annual Seminole Tribal Fair.

Whether it was singing, storytelling, alligator wrestling or playing an instrument each act brought their own flair to the stage to amuse the audience.

Herbert Jim told stories about when he was a young Seminole boy. He shared stories about how he learned many important lessons from his grandmother. He said they would watch the seasons change, and plant accordingly.

Jim also said although his family did not have a lot of money, they were rich in culture because they lived off the land. They would clean the branches around the plants and cut whatever was in season.

"When I was little and winter came it was time to start a fire and protect our plants," Jim said. Following Jim was Sonny Nevaquaya.

Nevaquaya is Comanche from Oklahoma, though he currently resides in Hollywood with his wife, Christine. He is a flute player and also makes flutes. He recorded his first album entitled Spirit of the Flute in 1993.

In his final performance on the afternoon of Feb. 15, two of his granddaughters joined him on stage to perform native dances.

Billy Walker also took the stage and showed off his dangerous trade of alligator wrestling. He explained that alligators have 80 teeth, 40 on the top and 40 on the bottom. Walker said when an alligator loses a tooth, one grows right back in.



Marisol Gonzalez

Well known alligator wrestler Billy Walker shows the crowd the famous bull dog alligator pose.



Marisol Gonzalez

Herbert Jim tells the crowd stories of growing up and learning from his grandmother.

He performed different tricks including the bull dog and the Florida smile where he first would trick the audience with his own smile instead of opening the alligator's mouth.

R.C. North and his band Hybiskus, Paul Buster and the Cowbone Band and Spencer Battisti were three acts that played music and sang songs. These artists wrote and composed most of their songs themselves. This was Battisti's first solo performance.



Marisol Gonzalez

Paul Buster sings with the Cowbone band.

Tribal Fair Features Various Dance Troupes

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The 38th Annual Seminole Tribal Fair brought out dance troupes from all parts of North America into the arena of the Hard Rock Live. Native American dancers performed for the audience daily during the fair, held Feb. 13-15.

The first ones to entertain the crowd were the Deer Clan Dancers of Big Town Crossing from Cherokee, N.C.

Osceola Red Shirt introduced the dancers and spoke to the crowd about traditional dances held during healing ceremonies back home. The Deer Clan Dancers performed twice daily at the 38th Annual Tribal Fair.

Up next were the Sky Smoke Dancers from Six Nations of the Grand River, Ontario, Canada. They explained that all their dances seen during the weekend were those of many social dances performed for fun. The social dances were different from those held during annual Tribal ceremonies, performed only during ceremonial occasions back in their

native Canada.

"Our dance group started in 1946 by my great-uncle, Howard Sky, then my father, James Sky, took it over when he passed," said troupe member Susan Sky Isaacs.

Since her father's passing a few years ago, Isaacs is now the organizer of the group. She travels with her family members to perform her family's traditional dances and keeps her family's stories and dances alive.

This was the first time the Sky Smoke Dancers performed at the Seminole Tribal Fair.

Following the Sky Smoke Dancers were the Anikithwa Warrior Dancers who performed their Cherokee social dances, including the Bear Dance and Friendship Dance. They explained the significance of the dances, their traditional clothing and their history and culture.

Students from the Boca Raton Christian Academy joined the dancers on stage during the Bear Dance where they were instructed to imitate the actions of a bear. They were told act like a bear, walk like the bear and even roar like a bear.

The Seminole Stomp Dancers then took the stage donning their Seminole fashions while they sang and stomped traditional songs and dances. Brian Zepeda introduced the dancers and welcomed the guests to the annual gathering.

Tribal elder Bobby Henry of Tampa led Mercedes Osceola-

Hahn, JoJo Osceola, Brian Zepeda, Pedro Zepeda, Victor Billie, Billy Walker, Herbert Jim and Everett Osceola in most of the dances they performed.

Brian Zepeda also shared stories of how the songs and dances came about. He described requirements of traditions that must be done in the dances.

"Our opening song is a requirement and is done before any other song or dance can be done," Zepeda explained.

The Seminole Stomp Dancers then went on to perform their regular stomp dance, a quail dance, and even a love song about catfish where they used their arms to make motions of catfish whiskers.

The final dance group that went on to perform was the Aztec Fire Dancers from Mexico City, Mexico.

The Salinas Family travels together as a family to perform their acts across the country. They explained that their dances are passed from generation to generation and dance ceremonies can last up to 10 hours at times. They also discussed how the traditional regalia they wear for their dances used to be made of all gold, but now the materials are replaced with sequins and glass beads.

