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June 27, 2008

Emma Johns Appointed Education Director

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Emma Johns has been named Education Director after serving as acting director for nearly seven months, following former director Louise Gopher's retirement. She was formally named director of education by a Tribal Council resolution that passed May 28.

Johns has worked for the Tribe for more than eight years, beginning by working as a counselor for the Family Services Dept. for nearly three years. She then went on to work for the Education Dept. as an education advisor, before being promoted to assistant director in April 2007, and then acting director in 2007.

Johns attended Santa Fe Community College in Gainesville for two years before

she decided to pursue undergraduate studies at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. Upon completion, she attained a bachelor's degree in sociology, and has also received a certificate of completion in a women's studies program and took continuing education courses in student counseling.

"I went to school because I wanted to better myself and it was paid for 100 percent," she said. "I was not going to let such a great opportunity slip away."

Even though she had to overcome obstacles while in college, such as becoming pregnant her junior year, working full time and making a daily two hour drive each way, she still was able to complete her education. Johns said her family supported her through these times, specifically acknowledging her parents, her brother,



Emma Johns

Working with kids and helping them in any way possible is only a small part of what her department does on a daily basis.

Along with former director Louise Gopher and Education Specialist Tony

Alex, and his wife Liz.

"My family has been amazing in helping with my daughter while I was in school and even now," she said.

On the professional side, Johns said education plays a very important role in the Tribe today.

"It is very important to maintain our language and culture in order to be a federally recognized Tribe," Johns added.

With goals of helping the students and the communities, the Education Dept. has

Bullington, she took on the arduous task of starting a charter school on the rural Brighton Reservation about four years ago. Today, the Pemayetv Emakavv Charter School is gaining national recognition as a model school not just in Indian Country, but in the entire U.S.

"My daughter [Kailin] is a product of what is happening in the Charter School," she said. "Language and culture is covered daily and the students are now able to speak in complete sentences when before they would only know words, colors, letters and numbers."

"It is very important to maintain our language and culture in order to be a federally recognized Tribe," Johns added.

With goals of helping the students and the communities, the Education Dept. has

Please see **JOHNS** ♦ Page 2



Chairman Mitchell Cypress is honored with a crystal 2008 Valor Award at the American Diabetes Association's fundraiser luncheon.

Chairman Honored with 2008 Valor Award

BY FELIX DOBOSZ
Staff Reporter

FT. LAUDERDALE — The Broward County Chapter of the American Diabetes Association honored Chairman Mitchell Cypress with the 2008 Valor Award, along with eight other community leaders, at the Hyatt Pier 66 restaurant on May 15.

Each honoree took the stage as large display monitors showed video clips of their impressive biographies. The video showed how Chairman Cypress became an advocate for health and diabetes throughout the Tribe by supporting the various Tribal medical, education and fitness programs. Most recently, he has become the author of a book on diabetes management called *Having Diabetes and Acting in an Honorable Way*.

The chapter selected these honorees from a list of community leaders who have demonstrated passion and spirit with significant charitable contributions for the improvement of the community.

This was the 7th annual Valor Award luncheon, and proceeds from the silent auction at the lunch benefited the American Diabetes Association. The money will go toward diabetes research and education.

Charter School Hosts First-Ever Creek Spelling Bee

Brooke Osceola Claims Victory, Puente Takes Second

BY SUSAN ETXEBARRIA
Freelance Reporter

BRIGHTON — Eight jittery contestants lined up in front of an audience of fellow students, teachers and parents to compete in Pemayetv Emakavv's first-ever Creek spelling bee on May 19.

Competitors Kalgary Johns, Brooke Osceola, Layne Thomas, Donovan Osceola, Reed Gopher, Anthony Johns, Ruben Burgess and Jaden Puente won first place in their classroom competition prior to the main event.

Though only eight competed in the spelling bee, each Pemayetv Emakavv Charter School student has completed nearly nine months of Creek language classes, with 45 minutes of daily instruction, Monday through Friday.

The language teachers watched with pride, thrilled to see how much the children learned in their classes. Teaching the native language is an integral part of the school's mission and a required instructional component of the charter license.

Language Teacher Lorene Gopher, and director of the Cultural Education Dept., prepared lists for the children to study for the spelling bee. She said the students studied

Please see **SPELLING** ♦ Page 2



(L-R) Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Amelia Nunez with the newly unveiled bronze sculpture.

Veterans Memorial Sculpture Unveiled

BY CHRIS JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — On May 29, members of the Tribal Council, veterans, invited guests and media gathered at the Mitchell Cypress Fitness Trail for the unveiling of a bronze sculpture of a circa 1800s Seminole soldier. The ready-for-battle figure symbolizes the culture and strength of the Seminole Warrior, as well as acknowledges the sacrifices and efforts made by members of the armed forces, past and present.

"The whole idea was to educate some of the younger generation so they can see why this is here and why we do have freedom," Chairman Mitchell Cypress said.

The artist team of Brad Cooley Sr. and Bradley Cooley Jr. created the sculpture, as well as numerous other bronze sculptures that can be seen on all reservations. Son Cooley Jr. said the

soldier is a physical representation of how Seminoles have looked and dressed throughout the years.

"We took features off of different Seminoles around today and incorporated them into him and the regalia and the type of stuff he is wearing is of that period," Cooley Jr. said. "This fellow represents them, now and the present."

"One of the reasons for picking the time period was because it shows how far back [Seminole veterans] actually started," he added.

At the unveiling, event emcee Moses "Biggs" Jumper Jr. acknowledged this artistic meshing of time periods.

"This is going down in our Tribal history as a monumental time for us because it is a memorial to the soldiers in the 20th Century, but it is also a memorial to the great warriors we had in the past," he said.

Please see **SCULPTURE** ♦ Page 5

Miami Passport Office to Assist Tribal Citizens

Offices to Host Class to Facilitate Seminoles

BY NERY MEJICANO
Contributing Writer

For many years, Americans visiting Canada, the Caribbean or Mexico, did not need a U.S. passport. However, earlier this year, the law changed and now all persons traveling outside the U.S. territory must have a valid passport.

The U.S. Passport Office in Miami recognizes that some Tribal citizens, especially the elders, may have some difficulties in obtaining the required documentation to obtain a U.S. Passport. In order to facilitate the application process, staff from the office will hold a meeting at the Hollywood Headquarters auditorium on Aug. 13 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

These seminars are for Tribal citizens applying for a passport for the first time.

To obtain a U.S. passport for the first time, the applicant is required to appear in person and to sign the application in front of a U.S. Passport Office employee. Parents applying for a passport for their minor children also have to appear in person.



The cost of a passport is \$160 for adults and \$145 for minors, payable by a certified check, cashier's check or money order. This fee includes an expedited passport request fee.

The required passport photographs will be taken onsite and the staff of the Passport Office will explain what documentation is needed and how to obtain it. Passport applications will be available on all reservations prior to the meeting.

Those planning to attend should please sign the sign up on the reservation's main office.

New Hours for the Seminole Channel

SUBMITTED BY SEMINOLE BROADCASTING

The Seminole Channel's new schedule took effect June 5. This program will now be shown each Thursday, from 4-7 p.m. on DIRECTV Channel 575.

This change was made to enable those receiving the channel a better opportunity to view the program after working hours and when children are home from school.

The Seminole Channel, which premiered in May 2006, recently broadcast its 100th show and it is accessible to those Tribal citizens who are part of the DIRECTV bulk rate program. Videos of annual Tribal events, special Tribal programs, job postings and general announcements are just some of the programming featured on this channel.

If you are a Tribal citizen who is part of the DIRECTV bulk rate program, and are not receiving the Seminole Channel, or wish to make comments on the programming, please contact the Seminole Broadcasting office of your reservation at the

phone number below.

Seminole Broadcasting is also in the process of identifying those seniors who will be requiring a digital box converter for their television sets to accommodate the digital television transition planned for February 2009. If you are a senior, or know a senior who may require a digital converter box, please contact your reservation's Seminole Broadcasting office.

Those Tribal citizens wanting more information, or to apply to the DIRECTV bulk rate program, please contact the following Seminole Broadcasting-DIRECTV Customer Service Offices on their reservations at: Hollywood, 3560 Hollywood, FL 33021, (954) 985-5700; Big Cypress, 3100 Josie Billie Hwy, Suite #317, Clewiston, FL 33440, (863) 902-3219; Brighton, 520 Harney Pond Rd., Okeechobee, FL 34974, (863) 763-6380 or (863) 763-0405; Immokalee, 295 Stockade Rd., Suite #312, Immokalee, FL 34142, (239) 658-9256; Tampa, 6401 Harney Road, Suite E, Tampa, FL 33610, (813) 620-2882.



Seminoles Do Sound Check at Hard Rock Park

Music-Themed Park Opened Spring 2008

BY BRIANA ABITAN
Contributing Writer

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — Upon walking through the gates of the Hard Rock Theme Park, visitors are greeted by a life-sized symbol that has represented Hard Rock's around the world — their legendary Gibson guitar.

Invited guests from the Seminole Tribe were asked to do the first-ever sound check at the park on May 10. They received the VIP treatment including a special room for relaxation at the park's Peavey Lounge and backstage passes so they could see behind-the-scenes aspects of the park.

The 55-acre park — the first theme park to be built in almost a decade — should be open in the spring of next year. It will feature a melting pot of musical genres, with themed areas including "Cool Country," "Rock 'n' Roll Heaven," "British Invasion," and more, that all feature rides and attractions related to each genre.

With ongoing live entertainment shows and rides for kids of all ages, the park offers something for all its guests. However, the Hard Rock Park's biggest spectacle, and their signature roller coaster, is the Led Zeppelin-Ride, which takes riders 15 stories high at 65 mph as Led Zeppelin's classic song "Whole Lotta Love" plays in the background.

Hard Rock Park CEO Steven Goodwin said what separates this theme park from the rest throughout the world is that families can play together and stay together, improving the quality of a family vacation. Goodwin and CFO John Binkowski have been honing their vision for more than seven years and saved a seat for the Seminole Tribe on this amazing ride.

For more information on the Hard Rock Park, please see www.hardrockpark.com.



The Led Zeppelin ride takes riders 15 stories high at 65 mph.



Hard Rock's recognizable Gibson guitar stands at the entrance.

Johns

Continued from page 1

put initiatives in place to target areas of attendance, grades and grade point averages. Since they have begun, Johns said she has seen a significant change in these areas, as well as increased enrollment in higher education institutions.

As a result of these initiatives, Johns said the Education Dept. is becoming more visible with the community and the community members are showing acceptance and are grateful for all that is being done.

"I tell my staff they are not allowed to tell anyone no," she said. "We are here to help them in any way possible; there is always a way to help someone."

Johns said the Education Dept.'s ultimate goal is to raise the Tribe's graduation rate from 50 percent to 100 percent. She said she strives to put the message across that each student should value their education, and not view their studies as work, but something they should do to better themselves.

Blessed with what she called the greatest staff in the world, Johns said her staff deserves accolades for much of the department's success. She said she knows each one of them truly love their job.

"Credit for the department should be given to the staff," she said. "They are in there working day to day and they are great."

In addition to her work duties, Johns is an active, voting member with the National Congress of American Indians, the National Indian Education Association, the Tribal Education Department National Assembly and United Southern and Eastern Tribes, where she serves as the organization's secretary.

Johns also holds a CDL Class B license, which has come in handy to step in as a bus driver whenever needed by her staff. She was also a freelance reporter for *The Seminole Tribune* for several years.

She now lives in Avon Park, Fla., and to this day still resides on the Brighton Reservation where she recently moved in to her new home. Johns is the mother of Kailin, 10, and daughter of Carolyn and Timmy Johns.



Emma Johns carries the American flag during the Grand Entry of the 2001 Cinco de Mayo Rally in Immokalee.

Board Meets in Hollywood

BY CHRIS JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Tribal Board of Directors met for a special meeting on the Hollywood Reservation on May 28. They passed four resolutions, including:

Resolution 5: Authority to enter into management agreement for the operation of the Big Cypress Rock Pit.

Resolution 6: Authority to retain consultant to reorganize and improve operations at the Hollywood Trading Post; and

Resolution 10: Wachovia Bank, N.A. line of credit; limited waiver of sovereign immunity.



Council

Continued from page 1

America, Inc. purchase agreement and service contract for two Currency Counter Equipment machines for Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino - Hollywood.

Resolution 34: Atlantic City Coin & Slot Service Co., Inc. multi-game proprietary lease and license agreement; ratification;

Resolution 35: IGT Master Lease Agreement; first amendment to master lease; ratification;

Resolution 36: Ratification of the Seminole Tribe of Florida filming permit letter granting the National Wild Turkey Federation, Inc., permission to film a television show on the Big Cypress Seminoles Indian Reservation;

Resolution 41: Issuance of a revocable permit to Michael Barry Gopher for storage and cleaning equipment and materials - Big Cypress Seminoles Indian Reservation;

Resolution 42: Issuance of a revocable permit to Norman Jim Huggins for equipment storage - Big Cypress Seminoles Indian Reservation;

Resolution 43: First Amendment to business sub-lease no. sl-2604 between Dan and Agnes Bowers and Seminole Tribe of Florida - Brighton Seminoles Indian Reservation;

Resolution 44: Issuance of a revocable permit by Betty Mae Jumper to Clear Channel Outdoor - Hollywood Seminoles Indian Reservation;

Resolution 45: Emma Johns appointment as Director of Education;

Resolution 46: Approval of Historic Resources Office Intern Handbook and Program;

Resolution 47: IGT equipment purchase standard terms and conditions agreement; limited waiver of sovereign immunity; ratification;

Resolution 48: IGT - Native American Progressive System Agreement; limited waiver of sovereign immunity; ratification; and

Resolution 49: The Guardian Life Insurance Co. of America lease for commercial warehouse space for Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino - Hollywood; limited waiver of sovereign immunity.

Spelling

Continued from page 1

ied the vocabulary for about a month prior to the competition.

"I always tell my students, first you must master the sounds of the A, C and E's, and you can say and spell any words that you learn in your language," said Gopher.



First place winner Brooke Osceola, who correctly spelled *enkalafat* (peeling with a knife), to win the Creek spelling bee.

"If you can say the word, you can spell it; that's one of our mottos."

During the competition, Gopher facilitated by calling out the words the contestants had to spell, as Ginger Jones and Avalon Puente checked word spelling. Gopher told the children they must pronounce the letters in each word in the Creek way, which differs from the sounds made by the letters in the English alphabet.

Most of the words used in the Spelling Bee, such as *nakhote* (paper) and *comellit* (jump), were more than two syllable words, with some up to four syllables in length. According to Gopher, the spellers had the most difficulty words having an A, AH, V or UH sound, as in the words *evpviket* (anger) and *emakaya* (teacher).

The contest lasted a considerable amount time, showing the students' preparedness, before it all came down to Brooke Osceola, 11, and Jaden Puente, 9. In the end, Osceola emerged victorious, spelling the *enkalafat* (peeling with a knife), and claimed the silver bumble-bee-shaped trophy. All eight contestants received a certificate for their participation in the spelling bee.

"The first-ever Creek spelling bee was exciting and challenging with the students and teachers," said Gopher. "We teach them to learn how to say words, sentences and then learn to write in our language."

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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 (954) 985-5702, Ext. 10725, fax (954) 985-2937, or mail to: The Seminole Tribune, 3560 N. State Road 7, Hollywood, Florida 33021.



SUBMITTED BY THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT.

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Chris Jenkins

Pedro Zepeda with one of his custom-made baskets.

and missionary work, to name a few.



Pedro Zepeda shows the audience the process of constructing traditional baskets.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 863-902-1113 OR VISIT WWW.AHFAHTRIK.COM.

[illegible]



Members of the Tribal Council, veterans and invited guests at the new memorial veteran's sculpture on the Big Cypress Reservation.

Chris Jenkins



(L-R) President Richard Bowers Jr. and Chairman Mitchell Cypress unveil the bronze sculpture.

Chris Jenkins



Ahfachkee school youth read the Pledge of Allegiance to the Seminole flag at the ceremony.

Chris Jenkins



Chris Jenkins

The audience was treated to a moving rendition of "Military Taps" at the unveiling ceremony.

❖ Sculpture

Continued from page 1

"I always consider it a privilege to represent my father [Moses Jumper Sr., U.S. Navy] and uncle [Howard Tiger, WWII, Marine]," he added.

Veteran Stephen Bowers said the memorial serves as a reminder of the continual need for Seminole Americans and others to serve their country, and hopes the sculpture will encourage people to enlist. Two-tour Vietnam War veteran David Bob Motlow, who also addressed the gathering, echoed Bowers' sentiment.

