

Icon of the Seminole Tribe

By Judy Weeks
BIG CYPRESS — On Dec. 24, 2005, another chapter in the history of the Seminole Tribe came to a close. Tommie Jumper, thought to be the oldest living member of the Tribe, passed away at the age of circa 105 years.

Born into the Panther clan in 1900 in the woods east of Copeland, Fla., in what is today Collier County, Tommie Roberts later married Harley Jumper. This union produced 12 children, with seven still alive today. She had more than 125 direct descendants spanning five generations.

On Mother’s Day 2005, the Immokalee community recognized Jumper with an appreciation luncheon. The gym was packed with family members and friends who wished to honor this wonderful woman.

Growing up in a time when South Florida was still an untamed wilderness, she had the opportunity of experiencing the lifestyle of our ancestors first hand. She knew the hardships of survival on the frontier, bearing your children in the woods and living off the land which her creator had provided for his children.

Like the majority of our ancestors, life was not easy for her but a most rewarding experience. As time passed and the landscape of their existence changed, Tommie and her husband moved around from one area to another, living in Copeland, on the Trail, in Hollywood, Brighton, Big Cypress, Rock Island and Immokalee. She made a home for her family wherever they set up camp.

Friends in the next generation fondly remember their parents taking them to Tommie’s camp. No matter how hard the times, there was always food and good companionship.

After the passing of her husband, Tommie made her permanent home at Big Cypress, only leaving there to live with her daughter, Delores, in Immokalee when her health became fragile. After a succession of illnesses this past year, she asked to return to her Big Cypress home for Christmas.



Tommie Jumper, photo taken at her camp circa 1975.

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Seminole Donates to Locks of Love

Story by Judy Weeks
IMMOKALEE — A seven-year-old member of the Immokalee community has learned about compassion for others at an early age. Chelsey Ford, daughter of Michelle Ford, heard from a friend that a group collects human hair to be made into wigs for medical hair loss patients.

Locks of Love is a non-profit organization that supplies hair pieces to financially disadvantaged children 18 years and younger who have lost hair due to a medical condition(s).

Chelsey said she saw children on television who had become bald because of chemotherapy for cancer and was extremely moved by their plight. Chelsey realized how lucky she was and wanted to help.



Chelsey Ford models her new coiffure.



Chelsey Ford donated this long, beautiful mane of hair to the less fortunate.

Her mother searched the internet and located a Locks of Love in Lake Worth, Fla. Through her research she learned that the organization’s founder Madonna Coffman and her four year old daughter both suffered from a disease known as Alopecia, which causes permanent hair loss.

Looking for some kind of assistance for her child, in December 1997, Coffman formed this non-profit entity. Locks of Love now enjoys national attention.

By providing natural hair pieces for afflicted children, they are able to restore self-esteem and confidence, enabling them to face the world. Locks of Love has provided wigs for

❖ See LOCKS, page 3

Tribal Council Meeting



Seminole Police Department Chief of Police honored at Tribal Council meeting.

By Janice Billie
HOLLYWOOD — The regular session of the Tribal Council was held at the Seminole Tribe Hollywood Headquarters on the morning of Jan. 13.

Two Tribal employees received special recognition from the council prior to the meeting. The Billy Cypress Service Award was presented to Cheryl Russell, a flight attendant from the Aviation department. The council then recognized Seminole Police Department Chief Mike Floyd for receiving the 2005 Police Chief of the Year Award from the National Native American Law Enforcement Association.

While leaving the Big Cypress airport on Dec. 4, Russell spotted smoke coming from off of Snake Road. She then saw that a car was burning and notified the Seminole Police dispatcher and Emergency Services.

When she approached the vehicle, she became aware of a person lying on the ground, partially in the vehicle. Despite the flames and the danger of the car exploding, she pulled the person away from the burning car.

When Emergency Services arrived, the patient was stabilized and transferred to the B. C. airport. He was helicopter evacuated by the Broward Sheriffs Office to the burn unit at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami. He expired from his

Seminole Writer Wins College Writing Contest

Editorial by Janice Billie
Tribal citizen Elgin Jumper is the son of Eva and Alan Jumper. He is a member of the Otter clan who grew up on the Hollywood Seminole reservation.

Recently a friend of his called *The Seminole Tribune* office informing us of his first place wins in two writing contests. He is taking writing classes at Broward Community College and I spoke with his instructor Elisa Albo.

“He is an excellent writer,” Albo said. “He chooses the right words to evoke all kinds of feeling. It’s a pleasure to have him in class.”

He stopped by the Tribune office at my request to drop off his poem and short story. He told me a little of the inspiration for each of these two pieces.

The “Picture of Ned Christie” was written for a class assignment. Jumper had to find a picture and write a poem based on it.

He said in his drinking days he rescued this particular picture from a bar he frequented. Ned Christie was a Cherokee

senator falsely accused of murder and hunted down and killed by federal marshals in the late 1800s. He said the story and picture of Ned Christie haunted him and he wanted to memorial-

ize him in his own way.

During the time Jumper was thinking of writing this poem, Ned Christie’s story was featured on the History Channel. He took it as sign that he chose the right subject.

In the short story “Blow, Winds—” Jumper says he wanted to write about conflict and unsettlement since he had been thinking a lot about the war in Iraq. He wrote this short story while shut in during Hurricane Wilma.

We talked long enough for me to appreciate Jumper as a guy with a story to tell.

He says he loves to write and first started writing at eight years of age. Jumper says, “I not only love to write, I need to write because it is like breathing to me.”

While doing time in prison he spent the majority of his time “reading, reading and reading.” He said he loves Shakespeare and has read most of the classics. He talked openly about his troubled past and welcomed the opportunity to share it with others.

I suggested he write a short bio to go along with his two writings He did it with the thoroughness of someone who finds writing a joy.



Elgin Jumper with a picture of Ned Christie.

Janice Billie

❖ See page 7 for more about Elgin

O’Neill “Supernova” Bell Knocks Out Opponent, Takes Tour of Rez’s



Big Cypress citizen George Billie tries on the champ’s belt.

After Victory in NYC ‘Supernova’ Kicks Off Undisputed Rez Tour

Submitted by Redline Media Group
It was the type of New Year’s kickoff that the sport of boxing needed. When it was all over, O’Neil ‘Supernova’ Bell had not only delivered a dramatic 10th round knockout of Jean-Marc Mormeck to fans at Madison Square Garden on Jan. 7.

There he became the first undisputed cruiserweight champion since Evander Holyfield accomplished the feat in 1988.

“This was boxing at its best, two great champions laying it all on the line and giving the sport one true champion,” said Leon Margules, Executive Director of Warriors Boxing Promotions, “And when O’Neil Bell emerged with the victory, he showed the heart, skill, and power that all great champions possess. He is the game’s next superstar, and he proved it on Saturday night.”

In a fight that set a standard that will be difficult to meet over the next 12 months, Bell and Mormeck battled in the trenches for 10 exhilarating rounds. But as

the rounds progressed, it was the speed, resiliency, and underrated bodywork of Bell that started to set the Atlanta-based Jamaican apart from his regarded foe.

In round seven, Bell had Mormeck in serious trouble after landing his thudding right hand. In the tenth round, Supernova finished the job with another barrage of clean punches that put the courageous Frenchman down for the count.

“I can’t take anything away from him,” said Bell (26-1-1, 24 KOs), of his opponent. “He has a lot of power and was a great champion. A lesser fighter would have been stopped by his blows, but I was able to sustain his best shots, which broke his spirit. I knew then I had won.”

The victory was the latest in a series of exciting battles for which Bell has become known throughout the fight game. Now, as the World Boxing Association, World Boxing Council, International Boxing Federation, and *The Ring* magazine champion, the 31-year-old is ready for the next step in his career.

“I’ll fight anyone,” said Bell. “I’m just glad that the entire boxing world got to see what I’m truly about and the skills I bring into the ring. After this fight,

❖ See BOXER, page 20

❖ See COUNCIL, page 26

Photo Quiz



Can you guess who this Seminole Citizen is at the Tribal Fair? Please see the Feb. 24th issue of *The Seminole Tribune* to find out.



Barfield Johns, Chickee builder

The Seminole Tribune

If you need a reporter or you would like to submit an article, birthday wish or poem to *The Seminole Tribune*, please contact the Editor-In-Chief Virginia Mitchell at (800) 683-

7800, Ext. 1260. E-mail vmitchell@semtribe.com, fax (954) 967-3482, or mail to: The Seminole Tribune, 6300 Stirling Road, Hollywood, Florida 33024.

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Letters & E-mail

Please send all letters to 6300 Stirling Road, Hollywood, FL 33024 ♦ tribune@semtribe.com

Dear Editor,

I few years ago I was a teacher at Manderson Day School on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. While there I wrote some little verses to help my students learn their colors. They loved them.

Are you aware of any magazine that solicits items for Native American children? I would like to submit my verses and other little stories for children. I think a leaflet or section of a magazine devoted to interests of children would be a great help to the teachers on the reservations. Thank you for your help,
Ethel Rybarczyk

RED

*Red is the blood of the buffalo
That used to tread the plains,
And red is the blood of my heart
That sings along my veins.*

*But redder still in the autumn
When Jack Frost shows his skill,
Is the red of the maple and sumac
In their glory on the hill.*

Dear Editor,

I am an American who lives in the Netherlands in Europe and I miss the energy I always get from powwows and other rituals of Native Americans. Now I have talked to my city and they will allow me to set up a big Native American festival, is there a possibility that you could come over.

The date would be June 8–11, when we have a full moon, or June 22–25.

Please let me know if you could me available.

Thank you very much,
Yvonne Dijt

Dear Miss Dijt,

Thank you for your invitation and your genuine appreciation of our culture.

Unfortunately, our programs are planned 12 months in advance and considering following up on your invitation would require foreign travel, we do not have the funding or resources to dedicate to your event.

If your committee has the funds to contract entertainers please contact us again and we will provide you with Tribal citizens who provide this form of entertainment as a paid service.

Again, thank you for your invitation and your interest in Native America!

Sincerely,
Tina Marie Osceola, Executive Director

**Seminole Tribe of Florida
Museum Department**

Dear Editor,

I am a law student from Japan and now studying at Queen Mary, University of London as an undergraduate associate student. As one of my modules, I am taking one linguistic course, Language in the U.S.

I will give a presentation about language profile in Florida this week. I have researched into language issues among indigenous languages in Florida and found your web site. I am now very interested in the Seminole Tribe and its culture.

Therefore, I would like to introduce any language issues the Seminole Tribe has faced in my presentation. However, I am wondering what kind of language problems the Seminoles has been struggling exactly and how to preserve their own language.

It would be great if I introduce your response in my presentation. Would you do me a favor? Could you answer my following questions?

Who and how many people can speak the Seminole language now?

How is the Seminole language used? i.e. At home, at school, at special occasions like any ceremonies and so on

Have people tried to maintain their own language? If yes, how do they do for it?

What is the most remarkable feature of the Seminole language in terms of grammar (structure) and pronunciation?

They are my questions. However, if you let me know more about the Seminole language or other things, I would be very glad. I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Madoka Yoshino

Dear Ms. Yoshino,

There are 3,000 Indians within the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Approximately one quarter to one third of our people speak our language. We speak 2 languages, Creek and Miccosukee.

Many of our elders still use their language everyday in the home. Most of the younger generations do not speak their language on a daily basis. Many younger people can understand their language, but they do not converse in it. Sometimes our language is used at Tribal functions or at ceremonies.

We are in the process of teaching our children to speak, read and write their language. We have one school that teaches grades kindergarten through 12th on a daily basis and another program that teaches students kindergarten through fifth grade one day per week.

The Okeechobee County School Board endorses and supports this program. We are in the process of opening a charter school that will teach grades kindergarten through fifth so that we can have a school that focuses on and specializes in teaching our children cultural/language lessons.

We offer languages classes to all age groups at all of our reservations in an effort to pass on and preserve our language. Our language is an oral tradition

and we only began writing our language in 1979. We recently wrote and published a dictionary.

We have 19 letters in our alphabet and many of our letters have different sounds than the sounds of the English alphabet. We do not pluralize our sentences by adding “-s” or “-es” to the end of a word. We pluralize them by the verbs that we use in the sentences.

I hope that I have answered your questions. Please feel free to write me back if I can assist you further.

**Lorene Gopher
Director of Cultural Programs
Education Department**

Dear Editor,

I first want to say that I am sending this email with sincere intentions. I have lived in Southwest Florida for more than 20 years and have spent a majority of my life outdoors. My job is in construction; my hobbies are saltwater fishing, beach going, nature so you get the picture I spend a lot of time outdoors!

The other day while working I was driving down the road in West Punta Gorda Mangroves and witnessed a hawk carrying an Erget-looking bird in its talons. This struck me as a rare event in nature that I just got to witness.

I shared this with my wife and then I said I bet there is some meaning I wonder if I could contact the Seminole Tribe to get an interpretation of the event. So with that said, I am not joking around or wanting to insult you I just know it has to have meaning and would like to request your spiritual interpretation as to its meaning to my life.

Respectfully submitted,
Brett Martin

Dear Mr. Martin,

Thank you for contacting the Tribe and for finding us on your sighting. That must have been quite an experience.

There are many legends and stories that surround both of the birds that you saw. What you saw was an amazing part of the natural cycle and although at first glance it doesn't appear to have any more significance than just that. You must also remember, however, that everyone has their own set of circumstances and spiritual guides.

This experience may mean something to you and you just need to find it within yourself to figure it out. The creator has a way of sending us messages and sometimes we need to decode them. Good luck in your journey.

Sincerely,
Tina Marie Osceola, Executive Director

**Seminole Tribe of Florida
Museum Department**

Dear Editor,

Hi, my name is Ashley McNulty and I am a student at Western Washington University in Washington State. I am currently in attending a class called “Native Peoples of North America” and we are to do a presentation on a current issue facing Native Americans.

I would like to get your thoughts or opinions on schools using Indian logos or themes as school mascots. Anything you could tell me would be extremely helpful as I am trying to get as many viewpoints on this topic as possible.

Thank you for your time and thoughts,
Ashley McNulty

Dear Ms. McNulty,

Thank you for your request for information on the position of the Seminole Tribe of Florida on the use of Indian-themed mascots or logos.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida was thrust into the center of this issue because of Florida State University's use of our Tribe and one of its leaders, Osceola, as part of its athletics program. The NCAA sought to disallow FSU to use the Seminoles and Osceola as part of their program and our Tribe fought that measure. It is important to note.

However, that in regards to the global issue of Indian-themed mascots, it is the Tribal Council's position that all sponsoring organizations get the approval of the affected Tribal Council.

The following is the transcript from an interview that I conducted with WNPR on the issue:

“As a member of the Seminole Tribe of Florida I am proud to share my culture and heritage with Florida State University's students, alumni, and fans. The NCAA's initial review and subsequent action to characterize FSU's use of our Tribe's symbols and images as ‘hostile and abusive’ was made without regard for our opinion and input. To me, the disregard for our Tribal government is far more insulting than the mascot issue.

Florida State University seeks to keep an open line of communication between the Tribe and their institution and actively solicits our opinion on issues that affect the University as well as programs and/or services that may be of use to the Tribe.

As an example, Florida State hosts a youth conference for our Tribal youth on their campus. This opportunity allows Seminole students to become familiarized with campus life and college level instruction. This year alone we have four students on campus with four more to begin classes this fall. FSU also has three Seminole graduates, of whom two are my very own cousins.

I cannot describe the feeling that I get when standing among a crowd of FSU fans cheering for their mascot, Osceola. FSU has consulted with our

Tribe about Osceola's costume as well as other symbols. In fact, our Tribe plans on adding to the authenticity of Osceola's costume by providing replicas of items the real Osceola would have worn in the 1830's.

The NCAA and the world should understand that FSU's use of Osceola as a mascot brings the real Osceola's spirit to life and even though it's during a sporting event, what other event in our society would provide us the opportunity to teach people about our culture and heritage? We are Florida's Seminoles...We are the Unconquered...We are proud. That is our story.

Today, the Seminole Tribe of Florida has an enrollment of more than 3,000 members. We have our own government led by five elected council representatives. The council is our legislature. To be ignored or overlooked by the NCAA, a large group comprised of scholars and academics, is frightening in this century.

I urge the NCAA to look within and ask themselves, to review what they have failed to learn...or better yet, maybe they could follow the lead of FSU or ask FSU to teach their organization about Indian Tribes and Government today.

I am confident that the NCAA will support the spirit of Osceola and the heritage of the Seminole Tribe of Florida by allowing Florida State University to stand proud and stand fierce as Seminoles!”

Sincerely,
Tina Marie Osceola, Executive Director

**Seminole Tribe of Florida
Museum Department**

Dear Editor,

I have a question about Seminole culture/customs... considering all of the hurricanes you have experienced recently in Florida, I was wondering if there is any kind of ceremony or invocations in Seminole culture whose purpose is to ask for protection from the elements.

I may try to include it in a fictional novel I am writing, with your permission. I would also like to use a traditional name for a character and was thinking of Abiaka because the character is a very spiritual person.

I have enjoyed reading about your history very much. To be an unconquered people is worthy of the highest admiration.

Thank you,
Russ Wood

Mr. Wood,

Thank you for your interest in our culture.

Your question is of an interesting nature because in our culture we cannot divulge the details of our ceremonies or ritual, but we can reveal that yes, we do have religious practices and beliefs concerning these storms.

Although, I cannot discuss the particulars of these ceremonies, I can tell you that one common belief shared by Seminoles is that one cannot run from the storm. We believe running from the storm will cause it to follow you.

In our modern world of emergency preparedness, it dispels the need for evacuation routes. Again, thank you for wanting to include our Tribe in your novel.

Sincerely,
Tina Marie Osceola, Executive Director

**Seminole Tribe of Florida
Museum Department**

Dear Editor,

I'm writing about U.S. government war crimes, especially early precedents for lawless violations of treaties. I'm looking into the attacks by Gen. Jackson against Seminoles in the period from 1816 to 1818.

I'd like to ask Dr. Wickman about sources for gaining knowledge of that period of time, especially Indian sources and Indian analysis. Also, contact with any other people knowledgeable such as historians and anthropologists would be helpful.

Thanks,
Kelly Patrick Gerling, Ph.D.

Dear Dr. Gerling,

Thank you for your interest in our Tribal culture. Dr. Wickman no longer works for the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida has a Museum department and a Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO). Between the two entities, we employ anthropologists and archaeologists that specialize in the history of the Seminoles as well as the Southeastern U.S.

If you have any questions, please contact, Willard Steele, David Blackard, Jim Pepe or Anne McCudden at (863) 902-1113.

Sincerely,
Tina Marie Osceola, Executive Director

**Seminole Tribe of Florida
Museum Department**

Dear Tribal Employees,

I would like to thank everyone that donated money to help me after the hurricane. My mobile home was completely destroyed. I am grateful for the kindness of others.