The Aztec also explained the "chachayotes" rattles on their legs. The natives believed that these rattles contained a toxic medicine to keep away negative forces as well as have healing powers that were released in the sound that they made.

Some of the performers also participated as vendors and sold their Native American crafts brought from their homeland.



Tribal elder Bobby Henry of Tampa leads the Seminole Stomp Dancers in the first dance of their performance.



Sara Gee (L), a fourth grader at Boca Christian Academy, acts like a bear with a member of the Anikithwa Warrior Dancers from Cherokee, N.C.



Fancy Shawl dancer of the Deer Clan Group mesmerizes the crowd with the strands of colors on her shawl.



Father of the Salina Aztec Fire Dancers family performs one of many social dances done nearly every weekend in Mexico.

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Seminoles Compete in Annual Tribal Fair Clothing Contest

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Hundreds entered the annual clothing contest, held during the 38th Annual Seminole Tribal Fair, in the Hard Rock Live arena on Feb. 14. Sewing their creations months in advance of the actual contest, Tribal citizens from all reservations partook in the contest, both as seamstresses and models.

Categories included 1800 old traditional, 1900 old traditional, 2000 contemporary, modern day fashion and jackets. Entrants were then separated into male and female divisions, then further divided into one of the following age categories: 0-12 months, 1-4, 5-8, 9-12, 13-17, 18-25, 26-35, 36-45, 46-54, 55-64 and 65 and older.

The contest rules included that each piece entered must have been made within the past six months and only one outfit entered per category.

Each category and age group placed from first to fifth place, according to rulings made by judges Lisa Stevens, Julie Roslyn, Jeff Pharr and Maria Figini. The four are all award-winning patchwork quilters with more than 50 years of combined experience.

Oneva Osceola and about seven of her family members modeled dozens of outfits she created herself. She said she had been working on them since December 2008 in anticipation for the annual event.

Osceola said she learned to sew from

her grandmother, Minnie Micco, and her favorite style of clothing to make is the contemporary clothing with shinier material. She said she participates in the clothing contest to represent her Seminole heritage.

"This event represents who we are and we are proud of who we are," Osceola said.

Francine Osceola, with the help of Judy Jones, coordinated the clothing contest. This was her first year taking on this responsibility. She said Judy Jones was a big help to her in organizing and showing her the ropes.

Osceola said her goal was to shy away from outside patchwork and designs. She said it is important to keep the tradition alive and get back a lot of what was lost from the past. She also stresses for others to focus more on traditions, such as tiny designs of patchwork, instead of larger, fancier designs.

Osceola said she enjoys sewing children's clothing and learned how to sew from her grandmother, Frances Billie.

JR Battiest emceed the clothing contest. Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. and President Richard Bowers Jr. attended the event and welcomed everyone to the festivities.

Osceola said he was proud to see so many participants join together to show off their Seminole colors and be proud of their Seminole culture and heritage.

For a complete list of winners, please see the Mar. 27 issue.



Marisol Gonzalez

Miah Elizabeth Osceola models her Clothing Contest outfit.



Marisol Gonzalez

Draven Stryker Osceola-Hahn wears the clothes made by his grandmother, Virginia Osceola.



Marisol Gonzalez

(L-R) Parker Jones, Thomas Billie and Moses "Biggs" Juniper Jr. took top honors in the men's 1800s old traditional category.



Marisol Gonzalez

Brandon and Kyle Entry wait for their category to be called for the youth division of the contest.



Marisol Gonzalez

(L-R) Elsie Bowers, Mary Osceola-Moore, Sally Billie and Onnie Osceola model their entries in the jacket category.

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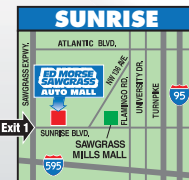
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Competitors Give It Their All in Tribal Fair Sporting Events

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Just as this year's annual Tribal Fair had its share of activities, the sports scene also provided some thrills and memories the weekend of Feb. 13-15.

Two of the fair's biggest draws, pool and basketball, took center stage, along with a new addition, softball, rounding out this year's competitions.

The third annual Tribal Fair Pool Tournament consisted of individual and team play gathering for 8- and 9-Ball action as well as Scotch Doubles with Double Elimination match ups. Trophies, cash awards and custom Jack Justis® pool cases were given to the winners in both adult and senior divisions, with the exception of senior men's 9-Ball.

Participation was open to all Native Americans and also included youth play. Major sponsors included Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Seminole Media Productions, and the Big Cypress and Non-Resident Recreation Departments.