"Our tradition [as Seminoles] requires us to be strong for ourselves and our families," he said. "The one thing that you do remember is that you are tied with a lot of veterans and soldiers."

The ceremony rounded out with the Ahfachkee students reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Seminole flag, Native recording artist Shea singing "The National Anthem" and appearances by Jr. Miss Seminole Amelia Nunez and Little Miss Seminole Brianna Bowers. In addition, there was a Seminole Color Guard presentation, emcee Jumper recited a poem in tribute to the vets and there was a special "Military Taps" performance.

What This Wall Means to Me

Dedicated to the Memorial Wall

I am in awe as I stand among these warriors gathered here today.

Proud and Honored for the sacrifices you had to pay.

Words alone cannot express what this day means to me

A large price was paid that I might speak here about being free.

This wall reminds me of the Seminole warriors that died for us to stay upon this land.

Their blood was scattered and soaked within the Florida sand.

This wall reminds me of my father and uncle who fought in the Second World War.

They loved this land and its people and were willing to fight for it on distant shore.

This wall reminds me of all the blood that has been shed,

On fields of battle there is no skin color,

For every warrior's blood is red.

This wall means our flag can fly proudly in the wind.

A day to remember where that flag has been.

This wall means to me that God said all men are equal in His sight.

And today a price is still being paid for us all to have that right.

This wall means our skin colors can vary and our cultures are different between me and you.

But we all stand together for the colors of Red, White and Blue.

This wall reminds me that battles will continue both near and far away

What this wall means to me and you is why we are here today.

We honor you the vets for what you have given for us all,

You have answered bravely to this country's call.

This wall means going to the church of your choice.

It means having the freedom to speak your voice.

This wall means we educate our children in any school we say,

The freedom for Ahfachkee to teach them the Indian way.

This wall means people no longer have to sit at the rear of the bus or be served their food outside.

It was a heavy price of why many soldiers died.

This wall means we give thanks for all you've done to allow us to be here today.

I wish there was more that we could say.

I look out today and see many faces of people that are neither boastful or loud.

You are the stewards for this country and to you we are very proud.

This wall means we remember the warriors of the past.

We pray that the Creator has now given them true freedom and peace at last...

Today we honor all warriors that have went on into that spirit land.

They have passed over and before the Breath Giver they will stand.

This wall means to me you warriors have paid the cost.

Thank you for that freedom we have never lost.

And to you Native warriors whose names in our history books you will not find,

Your memory will never be forgotten in our heart and mind.

For today we stand as brothers and sisters in this great land of the free,

We are all Americans, and this is what this wall means to me.

— Moses Jumper Jr.



(L-R) Veterans Larry Mike Osceola II and Stephen Bowers.

Chris Jenkins



(L-R) Little Miss Seminole Brianna Bowers and event emcee Moses "Bigg" Jumper Jr.

Chris Jenkins



Veteran Stephen Bowers leads the Tribal Color Guard into the ceremony.

Chris Jenkins

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Independence Edition | Black, H2, 2008, 25 Passenger



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



Freedom Edition | Black, H2, 2008, 25 Passenger



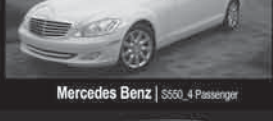
Chrysler 300 Lambo | White, 2008, 12 Passenger



Tribal Edition | White, H2, 2008, 22 Passenger



Bentley Edition 2008 | Silver & Black, 300, 12 Passengers



Mercedes Benz | S550, 4 Passenger



BMW 650i | Black, 2008, 5 Passenger



Lamborghini | Yellow, 2008, 2 Passenger

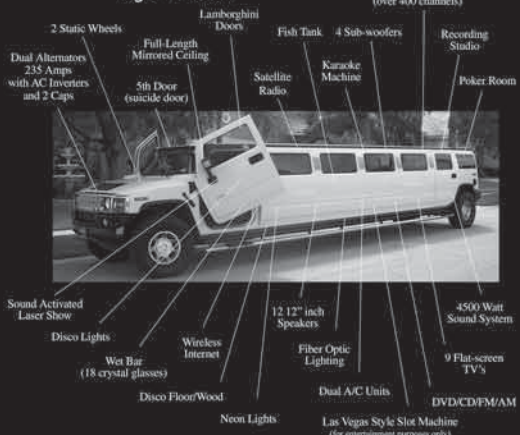


Rolls Royce | White, 1963, 3 Passengers



Range Rover Sport | Black, 2008, 5 Passenger

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Community News

Youth Attend Blue Man Group Performance

BY VALERIE MARONE
Contributing Writer

ORLANDO — The Brighton Family Services and Recreation Department teamed up to reward Brighton's drug-free youth, who got the chance to see the world-famous Blue Man Group perform at the Universal Orlando Resort on May 17.

The 20 youngsters enjoyed the nearly two hour performance, complete with high energy live music, strobe lights, confetti and of course, the group's trademark blue faces. The group's performance showed Brighton's youth that they really can have a natural high.



Valerie Marone

Chastity Harmon expresses her delight after seeing the Blue Man Group's concert.

Two-Part Seminar Teaches Parenting Techniques

BY CHRIS JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — In dual seminars, "Love Them, Don't Indulge Them and Know the Difference" and "The Grieving Child," licensed clinical psychologist Dr. Jim Fogarty provided information for parents, Tribal faculty and staff at the Family Investment Center on June 6.

As an author, certified school psychologist and national lecturer, Fogarty was making his third speaking engagement with the Tribe. This time, he discussed the topics of overindulgence and the grieving process for children facing tragedies.

"This to me is more than just seminars, I get excited and passionate about it all," Fogarty said.

He revealed that 52 percent of children who are overindulged do not love their parents upon becoming adults.

"I want to give parents a way to stay connected to ensure they have a loving bond," he explained.

He said there are three types of overindulgence: too much stuff, over-nurturing and soft structure. Poverty and guilt are also two major reasons for overindulgence, according to Fogarty.

Tribal Employee Assistance Program Director Crissie Carter said she learned a lot from the seminar.

"What I have taken away is that overindulgence is more than just about money," Carter said. "Mentoring is very important because it alleviates so many more problems later in life."

According to Fogarty, overindulgent parents also have nine beliefs they hold among others with their children including: maintaining constant happiness, the "whatever you want" approach, a shield from consequence, sting free (no discipline or very little) discipline, holding their children as highest priority within



Chris Jenkins

Clinical Psychologist Dr. Jim Fogarty addresses questions at the seminar.

their family, wishy-washy decision making, being too trusting, and "I will correct my own parents' mistakes" approach.

Among the several ways to stop this trend of behavior by parents are: having one television per household, know when to make your child feel bad, do not soothe your child's pain with toys or luxuries, know that parenting is not a popularity contest, "no" means "no," letting the emotional sting of discipline happen, one warning — then disciplining, stopping children when they interrupt adults, and making them work with chores to name a few, Fogarty explained.

Fogarty also revealed that there are generally five emotions involved with grieving: being numb and stunned, being in disarray, anger, pining for a particular (or more than one) individual, and feelings of anguish.

He said the age level of the child is a major factor in how the child or teen cognitively handles tragedy. A child views death as a loss, separation or abandonment from birth to age three. From ages three to six a child sees things as reversible and temporary. At seven to eight years of age a child will begin to see death as final. At age nine and up children understand that death is final and irreversible. They not only know it could happen to someone else but also to themselves.

Social support, good self-care, and the passage of time are some of the best solutions for grieving according to Fogarty.

Tribal citizen and employee Sheila Aguilar said she can't wait to see what she learned in the seminar to her daily life.

"What I learned is very helpful because I work in foster care," she said. "A lot of what he said could be a sign of something, so now I'll know where [the foster youth] are coming from."

For more information, log on to overindulgence.com or djimifogarty.com.



Chris Jenkins

Big Cypress Library Director John Fraser listens attentively during the seminar.

Keeping Safety in Mind During Summer Fun

BY LTJG HRISTU CHEPA
REHS Environmental Health Specialist

[Editor's Note: Hristu Chepa is a Tribal employee with the Environmental Health Program. He can be reached at hristuchepa@seminoletribe.com and (954) 965-1300 with any questions or comments. The opinions he expresses are his own.]

Summer is here and that means a lot of fun in the sun. But before you rush over to your favorite pool, there are a few safety tips that you should remember.

Did you know that drowning is the leading cause of unintentional death for those 14 and younger, and the leading cause of death for those younger than 5? There are more than 7,000 drowning deaths nationally each year, according to the Home Safety Council (HSC), a national non-profit organization that aims to prevent home-related injuries.

Here are some tips from the HSC about pool safety:

Never leave children unattended even if they are good swimmers. Flotation devices should never be substituted for adult supervision.

If your child is missing, then the pool should be the first place you look. If a child has fallen in the water,

then seconds count.

Learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) so you can act fast if the crisis should arise.

Don't dive or jump into water that is not at least 12 feet deep if you are diving off a diving board, and nine feet deep if you are jumping directly into a pool.

No running, horse playing, or eating food in or around the pool.

Never swim alone; always swim with a buddy. Keep an eye on each other. Even if you are a great swimmer, it is always best to have a buddy around for extra safety.

Swim only in safe, guarded areas. Know how deep the water is. Be aware that in natural bodies of water, swift current, deep water and/or a sudden drop-off can get you.

Don't assume that drowning or a drowning incident couldn't happen to you or your family.

And lastly, don't forget to have fun.

The Seminole Tribe Health Dept. routinely and randomly tests the Tribe's community pool water. Our inspectors not only look for potential physical hazards, but they also make sure the water quality is up to standard.

We request that those using the pool report any pool-related hazards to the attending pool manager or Health Dept.



Community News

Native Book Review

By Ramona Kiyoshk

Red Rooms is a fast-moving and stylishly conceived package of five short stories offering an insider's look into the lives of the Aboriginal guests in an unexceptional neighborhood hotel in the tourist area of a busy Canadian city. Cherie Dimaline, Ojibway/Metis, a 30-something writer who comes from a background of journalism and community service, puts her creative skills to work to tell these stories that desperately need to be told.

The stories are related by hotel maid Naomi, Dimaline's fly on the wall, who gossips with other cleaning staff over bad coffee in the stark lunch room or while smoking a joint in the laundry or in an alley. Naomi also gleans details from conversations with some of the guests, and from their habits, their trash and objects they forget or abandon in their rooms. Using wit and intuition, this unlikely voyeur creates what she imagines to be the dramas that propel the patrons who pass through her rooms, sometimes disappearing quietly, but just as often leaving chaos and confusion in their wakes.

The author knows the day-to-day essence of the "rez," and the people who leave, only to return, and leave again. Native people know these stories. They live them, but mainstream society sees only stereotypes, and most new citizens know nothing about the original inhabitants of this continent. Dimaline's fearless depiction of modern Native American minutiae bristles with eloquence, pathos, humor, grit, energy and hope.

The hotel fits the description of any chain that caters to guests who want a clean affordable place to stay. The guests might need a room for a midweek business conference or a family weekend at a pow-wow.

Others rent for a couple of hours to complete an illicit business transaction. Some, like the terminally ill gay graphic designer, need anonymity and an un-intrusive place to die.

Self-definition is the Holy Grail central to all the stories. Some of the characters are running from it, others toward it. Some will become enlightened and find absolution; others will drown in the search. In the end, all will be snared by the strong indigenous blood memories that bind us together.

What impressed me most about this book, beside the wonderful stories told with haunting eloquence, is the writer's universal frames of reference. Dimaline effortlessly weaves art, literature, politics, history, and world locales into her storytelling, as though she is intimately familiar with the African Ivory Coast, Jean-Paul Sartre, New York's East Village, world haute couture and the back streets of Amsterdam.

Her depiction of resilient Native youth in the mean city streets is caustic, but optimistic. However, it is Dimaline's affectionate familiarity with modern Native peoples and their take on family, community and identity that makes this book memorable. Says one of the players about the Native social and family clutter around her: "It's like when I feel with all certainty that I would rather die than not be Native."

Red Rooms was published in May 2007, and was newly released in trade paperback in revealed that sales are brisk. I hope many of the customers are white. They need to be told, but indigenous North Americans will rejoice in knowing that Cherie is one of our own.



Title: **Red Rooms**
Publisher: Theytus Books, Canada
Published: May 2007
Trade Paperback: May 2008
Subject: Fiction
Author: Cherie Dimaline
ISBN: 1894778383
Pages: 153
\$18.95

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Graduating Class of 2008



Photo Courtesy of Glamour Shots
Christian Benson graduates from Immokalee High School with honors.

Christian Benson Graduates from Immokalee High

Benson to Begin Studies at Florida State in the Fall

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Immokalee High School held its 2008 graduation ceremony at the Harborside Convention Center in Fort Myers on the evening of May 23.

Wearing red caps and gowns with white accents, 273 graduates marched down the aisle to "Pomp and Circumstance." Among these young scholars was Christian Benson, 18, Panther Clan and daughter of Tommy and Dorothy Benson.

Benson has been an exceptional student during her entire educational career, even earning a position in the Beta Honor Society. A participant in the Young Ambassador's Program, she has traveled to England and France, spending time with the families of foreign students and visiting historical sites and museums.

A well-rounded student, Benson was not only a scholar, but an athlete as well, playing on the Immokalee High School girls' softball team. She also participated in numerous extracurricular activities such as raising swine in the Immokalee Seminoles 4-H Program and taking part in their annual show and sale projects.

Benson has already been accepted to attend Florida State University where she will begin classes in September. With several options available, she has not yet chosen her major, but is leaning toward the legal profession and hopes to return to work for the benefit of the Seminole Tribal citizens.

Preschoolers Honored at Graduation Ceremony

BY CHRIS JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Nine Ahfachkee preschoolers took center stage as Tribal Council and Board of Directors members, parents, faculty and staff commemorated their graduation at a ceremony held in the Big Cypress Community Center May 30.

Nicholas Peter Andrews II, Carlisle Amillionana Bermudez, Sontino Christopher Billie, Elijah Devon Cook, Evan Ryli Cypress, Harmony Madison Cypress, Tauni Chase Cypress, Daleen Osceola and Lauren Desdria Doctor all received their preschool diplomas during the ceremony.

"I was very proud of the children and what they have done and were taught, as well as the parents," President Richard Bowers Jr. said. "We need to continue to give them a fighting chance out there in this world."

Big Cypress Board Rep. Cicero Osceola echoed President Bowers' sentiment, saying encouraging today's preschool grads is important because "they are going to be our next future Tribal leaders, our doctors and lawyers."

Pastor Salaw Hummingbird began the graduation program with the invocation, followed by Preschool Director Leona Tommie Williams, who welcomed those in attendance. Next, the preschoolers recited the Pledge of Allegiance in both Mikasuki and English, followed by a brief biography on each student in Mikasuki.

The grads entertained the audience with performances of songs including "London Bridge" and "The Counting Song," as well as a theatrical rendition of the classic fairytale Goldie Locks and the Three Bears.

Parents Nicholas and Toi Andrews said they value what son, Nicholas, has learned over the years at Ahfachkee. Father Nicholas said the social and cultural aspects of his son's curriculum are the most important aspects of Nicholas' early education.

"It is more culture-oriented for him at this stage, and more than you would find at any other place," said Andrews. "It is one of those days when you watch your kid and you see the progression from infants to walking and talking and playing with their friends."

(L-R, Back Row) Big Cypress Board Rep. Cicero Osceola, Preschool Director Leona Tommie Williams and President Richard Bowers Jr. congratulate all the graduates on stage.

Jessica Osceola Graduates Florida Gulf Coast University

Seminole Artist Earns Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

ESTERO, Fla. — More than 1,000 students received their diploma from Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) during the school's spring commencement ceremony, held at the Germain Arena in Estero, Fla. on April 27.

Dressed in burgundy caps and gowns, the graduating class filled the entire arena to standing room only capacity. Among the graduates was Seminole Tribal citizen Jessica Ann Osceola, 23, who received a bachelor's degree from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Osceola is the daughter of Douglas and Sandy Osceola and granddaughter of Cory and Juanita Osceola. She said she will further her education at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, N.M.

During her time in school, Osceola participated in the Spring Art Opening &

Exhibition at FGCU with her project entitled "Exploitation of the Unidentified." Originally a history major, she said she was drawn to the art world as a means of expressing herself and the role of Native Americans in American society.

"My Seminole ancestry and their way of life include the pride of a people who are known as 'The Unconquered,'" she said. "My Irish background helps me to blend into the melting pot of diversity, struggle and opportunity that this country stands for. I am constantly battling between these two identities and the stereotypes conferred upon my cultures by society."