Thank you,
Kenny Dodd
Seminole Utilities
Hollywood

Live Alligator Wrestling at Native Village

By Lila Osceola
HOLLYWOOD — Everyone loves to see a good tournament, but an alligator wrestling tournament? On Jan. 11, the Native Village hosted a live alligator wrestling tournament.

Richard Osceola and Chris Osceola were the only two Tribal citizens there to compete. Chris Osceola showed up as spectator and left as a novice alligator wrestler, although he stepped into the pit with much confidence, no one would've ever guessed this was a first.

The judges had a split decision and gave the winnings to both participants. Richard Osceola and Chris Osceola both deserved it. Getting in the pit and



Richard Osceola

Lila Osceola



Lila Osceola

Chris Osceola pries the jaws open showing off the Miami smile.

man handling the alligator is nothing short of bravery on their part.

After the tournament other alligator wrestlers from the Native Village got in the pit and showed us some of their skills as well.

Spectators and alligator wrestlers enjoyed a barbecue dinner provided by our sponsors of the event: Hollywood Board Representative Gloria Wilson and Chairman Mitchell Cypress. Later in the evening a band performed for the people who stayed to enjoy the rest of the festivities. Richard Osceola orchestrated this event.



Lila Osceola

Chairman Mitchell Cypress announces split decision for Chris Osceola and Richard Osceola in the alligator wrestling tournament.

❖ Locks

Continued from page 1

children in all 50 states and Canada.

Since its inception Locks of Love spokespeople have appeared on Oprah, 20/20, The View, Jay Leno, Maury Povich, Good Morning America and Inside Edition. Because of this tremendous exposure, they are now receiving hair donations that exceed 2,000 per week with 80 percent of the hair donors being children.

In order to be placed on the recipient list, two letters of recommendation from a parent, nurse or doctor must be submitted with a diagnosis, photo and parents recent tax return. Once processing begins, it takes approximately three days for approval.

If a child is accepted they will be sent a molding kit and video for making a plaster head cast with a hairline. Color, hair length and skin tone are taken into consideration before wigs are made.

Donors must submit hair in a braid or ponytail that is 10 inches or longer. Each hair piece takes six to 10 ponytails because short hair cannot be used. After careful screening the prepared hair is forwarded with the head cast to Indonesia.

A surgical silicone skullcap has hair inserted with a special needle more than 150,000 times at a 45 degree angle and then is sealed with silicone. This process takes approximately eight to 10 weeks.

The completed hairpiece is then provided to the recipient for styling. As the child grows their head shape must be accommodated. Between six and 18 years



Michelle Ford

Hair Stylist Gloria Garza prepares to harvest Chelsey Ford's hair to be used in a wig.

a youngster can reapply every 18 months for up to five hairpieces in a lifetime.

Chelsey decided that she would definitely like to help. On Dec. 21, her mother took her to Styles on the Edge hair salon. The second grader cheerfully allowed stylist Gloria Garza to wash her hair, blow dry it and collect it into a braid at the nap of her neck.

Upon cutting off her braid, it was placed in a Ziploc® bag and then a bubble wrap envelope for shipment to Locks of Love.

Garza worked her magic on Chelsey and provided her with a very

attractive hair style which is easy to care for and compliments her features. A student at the Community Christian School of LaBelle, Fla., she couldn't wait to show her classmates her new look.

Chelsey was very excited not only about her new do, but the fact that some other child would soon have an opportunity to live a more normal life. She is already talking about letting her hair grow so that she can do this again.

Anyone interested in joining Chelsey in this most worthwhile endeavor, can obtain information over the internet through locksoflove.org.

❖ Icon

Continued from page 1

The family gathered for a big celebration, which included not only the holiday season but her birthday that would



File Photo

Taken at her home in Big Cypress circa 1985.

have taken place on Jan. 1.

Tommie was very alert for the festive occasion and enjoyed interacting with her loved ones and friends in the surroundings of her own home. It was as though her life had come full circle and she was ready to lay down and rest.

Like many elders, Tommie had a deep faith in her Creator and prayed daily. Many of the community members remember her walking to and from church on a regular basis. Although she could not read or write and had a limited understanding of the English language, she cherished her Bible and spent long hours with her friends talking about the lessons found within its pages.

Her daughter Delores Jumper said: "Mom would pray every day for the Tribal leaders to give them wisdom and understanding to guide them down the proper road in caring for their people."

Chairman Mitchell Cypress reiterated the following remarks he made in the article "Oh, The Changes I Have Seen" from July 1, 2005 issue of *The Seminole Tribune*.

"In recognizing Tommie, you give special recognition to all of our mothers, who are the roots of our culture. She is representative of the strong willed, determined, self-sacrificing women who have kept the Seminole Tribe alive during the hard times. Our young people today owe their existence and future to these women."

"They bore their children in the woods, fed and cared for them off the land and taught them to be self-sufficient and responsible. When I looked at Tommie, I saw my mother, grandmother and great-grandmother squatting barefoot by the fire, preparing our food. A meal from meat they cleaned



Judy Weeks

Portrait by Guy LaBree entitled "Oh, The Changes I Have Seen".

themselves, vegetables they grew and corn they roasted and ground by hand as their mothers did before them. I see them hunched over a sewing machine, weaving a basket or carrying firewood."

"These tasks are no longer performed today. It is because of the character and determination they have passed on to us that we can prosper in today's world. No matter how far we go, we should always remember where we have come from. Our past helps to shape our future. Cherish our elders, they are our treasures, and through their blood the Seminoles will stand strong."

The Jumper family deeply appreciate the sympathy and help they have received from everyone during this difficult time and will keep you in their prayers.



Judy Weeks

2005 in Immokalee.



Heavy equipment at Brighton Rock Pit preparing fill for new water plant.

Tribe Helps Prepare Site for Brighton Water Plant

By Susan Etxebarria
BRIGHTON — Fill operations under the management of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. at the Brighton Rock Pit are fully engaged as crews prepare the site for the new water plant on South Tucker Ridge Road.

Land Use Director Allen Huff said the contractor, Metcalf & Eddy, is purchasing approximately 30 thousand cubic yards of shell and rock materials to prepare roads and the building site for the \$30 million state-of-the-art plant.

The purchase of fill materials from the Tribe brings a big savings in costs for the contractor. For the Tribe it means employing Tribal citizens and sub-contracting with other Tribal entities to do site preparation.

"Our rock pit has to be competitive but our location gives us an advantage in pricing because the nearest outside commercial pits are 50 miles away so our freight charges are less to the contractor," Huff said. "We can use our own employees and our own natural resources and it saves them money and it makes us money."

Huff said there are eight men running eight pieces of heavy equipment 10 hours a day six days a week just to keep ahead of the construction process. At the rock pit, the shell and rock being scooped out of the ground is creating a large crater which Huff said the Tribe plans to convert in the future to a lovely recreation area with a lake.

One of the larger pieces of equipment is a Caterpillar® Excavator loaned by the Tribal Council through a working agreement. After the rock and shell is excavated the fill is processed through a screener taking out rocks any larger than one inch in diameter.

"We don't want any pockets in the fill," said Huff. "The finer the material, the better it compacts."

At the construction site one mile

away the roadbed is being laid. Huff said the road builders had to dig a little deeper—approximately three feet—than they had originally planned after they analyzed the soil and discovered it contained a lot of organic materials. The water table in Florida is only about three to four feet below the surface. Not putting down a good stable base is often why roads deteriorate so fast in Florida, said Huff.

"Our base is excellent because of our rock pit materials," said Huff.

There will be 10,000 feet of well access roads and approximately 2,000 feet of paved roads with associated cross-drainage culverts laid. The entire project from start to finish will take approximately 24 months and employ as many as 150 workers hired by various contractors and sub-contractors.

The site of the future water plant is on a portion of Alex John's cattle pastures. The actual water plant itself is being built in a hammock that is being cleared so Johns will lose very little pasture for his cows. The plant will draw water from seven underground wells. The water will be filtered in a highly sophisticated process in the plant for human use.

The wastewater from the plant is then diluted and sprayed on the nearby 70 acres of pasture where they intend to plant a specially enriched grass that is wholesome for cows. The trees in the hammock are being ground into mulch for the ranchers to use as well.

The project consists of the construction of a 750,000 gallon per day treatment plant in a 20,400 square foot process/administration building; microfiltration; nanofiltration; high service pump station; transformer and generator; 3 MG concentrate and 4 MG dilution tank; neutralization tank; aeration/degasifier tank; chemical storage area; percolation/backwash holding and storm water detention ponds.



Shawn Henderson

President/Vice Chairman Moses Osceola, Florida National Guard War Veteran Sergeant First Class Gene Meisenheimer with Chairman Mitchell Cypress.

National Guard War Veteran Visits Tribe

Submitted by President's Office

HOLLYWOOD — In December 2005 Florida National Guard War Veteran Sergeant First Class Gene Meisenheimer and his family was hosted by President Moses Osceola for a stay at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. Meisenheimer was on leave from Afghanistan.

During his visit, Meisenheimer had the honor and pleasure of meeting Chairman Mitchell Cypress. Chairman Cypress thanked him for his sacrifice and service and mentioned because of our military service men and women, this country can enjoy the freedom that it has.

President Osceola also thanked him for his service and mentioned that he and all fellow service personnel would be remembered in prayer.

Meisenheimer said he enjoyed his visit and felt honored to meet Chairman Cypress and President Osceola, fellow military veterans.



Melissa Sherman

Florida National Guard War Veteran Sergeant First Class Gene Meisenheimer stands with sister, Shawn Henderson, Assistant to the President.

Credit Card Security Precautions

Submitted by Sergeant Al Signore

The fraudulent use of credit cards is not limited to the loss or theft of actual credit cards. A capable criminal only needs to know your credit card number to fraudulently make numerous changes, including cash withdrawals, against your account.

The following are a number of crime prevention tips or recommendations to guard against the illegal use of credit cards.

- Photocopy both front and back of all your credit cards and keep the copies in a safe and secure location. This wick enables you to cancel your credit cards as soon as possible if it is lost or stolen.
- Endorse all credit cards as soon as they arrive.
- It is advisable not to carry credit cards in your wallet of purse. Carry them separate if possible.
- Carry only the minimum number of credit cards actually needed and never leave them unattended.
- When you write a check, never allow the salesperson to write down your credit card number on the check, if paying by credit card, never let the salesperson write down your driver's license or social security number.
- Avoid signing blank receipt, whenever possible. Draw a line through the blank spaces above the total when you sign card receipts.
- Unless you are absolutely confident you are dealing with reputable company, never give your credit card account number over the phone.

Don't be fooled by a scam where a con artists wants to verify your credit card number because you won a prize. One current scam involves con artist who call at random. The thief informs the victim that if their Visa card begins with the number four, the victim wins a prize. However, all Visa cards begin with the number four and all Mastercards® begin with the number five. The only prize the cardholder gets is the fraudulent use of their credit card.

- Notify credit card companies in advance of a change in address.
- Destroy unused credit card applications such as those received in the mail advising the recipient "you have been pre approved for ..."



- Open billing statements promptly and reconcile your credit card amounts each month, just as you would receive your checking account.
- If you receive a letter stating you should have received a credit card in the mail, and you have not yet received it, notify the company or lending institution immediately.
- Beware of vendors calling and attempting to sell merchandise or gifts over the telephone. Don't give them your credit card number.
- Always check catalogues to make sure your credit card number is not on the cover or mail order form. If it is, contact the company and tell them to immediately remove it.
- When you use a credit card to make a purchase, maintain visual contact with the card and make sure not extra imprints of your card are made to other charge slips. Destroy all carbon if any so no one can obtain your account number.
- It is a good idea to retain your credit card receipts and check them against the monthly billing statement.
- In the event your credit card is stolen or lost, immediately notify the credit card company. Most issuing banks and companies can be reached 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The majority of fraudulent purchases happen within 48 hours of the loss.

Credit card thieves may sometimes call the victim; inform the person that their credit card has been found and that it is being returned. This ploy gives thief time to go on a charging spree because the card holder never calls to cancel the card.

By virtue of the Fare Credit Billing Act, if you report the loss of a credit card before it is used the card issuer cannot hold you responsible for any unauthorized charges. If a thief uses your credit card before you report it missing, the most you will owe for is unauthorized charges on each credit card is \$50.

If you would like to have our Crime Prevention Unit visit your business, church group, community gathering or other meeting in order to provide a free seminar, please call the Seminole Police Crime Prevention Unit: Tampa, Big Cypress, Immokalee, Sergeant Al Signore, (813) 478-2680, Hollywood, Officer Susie Lawson, (954) 961-7877 and Brighton, Ft. Pierce, Officer Ulysses Boldin, (863)763-5731.

It's Tax Time: Seminoles Come on Down

The Seminole Tribe of Florida has arranged for RSM McGladrey, Inc. to assist Tribal citizens in the preparation of their 2005 Individual Income Tax Returns. The tax accountants will be at each reservation per the following schedule:

Hollywood January 31 — February 3. February 6 – April 14 (Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays)	Big Cypress February 1 & March 1	Immokalee February 2 & March 2
Brighton February 1–2 & March 1	Tampa By Appointment	Ft. Pierce By Appointment

We have changed the location of our tax preparation services in Hollywood we will now be located in the Seminole Tribe of Florida Training Offices at:

**5385-B Stirling Road
Hollywood, FL 33024**

Tribal citizens will be assisted on a first come first serve basis on the scheduled days. If you have any questions you can contact Marie Trabulsi of RSM McGladrey, Inc. at: (561) 697-1785.

RSM McGladrey, Inc. is pleased to announce that electronic filing will be available for the majority of the 2005 tax returns.

RSM McGladrey, Inc. estimates that the majority of returns will be completed and mailed, or electronically filed, within three to five business days.

Please bring the following information that pertains to your tax return with you when you meet with the accountant:

1. Copy of your 2004 tax return (Form 1040) if we did not prepare your 2004 tax return.
2. Any correspondence received from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) during 2004 & 2005.
4. Form W-2 from all employers.
5. List of children (dependents) with their birth dates and social security numbers.
6. Form 1099-Misc showing income received during 2005 from the Seminole Tribe of Florida.
7. Form 1099R, if you are receiving any funds from a pension plan.
8. Name, address, and tax identification number of the person or company to which you paid child care expenses.
9. Form 1098 showing the amount of interest you paid to a bank or mortgage company.
10. Social security statement, if you are drawing social security.
11. List of charitable contributions.
12. Property tax bills.
13. Daytime telephone number.
14. Any other documents that pertain to your income tax return.

How to Select the Right Tax Return Preparer

Submitted by Marie M. Trabulsi, Senior Tax Associate, RSM McGladrey, Inc.

The U.S. Treasury published several bulletins warning taxpayers against tax preparers who may take advantage of them. They also published a list of helpful hints you should keep in mind when choosing a Tax Return Preparer:

- Avoid tax preparers who claim they can obtain larger refunds than other preparers.
- Use a reputable tax professional that signs your tax return as a paid preparer and provides you with a copy for your records.
- Consider whether the tax professional offers electronic filing options and other payment options that you want.
- You should also consider the following:
- Consider whether the individual or firm will be around to answer questions about the preparation of your return, months, even years, after the return has been filed.
- Consider whether the tax professional can represent you if the IRS audits your return.
- As members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, you should be aware of tax issues specifically relating to you. The Kiddie Tax, for instance, affects all members under the age of 14 and is a complex tax matter that is not fully understood by many tax preparers.
- If a tax preparer files your return incorrectly, you could personally face a large bill from the IRS requesting repayment of any refund received, plus interest and penalties.
- Why you should use tax preparers sponsored by the Tribe: Why pay over \$250 of your money to receive a refund loan when they can prepare your return without any fees to you and you can receive your refund in as little as 8 days! They are qualified to assist you with complex tax issues.
- IRS Audit Representation. If you decide to have your tax return prepared by someone other than the Tribe sponsored preparer, please make sure that your preparer meets all of the qualifications mentioned.



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Chickee Builders Voice Concerns About Wetland Restrictions

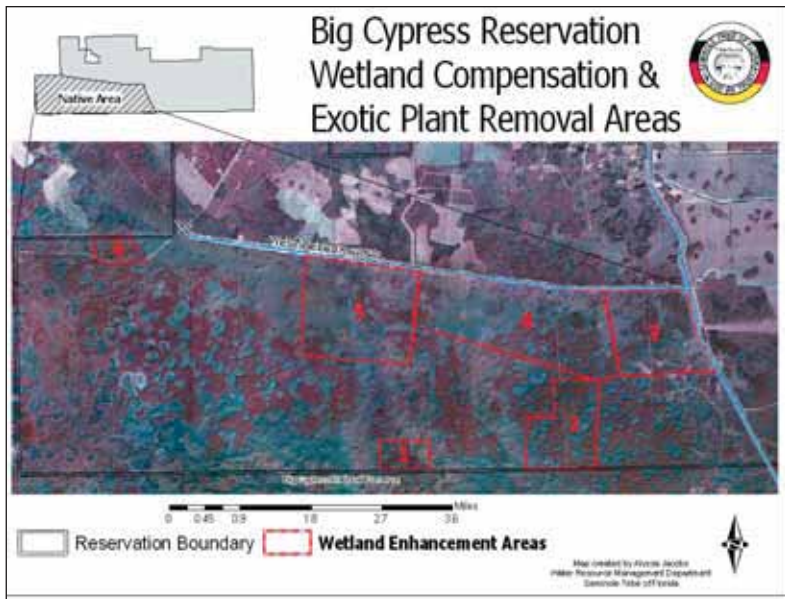
By Susan Ettebarria

BIG CYPRESS — Almost 60 percent of the beautiful lands on the Big Cypress reservation are classified as wetlands and consequently are subject to very stringent federal regulations that protect wetlands from destruction. Wetlands are areas where water inundates the land or saturates the soil long enough to support a variety of native plants unique to Florida.

Typical wetlands include swamps, marshes, bay-heads, bogs, cypress domes, and sloughs, wet prairies, tidal marshes and mangrove swamps. Today wetlands are highly valued for the rich flora, fauna and wildlife they support.

It is ironic that the one place the Seminoles pioneered as they fled from capture or massacre from the U.S. Army was a magical land that the invading settlers found formidable and undesirable. The Seminoles knew how to live with nature and respect its bounty.

Now, the Big Cypress is considered a place of great value and is one of the last remaining original forests in the state, other than some state parks.



Map shows Compensation Areas in Big Cypress.

Alyssa Jacobs

the meeting since it is their harvesting practices being affected by policies adopted and approved June 17 by the Tribal Council known as Best Management Practices, or BMPs.

Basically, this policy constitutes a bargaining chip with the federal government. The Tribe will be able to use approximately 100 acres of wetlands for home site development and other projects if they agree to save four thousand acres of wetlands currently being devoured by exotic species.

