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New Council Meets Post-Election

By Chris Jenkins
HOLLYWOOD — On June 13, Tribal Council members, both old and new, gathered for business as usual and for the first time since being elected on May 14. They passed 17 resolutions including:

Resolution 7: Ratification of the original works of art commission agreement between the Seminole Tribe of Florida and artist Sandra Kuck;

Resolution 11: Transfer of interest and rights in a home site together with improvements—Hollywood Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 12: Aquatic Plant Management, Inc. service agreement for invasive exotic plant removal program work on the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 13: Seminole Tribe of Florida Emergency Management Program policy adoption;

Resolution 14: Amendment of the Seminole Tribe of Florida Indian Casino 401(K) plan effective July 1, 2007;

Resolution 15: Submission of the Ab-Tab-Thi-Ki Museum's application for accreditation to the American Association of Museums;

Resolution 16: Approval of agreement with Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino - Hollywood for Seminole Princess Payment;

Resolution 21: Amended Grant of Easement for right-of-way (1,351 feet by 68 feet) to Roman Gate Enterprises Incorporated-Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 22: Wachovia Master Equipment lease/purchase agreement as amended by schedule 1G: waiver of sovereign immunity; and

Resolution 23: CBS Outdoor bulletin agreement for Billie Swamp Safari.



Gordon Oliver Warcham

The Tribal Council and Board of Directors Representatives: (L-R) David Cypress, Max Osceola Jr., Roger Smith, Mitchell Cypress, Richard Bowers Jr., Cicero Osceola and Johnnie Jones

Council, Board Swear-In Beneath Council Oak

By Shelley Marmor

HOLLYWOOD — The newly-elected Tribal Council — Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Representative David Cypress, Brighton Representative Roger Smith and Hollywood Representative Max Osceola Jr. — and the incoming Board of Directors — President Richard Bowers, Big Cypress Representative Cicero Osceola, Brighton Representative Johnnie Jones and Hollywood Representative Gloria Wilson — met under the Council Oak tree for a swearing-in ceremony on June 4.

Event emcee, Moses "Big Shot" Jumper Jr., opened the ceremony by discussing the significance of having the event beneath the Council Oak, calling it a "very historical place."

"So many of the early decisions were made under this tree," he said.

He then offered an invocation and read his poem, *The Council Oak*, before introducing the Color Guard, which presented the colors. Several children from the Seminole Preschool, under the direction of Language Department Director Jo M. North, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. They recited the pledge in English, Mikasuki and Creek.

About 15 Tribal elders, led by Betty Osceola, then sang two hymns in praise of the leaders who will head the Tribe. Emcee Jumper then introduced the Seminole royalty present: Miss Florida Seminole Brittany Yescas, Jr., Miss Seminole Tianna Garcia and Little Miss Seminole Krysta Burton.

Guest speaker Matthew Tiger, Creek Nation of Oklahoma speaker of the house, then took the mic.

♦ See INAUGURATION, page 5

Father's Day Celebration in Immokalee

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — Members of the Immokalee Seminole community gathered at the Gym on the evening of May 13 in celebration of Father's Day. The threat of an impending rain storm did nothing to dampen the spirits of

the partygoers who turned out in record numbers to pay tribute to their fathers and uncles.

The facilities had been transformed with a masculine flair using camouflage tablecloths, canvas chair covers with hunter green accents and floral centerpieces, which incorporated sunflowers with woodland greenery. Alligators, fishing and hunting trophies decorated the walls.

Raffle tickets were distributed among the male members of each family group, who eventually received an opportunity to draw a number for the numerous gifts on display. The items to be awarded included fishing gear and barbecue equipment. A mountain of black party bags concealed entertainment products, men's cologne, magazines, clothing and gag gifts which brought hoots from the audience.

With the dimming of the lights, everyone rushed to take their seats in anticipation of the photo presentation which had



Judy Weeks

Tony Cantu was first in line for a slice of the Father's Day cake.

♦ See FATHER, page 8

Tribal Citizen Graduates from Police

Allen Colon Will be Third Seminole in SPD

By Judy Weeks

FT. MYERS, Fla. — Tribal citizen Allen Colon achieved a lifelong goal when he graduated from the Southwest Florida Public Service Academy as a member of the 111th Basic Law Enforcement Class on June 8.

Commencement proceedings took place at Dunbar High School in Ft. Myers. Assistant Director of the School and Law Enforcement Coordinator Patrick Flahive presented the class before a crowded auditorium.

"These students have completed 768 hours of training and are the 111th Class in the history of our school," Flahive said. "Of 38 students, not one failed to complete the course. Even more remarkable, I am proud to say that they have achieved the highest academic average of any class to date with a 93 to 98 percentile. This will set a very high standard for those who will follow in their footsteps."

Continuing Flahive remarked, "The 111th Class frequently competed in exercises and games with the fire department, office of corrections and other law enforcement groups during their course of study and have remained undefeated."

Officer Keith Henson of the Florida Department of Corrections then presented the graduation certificates to the 111th Class.



Judy Weeks

Allen Colon

♦ See COLON, page 6

Two Teens Heading to National High School Rodeo Finals



Photo Submitted By Tabitha Osceola
 Shelby Osceola

By Susan Etzebarria

BRIGHTON — Two rising rodeo stars, Shelby Osceola, 18, and Jacoby Johns, 16, are heading for the National High School Rodeo Association (NHSRA) finals in Springfield, Ill. on July 23. They qualified for the national finals after winning at the Florida High School Rodeo Association (FHRSRA) state finals.

At the state finals, Osceola, of Hollywood, won fourth place in breakaway and Johns, of Brighton, placed second in bareback riding.

More than 300 students participate in FHRSRA and only the top four in each event are invited to the state finals. The two Seminole Tribe of Florida citizens will join approximately 1,500 rodeo competitors from 40 states and five Canadian provinces.

The NHSRA is the world's largest rodeo, at which students compete for national titles, awards and scholarships.

This is the last year Osceola will compete in high school rodeo. She graduated this school year from Hollywood Christian School and plans to attend Troy State University in Troy, Ala. in the fall on a rodeo scholarship.

Osceola competed in volleyball and softball as well as participated in 4-H until she made the decision to devote all of her efforts to the sport of rodeo.

♦ See NHSRA, page 20

Photo Quiz



Who is she? See next issue for the answer.

Tribune Archive Photo

New Tribune Editor Elizabeth Leiba

I am pleased and honored to introduce myself as the new editor of *The Seminole Tribune*. I look forward to this wonderful opportunity to learn, grow and serve the Seminole community.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at (954) 965-5702 or by e-mail at ElizabethLeiba@seminoletribe.com.



The Seminole Tribune

If you need a reporter or you would like to submit an article, birthday wish or poem to *The Seminole Tribune*, please contact the Editor-In-Chief Virginia Mitchell at (800) 683-7800, Ext. 1260, fax (954) 967-3482, or mail to: The Seminole Tribune, 6300 Stirling Road, Hollywood, Florida 33024.

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A Message From President Richard Bowers

Che hun to mo,

It is with great pleasure that I accept my new post as president of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.

This is an exciting time for our Seminole Tribe. We will soon embark on different endeavors and set out to surpass many of our goals. I am very proud to be involved in all these efforts as the newly elected president and will lead with the best interest of the Tribe always at the forefront of our initiatives. I will do everything in my power to properly promote and preserve our culture, our business, and the success of old and new generations alike.

I would like to thank those who supported my candidacy. I will always be grateful for your staunch support and for your trust. I look forward to the work we can accomplish together, and would like to stress the importance of unity and teamwork during my tenure. For this reason, I would like to reach out to every individual, even those who did not cast their vote for me,

and invite all of you to the table to work together with me to provide the best possible service to our Seminole communities.

I have a positive vision of what we can achieve, and I know that if we work together, the possibility of reaching and exceeding that vision is limitless. I am truly committed to this very important responsibility that you have entrusted me with, and I am prepared to put forth my utmost effort and dedication to this task.

My family and I humbly thank you for bestowing upon me the greatest responsibility anyone can have. I look forward to continue building upon the strong foundation that the predecessors to this post have laid out, in order to provide for future generations of Seminole Tribe Members.

I would like to end this letter with a special thank you to my daughter, a member of the Bird Clan for sewing my inauguration shirt; it was beautiful. I am also proud of her for preserving and continuing in the Seminole culture. Shonaabashsha.

Respectfully,

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

Please See Page 3, Bowers Discusses Future Ventures

Editorials

Tracking Indian Students

By Dr. Dean Chavers

[Editor's Note: Dr. Chavers is Director of Catching the Dream, a national scholarship and school improvement organization in Albuquerque, N.M. He welcomes your comments on this column, inquiries about scholarships, and inquiries about CTD grants. His e-mail address is CTD4DeanChavers@aol.com. The opinions he expresses are his own. © 2007]

Indian students are tracked in school, producing some horrible and undesirable results. No one talks about this problem, but we need to talk about it and address it.

I met a young lady a few weeks ago who was astounding. She had a GPA of over 4.1 on a scale of 1-4.2. Students who take Advanced Placement, or AP classes, can earn a 5.0 for an A in these classes.

They can take two out of five of these classes, so their GPA can be as high as 4.2. In other words, a 4.2 for an AP student would be the same as a 4.0, or a straight A average for a student not registered in AP classes.

There are so few Indians in AP classes that I was all excited for her. She is an ideal candidate to apply for a scholarship from us. I thought, Then she took the ACT; instead of getting a 32, the 99th percentile, she scored a 22, the 50th percentile.

Naturally this set her back on her heels. Her heart was broken. I talked to her mother for half an hour and we are going to help her take the ACT again, and, I hope, score higher. This girl was thinking about going to Harvard. But she cannot get into an Ivy League with the ACT score.

I wish she had taken the Pre-ACT (PACT) as a junior to see how she would do on it. But no one at her school had tried to put her in touch with us. I asked her mother if she was studying for the test, or taking one of the prep courses such as the Princeton Review, or the ACT self-study, and she was not. I hope she will start one right away.

And I hope her sister, who is a sophomore and just as smart as she is, will start preparing for the ACT early. It would be wonderful if both girls, who are being raised by their mother with no help from their father, could go to Ivy League colleges and have their life in high gear by the time they are 22 years old.

I thought back to a Tribe I worked with in Oklahoma a decade ago. The children from this Tribe had to attend one of the most backward schools in the state. The school required all Indian students to ride in the back of the school bus!

This was not Mississippi in 1954 — this was Oklahoma in 1992. I helped

them prepare a lawsuit, which they filed with the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) of the U.S. Department of Education. OCR came in that summer and told the school district they had to get into the 20th Century, and that their brand of segregation was illegal. They also had a jail at the school, which mostly housed Indian students.

The son of the chairman of the Tribal education department had been the first Indian valedictorian the previous year. Even though the student population was 58 percent Indian, the top student had always been an Anglo. But when he got to college, he almost flunked out.

The counselor had told him he did not need to take advanced algebra, geometry, and trigonometry. Instead of taking

these schools that the fate of Indian students is sealed by the fact of tracking. Few of the Bureau of Indian Affairs schools have advanced to the point that they are preparing their students for college; they should do it, but they don't.

And it is in the public schools that Indian students are placed into bonehead or vocational courses instead of into college prep courses. Indian parents and Tribal education people need to start working to change this situation.

Students can deal with this situation themselves — if they can get help early enough. A student who takes the PACT in the junior year will have time to improve a low score, provided the student does the right things.

There are basically five things a student can do to improve his score. One is to re-take the ACT a number of times. My scholarship program, Catching the Dream, will pay for Native students who cannot afford the costs of the ACT. But retaking it without preparation is futile.

Before retaking it, a second thing they can do is to start cramming. The Princeton Review, and ACT or SAT self-study courses are available in most high school libraries.

The third thing they can do is to start reading heavily. The girl I met recently and the Oklahoma valedictorian were both not heavy readers. It is never too late to start reading. And when I say heavy reading I mean about two books a week or more.

I can hear the screaming already. Almost no Indian students read that much. Most, at least 90 percent, read nothing at all outside their classroom texts. But I can guarantee all of them that reading heavily will improve their scores considerably.

The fourth thing they can do is to take one of the test preparation courses, such as the Kaplan. They cost a few hundred dollars, but they are well worth the cost for people who can afford them.

And the fifth thing they can do is to take college prep courses. One mother I met at a conference said she has a son who has already taken the ACT twice, and he is only a sophomore! His scores are already good enough to get him into Stanford.

A student who is a freshman, sophomore, or junior can make sure he or she takes advanced algebra, geometry and trigonometry, for instance. That student can also make sure he takes at least one writing and composition class and an advanced class on literature.

Parents and students cannot start too early preventing tracking. Parents need to intervene forcefully to make sure their students are getting the right courses.



solid courses, he had been shunted into driver's ed, basic math, and other traditionally easier courses, known as "crip courses."

When the committee and I examined the transcripts of nine of their students who were in college, we were shocked. It was clear the school had three tracks — college prep, farmer prep, and bonehead. The college-bound kids took the college prep, the farmer kids took the agricultural and vocational courses and the Indian kids were all in the bonehead.

It was one of the most blatant instances of racism I have ever seen. The committee took the matter in hand and demanded and got some changes. Ironically, this school district was the richest one in the state, with over \$10,000 per student per year. But it had a high dropout rate for Indian students.

Someone needs to look at how tracking affects Indian students. I have been reviewing research on Indian education for over 35 years, and don't remember the subject ever being addressed.

More than 85 percent of Indian students now attend public schools. It is in

Photo Quiz Answer



Tribune Archive Photo

These Seminole cowboys are (L-R) Jimmie Smith, Little Fewell, Morgan Smith, Bill Osceola, Willie Frank, John Jimmie, Jimmy Cypress and Junior Cypress.

Letters & E-mail

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to let you know how good of a time we had at the Billie Swamp Airboat Ride Tour. My friends and I were on vacation and drove from Ft. Lauderdale for the tour.

John was our tour guide, and he did a great job of showing us things of interest. He was very knowledgeable, patient and gave us plenty of opportunities for pictures we probably wouldn't have gotten with someone else. He is an asset to your Tribe. Please let John know that I contacted you and let him know that we had fun.

Sincerely,
Diane (and 3 friends) from
St. Louis, Mo.



Photo Courtesy of Meka Burgess

Mom Meka Burgess walks Nikko Dakota Doctor across the stage at his last pageant.

Nikko Dakota Doctor Competes in Sunburst International Pageant

By Elizabeth Leiba

HOLLYWOOD — Nikko Dakota Doctor is an accomplished model with two non-exclusive modeling contracts and several pageant wins under his belt. He cruises the catwalk with confidence and his glossy photographs capture his varied looks: from sophisticated in a sleek black tuxedo to Renaissance man in a cor-duroy suit and brown tortoise shell glasses.

As he runs around parents Nathan Doctor and Meka Burgess' living room, chasing his 3-month-old puppy Brownie and taking swigs from his sippy cup, it's hard to believe he is only 23-months-old.

"Nikko is a little firecracker," laughed his mother. "He has a lot of energy. You have to drink a lot of Red Bull to stay with him!"

Like any other toddler, he likes watching The Little Einstein and The Mickey Mouse Club. He loves eating spaghetti and bananas and his favorite toy is a Cabbage Patch Kid doll named David.

But recently his parents discovered that he had a hidden talent.

Nikko's parents entered him into his first pageant earlier this year, just for fun. They were walking through Pembroke Lakes Mall and saw a sign recruiting children for a modeling contest. They entered Nikko and he won.

"It just started out as a joke," said Burgess. "He happened to win. And every contest and pageant, he's winning first place and he's taking everything with a sweep."

A modeling scout spotted Nikko at his first pageant and he was able to snag his first modeling contract. Then it was off to the next level of competition in Orlando, where he won several categories in his age group, including Best Dressed, Best Personality, Prettiest Eyes, Best Hair and another modeling contract.

Nikko will be competing in the Sunburst International Model Search and Beauty Pageant as a Florida state finalist in Atlanta July 27-29. His parents are preparing him to compete by teaching him to wave, smile, bow on cue and blow kisses to the audience.

They also will be bringing his Seminole heritage to the competition by having a long shirt and hat made for Nikko to wear.



Photo Courtesy of Meka Burgess

Nikko Dakota Doctor

"I'd like him to wear that outfit to meet the judges and be introduced in traditional clothing," said Burgess. "As far as I know, he's the only Seminole in that particular pageant this year."

At the pageant in Atlanta, Nikko will have a five-minute interview with the judges and walk the catwalk where the judges will assess his facial beauty, poise and attire. In the 2-year-old category, where Nikko will compete due to his July birthday, the prizes include a \$10,000 savings bond, a 6-foot trophy, a sash and toys.

Nikko has lots of supporters at the Seminole Tribe of Florida. His sponsors include Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Hollywood Council Representative Max B. Osceola Jr., Board President Richard Bowers, Housing Department Director Troy Clay, Tribal citizens Francine Osceola, Moses Jumper, Virginia Mitchell, the Recreation Department, the Payroll Department and Myrna Loy Bail Bonds in Ft. Lauderdale.

His parents said they have big hopes for the pageant at the end of the month.

"It's been quite a ride since February," said his mother. "So we're looking for bigger and better things."