BC resident and Tribal citizen Bronson Hill has played all three years of the tourney and participated in the 8-Ball portion of the tourney. He went 2-2 losing in his final match of the tournament.

"It is all fun and I like hanging out," Hill said. "I just choked, basically, in my match. I missed a shot and [my opponent] just ran it out from there."

Three year participant and Holdenville, Okla. native of the Muskogee Creek Tribe, Roley Johnson, came as a guest of Chairman Cypress. He said he really enjoys all the competition and the fun it brings.

"I like to play to win of course along with the sportsmanship and it is a good time," Johnson said.

Charley LaSarge, also from Oklahoma, said he enjoys the invites from former Sequoyah High School classmate and Big Cypress Rep. David Cypress. LaSarge said he often comes to town to play in five man team tournaments.

Meanwhile, in the Seminole Gym, six men's and women's teams took to the court in basketball tournament play. The winning team, the Seminoles, took home championship honors for the women, while the men of Trail came out on top.

South Sioux City, Neb. native Candace Blackburn played a key role with 18 points in her Red-



Talbert Cypress of the winning Trail team looks to pass the ball in the championship game against Uprising.



Elrod Bowers concentrates on his next shot during men's 8-Ball competition.



Tribal Fair inaugural softball champions, Team Anthony and Stephanie.

skins squad early first round run, winning 57-29 against their opponent. The avid hoopster moved to Hollywood in 2002 and said she got involved playing basketball in the Hollywood area through friend Nora Billie.

"I enjoy the comradery of it all every year as well as seeing everyone along with all the different Indian Tribes that come," Blackburn said.

As a newcomer this year, softball action had six teams participate with Team Anthony and Stephanie taking home the inaugural championship. Richard Osceola, of the runner up Brighton Seminoles team, said he was glad the sport was added.

"I think it is pretty good," Osceola said. "We play a lot of softball in Brighton. I just hope they keep it going ... I also like the friendly competition and I enjoyed seeing everybody again."



The traditional Seminole dolls, made from tree fibers, had several entries in the annual Tribal Fair contest.

Seminole Tribal Fair Arts and Crafts Contest Winners

Seminole Design: Ages 10-17: 1. Kirsten Doney, 2. Ravenne Osceola, 3. Brydgett Koonitz, 4. Kalgary Johns; 18 and Older: 1. Rose Tiger, 2. Melissa DeMayo, 3. Shannon Gopher, 4. Jennie Shore, 5. Mary L. Tommie, 6. Danielle Howard, 7. Edna Tommie, 8. Judy Jones.

Basketry: Ages 10-17: 1. Kirsten Doney; 18 and Older: 1.



Basketry arts and crafts contest entries.

Mary R. Billie, 2. Louise Billie, 3. Sylvia Marrero, 4. Grace Koonitz, 5. Judy Jones, 6. Salina Dorgan, 7. Joanne Osceola, 8. JoJo Osceola.

Patchwork Clothing: 10-17: 1. Kirsten Doney, 2. Alisia Billie, 3. Erena Billie, 4. Kalgary Johns; 18 and Older: 1. Oneva Jones, 2. Frances Osceola, 3. Danielle Howard, 4. Cornelia Osceola, 5. Virginia Osceola, 6. Melissa DeMayo, 7. Clarissa Randolph, 8. Jennifer Jones.

Seminole Dolls: Ages 10-17: 1. Brydgett Koonitz, 2. Steve Brantley, 18 and Older: 1. Maydell Osceola, 2. Judy Baker, 3. Cornelia Osceola, 4. Mary R. Billie, 5. Bonnie Mallow, 6. Frances Osceola, 7. JoJo Osceola, 8. Nancy Mallow.

Woodwork: Ages 10-17: 1. Michael J. Shaffer, 2. Rayven Smith, 3. Rylee Smith, 4. Donovan Taylor Osceola, 18 and Older: 1. George Micco, 2. Milo Osceola, 3. Howard Micco, 4. Michael Micco, 5.

Jason Tommie, 6. Billie Micco, 7. Vinson Osceola, 8. Joey Micco.

Beadwork: Ages 10-17: 1. Kalgary Johns, 2. Donovan Osceola, 3. Mila Osceola, 4. Alisia Billie, 5. Jade Lizett Tapia; 18 and Older: 1. Richard Doctor, 2. Edna Tommie, 3. Joleigh Jumper, 4. Gordon Wareham, 5. Beulah Gopher, 6. Carol Cypress, 7. Shannon Gopher, 8. Victory Osceola. Pencil, Pen and Ink: Ages 10-17: 1. Courtney Osceola, 2. Hilary Josh; 18 and Older: 1. JoJo Osceola, 2. Patty Entry, 3. Wilson Bowers.