This acreage will restrict some harvesting practices during treatment phases for certain periods of time but it is a crucial step toward ensuring that these magnificent old growth and native forests will endure for generations. The end result is a win-win for the Tribe.

The WRMD has been given the responsibility to remove these exotic plant species that push out native vegetation like cypress and

It is done through treatments that much like surgery, require a time for healing.

Two of the most invasive species to be removed are the Old World Climbing Fern and the Melaleuca quinquenervia. The exotic species will be treated with two different types of chemicals, Rodeo and Arsenal, with different methods of application.

The area to be treated is located in the southwest portion of the reservation and is being called the Wetland Compensation and Enhancement Area. The area is divided into six smaller areas bordered on the north by the West Feeder Canal and on the east by the L-28 Interceptor Canal.

They will begin with the first treatments in late February in Area 5, in the northwest quadrant. This area will be flagged so the chickee builders and others will know the area being treated and that it is subject to some harvesting restrictions.

On June 17, 2005, the Tribal Council approved the BMPs, enforceable for three years after treatment under the Seminole Water Code. The restrictions were explained to the chickee builders who had many questions and concerns about this program. For instance, the BMPs state that only 50 percent of live cypress trees in a treatment area can be cut and no clear cutting will be allowed. This will ensure that the native growth will regain its dominance again in the areas where they are being pushed out.

No area shall be harvested more than once for three years after the treatment. No heavy equipment shall be used in these treated areas, and no new road or trail construction without written approvals. A full list of the BMPs is available at the WRMD offices at each reservation and anyone who wishes to harvest is encouraged to get a copy.

One of the major concerns expressed at the meeting by the Tribal chickee builders were that all chickee builders be notified since not all live at Big Cypress but many do harvest there. They suggested similar meetings be held at Brighton, Immokalee and Hollywood as well. The following day Jacobs reported to *The Seminole Tribune* that a meeting was immediately scheduled for Brighton for Feb. 2.

Another concern they voiced is the interference of the federal government with regulations on Tribal lands. As in many industries, the imposition of government regulation by outsiders is not always



Close-up of old world climbing fern.

Alyssa Jacobs



Alyssa Jacobs

Old world climbing fern covering native vegetation.

appreciated nor seen as necessary.

As one chickee builder stated: "Once they start regulating, they don't stop."

This led to some discussion by the chickee builders about the possibility of forming their own Tribal chickee builders association, much like the cattlemen association(s), to protect their interests.

Another serious matter discussed with the WRMD staffer was the problem of tree "poachers" or tree thieves who can undo any gains made trying to restore these critical areas.

The Tribal chickee builders are coming across outsiders, or evidence of outsiders, who enter the reservation without permission and cut down cypress trees and palm fronds and then sell them or use them to build chickees. Not only are they thieves but they are ingrates as well.

How would these people know where to find the trees to harvest?

Many are people who worked for the Tribal chickee builders at one time and learned this specialized craft. Now, they steal the trees, damage the forests, and then go to the coast and bid against the Seminoles to build chickees often claiming they are "authentic."



Alyssa Jacobs

A stand of melaleuca in an area that used to be cypress trees.

The chickee builders asked WRMD to assist them in enforcing the laws that forbid non-tribal people from being on reservation land without permission. They asked the department to work with the Seminole Police Department to get them involved in the surveillance, apprehension and arrest of these individuals.

Tribal chickee builders have an awareness and understanding of the traditions, history and value of the chickee. For this time-honored tradition to last the forests need to be protected. They have pledged their cooperation to make the new program work for the benefit of all.

For more information, call WRMD at (863) 902-3200, Ext. 1413.



Susan Ettebarria

Alyssa Jacobs explains wetlands program at Chickee Builders workshop.

Although the Seminole chickee builders, who have had a long history and understanding of harvesting cypress and palm fronds from this reservation, respect and understand the nature of the land, there has been an eventual degradation of the forests due to factors mostly beyond their control.

Some of these factors include the rampant growth of exotic plant species throughout the state of Florida brought on by development of the coastal areas, in some cases the unintentional transfer of seeds and pods from these harmful species by humans and in other cases transference by birds and other creatures.

Alyssa Jacobs, environmental scientist with the Seminole Water Resources Management Department (WRMD), hosted a meeting Jan. 18 at the Learning Resources Center and invited chickee builders.

It is her role to explain what the Seminole Tribe is required to do to protect the Big Cypress wetlands from the invasion of exotic plants and to abide by federal regulations under a program called "Wetlands Compensation for Impacts."

Many important issues were raised by the chickee builders at

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From the HR Corner

By Sandra R. Stoller, STOF Compensation and Classification Manager

We begin the 2006 year, as promised, explaining the functions of one of the key Seminole Tribe of Florida (STOF) Human Resources (HR) units; the compensation and classification branch. In subsequent issues, we will continue to clarify and demystify many of the HR functions.

In the last 25 years, the complexities of the functions of HR have grown exponentially. This has been due to many factors among them the changing

ing jobs from which job descriptions are developed. Job analysis techniques include the use of interviews, desk- audits, questionnaires and observation.

Job Evaluation: A system for comparing jobs for the purpose of determining appropriate compensation levels for individual jobs or job elements.

Pay Structures: A useful system for standardizing compensation practices. Most pay structures include several grades with each grade containing a minimum salary/wage and either step increments or grade ranges.



of the U.S. market, legislation and judicial decisions. Human resources or human capital is no longer the “hire and fire office” but has become a strategic business partner of all thriving public and private sector organizations.

Each of the specialty areas of a typical human resources office has had to become very innovative in their approach to dealing with a constantly changing political and labor environment. One of the HR units to feel the full impact of the change has been the compensation and classification area. We begin then, explaining what this important human resources function is and what it really does.

The title provides a clue however small. The Webster College Dictionary defines compensation as “something given or received as payment or reparation, for goods, services, or loss.” We will limit our definition to the part dealing with payment.

Compensation for the purpose of this article is a systematic approach to providing monetary value to employees in exchange for work performed. Compensation may achieve several purposes such as in recruitment, job performance and job satisfaction. You could then ask yourself: How is compensation used and what are the components of a compensation system?

How is compensation used?

Compensation is a tool used by management for a variety of purposes to further the existence of the company. Compensation may be adjusted according to the business needs, goals and available resources. Compensation may be used to recruit and retain qualified employees, increase or maintain employee morale/satisfaction, reward and encourage peak performance, achieve internal/external equity and reduce turnover and encourage company loyalty.

In the area of recruitment and retention a common goal is shared by many employers. To some extent, the availability and cost of qualified applicants for open positions is determined by market factors beyond the control of the employer.

While an employer may set compensation levels for new hires and advertise those salary ranges, it does so in the context of other employers seeking to hire from the same applicant pool. Morale and job satisfaction are affected by compensation.

Often there is a balance (equity) that must be reached between the monetary value the employer is willing to pay and the sentiments of worth that is felt by the employee. In an attempt to save money, employers may opt to freeze salaries or salary levels at the expense of satisfaction and morale.

Conversely, an employer wishing to reduce employee turnover may seek to increase salaries and salary levels. Compensation may also be used as a reward for exceptional job performance. Examples of such plans include: bonuses, benefits, commissions, stocks, profit sharing and gain sharing.

What are the components of a compensation system?

Compensation is usually perceived by employees as fair, if based on clear components. Various compensation systems have been developed to determine the value of positions. These systems utilize many similar components including job descriptions, salary ranges, structures and written procedures.

The components of a typical compensation system include:

Job Descriptions: A critical component of both compensation and selection systems. Job descriptions define in writing the responsibilities, requirements, functions, duties, location, environment and working conditions of jobs.

Job Analysis: This is the process of analyzing

Salary Surveys: Collections of salary and market data. Data may include average salaries, inflation indicators, cost of living indicators, salary budget averages and benefits. While you can purchase surveys, usually these are customized to specific industries and most likely within one geographical region. Here at the STOF all surveys are done customized to our organizational needs, locality and specific job functions and lastly,

Policies and Regulations: These govern the process for requesting compensation reviews and market analysis.

Classification

jobs are classified into an existing grade/category structure or hierarchy. Each level in the grade/category structure has a description and associated job titles. Each job is assigned to the grade/category providing the closest match to the job. The classification of a position is decided by comparing the whole job with the appropriate job grading standard.

To ensure equity in job grading and wage rates, a common set of job grading standards and instructions are used. Because of differences in duties, skills, abilities and knowledge, and other aspects of trades and labor jobs, job grading standards are developed mainly along occupational lines.

The standards do not attempt to describe every work assignment of each position in the occupation covered. The standards identify and describe those key characteristics of occupations which are significant for distinguishing different levels of work. They define these key characteristics in such a way as to provide a basis for assigning the appropriate grade level to all positions in the occupation to which the standards apply.

Job Analysis is a process to identify and



determine in detail the particular job duties, requirements and the relative importance of these duties for a given job. Job analysis is a process where judgments are made based on data collected on a job.

It's about the job, not the person

An important concept of job analysis is that the analysis is conducted on the job, not the person. While job analysis data may be collected from incumbents through interviews or questionnaires, the product of the analysis is a description or specifications of the job, not a description of the person.

Purpose of job analysis


The purpose of job analysis is to establish and document the relatedness of the position to the position requirements. Job analysis is used in compensation to identify or determine the skill levels, compensable job factors, work environment (e.g., hazards, physical effort), responsibilities (e.g., fiscal; supervisory) and required level of education (indirectly related to salary level). Job analysis can be used in selection procedures.

It is commonly used to identify or develop job duties that should be included in advertisements of vacant positions such as appropriate salary level for the position to help determine what salary should be, minimum requirements (education and/or experience) for screening applicants, prepare interview questions, selection tests/instruments (e.g., written tests, oral tests, job simulations) and applicant appraisal/evaluation forms.

Job analysis can also be used in performance reviews to identify and develop goals and objectives, performance standards and evaluation criteria of duties expected to be performed.

Generally speaking, pay is considered a taboo topic and communication about pay may be uncomfortable for some. Communicating the details of how base pay, bonuses, benefits and other incentives are determined and distributed can be cumbersome. However, communication is vital. Explaining and understanding how pay systems and pay policies work, supports and increases motivation and productivity. As a result, this produces a stronger bottom line.

****Source: “A Success Story: The Case of Lucent Technologies,” by D. A. Nadler, in The Leader’s Change Handbook: An Essential Guide to Setting Direction and Taking Action (p. 23), J. A. Conger, G. M. Spreitzer, & E. E. Lawler III (Eds.), 1999, San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers .



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Elgin Jumper's Bio, In His Own Words

By Elgin Jumper

This is how my story goes. I'm Seminole. I was born in 1965, in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. I'm 40 forty years old. My father is Josiah Alan Jumper Sr. My mother is Eva Billie. I have two brothers and two sisters, seven children ranging from ages 23 to 11—all with the same woman—and two grandchildren. All alive and well.

Save for the occasional lengthy visit to various correctional facilities in upper Florida, due to mistakes and bad choices—which, in retrospect, I greatly regret—I have lived on the Seminole reservation in Hollywood.

I started writing poems and stories back when I was seven or eight years old. My oldest sister, Alana, is probably my earliest influence, that is, as far as writing, reading, books, and music is concerned. She had the goods. I'd sneak into her room when no one was home and read her novels and listened to her records. Someday, I thought, I'll write something. But it seemed like someday would never come.

I had some stories deep within, they flew like divine little birds through my soul day in and day out, so I knew it. This is how I felt at an early age. I still had awhile to wait, though.

Like Dylan, it seems like my life was on some odyssey or journey or misadventure—with “no direction home” and I was always just trying to get back to where I belonged. Back to the peace.

I loved reading, still do. Plays, poetry, novels, histories, classics, etc, etc,... its wonderful! Books can carry you to another place, a magical place, away from burdens. The stories!

I try to read everything, good and bad, popular and obscure, all genres. Shakespeare's big on my list. The Greeks and Romans. The Bible. Native Americans. Ancient history. More modern stuff. The Civil War. A lot of interests. And still learning, still expanding my interests, or trying to.

But back in 1994 and 1995, I cashed a check that wasn't mine, and consequently had some discussions with Seminole PD about it, in that order. Well, unfortunately, we reached an impasse, of sorts, in our talks, the discussions got rather heated, a struggle ensued, and I was forced to go into hiding, until early 2002, when it all came to a head and everyone was scattered, my wife and kids suffering, and myself at last being sent away, to make good on an overdue debt that I rightfully owed to society.

It was quite the fall, let me tell you. Day gave in to the long night. We lost everything, even our freedom. Incidentally, my wife's troubles with the law are partially my fault—just want to be truthful—as we were so into our alcoholism and deep irresponsibility. The whole scene was so life-altering, so tragic. And the kids can't be blamed for any of it.

In 1998 and 1999, while still hiding out, in plain sight, mind you, I attended classes at Broward Community College, South Campus, majoring first in journalism and then later towards the end in history. I even won second

place, \$50, in the South Campus writing contest, for a short story about an Indian busting out of prison. I ended up attending classes for a year and a half. It was an unforgettable experience and I learned so much about writing. And I'm still learning.

In November of 2003, I was released from Madison Correctional Institution, some 50 miles east of Tallahassee, after 14 months. I had been given nine months of controlled supervision/parole, but I relapsed on the very first day I was out, never even checked in with the authorities, as I should have. What followed was a three month “extravaganza” with maybe one or two days of being sober.

I was eventually picked up for violation of controlled supervision mandates, and sent back to prison—this time to Century Correctional Institute, in the panhandle—and it was there I had the revelation, the moment of truth, that said in an oh-so-pleasant voice, “You've got to stop your drinking and drug-ging, Elgin, or else you'll surely die. Prison's not for you. You don't belong here. Get out and stay out.”

So reassuring. So true. I had to stop, that was so apparent to me. How was God's gift, the precious gift of writing, going to be meaningful, worthwhile, purposeful, if I was going to spend my life in a cage, being told when to do this and when to do that? The paths I'd chosen in my life had led me there. That path can only lead to prison or death. That path was never meant for me.

I haven't had a drink now for two years. Nor do I desire one. Drinking was what led me to every other bad thing. I feel so much better these days. No more looking over my shoulder. Now the healing and renewal. And knowledge is always in season. But to make a short story long, when I was released in July of 2004, I immediately put myself into drug and alcohol treatment, completed my controlled supervision and put myself back into school; BCC. I'm now striving to put my life back together, staying sober, and working towards my dream and goal of becoming a published writer.

Unfortunately, the marriage, it seems, will not survive the ordeal, though we still remain friends. I see and spend whatever time I can with the kids, while going to school, and try to instill in them the great importance of reading and writing. I kept all my manuscripts, poems, short stories, and other writings from prison and am now working on a memoir, a Native American memoir, of my experiences in prison and other parts of my life.



Blow, Winds —

By Elgin Jumper

Well, another hurricane was bearing down on South Florida. Skylar Little Sky, a fifth-grader and ten year old Seminole boy, had just been picked up from Cypress Tree Elementary School, by his mother, Wilma, and was being taken to his father, Andrew's house, out in Pembroke Pines. You see, it was his father's turn to have Skylar for the weekend, what with the recent separation, and impending divorce, an' all.

He noticed sharp bursts of wind, debris, and rain on the roadways, as they headed westward. He could hear cool, silver rain, as it pelted the dark, limo tinted windows of his mother's glossy-black Escalade. By now, warm summer had perished at the hands of frightful Fall, and the years hurricane season was, brutally, in full swing. Great storm's were out there in the violent seas to the south alright, and poised were they to wreak nature's merciless havoc.

Spending the week with his mother had opened up his heart and mind to all kinds of interests. The world around him seem fresh now, but hazardous, too.

Up ahead, during a lull in the hard rain, several policemen had pulled over a black Chevy van, battered, and two fairly dark-complected men in dark clothes, obviously the occupants, were being cuffed, and shoved into the back of a white with blue trim police cruiser, lit up.

“Mommy, are those Iraqis?” Skylar asked. “You know, like the ones we seen being detained by our troops on TV last night?”

His mother giggled. “No, no, dear, that was just some faraway place we saw last night. It won't happen like that here.”

“Oh,” Skylar said.

He glanced back. At a redlight, his mother looked up for a moment at the photo of her husband, Andrew, which was secured to the overhead visor. She shook her head once. She wiped a lonely tear away. Her mouth watered for a drink, but she quite knew where that path would lead her. Oh Lord, did she know.

“Mommy, guess what?” Skylar's dark-brown eyes brightened up like a just-twisted-on GE light bulb.

“What, dear?” his mother said. “We learned all about the great Indian wars out west. You know, the ones the Indians had with the United States.”

“Oh, really.”

“Mmm-hmm ... W-was Wounded Knee a battle, mom?”

She giggled again, but abruptly fell silent. She shook her head no. Skylar thought for a moment.

“Hey, maybe those people back there with the policemen had car bombs, or something like that! You think so?”

Skylar began shuffling through the assortment of papers in his gray book bag. He took out a drawing he'd done, in mixed media, that very day. Oh, he simply loved, “Art Time,” as his teacher referred to the days the class spent being artistic.

“Oh, look what I did, mommy!” he said.

It was a chaotic drawing: dark clouds, light-

ning, rain. And on the ground were soldiers, evidently in tan and brown desert colors, who stood with deadly weapons, next to smashed up cars that had been set on fire.

“H-honey, why, it's lovely,” his mother said, with as much tact as she could muster.

“Why, it's the hurricane and the war, isn't it, dear?”

His mother was somewhat a diplomat at heart.

Suddenly, his mother slowed up to get safely by three cars that had stalled in the deep puddles, because of flooding on the street, near his father's beige townhouse, in the gated-community of Windsong Way. She admonished him to stay out of those puddles. Those rains could very well pick up, she warned. The monstrous system was, indeed, barreling up from the southwest, out beyond the Keys, and was sure to make landfall by week's end.

Meteorologists were calling for some rough weather, tough talk about systems charging South Florida and mandatory evacuations and ugly storm surges and huge hurricane eyes and the like. They were talking storm categories, with winds thrashing 150-200 miles an hour, signs and trees downed and transformers blown sky-high and malfunctioning traffic lights treated as four-way stops and Pandemonium with a capital “P” and about how most hurricane deaths occur after a storm has moved on.

Then his mother apologized for all the arguments he had been a witness to in the last few weeks leading up to the separation, all the domestic turmoil. At another red light, she drew Skylar in to her close and hugged him.

At last, the rains let up, but the clouds and trees were still being blown wild, quick-like, towards the northeast. Skylar was gazing at his room on the second floor of the townhouse. I wonder if Daddy's new girlfriend's here, he thought.

He put his drawing back in a blue folder, then back in the book bag.

“Hey, maybe I'll add me, you, and daddy to the drawing as well, huh, mommy?”

When his mother smiled a make-believe smile, there was another tear rolling down her face.

“Well, maybe it's not going to be that aggressive a storm this time around, dear,” his mother said.

“M-maybe.”