Elizabeth Leiba

(L-R) Dad Nathan Doctor, Nikko Dakota Doctor and Mom Meka Burgess

Tribe Hosts Indigenous Justice Workshop

By Shelley Marmor

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Tribe's Dispute Resolution Center and the members of the Court Committee hosted Ada Pecos Melton for a two-day workshop at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, June 11-12. The workshop, "Indigenous Justice and Restorative Justice Systems: Developing Justice Systems from a Native American Perspective," dealt with how to create a court system specifically tailored to the Seminole Tribe.

Melton (Pueblo of Jemez) is CEO of American Indian Development Associates (AIDA). According to the website, www.aidainc.net, AIDA "is a comprehensive resource for Tribal, state and federal agencies, service providers, and community members seeking information related to crime, violence and victimization issues in American Indian and Alaska Native communities."

She is no stranger to the Tribal justice system, explaining she has worked in the field for 30 years. Melton said she began her career as a juvenile probation officer in Indian Country and then worked in a first offender program before going on to assist with the formation of Tribe-specific justice systems.

Now, through her AIDA organization, Melton works with many Tribes to assist them in developing their own unique Tribal court system. She stressed uniqueness throughout the workshop, saying many Tribes created court systems modeled after the American judicial system and as a result have failed.

Melton said that borrowing from federal, state and even other Tribes' judicial systems is acceptable; however, the Seminole justice system must be tailored to the Seminole Tribe.

"What we want to develop is culturally-relevant, Seminole-based ideas," she said.

Over the course of the two days, Melton had participants work in groups to formulate an



Shelley Marmor

(L-R) Family Services Department Director Helene Buster discusses some of her group's expectations in creating a Seminole justice system with Ada Pecos Melton, CEO of American Indian Development Associates, and workshop guest speaker.

understanding of what they wanted out of their system. Some of the participants at the workshop included: Dispute Resolution Center Director Stan Wolfe, Dispute Resolution Center Research Assistant Luann Losinno, Tribal Clerk Mercedes Osceola-Hahn, Deputy Treasurer Pete Hahn, Seminole Police Department Officer Ulysses Boldin, Grants and Government Relations Department Director Joel M. Frank Sr. and Family Services Department Director Helene Buster.

Melton had each group answer questions such as: Why is your Tribe looking for alternatives to conflict resolution? What are some frustrations with the current methods used by the Tribe to solve conflicts? What are some expectations for using indigenous approaches to conflict resolution?

Buster acted as her group's spokeswoman. She said some of the frustrations they identified were that the American system tends to "focus on the offence" rather than the root cause of the problem. She said that since Tribes tend to have closer-knit communities and know one another, they can look at each offence on a case-by-case basis, which the American system cannot feasibly do.

"The outside system does not know our people or our problems," Buster said.

Melton agreed with Buster's sentiment. She said the American system also tends to view repeat offenders as "disposable" and writes them off as impossible to rehabilitate; mostly due to the fact that there are so many offenders in the American justice system. She said this goes against many established customs within Tribal systems which value each individual.



Shelley Marmor

(L-R) Tribal Education Specialist Tony Bullington and Dispute Resolution Center Director Stan Wolfe brainstorm in their group to come up with ideas to detail the best conflict resolution methods for the Tribe.

Princess Pageant Set for July 28

Submitted by Wanda Bowers

The upcoming Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant is scheduled for July 28 in the Hollywood Tribal Auditorium at 7 p.m.

All ladies 18-25 enrolled in the Seminole Tribe of Florida are qualified to run for the title of Miss Florida Seminole. All young ladies 12-17 who are Tribal citizens are eligible to run for Jr. Miss Florida Seminole.

All those who qualify to run may pick up an application in the Tribal Secretary's Office, or a committee staff member can e-mail, fax or mail one to you.

Please call: Wanda Bowers, (954) 966-6300, Ext. 1468, Priscilla Sayen, (954) 966-6300, Ext. 1461, Salina Dorgan, (863) 763-3866, or Alice Billie, (863) 902-3200, Ext. 1324 for more information.



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Photos and graphics subject to change



Graduates of Recruit Class 07-02 line up after taking their oath.

Felix DuBoz

New Class of EMS Graduates Take Oath

By Felix DuBoz

HOLLYWOOD — On June 8, Recruit Class 07-02 held its graduation ceremonies at the Tribal Headquarters auditorium in front of Emergency Management Services (EMS) Department leadership, family, friends and guests.

The Color Guard, in their EMS and Seminole Police Department formal dress uniforms, marched in sync carrying the three flags that presented the colors to the assembled guests to open the ceremony. Seminole Recreation Director Moses "Bigg Shot" Jumper Jr., dressed in Seminole traditional regalia and representing the Tribal Council, addressed the gathering with blessings in his invocation.

New EMS Director Chief Chuck Lanza was introduced by Chief John Cooper to warm applause from the audience. Chief Lanza began by thanking everyone for being there, especially Jumper Jr. for his invocation, and honored guests from the local Hollywood Fire Department.

In addressing the graduates of Class 07-02 Chief Lanza said, "We have many traditions; we are family; we work together; we live together; we stay united both in good times and bad. We work toward a common goal by providing the best service to people we serve. We depend on each other and we support each other."

"Another tradition of the fire service is that we all go home at the end of our shifts," he continued. "This means



Felix DuBoz

Seminole Fire Chief John Cooper received the Crystal Trophy Award for his dedication to the community.

we do everything to make our environment safe, although we work in very unsafe environments, including heat, smoke, and medical threats ... and really the only thing you need to worry about is your commitment that you will come home at the end of the day to your family."

A video of class 07-02 in various boot camp-style activities was shown with stills of the recruits in action to a soundtrack of famous pop tunes. Chief Robert Suit acknowledged the fine skills of the instructors and introduced these members to warm applause from the audience.

Chief Chuck Lanza and other chiefs presented the graduating class members with their new badges and certificates. The 11 surviving graduates from the intense six-week training course — whittled down from the original 16 — took the affirmation of the oath by Chief Lanza.

The ceremony finished with warm statements to congratulate the graduates. Family, friends and colleagues wished each of them the best of luck in their new endeavors protecting and serving the Seminole Tribal community.



Felix DuBoz

Moses "Bigg Shot" Jumper Jr. (C) offered the invocation

The Seminole Tribe of Florida Department of Emergency Services would like to welcome its newest members of Recruit Class 07-02, the second class of 2007. Jordan Biglin, Casare Brownlee, Jason Feliciano, Adam Gootgeld, Matthew Lofton, Alejandro Maya, Stephan Michael, Ryan Poux, Daniel River, Joel Simmons, and Ernesto Tabruac.

This recruit class went through six weeks of intense fire and EMS training in order to become part of the Seminole Fire Rescue team. We are proud of their achievements and wish them all the success in their new career.

❖ Colon

Continued from page 1

Working under SPD Chief Charlie Tiger, Colon will be the third Tribal citizen employed by the Seminole Police Department (SPD). He has been assigned to work at the Big Cypress Reservation.

Colon was born 40 years ago in Naples to Rachel Billie and Angelo Colon; he has two brothers and three sisters. Allen grew up in the Fort Myers area and always had a keen interest in law enforcement. However, upon completing high school, such a career was not possible as he accepted the more pressing responsibilities of his family. Until recently, he resigned himself to the fact that he would never have an opportunity to attain his goal.

Learning that there were job openings at SPD, he investigated the possibilities and was delighted to discover that he could qualify as a public service aide after completing a minimal training course. Jumping at the opportunity, he signed on as soon as possible.

Upon meeting the necessary requirements, Allen accepted his first assignment working for SPD at the Immokalee Reservation. Very happy in his new position, he assumed that he had reached his limitations. He said he did not think the police academy was within his grasp because of his age and the number of years since he had attended school.

Finally, giving into the pressure exerted by his co-workers and family, he enrolled in the law enforcement program offered in Fort Myers which



Judy Weeks

Orlando Torres of the Hendry County Sheriff's Department (L) and Captain Phil Gonzales (R) of SPD with Colon at the graduation ceremony from the Law Enforcement Academy.

began on Jan. 8. Coincidentally, this undertaking took place within days of the arrival of his and wife Maria's first son, Joshua. He now became even more determined to succeed.

Each day began with rigorous physical training that included a great deal of running as the cadets got their bodies into shape. Long hours were spent in academic training following the basic curriculum of law enforcement, the Constitution and first responder qualifications.

Physical training operations included learning both defensive and offensive moves, disarming a perpetrator, rapid response conditioning, vehicle operation and the firing range. "We took part in real life scenarios, which were very scary," said Allen. "Our weapons were loaded with soap pellets which caused blood blisters when they hit their targets. Fortunately of all the students in my class, my partner and I were the only ones who were never shot."

"I wish I could say the same about the pepper spray and Taser certification," he continued. "In order to pass the course, we had to submit to both treatments. It certainly makes you think twice before using either weapon." His mother Rachel Billie said she is very proud of her son's accomplishments and hopes that he will become a role model for his nephew Angelo, his son Joshua and other Tribal youth.



Judy Weeks

Alan Colon with mom Rachel Billie

Ten Questions for the New EMS Director

Chief Charles V. Lanza Talks to The Seminole Tribune

Felix DuBoz, Seminole Tribune: How did you get interested in EMS and fire fighting?
Charles V. Lanza: In 1977 I was in the Miami Dade Community College bookstore purchasing books related to my major, pre-law, when I came across a book on paramedic procedures. It appeared interesting, so I bought it. When I finished reading the book, the law was not an interesting major any more. I wanted to become a firefighter and paramedic.

FD: Where and when were you born?

CVL: My father was in the Army so we traveled the world. Although I was born in New Jersey we were only there for a few months, then on the road again. My father retired in 1958 and we moved to Hialeah where I lived until 1978 when I moved to Broward County.

FD: What do you feel is the mission of the EMS department?

CVL: We provide a high level of medical care in emergency situations. What that means is we are well trained and provide all types of care in your home. We are like the doctors of the past — we make house calls.

FD: What were some of your interesting experiences as a firefighter in the Miami area?

CVL: Working for a large metropolitan fire department gave me the opportunity to do things many firefighters and paramedics never do. For example, I've assisted on nearly three dozen child-births, responded on a myriad of auto crashes, house fires, plane crashes, civil disturbances, and heart attacks. During my last eight years with Miami-Dade, I was the county's emergency manager and was responsible for preparing the county for any threats. During an event, I was the lead person for the county's response and recovery.

FD: What were some of the rewards of having a career as an EMS professional?

CVL: As a paramedic, helping people is the best reward. Oftentimes we are able to intercede in life threatening situations and to make a difference in a person's life.

ST: How did you become the director of the Department Emergency Services?

CVL: The Interim Fire Chief John Cooper asked if I was interested in coming out of retirement to lead the department. Chief Cooper painted such a great picture of the department that accepting the offer was easy. I found that I made the right decision as the department is excellent.

FD: With your vast experience in leadership and knowledge, what do you hope to bring to the Tribe?

CVL: I want to continue the tradition of hiring the best and brightest firefighters and paramedics. Over the next few years, we will grow this department to include fulltime Emergency Medical Services and fire

protection to the Hard Rock and the Hollywood Reservation. We will include wildland fire fighting to our list of capabilities.

FD: How are you able to deal with stress in your challenging field of work?

CVL: The job is very stressful; in fact the No. 1 cause of death among firefighters is heart attack. It is important to eat well and to exercise regularly to stay healthy in this field. Working in a fire station with people who are supportive helps reduce the stress of the job.



Photo Submitted By EMS

(L-R) Seminole Fire Chief John Cooper and EMS Director Charles V. Lanza

FD: What kind of plans do you have for the EMS department?

CVL: We will continue to improve our skills, which will improve the care we provide to the community. Although we are a small department, we provide the best out-of-hospital care anywhere.

FD: What kind of emergency plans does EMS have if a natural disaster were to occur on one of the reservations?

CVL: The Tribal Council is currently reviewing a plan which covers: preparing for, responding to, recovering from, and mitigating disasters. In the plan, we identify which agencies have responsibilities for evacuation, sheltering, feeding and providing other human services in support of the community. Throughout hurricane season we will share the plan with the community. The Emergency Management Office is distributing an all-hazards guide to assist the community in preparing and responding to most of the threats they will face. As we implement the many plans associated with managing emergencies, the community will become better prepared. Preparing for disasters is an evolving process that is never completed but becomes better every day.

Seniors Celebrate Father's Day at Catfish Dewey's

By Elizabeth Leiba

FT. LAUDERDALE — Catfish was the catch of the day as the Hollywood seniors celebrated Father's Day with friends and family at Catfish Dewey's on June 14. Spirits were high as the seniors boarded the bus from the Senior Center and spent time shaking hands, meeting and greeting and catching up with friends.

At Catfish Dewey's, more than 50 seniors and celebrants enjoyed the seafood cuisine. Fried catfish and cheese grits, fried shrimp and conch fritters were just some of the fare that was enjoyed on the celebratory occasion.

And attendees munched on coleslaw and hush puppies while they waited for their entrees to arrive.

"Don't eat too much," warned Mary Osceola-Moore with a knowing smile. "The food is good here."

A surprise presentation was made to Hollywood Councilman Max B. Osceola Jr. from Joe Dan and Virginia Osceola to commemorate his graduation from the University of Miami several years ago. Osceola attributed his success and extended his gratitude to the elders.



Lawrence Osceola was just one of the seniors who attended the lunch.

"I'm glad we're all here," he said. "That's what we're all about — families."

Hollywood Board Representative Gloria Wilson agreed wholeheartedly as she wished the group a Happy Father's Day.

"Fathers are appreciated as much as mothers," she assured the gathering. "We want to say thank you and wish you a Happy Father's Day."

As the luncheon wound down to a close, the seniors reflected on what a wonderful Father's Day celebration the meal had been.

"I enjoyed it," said Rosa Smith.

Her husband Jimmy agreed. When asked how he liked the catfish, he smiled and said, "Not bad."



(L-R) Dorothy Tucker and husband Johnny Tucker on the bus to Catfish Dewey's.

Elizabeth Leiba



David Osceola (C) and Dan Osceola (R) wait patiently for their entrees to arrive.

Elizabeth Leiba

Father's Day Luncheon Held in Hollywood Community

By Elgin Jumper

HOLLYWOOD — It was a day for celebrating and acknowledging not only fathers, but uncles as well, because within the rich Seminole culture, the uncle shares a prominent and revered place along with the father.

Thus members of the Seminole Hollywood community gathered together at noon on June 17 for a pleasant luncheon catered by Doris' Italian Market.

Doubling as the grand luncheon hall was the basketball court and auditorium bleachers. Along the south wall a long line of tables had been arranged and upon which the Italian cuisine and Seminole fry bread had been set. On the court, other long tables had been exquisitely and colorfully decorated just for the occasion. Near the entrance, gift certificates and thoughtfully-wrapped Bullet Line pocketknives were graciously bestowed to all adult male community members.

Robert Kippenberger of Kipp Photography provided memorable images upon request, while Reverend Paul "Cowbone" Buster and Rosella Caico supplied the gathering with fine music and generous smiles.



(L-R) Reverend Paul Buster and Rosella Caico entertain the crowd

Esta Liederman

The Father's Day luncheon was organized by Hollywood Council Representative Max B. Osceola Jr., Hollywood Board Representative Gloria Wilson, and Non-Resident Liaison Holly Tiger-Bowers.

Osceola began the luncheon with some inspiring words, emphasizing the father/uncle aspects of the Seminole culture.

"We're not just celebrating fathers and uncles," Osceola, Jr. pointed out, "As we all know, within our culture, the uncles are very important in the family structure, too."

"And so today we are celebrating any Seminole male that is 18 or over, because we feel that they're eventually going to be a father. Whether they have children or not, they're going to have nieces and nephews," he continued.

"And so I'm glad we're having this today so everyone can remember and enjoy and have a good time."

Buster delivered a moving invocation that made reference to American and Native American troops stationed around the world. He expressed the great importance of keeping America's soldiers in thought and prayer and to especially remember and honor those stationed in the war-zones of Iraq and Afghanistan.

"A lot of dads would like to be here in America, but they're in Iraq or Afghanistan, defending freedom ... Dads and uncles, and mothers too; standing up and doing what's right."

Esta Liederman

The Coleman Josh family



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2. Billy Bowlegs - Lead the Seminoles in the 3rd Seminole War - Dark Chocolate & Caramel

3. Remember the Clans! - All 9 Clans: Otter Bear, Snake, Panther, Big Town, Bird, Deer, Wind and the extinct Alligator - Iced Lattes

4. Josie Britte - One of the Strongest Medicine Men of the Seminole Tribe - Dark Chocolate & Hazelnut

5. Ingram Billie - Brother of Josie, also a Powerful Medicine Man - Vanilla & Hazelnut

6. Laura Mae Osceola - Instrumental in getting Federal Recognition of the Seminole Tribe - Dark Chocolate & Banana

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

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

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

10. Betty Mae Jumper - First Chairwoman of the Seminoles - Apple & Cinnamon

11. James Billie - Longest Serving Elected Chairman of the Tribe - Vanilla & Caramel

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13. Howard Tiger - First Military person Elected President, Organized sports programs for the Seminole Youth - Dark Chocolate

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Big Cypress Seniors celebrate Father's Day at Lozano's Restaurant.