Watercolor: Ages 10-17: 1. Kirsten Doney, 18 and Older: 1. JoJo Osceola, 2. Patty Entry, 3. Wilson Bowers.

Oil: Ages 10-17: 1. Kirsten Doney, 18 and Older: 1. Elgin Jumper, 2. Wilson Bowers. Acrylic: Ages 10-17: 1. Hilary Josh; 18 and Older: 1. Jimmy Osceola, 2. Elgin Jumper, 3. Holly Johns, 4. Patty Entry, 5. JoJo Osceola. Photography: Ages 10-17: 1. Courtney Osceola, 2. Kirsten Doney, 18 and Older: 1. Charlie Scott Osceola, 2. Gordon Wareham, 3. Chris Osceola, 4. Wilson Bowers, 5. Wanda Bowers. Mixed Media: Ages 10-17: 1. Kirsten Doney, 18 and Older: 1. Chris Osceola, 2. Holly Johns. Ceramics: 18 and Older: 1. Nancy Mallow, 2. Linda Frank, 3. Carol Cypress, 4. Ruth Osceola, 5. Rachel Billie.

Participation: Pencil: Ages 6-9: Shaylinne Josh, Alysa Osceola; Mixed Media: Ages 6-9: Shaylinne Josh, Aryana Tommie, Aidan Tommie, Thomlyn Billie.



Ceramics entries in the Tribal Fair contest.

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2009 Tribal Fair Sporting Event Results

Tribal Fair Pool

Boys: 8-12: 1. Josh Baromey, 2. Areck Jumper, 3. Daniel Nunez, 4. Mason Micco, 5. Rhett Tiger; Girls: 8-12: 1. Cheyenne Nunez, 2. Caroline Micco, 3. Elizabeth Frank, 4. Makayla Snow; Boys: 13-17: 1. Justin Frank, 2. Jonathan Frank; Girls: 13-17: 1. Jessica Osceola, 2. Desiree Snow.

Senior Men's 8-Ball: 1. Gary Clay, 2. Charley LaSarge, 3. Rocky Pigeon, 4. Roley Johnson, 5. Ralph Gray; Senior Women's 8-Ball: 1. Lee Stokes, 2. Jane Freeman, 3. Diana Onlyachief, 4. Linda Billie, 5. Shirley Pigeon. Adult Men's 8-Ball: 1. Charley LaSarge, 2. Les Gourd, 3. Elrod Bowers, 4. Jack Billie, 5. Randy Clay; Adult Women's 8-Ball: 1. Kathryn Hair, 2. Phalyn Osceola, 3. Shirley Pigeon, 4. Diana Onlyachief, 5. Theresa Nunez.

Adult Men's 9-Ball: 1. Ralph Gray, 2. Roley Johnson, 3. David Cypress, 4. Daniel Gopher, 5. Gary Clay; Senior Women's 9-Ball: 1. Laura Clay, 2. Lee Stokes, 3. Jane Freeman, 4. Dale Grasshopper, 5. Linda Billie. Adult Men 9-Ball: 1. Phalyn Osceola, 2. Theresa Nunez, 3. Kathryn Hair, 4. Donnia Antuna, 5. Lee Stokes.

Scotch Doubles: 1. Daniel Gopher and Phalyn Osceola, 2. Boogie Nunez and Tonya Jumper, 3. Raymond Garza and Virginia Billie, 4. Tony Billie and Donnia Antuna, 5. Lonnie Billie and Connie Williams.

Tribal Fair Softball

1. Team Anthony and Stephanie, 2. Brighton Seminoles, 3. Hollywood Recreation.

Tribal Fair Basketball

Women's Division: Seminoles
Men's Division: Trail

'Seminole Gaming and Sovereignty' Author Speaks at Fair

BY SHELLEY MARMOR
Assistant Editor

HOLLYWOOD — Jessica R. Cattellino, author of "High Stakes: Florida Seminole Gaming and Sovereignty," spoke and signed copies of her book on Feb. 13-14 during the 38th annual Tribal Fair.

Interested persons, including Duane Osceola of Oklahoma and Masako Kubota, originally from Matsuyama, Japan, attended the lecture with copies of their books for the author to sign.