Skylar's eyes were misty, his voice clearly shaken. He took up his book bag, got out of the Escalade, and bid his mother a fond farewell. He caught the scent of new rain, impending rain. He brushed black hair out of his eyes with the back of his hand. He frowned, sad. Poor kids.

He knew of other kids and parents, who were experiencing their own wars of divorce. Then, at the front door of the townhouse, he saw his father, waiting for him. There were no cordialities attempted between his mother and father.

He realized at once a bitter storm was set to strike, and other fearful storms around the globe were yet raging out of control.

A Picture of Ned Christie

By Elgin Jumper

The Cherokee fugitive poses for an antiquated camera in the Indian Territory, present-day Oklahoma. Long black hair, fearless eyes that stare out the confidence, no smile, and yet a dignity and grace, and light degrees of sorrow. The firm coolness in his right hand, as he holds the Colt pistol blends with the proud way he holds the barrel of the Remington rifle in his left. No fear there. He wears a light-colored long-sleeved shirt, light-colored pants, with black leather belt and gun holster, the tainted fence behind him, for the forces attempting to fence his people in, end his life. Light and shadow poetry paint the picture here.

A dominant society claimed he took the life of a lawman in 1887, hunted him five years, but, picture this, he never left his home. Constant gun battles, constant scrapes with death. But this man's no murderer. Far from it. Once a respected Senator for the Cherokee Nation, now firmly resolved, he prepares to defend his freedom. Determined to be who he is and looking the world square in the face.

Once cornered a cannon and dynamite will blast him from his home where he will be gunned down and propped up for ghastly photo ops. It will be determined later that he had no hand in the killing that made him a fugitive in the first place.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Mandatory Animal Registration Drive

Starting on **February 15, 2006**, the STOF Health Department will be sponsoring a registration drive in accordance with the soon to be adopted STOF Animal Control Ordinance. All dogs and

Cats on reservation must be registered by **April 15, 2006**. Please bring proof of rabies vaccination to the office nearest you to obtain a Seminole animal license tag. Animals in need of rabies vaccinations will receive a voucher for the upcoming rabies clinic.

Please be aware that all untagged dogs and cats will be picked up by animal control.

The drive is to promote a safer environment and improve quality of life for both animals and residents



Please contact the Environmental Health Office if you have any questions:
954-962-2009 ext 126 or 125

Locations & Schedule

Hollywood — Environmental Health Office in Trailer — Mondays — Fridays 9-5

Big Cypress — Wellness Trailer — Tuesdays & Thursdays 10-3

Brighton — Environmental Health Office — Monday — Friday 9-5

Immokalee Medial Clinic — Wednesday & Thursday — 10-3

8th Annual

Come join the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki museum and the Seminole Tribe of Florida in celebrating our rich culture. You will see authentic Seminole and U.S. soldiers encampments, demonstrators of early 19th century, traders of pioneer and native goods and traditional Seminole arts and crafts.

February 3-5, 2006

- Re-enactment of a skirmish between U.S. forces and Seminole warriors.
- Story Telling
- Seminole Food
- Traditional Stomp Dancing
- 19th century craft vendors
- Native American craft vendors

On the Big cypress Reservation west of Fort Lauderdale. Take I-75 (Alligator Alley) to Exit 49, then north 17 miles. For more information call (863) 902-1113

35th Annual Bill Osceola All-Indian Memorial Rodeo

Hosted by the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA)

**Saturday & Sunday
February 4 - 5, 2006**

**EASTERN INDIAN
RODEO ASSOC.**



**Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena
Big Cypress Seminole Reservation**

*Added money, buckles and all-around saddles
Youth events start before adult rodeo*

For more information contact
EIRA Secretary Jo "Boogie" Jumper
At (863) 763-4128

*Directions: From Naples or Ft. Lauderdale take I-75 to EXIT 49,
then 16 miles north on Snake Road (County Road 833).*

Mary Huff Recognized for Leadership



Mary Huff, outstanding student, athlete and positive role model.

By Emma Brown
BRIGHTON — Mary Huff a sophomore at Okeechobee High School is the daughter of John Wayne and Vicky Huff of Brighton. Mary has received an invitation to the 2006 Lead America Youth Leadership Conference. This is not surprising since Mary continuously proves to be a leader among her peers and in everything that she does. Huff was selected to attend this conference based on her outstanding academic achievement and for her involvement in extracurricular activities where she continues to show great leadership potential. Lead America sponsors college-accredited, academic-based leadership programs for our world's most promising young leaders. If Mary chooses to attend this conference she will have hands-on experiential learning

presented by distinguished faculty combined with challenging academics. Huff will have the opportunity to meet national and international leaders that will provide her with insight into their profession and what it means to lead in today's complex and global society. Although Mary has not yet decided to attend this conference the invitation says a great deal about her potential as a future leader. Mary excels in everything that she is a part of and has recently been chosen to play on the Varsity softball team for the second year and she is only a sophomore. She always gives 110 percent in all that she does and continues to be a positive role model for our youth. Her parents wish to let her know how proud she continues to make them.



Culture Class at Ahfachkee Elementary School participates in awards ceremony.

Ahfachkee Students Receive Awards

By Susan Etxebarria
BIG CYPRESS — Students earned recognition for their accomplishments such as perfect attendance, honor roll and other scholastic achievements at the second quarter awards program at Ahfachkee Elementary School held on Jan. 12. Awards are given at the end of each quarter to inspire and motivate the students for their hard work. The awards program co-insides with the parent teacher conferences and the issuing of report cards. Acting Principal Lenora Roberts welcomed the students and their parents to the afternoon event. Roberts congratulated the students for all their efforts. "I signed more awards this time of year than there were the same time last year," she said. "There were so many more awards. I like to see that." The children were excited and all smiles as they came forward to receive their awards. Each teacher complimented their students for their good work. Following is a list of the students who received awards: Perfect Attendance: Kindergarten: Eyanna Billie, Jazmine Billie, Troy Cantu, Ciara Iglesias, Brendan Otero, Chynna Villareal, Marcella Vicent, Annabelle Whiteshield; 1st Grade: Corbin Billie, Stanley Cypress, Treven Marko; 2nd

Grade: Arnold Billie, Sierra Bowers; 3rd Grade: Gloria Brooks, Kaitlin Osceola, Sabre Billie, Jaime De Luna; 4th Grade: Terri Baker, Rashawn Jim, Savannah Tiger, Pedro De Luna; 5th Grade: Rodni Mercer, Bradley Osceola, Tequesta Tiger; 6th Grade: Monique Jimmie, Alfred Billie, Anthony Balentine; 7th-8th Grades: Grade: Patrick Osceola, Kelcie Jumper, Chebon Gooden-Harden, K'ahna Jumper; High School: Jonathan Harjo, Kaylynn Pewo, Herschel Frank, Benny Hernandez; Varying Exceptionalities Class: Steven Frank Perfect Punctuality: Pre-K: Red Heart Billie, Leslie Gopher; Kindergarten: Eyanna Billie, Jazmine Billie, Troy Cantu, Ciara Iglesias, Brendan Otero, Chynna Villareal, Marcella Vicent, Annabelle Whiteshield; 1st Grade: Corbin Billie, Ahnie Jumper; 2nd Grade: Arnold Billie, Sierra Bowers, Ethan Hummingbird, Tyrus Billie, Channy Curry; 3rd Grade: Candy Landin, Haden Littlebear, Kaitlin Osceola, Nathaniel Jim, Sabre Billie, Michelle Jimmie; 4th Grade: Terri Baker, Rashawn Jim, Andre Landin, Savannah Tiger; 5th Grade: Rodni Mercer, Bradley Osceola, Tequesta Tiger; 7th-8th Grade: Breanna Robbins, Kelcie Jumper, K'Ahna Jumper; High School: Shadoe Billie; Varying Exceptionalities Class: Ricky Joe Alumbaugh. B Honor Roll: 7th-8th Grade: Grade: Kelcie Jumper, K'Ahna Jumper,

Eagle Billie A/B Honor Roll: 1st Grade: Roderick Bert, Jathaniel Brooke, Blige Cypress, Dasani Frye, Ahnie Jumper, Treven Marko, John Robbins, Ignacio Rodriguez; 2nd Grade: Jacob Cotton, Dalton Koenes; 3rd Grade: Candy Landin, Kaitlin Osceola, Katie Bert, Sabre Billie, Silver Wolf, Michelle Jimmie, Jaime De Luna; 5th Grade: Adrienne Cypress, Rodni Mercer, Bradley Osceola. A Honor Roll: 1st Grade: Corbin Billie, Stanley Cypress; 2nd Grade: Ethan Hummingbird, Michaela Cypress, Channy Curry, Sierra Bowers; 3rd Grade: Gloria Brooks, Leana Billie; 4th Grade: Terri Baker, Mulari Baker, Justin Roff. Special Academic Awards: 3rd Grade: Gloria Brooks, Kaitlin Osceola, Mika Lopez, John Dell McInturff, Leana Billie, Katie Bert; 7th-8th Grades: Eagle Billie, Breanna Robbins, John Ross Billie, Tina Osborn, Jonathon Robbins, Patrick Osceola, Kelcie Jumper; High School: Herschel Frank, Talish Leach, Raul Alvarez, Adam MacElroy, Shadoe Billie; Varying Exceptionalities Class: Ricky Joe Alumbaugh, Bionca Acosta, Kanavis Cypress-Williams, Levi Billie, Steven Frank, Anthony Cypress, Trisha Walker, GraySun Billie, John Ross Billie, Kegan Cypress, John Alvarez.

Lindsey Cypress King Graduates from BCC

By Susan Etxebarria
DAVIE, FL — The teachers and staff of the Ahfachkee School as well as the parents of Lindsey Cypress King are proud to announce Lindsey Cypress King's graduation on Dec. 16, 2005 from Broward Community College (BCC). King graduated with an associate of arts degree and will be continuing her education at Florida Atlantic University (FAU). At FAU she said she intends to pursue a bachelor's degree in elementary education. King had many role models at Ahfachkee that have been her inspiration to become a teacher said her mother, Betty King—the administrative assistant at the school's busy front office. All her life Lindsey has been surrounded by people dedicated to education, her mother said. While still in high school Lindsey King worked as an instructor aide in her mother's class. Her father, Keeno King,

has also been a teacher at the school. According to mom, her daughter is hoping to return to Ahfachkee as a teacher herself after getting her university diploma. One of Lindsey King's teachers, Eileen Hager, who taught her in the seventh and eighth grades had wonderful things to say about Lindsey. "Lindsey is one of those students that really stands out," said Hager. "She never missed school and she did her homework. She has the personality, the drive and the commitment to be a top-notch teacher. I would be so honored to have Lindsey as my colleague." The achievement of this Ahfachkee graduate is even more noteworthy because Lindsey is the first college graduate coming from Ahfachkee who attended every grade at the Ahfachkee, from Head Start and kindergarten straight through high school.



Lindsey Cypress King

Gopher Earns Master's Degree

Submitted by Travis Trueblood
TAMPA — Tribal citizen Carla Gopher, Panther clan, of the Tampa community recently earned a master's degree in business administration from the University of Tampa. Gopher graduated with a 3.2 overall grade point average. Gopher, originally from Brighton, is the daughter of Louise Gopher and the late Charlie Gopher; both also of Brighton. The master's program at the University of Tampa took two years to complete. Her concentration within the major was controller-ship. This specialized concentration prepares students for the position of chief financial officer.



Carla Gopher

In 1996, Gopher was the first enrolled Seminole Tribal citizen to graduate from Florida State University (FSU). She was honored at the President's Reception during the FSU Homecoming festivities in October 2005. While attending FSU, Gopher also was the reigning Miss Seminole. Fittingly, the university has created a permanent display for the president's office with her princess dress and picture. Gopher said she hopes to combine her education, experience and achievement for the benefit of all Seminole Tribal citizens through her position with the Seminole Gaming department.

Departments Discuss Drug Prevention with Students

By Emma Brown
BRIGHTON — The Education department, Seminole Police Department (SPD) and Brighton Councilman Andrew Bowers met with high school students during the month of January to let them know that they always have a choice when it comes to drugs and alcohol and it is up to them to make the right one. These Brighton departments recognize the negative effects of drugs and alcohol on our youth and how easily accessible they have become over the recent years. One goal of these departments is to educate the students on the negative effects of drug use and encourage them to make the right choice if they are ever confronted with the use of drugs and alcohol.



Councilman Bowers speaks to students about positive choices.



SPD officer speaks to students about drugs and alcohol.

Another goal is for these departments to become a confidant to the students in the event that they may ever need someone to talk to or a place to feel safe. The staff have come to learn that students are being faced with drug and alcohol use at the elementary level and perhaps the education on how to make positive choices has not been taught at such a young age. These departments will be meeting with all students from grades kindergarten through 12th on a continual basis to keep awareness fresh in their minds and to provide them with prevention methods. The ultimate goal is to build confidence in our youth and unity between them and the departments so that the phrases "Just Say No" will be effective and no longer a cliché that is thrown around on signs and billboards.

Institute for Journalism Accepting Applications

Submitted by The Sports Journalism Institute
ALBUQUERQUE, NM — The 2006 Sports Journalism Institute is accepting applications for a nine week training and internship program for college students interested in sports journalism careers. The Institute, which runs from June 2–Aug. 4, is designed to attract talented students of color to print journalism through opportunities in sports reporting and editing.

The Sports Journalism Institute, which works with the UNITY: Journalist of Color organizations, is funded by the Tribune Foundation, Hearst Newspaper/Houston Chronicle, the Associated Press Sports Editors and the New York Daily News.

The classroom training portion, hosted by the Poynter Institute in St. Petersburg, Fla., will run June 2–10. Students will then go to a paid eight week internship at newspapers across the country.

For more information call (505) 262-2351 or e-mail NScholarsh@aol.com.

Student selected for the 2006 Sports Journalism Institute will receive:

A crash course in sports journalism from working professionals in daily sports journalism, plus staff from Poynter. Class session will range from ethics to photo editing to how to keep running score at a baseball game to copy editing. Travel and rooming expenses will be arranged by the Institute and paid for by the Institute.

Eight weeks of professional experience at a paid internship in the sports department of a daily newspaper. (June 12–Aug. 4).

A \$500 scholarship upon successful completion of the program for students returning to college.

Seminole Tribal Members needed to dress in traditional outfits and interact with public at special events and festivals
Museum will pay \$100.00 per day



Please contact the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museums Outreach Program at 863-902-1113

For more Info about clothing and events

THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT INVITES YOU TO:

THE MIAMI NATIONAL COLLEGE FAIR 2006

SHERATON MIAMI MART HOTEL

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19th

12:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS ENCOURAGING ALL INTERESTED SEMINOLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO ATTEND THIS EVENT.

MEET FACE-TO-FACE WITH COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY!

- **ADMISSION PROCEDURES**
- **TESTING**
- **MAJOR FIELDS OF STUDY**
- **STUDENT LIFE**

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2006 Seminole Tribal Fair Clothing Contest

Saturday, February 11, 2006

Registration at 7:30 a.m. at Hard Rock Live

Age Groups and Categories

Prize For Each Category

Birth to 17 years

Participation Only - First 150 Participants to Sign In **\$50.00 each**
• Any Style May Be Worn

Women 65 & Up

• 1800 - Old Traditional **1st: \$600.00, 2nd: \$500.00**
• 1900 - Modern Traditional **3rd: \$400.00, 4th: \$300.00**
* If you have contemporary clothing you may enter **5th: 200.00**
the 55 - 64 contemporary category

Women 55 to 64

• 1800 - Old Traditional **1st: \$500.00, 2nd: \$400.00**
• 1900 - Modern Traditional **3rd: \$300.00, 4th: \$200.00**
• 2000 - Contemporary **5th: \$100.00**

The clothing schedule will be as listed above.
Prizes will be awarded after the contest event.

Rules

All clothing must be made by a Seminole or Miccosukee Tribal member.
All clothing must be made within the past 6 months.
You cannot re-enter clothing from past Tribal Fairs.

1800 - Old Traditional

1. All cotton material used
2. No shoes or leggings
3. No designs / patchwork on any clothing
4. No rick-rack on any clothing
5. Long dress / shirt style for men
6. Silver or beadwork is allowed

1900 - Modern Traditional

1. Any type material (cotton, satin, metallic, velvet, etc.)
2. Must have design / patchwork on clothing
3. Rick-rack allowed
4. Women must wear set (long skirt and cape)
5. Men's jackets included in this category

2000 - Contemporary

1. All styles with designs / patchwork
Long / short sleeve shirts; Long / short skirts; Sundress; Slacks; Sports jackets; Vests; Etc.
2. Women may wear jackets in this category

Clothing Contest Committee: Judy Jones - 954-966-6300 Ext. 1312

Last Chance! Enter Now! Little Mr. & Little Miss Seminole

Sponsored by:

Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.
Hollywood, Florida

Location:

At the Hard Rock Live
Friday February 10, 2006, 5:00 p.m.

Contestants must be:

1. Enrolled Tribal Member
 2. 5-7 years old
 3. Florida resident
- For more information and applications,

please contact the following:

Hollywood. Wanda Bowers (954) 966-6300,
Ext. 1468, Priscilla Sayen (954) 966-6300, Ext. 1461
Big Cypress: Alice Billie (863) 902-3200
Brighton: Salina Dorgan (863) 763-2402

Application Deadline:

Thursday February 9, 2006, 5:00 p.m.
Fax to (954) 967-3488 (call to confirm fax received)
or carry it into the Secretary's Office.
No entries allowed the day of the contest.

2006 SEMINOLE TRIBAL FAIR

LITTLE MR. & LITTLE MISS SEMINOLE CONTEST FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2006

Contestant Application Contestant # _____

(check one)

LITTLE MISS. ____ or LITTLE MR. ____ SEMINOLE - 2006

Date: _____

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Enrollment Number : _____ Date of Birth _____ Res: _____

Parent or Guardian Signature
(circle one)

Print Name

Contestants must be an enrolled tribal member, Florida resident between the ages of 5 to 7 years old by Feb. 10, 2006. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Registration Deadline is Thursday, February 9, 2006 at 5 p.m.

All contestants must be preregistered. There will be no applications taken on the day of contest, Friday February 10, 2006.

Please confirm that your fax has been received by Secretaries Office.

954-966-6300 ext. 1468 or 1463 (Wanda or Nicki)

Lit'l Mr. & Miss. Contest • Princess Committee (Sec. Off.)

Tribal Fair Committee • Fax#954-967-3488

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Seminole Romance Banquet



Prizes ♦ Dancing ♦ Speakers
Poetry ♦ Dinner ♦ Games
Live Entertainment ♦ Storytellers
Comedian ♦ Traditional Mock Wedding

Brighton / Ft. Pierce:

4-H Complex

Monday, February 13, 2006

From 6:00 p.m. To 11:00 p.m.

Big Cypress / Immokalee:

Big Cypress Community Center

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

From 6:00 p.m. To 11:00 p.m.

