

What's

Inside



Osceola on Red Cross Board of Directors
Pages 6



Miami Heat make History
Page 21



2006 Native American Music Awards
Page 5

Letters	2
Health	14
Education	9
Sports	17

Special Council Meeting Held in Hollywood

By Janice Billie
HOLLYWOOD — On June 16 the Seminole Tribal Council held a special meeting at the Hollywood Headquarters. Before the official business of the meeting began there were several presentations made to the council.

The first presentation was a plaque given to Chairman Mitchell Cypress by football coach Ronald Thurston of Pompano, Fla. Thurston coaches the Pompano Cowboys, a team of six to eight year old in the South Florida Football League.

Cypress donated uniforms and cleats to the team when he learned of their need. It was the first time in 10 years new equipment was acquired. The team went 10-3 in the 2005-2006 season. Thurston is an officer with the Broward Sheriff's Office, who volunteers his time to the league.

The next presentation was from the Tennessee T-Cakes company in Nashville, Tenn. This company is co-owned by Tribal citizen Gladys Bowers Bratcher and her business part-

❖ See COUNCIL, page 6

4th of July Events

Hollywood 'Skins Golf Tournament Hillcrest Golf Course 8 a.m.
Bowling Tournament University Lanes 11 a.m.
4th of July Celebration Hwd Gym 4 p.m.
Fireworks @ dark

Big Cypress 4th of July Celebration Rodeo Grounds @ 12 p.m.
Fireworks @ dark
Pool Tournament B.C. Gym -@ 12 p.m.
Firecracker 5k walk/run Canal Bank Road-across from Sadie's Registration 6:30 a.m.
Start 7:00 a.m.

Brighton 4th of July Festivities @ Gym -Start 6 p.m.



Administration Building completed for occupancy with helicopter pad on roof. Ribbon cutting ceremony on June 14, 2006.

Grand Opening Ceremony held for Immokalee Administration Building

By Judy Weeks
IMMOKALEE — June 14 marked the beginning of a new era for the Immokalee community. The ribbon cutting ceremony for the long awaited Immokalee Administration Building took place before a crowd of approximately 250 people. Tribal officials and citizens had traveled from several reservations to help the residents of Immokalee celebrate this important occasion.

Director of Utilities Susie Kippenberger made the introductions for the ceremony in front of the three story multi-purpose facility which had just been completed and prepared for occupancy.

"It is my pleasure to welcome everyone here today to celebrate this milestone in the history of Immokalee," she said. "I know that you have all been anxiously awaiting the opportunity to get a look inside, so I am going to ask our officials to please come forward to cut the ribbon for us. Once inside, we will continue our presentations, enjoy a luncheon buffet and tour of the structure."

Immokalee Council Liaison Ralph Sanchez had the honor of operating the large green scissors with the assistance of Brighton's Council Representative Andrew Bowers, while Chairman Mitchell Cypress, President Moses Osceola, Big Cypress Council Representative David Cypress and Hollywood Council Representative Max B. Osceola Jr. looked on.

With a round of applause the ribbon fell to the ground and the crowd moved forward in anticipation.

The audience made their way to the dining room of the seniors' facilities on the ground floor, which had been prepared for the event. Stepping up to the podium Kippenberger offered background information.

"This project was first conceived in the early 90's as a one

story building, but as time dragged on, your community grew and so did its requirements," she said. "Plans for this much needed three-story structure had replaced all previous expectations by the time ground was finally broken in November 2004.

"Gulf Building Corporation was selected as contractor for the project with Keith and Schnars engineering firm overseeing construction of the over 28,000 square foot complex," said Kippenberger. "Bob McIntire of Ram Design was the architect for the project and has done a terrific job of correlating your needs with a very attractive structure. The building has been designed to withstand over 150 mph winds and can be used as a shelter in times of hurricane or disaster. A state of the art generator will immediately take over utility operations when needed and there is a full service kitchen which can provide for the entire community when necessary."

❖ See IMMOKALEE, page 3

Board Proposes Amendments to Bylaws, Charter

By Shelley Marmor
HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. has not amended their corporate charter and bylaws since 2002, and according to General Counsel Travis Trueblood it was a "small change." Before that, it was only amended five times since its adoption in 1957.

Trueblood said in his six years working as the board's lawyer he has been jotting down changes that should be made to "modernize" the charter and bylaws. He said many of these suggestions have come from Tribal citizens, something he said is very important to the board.

He said the board has asked him to attend community meetings on all reservations in the coming months and inform community members of what they are proposing before making any changes. Trueblood

said legally "they don't have to do this, they want to do this."

One the most significant proposed changes, according to Trueblood, is that the board wants to add four new representatives. If passed, this will mean the board will increase to eight total members. These representatives will head the Fort Pierce, Immokalee and Tampa reservations from the board side.