Judy Weeks

Happy Father's Day for the BC Seniors

By Judy Weeks

BIG CYPRESS — Site Manager Cecilia Solano and her staff from the Big Cypress Department of Elders planned an outing for the seniors to celebrate Father's Day at Lozano's Restaurant in Immokalee on June 14. A very popular dining place for the seniors, they often make it their destination to enjoy authentic Mexican cuisine.

Occupying two long banquet tables, 38 Tribal elders were joined by Chairman Mitchell Cypress for an evening of fun and companionship. It has often been noted by numerous individuals that attending any event with the Big Cypress Seniors is always a pleasant experience. They are a happy-go-lucky group of fun loving people who are bursting with enthusiasm. No matter what the occasion, they find joy in the moment and are continually exchanging playful banter throughout their conversation. This Father's Day celebration was no exception.

From the minute of their arrival, the room was filled with laughter so contagious that it quickly encompassed not only the waitresses but the other patrons. A customer from across the room was shocked to learn that they were senior citizens and remarked about their youthful attitude and vitality.

"It is this attitude and enthusiasm for life that have given our people the strength to survive and rise from their humble beginnings," remarked Chairman Cypress. "Our Native American culture is family oriented and it is occasions like Father's Day when we take time to appreciate our fathers and uncles who have played such an important role in our youthful development."

"They have not only shown us the way, but guided us down the road, offering encouragement and discipline. We owe our present and future to them."

An assortment of pocket knives were distributed as gifts for the occasion.



Judy Weeks

Chairman Mitchell Cypress helps Eddie Billie to her place at the table.

Mothers Honored In Hollywood

By Iretta Tiger

HOLLYWOOD — There was a sea of purple inside the Hollywood Gymnasium on May 12. The various shades of purple balloons and flowers created a beautiful setting to celebrate the women of the Tribe. Mother's Day was finally here!

Seminole families gathered together for good food, good entertainment and to enjoy each other's company. This year's celebration included a portrait studio where everyone could have their photograph taken by Robert Kippenberger.

Grandmothers, mothers, aunts, sisters, daughters and granddaughters were lavished with a basket overflowing with flowers and a huge teddy bear. Hollywood Councilman Max B. Osceola Jr. gave everyone a personal Mother's Day greeting as he traveled from table to table talking and sharing photographs.



Iretta Tiger

Dorothy Tommie and her mother Mary Tiger at the festivities.



Judy Weeks

Pete Aguilar (C) is surrounded by just a few of his family members.

❖ Father's Day

Continued from page 1

been assembled from community contributions. Beginning with reproductions from the Tribal Archives, the viewers had an opportunity to share a few minutes with their ancestors and founding fathers in the distant past.

Slowly delivering the audience into more recent history, the younger generation got a glimpse of their fathers and grandfathers during childhood and their young adult escapades. The background music, "It's a Family Tradition" by Hank Williams Jr. and "I'm Not as Good as I Once Was" by Toby Keith brought a chuckle from the crowd. Suspense preceded each ensuing photo, followed by rounds of applause and awe.

The room rocked with laughter while men cringed, as they heard some of the follow-



Judy Weeks

Vanessa Aguilar gives Manuel Olea his Father's Day prize.

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Judy Weeks

Matthew Otero is surrounded by his grandchildren, (L-R) Koby, Ivan, Brendan and Lauriel.

ing remarks from their offspring: "Dad, you used to be so skinny!", "Where did you get that old jalopy?", "I didn't know that you used to be handsome." Although these were classic statements, nothing could compete with one young lady's mistake. "Dad, I didn't know you were married before," followed by her mother's shout, "That's me 20 years and four children ago!"

Several past family portraits filled the screen, reminding the participants that this was a golden opportunity for an updated version to include their extended families, grandchildren and even a few great-grandchildren. Following the blessing, a delicious catered buffet was provided by Sonny's BBQ featuring ribs, pork and chicken with ample side dishes. Dessert included a Father's Day cake sporting a fisherman with his trophies and two huge pans of banana pudding.

Because of a previous engagement,

President Richard Bowers was unable to attend the festivities.

However, he wished to convey the following sentiments, "We recognize many holidays throughout the year, but among the most important are those in which we pay tribute to our ancestors, both past and present. They represent our roots and from them we draw our strength, determination and self reliance which enables us to shape our future. It is from their humble beginnings that we have achieved our current success and we must never forget them."

Co-sponsored by Immokalee Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar and the Chairman's Office, the event was coordinated by Tracy DelArrosa, Vanessa Aguilar, Cecilia Pequeno and Juanita Martinez with the assistance of the Recreation Department, Youth Ranch Director Kenny Joe Davis and his assistant Gabriel Acosta provided music, announcer and technical support.



Judy Weeks

It's a happy Father's Day for Dennis Gonzales as he shares it with his wife, Susan Davis, holding 1-month-old Denise, and sons, Dennis Jr. and Christopher.



Judy Weeks

The Immokalee Gym was filled with community members celebrating Father's Day.

Education ♦ Emahaayeeke ♦ Kerretv

Ahfachkee Kindergartners Graduate to First Grade

By Susan Etchebarria

BIG CYPRESS — Many teary-eyed parents, friends and invited guests watched their Ahfachkee School kindergartners performing like little grown-ups as they marched solemnly down the aisle between the lunchroom tables to the traditional music of *"Pomp and Circumstance."* Hands held straight down by their sides, the 5- and 6-year-olds took slow deliberate steps in procession as their names were called out from the microphone one at a time.

Family members and guests packed the large cafeteria, transformed into an auditorium for this special day. They were eager to see Jack Aguilar, Cassandra Alexander, Charles Alexander, Eliza Billie, Mya Cypress, Nigel Wells, Leslie Gopher, Precious Jimmie, Alyssa Osceola, Thoya Robbins and Cade Gibson, graduates from kindergarten to 1st grade on May 30.

Several Tribal leaders attended the ceremony, along with Principal Terry Porter and Master of Ceremonies Keeno King, who all praised the children's academic accomplishments. Chairman Mitchell Cypress told the children that school graduations are events in their lives they will always remember. He said it is always good to see Seminole youth get an education.

"Students, you have 12 years ahead of you and hard work to do, but the teachers, the staff and the principal will be here to help you," said Cypress.

Board President Richard Bowers told the kindergartners they are taking a big step into a new world.

"Get on the right foot and make good choices," he said. "You are a special group of graduates because you are graduating the same year as the 50th Anniversary of the Seminole Tribe of Florida," he said. "That is something you can brag about; and hopefully one day you will turn out to be future leaders of the Tribe."

Before the presentation of certificates, the children got up on the stage and sang the inspirational song *"I Am A Promise"*. Then, their kindergarten teacher, Ms. Bernadette Schyvinch, addressed her students.

"As we begin our school year I hear statements like 'I can't' or 'It's too hard,'" she said. "So every year I have a motto. This year's motto was 'I am fantastic!'"

She told guests and parents it is her job to shape the children's attitudes about learning and to help them believe in themselves. She said learning is hard but



Susan Etchebarria

Kindergarten graduation class: (L-R, First Row) Alyssa Burnett Osceola, Precious Jimmie, Mya Cypress, Eliza Billie, Cassandra Alexander, (L-R, Second Row) Cade Gibson, Charles Alexander, Nigel Wells, Jack Aguilar and Leslie Gopher. Graduate Thoya Robbins is not pictured.



Susan Etchebarria

The graduating class sings "I Am A Promise."

once the child has learned how to do something, it becomes a "piece of cake."

"When I put my head into my hands wondering what more I can do to help the children, all of a sudden I hear 'Miss S., it's a piece of cake, right!'" Schyvinch said.

Each child then told the audience what they want to be when they grow up.

Many said they wanted to be veterinarians, one child said he wants to be a firefighter, another said a nurse and of course there was one aspiring racecar driver.

The ceremony then ended with applause for the beaming kindergarten graduates and an invitation for all to enjoy a wonderful outdoor banquet at the school's Culture Camp.

Eighth Grade Students Receive Diplomas

By Susan Etchebarria

BIG CYPRESS — "Graduation is a time when there are lots of contrasts," said commencement speaker Dr. Arlen Payne, pastor at the reservation's New Testament Baptist Church, at the eighth grade Ahfachkee School graduation. "It's an ending but also a beginning — it's a crossroads. It's a time when you are leaving behind, but looking ahead."

On May 31 at 1:30 p.m., four smiling students left behind their grade school years, looking ahead to high school. Parents, grandparents and special guests came to honor the four 2007 graduates: Billy Cypress, Reggie Cypress, Hudson Jumper and Tia Osborne.

Jumper led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Seminole Flag and Osborne led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. The processional *"Pomp and Circumstance"* was played by music teacher, Lana Payne and Keeno King, event emcee, led the invocation.

Principal Terry Porter welcomed all the parents warmly and said that though the eighth grade class is small in number, their graduation has significance for him. He told the audience that four is the most sacred of all numbers in Native American tradition.

"My elders taught me that everything in life occurs in fours: the life cycles, and the seasons. So the symbolism of four young people graduating this year, my first year as principal, is special to me."

Porter said he was thinking the night before graduation about what to say. He has a friend whose son was injured serving in Iraq. He wanted to tell the young students how fortunate we are to live in a free country. He asked the veterans in the room to stand.

"I just want to acknowledge those people here today who have fought for our freedom," he said.

After the processional, the graduates, wearing caps and gowns, sat up front. Parents were taking lots of photos as the young girl and three boys blushed over all the attention they were getting.

The graduates were listening attentively as speakers addressed com-

ments to them directly. The students received words of wisdom from Payne about the ABCs of growing up successfully.

"A stands for appreciation," he said. "Have you ever seen a turtle sitting on a fence post? One thing you know is he didn't get there all by himself. He owed thanks to someone for the view. As grads, you have to appreciate your parents... and all they have done for you to get this far."

He advised them to appreciate their teachers and friends, and everyone who helped when they needed it.

"B is for belief," he said. "Believe God has a plan for you."

settle for second best," he said.

The pastor recited a passage from the book of Solomon that says *"Do it with all your might."*

As he ended his speech, the pastor told the graduates to follow God's will and know that He truly cares for them and their life.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress spoke next and he told the graduates that the Tribe is behind them "120 percent" to help them achieve their goals.

"Go get an education and come back and run the Tribe," he said.

Cypress added that times have certainly changed for the Tribe and suggested the students be grateful for that.

"In my time, when I went to school in the early 50s and 60s, the school here was just a wooden government building and it was heated with a wood stove," he said. "Goodwill brought us blankets. Today you have the best school in the state of Florida. It is accredited. You have a Native American principal and good staff."

Board President Richard Bowers told the grads the Tribe is proud of them. He said he was glad to see the Seminole designs on their caps and gowns.

"Never forget where you come from and remember you are Seminole," Bowers said. "Remember your history. I want you to be unconquered in your lives. Keep your head up. You will have lots of challenges in our lives."

Bowers also told the graduates they should remember their graduation from the eighth grade, which took place during the 50th Anniversary of the Tribe's formation in 1957. He said they are fortunate to have a school to attend like Ahfachkee.

"When I was raised at Brighton Reservation we had to get up at 6 a.m. to catch the bus to school," he said. "Now you have a good school in their own community."

Keeno King then invited everyone to enjoy a dinner after the graduation recessional.

"Ahfachkee School would like to thank the Board and Council of the Seminole Tribe of Florida for their support," King said in closing.



Susan Etchebarria

Grad (L-R) Billy Cypress, Tia Osborne, Hudson Jumper and Reggie Cypress

The pastor said the "happiest you will ever be is when you discover God's plan for you and you carry it out."

"C" is for Care," he said. He told the grads to "take time to care about the people around you, in your community. Sit down and talk to your elders. Ask them what it was like for them growing up." He also said to "care about younger children who look up to you."

"D" is for determination," he said. "Make up your mind you want to accomplish something, perhaps you want to be a lawyer or president of the Seminole Tribe, then have the discipline to follow through and don't let any excuse stop you."

Last in the alphabet advisory, Payne said "E is for excellence."

"Never settle for anything less than excellence. Never use any excuse to



Water Resources' Earth Day Art Contest

Submitted by the Water Resources Department

BIG CYPRESS — The Water Resource Department would like to thank the students and staff at the Ahfachkee School for participation and attendance at the first Annual Seminole Tribe of Florida Earth Day Fair, held on April 22. The students participated in an art contest where they had to draw a

scene representing the theme: "Earth Day in My Backyard."

The school was divided into three judging groups based on their grade: Pre-K-2, 3-6 and 7-12. One winner was picked from each group and that winning picture was displayed on the back of the T-shirts that were given away to the attendees of the Earth Day Fair.



Annabelle Whiteshield
Age 6, 1st Grade



Jathanial Brooks
Age 7



Kaylee J
Age 14, 7th Grade



Ricky Joe
Age 11, 6th Grade



Sylvia Gonzalez
Age 12, 5th Grade

Education ♦ Emahaayeeke ♦ Kerretv



The Real Cops of Indian Country

By Ramona Kiyoshk

Law enforcement, like most issues in Indian Country, is painted in popular fiction and in the movies with a brush of romance and mystique. When Robert Redford adapted Tony Hillerman's mystery novels for PBS, he chose the youthful Saulteaux actor, Adam Beach, to portray Jim Chee, the existentialist Navajo cop. Beach, as Officer Chee, pursuing crazed killers across the Navajo desert in a macho four-wheel drive vehicle, was young, handsome and vulnerable — the image Hollywood knew and expected.

Another author, Kirk Mitchell, who writes about Native American lawmen, gives us Bureau of Indian Affairs Criminal Investigator Comanche Emmett Parker. Parker is handsome, virile, incorruptible and bullet-proof.

Popular culture does its part to help one escape from the hard realities of everyday life. But what is it truly like for the real men and women who slap on a badge, holster a gun and kiss a spouse goodbye every day before they head out to serve and protect the citizens of Indian Country?

This book, *Tribal Policing: Asserting Sovereignty, Seeking Justice*, by Eileen Luna-Firebaugh, assistant professor of Native American law and policy at the University of Arizona, took eight years to research and compile and is filled with telling data. Samuel Walker, professor emeritus of criminal justice at the University of Nebraska at Omaha writes: "No other book describes the current state of Tribal policing in such rich detail. It benefits greatly from intensive research on Tribal policing by the author over the last several years. Nor does any other book place Tribal police in the broader historical, legal, and institutional contexts that this book does."

Tribal policing is not new. Before the arrival of Europeans, the social structure of Native American peoples was maintained by designated societies or clans whose duties were to ensure order, peace, protection and survival. They not only kept order, but determined what form law enforcement would take.

The philosophy of those early peace officers was to act on the behalf of the greater good, do what was best for all the members of the Tribe, and to act within the spiritual and societal guidelines of their people. That would change as times changed, as the relationship with Europeans changed, and when the Native Americans were moved from their traditional homes to reservations.

However, justice by Indians, for Indians, in Indian Country was recognized in the treaties from the beginning. Always there was the acknowledgment by the Europeans of aboriginal sovereignty: that the original inhabitants were a nation and had to be negotiated with as such. Time and politics would see the interpretation of sovereignty change sometimes for the worse, and other times for the better.

According to the Luna-Firebaugh's research, the Tribal police-men of today see their job as "a relationship" to the community they serve, as opposed to non-native policemen who believe they are performing a function or

a role. Tribal police believe they are there to solve problems, rather than enforce laws and punish perpetrators.

For those who love history, this book is rich with events about policing from pioneer times to the present. The role of the policeman in those early days shifted from protecting a community through Tribal law to controlling a captive people applying the laws of the Europeans. The duties of early Tribal policemen were often manipulated to encourage assimilation, and the officers were required to set an example by dressing like white men, cutting their hair, becoming monogamous, and participating in the destruction of cultural traditions and Tribal leadership. Often the whole Tribe was punished for the wrong-doing of an individual.

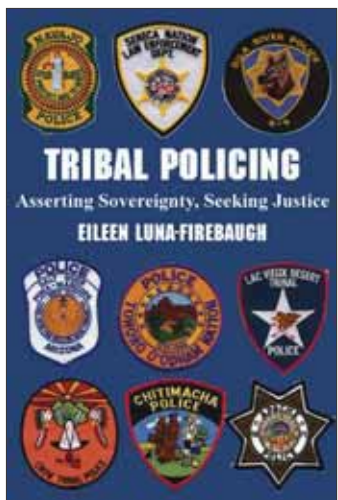
The current state of Tribal policing, as stated in this book, is backed by intensive research. Luna-Firebaugh writes about the challenges facing Tribal police today. Issues such as alcohol and substance abuse, domestic violence, child abuse and juvenile crime are high on the list of problems that an under-trained and under-funded police force must contend with.

Suicide by the young in communities where the people live in squalor, poverty and unemployment is six times higher than the national average. In Indian Country, the pay is generally low, the officers are often lacking in formal education and training, and the challenges of the job are overwhelming. When good personnel are hired and trained, many are lured to off-reserve precincts where pay, prestige and on-the-job support are better. Tribal police forces must deal with unreliable, out-of-date vehicles, poor cellular telephone service, no 911 response service, understaffed offices and a violent crime rate higher than the national average.