Hollywood:

Hollywood Gymnasium

Thursday, February 16, 2006

From 6:00 p.m. To 11:00 p.m.

Sponsors:

The Seminole Tribune ♦ Allied Health ♦ Boys & Girls Club
Culture ♦ Education ♦ Family Services Dept.
Hollywood Recreation ♦ Immokalee Council ♦ Brighton Council

Hollywood Rez Rally

Congratulations Hollywood Reservation! The 6th Annual Reservation Rally held Jan. 21, on the Hollywood Seminole Reservation hosted a record turnout. Hollywood Rez won the trophy for most number of participants. Look for story and more pictures in the Feb. 24 issue of *The Seminole Tribune*.



Betsy Franco pushes stroller with Philmon Bowers.



Betty Osceola and Monica Cypress, Dorothy Tucker and Jerome Williams.



Big Cypress Board Rep. Paul Bowers.



Joe Guerue and Ciara Billie Guerue cross the finish line all smiles.



Runners line-up early and get ready for the start of the Rez Rally on the 5k course.



Edwin Garcia and Hollywood Council Representative Max Osceola Jr. march in solidarity with Rez Rally participants Jan.21.



World Boxing Champ O'Neil Bell greets Paul Bowers and Chairman Mitchell Cypress.



Slow walkers bring it home to the big finish line.



Tribal Employee Carter Clough walks alongside Chairman Mitchell Cypress in the 5K race through Hollywood Rez.



Anthony Frank celebrates completing the 5k Rez Rally.

Seminole Children’s Dental Health Month 2006

Submitted by the Seminole Dental Program
February is Seminole Children’s Dental Health Month. In honor and celebration, the Seminole Dental Program will be sponsoring a Dental Activities Contest. Beginning on Feb. 6, children will be asked to complete one dental themed activity per week.
Children completing each week’s activity will receive a dental trading card with an oral health message. At the end of the week of Feb. 26, all children that have received all 4 trading cards will be eligible for the Grand Prize drawing.
And of course, it wouldn’t be Seminole Children’s Dental Health Month without the poster contest! Creating the posters will be one of the activities for a trading card, but extra poster paper will be available at the four Health Centers for those children who wish only to participate in poster contest.
Remember: A healthy smile is something to cheer!

The dental activities contest will take place at the following locations:
Big Cypress: Big Cypress Community Center – (863) 983-7800
Brighton: TBA
Ft. Pierce: Contact Emma Johns Brown– (772) 467-2454
Hollywood: Boys & Girls Club – (954) 410-0967
Immokalee: TBA
Naples: Contact Christine Zack – (239) 352 -1411
Tampa: TBA

February is National Children's Dental Health Month

A healthy smile is something to **CHEER!**

Did You Know?

- Teeth are the hardest substance in the human body.
- Our first president, George Washington, had a set of dentures made from ivory (not from wood—that’s a myth). His dentist, John Greenwood, made four sets of false teeth for him. The false teeth were sometimes set in gold.
- Dogs have 42 teeth. Cats have 30 teeth. Pigs have 44 teeth. Adults have 32 teeth. Armadillos have as many as 104 teeth, more than any other land animal.
- Beavers must gnaw on wood and other materials to wear down their teeth. Otherwise, the incisors would grow too big for their head.

- Sharks have an unlimited supply of teeth that are set in layered rows in their gums. If one tooth falls out, a tooth from another layer takes its place. A shark may shed as many as 50,000 teeth in its lifetime.
- It takes 26 muscles to smile, and 62 muscles to frown.
- The Cheshire cat in the book ‘Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland,’ written by Lewis Carroll, often disappeared gradually, leaving nothing but a grin hanging in the air. ‘I’ve often seen a cat without a grin,’ thought Alice, ‘but a grin without a cat! It’s the most curious thing I ever saw in all my life!’

Arachibutyrophobia is the fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of the mouth.

Tooth

Trivia

The first modern (bristled) toothbrush was made in China about 1600 A.D.

Do you recognize these names?

They were all dentists!

Paul Revere – famous for his wild horse ride in 1775 to warn the American Colonists of the approaching British troops.

George W. Boers – created the game called Lacrosse.

Doc Holliday – helped Wyatt Earp win the OK Corral shootout.

George Grant – invented the wooden golf tee.

Zane Grey – wrote best-selling Western novels.

Thomas Welch – his company was the first to bottle grape juice.

Health Dept. Hosts Holiday Luncheon

By Felix DoBosz
HOLLYWOOD — Health Director Connie Whidden spoke to the assembled guests at the Second Annual Christmas Luncheon at the Emerald Hills Country Club on Dec.8, 2005.
Employees came from many different sectors of the Health department and from all reservations. The luncheon was supposed to be at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, where they held it last year. Unfortunately this year’s dates were all booked almost a year in advance.

Health Director Connie Whidden accepts her special award at Christmas Luncheon.

The luncheon started with a customary traditional prayer, read by Holly Billie, from Brighton reservation’s medical and social work program. Each group surrounding round tables took turns standing to the appreciative applause that recognized their many contributions and dedication throughout the year.
There was entertainment provided by Andrea Samuels, Big Cypress and Immokalee case manager. Her husband, Van Samuels from the band Native Voices joined her on the small stage as they performed a few holiday songs through a karaoke machine to get everyone into a festive mood. The Samuels’ sang the old Nat King Cole classic, “Christmas Song.” Andrea then broke into “Rockin’ Around the Christmas tree.” The two have sung sweet harmonies together for the past 10 years and enjoy performing together.
Awards were presented by Whidden to those who achieved many years of service to the Seminole

Tribe. Individuals were recognized how much they are appreciated for all of the services they provide for the Tribe’s citizens and employees.
Whidden awarded the following employees with certificates and a gift for their dedicated years of service:
Five Years: Candice Hightower, Joyce Johnson, Joann Martin, Wanda Gail McClenithan, Edna McDuffie, Harley Roberts; 10 Years: Suzanne Jaeger Davis; 30 Years: Billie Micco.

Andrea Samuels and her husband Van Samuels entertain the Christmas Luncheon guests with festive holiday songs.

Whidden also recognized two former Health department employees who have moved on to the Family Services department. Before taking the position of family services director, Helene Buster served eight years with the Health department. Debbie Ray, now family services assistant director was with the Health department for six years.
In addition, Administrative Services Director Terry Sweat presented an award of appreciation to Connie Whidden on behalf of the employees of the Health department.
Following a healthful meal, Whidden was presented with a beautiful crystal statue for her great leadership skills and achievements by the Seminole Tribe. She touched by the moment and everyone gave her a warm heartfelt congratulations and best wishes. Whidden was so happy she gave all her employees the rest of the day off.

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Prevention Team Offers Parenting Seminar

By Eric Bricker
HOLLYWOOD — On Jan. 12 members of the Hollywood Prevention Team held a seminar entitled “Parenting: The Ways of Seminole Tradition and Culture” in the Hollywood Auditorium. The six hour seminar was intended to inform Tribal Citizens about some of the

Shortly after, Hollywood Council Representative Max B. Osceola Jr. was introduced. Osceola disclosed about the proud history of the Seminole Tribe and the Tribe’s rise to prominence. “In Seminole culture, wealth is not measured by what you have, but by what you can share,” he said. Osceola

needs of children than any government agency. “If we didn’t have a clan system, our children could end up anywhere,” he said. Nelson goes on further to suggest that this uniquely Native American cultural attribute has been reflected in the spirit of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). ICWA is the law that guarantees Native American Tribes the right to place Native American foster children with the child’s own tribe before any outside or agency placements are considered. “The Indian Child Welfare Act was created to keep families together,” Nelson said. After lunch, the seminar reconvened with a panel discussion consisting of Tribal Citizens who were representing different clans. Josephine Motlow North moderated and interpreted for the panel speakers as they responded to different questions from the audience. Dan Osceola Sr., Bird Clan, explained: “If you didn’t have a dad, you went to an elder from your clan, and he became like your dad.” Josephine Motlow North of the Panther Clan elaborated about parenting roles. “When you had children, you were responsible for them,” North said. “You nurtured them and cared for them.” About marriage, Betty Osceola, Bird Clan, stated: “The man moves to the



Ted Nelson of Family Services presenting, “It takes a Camp to raise a child”



Hollywood Council Representative Max B. Osceola, Jr. visiting with his aunt Betty Osceola and uncle Dan Osceola.

traditional parenting practices and history of Seminole parenting as seen through the eyes of members of different Seminole clans. Hollywood Board Representative Gloria Wilson, a long-time advocate of Tribal prevention programs, spearheaded the development of the prevention team. The team is made up of representatives from different Tribal departments and individuals including Hollywood Culture, Family Services, Preschool, the Boys & Girls Club, Tribal Interns and Allied Health. The seminar opened with a brief welcoming by Leona T. Williams and Josephine Motlow North. During the welcoming, North, the Hollywood cultural department’s language coordinator, spoke about her father and Seminole life during earlier times. She stated “We carry on the culture through the youth.” Preschool Director Leona T. Williams reminded the audience: “We can’t let anyone take the language from us.” elaborated further on that point by advising the audience that sharing does not only apply to material items or money, but that it applies to time and it applies to knowledge. Councilman Osceola shared his belief that this generosity between and among Tribal members has been the foundation for the Tribe’s survival, as well as its success. Next on the seminar’s agenda was Family Service’s Foster Care Program Administrator Ted Nelson, who gave an account of the historical aspects of Native American foster care. Nelson pointed out that long before any government agencies, such as the Department of Children and Families began to intervene on issues of Native American child welfare, the Seminole Tribe had its own natural child protection system in place. Nelson stated that if a parent was unable to care for his or her child, then the child’s clan would intervene and another member of the clan would take care of the child. He asserted that this system has always historically been swifter and a lot more efficient about attending to the



Jo Motlow North translating for elders Dan Osceola, Sr. and Betty C. Osceola – “Parenting/Grandparenting panel discussion”

women’s camp. The house and everything in it belongs to the woman.” About death, Gloria Wilson, Snake Clan, said: “There is appropriate behavior for grief and death that is different for each clan. Medicine is used to cleanse and protect the grieving family from spirits.” Bobby Henry, Otter Clan, spoke about the roles of the medicine man. “Paying a medicine man doesn’t mean with money,” he said. “You can offer to do something for him like wash his car depending on what he needs.” One of the strictest traditional rules discussed was that of not marrying within one’s own clan. “If you reproduced with your own clan, you would be tied to a tree, your ears would be cut off, and part of your nose and mouth would be cut,” Henry said. “You would be permanently disfigured.” While these practices may seem harsh, Josephine Motlow North explains that the rules had to be strict and clear because the practice of inbreeding could threaten the future of the Tribe. Harsh consequences were put in place to ensure that people would follow the rules. It was a matter of survival. The seminar was closed out with a motivational session by Basil Phillips of the Family Services department who spoke on the topic of “Building a Healthy Relationship with Your Child.” During the session, Leona T Williams chimed in about relationships with our mothers and reminded the audience how important it is to respect and listen to our mothers.

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Health Corner

Dear Counselor,

I look forward in reading your articles in *The Seminole Tribune*. Before I started reading "Ask the Counselor," I thought all men were hard with their feelings and showed no emotions. I thought all mens' first loves were alcohol and drugs. Those combinations are very difficult in a relationship.

Your articles have opened my mind that recovery and tenderness is not unmanly. My friends all laugh at my new behavior and tease me for being sober and weak. My friends say true men don't think with their hearts they think with their hormones.

My girlfriend loves my new way of treating her. The other day, with tears in her eyes, she told me to see me go from physical and mental abuse, to go from alcohol and drug, to go from being mean spirited and cruel to support and love in recovery is a blessing.

Counselor, your articles have taught me that the heart and hands are for helping not hurting. Please write to my friends and other men who are afraid of recovery and who are blind and can't see that recovery and tenderness can only be shown by men who are not afraid to show emotions

Signed,
New Man

Dear New Man,

Your new approach will be welcome with open heart and arms by your girlfriend. I am proud of you and your commitment for change.

The importance of your new approach was highlighted in one of the best songs of the mid 60s. The song is a lasting tribute to women everywhere and it came in the form of Otis Redding's award-winning song "Try a Little Tenderness." It was a love song from the heart of recovery—and it came from the soul of staying clean.

Even now, in 2006 a full 40 years since Otis put his musical signature on the song- the words are just as powerful and penetrating as they were when he first gave the world a recovery

message in a love song.

*"Oh she may be weary
Those young girls, they do get weary
Wearing that same old shaggy dress
But when she gets weary
You try a little tenderness."*

New Man, you are right. Otis was right.

The Counselor is right. Women do get weary of: waiting for their man to stop physically abusing them, waiting for their man to stop mentally abusing them and waiting for their man to stop sexually abusing them

Your friends who laugh at you should ask themselves would they want their daughters to marry someone like them. If the answer is "hell no," they should try a little tenderness. Unfortunately, for some men, displaying that kind of sensitivity and tenderness is not the manly thing to do.

A real man is able to say the words I love you without lying, without saying it just for sex, without trying to manipulate and without expecting any thing in return. Being affectionate, considerate and respectful to the women in your life is a huge part of recovery and a huge part in being

a mature man.

New Man, it is this Counselors' opinion that there are two types of men: mature and immature. Mature men are like warriors they have the discipline to fight the obstacles in life for their families. They show up for work. They are brave enough to show affection and use the word love in their behavior. Then there are immature men. The more immature a man is the less responsibility he shows to himself and his family.

The word love and affection is used as a weapon to get over, to steal emotions, and to get something for nothing. New Man, you are a mature man you are a warrior and no matter what your friends say, you should know that there's nothing weak about being meek for your woman.

Signed,
Counselor



Basil Phillips
M.S. Mental Health Counseling

Letters of interest from the community

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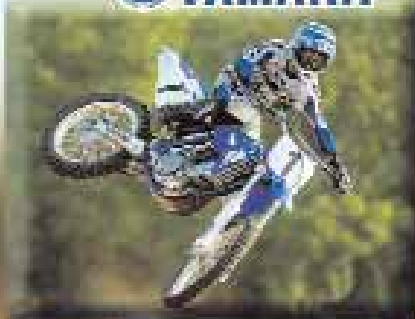
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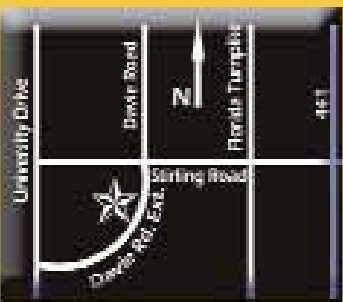
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2006 NASA Basketball Tournament

By Lila Osceola
CHEROKEE, NC — Why travel north for the winter? Seems awful strange to see people walking around with shorts and sweatshirts in cold weather, unless you are from a place where you don't need to wear sweats and winter like clothing.

On the weekend of January 13–15, many die-hard Floridian basketball fans traveled to Cherokee, N.C. for the annual NASA basketball tournament. Participants and ballers packed up what little winter clothing they possessed, and headed 13 hours north, whether by plane or by car.

The beautiful Smokey Mountains played host to many Native American teams that came to participate in the tournament. Teams from Mississippi, New York, Alabama, and North Carolina were there to compete. Out of 22 men's teams, and 11 women's teams, Florida was represented by three women's and three men's teams and each reserva-



Seminole Rec. play defense in the championship game.

tion was represented proudly.

Jan 11–12 were travel days for the teams, players and fans to arrive in North Carolina. By morning on Jan. 13 everyone had settled in for a short winter stay and a great basketball experience.

The games started at 9 a.m. in the morning on Jan. 13. The women of Hollywood, and Big Cypress teamed up and got a quick squad in the tournament. The excitement came to a screeching halt when they lost their first game. Big Cypress men brought their A game and won the first game of the day.

The Cherokee of North Carolina had arranged for teams to play at two or three different gyms, Big Cove, Charles George, and Paint Town, during the tourney. So many Seminoles were coming and going, fans were jumping from gym to gym to support the six teams that were in the tournament.



MBCI Choctaws take home the championship back to back.

Travel and weather conditions played a major role in the experience. Many people from North Carolina knew what to expect, but the Florida people had no idea, rain one day, snow the next, and by the last day of the tournament the weather did an about face and turned out to be a beautiful day to travel home. One thing was for certain, it remained cold the whole trip.

The teams that remained in the tourney until Jan. 14 meant they still had a chance to run for the Championship that night, Big Cypress Men, Sundown, Seminole Rec. Men and Women. As the day progressed the excitement grew, as the Seminole Rec men and women made it to the Championship game, both coming through the loser's bracket.

The gym was packed full of anxiousness, excitement, and cold Indians. By the end of a snowy day, the warm stinky gym is right where everyone eagerly awaited the Championship series.



Sundown—Two time NASA champions

Rec. had a roster of 7 deep, with Tony Heard playing with a fractured clavicle bone in his shooting shoulder, so depending on his left hand the majority of the time. MBCI had an all star roster with players from Florida, Arizona, and Mississippi to make up a dominating 10 deep roster.

The reigning champs from a year ago didn't miss a beat from last year. They were up and down the court dominating the Seminole Rec team with their up tempo defense. The tired, Seminole Rec. team couldn't stay with the MBCI team, and lost by 15 points.

The hospitality of the Cherokees of North Carolina was very critical to having a good, well ran tournament. All the games were on time, and gyms were kept clean. Next year we will look forward to seeing more NASA Basketball when the tournament is in New York.



Seminole Rec 2nd Place in NASA Tournament.

Seminoles Participate in EPCOT 5K Family Fun Run

By Felix DoBosz

LAKE BUENA VISTA, FL — In 1966 Walt Disney said "... the most exciting, by far the most important part of our Florida project-in fact, the heart of everything will be doing in Disney World-will be our experimental prototype city of tomorrow. We call it EPCOT, spelled E-P-C-O-T: Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow."

To generate revenue streams the community of tomorrow concept became a corporate theme park focusing on the World Showcase where visitors could get a taste of the culture and crafts of the many countries represented.

This was the 13th Annual Walt Disney World Marathon Weekend, Jan. 5-8 and included a new split-day format. For the first time, the 13.1-mile half marathon on Saturday Jan. 7 and the 26.2-mile full marathon on Sunday Jan. 8.

The festive family crowds gathered on Jan. 7, a cold windy sunny day, at the EPCOT Center parking lot for thousands of young and old participants to run



Chipmunks celebrate with Seminole family at EPCOT's 5K Family Run.

in the 5K race. People were not enjoying the unusual cold wintry weather caused by a quick cold snap in central Florida.

Non-resident Seminole Tribal citizens and their families had come to the huge EPCOT parking lot to participate in this family fun event. They were staying warm wrapped up in sweats and heavy jackets waiting for the race to get underway at 11 a.m. This was only one of the many races and events scheduled during the Walt Disney World Marathon Weekend 2006.