Bob Knight Photo Service
Jessica Osceola

Standing before her exhibition, she pointed to more than 40 molds of her own likeness created in plaster, wax, bronze, earthenware and fiberglass.

"To achieve the issue of my identity, I needed to put myself into the equation and incorporate native materials such as sweet grass and palmetto fiber," Osceola said. "Through my artwork I am able to communicate my inner thoughts, feelings and life experiences in past, present and future."

Chairman Mitchell Cypress said, "There is an old adage that says, 'Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder,' and I find it a joy and inspiration to behold your creativity and talent. I am very proud that you are aspiring toward higher education and using your talents to create an expression of our culture."

Osceola's cousin, Naples Liaison OB Osceola Jr., presented her with a special gift of a watch acknowledging her graduation achievement.



Judy Weeks
Jessica Osceola at her art exhibit at FGCU's College of Fine Arts, which featured more than 40 molds of her own likeness.

Jenice Martin Earns College Degree

SUBMITTED BY THE EDUCATION DEPT.

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Jenice Martin, daughter of Stephen Bowers, graduated from California State University at Sacramento on May 24 with a degree in international relations. Family from Florida and South Dakota attended the ceremony.

This summer, Martin intends to make a trip to Colombia with a non-profit organization. She also plans to use the summer to study for the LSAT and GRE tests required to apply to graduate and law schools throughout the next year. With the time off, she said she hopes to get work experience with a local non-profit. Ultimately she would like to work for a non-profit or international non-governmental organization, and has interest in working with one of the many Tribal enterprises someday.

Martin attended college off and on more than nine years before enrolling full time in a university. It took several years to find something she was really passionate about that inspired her return to school, she said. After a trip to Cuba she chose international relations. Her advice to



Photo Submitted by Jenice Martin
Jenice Martin and Father Stephen Bowers at her May 24 graduation ceremony in California.

young Tribal citizens is to find something of interest and work hard because the accomplishment is well worth it.

"The opportunities that the Tribe offers us are endless," she said "I feel that as the next generation of Tribal leaders it is our responsibility to look to college so that we can keep our Tribe on this path of success."

Anfachkee School's Class of 2008 Graduates

Three High School Grads, 15 Middle School

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Ahfachkee School held its 2008 commencement ceremony at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium on the evening of June 5.

At the ceremony, Malachi Baker, Anthony Balentine, Tana Bear-Osceola, Natasha Billie, Stevie Billie, Jose Cisneros Jr., Kegan Cypress, Kira Cypress, Steven

Frank, Monique Jimmie, Kaylee Jumper, Jessica Lopez, Margie Lugo, Cody Motlow and Cooper Rivers, all received their eighth grade diplomas.

The Ahfachkee high school graduating Class of 2008 consisted of Alexandra Colon, Trisha Walker and Benjamin Hernandez.

The graduates made their entrance to the familiar graduation tune "Pomp and Circumstance."

Please see AHFACHKEE < Page 11

Brighton Celebrates High School Graduates

HEATHER PETERSON, BRITTANY SMITH, MARY HUFF, LINDSAY SAULS, CLINT BOWERS, DEWELL JOHNS FINISH HIGH SCHOOL

BY SUSAN ETXEBARRIA
Freelance Reporter

BRIGHTON — Five Brightone Tribal citizens graduated from Okeechobee High School on June 5. They are Heather Peterson, Brittany Smith, Mary Huff, Shelby Huff and Lindsay Sauls.

The Okeechobee graduation was held at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center where the largest ever graduating class of 348 seniors received their diplomas.

Two Brighton seniors graduated from First Indian Baptist Academy (FIBA) on June 2. The two graduates, Clint Bowers and Dewell Johns, received their diplomas at the First Indian Baptist Church sanctuary.

Heather Peterson, 18, is the daughter of Don and Loretta (Huff) Peterson and a member of the Big Town Clan. Peterson graduated from Okeechobee High School with a 4.0 weighted grade point average (GPA), which includes her grades as a dual enrollment student at Indian River Community College (IRCC).

While still in high school, Peterson earned 32 college credits taking general education courses at IRCC. With that edge, she will speed up the process of getting an Associate of Art's degree in business in the coming year.

Peterson will be transferring in the fall to Hillsborough Community College (HCC) in Brandon, Fla., and plans to go on



Susan Etxebarria
Heather Peterson (C) with mother, Loretta, and father, Don.

Brighton Celebrates High School Graduates

HEATHER PETERSON, BRITTANY SMITH, MARY HUFF, LINDSAY SAULS, CLINT BOWERS, DEWELL JOHNS FINISH HIGH SCHOOL

BY SUSAN ETXEBARRIA
Freelance Reporter

From there to a four-year university to earn a Bachelor's Degree in business. She said she hopes one day to work for the Tribe.

Peterson was inducted into the National Honor Society in 2007; chosen twice for her scholastic achievements. She was published in the Who's Who of American High School Students in 2006-2007 and 2007-2008. She was also inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, an academic society for two-year college students with better than a 3.5 GPA.

"I think that is what I'm most proud of because it is college level," said Peterson. She said she will continue to attend Phi Theta Kappa meetings at HCC, where the members volunteer their time on an environmental project.

During her teen years at Brighton, Peterson participated in rodeo as a barrel racer. She was the Brighton Jr. Rodeo Queen for two years and the Brighton Sr. Rodeo Queen 2007-2008. She also held a job since the age of 13; first at Okeechobee's only movie theatre and then at a veterinary clinic. Peterson is still considering taking a veterinary technician program.

"I am proud she has accomplished so much because I know she has worked hard getting those grades," said Father, Don.

"She wants to get a good solid education and discover what she wants to do in life," mother Loretta added.

(L-R, Back Row) Big Cypress Board Rep. Cicero Osceola, Preschool Director Leona Tommie Williams and President Richard Bowers Jr. congratulate all the graduates on stage.

Christ Jenkins
Preschooler Harmony Cypress holds a Seminole flag and concentrates on reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at the graduation ceremony.

Christ Jenkins
Heather Peterson (C) with mother, Loretta, and father, Don.

Graduating Class of 2008



Betty Jones Goosens (R) crosses the stage to receive her master's degree in business administration (MBA).

Betty Jones Goosens Receives MBA

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

SUNRISE, Fla. — Betty Jones Goosens, Snake Clan, and daughter of Martha Jones and the late Harold Jones, attained a master's degree in business (MBA) from Nova Southeastern University's Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship. The graduation ceremony took place at the Bank Atlantic Center in Sunrise on the afternoon of June 7.

Nearly a dozen Tribal citizens have achieved such a high level of education, though none since 2005. Goosens, originally from Brighton, and now residing in Hollywood, has worked with the Tribe since 1984 in areas including housing, social services and education. For the past five years she has served as director of Seminole Gaming's Tribal Career Development Program, where she assists Tribal citizens as they make their way through the Tribe's management training program.

Although she started an undergrad program in legal studies, Goosens decided to switch her focus to business. She also takes classes for specialization certification in international business, which she said is important because the Tribe now owns an international corporation.

"I wanted to better understand the business world and see why things were done a certain way," Goosens said.

Goosens admits, however, that she still maintains an interest in law and would love to go back to law school full time. However, she is focused on her current career, and hopes to one day become vice president of Human Resources for Seminole Gaming. Goosens said that on her current track, she is well on her way to achieving this goal.

Ahfachkee Eighth Graders Complete D.A.R.E. Program

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Drug Abuse Resistance Education Culmination Program, better known as D.A.R.E., has another group of program graduates who have heard the organization's drug free message.

On the evening of June 2, parents, teacher, friends and the D.A.R.E. grads themselves attended a graduation ceremony in recognition of the program's completion.

Eighth graders Jessica Lopez and Kaylee Jumper led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American and Seminole flags before Seminole Police Dept. Officer Kelly Taylor.

"This is not just my job, it is my passion," she said. "I strive to deliver the message to our youth that drugs and alcohol are poison."

Chairman Mitchell Cypress spoke frankly to the parents about the importance of instilling a drug free message into their children.

"It is important to not only teach this program, but use it," he said. "Parents are the role models and they must provide the discipline and character building from the home. We are the Unconquered Semi-



Several fifth graders joined the eighth grade graduates in singing "D.A.R.E. to Take a Stand."

nole and we must not let drugs conquer us."

Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress told the graduates that the choices they make will affect their lives long after they are made.

"Our whole life is a matter of choices," said Rep. Cypress. "When in doubt consider your options and make the right choices the first time. It is much harder to reconsider and rebuild your life while trying to correct the mistakes you have made."

As the guest speaker for the evening, Tribal citizen Lindsey King, daughter of Keeno and Betty King, gave a presentation titled "Life Without Drugs and Alcohol." Never having used either one, King conveyed the rewards of abstinence and breaking the stereotypes set forth about Native Americans.

King is currently enrolled in a bachelor's degree program at Florida Atlantic University and said she eventually wants to be a teacher at Ahfachkee.

The grads then presented their drug free-themed poems and essays to the audience before the fifth grade D.A.R.E. grads joined them on stage for a musical rendition of "D.A.R.E. to Take a Stand."

D.A.R.E. certificates were awarded to: Malachi Baker, Anthony Balentine, Tana Bear-Osecola, Natasha Billie, Stevie Billie, Jose Cisneros Jr., Kegan Cypress, Kira Cypress, Steven Frank, Monique Jimmie, Kaylee Jumper, Jessica Lopez, Margie Lugo, Cody Motlow and Cooper Rivers.

Special recognition medals went to Jessica Lopez for her poem and Kira Cypress for her essay.



(L-R) Jessica Lopez and Cooper Rivers make presentations at the eighth grade D.A.R.E. graduation.



Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Lindsey King show off their D.A.R.E. Certificates of Recognition.

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Graduating Class of 2008

❖ Ahfachkee

Continued from page 9

Circumstance" played by Music Director Lana Payne. The Seminole Color Guard followed them down the aisle, holding the American flag for the Pledge of Allegiance and the Seminole flag for the Miccosukee Pledge, presented by Dayna Koenes.

Native recording artist Henry Battiste Jr. sang a moving and inspirational rendition of "God Bless the USA," after which emcee Keeno King recognized all the brave men and women serving in the U.S. military.

Ahfachkee Acting Principal Eileen Hagar recognized the hard work of the school's staff and student body, telling them they — and the school itself — have come a long way.

"When I joined the Ahfachkee staff there were only 80 students and today we have over 190," Hagar said. "I have known some of these graduates since kindergarten and watched them grow with pride. Tonight they complete one journey before embarking on another."

Tribal citizen Jarrid Smith, a Florida Atlantic University graduate, offered the

commencement address. Smith has accumulated an extensive list of achievements in sports as well as academics. Having excelled on the football field and in the classroom, he is a role model for all Seminole youth.

"You hold the key to the rest of your life," he said. "There are a lot of right and wrong turns ahead of you. Give careful thought to your actions and look to your family and community for encouragement. Your future is their future because you represent the Seminole Tribe of tomorrow."

Trisha Walker, representing the Class of 2008, presented Smith with a gift backpack filled with educational materials.

President Richard Bowers Jr. reminisced about growing up in a world where no one wanted Indians to attend their schools.

"Our ancestors were without formal education and during my youth, boarding schools often presented the only chance to remedy this situation. Big changes have taken place in the past fifty years and you must challenge yourself to take advantage of your opportunities. You have acquired the tools to face the unknown and succeed. Know where you come from and never let go of your culture."



July Weeks

Henry "Junior" Battiste sings "God Bless the USA" at the Ahfachkee graduation ceremony.

Big Cypress Board Rep. Cicero Osceola took the time to recognize those people behind-the-scenes who helped the students become graduates — their teachers.

"We have trusted you with our most precious possession, our children," Rep. Osceola said. "You have taken this raw material and molded it into vessels to hold the knowledge that will provide our future."



July Weeks

Jarrid Smith gives the commencement address at the Ahfachkee graduation.



July Weeks

Ahfachkee's 2008 high school and eighth grade graduating class.

Recognizing Ahfachkee's High School Class of 2008



Alexandra Colon, Trisha Walker, Benjamin Hernandez

Following a short hiatus from her education, in which grad Alexandra Colon became a mother, she returned to complete her high school curriculum.

"I have a lot of responsibilities now to my son and his future," she said. "It may be difficult, but I am hoping to further my education. I would like to encourage other young mothers and students who have dropped out of school to return and complete the task before them."

"If I can do it, I know you can!" she added.

Graduate Trisha Walker said she loves working with children. A shy young woman, she quickly bonds with the

youngsters and derives a great deal of satisfaction in helping with their learning experiences. She will be joining the teaching staff at Ahfachkee as an instructional aide while making preparations to further her education.

Benny Hernandez has grown up in a world of sports which has included the raising of horses, cattle and dogs. As a rodeo enthusiast, he has excelled in the roping arena, high school rodeo and on the open circuit. Hoping to become a veterinarian, Hernandez has enlisted the services of his mentor, Josh Jumper, in selecting a rodeo college.



July Weeks

(L-R) Jarrid Smith accepts a gift from graduate Trisha Walker as emcee Keeno King looks on.

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Graduating Class of 2008

◆ Brighton

Continued from page 9

Peterson received a State of Florida Bright Futures Scholarship for four years of college and the Seminole Tribe of Florida Billy L. Cypress Scholarship.

Brittany Smith
Brittany R. Dyan Smith, 18, is the daughter of Brighton Council Rep. Roger Smith and wife Diane. She recently made front page in the *Okeechobee News* for earning the first place certificate in the vocational drafting class, which is related to her future career.

Smith said she is excited to go on to college to study architecture. She graduated with honors with a 3.5 GPA and is in the Honor Society. She plans to attend IRCC at Ft. Pierce in the fall where she will study architecture. Smith said her dream is to go overseas to study the different styles of architecture in other countries.

Smith said she knew she was going to follow this dream when she was in her ninth grade geometry classes.

"I loved math and I loved drawing so architecture seemed to be the best of both worlds," she explained.

Smith said she hopes to some day to do architectural work for the Tribe.

In her teens, she played basketball and softball. She was also Junior Miss Seminole Princess in 2003-2004. Brittany served on the Okeechobee High School Student Council two years and was the vice president in her senior year. She was the yearbook photo-



Dewell Johns



Clint Bowers

grapher and her picture is this year's 2008 cover.

Smith received a four-year Florida Bright Futures Scholarship. A Seminole Tribe of Florida Billy L. Cypress Scholarship and a Brighton Casino Scholarship.

"I am really proud of my daughter's accomplishments," said her mother, Diane. "Every time she sets a goal she achieves it."

Mary Huff

Mary Huff, 18, is the daughter of John Wayne Sr. and Vickie Huff. She recently was chosen by the *Okeechobee News* and Publix Stores as Okeechobee High School's "Athlete of the Year" and awarded a \$500 scholarship.

During her four years of high school,

Huff played softball, not only during the school year, but summer leagues as well. She played varsity softball by her freshman year at Okeechobee High School. She is also a four-year letterman. Huff has been a pitcher, played second base and was a key player in getting the team to the Florida state tournament.

Huff has received a full softball scholarship to attend St. Petersburg College and has also received the Seminole Tribe of Florida Billy L. Cypress Scholarship and the Brighton Casino Scholarship.

"I am very proud of Mary graduating from high school and her softball achievements," said her mother, Vickie. "We wish her good luck and will miss her when she goes off the college ... But now she has to do her own laundry."

Shelby Huff, Clint Bowers, Lindsay Sauls and Dewell Johns

Shelby Huff, 17, is the daughter of Allen and Christy Huff. She graduated from Okeechobee High School. Her plans for the future are undecided but she does say she has an interest in digital design and may go on to attend IRCC.

Clint Bowers is the son of Theresa and Marvin Bowers. Bowers earned good grades while attending high school at FIBA. He also spent nine years in Seminole 4-H Club, is past president of the 4-H Steer Club and served on the Student Council.

Bowers said he is glad to finish school. He is working this summer as a heavy equipment operator at Brighton Reservation, a skilled occupation Bowers enjoys, and plans to continue.

Lindsay Sauls, 18, daughter of Leoda Poole and Shawn Sauls; and Dewell Johns, son of Kim and Marti Johns round out the group of graduates from the Brighton Reservation.



Susan Etxebarria

Graduates (L-R) Brittany Smith, Mary Huff and Shelby Huff.

Tiffany Billie Graduates Riverside

BY ELIZABETH LEIBA

Editor

ANANDARKO, Okla. — When it was time for her daughter Tiffany to graduate high school, Mom Loraine Billie, said she knew she would make the 24 hour drive to Central Oklahoma to watch her daughter walk across the stage.