Still there is optimism in this field. Federal and other dollars are being routed to recruiting, training and paying salaries that will entice and maintain a healthy and dedicated police force. Culturally concerned officers with the interests of the citizens of Indian Country at heart are being trained to ensure sovereignty, justice and self-determination.

When the local cop kisses his or her spouse and kids goodbye and heads out to work, it will be with commitment. When the community is safe, other things, such as the economy and employment will get a chance to improve. With the support of the community, the Tribal cop, whose image may have become tarnished over time, will present a new standard for pride, justice and prosperity in Indian Country.

Tribal Policing: Asserting Sovereignty, Seeking Justice, by Eileen Luna-Firebaugh should be read by anyone considering joining any branch of law enforcement or becoming a lawyer, in Indian Country or elsewhere. The background is essential for sensitivity training, the statistics are mind-boggling, and the vibrant history of how Native Americans managed their own systems of justice offers an example of how responsible law enforcement should work. I would also recommend this book as a research tool for police stations, schools and public libraries.



Tribal Policing: Asserting Sovereignty, Seeking Justice
By Eileen Luna-Firebaugh
University of Arizona Press
168 pages, 6 illustrations, 8 tables
February 2007
\$29.95

Schools Recognize Immokalee Students

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — As the 2006-2007 school year drew to a close, awards ceremonies were scheduled at each of the schools within the vicinity of the Immokalee Reservation and numerous community members were recognized.

Community Christian School of LaBelle

A graduation ceremony was held on May 21 for the kindergarten students at the Community Christian School of LaBelle. Principal Shelton Gwaltney gave an opening address followed by a song presentation by the kindergarten students. The auditorium was filled to capacity with family and friends who had come in support of these young scholars.

Noella O'Donnell's son, Hunter, was recognized for several outstanding achievements. He received an "A" Bible Award, a Perfect Attendance Pin, a trophy for maintaining an "A" Average in Scholastic Achievement for the year and a Certificate of Graduation.

He is looking forward to attending the first grade in the fall. Cecilia Pequeno's son, Kaden, received an "A" in Bible Study and a graduation certificate. He also will be entering the first grade.

The Elementary Awards

Presentation took place on the evening of May 22, with the teachers joining the principal in acknowledging the accomplishments of the students. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. and Christian flags, the students gathered on the stage and performed two songs for their appreciative audience.

The theme for the principal's address was taken from *Proverbs 22:6* which says, "Train up your child in the way he should go, and even when he is old he will not depart from it."

During the third grade presentations, Chelsey Ford, daughter of Michelle Ford, received the Rising Star Trophy for outstanding scholastic improvement, an "A" Bible Award and a Perfect Attendance Pin. She will advance to the fourth grade next year.

Learning Center of Immokalee

Preschoolers attending the Learning Center of Immokalee participated in a graduation ceremony on May 24 in anticipation of their attending kindergarten in the fall. The center had been attractively decorated for the occasion and the students



(L-R) Jillian Rodriguez and Jada Holdiness pose with their kindergarten teacher, Mr. Cavazos.

performed several songs for their families and friends. The program included a demonstration of their learning skills.

In addition to graduation certificates, the students received awards for good behavior, artistic talents and achievements. Shyanna Escobar and Kegan Sanchez both excelled and are looking forward to entering Village Oaks Elementary.

Highlands Elementary School

The kindergarten graduation at Highlands Elementary School followed a theme of the "Kinder Emmys." The stage was covered with an arch of balloons, large wooden "K" and a red star of achievement. The students had worked hard for several weeks preparing an extraordinary program for the occasion, which included several songs and recitations.

Following the youngsters' performance, their teacher, Mr. Cavazos presented the student awards and graduation certificates. Among

those honored were Jillian Rodriguez, daughter of Rhonda Nunez, and Jada Holdiness, daughter of Jimmy Wayne Holdiness and Ada Campos. Both young ladies excelled during the school year and took their turn on the stage for their accomplishments.

Mirror Lakes Elementary

Laurissa DelaRosa attended the fourth grade at Mirror Lakes Elementary in Lehigh Acres, Fla. during the past school year. She is the daughter of Amy Yzaguirre and Frankie DelaRosa. Laurissa received the highest awards in her class for the 2006-2007 school year. Scoring a 5 on the fourth grade FCAT reading test was just the beginning of her many accomplishments acknowledged during the End of the Year ceremony.

As Outstanding Student of the Year, Laurissa earned Excellence Awards in reading, math, science and comprehensive skills. She achieved 100



Jillian Rodriguez takes the stage with her teacher, Mr. Cavazos, at Highlands Elementary School.



Chelsey Ford receives a Rising Star Award at the Community Christian School of LaBelle.

points in the Advanced Reading Program and a 4.0 in the Florida Proficiency in Writing Program.

Her position on the All "A" Honor Roll for the entire year preceded the Ellis Team Award for Social Studies Excellence and a Certificate of Appreciation in News Design and Ad Competition.

Immokalee Middle School

Four members of the Immokalee Tribal community were recognized during awards proceedings at the Immokalee Middle School on May 25. A short program had been prepared by the students and staff prior to the presentation of awards.

Aaron Alvarado, son of Roy and Mary Lou Alvarado, received an Honorable Mention for his contribution to the Water Conservation Contest; David Billie, son of David and Maria Billie, received a Certificate of Recognition for his contribution to the 2007 Drop Safer Contest; Christopher Briscoll, son of Dennis Gonzales and Susan Davis received a National Physical Fitness Award; and Juliza Martinez, daughter of Juanita Martinez was honored for scholastic achievement.



(L-R) Seminole Education Intervention Specialist Diana Rocha, David Billie, Christopher Briscoll, Juliza Martinez, Aaron Alvarado and Victoria Presley of Seminole Education in Immokalee gather at Immokalee Middle School following the Awards Ceremony.

Education ♦ Emahaayeeke ♦ Kerretv



Naples Community Education Awards recipients with their families and sponsors.

Judy Weeks

Education Program Attendees Honored at Banquet

By Judy Weeks

NAPLES — The Sunset Room at the Beach Club Hotel in Naples was transformed with a Disney Cruise theme for the Education Incentive Awards Banquet on June 9. The banquet honored Seminole Tribal students enrolled in the Naples Education Program.

Upon arriving, the young scholars and their families were greeted by Mickey Mouse in a room filled with balloons. Water-print tablecloths and bowls filled with goldfish for centerpieces transported the participants into the cruise atmosphere.

The parents of the Naples students are very active participants in their children's education and their advisory committee works long hours in an attempt to enhance their learning experience. The parents' investment in their children's future was obviously worth the effort as each of the youngsters was honored for their achievements.

Human Resources Director Lee Zepeda welcomed the group and gave

opening remarks before asking Cory Billie to offer the blessing.

Following the buffet, the President Richard Bowers addressed the gathering.

"We are here today to celebrate our children, who are our future," Bowers said. "I would like very much to recognize their teachers who are helping us to shape this future generation and let them know how much we appreciate their efforts."

Bowers then introduced the Immokalee Seminole Education staff of Victoria Presley and Alicia McIntyre before calling Intervention Specialist Diana Rocha to the podium.

Rocha talked about the rewards of education being achieved through responsibility, as well as accountability.

"These incentive awards are our way of saying that we are proud of you and recognize how hard it is for you to get out of bed every day, go to school, meet the challenges of your teachers and develop a positive attitude," she said. "We real-

ize that your parents are behind you all the way, helping to make these things happen. It is a team effort and we are very proud of all of you."

Returning to Bowers, he acknowledged, "When you are young, I know it is very difficult to do all the things people are asking of you. Beginning with preschool and kindergarten, a whole new world opens up for you. Everywhere you turn, people are setting goals for your achievement and at six years old, the 12th grade is a long way off and appears unreachable."

Pointing to O.B. Osceola Sr., Ingraham Billie Jr. and Tahama Osceola, Bowers continued, "Respect and learn from your elders. They have made a long journey to arrive here today. They grew up in chickens deep in the Everglades, worked hard to adapt to their new environment and raised their children under adverse conditions to prepare a way for you. Draw strength from them. Go beyond today and look forward. You have a bright future and your opportunities are limitless."

Inviting the educational staff and Naples Liaison O.B. Osceola Jr. to come forward, Zepeda began recognizing the students for their accomplishments. Certificates of Achievement, medallions, trophies and more were distributed. Each student also received a backpack embroidered with the Seminole Education Department logo.

Following the festivities, participants were asked to look under their chairs for an orange sticker which entitled them to become new pet owners by rewarding them with the goldfish centerpieces.

Ross Zepeda: GPA of 3.00-3.75, Attendance Award
 Nicole Slavik: GPA of 3.00-3.75
 Nicholas Zeped: GPA of 3.00-3.75, Scholastic Award
 Broden Hagen: GPA of 3.00-3.75
 Matthew Billie: GPA of 3.76-3.99, Attendance Award, Scholastic Award
 Corinne Zepeda: GPA of 3.76-3.99, Attendance Award
 Victoria Tucker: GPA of 3.00-3.75
 Marissa Osceola: GPA of 3.76-3.99 and Scholastic Award
 Bryce Osceola: GPA of 3.76-3.99 and Advanced Classes Award
 Kaitlin Billy: GPA of 3.00-3.75
 Dakota Wheeler: GPA of 3.00-3.75
 Jessica Osceola: GPA of 3.76-3.99



Tribal Education Intervention Specialist Diana Rocha acknowledges the hard work of the Naples students.

Judy Weeks



President Richard Bowers (R) joins Tribal elders (L-R) Douglas Osceola, Tahama Osceola, O.B. Osceola Sr. and Ingraham Billie Jr. in honoring this year's outstanding students of the Naples Tribal community.

Judy Weeks



Marissa Osceola accepts an Award for Scholastic Achievement from Lee Zepeda.

Judy Weeks



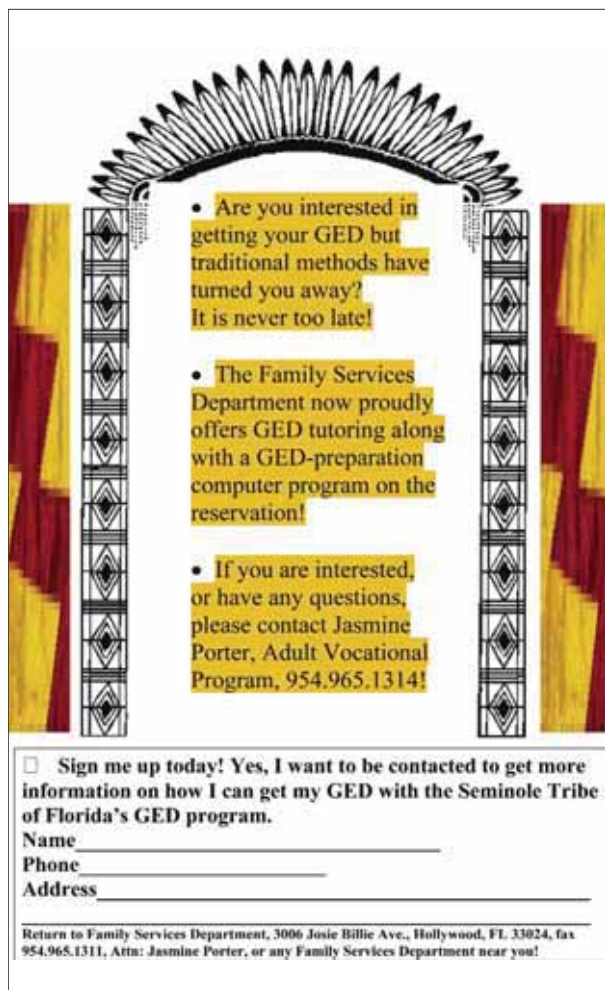
Naples Liaison O.B. Osceola Jr. and his daughter Bryce join hands with Mickey Mouse as they celebrate a very successful school year.

Judy Weeks



Naples Education Incentive Awards recipients pose with their Tribal Officials and education staff at the awards banquet.

Judy Weeks



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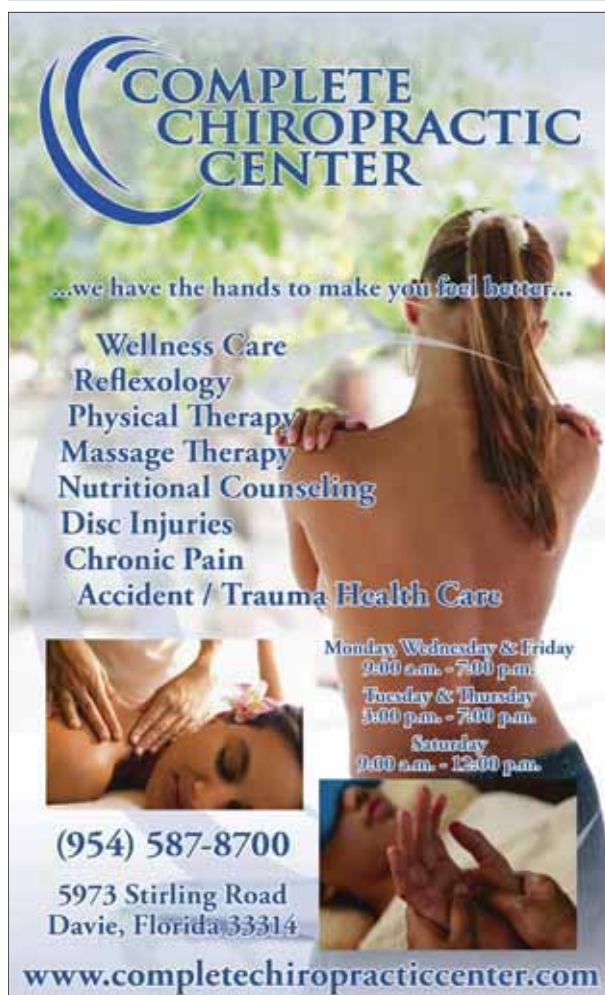
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Poetry's Shimmer and Glare: An Essay

By Elgin Jumper

As far back as I can remember, poetry's presence, in one form or another, has so resonated. Often I was "stopping by woods on snowy evenings" with Robert Frost, or "raging, raging against the dying of the light" with Dylan Thomas, and becoming inspired and reading more and more poetry.

This led me, much later on in life, to pursue the long-held dreams of my own poetry. It was at long last realized in 2006 with the publication of *Nightfall*, my first collection of poetry, and will soon be recorded with several poetry videos as well.

But I was alone a lot when I was younger, and reading poetry just seemed to click with me; I could work through certain difficulties with the words and imagery. And of course, that inexorably led me to poets such as Robert Louis Stevenson and his "Boats" and his beautiful rhymes and rhythms and Edgar Allan Poe's poem about Helen of Troy, "To Helen" and even Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's "Havatha."

All these poets I encountered in school

libraries and after-class

education programs;

poets whose words

transported me, took

me places I wouldn't

have otherwise been

taken to. And yet the

miracles presented

themselves unto me, as

if unto a long-standing

friend, faithful and

consoling, and I knew

I always wanted to be

there.

In no time at

all, I came to the realization

that I loved being inspired, and that

I treasured so the reading

and writing more and more, for, surely, it

had become habit-forming, and left me

captivated and wondering

how in the world could I have written

such truth, such beauty.

It's beyond me. But that's OK. Because for

me, poetry's an art

form — truth rather than fact — and perceived

through deep passions and profound feelings and emotions,

and yet with much work in the creation and in the expression, seeming as if mere remembrance.

I took every opportunity to read, write and recite to myself, which gave me familiarity with the rhythms that were immersed in song and sound. All the while, the poetry pulsed with the radiant qualities necessary to transcend the ordinary.

When I was young, it was my sister, Alana,

who gave me the love of reading and writing and literary pursuits. She had shelves with multitudes of books and I recall going there, standing in front of the books, looking up and being inspired. To write and create art: That's what I wanted to do in life!

It didn't always turn out the way I desired it, though. But like my sister, I grew to cherish words

and language — and not only the Miccosukee and Creek, which the Seminoles speak — but American English as well. And as for the Miccosukee language, the comprehension is there for me, but sadly, that essential fluency, which is so needed in these times we live, has slightly diminished through city life. But you really have to credit those who keep up the language and continue to preserve its unique poetry for future generations. Sho-na-bi-sha.

But I'll keep on keeping on and when times get rough, and the road becomes jagged and unsmooth, I'll think of Langston Hughes, and his poem, "Mother to Son." I'll think about how life isn't always "a crystal stair" and how the mother in the poem encourages her son to strive onward, urging, "Don't you turn back/Don't you set down on the steps/Cause you finds it's kinder hard/Don't you fall now..."

To me, that poem has power, so much power. Hughes never missed a thing that went down in Harlem, for he took it all in and wrote it down and he was a great interpreter of the American experience.

The enjoyment of reading, writing and reciting poetry required an appreciation for language, and for how the poem can come to life when it's being read aloud. I tended to do this when no one else was around, and even then, reciting to myself in monotonous and murmurs scarcely discernible. And yet I can still picture that small Seminole boy in the bedroom he shared with his older brother, the younger brother a boy who fancied himself a poet, and not quite enunciating just yet, but uttering poetry nonetheless, and eventually to become — "always becoming" — a Seminole poem longing to give voice to passions.