Runners tried staying warm before the race by jumping around and stretching while posing for family pictures. It seemed as though everyone had a camera, people were either posing or shooting photos of each other.

The camp fun group, the Mullet Marathoners, showed up and got the crowd in a festive

mood with their racing clown antics, while vogueing in sync for loads of photos.

Here were four grown twenty-something men in T-shirts and shorts and long white calf sock's, wearing additional accessories fake mullet wigs and mustaches entertaining the large crowd getting to race for charity.

With the growing popularity of half-marathoning and a sharp increase in the number of running enthusiasts interested in half-marathons, Disney Sports Attractions decided to run its half-marathon on a separate day from the regular

marathon beginning this year. Almost 30,000 participants were



Mullet Marathoners vogue for the fans at the race.

signed up to compete in the Walt Disney World Marathon Weekend–16,000 in the half marathon, 14,000 in the full marathon. More than 3,000 participants registered to compete in both races. This was a genuine fun activity for the entire family as participants struggled and pushed baby strollers to compete and finish in this year's 5K run.



Bronc riding will be a feature at the PRCA Rodeo.

Rez to Host World Finals in Wild Horse Racing

By Susan Etxebarria

BRIGHTON — There's something new and exciting this year coming up at the Brighton Field Days Festival Feb. 18–19 during the \$100,000 Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association (PRCA) Rodeo. For the first time the Wild Horse Racing Association World Finals is being held at the Fred Smith Arena as part of the annual rodeo.

This is the wildest event in rodeo. More cowboys are injured in this event than even the bull riding.

In this event three-man teams each draw an unbroken horse. The horses are loaded into the chute. They are released simultaneously. One team member they call the 'mugger' attempts to hold the horse still, while the other two cowboys saddle the horse. Once the saddle is on the horse the rider mounts and attempts to ride the horse to the other end of the arena.

This is so exciting to watch and you will be screaming for the poor cowboys who really have their hands full trying to subdue a violently kicking horse. Often a horse just can't be controlled and the saddle never gets cinched but the cowboys don't give up even when they are flung to the ground trying. It's fast, furious and fun.

The association has teams from across the U.S., but Florida and California are hotbeds of wild horse racing. Although qualifying is not yet finished, an Avon Park team is almost assured to qualify. Teams will be entered

from as far away as California.

The \$100,000 PRCA Rodeo will once again feature the top cowboys from across the North American Continent. The two-time PRCA "Stock Contractor of the Year" nominee, Five Star Rodeo of Davie, will supply all the bulls and stock. They have a reputation for supplying some of the fiercest beasts on the circuit that makes for some pretty exciting rodeo.

The top cowboys in the PRCA circuit will compete in bareback bronc riding, saddle bronc riding, steer wrestling, calf roping, team roping (cowgirls), Women's Professional Rodeo Association (WPRA) barrel racing and bull riding.

Brighton Field Days also includes featured performers and entertainment including the Mescalero Apache Dancers and the Haskell Performance Dancers from Lawrence, Ks. The crowds are always delighted and awed by the beauty of the Seminole clothing contests and the baby contests.

The gates are open to the public on Feb. 18 at 9 a.m. and Feb. 19 at 11 a.m. The rodeo times are 7 p.m. on Feb. 18 and 3 p.m. on Feb. 19.

On Feb. 18, the traditional Tribal citizen-only contests take place; these include pole peeling, sack races, turtle races, men's archery, women's skillt throwing and softball throwing. All Tribal citizens are encouraged to participate.

Keeno King Scores Hole-In-One

By Susan Etxebarria

FT. MYERS, FL — All-around lifetime athlete, Keeno King of Big Cypress, has a number of trophies in his office at Ahfachkee Elementary School. He serves on the staff as a teacher and supervisor over the kitchen and maintenance staff. But, a plaque pronouncing a recent hole-in-one on the golf links may be his most incredible sports accomplishment yet.

According to the U.S. Golf Register™ the odds of hitting a hole in one are about one in 33,000.

According to its website, www.usgolfregister.org, those odds are "guesstimates" based on estimated rounds played and estimated hole-in-ones achieved.

King is a tough competitor in billiards and once played baseball. Golfing since 1988, he had always hoped one day he would achieve the golf shot ever golfer dreams about.

"Some people play golf a long time and never get one," he said. "But it's always on your mind. The odd thing is that I was thinking about it all week before I went golfing."

King was playing Hole No. 6 at the Eastwood Country Club in Ft.

Myers, Fla. on Jan. 6. He was golfing with two men from out of state whose names he doesn't recall. Usually if a golfer shows up alone they are teamed up with other golfers for the day. His golfing companions were asked to verify on their return from the links that King hit a hole-in-one on the 152-yard hole. With his signed scorecard he was presented with a plaque.

King said when he hit the ball from the tee it instinctively felt like a perfect shot.

When he got to the green he didn't see the ball. He assumed he must have over-shot the cup and kept looking for the ball.

When he discovered the ball in the cup and realized he had made a hole-in-one he was very excited. King said he was so excited he got on the cell phone and called friends and family and was hardly able to concentrate on the remainder of the game.

He said he wasn't even using the 5-iron club he normally uses for his long shot. That day he was using a slightly lighter 4-iron because King, nearing 60 years of age, said as he gets older he doesn't have as much muscle as he did as a young man. For this avid golfer, older is better it seems.



Golfer Keeno King.

Former FSU Players Speak to the Community

By Tony Heard
HOLLYWOOD — The focus in South Florida was all on the Orange Bowl game between Florida State University (FSU) and Penn State. On Jan. 3 the Seminole Tribe hosted three former FSU football players. They spoke in the gym



Mathew Osceola poses for a picture with the ex FSU players.

to a crowd of about 60 people. Adults, youth, and even some elders came to hear the message from William Floyd, Derrick Alexander and Toddrick McIntosh.

The event was orchestrated by Richard Osceola, who knows all three gentlemen personally and asked if they would come and address the Seminole youth and community members. They were

happy and more than willing to try and reach a few people through sharing a few of their hard times and life lessons.

If the names do not sound familiar William Floyd was a fullback at Florida State from 1990-94. In his last year he helped his team win a national championship. Following that year he had the privilege of being drafted in the first round by the San Francisco 49ers.

While developing and learning more about the NFL game he found himself being a major contributor towards a Super Bowl appearance and victory. With the Super Bowl win Floyd became the only player to date to win a national championship ring his senior year, and then win a Super Bowl ring his rookie season in the NFL.

After beginning his professional career on such a high note, he continued to play and be a force on the field for several years. He did point out that even though he has been blessed to experience many great things, his family and God is the true force behind all of his achievements. Now retired, Floyd is doing public relations work, and planning on going back to school to study law in the near future.

Attending FSU from 1991-94 Derrick Alexander was an animal at the defensive end position. Although on the opposite side of the ball,

Alexander was also a key element in winning the 1994 national championship. The powerful defensive end was a two year all-American while at FSU.

This is why it was no surprise when he was honored by being named the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Defensive Player of the Year in 1994.

His message behind being great is to always try your hardest at whatever you choose to do. He retired and began to concentrate on real estate. While making great strides in this area, Alexander was presented with the Ed Block Award in 1999. This award is given to people who do outstanding work to help the children and communities in Cleveland, Ohio's inner cities.

Alexander's program, the D.A. Achievers, do a great job influencing

inner city kids in a positive way.

Graduating from Berkner High School in Richardson, Texas, Toddrick McIntosh dominated as a defensive end. He was such a standout that he was heavily recruited by some of the top schools in the nation. The tradition of the program and knowing the team would be able to compete for a national championship each year; made it an easy decision to choose FSU to continue his football career.

McIntosh played for FSU from 1989-93 consistently being a wrecking ball against whoever they faced. Although he was not fortunate enough to get a national title under his belt, in 1993 Seminoles won the Orange Bowl by defeating the Nebraska Cornhuskers.

Following the win he was drafted by the Dallas Cowboys. After a few good years he then continued his career by playing for Tampa Bay, New Orleans, and Green Bay.

He is now retired and residing in South Florida, and has opened his own custom jewelry making business. With many celebrity clients most of his work is done by appointment only, but he also has a store based in Atlanta, Ga.

Each one of these former FSU players came and graced us with knowledge and words of wisdom in their own way.

During the event Madeline Osceola and Troy Tiger were announced the winners of the drawing for the Penn State and Florida State bowl game tickets, that night.

Richard Osceola was asked

how he felt the event turned out and his reply was, "I wish a few more kids would have showed up to hear the message and experience meeting guys who have won championships and played professionally."

"A lot of the problem is that kids just hang out too much and end up getting in trouble. I've been on that side of it and I just want to get more kids involved in something to build the tribe back up, and keep them off the streets.

"Hearing those guys speak can be sort of a guiding light for the kids to follow. Life is beautiful and people should listen to others hardships and try to learn from them."



Tribal Members eagerly wait for an autograph.



Preschool kids enjoy the festivities.



Madeline Osceola and Troy Tiger winners of the Penn State vs. FSU game ticket drawing.

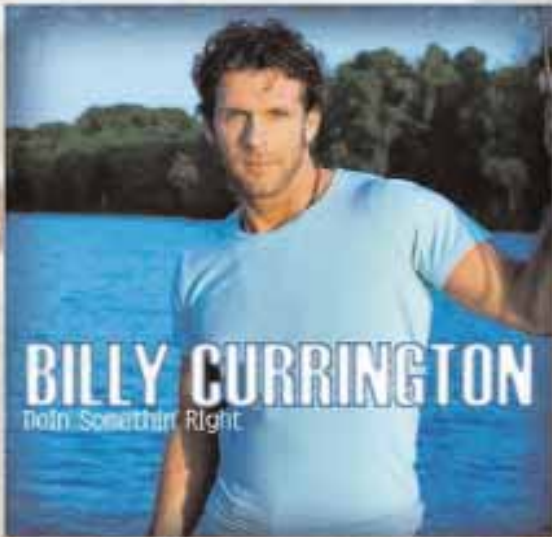


McIntosh speaks to crowd.



Mike Gentry and son take a picture with two of the three great FSU football players.

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Seminole Youth Play Undefeated Football

By Susan Etzebarria

BRIGHTON — Five Brighton youth can claim victory this year as members of the Okeechobee High School's undefeated teams. Due to their skills and prowess on the field they were each honored, along with their other teammates, for their outstanding athletic success.

Brighton teens Damen Bert, Garrett Madrigal and Pablo Cardenas all played freshman football on the school team called the Mavericks. The team won every game in the District 13 AAAA and was declared the undefeated champions. Each were



Susan Etzebarria
Damen Bert, Garrett Madrigal, Pablo Cardenas, Randal Osceola (not shown) of the undefeated freshmen football team.

honored with athletic participation awards and lettered T-shirts

Also, Brighton teens, Marcus Robinson, Brandon Cardenas and Dane Osceola, played on the varsity squad football team called the Chobee Bulls at Okeechobee High School which also was declared as undefeated champion in the Sunshine State Conference. They were presented with their player's rings, along with their teammates, in honor of their achievement.

These youth bring honor to the Seminole Tribe. Congratulations to the youth and their families who support their kids.



Susan Etzebarria
Marcus Robinson, Brandon Cardenas, Dane Osceola (not shown) of the undefeated Okeechobee Varsity football team

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Haskell Teams Visit Hollywood

By Tony Heard
HOLLYWOOD — The kids from Haskell University put away their snow boots and winter jackets and pulled out the swim suits, sunglasses and flip flops. The men's and women's basketball teams of Haskell Indian Nations University came down to South Florida on Jan. 2 to get in a few scrimmages and get away from the harsh cold wind of Kansas for a week.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Recreation department gladly extended their hospitality to make their visit one to remember.

Monday
They came down to get some extra life les-



Haskell University men's basketball team

sons as well as some more basketball in their systems before they start conference play when they return to school. The women's team arrived and enjoyed a full day of relaxation after the flight and voyage to their hotel.

Tuesday
Assistant Recreation Director Marl Osceola and designated tour guide Kenny Bayon arranged a meet and greet with the team at Renegade Barbeque in Seminole Paradise. After feasting, the coaches and players had one thing on their mind—visit the beach—what everyone wants to do when they come to Florida. So their tour guide escorted them to the beach near Dania Pier.

All the players had their minds set on getting a glimpse of South Beach right away, but considering the slight time restraints visiting South Beach at this time could not be worked in. After some tanning, major picture taking, and laughs, it was time to get back to the hotel and prepare for some round ball.

That evening was the start of their scrimmage sessions. One of the teams had personnel problems and would not be able to make it. Therefore, Cypress Bay High School, where Jeanie Osceola is currently playing, stepped up to the challenge of getting a workout against a college team. It was good to see the young girls compete and try hard, but they were outmatched by a bigger, stronger, physical and especially experienced team.

The Haskell Ladies knew that the only way the younger girls would get better is by playing hard and by gaining good experience. So they did not take it easy on them and in the end I'm sure the girls from Cypress Bay learned a few things they can do to defeat their next opponent.

The next scrimmage game would be a better test for the Haskell Ladies; they would be facing the Seminole Recreation women's team, with the help of

everything, and used their athletic ability and experience as an advantage in many instances. Not getting defensive stops and committing turnovers ended up being the downfall for the Seminole Rec team as they fell short of pulling out the victory.

Teamwork was easily the deciding factor in the Haskell win. It is evident to see most of these girls have been playing together for a while and has developed good chemistry on the court.

Wednesday
After their morning practice in the Hollywood President /Voice Chairman, Moses Osceola took the women's team for lunch at the Ark restaurant. The buffet was just what the team ordered; the large array of food was perfect for the team to endure before running back to the beach before their afternoon scrimmage against Johnson and Wales.

Coach Homeratha and a couple of the girls wanted to catch the much anticipated game against Pine Crest and American Heritage. They took a ride out to American Heritage to watch Heritage stand-outs Demetria Tigertail and Chelsea Mountain pull out a good win over Pine Crest stars Meaghan Osceola and Krystle Young.

The stands were full of tribal members, friends, and supporters that came to watch the game and cheer on all the girls who were competing hard.

Coach Homeratha was impressed with our tribal youth. He mentioned the skills and intensity all of our girls played with and said he will definitely be keeping an eye on all of them.



Francine Osceola and team scrimmage against Haskell women's basketball team.

Thursday
The day ahead was full of fun in the sun at South Beach. The team got up and met with their tour guide ready for another day of fun. Bayon guided them to nice spot on South Beach where they could enjoy the sand, and also venture off and view some of the rare stores that South Beach has to offer.

Some of the girls got in the water but many of them simply enjoyed the experience of lounging on South Beach, the scenery, and the sun. After spending a few hours with the sand in their toes, it was time to get back to the hotel to prepare for scrimmage number two at Johnson & Wales University.

Coming away with another win the girls were feeling food and wanted some free time. So coach let them and being they were staying at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino there were plenty of things to see and do.

Men's Basketball
The men's team had a similar trip that began sort of stressful. Their flight plans had them stopping in Orlando. After conversing with recreation personnel and others, the tribe helped them rent a few vans and make the drive down here.

After arriving safely the team and coaches were tired and just caught up on some sleep most of Tuesday. They ate as a team at Denny's and came to the Seminole Rec. later on in the evening to have a shoot around.

Wednesday
They returned to the Seminole Gym for a light practice to prepare for one of their scrimmages on the schedule. In the evening they faced off against Johnson and Wales in a very close and exciting game.

Leading almost the entire game fatigue must have been an issue because the Johnson & Wales team pulled out the victory in the last 45 seconds of the



Haskell men huddle during a scrimmage against the Seminole Rec. men's team.

game. Two crucial turnovers and not talking to get defensive stops gave Johnson & Wales just enough cushion to pull out the close win.

Thursday
Relax and fun in the sun was the name of the game for the Team. They hit the infamous South Beach as well. Not really appointed a tour guide, directions were given and the men found their way to the hot spot. A few of the guys mentioned that they noticed a few celebrities walking around.

Swimming, picture taking, and purchasing some memorabilia are what the guys had in mind. The environment around South Beach put everyone at ease and let them enjoy being in sunny Florida for a while.

Friday
What is a visit to South Florida if you don't go to Billie Swamp Safari?

So that morning the men's and women's team had made reservations with Billie Swamp Safari to travel west to Big Cypress and indulge in the Seminole culture at the Billie Swamp Safari. Following a few educational hours and an exciting buggy ride at the Billie Swamp, the guys had to return to the hotel to get prepared for their next scrimmage.

This time they would be facing off with a championship-caliber team, the Seminole Rec. men's team. The coaches wanting to give the guys time to recuperate; therefore, the scrimmage was scheduled for 9 p.m. With stretch and warm up the game time ended up being 9:20 with the Seminole Rec. team coming out and jumping to a 5-0 lead.

Once the Haskell guys calmed down and began to execute the game was really intense. Even though the Sem. Rec. team had a few men on the team with a lot of experience, the Haskell guys gave a good fight and took the lead late in the first half.

The second half proved to be a bit difficult for the younger guys to overcome the strength, quickness, and knowledge of the Sem. Rec. team. Focusing on defense, rebounding, and getting out on the fast break, the Sem. Rec. men built a commanding lead.

The Haskell men fought back but could not get over the hump to get the win. It was an exciting game full of big shots, no look passes, and a couple of dunks. After the game, the players, coaches and rec. staff stayed around a bit conversing, it was late and time to get the men back to the hotel, because Saturday proved to be another challenging day for the men.

Saturday
After driving all morning to Orlando, Fla. they had to get themselves mentally ready to face Lakeland College. It was a heated and intense game as usual but the Haskell pulled out a victory by a slim margin.

It was a productive trip for both the men's and women's teams. Not only did they get valuable playing experience and team bonding time, but they got a chance to learn about the Seminole heritage and lifestyle a little bit also.

Sports allow youth to get out and experience



Haskell University women's basketball team

things you normally wouldn't get to experience without some sort of reason to travel around the United States. Valuable basketball experience as well as life experience is very important in college sports.

The coaches and players from both teams were very thankful and expressed how much they



Haskell bench watches as their team scrimmages against Seminole Rec.



President Moses Osceola and Haskell University women's basketball team go out for lunch.

a few players from the last women's league to fill up the roster with 8. This was a very intense and physical game that was back and forth almost the whole time.

By being in better shape the Haskell team had a slight edge on the Seminole Rec. team, considering they had set plays, knew what each other could do, and communicated with their teammates.