Tiffany Billie, 18, graduated from Riverside Indian School in a commencement ceremony boasting the school's largest graduating class to date.

"I wanted to cry!" exclaimed Mom Loraine.

Billie was one of 140 seniors who received her high school diploma on May 30. She was also on the school's basketball team and a member of the Homecoming Court.

Her mother said she was vocal about her goals at a young age.

"In third grade or so she said, 'I'm going to go to school, I'm not going to fail. I'm going to graduate,'" she recalled. "And that's what she did."



Submitted by Loraine Billie
Tiffany Billie

Demetria Tigertail Earns Diploma

BY FELIX DOBOSZ

Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Tribal citizen Demetria Danae Tigertail was one of more than 20 high school students who graduated from the Hollywood Christian Academy on May 30.

Her mother, Renee Tigertail, and other family members were in attendance.

During the ceremony, the grads sat front and center, while their families, friends and guests sat patiently in the school auditorium for the evening's program to begin. After listening to graduation speeches from special guests, the audience was eager to get to the best part of the evening. Each student crossed the stage and received a diploma from the principal to cheers and applause.

Wearing her black cap and gown, Tigertail, 18, said she felt good and was very excited about her graduation.

"Finally!" she exclaimed with relief.


Tigertail added that although she isn't quite sure yet which college to attend, she hopes to pursue a promising college basketball career to follow her highly successful varsity team experiences.



Felix Dobosz

Demetria Danae Tigertail

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Graduating Class of 2008

Ahfachkee Kindergarteners Move on to First Grade

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Shana Balentine, Carlee Billie, Richard Billie, Jalycia Billie-Valdez, Brianna Bowers, Elise Brown, Charli Frye, Leilani Gopher, Kylene Jumper, Tash-Sho-Tah-Che Jumper, Ezekiel Roberts, Ricky Rodriguez, Alena Stockton and Martha Tiger all received kindergarten diplomas at their commencement ceremony, held on June 4 at the school.

Following the entrance procession, the 14 students led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American and Seminole Flag in English and Mikasuki, respectively. Rev. Arlen Payne offered the invocation prior to the welcoming address by Acting Principal Eileen Hagar.

"Everyday you make life better for me, your teachers, your parents and your Tribal leaders," she said to the graduates. "It will be our joy to see you move up into the first grade next year and begin your journey to the future."

Emcee Keeno King acknowledged the work of the school's kindergarten teachers, Jennifer Johnson and Bernadette Schyvinch, and their instructional aides, Michelle Walk-

er and Tara McGee, before introducing the guest speakers.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress congratulated the young students on their newly acquired skills.

"This is just the beginning of a bright future for you," the Chairman said. "I look forward to returning here in 12 years and see you graduating as seniors. It is your job between now and then to get an education."

Big Cypress Council Rep. David Cypress also spoke at the ceremony. He encouraged the parents to maintain an active role in their children's lives.

"There are basic responsibilities to being a parent," Rep. Cypress said. "Don't let the streets, television or a computer raise your children. Be good parents and role models and your children will respond."

Big Cypress Board Rep. Cicero Osceola gave the commencement address.

"As I watched my own son graduate from high school the other night, cherished memories of the life we have shared passed through my mind," Rep. Osceola said. "Now is the time for you to create those memories. Communicate with your children and be a part of their lives."

Continuing, Rep. Osceola said: "I have a message for these graduates. Learn from your culture, heritage, teachers, families,



Judy Weeks
Acting Principal Eileen Hagar presents Brianna Bowers with her kindergarten diploma.

nature and the environment. These things will mold you into the future of the Seminole Tribe."

Calling the kindergarteners to the front



Judy Weeks
The graduates sing "What Are You Going to Be?"

of the stage, Music Director Lana Payne led the children in singing "What Are You Going to Be?" Following the song, they answered the question with these responses: teacher, doctor, cop, astronaut, veterinarian, chef and rock star.



Judy Weeks
Chairman Mitchell Cypress addresses the kindergarten grads.



Judy Weeks
Tribal leaders and Ahfachkee School staff members present the kindergarten Class of 2008.



Judy Weeks
Charli Frye, along with her grandfather, Danny Jumper, show off her diploma.



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Graduating Class of 2008

Travis Pacheco Graduates Centennial High

BY ELIZABETH LEIBA
Editor

PUEBLO, Colo. — Travis Pacheco graduated from Centennial High School in commencement ceremonies held May 30. Pacheco, 18, was an active member of the Junior ROTC for three years, also participating in the Color Guard during his high school career. He was also on the track team and made the honor roll.

The Bird Clan member is the son of Blake Pacheco of Pueblo, Colo. and Naomi Tommie Pacheco from the Big Cypress Reservation. Both of his parents have actively pursued higher education, with his father graduating from the University of Southern Colorado with a master's degree and his mother attaining a bachelor's degree in business management from Colorado State University in 2005.

Naturally, they have encouraged Travis to excel and were proud of his making the first step in graduating high school. Mom Naomi described it as "wonderful in so many ways."



Photo Submitted by the Education Dept.
Travis Pacheco

Pacheco has plans to attend the Community Transition House in the fall where he will take courses in independent living and life skills. He will also have an opportunity to take classes at Pueblo Community College.

Gregory Carter Jr. Receives High School Diploma

BY ELIZABETH LEIBA
Editor



Photo Submitted by the Education Dept.
Gregory Carter Jr.

ORLANDO — Gregory Carter Jr. received his high school diploma in a commencement ceremony at West Oaks Academy on May 30.

The 18-year-old is the son of Myra Jumper, Otter Clan. His grandmother, Mary Tigertail, resides in Big Cypress and said she is proud of Carter, the second of her grandchildren to graduate high school.

"I feel great!" she exclaimed. "I was happy. I have 20 more [grandchildren] to graduate."

Carter exemplified the meaning of student athlete in his four years at the Orlando school. He played football and basketball during his entire career there and was also voted MVP several times.

He plans to attend Haskell Indian Nations University where he hopes to continue to play football and study dentistry.

Ryan Osceola Graduates from Clewiston High School

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

CLEWISTON, Fla. — The bleachers at the Cane Field Stadium filled to capacity on the evening of May 30 for the Clewiston High School graduation ceremony.

Wearing caps and gowns in the class colors of blue and gold, 190 graduates filed onto the field during the graduation procession.

Among the graduates was Ryan Osceola, 17, son of Big Cypress Board Rep. Cicero Osceola and his wife, Celesta.

Dr. Robert Egley, principal of the Clewiston High School, presented the grads with their diplomas. Immediately following a short pronouncement by Superintendent Thomas Comer, the sky exploded with an array of congratulatory fireworks.

In addition to his academic high school achievements, Ryan is an avid sports enthusiast. He spent three years playing high school football and was a member of the Seminole Recreational Basketball Team.

Enhancing his agricultural interests, Osceola participated in the Future Farmers of America (FFA) during his freshman year and raised one pig and two steers in the Seminole 4-H Program.

Although he has not yet decided on a major, Osceola will be attending Haskell Indian Nations University in the fall, where he hopes to make the football team.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress congratulated the graduate immediately following the ceremony.

"This is the key to the door of the future and offers endless possibilities," the Chairman said, looking at Osceola's diploma. "You have your feet on the path to tomorrow and only you can determine where it will take you."



Judy Weeks
Ryan Osceola (C) with his Mother Celesta and Father Cicero, following his high school graduation ceremony on May 30.

Dad Cicero Osceola wrapped his son in a giant bear hug of congratulations and offered advice only a father can provide. Surrounded by family members, lifelong friends and classmates, he was described as having a fun loving, dynamic personality that greets life with a smile and enthusiasm.



Judy Weeks
Ryan Osceola receives his high school diploma from Dr. Robert Egley.



Judy Weeks
Chairman Mitchell Cypress congratulates Ryan Osceola.



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Graduating Class of 2008



Marisol Gonzalez

Little stars (L-R) Mercedes Davis and Nariah Mota from Immokalee perform at the ceremony.



Marisol Gonzalez

Hollywood and Immokalee's preschoolers recite the Pledge of Allegiance to start off the ceremony.



Marisol Gonzalez

Julia Doctor receives her backpack from Parent Involvement Coordinator Dawna Bell.

Hollywood, Immokalee Preschool Graduation



Marisol Gonzalez

(L-R) Malacci Young, Naomi Osceola, Laterian Picardo, Helesi Two-Shoes and Faith Johns in costume portraying what they want to be when they grow up.

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Hollywood and Immokalee Seminole Preschools held their graduation in the auditorium of Tribal Headquarters on May 23.

Language Coordinator Jo Motlow North emceed the event and Hollywood Board Rep. Gloria Wilson and Ft. Pierce Liaison Sally R. Tommie both welcomed everyone to the graduation of the 18 preschool alumnae.

Now ready for kindergarten, the little ones put on an entertaining show for their families. The morning was filled with dancing, singing and even poem reading. The audience was flooded with tears of joy as the children were dressed in costumes portraying what they wanted to be when they grow up.

The children then changed into their caps and gowns before walking on stage to introduce themselves. After their introductions, they were presented with their graduation diplomas and a backpack filled with goodies for their journey on to kindergarten.

The preschool graduates were: Janae Bankston, Caniah Billie, Jay Bowers, Arissa Cypress, Aurora Cypress, J'Forrest Cypress, Mercedes Davis, Clarice DeMayo, Julia Doctor, Faith Johns, Grace Martinez, Nariah Mata, Conchade Osceola, Naomi Osceola, Laterian Picardo, Jacela Stewart, Helesi Two-Shoes and Malacci Young.



Marisol Gonzalez

Leanne Diaz and Jahniyah Henry class of 2009 also participated in the 2008 graduation.

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Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School



First and second grade bronze honor roll award recipients: (L-R) Front Row) Lucas Osceola, Connor Thomas, Krysta Burton, Cheyenne Fish, Michael Girtman, Camryn Thomas, Layne Thomas, with their teachers (L-R, Back Row) Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Ringstaff, Mrs. Hudson and Mrs. Ball.



Fourth grade citizenship award recipients: (L-R) Thomas Bearden, Tyra Baker, teacher, Mrs. Tedders, Tamea Allen, Kalgary Johns, teacher, Mrs. Williams, Elizabeth Johns, Tamea Williams, Lahna Sedatol and Brydgett Koonz.



Fifth grade gold honor roll students: (L-R) Layton Thomas, Braceton King, teacher, Mr. Brown, Brooke Osceola and Daniel Nunez.



Fifth grade citizenship award recipients: (L-R) Justice Baker, Toby Gopher, teacher, Mrs. Finney, Daniel Nunez and Lindsey Sampson.

Pemayetv Emahakv Awards Student Achievement

BY SUSAN ETKEBARRIA
Freelance Reporter

BRIGHTON — The fourth and final awards assembly for the 2007-2008 school year at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School took place on June 3. It was a bittersweet farewell as the historic school celebrated all the students' achievements and said goodbye to the fifth graders who will go on to Okeechobee schools.

Speaking to the students directly, Principal Russell Brown expressed the feelings of many of the staff, teachers and parents.

"We are excited today, but a little sad," said Brown. "You did a great job in your first year at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School. Your hard work and good behavior got us off to a good start."

Unexpectedly, a parent asked to speak and Principal Brown welcomed Braddon parent, Lisa Osceola, to the microphone.

Osceola praised the staff and teachers and asked the large crowd of parents to give them a hand. She said the school has really been great for her daughter. She was especially thankful the children are learning their language and culture.

"This is the greatest thing that has ever happened here," she said.

Osceola said she wishes the school could go all the way through high school and asked the parents to make sure it happens some day.

Brown thanked Osceola for her kind words and he proudly told the parents that school attendance "was phenomenal." He congratulated the parents for getting their children to school. Then he called Brighton Council Rep. Ruzer Smith forward.

"We have accomplished one year of our new school," said Rep. Smith. "The staff did an excellent job and I want to thank Principal Brown on behalf of the [Tribal] Council and the administration for all they have accomplished."

"To finally have a school of our own is a dream come true, to be teaching our children our Creek language and our culture," he added. "I want to

thank each and every student because together you have accomplished so much. You are making history and it began right here with you."

He also reminded the fifth graders that they were the first fifth graders to attend and they will be remembered for their courage.

"We want to install a Walk of Fame for these students," he told the parents.

He said they will put the students' names on the sidewalk of the school so that years from now they can return and remember how they were the very first fifth grade to graduate from Pemayetv Emahakv.

As the children's names were called out for special awards and scholastic achievement, they came forward to receive their ribbons and certificates. Brown also announced very promising news. Although he did not have the scores confirmed, he announced that the students passed the FCAT with flying colors, even outperforming neighboring schools.

One of the most prestigious awards was the President's Education Award conferred on the students with a letter from President George Bush, and his wife, Laura.

The award was given to students that "have shown a strong commitment to academic excellence and have built a solid foundation for a lifetime of accomplishment."

Anthony Johns received the President's Award for maintaining a 3.0-3.4 GPA. Brooke Osceola, Braceton King, Layton Thomas and Daniel Nunez received the award for maintaining a GPA of 3.5-4.0.

Following the assembly, a special party was held for the fifth grade students and their parents in the community room.

"We have enjoyed a wonderful year with these fifth grade students," said Principal Brown. "I am confident they have strengthened their academic abilities and have developed as individuals to be successful in middle school. If these students give the same effort over their remaining school years, as they did this year, they will be ready to be productive in our community."

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School Awards Recipients

Improvement

Kindergarten: Jaylen Baker, Jayton Baker, Laila Bennett, Wigan Bennett, Red Heart Billie, Dalence Carrillo, Hunter Howard, Kai Osceola, Marlice Osceola, Calliou Smith and Araya Youngblood.

First Grade: Andrew Fish, Mico Palmisano, Lance Howard, Caroline Micco, Lucas Osceola, Alyke Baker, Blake Baker, Tyler Howard, Luzana Venzor and Drake Lawrence.

Second Grade: Logan Ortiz, Richard Harris, Dutton Clark, Cady Osceola, Elijah Billie, Cheyenne Fish, Billy Yates, Brian Bishop and Ivessa Baker.

Citizenship

First Grade: Keely Billie, Connor Thomas, Oscar Yates, Robert Harris, Aleina Micco, Jarrett Bert and Aidan Tommie.

Second Grade: Morgan King, Sunni Bearden, Cady Osceola, Reed Gopher, Camryn Thomas, Joseph Osceola, Brady Rhodes, Jalynn Jones, and Michael Girtman.

Third Grade: Crysten Smith, Sean Osceola, Robert Fudge, Diamond Shore, Rylee Osceola, Demetrius Clark, Erik Garcia and Courtney Gore.

Fourth Grade: Kalgary Johns, Elizabeth Johns, Tamea Allen, Melany Williams, Lahna Sedatol, Brydgett Koonz, Richard Smith, Tyra Baker and Thomas Bearden.

Fifth Grade: Toby Gopher, Anthony Johns, Daniel Nunez, Lindsey Sampson and Justice Baker.

Effort

Third Grade: Jaden Puente, Trevor Thomas, Bailey Tedders, Odessa King Drayton Billie, Lanie Sedatol and Bethany Billie.

Fourth Grade: Lahna Sedatol, Jaron Johns, Kalgary Johns, Kallin Brown, Tamea Allen, Cheyenne Nunez, Rayven Smith and Tyra Baker. Fifth Grade: Korvette Billie, Breana Billie, Joshua Bormei, Deven Jones, Delaney Osceola, Myrick Puente, Lindsey Sampson and Cameron Youngblood.

Perfect Attendance

First Grade: Lance Howard; Second Grade Perfect Attendance: Dymal Nelson and Layne Thomas and Aiyana Tommie.

Third Grade: Eric Puente and Lanie Sedatol.

Fourth Grade: Tyra Baker, Jaron Johns, Brydgett Koonz, Keyana Nelson, Cheyenne Nunez, Yopakiyo Osceola and Lahna Sedatol.

Fifth Grade: Justice Baker, Deven Jones, Daniel Nunez, Delaney Osceola and Brooke Osceola.

Bronze Award

First Grade: Second Semester: Krysta Burton.

Second Grade - Second Semester: Rylee Smith, Cyrus Smedley, Cheyenne Fish, Michael Girtman, Joseph Osceola, Lucas Osceola, Connor Thomas, Camryn Thomas and Layne Thomas.

Fourth Grade (3.0-3.4 GPA): Tria Osceola, Tamea Allen, Elizabeth Johns, Jaron Johns, Michael Garcia, Chastity Harmon, Imilakiyo Osceola and Jayne Smith.