In my earlier reading years, I would journey



through worlds other than this one, "in the realms of gold," as the poet, John Keats referred to the volumes and texts he held so dear. Now I recognize the simple truth is that reading poetry — mingled with writing and the creation of art — did something mystical for me and went even further to the affecting my soul than any other activity I could ever come up with.

I love the feelings I get when I read something new! "Ah, now that's true!" I exclaim. "That's right!" And though I've never purported to understand it all, still, I'm so very grateful for the prominence poetry's taken in my life.

All I know is that poetry has power. It holds sway over me, and as long as I partake of the lovely nectar and ambrosia therein, the meaning and purpose shall always be there, for I have seen the constant morning! And I know it has power.

For this essay is being written for a poetry submerged in inspiration; a poetry that keeps moving, continues to live and breath no matter what, keeps becoming, continues to grow and unfold and dazzle,

but which also has areas that are often incomprehensible, unexplainable. To that I say fervently, "It's all right! It's OK." for I'll still cherish those realms of gold, for it's just like stepping into another room filled with overwhelming light and wondrous life!

So I'm reading poetry and writing poetry and now reciting poetry for real. And that's what fascinates me without cease. But I strive to never forsake the art, the frequent works of art, paintings, sculpture, etc., and to me those are silent words, a poetry without words, and their own language, incapable of enunciations and syllables and syntax, because the truth and beauty is already apparent in the rendering.

And as if everything relied on poetry, I carouse the crowded shelves of the local bookstores and for some reason, the booksellers there seem to recognize me — I haven't the slightest why, mind you. Perhaps the reasons dwell within the truth that I spend so much time there. Who knows (smile)?

But the poetry keeps moving on, keeps snowballing, and always becoming, forever returning like the silver waves along the shoreline, greeting me as great art, yet drawing away, returning with coolness and foam and all the time wet and powerful. Then it draws away again to reappear once more, making its mark upon the weathered pages of my warmest days.

And a lot of times, as if an exquisitely-wrapped gift from God, I'll find new poets to take my breath away, to send me even deeper into fresh territories of poetics, journeying on, and extremely uplifted, I never know how long I'll stay there, reading, writing, reciting! I'm so grateful, truth to tell, and therefore thank the hallowed heavens above for the feelings and emotions I've experienced.

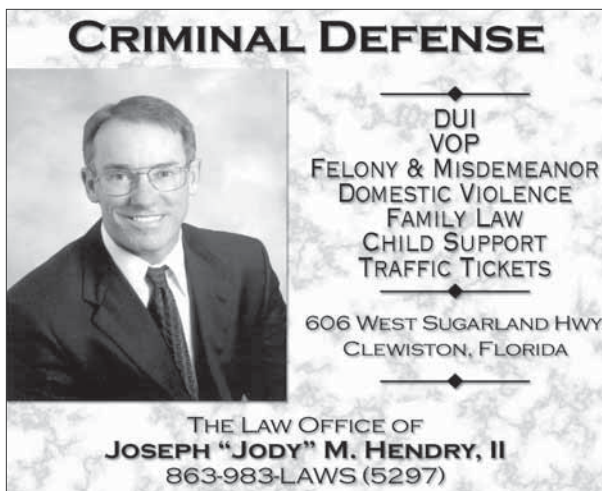
Now poetry has embedded itself deeply into my heart, into my very being, and I'll continue to sail to the place William Butler Yeats referred to as "Byzantium." For there is such a place, you see, where poetry comes from. But where it is I could not say, and yet it comes to me from afar, and I journey there by a paradox of phrases and imageries. But oh what a lovely a place it is!

And through this poetry, an encouraging place in life was found, a place of golden light, a place of meaning and purpose, a place once prevented by unfortunate circumstances, but now a place well-realized. And so into this extraordinary paradise I love so much, I emerge time and time again, out from the shadows of the past, and into the light.

Now I write and create art, participate and contribute to the orange-red sunburst of a new morning in rays of hope, praying for a calm flow of life's rivers. I'll continue to read, write, and recite poetry. I'll struggle with "the problems of the human heart in conflict with itself," to come to grips with and work through the poetry of the human spirit. A poetry that's constantly in motion, indeed, a fantastic poetry that expresses the wonder and awe I feel for poetry at times changing from feelings sorrowful, then abruptly to feelings cheerful, so that all along the smooth roads and pathways, the gentlest breezes, and by the way-side, the most colorful, most fragrant gardens and flowers imaginable!

"If I knew where poems came from, I'd go there."

— Michael Longley



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Community Celebrates at Summer Block Party

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — The Family Services Department coordinated with other administrative departments in organizing a Youth Block Party for the Immokalee Seminole community on June 1. Originally scheduled to take place at the Culture Village at the Immokalee Seminole Youth & Livestock Ranch, a summer rain storm forced a last minute relocation to the Gym.

This resilient group quickly adapted to their new quarters and by the time the doors opened at 10 a.m., they were ready to roll. Junior Miss Florida Seminole Tianna Garcia welcomed everyone and talked to the group about helping to make this a safe, healthy, fun-filled summer vacation.

The Education Department had a large variety of art and craft supplies to assist the young artisans in making jewelry boxes, feathered headdresses, picture frames, greeting cards, paper dolls, airplanes and more. A continual crowd covered in glitter, glue and magic markers surrounded their booth throughout the party. There was something for every age group and many of the older children appeared to really enjoy helping the younger ones.

Assistant Director of Education Emma Brown and Education Advisors Juliza Collazo, Rebecca Bowers and Linda Iley traveled all the way from Hollywood and Brighton to assist Immokalee's Victoria Presley and Diana Rocha in their creative endeavor.

The girls were especially intrigued with the artificial food on display at the Health Booth. Nutritionist Charlotte Porcaro kept a captive audience as she discussed food groups, healthy eating and exercise. They enjoyed nutritious snacks as she quizzed them on the food pyramid.

Julie Bennett and Valerie Morone, representing Family Services, talked about prevention and peer pressure in the Family Services area and passed out some rather clever little toys and games. Petra Solimon of the Florida Governor's Council on Indian Affairs made the youngsters aware of the upcoming Youth Summer Program scheduled for July 7-21 in Tallahassee.

Seminole Police Department Officers Laura Herron and Michelle Clay interacted with the community, while delivering some subtle messages about substance abuse prevention and wholesome activities. The children were quickly attracted to the variety of toys, games, school supplies, comics and coloring books which lined their table.

Representatives from the Community Care for the Elderly staff were on hand to make the residents aware of their newly-opened department and its benefits, with attractive handouts for the adults.

The Recreation Department talked with the boys and girls about the programs that they have scheduled for the summer. Not only are athletic activities available in the Gym, but each week has been organized to provide a series of adventures such as the



(L-R) Willie Smith and James Mora display the feathered headdresses they made at the Block Party.



(L-R) Cassandra Jimmie and Jillian Rodriguez working on projects at the Education booth.



(L-R) Juliza Collazo, Linda Iley, Emma Brown, Rebecca Bowers, Diana Rocha and Victoria Presley (seated) from the Seminole Education Department had one of the most popular booths at the Youth Block Party.



(L-R) Charlotte Porcaro, Elsa Zamora and Mary Lou Alvarado distribute a healthy luncheon.



Nutritionist Charlotte Porcaro talks about the importance of exercise and healthy eating habits with the children.



(L-R) Julie Villareal and Laurissa DelaRosa won the dance contest.

movies, water parks, putt-putt golf, the bowling alley, the zoo, nature parks and much more. In addition, the Youth Ranch will be organizing fun days every few weeks providing an opportunity for horseback riding, picnics, wagon trips through the woods and contests.

The Culture Department was running neck-and-neck with Education in being the most popular activity at the Block Party. Amy and Valeene Clay were joined by Ann Billie in teaching the children how to make Seminole dolls, dream catchers, bead necklaces and bracelets.

The boys and girls were like a swarm of bees around this booth throughout the day and appeared to be thrilled with the items they completed. In answer to the most frequently asked question: "Yes, there will be Culture Classes held at the Library on a regular schedule throughout the summer."

Regardless of age, everyone was attracted to the wonderful performance by R.C. North and his band Hybiskus. With his father, Robert North Sr., on the drums and Family Services' Eric Bricker on the guitar, R.C. wowed the group with his repertoire of music from a variety of genres.

Talking to the audience between each selection, he delivered a powerful message to children of all ages. They definitely took up to him as a role model and were shocked to learn that he enjoys riding his bike around and isn't in any hurry to start driving.

"Take time to enjoy your youth, it will be gone before you know it and big people have big responsibilities," he cautioned.

Laurissa DelaRosa and her cousin Julie Villareal won the Family Services Department dance competition with their hip-hop and tap renditions. Girls' Club sponsor Linda Freeman of Family Services organized a story telling contest that drew several entries. Weaving their tales, the future authors told scary, funny and cute little stories drawn from the recesses of their minds. The winners were Laurissa DelaRosa, Julie Villareal, Aliyah and Alicia Mora.

Before offering the blessing at lunch time,

Robert North addressed the children. "Youth are more precious than silver and gold," he said. "You are our most valuable possession and we cherish you. You are our tomorrow."



R.C. North offered exceptional entertainment for the Block Party and words of wisdom for Immokalee's youth.



Junior Miss Florida Seminole Tianna Garcia welcomes the Block Party participants.



The Culture Department table was surrounded by eager young participants throughout the day.



(L-R) Eliza Mora, Destiny Jimmie and Jillian Rodriguez listen as Alicia Mora tells her story to Linda Freeman.

Health Corner ♦ Chah-nee-ken chàò-ke ♦ Cvfeknetv onakv



The BC Community Center staff created this inspiring scenery for the awards.

BC Weight Loss Contest Promotes Eating Smart, Playing Hard

Submitted by the Seminole Health Department

BIG CYPRESS — Big Cypress celebrated another successful weight loss competition on May 21. The competition ran from Jan. 10-May 8.

The awards celebration began with a lively game of Food BINGO, where players had to match their cards with clues about food from Big Cypress Dietician Sue Fundingsland. Door prizes that promoted healthy eating and physical activity were given out during the event. Everyone enjoyed the healthy lunch provided and served by Renegade Barbeque.

Big Cypress Tribal Council Representative David Cypress joined the emcees Stan Firschman and Marjorie Meredith on stage to congratulate all the winners and offer words of motivation and praise. Cypress also added a word of thanks to Edna McDuffie, community outreach coordinator, for all her efforts in organizing a successful weight loss contest and awards luncheon.

For information about healthy ways to lose please contact your reservation's health educator and dietician.

Tribal Citizens

Female: 1. Lydia Cypress II, 26 pounds, 2. Diane Hall, 18.5 pounds, 3. Dale Grasshopper, 17 pounds, 4. Renee Tigertail, 13.5 pounds, 4. Cynthia Osceola, 13.5 pounds, 5. Virginia Garcia, 9 pounds; **Male:** 1. Josh Jumper, 13 pounds, 2. Charlie Cypress, 12.5 pounds, 3. Ciscero Osceola, 8 pounds, 4. Alvin Buster Jr., 7 pounds, 5. Jonah Cypress, 2.5 pounds.

Tribal Employees/BC Community Members

Female: 1. Karen Shaw, 23 pounds, 2. Mary Bear, 15 pounds, 3. Evelyn Gilkes, 14 pounds, 4. Brisa Hernandez, 12.5 pounds, 5. Glynnis Bowers, 10 pounds; **Male:** 1. Reanelda Serrano, 34.5 pounds, 2. Stephen Zimnick, 27.5 pounds, 3. Dominique Troadec, 26.5 pounds, 4. Brian Brown, 22 pounds, 5. Warren Melhorn, 21.5 pounds.



Everyone enjoyed the healthy lunch from Renegade Barbeque

New Tribal Member Health Plan Cards and Revised Health Plan Books

Submitted by **Connie Whidden, Health Director**

New Health Plan Cards and books were mailed to Tribal Members at the end of April. These new Cards and Plan Books were effective as of May 1.

New Member Health Plan Card

When you receive your new Health Plan Card, please review your name on your card to ensure it is correct. Begin using your new card immediately and destroy your old Health Plan Card. Please make sure you present your new Health Plan Card to all medical, dental and pharmacy providers prior to receiving services.

In addition, please note that your Social Security number is no longer printed on your Health Plan Card nor is it used as your member identification number. It was replaced by a unique computer assigned identification number that was given to you and your dependents, if applicable. This change was made to protect your privacy and security and to provide protection against identity theft.



Old Card



New Card

Revised Member Health Plan Book

Please review and keep this book on hand. Some of the changes to read over include:

- Chiropractic, acupuncture, and massage therapy;
- Physical, speech, and occupational therapy;
- Smoking cessation;
- Dental implants;
- Eye surgery to correct refractive error;
- Orthodontics; and
- Oral Health Risk Assessment and Examination under age 3.

New Prescription Benefits Information

On May 1, we changed our Pharmacy Benefits Manager from Pharmacy Services Group (PSG) to National Medical Health Card Systems, Inc. (NMHC). There should be no difficulty in getting your prescriptions from your same pharmacy. Please contact one of the Clinics listed below if you would like information on mail order prescriptions or online services offered by NMHC.

We encourage you to utilize the Seminole Pharmacy located on the Hollywood reservation, and for your convenience, we added the Pharmacy's telephone number, (866) 961-7210, to the back of your Health Plan Card. The Pharmacy is open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

You can obtain prescriptions from the Seminole Pharmacy in several ways:

- Drop-off and/or pick-up prescriptions directly at the Pharmacy;
- Receive prescriptions at your home using the mail order service if you reside out of the area; and/or
- Order and pick-up prescriptions through the Seminole Clinic. Orders are delivered to each reservation daily from the Pharmacy.

Please contact the Patient Services Coordinator at one of the Seminole Tribe of Florida Health Clinics listed below if you have not received your new card and book in the mail or if you need to correct your name on your card. Big Cypress Health Clinic, Wendy Long, (863) 983-5151; Hollywood Health Clinic, Karen Lee, (954) 962-2009; Brighton, Tampa, Ft. Pierce Area Health Clinic; Gail McClenithan, (863) 763-0271; Immokalee Health Clinic, Jarissa Yslas, (239) 867-3400.

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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 1994.

ATTENTION:

The Seminole Housing Department is announcing
an after hours emergency contact number.

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Press 2 for Big Cypress & Immokalee

Press 3 for Brighton, Ft. Pierce & Tampa

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Tips on Swimming Pool Safety

Submitted by Hristu Chepa, Environmental Health Program

Summertime is here! Pool Safety Week, May 28-June 5, has just passed, thus inaugurating the beginning of the 2007 pool season. That means that it's time to get the swimming gear and head to the pools.

When it comes to pool safety, the Tribe's pool inspectors are working diligently to assess and correct imminent health and safety hazards in and around the Tribe's community/public pools. But wait — you have an important role to play too! Before you rush over to your favorite pool, there are a few safety tips that you have to remember.

Did you know that every year there are 260 children under the age of five that drown? Pool safety is not just good information, but it could save your life or a loved one's life.

Never leave a child unattended, even if they are good swimmers. Flotation devices should never be substituted for 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 a crisis should arise.

Don't dive or jump into water that is not at least 12 feet deep.

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 bod-

ies 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 Health Department routinely and randomly tests the Tribe's community pool water. Tribal pool inspectors not only look for potential physical hazards but also look to make sure that the water quality of the pool is up to standard.

The Environmental Health Program promptly requests that you report any pool-related hazards to the on-duty pool manager or representative from the Health Department. The department can be reached at (954) 962-2009.

Are We Drinking Enough Water?

Submitted By the Seminole Health Department

I'm sure many of us have heard it a million times — "I'm dying of thirst!" Well, it just might be the case. Water, or H₂O, is made up of two parts hydrogen and one part oxygen. It is essential to human life, yet most people take it for granted.

The human body is made up of approximately 60 percent water, or about 10-12 gallons. So it's important to replenish the body's water supply in order to function properly. In fact, a slight drop of even two percent of our body's water supply can lead to signs of dehydration, such as thirst, rapid heartbeat, dry lips and mouth and feeling lightheaded or dizzy. This is because water is involved in almost every process that is necessary for life.

Water serves as a lubricant for our cells and joints and it regulates body temperature. It helps prevent constipation and forms the base for saliva and regulates metabolism. Water aids in the transportation and absorption of nutrients and helps eliminate waste. In addition to the daily maintenance of our bodies, drinking enough water can reduce the risk of several types of cancer.

Those are just a few examples of how water affects the many systems of our bodies. People need to drink enough water to stay healthy. But how much is really enough?

Although there are many theories about how much we should drink, most experts agree with drinking at least eight to 12 cups of water daily, which can come from drinking water, other beverages and water in foods. General recommendations were set at approximately 16 cups of total water from all beverages and food, for men and 11 cups for women.

However, that might not be enough.

The amount of water needed should be on an individual basis. Certain medications, a high fiber diet and age can increase the need for water. Research says that most adults lose about 2.5 quarts of water per day through sweating, breathing and eliminating waste. Athletes and those living in warmer climates tend to

lose more. These people need to drink more water to make up for greater losses through perspiration and regulation of body temperature. To ensure maintenance of the body's fluid balance, you need to drink water everyday.