But the Sem. Rec. team made them work for

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7. Joe Dan Osceola - Youngest elected President & First Ambassador - Almond & Dark Chocolate

8. Fred Smith - Longest serving Tribal President - Dark Chocolate & Mint

9. Jim Shore - Longtime General Legal Counsel of the Seminole Tribe - Dark Chocolate & Raspberry

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14. Mitchell & David Cypress - Brothers and Leaders from the Big Cypress Reservation - White Chocolate & Caramel

15. David DeHass - Hollywood Representative - Board - Dark Chocolate & Coconut

16. Moses Osceola - President of the Seminole Tribe - Irish Cream & Dark Chocolate

17. Roger Smith - Brighton Representative - Council - Dark Chocolate & Vanilla

18. Paul Bowers - Big Cypress Representative - Board - Caramel & Hazelnut

19. Johnny Jones - Brighton Representative - Board - Dark Chocolate & Praline

20. Howard Tommie - 2 Term Elected Chairman, Introduced Seminole Bingo - Dark Chocolate & Honey

21. Mike Tiger - Former Director of Indian Health Svs & current Treasurer - Half and Half, Sugar and whipped cream

22. Winifred Tiger - Helped Seminole Youth stay in School, graduate and go to college. - English Toffee & Vanilla

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Coach Terry Tartsah talks to team at the end of practice.

Lila Osceola



The team lines up for base running drills.

Lila Osceola



Lila Osceola

Parents watch and laugh while the kids try their hardest to listen to the coach.



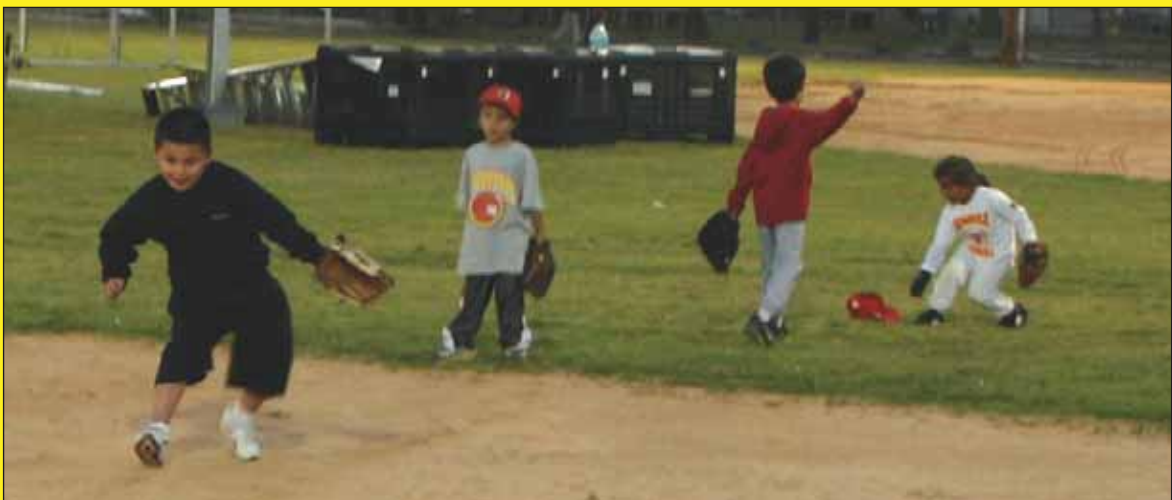
Lila Osceola

Grant Osceola sprints to first base.



Lila Osceola

Sheldon Osceola practices on his fielding, but can't seem to find the ball that's behind him.



Lila Osceola

Cameron Osceola goes after the ball.

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Activities Abound at BC Horse Club

By Judy Weeks
BIG CYPRESS — Monday nights are very busy at the Big Cypress Rodeo Arena. Director Josh Jumper has put together a horse club with possibilities for all ages. From 6:30–8:30 p.m., children can enjoy the wholesome atmosphere provided by arena staff. Owning a horse and tack are not necessary. All you need is a desire to learn and have a good time. In addition to the horses in the barn, Jumper has



Canaan Jumper is right at home in the saddle with her velcro restraints.

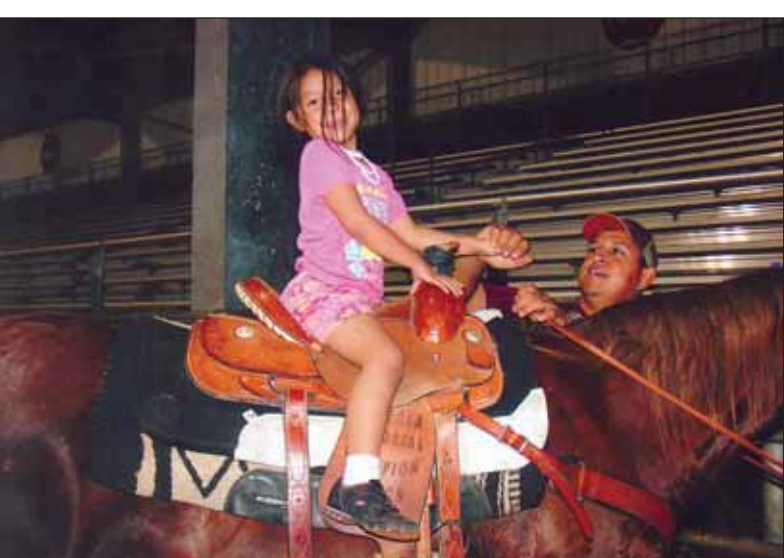
brought in several of his own mounts. “When working with the young inexperienced riders, I am more comfortable with animals that I know by heart,” he said. “Some of our personal horses have been with us for years both in Hollywood and Big Cypress. They are not ready to turn out to pasture by any means. Instead, they have mellowed with age and are willing to respond with very little encouragement. “In short, I don’t like surprises and they seem to know when they are hauling precious cargo around,” said Jumper, pointing at his two-year-old daughter, Canaan, being led around by his wife Andrea. Canaan, dressed in her little pink cowboy hat was all smiles as she made trip after trip around the arena. She had been securely locked into the saddle with a Velcro™ system that prevented any slippage. While the little ones want to “ride all by myself,” parents can be comfortable knowing that every precaution has been taken to insure their safety. Velcro™ is a confidence builder. Eliza Billie, 5, had been a little apprehensive at first but was now laughing and petting her mount as she was led back and forth in the arena. “If horse back rides are all the children want, then I will lead them around all evening,” Jumper said. “They will know when they are ready to move up to the next level. Pushing them can only lead to problems. This young lady doesn’t realize it, but she is already learning about the reins and the first steps to controlling the animal.” As Eddie Cresto walked up with Destiny Cypress, Jumper said: “We’re here to lead these little

rest right here on Jake.” The club isn’t just for beginners and riders of various levels were working out in the arena. Reagan Whitecloud walked up with her horse Loach, and lifting her leg up past her chest, inserted her boot in the stirrup. At first glance, it appeared she would never make it into the saddle. Grabbing onto the saddle apron she shimmied up the horse’s side like climbing a tree and swung into the seat. She said: “The first thing we learned was how to saddle up and bit, but since we’re a little short, they have to help us get ready to ride.” Ahnee Jumper, at six-years-old, looks like a pro as she runs the barrel pattern on horse Playboy. She loves both poles and barrels and has been competing in the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) pee wee division for some time. Her father Josh Jumper, started her out in the saddle at two years of age, just like he is now doing with Canaan. Adrienne Cypress said she has always had a love of horses, but never had one of her own. When she first started, she suffered a little spill which often happens and it caused a little set back. However, she didn’t let it get the best of her and now has her own horse. She has recently attended a Martha Josey clinic and is showing a lot of promise. Adrienne, Reagan and Ahnee attended the barrel race up in Brighton and are looking forward to EIRA events. Although the girls are competitive, they have formed close friendships and enjoy each other’s company. A number of youngsters have grown up in the program and have competed in EIRA and high




Reagan Whitecloud (rear) and Ahnee Jumper (foreground) wait their turn on the practice barrels.

school rodeo. Monday nights offer them an opportunity to work their horses and perfect their timing. Shelby Osceola, Shadoe Billie, Ayze Henry and Shelby DeHass are just a few of the regulars. The Big Cypress Horse Club doesn’t just offer horseback riding. Several rodeo events are being taught. Andre Jumper has been EIRA junior calf riding champion for two years running and got his start in mutton bustin. Loping his white horse around on the red clay while standing in the stirrup on its side, it seemed he was a part of the animal. They moved as one. Chebon Gooden flew through the barrels on his flashy paint horse before inquiring: “Are we going to rope the dummy tonight?” The reply was: “If that’s what you would like, then that’s what we’ll do.” He isn’t the only one interested in roping practice, Shelby DeHass has been coming out from Hollywood to take roping lessons and Ayze Henry often attends team roping competitions around South Florida. “Working with these young people gives me great pleasure,” said Jumper. “Growing up in both 4-H and rodeo activities provides valuable lessons in responsibility and self discipline, while building integrity, confidence and patience. It is an opportunity to build wholesome family values while building self-esteem.” “We would welcome the opportunity for you to join us on Monday nights. If you have any questions, please call the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena Office at (863) 983-8923. Our concession is open from 6:30–8:30 p.m. for your convenience,” Jumper added.



Josh Jumper helps Destiny Cypress learn to hold her reins properly.

cowhands around for as long as they want. Before you know it, they will be riding alone as we walk with them and eventually rambling around the arena while we keep a watchful eye on them.” Turning to Destiny, Jumper asked: “Shall we take a break?” “Nope,” she replied crossing her little hands on the saddle horn and with a smile continued, “I can



Jimmy Wayne Holdiness

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Co-Ed League Champions

Story by Judy Weeks
IMMOKALEE — The city of Naples sponsored a Fall 2005 Co-Ed Softball League, which the Seminole Recreation team entered last September. With a 12 game season, they played various competitors each Monday night at two of the public parks in Naples, Fla. Despite the fact that Hurricane Wilma interrupted their season and made it necessary to play two makeup games, they diligently flocked to the ball field each Monday. Team Manager Gary McInturff said he was very proud of his players. “We started out with a mixed bag,” McInturff said. “While some had been playing ball since school, others were real beginners. I had my doubts about our skills at the start of the season, but knew we were all there to have a good time and that’s what counts.” “To coin an old phrase, ‘It’s not how you win, but how you play the game that matters,’ ” he



Immokalee Seminole softball team players proudly display their League Championship award.

an undefeated season, they entered the last game. And what a game it was! With each inning the opposing teams took the lead. As Roy Garza took over the pitcher’s mound, their batters would cringe. When they would get a hit our players would grab the ball and quickly pass it to Gale Boone on first or Susan Davis at second and their runner was out. It was nearly the same scenario when the Seminoles were at bat. In the end they were beaten by the clock. These co-ed softball games are played with a time limit rather than the number of innings and when the time was up, it was all over. Completing a nearly undefeated season with 11 wins and one loss, the Seminole Recreation team became the Marlin II League Champions for 2005. The city of Naples presented them with a trophy/plaque, which will be on display at the gym. What does the future hold for this powerhouse? They are looking into the possibility of joining the Collier County League which will begin this spring.



Trophy awarded to Immokalee Seminole Recreation as League Champions.

added. “I sure was surprised when we won those first three games. Everyone pulled together and found the position they played best.” While some games were just a challenge, others provided some very stiff competition. The score would be neck in neck with the bases loaded, the opposition had two outs and their best batter at the plate. It would appear that the game was all but over. With a crack of the bat the ball went soaring through the air into the outfield, where Raymond Mora picked it out of the sky for a third out before any of their runners could make home plate. In the next inning, Ray Yzaguirre hit a grand slam with bases loaded and the game was won. Close games are the most fun and really get your adrenaline pumping. With what appeared to be



Gale Boone catches ball and takes out player at first base.

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Tribal Member Pueblo of Isleta


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Armando Negrin and Ken Fields present Cheryl Russell with Billy Cypress Service Award

Janice Billie

❖ Council
Continued from page 1

burns several days later.

For putting her own life at risk in pulling the individual from the burning car, Ms. Russell earned the Billy Cypress Service Award.

Chief Mike Floyd recently honored by the National Native American Law Enforcement Association with its 2005 Police Chief of the Year Award.

Chief Floyd was recognized for his "out-standing leadership in the development of the Seminole Police Department consisting of over 110 sworn professional law enforcement officers and support staff; in championing partnerships and strategic alliances with county, state and federal law enforcement organizations and departments; in directing the effective response of the Seminole Police Department during numerous hurricanes and major events; in support of the Tribal Homeland Security; in officer/staff training technical assistance and wellbeing; and in dedication to the community he serves."

The first order of business was to remove a tabled resolution, "Native American Cash Systems Florida, INC. Financial Services Agreement for Seminole Casinos; third addendum" from the agenda until further notice.

The consent agenda refers to items of a routine and administrative nature that have been previously discussed by the Tribal Council. This agenda was presented by Executive Administrator Ken Fields and passed.

The resolutions on this agenda included:

- Approval of a Business Lease Between Seminole Tribe of Florida (Lessor) and Seminole Tribe of Florida, INC. (Lessee) for the Use and Development of a 0.96+/-Acre Parcel on the Hollywood Seminole Indian Reservation.
- Issuance of two Homesite leases to Tribal citizens.
- Wharton-Smith, INC, Contract to Construct the Waste Water Treatment Plant on the Big Cypress Reservation.
- U.S. Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service Grant Application to Fund the Seminole Tribe of Florida Tribal Landowner Incentive Program.

Following the consent agenda resolutions the regular agenda was addressed.

Two resolutions were tabled for further review. One was for a contract to construct a water treatment facility in Hollywood. This will be presented to the council again after the bond for this project closes.

The other was a contract for the design and manufacture of a statue for the Veterans Center on the Brighton reservation. The council requested modifications to the initial design.

The resolutions passed were for:

- The purchase of a painting of Seminole Chief Micanopy by the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.
- Seminole Tribe of Florida Membership with the National Congress of American Indians.
- Appointment of Designated Plan Administrator for the Seminole Tribe of Florida Seminole Indian Casino 401(k) Plan.
- Appointment of Designated Plan Administrator for the Amended and Restated Seminole Tribe of Florida 401(k) Plan

The next scheduled meeting of the Tribal Council will be Feb.17 on the Brighton reservation.

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Hahn and Osceola Wed Under the Old Council Oak

By Melissa Sherman

HOLLYWOOD — Right after 3 p.m. on Jan. 6, Pete Hahn stood anxiously with his parents Peter Michael and Terri Hahn under the Council Oak waiting for his bride-to-be to arrive. He was probably too caught up in the excitement to appreciate the clear sky and the cool winter breeze in the air. According to the weatherman, this day was supposed to be the coldest day of the year. However, for two very special families it turned out to be perfect in every way.

From the limo you could see the stage built over the foliage in front of the beautiful old oak. Standing near Pete was ordained Minister Vincent Micco ready to unite the happy couple. Mother of the bride, Virginia Osceola scurried past making sure the bubbles and rice were properly handed out. Like a blur everyone soon realized it was time to take their places in the procession.

The groomsmen straightened their black silky patchwork hand made shirts. Virginia recently made the shirts for this special occasion. She also hand made everyone else's outfits in the wedding party. She made everything from skirts to a beautiful white shirt made for the bride finished with a pink embellishment under her bust. One by one the groomsmen accompanied the bridesmaids down the aisle until they were all lined up. Maid of Honor Tasha Osceola and Best Man Christopher Bean, Jo Jo Osceola and Brance Hahn, Courtney Osceola and Wade Osceola, Tara Hahn Courson and Brandon Hollie, Emma Cypress and Steve White, then the ring bearer Blaine Hahn.

The time had come. The sound of the three bell girls, Justine, Peyton and Ruby Willie could be heard coming down the aisle together. Soon after, the flower girl Jara Hahn, niece of the groom sprinkled the ground with rose petals for the bride to tread on.

Joe Dan Osceola gently escorted Mercedes down the aisle to give away his oldest daughter. At this time Pete Hahn took Mercedes by the hand and helped her on stage by his side. After a beautiful ceremony Vincent Micco announced the newly married couple and they dashed down the aisle as on lookers tossed rice and blew bubbles at the happy couple.

The new bride and groom greeted all the guests in the receiving line. Afterwards everyone made their way to the Hollywood Hard Rock Hotel and Casino for the reception in the Bingo Room. A reggae band greeted guests with a variety of music until the couple were announced once again.

The father of the groom, Peter had the honor of introducing the wedding party and shortly after the bride and father of the bride had their first dance, the rest of the wedding party joined in a moment later.

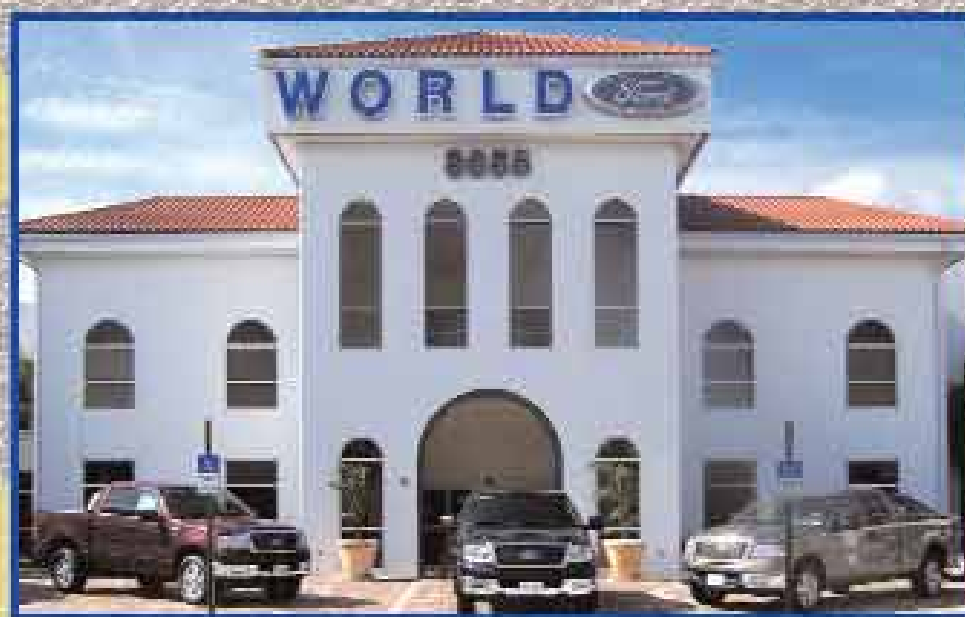
Once dinner was finished the best man, Christopher Bean made his toast and gave the new couple his best wishes. Guests and family accompanied the couple to the cake table. Slices were made by the couple into the three tiered masterpiece. As they fed each other the first bite no mischievous bits of frosting landed anywhere except for each others lips.

It was time for the Bride to toss her bouquet and a lucky young lady, Samantha Hisler from Hollywood, caught it. To her surprise, Robert Billie from Big Cypress had also caught the garter and he was ready to place it on her leg. After the task was done everyone settled down and enjoyed a slice of cake. After dessert the guests gathered as the bride and groom opened the many gifts they received. The night slowly wound down and after all of the guest were gone the newly married couple went into the night to start their new journey together as one.