Fifth Grade (3.0-3.4 GPA): Toby Gopher, J.T. Smith and Jennifer Tommie.

Silver Award

First Grade - Second Semester: Kyle Palmisano, Alyke Baker, Keely Billie, Alicia Fudge, Aleina Micco, Aidan Tommie and Isaac Osceola. Third Grade (3.0-3.4 GPA): Rylee Osceola, Diamond Shore and Crysten Smith; (3.5-3.9 GPA): Robert Fudge, Sean Osceola, Bethany Billie, Ruben Burgess and Erik Garcia.

Fourth Grade (3.5-3.9 GPA): Zeke Matthews, Brydgett Koonz, Dezmor Shore, Yopakiyo Osceola, Joshua Greenbaum, Harley Johns and Keyana Nelson.

Fifth Grade (3.5-3.9 GPA): Anthony Johns.

Gold Award

Third Grade (4.0 GPA): Drayton Billie, Odessa King, Jaden Puente, Bailey Tedders and Trevor Thomas.

Fourth Grade (4.0 GPA): Kallin Brown, Boyd Brown, Cheyenne Nunez, Melany Williams, Allison Gopher, Zachary Hudson and Donovan Osceola.

Fifth Grade (4.0 GPA): Braceton King, Daniel Nunez, Brooke Osceola and Layton Thomas.

Straight A's

First Grade - Second Semester: Kano Puente, Gage Riddle, Rylee Matthews and Caroline Micco; All Year: Caroline Micco, Rylee Matthews, Kano Puente and Gage Riddle. Second Grade - Second Semester: Sunni Bearden, Morgan King, Dymal Nelson and Aiyana Tommie.

Fourth Grade - All Year: Kallin Brown, Zachary Hudson and Melany Williams.

Fifth Grade - All Year: Daniel Nunez.

President's Education Awards

Outstanding Academic Achievement (3.0-3.4 GPA): Anthony Johns; (3.5-4.0 GPA): Brooke Osceola, Braceton King, Layton Thomas, Daniel Nunez.

Creek Class

Lorene Gopher's Classes
Kindergarten: Most Improved - Aleah Turtle; Best Writing Skills - Rubie Osceola; Effort - Red Heart Billie; Best Creek Speaker - Anya Gore.

First Grade: Most Improved - Jarrett Bert; Best Writing Skills - Krysta Burton; Effort - Andrew Fish; Best Creek Speaker - Kano Puente.

Second Grade: Most Improved - Chloe Chaffart; Best Writing Skills - Joseph Osceola; Effort - Brady Rhodes; Best Creek Speaker - Layne Thomas.

Third Grade: Most Improved - Bailey Tedders; Best Writing Skills - Crysten Smith; Effort - Drayton Billie; Best Creek Speaker - Sean Osceola.

Fourth Grade: Most Improved - Keyana Nelson; Best Writing Skills - Thomas Bearden; Effort - Rayven Smith; Best Creek Speaker - Donovan Osceola.

Fifth Grade: Most Improved - Toby Gopher; Best Writing Skills - Anthony Johns; Effort - Korvette Billie; Best Creek Speaker - Daniel Nunez.

Jenny Shore's Classes

Kindergarten: Most Improved - Madiysen Osceola; Best Writing Skills - Santiago Billie; Effort - Jayton Baker; Best Creek Speaker - Jacee Jumper.

First Grade: Most Improved - Connor Thomas; Best Writing Skills - J-Wayco Billie; Effort - Keely Billie; Best Creek Speaker - Alyke Baker.

Third Grade: Most Improved - Samuel Osceola; Best Writing Skills - Bethany Billie; Effort - Kallin Smedley; Best Creek Speaker - Erik Garcia.

Fourth Grade: Most Improved - Royce Osceola; Best Writing Skills - Brydgett Koonz; Effort - Trista Osceola; Best Creek Speaker - Lahna Sedatol.

Fifth Grade: Most Improved - Lindsey Sampson; Best Writing Skills - Jennifer Tommie; Effort - Delaney Osceola; Best Creek Speaker - Myrick Puente.

Arts and Crafts/Creek Class

Nancy Shore's Classes
Kindergarten: Most Improved - Red Heart Billie and Katie Beck; Craftsmanship - Sage Mollow and Madiysen Osceola; Effort - Anya Gore and Bevin Billie; Best Creek Speakers - Tannar Shore and Malcolm Jones.

First Grade: Most Improved - Alyke Baker and Krysta Burton; Craftsmanship - Caroline Micco and Aleina Micco; Effort - Keely Billie and Aidan Tommie; Best Creek Speakers - Rylee Osceola and J-Wayco Billie.

Second Grade: Most Improved - Aiyana Tommie and Logan Ortiz; Craftsmanship - Layne Thomas and Cyrus Smedley; Effort - Joseph Osceola and Elijah Billie; Best Creek Speakers - Chloe Chaffart and Reed Gopher.

Third Grade Class: Most Improved - Odessa King and Bethany Billie; Craftsmanship - Drayton Billie and Ruben Burgess; Effort - Crysten Smith and Joshua Madrigal; Best Creek Speakers - Sean Osceola and Erik Garcia.

Fourth Grade: Most Improved - Boyd Brown and Dezmor Shore; Craftsmanship - Lahna Sedatol and Rayven Smith; Effort - Jaron Johns and Allison Gopher; Best Creek Speakers - Kallin Brown and Melany Williams.

Fifth Grade: Most Improved - Jennifer Tommie and Daniel Nunez; Craftsmanship - J.T. Smith and Toby Gopher; Effort - Cameron Youngblood and Anthony Johns; Best Creek Speakers - Deven Jones and Layton Thomas.

100% Club

Bevin Billie, Myron Billie, Keira French, Calliou Smith, Alexis Gore, Jahbahn Arnold, Kai Osceola, Waylyn Bennett, Sage Mollow, Red Heart Billie, Rubie Osceola, Donovan Harris, Edward Gauchin, Mallorie Thomas, Anya Gore, Aiyana Youngblood, Jayton Baker, Tucker Johns, Hunter Howard and Dalence Carrillo.

100 Book Challenge

Krysta Burton - 180 steps; Brady Rhodes - 115 steps; Joshua Greenbaum - 242 steps; Keyana Nelson - 100 steps; Joshua Bormei - 226 steps.

Student Council Representatives

First Grade - Mallorie Thomas, Second Grade - Lance Howard, Third Grade - Aiyana Tommie, Fourth Grade - Rylee Osceola, Fifth Grade - Michael Garcia, Six grade - Layton Thomas and Delaney Osceola.



First grade effort award recipients: (L-R, Front Row) Kano Puente, Gage Riddle, Krysta Burton, Alicia Fudge, Rylee Matthews, and teachers (L-R, Back Row) Mrs. Ringstaff and Mrs. Davis.



Third grade gold honor roll students: (L-R) Trevor Thomas, Bailey Tedders, their teacher, Mrs. Pryor, Jaden Puente and Odessa King.



Fourth and fifth grade students who earned straight A's all year: (L-R, Front Row) Daniel Nunez, Zachary Hudson, Kallin Brown, Melany Williams, (L-R, Back Row) Mrs. Williams, Cheyenne Nunez and Mrs. Tedders.

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's Students of the Week

Students Recognized for the Week of May 5-9

Students Recognized for the Week of May 12-16

Students Recognized for the Week of May 19-23



Kindergarten: Miss Robinson - Mallorie Thomas Mrs. Webber - Jahbahn Arnold

First Grade: Mrs. Davis - Alyke Baker Mrs. Ringstaff - Krysta Burton

Second Grade: Mrs. Ball - Brian Bishop Mrs. Hudson - Sunni Bearden

Third Grade: Mrs. Pryor - Trevor Thomas

Fourth Grade: Mrs. Tedders - Melany Williams Mrs. Williams - Chastity Harmon Mr. Tedders - Dezmor Shore

Fifth Grade: Mrs. Finney - Toby Gopher



Kindergarten: Miss. Robinson - Donovan Harris Mrs. Webber - Jayton Baker

First Grade: Mrs. Davis - Robert Harris Mrs. Ringstaff - Andrew Fish

Second Grade: Mrs. Hudson - Morgan King

Third Grade: Mrs. Clements - Bethany Billie Mrs. Pryor - Drayton Billie

Fourth Grade: Mrs. Tedders - Zeke Matthews Mrs. Williams - Tyra Baker

Fifth Grade: Mrs. Finney - Delaney Osceola



Kindergarten: Miss. Robinson - Rubie Osceola, Kai Osceola Mrs. Webber - Alexis Gore

First Grade: Mrs. Davis - J-Wayco Billie Mrs. Ringstaff - Lance Howard

Second Grade: Mrs. Hudson - Cady Osceola

Third Grade: Mrs. Clements - Courtney Gore Mrs. Pryor - Robert Fudge

Fourth Grade: Mrs. Tedders - Jaron Johns Mrs. Williams - Thomas Bearden

Bowlers, Golfers, Billiards Players Compete at Sports Fest

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Athletes representing the best in Native billiards, bowling and golf competed at the 9th Annual Seminole Sports Festival, held Memorial Day weekend.

The event, sponsored by the Big Cypress Council and Chairman's Office, brought out competitors from various Tribes for the all-Indian gathering.

The bowling tournament kicked the weekend off, beginning on May 22 at AMF Lanes in Pembroke Pines, Fla. This year's bowling tournament drew 50 players from all across Indian Country.

The categories and results are as follows: Men's Singles: 1. Derrick Thomas, 775; 2. Oliver Wareham, 723; 3. Amos Billie, 695; 4. Leon Wilcox Sr., 683; 5. Rufus Tiger, 659; Women's Singles: 1. Patricia Wilcox, 816; 2. Toni Johnson, 723; 3. Reina Micco, 682; 4. Margaret Osceola, 675; 5. Meredith Bullard, 660.

Sr. Men's Singles: 1. Archie Johns, 668; 2. Parker Jones, 653; 3. Moses Osceola, 645; 4. Elbert Snow, 637; 5. Billie Micco, 628; Sr. Women's Singles: 1. Linda Tom-

mie, 700; 2. Diane Smith, 669; 3. Ruby Osceola, 633; 4. Rose Jones, 630; 5. Mary Jo Micco, 624.

Men's Doubles: 1. Kevin Tommie and Leon Wilcox II, 1317; 2. George Micco and Richard Osceola, 1315; 3. Derrick Thomas and Kyle Doney, 1285; 4. Amos Moses Billie and Issiah Billie, 1278; 5. Leon Wilcox Sr. and Marcy Osceola, 1257; Women's Doubles: 1. Meredith Bullard and Alfreda Muskett, 1329; 2. Trisha Osceola and Amanda Smith, 1327; 3. (tie) Wendi Snow and Patty Entry, Margaret Wilcox and Marilyn Doney, 1320; 5. Wendi Snow and Shannon Purvis, 1316.

Mixed Doubles: 1. Patricia Wilcox and Leon Wilcox II, 1488; 2. Patty Entry and Rufus Tiger, 1422; 3. Pamela Jumper and Amos Billie, 1407; 4. Wendi Snow and George Micco, 1403; 5. Trisha Osceola and Marcy Osceola, 1337.

Sr. Women's Doubles: 1. Rose Jones and Linda Tommie, 1395; 2. Mary Jo Micco and Linda Tommie, 1343; 3. Diane Smith and Rose Jones, 1228; 4. Mary Jo Micco and Dora Tiger, 1165; Sr. Men's Doubles: 1. Elbert Snow and Eugene Bowers, 1338; 2. David Jumper and Archie Johns, 1311; 3. Billie Micco and Parker

Jones, 1269; 4. Moses Osceola and Ronnie Doctor, 1225; 5. David Jumper and Eugene Bowers, 1207.

Sr. Mixed Doubles: 1. Diane Smith and Parker Jones, 1302; 2. Rose Jones and Parker Jones, 1294; 3. (tie) Dora Tiger and Moses Osceola, Linda Tommie and Elbert Snow, 1266; 5. Linda Tommie and Roger Smith, 1261.

Women's Teams: 1. Trisha Osceola, Toni Johnson, Pamela Jumper and Shannon Purvis, 2639; 2. Farrah Jones, Marilyn Doney, Margaret Wilcox and Patricia Wilcox, 2575; 3. Wendi Snow, Shannon Purvis, Patty Entry and Salina Dorgan, 2549; Men's Teams: 1. Leon Wilcox II, Kevin Tommie, Philmon Bowers and Leon Wilcox Sr., 2598; 2. George Micco, Amos Billie, Philmon Bowers and Michael Micco, 2562; 3. Derrick Thomas, Kenny Doney, Kyle Doney and Marcy Osceola, 2493.

Mixed Teams: 1. Margaret Wilcox, Patricia Wilcox, Leon Wilcox II and Leon Wilcox Sr., 2746; 2. Reina Micco, Alfreda Muskett, Leon Wilcox II and Kevin Tommie, 2582; 3. Alfreda Muskett, Terri Frank, Oliver Wareham and Bobby Frank Sr., 2563.

Women's Teams: 1. Rose Jones, Diane Smith, Mary Jo Micco and Linda Tommie, 2506; 2. Mary Jo Micco, Rose Jones, Dora Tiger and Linda Tommie, 2264.

Sr. Men's Teams: 1. Billie Micco, David Jumper, Elbert Snow and Eugene Bowers, 2485; 2. Archie Johns, Billie



Patricia Wilcox takes a shot during the Tribal pool tournament.



Patricia Wilcox, who placed first in Women's Singles with an 816, prepares for her turn.

Micco, David Jumper and Parker Jones, 2377; 3. Archie Johns, Parker Johns, Elbert Snow and Eugene Bowers, 2296.

Sr. Mixed Teams: 1. Mary Jo Micco, David Jumper, Linda Tommie and Elbert Snow, 2592; 2. Mary Jo Micco, Rose Jones, Billie Micco and Parker Jones, 2490; 3. Diane Smith, Rose Jones, Roger Smith and Parker Jones, 2416.

Next up, the pool tournament, took place in the ballrooms of the Seminole Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood, beginning May 30, with 110 people competing. Categories included 8-Ball, 9-Ball, Teams and Scotch Doubles.

Winners in each category were as follows: 8-Ball: Senior Women: 1. Juanita Osceola, 2. Jane Freeman, 3. Laura Clay, 4. Dale Grasshopper, 5. Diana Only-A-Chief; Senior Men: 1. Charley LaSarge, 2. Sonny Tiger, 3. Roley Johnson, 4. James Kimbrough, 5. Frank Henry.

Women's Division: 1. Naomi Williams, 2. Theresa Nunez, 3. Carrie Williams, 4. Phylis Osceola, 5. Michelle McDermott; Men's Division: 1. Stan Tourangeau, 2. Phillip Davis, 3. Frank Wells, 4. Raymond Garza Sr., 5. Bon Deere.

9-Ball: Senior Women: 1. Juanita Osceola, 2. Jane Freeman, 3. Shirley Pigeon, 4. Louise Osceola, 5. Lee Stokes; Senior Men: 1. Frank Henry, 2. Ralph Gray, 3. Russell Osceola, 4. Roley Johnson, 5. Gary Clay.

Women's Division: 1. Naomi Williams, 2. Michelle McDermott, 3. Aron Allen, 4.



George Grasshopper gets on top of the cue ball.



Gordon Oliver Wareham placed second in the Men's Singles division with a score of 723.

Tribal Citizens Compete in 9th Annual Golf Sports Fest

BY FELIX DOBOSZ
Staff Reporter

PLANTATION, Fla. — Tribal citizens took the green for two days of golf competition during the Tribe's 9th annual Sports Festival.

The fickle South Florida weather cooperated during game play, held Memorial Weekend, May 25-26 at Jacaranda Golf Club in Plantation, Fla. This gave golfers no excuses for any lackluster performances on the club's spectacular green fairways.

Competitors played 18 holes on day one, using the best score from one player on

each two-person team. Steve Tooshkenig and Ernest Riley took first place with a score of 68 in the Two Man Bring Your Own Partner event.

On day two, Joe Osceola and Jeremy Harrison came in first in the Two Man Blind Draw competition with a score of 65.

"It's a very good course and I'm going to come back," Harrison said.

Senior golfer Lawrence Osceola, who took third place with partner KB Campbell in the Two Man Blind Draw event agreed, saying the course is "one of my favorites."

Results from the event were as follows: May 25: Two Man Bring Your Own Partner: 1. Steve Tooshkenig & Ernest Riley, 68; 2. Jimmy Harrison & Jeremy Harrison, 71; 3. KB Campbell & Lawrence Osceola, 74; 4. Marcy Osceola & Kyle Doney, 75; 5. Virginia Billie & Raymond Garza Sr., 81.