There are three important rules to remember when drinking water: Drink twice as much as it takes to quench your thirst; drink frequently throughout the day to prevent dehydration; and drink at least eight glasses daily or one cup for every 20 pounds of body weight. For example, a 150 pound person who does not exercise or work in hot climates needs 7.5 cups.

Some juices and green tea may account for fluid intake. However, it's better to eliminate beverages such as coffee and alcohol. They contain caffeine which promotes urination and therefore water loss.

Some other ways to make sure you're drinking enough water everyday: Take a water break instead of drinking coffee or a soda; keep a container of water handy at your desk; take a drink whenever you walk by a water fountain; and keep a bottle of water handy in your backpack or tote bag.

Another trick to ensure you're drinking enough is to fill a pitcher or jug with your daily allotment of water and keep it with you at all times. As you drink the water, you know you are on your way to drinking enough water to keep you hydrated.

And finally, those frequent trips to the bathroom could help you see if you're drinking enough water. A good indicator that one is drinking enough water is when urine comes out pale yellow to clear. A dark yellow color indicates your body is dehydrated and is concentrating urine in an effort to conserve water.

For more information on hydration or other health topics please call your reservation's health educators: Tina Mennella, Hollywood, (954) 965-1300, Ext. 113; Barbara Boling, Brighton, (863) 763-0271, Ext. 125; Marjorie Meredith, Big Cypress, (863) 983-5798, Ext. 120; and Charlotte Porcario, Immokalee, (239) 867-1300, Ext. 16527.

The Healthy Senior

By Fred Cicetti

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

Q. I'm considering having a hip replaced. What are the odds that this operation will work?

A: The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons says joint replacement surgery is successful in more than nine out of 10 people. And replacement of a hip or knee lasts at least 20 years in about 80 percent of those who have the surgery.

In the procedure, an arthritic or damaged joint is removed and replaced with an artificial joint called a "prosthesis." Artificial joints are medical devices, which must be cleared or approved by the FDA before they can be marketed in the U.S.

The goal of surgery is to relieve the pain in the joint caused by the damage done to cartilage, the tissue that serves as a protective cushion and allows smooth, low-friction movement of the joint. Total joint replacement is considered if other treatment options will not bring relief.

In an arthritic knee, the damaged ends of the bones and cartilage are replaced with metal and plastic surfaces that are shaped to restore knee function. In an arthritic hip, the damaged ball and socket of this joint are replaced by a metal ball and plastic socket. Several metals are used, including stainless steel, alloys of cobalt and chrome, and titanium. The plastic material is durable and wear-resistant polyethylene.

The two most common joints requiring this form of surgery are the knee and hip, which are

weight-bearing. But replacements can also be performed on other joints, including the ankle, foot, shoulder, elbow and fingers.

After total hip or knee replacement you will often stand and begin walking the day after surgery. Initially, you will walk with a walker, crutches or a cane. Most patients have some temporary pain in the replaced joint because the surrounding muscles are weak from inactivity and the tissues are healing, but it will end in a few weeks or months.

Exercise is an important part of the recovery process. After your surgery, you may be permitted to play golf, walk and dance. However, more strenuous sports, such as tennis or running, may be discouraged.

There can be complications from joint-replacement surgery. These include infection, blood clots, loosening of the prosthesis, dislocation of the joint, excessive wear, prosthetic breakage and nerve injury. There are remedies for all of these complications, but sometimes the correction will take more surgery.

Surgeons are refining techniques and developing new ones such as minimal-incision surgery. Instead of a 6- to 12-inch-long incision used in a standard total knee replacement, some surgeons are using a 4- to 5-inch incision. And instead of the typical 10- to 12-inch incision in a total hip replacement, surgeons are operating through one 4-inch cut or two 2-inch cuts.

Minimal incisions reduce trauma, pain and hospital stays. But not all patients are candidates for minimal-incision surgery.



Dear EarthTalk: Is there any proof linking human breast cancer to exposure to chemicals in the environment? Or do researchers think most cases of breast cancers are genetically inherited?

— Bettine Carroll, New York, NY

A groundbreaking research study coordinated by the non-profit Silent Spring Institute and recently published by the American Cancer Society found that synthetic chemicals have likely played a large role in the rising incidence of breast cancer throughout the world over the last half-century.

The study identified 216 man-made chemicals — including those found in everyday products like pesticides, cosmetics, dyes, drugs and gasoline (and diesel exhaust) — that have been shown to cause breast cancer in animals. Researchers believe these substances, many of which "mimic" naturally occurring hormones once inside the body, are also to blame for the increasing prevalence of human breast cancer.

According to epidemiologist Devra Lee Davis of the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public Health and one of the lead researchers on the new study, the more hormones cycling through a woman's body during her lifetime, the more likely she is to develop breast cancer. Synthetic chemicals that mimic hormones magnify the risk, as the body doesn't know the difference between its own real hormones and other introduced chemicals.

Only one in 10 women who develop breast cancer inherits a defective gene from their parents, Davis adds. This means that in 90 percent of breast cancer cases studied, external non-genetic agents (e.g. synthetic chemicals) contributed to the development of the cancer.

Another telling clue is the fact that the breast cancer risk of adopted children parallels the risk of the family they grew up in, not that of their biological family, as proven by analyzing medical records from Scandinavian countries that keep detailed registries following people from birth to death.

"What we understand is that if cancer runs in your family it could be because your family has similar eating patterns, similar lifestyle patterns, as well as lived in the same area," said Davis. "It's really important that we take another look at...the kinds of chemicals that we are using everyday."

"We think that there are alternatives that can be used," she added.

The U.S. government has been reluctant to institute new restrictions on the production of highly profitable synthetic chemicals, but European regulators are taking the issue very seriously. The

European Commission's new Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) Program, calls on chemical manufacturers selling anywhere in Europe to register and re-evaluate the potential health hazards — including cancer risks — of their products. Environmental and public health advocates hope that American chemical companies will follow that lead with chemicals sold here.

In the meantime, consumers can help prevent cancer by buying and eating organic foods, avoiding pesticides and other synthetic chemicals whenever possible, using non-plastic containers to reheat and store foods (some plastics are thought to leach cancer-causing chemicals into food when heated), and supporting government regulation and more research on synthetic chemicals and their effects.

Contacts: Silent Spring Institute, www.silent.spring.org; European Commission's REACH Program, ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/reach/reach_intro.htm.

Got An Environmental Question? Send it to: EarthTalk, c/o E/The Environmental Magazine, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; submit it to: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/thisweek/, or e-mail: earthtalk@emagazine.com. Read past columns at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/archives.php.

Ask The Counselor

Basil Phillips
M.S. Mental Health Counseling

All letters should be sent to
emotivator@aol.com

Dear Counselor:

I am so sad. I have tried and tried to control my weight. My weight is always on my mind I have made food my best friend. I feel I cannot control myself — I eat when I'm happy, sad, lonely — I eat all the time. Please help me.

Signed:
Struggling

Dear Struggling:

Weight-control requires discipline and perseverance. The good news is that you can control your weight through behavior modification. Changes in your behavior will not only help you lose weight, but will help you keep it off. The concept is to set achievable goals and keep the focus on diet and exercise.

Most diets fail because the exercise component is missing from the program. In order to maintain your current weight, your caloric consumption must equal the amount of calories burned each day. To lose weight the caloric intake must be less than the number of calories burned. The bottom line is that dieting doesn't work without exercising.

Struggling, your letter tells me that you are ready to control your weight. I would encourage you to contact the Seminole Health Department. The professional counselors in the department are motivated to assist you in your journey. With a counselor's help you will be aware of what you're eating. They will assist you in reading labels to determine whether products are low-fat, fat free or low-calorie.

You should also keep a food diary to help you maintain awareness about what you're eating. If and when you start to gain, you can see in writing exactly what it is you're eating that's causing you to gain weight because of your food intake. Here are some more tips: Drink lots of water; keep your consumption of fat to 30 percent of your total caloric intake; cut back on sugar and increase your consumption of fiber. Maintaining your weight is going to be tough work, but you can do it!

Signed:
The Counselor

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Tribal Citizens Showcased at International Level

2nd Annual Lisa Ingram International Girls and Boys Elite Basketball Tournament II

By Lila Osceola-Heard

CORAL SPRINGS, Fla. — Sports gives players an opportunity to take risks, and do things they would never think about doing. Who said playing basketball would be a way to travel overseas and make new friends around the globe?

The Lisa Ingram International Girls and Boys Elite Basketball Tournament brought many teams to the court. The tournament had all the components of a successful and entertaining one, with a 3-point contest, slam dunk contest, and even a live DJ.



Lila Osceola-Heard
Jerome Davis attempts to drive to the basket on the Latvia team.



Lila Osceola-Heard
The boy's Seminole team poses after winning third place.

Seminoles Roster:

Jerome Davis, Boyd Anderson
Kevin Hincapie, Hollywood Christian
Kevin Abreu, Miramar
Tarell Wright, Northeast
Kareem Roach, Miramar
Samuel Hunter, Driftwood Middle
Robert Osceola
Joseph Osceola
Marlon Foster



Lila Osceola-Heard
2007 Team Florida USA



Lila Osceola-Heard
Chelsea Mountain, #24, gets a clean block on the defense.

Lisa Ingram is the girl's varsity head coach for Coral Glades High School and the first member of the summer club team program in the U.S. She went on to fame as a Parade All-American in high school, Kodak All-American in college, and on to professional fame as the best player in Europe during her career playing

most of her career in Italy.

Tip-off started on June 12 at the Coral Glades High School, and the excitement went through June 14. While this tournament is only in its second year, it has a 17 year history. It began as an outgrowth of Team Florida USA, touring Europe for 25 years and promoting the idea of international basketball and world friendship — not to mention giving each participant an experience they will never forget.

Girl's teams that played in the tournament were: Team Florida USA, Pines Charter Jaguars, Douglas Lady Eagles Basketball, Finland, Lady Pressure #1 and Lady Pressure #2. Boy's teams were: Coral Glades Jaguars, Lauderdale Lakes Vipers, Seminoles, Broward Buccaneers and Riga Latvia.

In the girl's fight to the championship round, Team Florida USA faced Pressure #1 in the semifinal game. It was a scrappy, up and down, fast-paced game with team Florida's Chelsea Mountain giving their team a fighting chance to stay alive with good passes, rebounds and tough defense.

"It was fun and exciting to play against people from another country," she said. "I can't wait to go to Italy in July; we have to get in better shape before we go though."

The boy's bracket was tough and brought many challenges to the court for the Seminoles. They ended up playing the boy's from Latvia in the semi's and won by three points in overtime. Jerome Davis and Kevin Hincapie led the charge and brought home the third place trophy.

Lisa Ingram is taking over, not only the international tournament, but the international team tours of Europe. This July, Team Florida will depart for a tour of Italy.

Team Florida USA Roster:

Shannon Blyth, 12, Cardinal Gibbons
Valeria Bruno, 10, Coral Glades
Kendra Corbin, 12, Dillard
Marisa Esformes, 10, American Heritage
Ashley Franco, 12, Cypress Bay
Monique Lockett, 10, Coral Glades
Kelly Lovegrove, 11, Coral Glades
Shurkurat Olaridne, 11, Coral Glades
Chelsea Mountain, 12, American Heritage
Crystal Rogers, 11, Western
Alexandra Stamler, 12, American Heritage
Jessica Woolverston, 11, American Heritage

Rugby's Team Coed Softball Champs



Danny Rodriguez

(L-R) Rosa Fernandez, Tamara Willis, Kiauna Martin, (second row) Vern Nelson, Rugby Jumper, Sandy Guisto, Lila Osceola-Heard, Sara Jumper, Jamie Smith, (back row) Dennis Smith, Rande Pena, Brian Monkey and Hector Pena.



Felix DuBois
The famous Octagon being prepped for its next bout.

UCF Returns to the Hard Rock Live

By Chris Jenkins

HOLLYWOOD — The gladiators of the octagon were back yet again on June 12. Making its third appearance in the Hard Rock Live Arena, the Ultimate Fighting Championships (UFC) returned for another encore with nine matches and another packed house. The action was broadcast live on Spike TV. The featured match of the night pitted lightweight Spencer "The King" Fisher versus Sam



Felix DuBois
Spencer Fisher (R) tries to avoid a Sam Stout (L) swing.



Felix DuBois
A victorious Thiago Tavares

"Hands of Stone" Stout. This was a rematch from March 4 in UFC 58: USA vs. Canada. Stout picked up the win in three rounds by a majority decision.



Felix DuBois
Spencer Fisher (R) connects with a left cross on Sam Stout.

In UFC action, Fisher — 4-2, 20-3 overall in Mixed Martial Arts — was trying to rebound from a second round loss by TKO in January to Hermes Franca. Stout — 1-1 in UFC, 12-2-1 overall in MMA — was rebounding from a loss in 2006 by a first round submission to Kenny Florian.

Their rematch was another battle that came down to the judges. In three rounds, the two went toe-to-toe in a strike fest. Battered and bloody, they traded shots throughout with Fisher gaining control after the first round.

A cut over his eye was of little effect as he was the aggressor, with Stout taking his opportunities in spurts. Both



Felix DuBois
A focused Sam Stout before his match

seemed winded at times but kept the blows coming. Stout used leg kicks and swipes, but with no real effectiveness. In the end, Fisher came out with the unanimous decision win.

Welterweight matches that evening included Jon Fitch beating Roan Carneiro in the second round to a rear-naked-choke. Forrest Petz won against Luigi Fioravanti by unanimous decision in three rounds. The wiry Tamden McCrory stayed per-



Felix DuBois
A bruised and battered Sam Stout (R) congratulates Spencer Fisher (L) on a good match.

fect at 10-0 over Pete Spratt by a second round triangle-choke. And finally, the exciting up-and-comer Anthony Johnson, a last minute fill-in, beat out Chad Reiner in round one by KO.

Middleweights Jordan Radev and Drew McFedries squared off with McFedries winning impressively, as he KOed Radev with a right uppercut within 33 seconds of the first round.

In lightweight action, Gleison Tibau remained undefeated against Jeff Cox by a triangle-choke in round one; Thiago Tavares won over Jason Black in the second round via triangle-choke; and Nate Mohr won against Luke Caudillo by unanimous decision in three rounds.

The Tribal Council also enjoyed the event and included: Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Representative David Cypress and Fort Pierce Liaison S.R. Tommie.



Felix DuBois
Fisher celebrates his win over Stout.

Sports ♦ Ham-pa-leesh-ke ♦ Vkkopvkv



The winner's circle: (L-R) Marlon Manalo, Rocky McElroy, John D. Toro and Tommy Kennedy

Tribe Sponsors Billiards Pro Tour Stop

AZ Billiards' Florida Men's Pro Tour

By Felix DoBosz

SPRING HILL, FL—On June 2-3, billiards players and fans alike came out to Capone's Bada Bing Billiards for some 10-ball pool action. About 78 players had the privilege of playing in this third stop on the AZ Billiards' Florida Men's Pro Tour, sponsored by the Tribe and managed by the Seminole Sports Management (SSM) team.

After two days of competitive 10-ball pool, in this double-elimination race to win eight games, it was finally down to the last two players. The unexpected Tommy "TK-FLA" Kennedy took on crowd favorite Marlon "Marvelous" Manalo.

Manalo is a professional player in his native Mandaluyong City, Philippines, and also an excellent snooker player.

In the final match Manalo got off to a slow start and was down a whopping 6-1, only 3 games from elimination. He was able to fight back and tied it up at 8-8 against an exhausted Kennedy to make it to



Marlon Manalo aims and shoots his winning shot.

the final game. Ultimately, Manalo was victorious by defeating Kennedy 9-8 for the thrilling conclusion to this Pro Tour.

Manalo, who said he likes to practice three times a week for about two hours at a time, is now ranked 8th by AZ Billiards.

Second place finisher Kennedy said he really didn't think he would even make it that far in the tournament. "Things have been going my way for the first time in a long time," he said. "Second place ain't so bad."

He said he looks forward to continuing on the tour and getting to first place next time.

Manalo, however, might be on his heels again. He said he will be following the Men's Pro Tour to the next stop at Bankshot Billiards in Jacksonville on Sept. 8-9. For more information on this event and more, please visit www.azbilliards.com.

Battle on the Board Walk

By Chris Jenkins

ATLANTIC CITY—Playing the waiting game is sometimes part of the scene in the boxing world. Sultan Ibragimov thought the wait was over in March. But on June 2, he finally got his shot.

The Board Walk Hall was where Seminole

Warrior's Boxing crowned its first heavyweight champion and made history. As the No. 1 contender for the World Boxing Organization, Ibragimov (21-0-1, 17 KOs) fulfilled his dream.

Warriors and Golden Boy Promotions, in association with Main Events, helped sponsor the event which also featured eight other bouts on Pay-Per-View.

Ibragimov "The Russian Bomber" faced the then-reigning, now former, World Boxing Organization champion Shannon "The Cannon" Briggs (48-6-1, 42 KOs). This was Briggs' first title defense since winning the championship in November 2006 with a dramatic TKO over Sergei Lyakhovich at the 2:59 mark of the 12th round.

The match-up between both was originally scheduled March 10, but was postponed because Briggs had pneumonia.