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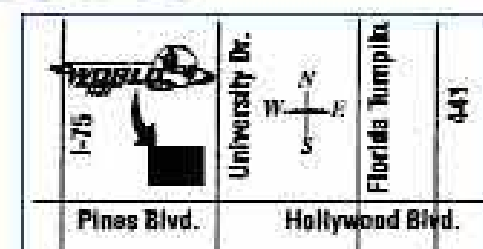
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Announcements ❖ Ahaaheeke ❖ Nak-ohkērkēcetv

Happy Birthday

Better late than never, **Brittany Smith... Happy belated birthday.**
And what a birthday it was to be because you were chosen by your class as their sophomore float attendant on same day. We didn't forget you. Always know we are proud of you.
We love you,
Your family



Have a **happy birthday Stephanie Billie.** We love you and miss you.
Love,
Your family, Chayse and Mary

The Osceola's Panther Camp in Tamiami Trail would like to send **birthday wishes** to two special little Panther women. On Feb. 18 Miss **Mae'anna Osceola** will turn two years old. On Feb. 28 Miss **Alyss Estella Frances Cypress** will turn one year old.
Nothing compares to what you have brought to the family....Eternally.

Happy birthday Aariah "Chilly" Osceola from the Panther clan. Keep up all your hard work on and off the court.
Lots of love,
Your family, Mom (Francine Osceola), Dad (Marl Osceola) and friends

Happy birthday to my favorite **Uncle Leroy.**
From,
John-John

A very special **happy birthday** to my **Aunt Star** on Feb. 16. I love you very much and hope you have a good time on your birthday. I know V.P. is a brat but she says have a good one too.
Love you Always,
Oppy & the Otter Clan



Congratulations

Congratulations to **Michael Jean** and **Chris Jimmie** of Tampa who celebrated their 1st wedding anniversary in December.



Poems

The Girl That Got Away

I saw your picture in the paper just the other day
I must admit it touched my heart in a special way
Then I began to think back on the day that we met
The day we spent together I never will forget as I
Think of your beautiful face in the back of my mind
You are so nice and sweet, also beautiful and kind
Although we only knew each other for a short while
I remember everything about you and I really miss your smile

If there is any chance for us to write in my situation
Please open up the lines of friendship, communication
I would really love to hear about the goals that you're pursuing
How is life treating you and how are you doing?
I wrote you this poem in so many words to say
I'm truly in search of the girl that got away
Time has gone by and we're between miles and time
But remember that you will always be on my mind
You're friendship is vital in fair and stormy weather

I often think of the time we spent together
Every now and then think of me when you have time please write
You'll be well thought of every day and night
I promise to keep in touch and please do the same
I have a good feeling at the mention of your name
I wrote this poem in so many words to say
I'm really in search of the girl that got away

Always,
Alex Tucker
Otter Clan

Formula of the Heart

How do you compute
Love's mathematics
Is it
This plus that
Equals our love?
Or is what's left

Abstract subtraction?
Can we divide it into
Minute lasting amounts?
Multiplication
Magnifies it
Place the calculator
In the pocket
Over your heart

Gently
Heartbeats
Humming computations
Harmonize

Love always,
Alex Tucker
Otter Clan

New Kid

Congratulations to the Nelson/Osceola families!
Phaylyn Nelson of Hollywood holds her precious newborn son, **David Merrick Nelson**, on a visit to Big Cypress. David's great-grandmother is proudly showing the darling two-week-old to her friends at the Family Investment Center.

David was born on the Dec. 30, 2005, in Hollywood.
His father is David Nelson. On the matriarchal side Phaylyn's mom and her son's grandmother is Carlene Dicarlo, and his great-great grandmother is Betty Osceola. David weighed 9 pounds, 7 ounces at birth.



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The Indian Community School will be relocating to a new facility that is under construction in Franklin, WI. The new school will provide a setting of the highest quality for the 350 inter-tribal students and 95 staff members employed by the School, and will provide ample opportunities for the students and staff to engage in a variety of programs that respect and focus on the heritage and cultures of American Indians (especially Nations in the Great Lakes Region). To learn more about the School and the opportunities this position provides, visit www.ics-milw.org.

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News From Indian Country

Cook College Celebrates 95th Anniversary

Multiple Celebrations Scheduled Throughout 2006

Submitted by
Dona Avery

TEMPE, AZ — What do you give a school for its 95th anniversary? For Cook College & Theological School (CCTS), in Tempe, Ariz., the answer is: a year-long celebration of students, past and present.

For nearly a century, from 1911–2006, the students have represented more than 90 different Indian Tribes from throughout the U.S. and Canada. They have been the purpose for this intertribal and multi-denominational college—the only one of its kind.



The “First Nine” students of CCTS 95 years ago: (L-R, top row): Narcisse Porter, Calvin Emerson, Edward Jackson, William Peters, Crouse Perkins, and Horace Williams, (L-R, bottom row) Joshua Cachora, James Fulton, Dr. George Logie, the school’s superintendent and Joseph Wellington.

On Jan. 12 one former student—who later became CCTS president—will be honored in a ceremony to rename the Cook College auditorium to The Cecil Corbett Center. Dr. Cecil Corbett, a member of the Nez Perce Tribe, graduated from Cook College in 1954.

During Corbett’s 25 year presidency the college raised funds to build the auditorium as a facility large enough for gatherings of Native Americans from across the continent. Corbett designed the floor plan for the auditorium.

The newly named Cecil Corbett Center will soon undergo renovation to enlarge that museum space, so as to accommodate the CCTS archival collection schools and churches will have easier access to these treasures.

The 95th anniversary celebrations of Cook College will continue into the spring, when current students will hold a choir fest and revival, March 16–17. Then, on April 8, the Cook College Auxiliary will hold its annual tea and raffle, with a commemorative salute to Mrs. Kitty Brown, who founded the auxiliary to benefit CCTS students 40 years ago.

On May 12, the college will honor the first five students to graduate with an associate of art’s degree from the University of Dubuque Programs at Cook College. The partnership agreement between CCTS and the University of Dubuque (UD) was finalized this past spring, although Cook College has been a feeder school to UD for decades.

October is the official Anniversary month for Cook College because on October 11, 1911 Reverend Charles Cook founded the School. CCTS students will celebrate by building a float for the annual Native American Recognition Days (NARD) parade, as they have for the past several years—taking first place in the Schools/Colleges division in 2005.

The grand finale is planned for Dec. 3, when Cook College’s Annual Native American Festival & Market will bring more than 40 vendors to campus, offering original Native artwork, music, dances, and food.

Other anniversary celebrations will be announced throughout the year.

The legend of the founder of CCTS, began in 1855, when he immigrated to America from Germany.

Koch served in the Civil War, where his colleagues gave him the name, “Charles Cook.” After the war, Cook set out for Arizona Territory, where he began studying the unwritten Pima language and taught tribal members to read and write in English. Cook also helped the Pima people adapt their farming techniques to the harsh, reservation land near Tucson, Ariz. Cook ultimately became an ordained minister in 1881; and he organized the first church on the Pima reservation.

In his 40 years of service, he established fourteen churches, and he baptized more than 1,000 Indians. He relocated his Bible School to Phoenix, and renamed it: the “Cook Christian Training School.” CCTS welcomed scores of Native American WWII veterans, who took advantage of the G.I. Bill’s tuition assistance.

By the 1960s, there was an obvious need for a larger site, and a former dairy farm was purchased in nearby Tempe, just a mile away from Arizona State University (ASU). Many students would transfer to ASU, after they had eased into college life at Cook College.

There were no cavernous lecture halls or high-pressure labs at CCTS. Today, the classes are kept small, so that individual attention may be paid to each student’s needs. Native languages and traditions are respected, while academic excellence and career preparation are the objectives.

As former CCTS student and president, Dr. Cecil Corbett, once remarked, Cook College’s approach to education is like the work of botanists, who graft one type of rose to another: CCTS cultivates Indian students who go forward and help to create a society that is a beautiful hybrid of many cultures.

Recognizing Cook College’s role as an organization “that exemplifies a commitment to diversity,” the city of Tempe will honored the college with the Eighth Annual Diversity Award, at a ceremonial luncheon at Tempe Mission Palms Hotel on Jan. 16. The current president of CCTS, Rev. Dr. Larry R. Norris, expressed pleasure in being honored by the city of Tempe.

Native All-Star Football Game Accepting Nominations for 2006 NAIG

Story and PhotoSubmitted by Brent Cahwee

DENVER, CO — The 5th Annual Native American All-Star football committee announces that they are accepting nominations for this year’s all-star football game to be held during the 2006 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG). The games will take place July 2–9 in Denver, Colo.

All Native American football players who will be graduating from High School this year will be eligible to compete in this year’s game and this year’s game is now open Canadian Aboriginals. That is correct, our cousins to the north have some senior football players and this year they will be eligible as well.

The Native American All-Star game is in its fifth year of existence and continues to gain notoriety with college coaches and players alike. All selected participants will have an opportunity to meet and play with the best of the best in Indian country in an east versus west format as well as have an opportunity to take part in some special trips throughout the week to various vacation spots in the Denver area.

All interested participants are encouraged to visit www.nativeallstar.com to find out more information about the 2006 All-Star football game, as well as



download an application form. Interested persons may also contact Brent Cahwee, bcahwee@ndnsports.com or John Harjo, jharjo@ndnsports.com for more information.

Indian Market Celebrates 48 Years at Heard Museum

Story and Photo Submitted by Dana McGuinness, Heard Museum

PHOENIX, AZ — The 48th Annual Heard Museum Guild Indian Fair & Market, highlighting spectacular artwork, Native American music and dance performances, artist demonstrations, book signings, delicious Native foods and more is set for March 4–5 from 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m. Presented by SRP, the Fair



& Market is the museum’s largest fundraising event.

The Fair & Market, which began in 1958 as a small community fair planned by Heard Museum volunteers, has grown to become one of the most popular Native American art events in the Southwest. The Fair & Market is still organized entirely by the museum’s volunteer Guild, with more than 700 volunteers helping throughout the two-day event.

Today, the Fair & Market draws more than 600 of the nation’s finest Native American artists who show and sell authentic artwork and cultural items. The 18,000 expected visitors can peruse booths filled with jewelry, beadwork, pottery, kachina dolls, textiles, clothing, paintings, baskets and more created by artists from throughout North America. The Heard strives to find the best artists to participate in the event, and each artist is selected to by invitation or through a rigorous application process. Artists are selected based on the quality of their work, and collectors travel across the country to see the artwork

and artists at this exclusive weekend event.

Artists participating in the Indian Fair & Market are encouraged to enter the juried competition. Each artist may submit one work in a maximum of two categories. Judges select winners from more than 250 entries in seven classifications and 25 divisions. The most prestigious award is Best of Show, which is selected from all of the artwork entered.

On the Friday evening prior to the Fair & Market, visitors can attend the Best of Show Reception and see artwork by the award-winning artists. This year, more than 50 artists have donated special items for a silent auction, and guests to the Best of Show Reception can bid on these works of art. The dinner reception is Friday, March 3, 2006, from 5:30 to 8 p.m., and reservations are limited and must be made in advance. Please call 602.251.0205 for tickets.

The array of entertainment offered at the Indian Fair & Market is also a favorite with festival goers. This year, the best Native American music and dance performers will be onsite entertaining the crowd.

Festival goers will not go hungry at the Indian Fair & Market – a variety of Native American foods like Hopi piki, Apache acorn soup, posole and the ever-popular fry bread will be available. Visitors can watch as Native dishes are prepared from scratch and then enjoy the unique flavors. A wide selection of American and Mexican fare will also be available.

This year’s Fair & Market signature artists are Rosemary Lonewolf, Santa Clara Tewa, and Tony Jojola, Isleta. The artists recently partnered on a commissioned piece for the Heard’s new signature exhibit –“Indigenous Evolution,” a 30-foot-long, eight foot-high glass and ceramic art fence. This work marks the first collaboration between Fair & Market signature artists.

Tickets are available at the gate or in advance by calling (602) 251-0205. Admission rates: \$15 for adults, free for children 4-12, \$24 for a two-day pass, \$62 for a deluxe pass which includes admission for both days and the Best of Show Reception.

Excavations Reveal Ancient Burial Grounds In Downtown Miami

Submitted by Florida Department of State

TALLAHASSEE, FL — Archaeological excavations at two construction sites in Downtown Miami have revealed American Indian burials, likely the ancestors of the powerful Tequesta Tribe that met explorer Juan Ponce de Leon in 1513. The same Tribe built the 2,000 year old Miami Circle, which was preserved in 1999 by Miami-Dade County and the state of Florida.

“Discoveries of unmarked human burials are quite common in Florida, with at least 40 or 50 cases discovered each year,” said State Historic Preservation Officer and Director of the Division of Historical Resources Frederick Gaske. “Each case, whether involving one bone fragment or an entire cemetery, is treated in a sensitive and respectful manner. The Florida Department of State is working very closely with the federally recognized Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes.

Florida statute requires the division consult with present day resident Tribes on final disposition of unmarked human burials if they cannot remain in place.

The Tequesta were well-adapted to the Atlantic coast, Biscayne Bay and the Everglades and persisted into the 1700s before slave raids and disease reduced them to a handful of families that eventually moved to Cuba. Initial discoveries of human remains were made at the site in September 2003 and excavations of the burials began in earnest in March 2005.

The site is under and around the remains of Henry Flagler’s 19th Century Royal Palm Hotel and near the site of an American Indian burial mound that was destroyed more than 100 years ago. Nearby excavations in the 1980s documented an extensive village on the north shore of the Miami River, but did not encounter the cemetery.

Representatives of MDM have worked with

the state archaeologist, city officials, the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes to assure that the burials and artifacts are removed in a respectful manner. Excavations are being conducted by professional archaeologists from New South Associates and the Archaeological & Historical Conservancy.

State Archaeologist Ryan Wheeler noted that “the most remarkable thing about the burial site at the Met 3 construction site is the persistence of the Archaeological remains in over 100 years of development in the heart of Downtown Miami.”

Wheeler also assured that while archaeological data is being recorded about both sites no intrusive analysis will be conducted on the human remains and all bones and grave goods will be reburied once the projects are completed.

Part of a second prehistoric cemetery is being excavated at the site of The Related Group’s Icon Brickell Development. Representatives of MDM and

the Related Group have worked with the state archaeologist, city officials, and the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes to assure that the burials and artifacts are removed in a respectful manner and reburied in the property once construction is over, both development companies have agreed to sign covenants dedicating the respective reburial areas.

Chapter 872.05 of the Florida statute that protects unmarked human burials-was enacted in 1987 to ensure that all human burials and human skeleton remains be accorded equal treatment and respect based upon common human dignity without reference to ethnic origin, culture background, or religious affiliation. The statute protects remains on public and private property but does not allow for excavation and reburials if burials are threatened if left in place.



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Nickelback Headline Hard Rock Live Concert

HOLLYWOOD — Nickelback, Chevelle and Trapt take to the stage at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino for a March 15 performance in Hard Rock Live at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$44.50; general admission floor and reserved seats will be at the Hard Rock Live Box Office, opened Monday to Sunday from noon until 7 p.m. Tickets purchased in-person at the box office will not incur a service charge.

Tickets also are available at all Ticketmaster outlets online at www.ticketmaster.com or charge by phone: Miami-Dade (305) 358-5885, Broward (954) 523-3309, and Palm Beach (561) 966-3309. Doors open one hour prior to show start time.

Canada's Nickelback started as a cover band and eventually decided to head to Vancouver to record in a friend's studio. Band members relocated to Vancouver in 1996 and recorded and released the EP "Hesher" and full-length "Curb" independently. Nickelback then embarked on a series of cross-country tours.

In late 1998, the band decided their managers were unable to catapult them to the next level, so the band members began managing themselves. Their albums include: "The State," "Silver Side Up," "The Long Road" and "All the Right Reasons."

The smash hit single "How You Remind Me," on the "Silver Side Up" album was only the second time in history since the Guess Who's "American Woman" that a Canadian band had been number one on both the Canadian and U.S. rock charts at the same time.

One of two supporting acts at this concert is Chevelle. The band formed in the early 1990s with singers/guitarists Duane Smith and Adrian Allen, bassist Jeff Halley and drummer Julian Buckland released their debut LP "Gigantic" in 1993. Three years later,

they released "Rollerball Candy."

Second supporting act, Trapt, formed by friends Chris Brown and Peter Charell who played casual gigs in school. In 1997, fellow guitarist Simon Ormandy joined the band. The trio recorded their own demo and landed gigs in and around suburbs of Southern California. Within a year Trapt was opening up for the likes of Papa Roach, Dredg and Spike 1000.

Trapt's second album, "Amalgamation" was self-released in 1998. They released another record, "Glimpse," in early 2000. Seattle, Wash. native Aaron Montgomery joined to play drums, and after a benefit show for September 11, Warner Bros. offered the band a deal in late 2001. A year later, Trapt prepared their self-titled proper debut, and a self-titled EP appeared in spring 2004. The band returned in 2005 with "Someone in Control."



TV's Regis Philbin, Susan Lucci Bring Singing Act to Hard Rock

HOLLYWOOD — Television icons Regis Philbin and Susan Lucci have been booked to perform in Hard Rock Live at 8 p.m. on March 16. Best known for their highly successful TV careers, both celebrities also are accomplished singers, and they'll thrill the audience as they perform both individually and together on the Hard Rock Live stage.

Tickets are \$60, \$80 and \$100; seats are reserved and will be available at the Hard Rock Live Box Office, opened Monday to Sunday from noon until 7 p.m. Tickets purchased in-person at the box office will not incur a service charge.

Tickets also are available at all Ticketmaster outlets online at www.ticketmaster.com or charge by phone: Miami-Dade (305) 358-5885, Broward (954) 523-3309, and Palm Beach (561) 966-3309. Doors open one hour prior to show start time.

Philbin and co-host Kelly



Ripa appear daily on the popular morning talk show "Live with Regis and Kelly," now in its 18th season in national syndication. He's also renowned for his years as host of the groundbreaking prime-time game show "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire."

In addition to his on-camera pursuits, he recently released "The Regis Philbin Christmas Album," the follow-up to his 2004 album of timeless classics, "When You're Smiling." Philbin will perform many of the same beloved standards during his performance at Hard Rock Live.

Lucci is the star of ABC's long-running daytime television show, All My Children. She was honored last year with a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame culminating her 35-year career as Erica Cane on All My Children.

She was finally recognized with an Emmy in 1999 for best actress for the same series. Known not only for her acting, she's a talented singer as well, appearing on Broadway in "Annie Get Your Gun," and "Feinstein's at the Regency," among other Cabaret venues across the country.

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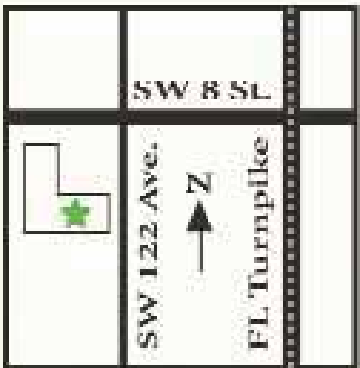


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