Closest to the Pin: Men: No. 3: KB Campbell, Steve Tooshkenig; No. 8: KB Campbell, Steve Tooshkenig; Senior CO-Ed: No. 8: Mabel Doctor & Marcy Osceola, No. 11: Jackie Thompson, No. 17: Jackie Thompson, Senior Men: No. 11: Lawrence Osceola, No. 17: Lawrence Osceola.

Longest Drive: KB Campbell, Roy Poole, Virginia Billie.

May 26: Two Man Blind Draw: 1. Joe Osceola & Jeremy Harrison, 65; 2. Steve Tooshkenig & Ernest Riley, 66; 3. Virginia Billie & Marcy Osceola, 68; 4. Mondo Tiger & Kyle Doney, 70; 5. Charlie Cypress & Miguel Mata, 70.

Closest to the Pin: Senior Men: No. 3: KB Campbell & Mondo Tiger, No. 8: Salaw Hummingbird, No. 13: Lawrence Lano & Charlie Cypress, No. 17: Ernest Riley; Women: No. 8: Leoda Poole.

Longest Drive: Joe Osceola Jr., Steve Tooshkenig.



Mitch Osceola takes a big swing, sending the ball down the fairway.



(L-R) Jeremy Harrison and his partner Joe Osceola won first place in the Two Man Blind Draw.



(L-R) KB Campbell and his partner Lawrence Osceola took third place in the Senior Men's Closest to the Pin competition.



(L-R) Mitch Osceola, Lawrence Osceola, Cicero Osceola and Johan Smith on the green.



Virginia Billie takes her time as she putts.



The Board Team, organized by Board Rep. Johnnie Jones, was made up of employees at the Brighton Cattle and Range Operations and their family members and friends. They are (Front Row, L-R) Luke Nelson, Rosa Urbina, Jewel Urbina, Stacey Jones, Adam Turtle (Center Row, L-R) Nancy Smiley, Jessie Urbina, Johnnie Jones (Back Row, L-R) Larry Howard, Howard Tommie, Emma Urbina, Marvin Bowers, David Snow and Danny Harmon.

Community Participates in Softball Game

BY SUSAN ETXEBARRIA
Freelance Reporter

BRIGHTON — Residents enjoyed softball games and a picnic, co-organized by Brighton's Family Services and Recreation Departments on May 31.

Valerie Marone of the Brighton Family Services/Prevention Dept. welcomed everyone present to an "old-fashioned, drug-free community picnic."

Moms, dads, brothers and sisters signed up and joined teams, eager to play. Some ball players were parents who admitted they hadn't played in years. They came out for their kids.

During the day, six teams formed. Two



Rosa Urbina hits the ball during the game.



Marvin Bowers prepares to pitch.

teams played each other at a time on the same softball field throughout the day with games not ending until 10 p.m.

Employees were invited to attend and participate as well, with Brighton Recreation Dept. Director of Richard Osceola inspiring the game. Seminole Fire Rescue and Seminole Police Department employees joined in the games. All of the players enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere as humorous announcer John Madrigal joked and teased the players.

For more information about upcoming drug-free community events, please call Family Services at (863) 763-7700.

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Kadin Tommie practices his routine on the junior mini bars with the help of Youth Fitness Coordinator Gina Allardyce.



Cyah Avila shows off her balancing skills.

Preschoolers Tumble Their Way Through Gymnastics Day

BY CHRIS JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Ahfachkee Preschool's future gymnasts participated in Gymnastics Day, held at the preschool May 19.

The 1-4 year old preschoolers began the morning with warm-up stretching exercises, before beginning tumbling work, balance beam walking, mail box bouncing, and junior mini bars fun. Participants from each class received special medals for their involvement in the activities.

Preschool employee Silva Alfaro, from the 2-year-old class, said the children take great pride in participating in these types of gatherings. She said they feel a

sense of accomplishment because they all received medals for their participation.


"At the end of the day, they're so proud and a lot of times ask, 'Where is my medal,' because they want to take them home and show them off to their parents," Alfaro said.

Tribal Youth Fitness Coordinator Gina Allardyce, who has been teaching gymnastics for 17 years, said the sport has helped the youngsters learn hand, eye and foot coordination, discipline, confidence and more. She said she enjoys the excitement and joy she has received from working with the children.

"I just love kids and adore them," Allardyce said. "I love seeing their faces when they accomplish something good."



Youth Fitness Coordinator Gina Allardyce (C) stretches with the 4-year-olds.



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Seminole Team Takes on Hollywood Hills Marlins in Semi-Final Game

BY FELIX DOBOSZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Under 11 Seminole Baseball Team Class A had their game face on as they competed against nearby rivals, the Hollywood Hills Marlins, in semi-finals action, at the Seminole baseball diamond June 7.

Coaches Terry Tartsash and Joe Collins worked hard to get these youngsters, some as young as 8, ready to play a competitive game. The co-ed Seminole Team players scored early, after some errors made by the other team, with a score of 6-0 at the end of the second inning.

The Marlins, however, crept up, scoring a run every inning after the second. By the end of fourth inning, the Seminoles' gap began to close, though they were still in the lead, with the score at 6-4.

By the sixth and final inning, the Marlins had tied the Seminoles 6-6, and needed just one more run to win — and they got it with a three run homer to win the game 9-6.

Dad Kenny DeScheenie Sr., whose son Kenny Jr. plays on the Seminole Team, attended the nail-biter of a game.

"That's the way the ball goes sometimes," DeScheenie said. "They had six runs and held them for a while."

This was the last game of the Seminole Team's baseball season, but the All-Star game will be coming up shortly. Coach Terry Tartsash said he has a lot of young kids who have never played at this level and it's really tough on them. He explained that six younger kids belonged in the Battam Division but they didn't have enough for a full team, so they combined the two divisions to make one large team.

"They stepped up and did do a great job," Tartsash said.



Daniel Rodriguez steals third base.



Cameron Osceola pitches strong for the first four innings.



Tyson Osceola keeps her eye on the ball as she swings.



Luke Baxley Jr. slides into home for the score.

Osceola Recognized for All-Broward 1A-3A

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

DAVIE, Fla. — Tribal citizen Ariah Osceola was recognized for making All-Broward Class 1A-3A in girl's basketball at the Miami Herald Athletic Awards Banquet held at Signature Grand in Davie on May 22.

Osceola, an eighth grader at Hollywood Christian Academy, was one of nearly 500 Broward County student athletes recognized in various sports. She is one of only a handful of middle school athletes chosen for this honor.

The young competitor has been playing basketball since about age 8 and said she plans to play at the college level in the future.

Photo by Marisol Gonzalez

At right, Ariah Osceola wears her All-County girl's basketball medal proudly.





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Seminole Motocross Hosts 3rd Annual BC STMX Pro-Am

Tribal Motocross Racer Billy Nelson Takes Fifth Place

BY CHRIS JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Professional and amateur riders alike competed on both bikes and quads at the third annual STMX Pro-Am, at the Seminole Tribe Motocross Park May 17-18.

The event was a three-moto format, with each rider's combined times determining the winners. There also were separate prize categories for the amateurs and the pros.

"This was one of the biggest local races here in the state of Florida," Motocross Director Jack Gorton said.

Gorton added that the Tribe's park is becoming one of Florida's most sought after destinations for riders and fans. He says the track is ranked as one of the top five motocross parks in the country.

"People just want to come here and compete," he said.



Chris Jenkins
Father Ted Nelson Sr. gives his son encouragement on the track.

Professional rider and Tribal citizen Billy Nelson, 19, was one of 15 who competed in the two-day event. After turning pro last year, he finished fifth in each of his three races over the weekend.

"I really enjoy the feeling of riding and when you do well it is a really good feeling," Nelson said.

He said his strategy going into any race is simple: "You just have to go out and do it. You have to want it really bad."

Father Ted Nelson Sr., who attended the event to support his son, said although Billy is still adjusting from a January shoulder surgery, this race helped him continue to ease his way back into competing, saying the race "was just another test for him both physically and mentally."

"He is ahead of the pace he needs to be on," Nelson Sr. said. "I told him I would support him 199 percent and I'm keeping my word."



Chris Jenkins
Billy Nelson prepares to jump one of the steep hills in his race.



Marisol Gonzalez
Priscilla Sayen is only a few numbers away from achieving one of two bingos in the first game.



Marisol Gonzalez
Mary Gay Osceola goes around another cone in the obstacle course, in which she made the best time to win first place.

Mother's, Father's Day Bike Parade

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Two-, three-, and four-wheeled vehicles made their way throughout the Hollywood Reservation for the first-ever Mother's and Father's Day Bike Parade, held June 6.

Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr.'s office donated the bicycles, tricycles and accessories to encourage seniors to exercise as an important part of maintaining good health. Sporting his bright orange helmet with a mohawk, Rep. Osceola joined the rest of the pack on the bike ride.

"Together we can improve our health," Osceola stated. "With diet, sleep, our medications and exercise, it brings us one step closer to maintaining a fit life."

The seniors began the parade route at the Senior Center, then headed north and meandered up and down many of the Hollywood Reservation streets. Senior Betty Osceola rode her scooter while Maggie Osceola and Pat Gopher rode by in a golf cart driven by Robin Osceola.

way back to the Senior Center to cool off and enjoy some refreshments. They then made their way outside to the basketball court to compete in an obstacle course set up for them.

The obstacle course consisted of two different activities. First, competitors had to navigate through a zig-zag of cones. After completing that task, they tossed balls into baskets that were set on the floor.

The winners were as follows: Timed Zig-Zag: 55-64, Co-Ed: 1. Cornelia Osceola, 2. Bobbie Billie, 3. Paul Buster; 65 and Older, Men: 1. Coleman Josh, 2. Jimmy Hank Osceola; Women: 1. Mary Gay Osceola, 2. Judybill Osceola, 3. Lavanna Osceola-Niles.

Ball Toss: 55-64: 1. (tie) Cornelia Osceola, Paul Buster, Bobbie Billie; 65 and Older: 1. (tie) Mary Gay Osceola, Judybill Osceola, Lavanna Osceola-Niles, Dorothy Tommie; Men's Division: 1. Coleman Josh, 2. Jimmy Hank Osceola; Women's Division: 1. Betty Osceola.

Participation recognition for the Bike Parade went to: Pat Gopher, Maggie Osceola, Priscilla Sayen and Max B. Osceola Jr.



Marisol Gonzalez
Coleman Josh salutes while still managing to balance on his bicycle.



Marisol Gonzalez
Hollywood Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. sports his helmet with a built in mohawk while riding a trike.



Marisol Gonzalez
Arissa Cypress pays close attention to Coach Terry Tartsah before attempting to hit the ball.



Marisol Gonzalez
Conchade Osceola at home base after completing a run.

Coach Terry Tartsah Leads Seminole T-Ball Team Youngsters Finish Winning Season

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Terry Tartsah from the Hollywood Recreation Dept. is also the coach for the Seminole T-Ball Team. Along with Stephen Niewodowski, Ron Ward and Mitch Osceola, the four-sons coach more than a dozen children ranging from 4-7 years old.

Tartsah has been coaching sports for nearly 13 years and said he has had the privilege to continue coaching some players as they leave one age group and go on to the next. Seeing them evolve into older athletes is one of the best parts of coaching, he said.

Even though the team is young, they still focus on their game. They made it to the semi-finals in T-Ball by winning nearly every game they played. Although they recently lost a close game that knocked them out of the finals, they learned many valuable lessons.

"They listen very well and are very enjoyable kids to be around," Tartsah said.



Marisol Gonzalez
Sheldon Osceola catches the ball to get the runner out.



Marisol Gonzalez
The team goes over the game plan before they begin.



Marisol Gonzalez
Kaia Drake makes it to second base after being up at bat.

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The hiring of an attorney is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisement. Richard Castillo worked as a Public Defender in Broward County from 1990-1996 and has been in private practice for nine years. In 1995 he was voted the Trial Attorney of the year. He graduated from Capital University in 1989 and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1990, Federal Bar in 1992, and the Federal Trial Bar in 1984.

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Florida VNEA Pool Championship Held at Hard Rock

BY FELIX DOBOSZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Valley National 8-Ball Association (VNEA) held their four day, 26th annual state championship competition at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino on May 15-18.

The VNEA set up 48 tables for the competition to accommodate all the matches that would take place during this four day tournament. Organizers divided players into divisions including men's and women's singles and teams, with teams further broken down into the subdivisions Sportsman, Expert and State, to ensure even match ups.

The Men's Single 8-ball State Championship was a tough two-day challenge for Tribal citizen David Nunez Jr. Nunez said he was surprised he made it to the VNEA competition, admitting he enjoys shooting pool, but has never won a state competition.

In a race to four games, Nunez took on an experienced and highly skilled opponent, Paul Colantonio of Deltona, Fla. Though Colantonio triumphed, he admitted Nunez put up a good fight, earning second place.

"In the first match, I beat him pretty good, 4-1," Colantonio said. "The second match went hill-hill, we were both tied, but

he gave me an opportunity to win."

Competitor Amy Roche took top honors on the women's side, beating out Tribal billiards player Phalyn Osceola, who took second place. Tribal citizen Theresa Nunez came in third out of the 18 female singles competitors.

Roche, a certified Valley instructor, went on to say she has known Osceola and Nunez for years, and calls them fine competitors. She said she always enjoys the challenge of playing against them in tournaments, and commended the two for always showing good sportsmanship.

Results of the 26th Annual VNEA State Pool Championship

Singles Competition: 8-Ball: Women: 1. Amy Roche, 2. Phalyn Osceola, 3. Theresa Nunez, 4. Pam Falcigno, 5. Virginia Billie, 6. Courtney Bernard, 7. Connie Williams, 8. Lisa Rochester; Men: 1. Paul Colantonio, 2. David Nunez, 3. Nathan Rose, 4. Troy Frank, 5. Bill Bloom, 6. Joel Wildgoose, 7. Bill Pierpont, 8. Neal Martin.

Team Competition: Sportsman: 1. Table Hogs, 2. Rack Runners, 3. 8-Up, 4. Captain Vinnie's, 5. Over Forty and Sporty, 6. Top Self; Expert: 1. Thunder Sixx, 2. 1 Town Seminoles, 3. Night Owls, 4. Wild Bunch, 5. Predators, 6. Sharks; States: 1. Hidden Agenda, 2. Young Guns, 3. Shock and Awe, 4. Top Guns, 5. Cruise Control, 6. BA Stokers.



(L-R) Emcee Bill Wilson and 2008 Women's Singles 8-Ball State Champion Amy Roche.



David Nunez Jr. came in second place in the Men's Singles 8-Ball State Championship.



Tribal citizen and Women's Singles 8-Ball State Champ Theresa Nunez.



Tribal citizen Amy Osceola Latchford practices hand to hand combat.



Natoshia Osceola practices a kickboxing drill with Master Sifu Nee.

Self-Defense Classes Help Tribal Citizens Get In Shape

BY FELIX DOBOSZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — A group of about a dozen adult Tribal citizens get together every weekday for about two hours per class to practice self-defense techniques, get in shape and have a great time doing it.

The classes, free for Tribal citizens, are taught by Kung Fu Master Sifu Nee from Nee's Kung Fu School in Pembroke Pines, Fla. Master Nee instructs the students in the areas of kickboxing and hand to hand combat self-defense in the trailer next to the Boys & Girls Club on the Hollywood Reservation.

The kickboxing classes take place Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at noon, and Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Hand to hand combat self-defense classes take place Mondays and Wednesdays at 1 p.m. and Thursdays at 11:30 a.m.

One of the students, and self-proclaimed recruiting poster girl for the Kung Fu classes, Natoshia "Tasha" Osceola, said she has enjoyed taking classes for about a year. She even takes her children to Master Nee's classes, held Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 3 p.m. for 3-5 year olds and at 3:30 p.m. for the 5-6 year olds.

Osceola said the benefits of the classes are numerous and include "weight loss, self-control, self-defense and friends."

She said the classes are great, starting off with a group cardio workout to loud dance music, followed by self-defense exercises taught by Master Nee and his assistant Bobby Lee.

Fellow student Tammy Osceola said she likes to attend the classes to stay in

shape. David Motlow, who attends with his wife, Rhonda, said that although he does traditional exercises, changing up an exercise routine will benefit people at any fitness level.

"I do a lot of power lifting, but this is inner strength cardio and it's what I really like," he said.

Amy Osceola Latchford has been taking classes for about a year. She said she also takes her three sons to Master Nee's classes, and sees the benefits happening for her whole family.