The Brooklyn native came in as the crowd favorite at 6-1-1 in fights held in Atlantic City, his last in 1999 versus Francois Botha. Ibragimov was 1-0 dating back to 2005 in a match-up against Zuri Lawrence.

In describing the fight, Briggs could easily be compared to an offensive lineman in football versus Ibragimov, the classic boxer. Briggs came in at 273 pounds and was immobile, but packed a powerful punch, as he is known for. He looked for the big shot all night, chasing Ibragimov for his opportunity.

It never happened as he was out jabbed by the quicker, craftier Ibragimov at 221 pounds. Ibragimov, a lefty, used his jab along with combinations to dominate while staying away from Briggs' KO potential. His strategy paid off in a 12-round unanimous decision.

"I've worked so hard for this since March 10th," Ibragimov said. "I was very careful in all the rounds because of [Briggs'] power."

Trainer

Jeff Mayweather said his strategy was to have Ibragimov maintain their game plan.

"I had to remind him that we're winning this fight, so let's not get careless and take any chances because Shannon is a very dangerous puncher, so just stay smart, with smart boxing," Mayweather said. "[Sultan] bought into my system, and if a guy buys into my system he's going to do well, he's also going to get better."

Ibragimov (second from the left) and members of his promotion and training staff answer questions from the media following his victory.

Seminole Tribal council was also on-hand to see the action with Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Fort Pierce Liaison S.R. Tommie in attendance.

The Ibragimov-Mayweather camp has only been together for a little over six months, but Mayweather says working with Ibragimov has been refreshing.

"He is a trainers dream, and he loves to learn," Mayweather said. "He's a guy who when you tell him to do something, he's going to try to do it and if it doesn't work then we can erase it, but at least he's willing to try."

As the uncle of undefeated light middleweight champion Floyd Mayweather Jr., Mayweather is now sure to continue his rise as one of the best trainers in boxing. The Mayweather name is arguably the biggest in the sport.

This may have been it for the career of the former champ Briggs, who said he was forced to fight Ibragimov.

"I had to do what I had to do. I was hurt and he was running," Briggs said. "I didn't want to fight this kid; I wanted to unify the titles actually by fighting Klitschko."

"I think my boxing career has been a stepping stone. Boxing is going to be that stepping stone for my future," he continued.

The next action for Ibragimov is possible matchups with contender Calvin Brock, legend Evander Holyfield, fellow Warriors heavyweight Michael Moorer or a possible championship unification bout.

The night's other action included: Shamone Alvarez over Jose Luis Cruz for the WBO-North American Boxing Organization championship by unanimous decision in 12 rounds of welterweight action.

Giovanni Lorenzo stayed undefeated versus Bruce Rumbloz by TKO in three rounds and Patrick Majewski won over Vincent Irwin in three rounds by TKO among middleweights.

In light welterweight action, Khabib Alakhverdiev moved to 3-0 over Roberto Acevedo by disqualification in the fourth round.

Light heavyweight action saw Robert Stieglitz victorious via unanimous decision over Marlon Hayes in eight rounds.

In the other heavyweight attraction of the night, Calvin Brock took care of Alex Gonzalez in a full eight rounds by unanimous decision.

Flyweights Raul Martinez and Alejandro Moreno squared off with Martinez, the victor by unanimous decision in six.

Tiger Allen also remained perfect at 3-0 over Fitzgerald Johnson by TKO in the third round of junior middleweights.

The

Seminole Tribal council was also on-hand to see the action with Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Fort

Pierce Liaison S.R. Tommie in attendance.



Chairman Mitchell Cypress poses with the new World Boxing Organization Champion Ibragimov.



Briggs (L) takes a hard shot to the abdomen from Ibragimov.



Ibragimov (L) works the left jab, rocking Briggs.



Ibragimov (second from the left) and members of his promotion and training staff answer questions from the media following his victory.

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Sports ♦ Ham-pa-leesh-ke ♦ Vkkopvkv

Go Dragon



Irena Loleski
Little Warriors practice self control and proper form during class drills.



Irena Loleski
Little Warrior I Alina Stockton wins the high jump challenge and has a great time.



Irena Loleski
Little Warriors II Troy, Leilani and A.J. practice sparring with Master Rob.



Irena Loleski
Little Warriors II Bradin Jim, Brenden Oleso and Troy Cantu pummel the bags with roundhouse combinations.



Irena Loleski
Team Dragon yellow belt Ricky Joe Alumbaugh splinters a board using a step-through side kick during testing.



Irena Loleski
Team Dragon member Nathaniel Bert shows the devastating force of an elbow strike with proper form.



Irena Loleski
Little Warriors Alena Stockton and Osiana Crespo partner up during class for sit-up drills.



Irena Loleski
Maya Cypress has fun warming up with side kicks before class begins.



Irena Loleski
Team Dragon yellow belts spar full contact during class.



Irena Loleski
Team Dragon practices drills during class, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:42pm.



Irena Loleski
Little Warriors I three, four and five year olds show Master Rob their fighting stances before class.



Irena Loleski
Little Warriors II Leilani Gopher and Cassandra Alexander learn about center of gravity, balance and focus.



Irena Loleski
Little Warriors II Bradin Jim and Troy Cantu practice roundhouse kicks while yellow belt Savannah Tiger assists.



Irena Loleski
Little Warriors I Shana Bailey and Osiana Crespo, and Marina tiger work on striking with power and speed!



Irena Loleski
Team Dragon classmates look on as Mika Lopez and Grayson Bille battle it out for tournament champion.



Irena Loleski
Team Dragon student Matthew Bluebird demonstrates a standing take down and arm lock on fellow student Justin Rott.



Irena Loleski
Little Warrior Eyanne Bille holds pads for Leilani Gopher as Master Rob looks on.

Lil Warriors I	Little warriors II
ages 3-5	ages 6-7
3:30	4:00

Team Dragon	Adults 14+
ages 8-13	5:30
4:00	

Contact
Irena Loleski 954.931.0515

Sports ♦ Ham-pa-leesh-ke ♦ Vkkopvkv

Bass Busters Fishing Tournament

Final Leg of the Triple Crown Series

By Felix DoBoz



Wilfredo Sepulveda is all smiles as he holds the biggest bass caught from his boat, weighing 5 pounds.

BIG CYPRESS — It was a sunny spring afternoon at the Big Cypress Reservation on June 9 as sport fishermen competed to reel in the heaviest bass. Tribal citizens, family members and employees gathered to compete in the final leg of the Triple Crown Bass Busters Fishing Tournament, sponsored by the Seminole Recreation Department, at the reservation's 1-28 Canal.

What was different about this competition was the hours were moved to the afternoon, instead of the early morning, to make it more of a challenge for all the fishermen, and to give the competition a little parity. This handicap proved just too much for some fishermen who complained of a slow-go with small catches to show for many hours of fishing on the canal.

Big Cypress employee Wilfredo Sepulveda was the day's big winner with a 5.1 pound catch. He happily accepted the Sam Nelson Big Bass Award trophy, which he received for catching the biggest bass.

"It feels good. I can't believe I won," he said. "All-day I've been catching little fish, the water was so murky, it was very hard, but near the end we pulled it through."

Tyrone Cypress of BC, the last tournament winner, said he was disappointed with his performance, only catching one bass all day, a 4-pounder. Cypress however took home the title of

Overall Triple Crown Series Champion with a combined total 38.58 pounds. The

team of Kassim/Theron Hubbard took second place with 36.54 pounds.

"They just weren't biting for me today," Cypress said. "The water was just too dirty to see anything."

Moses "Big Shot" Jumper Jr., who emceed the event, agreed with Cypress, saying it was a tough fishing day. Jumper said the weeds grew tall and the water was muddy, so it was a real challenge for even the most skilled bass fishermen.

The next fishing tournament will be held in several weeks. But this time entrants need to have a youngster fishing with them to enter the event.



The boats race in to weigh their catch while the fish are still alive.



First place winner Angelo Claro holds one of his big bass.

Bass Busters Fishing Tournament Results

1st place: Angelo Claro/Wilfredo Sepulveda 12.08 pounds	Phillips 6.32 pounds
2nd place: Kassim/Theron Hubbard 11.16 pounds	4th place: Amos Billie/Wayne Prevatt 5.97 pounds
3rd place: Tom Koenes/Fred	5th place: Pastor Arlen Payne/Phillip Turtle 5.22 pounds



Tyrone Cypress smiles and signs for the overall Triple Crown series award from Moses "Big Shot" Jumper Jr. and Joe Collins.



"Big Shot" Jumper (R) presents Wilfredo Sepulveda (L) with the Sam Nelson Big Bass award.



Jacob Johns (second from left) and the rest of the boys display their prizes.

♦ NHSRA

Continued from page 1

"Competing in rodeo is different from team sports," said Osceola. "If you don't win you have no one to blame but yourself. You can't blame the loss on a teammate or the coach."

Osceola doesn't gloat over her wins.

"I could have done better at state," she said. "I think I can do better at the finals because I actually work well under pressure."

Osceola started rodeo as a barrel racer when she was nine years old under the tutelage of another former rodeo champ, Debbie DeHass. She received a lot of help learning to rope from Brighton's rodeo star, Naha Jumper. She has spent many weekends with the Jumper family traveling with them to rodeos around the state and nationally.

She has qualified for the Indian National Finals Rodeo four times now and works with Coach Robbie Hazouri of St. Augustine.

Mom Tabitha Osceola, a telecommunications analyst for the Tribe, said she is proud of her daughter.

"When she puts her mind to something, she follows through until she reaches her goal," she said.

Her mother described Shelby as a natural for rodeo.

"She practices when she can but living in the city she doesn't have lots of opportunity to ride," she said. "That's what amazes me. It must be a God-given talent."

Shelby said she plans to become an equine veterinarian. Her beloved horse named Yeller is stabled at the Frontier Village in Davie, where Shelby cleans the stable and gives her horse daily care. Wherever she rides, Yeller goes with her.

Jacoby Johns, a sophomore at Okeechobee High School, lives on a ranch at Brighton Seminole Reservation and he has cowboy blood running through his veins. Since a small child, he said he has loved hanging out or helping his dad during cattle round-ups.

Riding a wild, unbroken horse bareback is one of the most challenging of all the events in rodeo, and considered the roughest. It is so difficult that the entries are usually the fewest in rodeo.

His mother, Wendy Johns, said she is supportive of her son but she worries, too.

"I am proud as punch when he hits the ground after 8 seconds," she said.

"He's had a few crashes but he's so determined. There's no give up in him."

Johns is very confident and believes in himself. It is this confidence that gives him the edge. He said he loves the adrenaline rush of the sport.

"I'm like the NASCAR of bareback!" he proclaimed.

Johns has been invited to ride for the Florida-Georgia team at the three-day International Finals Youth Rodeo in Shawnee, Okla. on July 9. This year he won the title of "Rookie of the Year" from the Okeechobee Chapter of the FHSRA.

Johns started riding ponies in youth contests when he was only 9-years-old and he has been competing for the last three years in bareback events on wild horses.

Brighton's Adam Turtle is Jacoby's mentor and guide. His dad, Jeff Johns, is a bulldozer, so he has been fortunate to get coaching from Turtle who won multiple bareback championships in Eastern Indian Rodeo Association and the Indian National Finals Rodeo.

Turtle, however, had to retire due to injuries. He gifted Jacoby with his own specialized rigging that had aided him on his famed rides.

Keith Crum of Okeechobee, another bareback star, has also helped Johns along the way.

For the young Johns, it is a consuming passion. At home he practices rigorously on a spurring box. He also practices when he can on a mechanical Mighty Bronc.

Johns said his heroes in rodeo are the famed Bobby Moate and Kelly Timberland.

"I want to go professional some day," he said. "It is my favorite sport and I want to continue in bareback."



Shelby Osceola (second from left) with her belt buckle.

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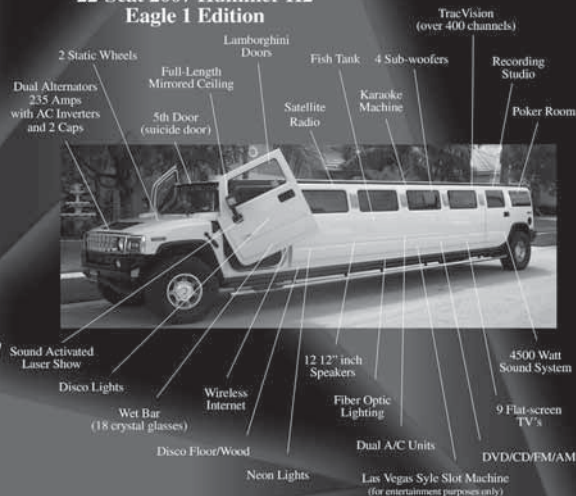
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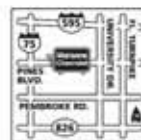
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Announcements ♦ Ahaaheeke ♦ Nak-ohkērkēcetv

New Big Cypress Activity Hotline

To help inform Tribal citizens and employees about upcoming activities and events at Big Cypress, the Big Cypress Program Development Team has started a telephone hotline.

Community members asked for the hotline, and with support from Councilman David Cypress, Crissie Carter arranged for the line and is recording the information.

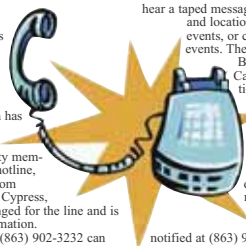
Callers to (863) 902-3232 can

hear a taped message with dates, times, and locations for Big Cypress events, or contact numbers for the events. The hotline makes Alice Billie's Big Cypress

Calendar e-mail information available to Tribal citizens who do not use e-mail. And both the calendar and hotline are updated.

For the calendar, Alice Billie can be notified at (863) 902-3224. For the hotline, Crissie Carter can be

notified at (863) 902-3200, Ext. 1418.



Congratulations Graduates

Summer Billie's Graduation



Photos by Chris Jenkins



Grandparents, Rudy and Louise Osceola of the Big Cypress Reservation, would like to congratulate their grandson, **Rowdey Osceola**, son of the late Carl Osceola, for graduating junior high school. Rowdey lives in Okmulgee, Okla.

His Indian name is EMOKATEE, which means "Leader." It was given to him by his great-grandmother's sister, Annie Tiger.

We are so proud of you and we love you.

Sincerely,
Rudy Osceola



Poems

Beauty of Life

A gift given from only the one who knows
Endlessly from the river of grace it freely flows
Plunge in with the heavenly delight
Embrace without fear – without fight
Shelter for those of us who've gone astray
Know that the darkness will submit to the day
It always was and will always be
Search the soul with the eyes that truly see
Discover the love that is unsurpassed
For all eternity his beauty will last

— **Leslie J. Gopher**
June 5, 2007

Unique

As I place a palm over the heart
A slow rhythm brings forth a new start
Within is a seed that runs deep
It grows as I awake and even though I sleep
Quietly, I lay ever so still
A stranger I am to this presence I feel
As I drift, an image of beauty draws near
The sound of a peaceful voice whispers, "My son, come here."
I take hold of a hand that eases my pain and releases my fright
Slowly I become lost in the pleasures of his joyous delight
Somehow I know the feeling has yet to reach its peak
Surely this is a love that is truly unique

— **Leslie J. Gopher**
June 5, 2007

For Her

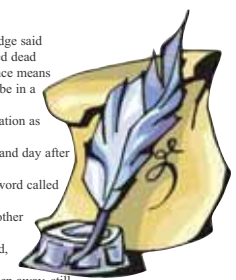
I've been through ups & downs
But nothing has ever haunted me like her
We were supposed to be so much more
Now all I see is lock doors
I told her once if I had just one wish
Then in my arms she'll always be
And if I had just one last breath
I'd give to her and go to heaven to wait for her
Cause the way I feel is more than words can say
It's what I hold clean in my heart
Something that I'll never let go
So I'll just have to pray
That maybe one day she will see
I'm still here and I'm sorry I went astray
Cause I want you in my life
I want you to be my wife

— **Kiel Jumper**

From Now On

From now on, that's what the judge said
In society's eyes, I am considered dead
Because that's what a life sentence means
To enter society again will only be in a dream
Only the strong survive in a situation as mine
Since day one, I've been strong and day after day, I get stronger
Ain't nothing to this four letter word called "Time"
Each day that goes by is just another day in this cell
Missing the streets of Hollywood,
Miami and Fort Lauderdale
It's been several years since I been away, still ain't no sunshine
It's no one's fault but my own for living that life of crime
Word to the wise; it might not be too late
Change your ways before you too end up with an unknown release date
From now on unless the courts set me free
This warrior like will always stand strong even as I become, in society, a distant memory

— **Ike T. Harjo**
Panther Clan



Thank You

To my True Angel, **Melinda Mulligan**,
who accepts me and all my shortcomings.
Love Boo,
Eternally Yours,
Markell Billie

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News From Indian Country

U.S. House Subcommittee Recommends Near-Doubling of Native Language Funding

Submitted by National Alliance to Save Native Languages

WASHINGTON — The House Labor, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee met June 7 to mark up the Fiscal Year 2008 HHS appropriations bill.