Cattellino said her book began as the dissertation she wrote for her Ph.D. while attending New York University (NYU), where she received her doctoral degree in 2004. She said many ethnographic books, a genre that provides information on human societies based on findings from direct fieldwork, actually begin this way.

"You don't start an academic book with an idea of what to write," she said. "You start with questions ... I thought 'Seminole gaming raised big questions.'"

Cattellino said she developed an interest in Tribal gaming while studying at NYU. During that time she said she also worked for the National Museum of the American Indian's George Gustav Heye Center in New York.

She said she wanted to write this book — the first of its kind — with a Seminole focus because the Seminole Tribe pioneered Indian gaming.

"There were a lot of newspaper articles on Tribal gaming," Cattellino said. "But I didn't feel like they represented those experiencing it."

She described her book as "the first scholarly book about one Tribe's experience in gaming," and said it covers two larger topics, how money affects culture and how to define Tribal sovereignty.

"I've found that while gaming raises dilemmas ... there's no reason to think having money erodes culture any more than being poor does," she said.

During her years of research, Cattellino said she conducted in-depth interviews with about 100 Tribal citizens, and shorter interviews with many more. She said during those interviews she learned that gaming in-and-of-itself was just the tip of the iceberg.

"Gaming isn't just about the casinos," said Cattellino, who admitted she spent much less time in casinos than talking to members of the Tribal community. "Gaming is just a business that allows the Seminoles to do what they want to do and live how they want to live."

Described as a "labor of love," Cattellino said academic books such as hers take more time to complete than best seller-type books because they require intensive and long-term field research. "High Stakes: Florida Seminole Gaming and Sovereignty" took her about seven years to complete, she said.

According to Cattellino, in 1999 the Tribal Council, in conjunction with the Legal Dept., granted her written permission to do research in Seminole Country. From 2000-2007, she said she conducted interviews with Tribal officials and Tribal citizens, attended community-oriented Tribal events and did archival research at various locations including the University of Florida, the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, and also within the Tribe.

For the most part, Cattellino said the content from her book will be taught in higher education institutions. She said since its publication in the summer of 2008,

professors at schools including Florida State University, San Diego State University and the University of North Carolina, have used her book in their classes.

She said the publisher, Duke University Press, contacted her earlier than expected to let her know they would be doing a second press run for the book, as they had already sold about 1,400 copies. Her editors at Duke said this book has sold better in its first six months than many academic books will sell in several years.

Cattellino said she will donate all profits she makes from this book to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, where she volunteered while conducting her research of the

Seminole Tribe.

She is currently in the preliminary phase of beginning her new book, which will be about Floridian Everglades communities and how they relate to and interact with their surrounding environment. She said she hopes to work with the Seminole Tribe again on this book.

Cattellino works as an associate professor of anthropology at the University of California, Los Angeles.



Jessica R. Cattellino



Marisol Gonzalez

Betty Osceola sews together her patchwork in the medicine colors of red, black and yellow.

Artists Attend Culture Classes for Tribal Fair Contests

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Members of the Hollywood community gathered in the Culture Room of the DSO building on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings for about a month to work on their clothing and arts and crafts creations for Seminole Tribal Fair.

This year, Tribal citizens created all sorts of crafts to be entered in the various contests held throughout the 38th Annual Seminole Tribal Fair and Powwow. Categories included patchwork, paintings, photography, dolls, beadwork and clothing.

Citizens followed strict instructions and guidelines for their entries in the popular self-made category. Cornelia Osceola made a man on a horse doll. From the horse to the clothing, everything was custom made.

"This is my first time entering my man on horse doll," Osceola stated.

Betty Osceola said she hadn't planned to enter any of her work in the contest but later debated on entering a yard of her patchwork to try her chances.

Many others came to the culture room to learn from avid seamstresses and practiced making other crafts for future contests.



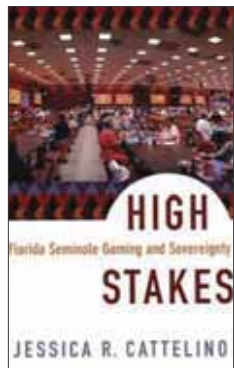
Marisol Gonzalez

Cornelia Osceola shows her completed man on horse entry.



Marisol Gonzalez

Author Jessica R. Cattellino (R) signs a book for Duane Osceola (L).



High Stakes: Florida Seminole Gaming and Sovereignty
By Jessica R. Cattellino
Paperback: 304 pages
Publisher: Duke University Press (2008)
ISBN-10: 0822342278
ISBN-13: 978-0822342274



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