"I like toning up, getting a little weight loss and just trying to stay in shape," she said. "I got kids growing up and I want to be around for them, so I can chase them around when I have to and keep them in line when they get older."

For more information, please call Master Sifu Nee at (954) 655-2080.



(L-R) David Motlow spars with Master Sifu Nee.



Men's 8-Ball State Champion Paul Colantonio.



BC Council rep. David Cypress takes aim and knocks in his next shot.

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The third place Tee-Time team of (L-R) Ronnie Doctor, Mabel Doctor, Cornelia Osceola and Bobby Frank.

Chairman Challenges Golfers to Vie for Top Spots Qualifier Earns Players Spots in Jason Taylor Classic

BY FELIX DOBOSZ
Staff Reporter

DAVIE, Fla. — As the shotgun sounded, teams of Tribal citizens took the course, eager to take part in a golf challenge issued by Chairman Mitchell Cypress at Grande Oaks Country Club on May 28.

The Chairman challenged each foursome to qualify for a spot to play at the Jason Taylor Celebrity Golf Classic, held June 1-2 at Grande Oaks, and sponsored by the Tribe. Of the seven teams that participated, only the top three scoring teams would go on to represent the Tribe during the Golf Classic.

The winning teams were: 1. B-1: Marcellus Osceola Jr., Allen Huff, Kyle Doney, John Madrigal; 2. BC/Immokalee: Mondo Tiger, Ricky Doctor, Raymond Garza, Virginia Billie; 3. Tee-Time: Cornelia Osceola, Mabel Doctor, Ronnie Doctor, Bobby Frank.

Proceeds from the Jason Taylor Celebrity Golf Classic benefitted the Jason Taylor Foundation, Holtz Children's Hospital in Miami and Take Stock in Children, a Ft. Lauderdale nonprofit organization.



Moses "Biggy" Jumper Jr. (R) watches the ball after putting on the 18th hole.




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Tribal Teams Play in Jason Taylor Celebrity Golf Classic

BC Team Takes Second Place in Charity Tournament

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

DAVIE, Fla. — The Seminole Tribe of Florida and The Jason Taylor Foundation kicked off the fifth annual Seminole Tribe of Florida Jason Taylor Celebrity Golf Classic with a gala dinner and auction at the Hard Rock Live on June 1.

The main event, a celebrity golf tournament held at the Grande Oaks Golf Course in Davie, took place the following day.

Proceeds from both the dinner and golf tournament benefitted the Jason Taylor Foundation, Holtz Children's Hospital and Take Stock in Children, three South Florida charities.

"I can't thank the Tribe enough for all they do for us," Taylor stated. "The Chairman has been great and with this relationship we are able to help the children that need it most in our area."

Taylor said though the competitors came ready to play some golf, they all had a bigger goal in mind — to raise money and help the kids who need it most. This year, his foundation wanted to beat last year's goal of raising nearly a half a million dollars.

Three Seminole teams had qualified to make it to



Kyle Doney places his tee and ball on the green in preparation for his turn.

the classic: B-1: Marcellus Osceola Jr., Allen Huff, Kyle Doney and John Madrigal; BC/Immokalee: Mondo Tiger, Ricky Doctor, Raymond Garza and Virginia Billie and Tee-Time: Cornelia Osceola, Mabel Doctor, Ronnie Doctor and Bobby Frank.

The B/C Immokalee team placed second in the tournament with a score of 53.



As he kneels down, Mondo Tiger measures the distance from his ball to the hole before attempting his putt.



(L-R) Jason Taylor watches as John Madrigal of the B-1 Team sets up his shot.



The Ahfackhee School students show their support with handmade posters in recognition of National Stroke Awareness Month.

Students Take on Staff in Basketball Game

BY CHRIS JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Ahfackhee School staff and students competed for court supremacy and bragging rights in a student vs. staff basketball competition May 20.

The games were divided into two halves, separated by gender, with the women's teams squaring off first. After the first quarter, the students held on to a slim 4-2 lead. They would go on to bust the game open in the second quarter, however, bringing to a 16-6 victory.

"It was easy," student Terinna Cypress jokingly said. "It was easier to play against them because they are old."

"It was really fun also because we ran them," she added.

In the Men's division, the students held a three point lead, 19-16, at the end of the first quarter. However, in the second quarter, the staff went on a 15-2 run, and won the game 31-21.

"It was nice [to win] because we lost earlier in the year," Seventh Grade Teacher's Aide Dustin Tiger said. "The kids had been bragging since the last game so we had to quiet them up."

This was the fourth students vs. staff game for Ahfackhee School Dean of Students Dominique Troadec. He said the games help build better relationships between the staff members and the school's students.

"They get to see us in a different role and they're also a little bit more relaxed with us which helps us in the work environment," Troadec said.

The day also featured a student-staff rowing contest, a poster contest for each grade level and a halftime Men's and Women's three point shooting contest. Students Terinna Cypress and Allen Hernandez took first place for the Women's and Men's Student



Danielle Jumper-Frye of the Women's Staff Team dribbles up court.



Students and staff members participate in a special rowing contest as they make their way towards the finish line at half court.

Teams, respectively, and Jeannette Cypress and Dustin Tiger took the top honors in the Women's and Men's Staff Teams, respectively.

The students also created posters in an effort to bring more awareness to National Stroke Awareness Month, observed in May. Ms. Flores' pre-kindergarten class won the contest and received the school's Wooden Tomahawk. The award rotates among the Ahfackhee classes, and goes to the class that displays the most spirit at school events.

The students also created posters in an effort to bring more awareness to National Stroke Awareness Month, observed in May. Ms. Flores' pre-kindergarten class won the contest and received the school's Wooden Tomahawk. The award rotates among the Ahfackhee classes, and goes to the class that displays the most spirit at school events.

Rodeo • Ko-waa-ye Esh-ham-paléesh-ke • Curakko Ohapokety

EIRA Riders Compete in Sports Fest Rodeo

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — In conjunction with the 9th Annual Sports Festival taking place in Hollywood during Memorial Day Weekend, Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) athletes competed in the Sports Festival Rodeo, held May 17 at the Big Cypress Entertainment & Rodeo Complex.

In recognition of National Day, event organizers planned a special tribute at the rodeo's opening to honor the men and women of the Armed Forces. The Grand Entry followed the National Anthem and presentation of colors.

The Junior Rodeo began at 5 p.m. with the Mutton Bustin' event. Rayven King and Echo Billie garnered the longest runs for first and second places, respectively. They were followed by Andre Jumper and Kelton Smedley in the Wild Pony Riding Contest.

With a firm grip on the rope, hand in the air and a nod of the head, the Calf, Steer and Junior Bull Riders exited the chutes to be spun, twisted and bucked down the arena with top honors going to Jobe Johns, Dalton Koenes and Billy Foley, respectively.

The Barrel Racing event was divided into three categories by age group with the following first place winners: Ahnie Jumper, Malanie Perez and Janae Braswell. They were followed by Junior Bareback Riders Andrew Holmes and Chris Smith.

Honing their roping skills were Dalton Koenes and Chebon Gordon in the Junior Breakaway before giving up the arena to the Roping Legends Billy Joe Johns and Rudy Osceola.

First and second place winners in the Sanctioned Events were as follows: Steer Wrestling: Ivan Bruised Head and Greg Louis; Calf Roping: Preston Williams and Kyle Dennison; Women's Breakaway: Boogie Jumper and Shelby Osceola; Team Roping: Josh Jumper/Preston Williams and Wilse Bruised Head/Happy Jumper; Barrel Racing: Boogie Jumper and Sheyanna Osceola; Bull Riding: Casey McDonald and Greg Louis.



Dalton Koenes fights to keep his balance in the steer wrestling competition.

Judy Weeks

Chechuntano,

As the President of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc., I would like to take this opportunity to encourage participation in the Professional Cowboy Association 4-5 & Fireworks event, held July 4-5 in Brighton. We encourage all to attend because without all of our visitors' support, our rodeo would not be a success.

I want to thank all those who help us make this event a continued success for the Brighton Community and Seminole Tribe of Florida.

I hope that everyone enjoys this great weekend and best of luck to all the cowgirls and cowboys.

Sho Naa Bish,
Richard Bowers Jr., President
Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.

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

Immokalee Holds Family Health Fair

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — The Seminole Health Department hosted a Family Health Fair in Immokalee on May 28.

The fair was sponsored by all the major administrative and community service departments, including Collier County Health Dept. Booths lining the walls of the Gym offered valuable information to build a highway to a healthy, balanced lifestyle. Information on a variety of health-related topics including diabetes, cancer, smoking, pregnancy and fitness, was distributed to fair participants. Blood sugar and pressure checks also were available.

A highlight of the day's activities was the rock climbing wall supplied by the National Guard Drug Demand Reduction Team. Their program encompasses character building, encouragement and physical challenges.

From small children to healthy young adults and senior citizens, long lines of contenders attended the assault on the wall and surprised themselves with their achievements, while bystanders cheered them on victoriously.



Linda Freeman from Immokalee Family Services grabs a handhold on the climbing wall.



Mary Lou Alvarado (L) administers blood sugar tests at the Immokalee Health Fair.



Mary Lou Alvarado (R) demonstrates the importance of keeping a close eye on blood pressure to Kenny Joe Davis of the Immokalee Seminole Ranch.



L-R) Nancy Motlow and Linda Frank learn how to make healthy choices at the fair.



Cris Marrero (C) makes the community aware of the healthy literature available through the Library as Efrain Marrero Jr. (L) offers suggestions to the public.

Team Seminole Walks, Collects Donations for Cystic Fibrosis



Team Seminole met at Lake's Park in Fort Myers on May 3 to walk for the benefit of Cystic Fibrosis like Tribal descendant Shyanne Escobar (C) from Immokalee. Of the 27 teams participating, Team Seminole relieved a medal for the most donations collected.



Shyanne Escobar (C) wears the medal Team Seminole earned for collecting the most donations. She is supported by (L-R) Mother Noemi and grandmother, Rebecca Martinez.

The Healthy Senior

By Fred Cicetti

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

Q I had an aging aunt who fell and broke her hip. She was never the same after that. Now that I'm old myself, I'm worried about falling. What should I do about this?

A Well, first of all, you can't go around worrying about falling or you won't be relaxed — which can lead to a fall. So, you should concentrate on employing techniques to avoid falls and then don't let the fear take over your mind. However, respecting the dangers of falling is justified, given the statistics.

Among older adults, falls are the leading cause of injury deaths and the most common cause of nonfatal injuries and hospital admissions for trauma. Of all fall-related fractures, hip breaks cause the greatest number of deaths and lead to the most severe health problems and reduced quality of life.

As we age, the power of our senses, reflexes and coordination diminishes. Maladies and the medicines we take for them can contribute to balance problems. Then there's osteoporosis, a disease that makes bones more likely to snap.

There are many steps you can take to prevent a fall and the possibility of breaking a bone. I'm dedicating the remainder of this column to the best tips I collected from a variety of experts:

Get your bones tested. Your doctor can prescribe medications that will make your bones harder to break.

Regular exercise makes you stronger and keeps your joints, tendons, and ligaments flexible. Weight-bearing exercise such as walking may slow bone loss from osteoporosis.

Alcohol impacts your reflexes and balance. Elaboration is unnecessary.

Get up slowly from lying and sitting to

avoid feeling light-headed.

Avoid temperature extremes in your home; they can make you dizzy.

Wear rubber-soled, low-heeled shoes.

Always hold the handrails on stairways.

Don't stand on a chair to get to something. Buy a "reach stick," a grabbing tool you can find at many hardware stores.

Clear floors where you walk.

Never carry any package that will obstruct your view of the next step.

Mount grab bars near toilets, tubs and showers.

Place non-skid mats, strips, or carpet on all surfaces that may get wet, especially bathtubs and shower stalls.

Let the soap suds go down the drain before you move around in the shower. If you are prone to falling, use a shower chair and a padded shower attachment.

Put night lights and light switches close to your bed.

Keep your telephone near your bed. During the day, keep a portable phone with you so you won't have to walk to answer it.

Tack down all carpets and area rugs.

Close cabinet doors and drawers so you won't run into them.

When it rains or snows, consider using a cane.

Use a shoulder bag, fanny pack, or backpack to leave hands free.

Check curb heights before stepping down.

When entering rooms, look for differences in floor levels.

Insure that every room in your home has a light switch near the entrance.

Practice balancing. Hold onto something such as a countertop and stand on one leg at a time for a minute. Gradually increase the time. Try balancing with your eyes closed. Stand on your toes, then rock back to balance on your heels. Hold each position for a count of 10.

Be especially careful around pets.



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Wednesday	Noon 12 Step Meeting Noon Support Meeting 8:30 PM AA Meeting	Big Cypress Sober House Brighton Hollywood Administration
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Friday	Noon 12 Step Meeting	Immokalee Family Services

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Hollywood Men's and Women's Wellness Fair

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Allied Health Dept., in conjunction with the Hollywood Health Dept., hosted this year's annual Wellness Health Fair. The event took place in the auditorium lobby of Hollywood Tribal Headquarters on May 20.



Renee Tigertail from the Seminole Clinic tests one participant's blood sugar levels.

Held annually for nearly a decade, the fair drew a crowd of nearly 150 Tribal citizens and employees. Attendees made their way from table to table where they received health and safety information, with some tables also offering various health-related screening tests, including tests for blood sugar and cholesterol levels and hearing. Of the 17 tables at the Wellness Health Fair, six belonged to Seminole Tribe of Florida departments, including the Seminole Clinic.

Renee Tigertail, community health representative with the clinic, conducted blood sugar testing for those interested in finding out where they stand. Sheameza Majid from the Seminole Preschool had her blood sugar checked, saying "it is important to get checked to maintain good health."

Addressing also distributed an informational handout titled "Diabetes Review," joining other organizations in a gathering one of the biggest health issues facing Americans and Native Americans today. Besides diabetes, other highlighted topics included blood pressure, cholesterol, heart disease and more.

In addition to those tables set up in the lobby, representatives from Memorial Hospital hosted an informative lecture inside the auditorium, Shannon Gaffney, ARPN, and Dr. Gus Gonzalez, medical director from the Department of Emergency Medicine at Memorial Hospital Pembroke's Urgent Care Center, both explained heart disease prevention to the audience.

Twenty-six attendees even made their way outside of the auditorium to the Community Blood Centers of South Florida's Health Mobile to donate blood.

For more information on health and wellness-related topics, please contact the Health Dept. at (954) 962-2009.

Healthy Seminole

Dear Health Educator,

I am a 57-year-old woman. I know that I need to go to the doctor, but I am scared of what he might tell me. It's been a long time since I had a check up. Should I ask for any special tests for a woman my age?

Signed, White Coat Syndrome

Dear White Coat Syndrome,

I understand your reluctance to see your doctor, but there is no need to be scared. Any information the doctor tells you will only help you to take better care of yourself.

It is important to have regular examinations by a physician even if you have no health problems. These visits are important as the health care team will screen for disease, assess health risks, update vaccinations, and encourage healthy lifestyles, all in an effort to keep you healthy.

Many health problems go undetected because there are no symptoms in the early stages. Routine physicals can find problems such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and high blood glucose before there is permanent damage to the body.

The first screening completed is a height, weight, and body mass index, or BMI. The doctor will check to see if you are in the healthy range. An unhealthy weight can be a symptom of other disorders.

Because you are a 57-year-old woman, your doctor will complete a breast exam during your physical. You will be referred to a radiology center for an annual mammogram. Those screenings along with your monthly breast self exam will help detect abnormalities while still in the very early stages. If you are unsure of

763-0271, Barbara Boling, Health Educator; Hollywood Medical Clinic, (954) 962-2009, Tina Memmella, Health Educator; Immoalee Medical Clinic, (239) 867-3400, Charlotte Porcaro, Dietitian/Health Educator.

To schedule a consult with your reservation's health educator, please contact: Health Education Coordinator Brenda Bordogna, Barbara Boling, Brighton Clinic, Marjorie Meredith, Big Cypress Clinic, Tina Memmella, Hollywood Clinic and Charlotte Porcaro, Immoalee Clinic.

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Weight loss winners for the men's Tribal employee division.

Chris Jenkins

Seminoles, Employees Shape-Up in BC

BY CHRIS JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — What started two years ago is still going strong as Tribal members and employees were rewarded for losing those extra pounds June 11 in the latest Seminole Shape-Up weight loss contest.

The Community Center played host with awards, door prizes and lunch catered by the Renegade Bar-B-Que Company.

"There was a lot of weight lost by everyone and they did a good job," said Edna McDuffie of the Tribal Health Community Outreach Program.