Included in the mark-up was an increase in funding for Native American Programs in HHS, from \$44 million to \$47 million, with the extra \$3 million targeted at implementation of language immersion and restoration programs authorized by the recently passed Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act of 2006. Currently less than 10 percent of the ANA budget is spent on language programs, with only one percent spent on immersion programs.

The new funds would increase total funding for the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) language programs from the current level of approximately \$4 million to a new level of approximately \$7 million.

"This day may well mark the turning point in our efforts to halt the dramatic decline in Native languages and, indeed, to commence their revitalization," said Ryan Wilson (Oglala Lakota), president of the National Alliance to Save Native Languages. "Although the National Alliance sought a \$10 million boost, this new funding will definitely jumpstart a lot of critical programs and is a great increase in a tough budgetary environment."

The National Alliance to Save Native Languages represents a

broad coalition of Indian country, including Tribes, Tribal organizations, language experts, teachers and students united in their goal of revitalizing Native languages. The National Alliance held a language summit in Washington, DC on June 4-5. They held many meetings over that last nine months with members of Congress and their staff to express the importance of Native language survival and to urge support for language immersion and restoration efforts.

There are about 175 Native languages still spoken in the U.S., but some scholars estimate that 155 languages are "moribund." This means they are spoken only by adults who are no longer passing the language actively down to the next generation.

The Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act of 2006 (HR 4766) was signed and passed into law by President George W. Bush in December 2006. It amended the Native American Programs Act of 1974, adding clauses that would open up grant opportunities to Native American Language Nests, Native American Language Survival Schools and Native American Language Restoration Programs.



National Alliance to Save Native Languages

Native American Journalists Meet at Annual Conference

By Shelley Marmor

DENVER — The Native American Journalists Association (NAJA) met in the Mile High City of Denver for their 23rd annual convention and Career Fair, June 7-9. This year's conference, titled "We Talk, You Listen," — named after one of Vine Deloria Jr.'s books — paid tribute to the late Standing Rock Sioux author, activist, anthropologist, Marine and University of Denver professor.

Day one of the conference opened with a plenary session to honor Deloria. Four of his former colleagues and friends, Paul DeMain, Sam Scinta, Suzan Shown Harjo and Mark Trahant, all recalled times they spent with Deloria.

DeMain (Ojibwe/Oneida), Morning Star Institute president and *News From Indian Country* newspaper CEO, opened the session by playing an audio taped interview. The 10-minute tape covered Deloria's thoughts on several topics, including termination, relocation and Indian colleges from interviews he participated in with various journalists.

"The one thing I remember about Vine is he was very willing to spend time with people to answer their questions," DeMain said.

One interview from the audio tape also covered what Deloria referred to as "native values." He said Native Americans "represent the humane alternative to industrial society" and must reclaim past ways for the Earth to carry on throughout the years to come.

"This is a sustainable Earth only if you live the way we used to live," Deloria said in one of the taped interviews.

Scinta, a book publisher at Fulcrum Publishing, spoke next. While at Fulcrum, he published and co-edited Deloria's book titled *Spirit & Reason: The Vine Deloria Jr. Reader*. Scinta said he encouraged Deloria to publish that book — a collection of his essays — because he "wanted American-at-large to discover him," not just Native America.

"He was not only a great Native writer and thinker," he said. "He was a great writer and thinker."

Harjo (Cheyenne/Hodulgee Muscogee), Morning Star Institute presi-

dent, said she shared an office with Deloria during his stint as executive director of the National Congress of American Indians from 1964-1967. She recalled the relentless work her friend and colleague did to help all Native Americans thrive.

"Vine was dedicated to anything that would do anything to help native people advance," Harjo said.

Lastly, Trahant (Shoshone/Bannock), editorial page editor at *The Seattle Post-Intelligencer* newspaper, discussed Deloria's essay in the book *Lewis and Clark Through Indian Eyes: Nine Indian Writers on the Legacy of the Expedition*. He encouraged all to purchase the book, which came out just four days after the plenary session took place.

Other sessions followed that covered an array of topics including: "Reporting on Native Children and

According to Azocar, of the 1,741 articles analyzed in the report, researchers only found about seven percent to have a "negative tone" towards Indians. The articles all came from newspapers in cities with large Native American populations, including Albuquerque, Anchorage, Oklahoma City and Tucson, and were published between Jan. 1, 2005 and Dec. 31, 2006.

Some of the findings Azocar presented included that there were fewer offensive terms used in headlines. This included less use of words like "warpath" and "peace pipe" as compared to the last NAJA Reading Red Report, published in 2002. According to the 2007 report, "the best stories came from newspapers providing beat coverage on Indian people, including *The Albuquerque Journal*, *The San Antonio Express-News* and *The Tulsa World*."

To view the complete 2007 Reading Red Report, please see naja.com/news/najanews/070611_progress.

One of the final components of the NAJA Convention was the Career Fair, which took place daily from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. during the three-day convention. The Career Fair brought out many big names in journalism, such as the Associated Press, National Public Radio and *The Denver Post*, to present job opportunities to native journalists.

News Operations Manager at KCNC-TV Denver John Montgomery was on-hand to offer critiques of Native news broadcasts to help newscasters improve their coverage of Indian Country. Seminole Broadcasting

Reporter Correna Holunga took advantage of that and showed Montgomery some of her tapes. He reviewed footage in which Holunga interviewed Bambi Kraus (Tlingit), who appeared at the Ah-Tah-Thai-Ki Museum at Okalee Village on April 20 as part of the museum's "Distinguished Lecture Series."

"The Seminole channel staff always strives to better serve the broadcasting needs of the Tribal members," Holunga said. "Attending conventions such as NAJA to further our training, and the feedback we receive from our audience, ensures that the Seminole channel will continue to provide a concise and entertaining source of information to the Tribal members."



Shelley Marmor

(L-R) Mark Trahant, Suzan Shown Harjo, Sam Scinta and Paul DeMain honor Vine Deloria Jr. during the opening plenary session, "We Talk, You Listen," on the first day of the 2007 NAJA Conference.

Families," "Our Spiritual Selves: Health and Fitness Writing for Native Communities," "The Native Voice: A Guide to Column Writing" and "American Indians Through Mainstream Eyes: The Reading Red Report."

During "American Indians Through Mainstream Eyes: The Reading Red Report" NAJA President Cristina Azocar (Upper Mattaponi) presented findings from the 2007 NAJA Reading Red Report. The report was prepared by students in the Ethnic Diversity and U.S. Journalism class at San Francisco State University, where Azocar teaches. It is "a content analysis of general-audience newspapers in circulation areas with high percentages of Native Americans," according to the NAJA website.

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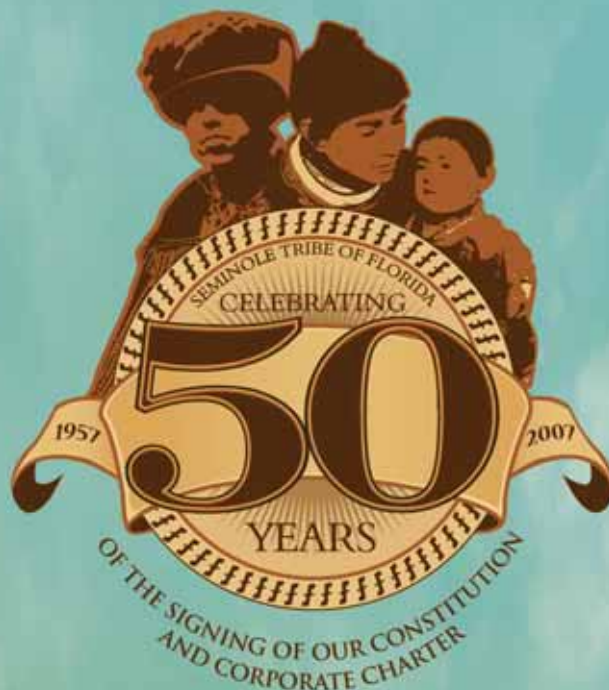
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Hard Rock Café Commemorates 36th Annual Founders Day

Charity Event to Benefit Daily Bread Food Bank

By Felix DoBoz

HOLLYWOOD — The music videos were blasting that rock beat while the seats filled up quickly with the happy lunch crowd ready to kick off the big celebration at this world famous themed restaurant. Lots of shiny balloons filled the large music memora-

back to the community is all about raising awareness for different charities.

Jacobs continued, discussing the charity the money from Founders Day would go to: the Daily Bread Food Bank.

"Ten tons of food has been donated so far by the Hard Rock Café, the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, and Sysco Food Services of South Florida," he said.

He added that every guest who donated five pounds of food was able to purchase a 71 cent Hard Rock "Legendary Burger." Jacobs called it a "great deal" and "[the] best burger in town."

Jacobs said the "Legendary Experience" selection is a new feature on the Hard Rock Café menu, which of course includes the burger — a delectable 10-ounce certified Angus Beef hamburger grilled to perfection.

Everyone had a great time at the Café, especially when it came time to hear that old disco classic "YMCA." The servers all jumped up and danced and sang in their 70s costumes and had most of the Hard Rock fans happily singing along to the Village People's classic hit.



(L-R) Big 105.9 DJs "Young" Ron Brewer and Paul Castronovo

bilia room, better known as the Hard Rock Café, as servers dressed in their finest 1970s-style costumes greeted customers and had a fun time joking around with the public.

Invited guests, fans and employees gathered at the Hard Rock Café at the Seminole Hard Rock Casino & Hotel to celebrate Founders Day on June 14. This day marked the 36th anniversary of the opening of the legendary venue, whose motto is still: "Love All, Serve All."

Fans enjoyed food service courtesy of various local media personalities from Big 105.9 DJs Dave Lamont, Paul Castronovo and "Young" Ron Brewer stood at the front of the crowd and joked with the audience like they do on their morning radio show. The guest DJ/servers also announced that the Daily Bread Food Bank charity would receive a check with proceeds from the event.

Doc Reno, the afternoon DJ on Big 105.9, served customers drinks from behind the bar while joking around with some of the ladies. Miss FHM Magazine Diana Chiafair was also on hand to lend her support to these fun festivities.

Michael Bloom, president of the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino and Scott Jacobs, general manager of the Hollywood Hard Rock Café were also on-hand for the festivities.

"June 14, 1971 was the beginning of the Hard Rock Café," Jacobs said. "We opened up in London, England, by two Americans: Isaac Tigrett and Peter Morton. We were the first to celebrate the culture of rock 'n' roll at the Hard Rock, and our way of giving



Hard Rock Café servers donned their finest 1970s-inspired costumes for the Founders Day festivities.



Cast members from HBO's The Sopranos celebrated the end of their critically-acclaimed drama series at Tony's Swan Song party on June 10 at the Hollywood Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. Those in attendance included James Gandolfini, who played mob boss Tony Soprano, and Lorraine Bracco, who played Tony's therapist, Dr. Jennifer Melfi.

Kathy Griffin Brings 'D-List' Humor to Hard Rock

Submitted by Bitner Goodman PR

HOLLYWOOD — Comedienne Kathy Griffin — notorious for her rapid-fire wit — brings her D-List humor to Hard Rock Live on Aug. 16 at 8 p.m. Tickets are on sale now.

Emmy-nominated Chicago native, Kathy Griffin, is probably best known for her four-year stint on the NBC sitcom Suddenly Susan as Vickie Groener, Brooke Shields' acerbic colleague.

After moving west and joining the famed Los Angeles Groundlings comedy improvisational troupe, Griffin began building her resume with guest-starring roles on such series as ER and Seinfeld, where she created recurring character Sally Weaver. Upon gaining notoriety as a stand-up comedienne, she landed her own HBO Half-Hour Comedy Special. In 1998, HBO gave Griffin her own one-hour special, A Hot Cup of Talk.

Griffin has supplied voices for characters on animated shows Dilbert and The Simpsons, and has appeared in a dual role on the X-Files. She also appeared in Eminem's video, The Real Slim Shady, which was co-directed by Dr. Dre.

Griffin has co-hosted The Billboard Music Awards three years in a row and has appeared on numerous talk shows including Late Night with David Letterman, The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, Howard Stern and The View.

She has been featured in the films It's Pat and Four Rooms, among others.

Griffin has a great passion for reality TV. She participated in, and won Celebrity Mole on ABC, and then hosted the NBC reality series Average Joe as well as the MTV series Kathy's So-Called Reality. Griffin has yearly performed successful stand-up specials for Bravo. The first, in 2005, was called Kathy Griffin ... Is Not Nicole Kidman, and the second, in May of 2006, was Strong Black Woman. A third DVD, a stand-up special, Allegedly, is in stores now and her newest entry, Everybody Can Suck It, will be aired in the summer of 2007.

In August 2005, Kathy's reality show, Kathy Griffin: My Life on the D-List, debuted on Bravo to rave reviews. The second season of the show was nominated for an Emmy for "Outstanding Reality Program," and season three is slated for broadcast this summer.

Tickets cost \$75, \$60 and \$45; additional fees may apply. All seats are reserved and available at the Hard Rock Live Box Office, open Monday-Saturday from noon until 7 p.m. Doors open one-hour prior to show start time.

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

'There Goes the Neighborhood' With Guitarist Joe Walsh

Submitted by Bitner Goodman PR

HOLLYWOOD — Rock and Roll Hall of Famer and legendary guitarist and solo artist Joe Walsh will perform at Hard Rock Live on Aug. 23 at 8 p.m. Tickets are on sale now.

Best known for his powerful guitar licks, Joe Walsh has entertained the masses and captivated his peers for more than three decades with such classics as "Funk #49," "Walk Away," "Life's Been Good," "Life of Illusion" and "Ordinary Average Guy."

Walsh's career got a kick start in 1969 when he joined the Cleveland-based power trio The James Gang. Two of the four albums released went gold, but Walsh left the group to strike out on his own.

He released his solo debut *Barnstorm* in 1972. Although it was a critical success, it only sold moderately. The follow-up, *The Smoker You Drink, the Player You Get* (1973) was his commercial breakthrough. The first single "Rocky Mountain Way,"

received heavy airplay and reached #23 on the US top 40 charts. It is still a fixture on classic rock radio.

After performing with prominent bands, Walsh re-ignited his solo career with the discs *But Seriously Folks* (1978) *There Goes the Neighborhood* (1981), *You Bought It, You Name It* (1983), *The Confessor* (1985), *Got Any Gum* (1987), *Ordinary Average Guy* (1991) and *Songs for a Dying Planet* (1992). He has also released greatest hits compilations.

Tickets cost \$75, \$60 and \$45; additional fees may apply. All seats are reserved and available at the Hard Rock Live Box Office, open Monday-Saturday from noon until 7 p.m. Doors open one-hour prior to show start time.

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Salsa Legend Gilberto Santa Rosa Returns to Hard Rock

Submitted by Bitner Goodman PR

HOLLYWOOD — Popular Puerto Rican vocalist Gilberto Santa Rosa returns to Hard Rock Live for another festive night of salsa hits at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino on Aug. 9 at 8 p.m. Joining Santa Rosa on stage will be fellow Caribbean salsa sensation, Fernando Villalona.

Tickets are on sale now. Known as a master of "sonero," an improvisational vocal technique, Santa Rosa has recorded such Salsa hits as "Muneca" and "Cantante De Cartel." His song, "Perdoname," has become a popular Salsa anthem.

In 1995, he became the first Puerto Rican singer of tropical music to perform at New York's Carnegie Hall. His album, *Salsa Sinfonica*, was the first salsa recording with a symphony orchestra — the Venezuela Symphony Orchestra.

Villalona began singing at a very early age and became popular after participating in El Festival de la Voz, an amateur TV talent show. Eventually he began a career as a solo artist in the 80s and recorded hits such as "Celos," "Te Amo Demasiado," "Dominicano Soy," "Sonambulo" and "Baila en la Calle" among others. He followed his 80s rise to popularity with "Quisiera," "No Podras," "Musica Latina," "Retorno" and "Me He Enamorado;" all big hits in the 90s.

Tickets cost \$95, \$80, \$65 and \$50; additional fees may apply. All seats are reserved and available at the Hard Rock Live Box Office, open Monday-Saturday from noon until 7 p.m. Doors open one-hour prior to show start time.

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

Fighting League Moves Championships to Florida

Submitted by Bitner Goodman PR

NEW YORK — The International Fight League (IFL), the world's number one team-based professional mixed martial arts league, announced it will move its 2007 World Team Finals from The Forum in Los Angeles to the Hollywood Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. The event will take place in Hard Rock Live on Sept. 20 at 7 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now. "Although we have had great success with our first two California events, this opportunity to have an event in Florida, in a hotbed for the sport with some of the new stars of the sport, was too much to pass up," said IFL Co-Founder and Commissioner Kurt Otto. "We have been able to bring our athletes to a host of new locations in our first year, and we wanted to find the right

place in Florida, and there is no better place than the Hard Rock."

The winners of the two five-man teams from the Aug. 2 playoff semi-finals in East Rutherford, N.J. will meet in the finals at the Hard Rock. The Quad Cities Silverbacks, featuring undefeated heavyweight Ben Rothwell and lightweight Bart Palaszewski, won the IFL World Team Championship in 2006.

Tickets cost \$200, \$150, \$100 and \$50; additional fees may apply. All seats are reserved and available at the Hard Rock Live Box Office, open Monday-Saturday from noon until 7 p.m.

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

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