"Just entering the contest makes you a winner because you are doing something healthy," said Tribal Allied Healthcare Program Manager Suzanne Davis.

The day also featured a special presentation on weight cycling and yo-yo dieting.

Weight cycling is the repeated loss and regaining of body weight. University of Kentucky and Washington studies found that men who repeatedly lose and regain 20 or more pounds were 76 percent more likely to develop gallstones; there is also a connection between the number of times a woman loses weight intentionally and long term immune system functioning.

Yo-Yo dieting causes a starvation response. The body will adapt when exposed to weight loss diets, particularly when dieting is not combined with any exercise. The body lowers its metabolic rate in order to cope with starvation.

A trend soon follows: beginning with a quick weight loss diet with no exercise, a lower metabolic rate which causes the body to burn fewer calories, a stop in dieting, a return to the same eating habits and amounts in

before the diet began, weight gain beyond the previous amount weighed due to a lower metabolic rate, and finally the dieting process begins all over again.

Solutions include: staying away from quick-fix dieting, aiming for a smaller, realistic weight loss amount (two pounds per week), exercising regularly using the large muscles, having small snacks throughout the day, and eating less and moving more.

The winners of the Seminole Shape-Up weight loss contest were: Tribal Citizens – Men: 1. Phillip Jumper, 2. Charlie Cypress, 3. Cory Wilcox; Women: 1. Myra Jumper, Sheila Aguilar, 3. Alice Billie. Tribal Employees – Men: 1. Raymon, Sandoval, 2. William Engel, 3. D.J. Tille; Women – 1. Pam Currington, 2. Jackieene Ward, 3. Wendy Cypress.



First place Tribal men's winner Phillip Jumper.

Chris Jenkins

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Announcements · Ahaaheekē · Nak-ohkerkēcetv

In Memoriam

Billy Jimmie Osceola

June 17, 1975 – April 12, 2007
Rest In Peace, Holyway

It's been a long, hard year without you by our side. We love and miss you so much, but we know you're in heaven looking down on us. No one will ever know how much you meant to us and still do mean to our children.

I can't let you go without letting you know just how special you were to me, and still are. I'll never forget the memories we have made as I have spent time with you. I'll always treasure the love I felt when I was talking to you and just simply being with you.

Please know that even though you're gone, you'll forever be in my heart and my thoughts. I'll never forget you; you were my heart, my husband and the father of

our two boys, Ozzy and Briley. We love and miss you; rest in Paradise, until we meet again.

We love you for ever, ever, and always,
Your Wife Angel Osceola, and your Sons Ozzy and Briley Osceola

*A face we know is missing, a voice we know is still
A place is vacant in all our hearts that only you could fill
They sat memories are golden, well maybe that is true
We never wanted memories, we only wanted you
A million times we needed you, a million times we cried
If love alone could have saved you,
You never would have died
In life we loved you dearly, in death we love you still
In our hearts you had a place no one could ever fill
Our family chain is broken and nothing seems the same
But as God calls us one by one, the chain will link again*



To my Cousins Ivan, Matt, Seth and Griffin, I love y'all with all my heart. All too soon, my aunt, your Mom Suzanne, was called home. I miss and love her always. Just remem-



ber I'm praying for the family and I love y'all.
Love always,
Susan Erin Billie

In Memory of Watch-chee

I miss you so much grandma (Tommye Juniper). You are so loved and missed, and remembered by your whole family. You were one tough and deer meat cooker, best frybread and sofkee maker, best doll and basket weaver, and best of all, best mom, grandma, great-grandma, great-great-grandma, friend, good neighbor and Tribal member.

I still can't believe you are gone. You lived a long, beautiful life. You will always have a special place in all our hearts. One day we will be with you soon.

Love,
Lesley Garcia Billie, James II, Cypress, Redheart and Analyse

New Baby

Leslie Fish and Michael Doctor Sr. proudly announce the birth of their son, **Michael Ronnie**, born May 13 at 11:27 a.m. He weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce and was 19.25 inches long. Proud grandparents are: Virgil Doctor, Terry and Ruth Dawson of Hollywood, Leo Fish Jr. of Oklahoma; proud great-grandparents are: Minnie B. Doctor, Peggy and Don Stivers of Hollywood, Jo Ann Lauderdale and Leo Fish Sr. of Oklahoma



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Birthdays

To my first born daughter, **Analyse Ah'miah Garcia Stockton (Offitch-chee)**, 4-years-old, you are a very intelligent, brilliant, beautiful little Native American princess. You are so sweet, so cute and cuddly, so loving, so caring and so vibrant. For a little, small soul, you have a heart as big as Texas and you seem to understand so much for such a little princess.

I love you baby girl. You are so loved and admired by all your friends and family. Your parents have nothing but love for you and so do your three brothers. You are an awesome sister as well. I love you.

Love,
Mom Lesley Garcia Billie
Panther Clan



Happy 7th birthday to my third born son, **Redheart L. Billie**, on June 4. You are growing up so fast, so cute and handsome, and so full of energy. You are always rough and tough, but very sensitive at heart and so sweet.

I know there have been a lot of changes for you lately, with you being displaced to another family and suddenly moving with your father. I know you are trying to hard to fit in. Baby boy, I know it's rough and tough for you with mommy not being there, but it's going to be OK. You are alright. I miss you so much. I will always love you, baby boy.

I can't hear you in my head, heart and soul, sharing your stories and telling me so excitedly what you did at school or what happened. My super Rude Boy. I miss you and I can't wait to see you soon. I hope you have a great birthday. I love you.

Love,
Mom Lesley Garcia Billie
Panther Clan



Happy 1st birthday to our little lum'he, **Gilbert Guerrero Jr.** (Panther Clan), on June 29. I can't believe you're going to be 1 year old. It doesn't seem like that long ago when we first held you in our arms on the day you were born. We love you so much.

Love,
Grandma Lorraine, Grandma Chris, Aunts Michelle, Dannee and Tiffany and Uncle Alfred



General Announcements

To my first-born son, **James E. Billie II (Mico/Kutch-chee-la-hoya)**, I miss you and love you so much. I am so proud of you with school this year; how you went off to Riverside Military Academy and how handsome you looked in your uniform, marching with your company. You went from a 1.5 GPA to a 3.7-plus GPA. Way to go, chief!

I know you miss me and love me so much. I do too, baby. I will always love you and be there for you and a very special place in my heart. I have nothing but love for you and I want to see you soon.

I want to send a special thank you of appreciation and gratitude to the Seminole Education Dept.,

especially Mr. Patrick McElroy and his assistants Angie and Sheila in BC, and none other than BC Councilman Mr. David Cypress and his staff. Thank you for such generous support and the many activities we were able to participate in as family.

To my second born son, **Cypress L. Billie (Kowako/Fush-chee-lush-kee)**, 12-years-old, I am so proud of you also for getting all your pins, stars and stripes on your handsome military uniform. You are so adamant about staying there until you graduate, being such a great leader in your Alpha Company and keeping your A's and B's up. You are awesome!

You were a great little All-Star player as well during your middle school basketball season, making all the critical shots in the last few minutes or even seconds left in the game, always throwing those three-pointers consistently back-to-back. You were the best defensive player with all those steals, blocks and assists. I love you son, and I



miss you so much. I'm glad your big brother forgot off to school with you, especially when he said "I will not let my little brother go to school alone. I'm not letting him go away by himself," even though I was sending both sons. Just to hear big brother say that shows me how much he loves and cares for you. I am glad he was there to watch and protect you. You guys are so special to me. I can't wait to see you soon.

Love,
Mom Lesley Garcia Billie
Panther Clan



To **Miah**, I love you baby. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for being there for me through my ups and downs. Please forgive me for this situation I have placed on all of us. I appreciate you being a papa to our boys and always taking care of us.

I remember the day we finally met, for some reason it was the best. Thank you for all the beautiful songs you wrote for me, rapping to me. You are one handsome and very talented man. I'd have to say I'm lucky. I want to make this up to you one day. I love you always.

Love always,
Lesley Garcia Billie
"Your Phatty Girl"
Panther Clan



Dear Momma,

Happy belated Mother's Day. Forgive me for all my disrespect. Forgive me for all said and done. You are my Indian Queen. There is not a woman alive who can take my momma's place. I love you mom, thank you for always helping me and my family out.

Also, happy belated Mother's Day to my Aunt Dale, Aunt Lucille, Aunt Scarlet and the rest of my family members who are moms.

Love always,
Lesley Garcia Billie
Panther Clan



Announcements • Ahaaheekē • Nak-ohkerkēcetv

Poems

Funny

Look at his fresh, new chain
Bet it cost him good
Does his tattoo say "954 Hollywood?"
Them are dope and hard to find
Things his '08 ride is sitting on?
And how many young ladies has he been hitting on?
What time does he come home?
What size are those Coogi jeans?
Them are dope and hard to find
Damm them Jordans are throwbacks
You know he got those online
I just saw him purchase 20 grape Phillips
Guess you know where he's headed
Dividend sure is paying great these days
Do you think he remembers commodities?

Probably not.
What kind of cell phone is that?
He's the only one with it on his black
Now that's hot
Fresh, ill, phat, dope, def, ballin', struttin',
sho'nuff looking tight
The funny thing about him is, I bumped
into him the other night
And asked him about the Rez life
He told me s**t was crazy
I said "yeah, yeah, I know"
Then I thought to myself, "He's got all this
from the Tribe, yet doesn't speak a lick of
Mikasuki and claims to be a real a**
Seminole"
Funny

Dedicated to those without knowledge of self
— **Markell "Eli" Billie**
May 19, 2008

Thought

Trapped in a world of chaos and numb,
I've conditioned myself to be sin, yet
pain often seeps in, and misery creeps in
The day begins and I try to ease on
through, blinded by reality, I turn to you,
o' mighty pen, as you guide my hand to jot
down thoughts, releasing them from their
cage 18 inches above my heart, where so
many times before, bad choices were made
As the world spins at a tremendous speed,
and life, along with it, moves, I sit and
ponder and reminisce upon what it is to be
and what has been

It is there in thought that I can find many
things
Something, some bad, but always some-
thing, ya know?
Where flowers always blossom and joy is
in abundance, or where sadness dwells and
the skies are pale, where life ends, there it
begins
When is this place, you ask
Away from here, in a world known as
"thought"
If it makes no sense to you, you are think-
ing too hard, or thinking too little
But it is there that I am now
— **Markell "Eli" Billie**
May 19, 2008

The Invisible Mailman

The strangest thing happened today,
An invisible mailman passed my way.
He handed me an envelope that just wasn't
there
An invisible mailman, you know it's quite
rare
I opened the envelope so very wide,
To find less than nothing inside
The smell was so faint, as I recall
In fact, there was no smell at all
The writing was so neat and so very clean,
So crystal clear that I expected to be seen
I read the words that I couldn't be
there,
But, all I could see was invisible air
I need to hear sweet words, from you

But the letter I wanted never came through
Don't get me wrong, I'm still deeply in
love,
That will never end, it comes from above
So, I'm writing you back, with love, you can
bet
Saying thanks for the letter I never did get
I hope very soon you'll think twice,
And pay close attention to this bit of
advice
I'm locked up, but only for now,
All things change, somewhere, some how!
I could be out there where things are much
better,
With your a** in here expecting a letter!!

Nothing but love,
— **Alex Tucker**
Otter Clan

Dear Bryan

If I saw you in Heaven would you know
my name?
I know it's been a minute but I been
trapped in this game, fighting with these
demons that made me their slave, searching
for the answers to your early grave
I know you're looking down and that you
can see my pain, as these tears fall like the
rain
I miss you and I love you and I want you
to know, that you'll always be in my heart

and I'll never let you go
They say things happen for a reason and
that time will heal a wounded heart
But this brand that I feel with each new day
has a pain new start
I pray for understanding as I walk my shat-
tered dream
I'm back in my life each step befits a
loser's theme
Bad luck, no luck, pain and shame, without
you by my side I will never be the same
— **Vandell Billie**
2008, P.C.P.

A Changing of Olds

When I close my eyes that last time
and take my breath, I am not gone, I am
still with you, right beside you, love, with
comforting thoughts and yearning everlast-
ing, in the places we once played, in the
schoolyards where children laugh and play.
Please ask the meadow, I am there with the
other generations and happy, so very happy
... knowing there is no death, smiling, and
there to behold the orange-red firelight and
spirits, the joying shadows in flickering
lights and sway, ever-living joy ... I'll glide
by your side the meadow, I am there with the
other generations and happy, so very happy
seeing me through, Blessings adorn us in
the Spirit World, the contour of ancestors
in every sacred thing and the thrill that's in
the morning's sun to brighten our days,
kindred souls beside the endless sea that

knows of never letting go, never shedding
tears for sorrow that's been banished to the
west where sunbeams cease and smoothest
spill of brief candle light fades out, out, but
not for us. Let us smile in ancient forests,
in dreamy mist. Let us remember love that
captures takes, takes them away on sym-
phonic wings and scents of wildflower —
I am with you, love — blessings in careful
harvests, in natural churches made of dawn
and so moved am I to be near you, bronze-
colored leaf upon a whispering breeze and
heard. I am the whisper you swore you
play in the other room, love, the calm
whisper of remembrance, so no fear for the
healing power of our poetry, our pasts,
kissing away tears and with you always is
where I want to be. Do not be afraid, I'll
sparkle rainbows and a waterfall for you
and as an enduring thought, in my love, I'll
desire good dreams for you all you do

— conscious of the constant faith you
placed in me — in the sound of holy wings
flutter, and love, you'll be my reason, my
purpose, my one true love and memories
deeply-felt shall always be a part of the
places we laughed and cried: the malls, the
restaurants, the markets and home and in
the parks, in the halls of learning, in the
neighborhoods, where children laugh and
play and everything good connected to us
everlasting like a spirit ... Please bid the
misty waters there to shed a tear for happi-
est moments, for I am still with you, still to
ride the morning's breeze and waiting for
you in the natural cathedrals of sunlight,
our souls in flight, new life, a gentle
course. You see, love, there's never been a
better day, for there is no death — only a
changing of worlds.
— **Elgin Jumper**
Hollywood, Fla.

Every Day

In 9 months it was a wrap
You brought forth of a new creation
That was equal to a game of cats
Taken chances and living off the soul riding
on Lady Luck and hoping to win rid-
ing sin, praying for forgiveness and search-
ing for a sign
The tears you gave a disguise as you
fought with the Hands of Time
Not knowing the answers to these ques-
tions of change, your creation of life
became the purpose with a name
Year after year you helped me grow
You taught me wrong from right and
everything else you thought I should
know
My mistakes became your pain but you
never felt weak
You always fought for my protection
every day of the week
No matter what the situation, your love
was always on display and with these
final words I just want you to know that
the love you gave me I'll never let go
Happy Mother's Day from your family
(Panther Clan) the Harjo's and one Billie
We love you Mom,
— **Vandell Billie**
2008, P.C.P.

There's Only A Beginning

Through these walls of silence a life
fights the flames of hell with each passing
day one accumulates secrets that each will
never tell
Secrets of survival in a world of hate
Playing a game of chances and betting on
your fate
The pain becomes the cry as the cry
awakes the pain
Death whispers in the dark as it slowly
moves in for its claim
A spirit rises from its ashes as it wel-
comes its decease
The clouds of Heaven slowly part as

angels bow on bended knees
The call becomes the message that breaks
a heart and sets it free
The words are unbelievable, but still, one
has to believe
The preacher reads from his Bible as a
casket lies on display
The Game claims another player and
leaves him for the grave
In memory, one lives, but life is still a
game
There's only a beginning, but The Game
has no end
There's only a beginning, but The Game
has no end
— **Vandell Billie**
2008, P.C.P.

Dedicated to the Fallen Seminoles

Bobby, Susanne, Toka, Devin

All I can do is offer you the truth
And the truth is that I'm sorry and I'm
feeling your pain
Cuz all that's left is a memory
But the memories will remain...
Remain strong so your children can do
the same
As the rain falls and washed away the
footprints of where the bodies once
walked
We should reflect on our own ways and
try to be thankful you and I still have the
awesome gift of life, the opportunity to
rise and prevail over any obstacle set
Death is sad
But what's more sad is wasting any breath

given to us by God himself
Remember it was written
We are here for a reason
Strength is a must
We must dig deep down to find it in the
saddest of times, for with every tragedy,
there is victory
They suffer no more
They walk now with the Lord, basking in
his light
The same glorious light of life that we all
too often take for granted
Thank the Lord that today you live and
cry no more
They have been called home by the most
high
Real memories last forever, they never die
Remember them as they would you, with
honor
Your friend,
— **Markell "Eli" Billie**
May 13, 2008



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