The board also wants to add an at-large board representative, for a total of four new board members. The at-large representative will act on behalf of all non-resident Tribal citizens. This is the largest segment of the Seminole population, according to Trueblood. Each of these four will have full voting privileges, like those currently serving on the board.

❖ See AMENDMENTS, page 30

High School Students Visit UF and FSU

By Emma Brown
GAINESVILLE AND TALLAHASSEE, FL — The Seminole Tribe's Higher Education Advisor and other Education staff took a road trip with students in grades 10-12. The destinations were the cities of Gainesville and Tallahassee to take a tour of the homes of the Seminoles and the Gators. Two of the biggest college football team rivals, but also two of the finest colleges in the state and nation.

The bus left Hollywood on Tuesday morning June 6 headed for Brighton where it picked up students from both Brighton and Ft. Pierce. Then it was on to Gainesville where the group met up with Tampa reservation students and stopped for the night.

On the morning of June 7 the group headed to Gainesville's University of Florida (UF) campus for an extensive walking tour of the beautiful facilities and grounds that the university has to offer, while hearing about the wonderful programs and majors that students had to choose from.

After the UF campus tour, the group was taken to the Florida Museum of Natural History where



Student from Hollywood, Brighton, Ft. Pierce and Tampa stop for a picture in front of a roll up door at the Home of the Noles.

they were given a personal tour. The most exciting room at the museum was the room that was full of artifacts, information, and pictures of the Florida Seminoles.

Many of the students learned things about their Tribe that they did not already know and saw pictures of their ancestors that made the visit to the museum extremely meaningful. After visiting the museum the group loaded up on the bus for the three hour trip to Tallahassee. Upon arrival in Tallahassee

the group was met by Terence Clark, training coordinator for the Florida Governor's Council on Indian Affairs, Inc., who accompanied them to dinner. The first thing Thursday morning, June 8, the group met in the Westcott Building at The Florida State University to be welcomed by the University President T.K. Wetherell.

Wetherell greeted the students and expressed his desire to have them all attend the university.

❖ See UNIVERSITY page 11

Chilocco Honors Chairman Cypress

By Iretta Tiger
TULSA, OK — Since it's opening in 1884 the Chilocco Agricultural Indian School has helped shape the minds of thousands of native youths. Among its alumni are some of Native America's most accomplished, including actor Wes Studi and former Seminole Chairman and Indian Gaming pioneer Howard Tommie.

From June 9-11 the Chilocco National Alumni Association held its 122nd Annual Reunion in Tulsa, Okla. and at this 2006 reunion Chilocco inducted George England and Seminole Chairman Mitchell Cypress into their Hall of Fame.

Also honored was the "golden" class of 1956. Among the '56 class was Wonder Johns who was also celebrating his 50th wedding anniversary to wife Mary Johns.

The reunion kicked off with a golf tournament. For those who did not participate there was a memorabilia room and a hospitality room.

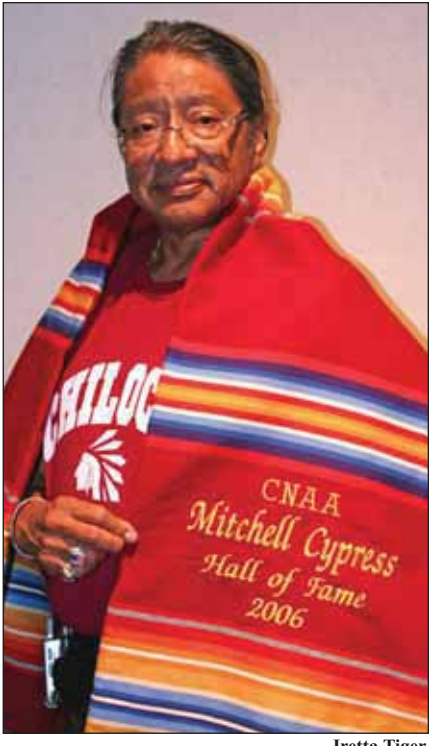
The memorabilia room was great to explore. There were displays of those who were inducted into the hall of fame, displays of Chilocco's history and boxes of photographs. The best part was the copies of the yearbooks; there were yearbooks for every year the school was open, 1884-1980.

Looking through the yearbooks it was great to go back in time to see Seminole elders in their youth. Attendees were able to find yearbook pictures of quite a few people including Cornelia Osceola, Virginia Tommie, Naomi Fewell and Mitchell Cypress. There was also pictures of dearly missed Tribal citizens: Cecil Johns, Edna Cypress and Nancy Motlow.

Events for the first day of the reunion started with a Tribal dress fashion show where those who dressed in tribal regalia displayed their outfits and gave an oral history of it. Those from the Seminole tribe participated together as a group which made quite an impression.

Chilocco alumni were treated to a beautiful performance by the Oklahoma Cherokee Nation Children's

❖ See CHILOCCO, page 4



Chairman Cypress



The BC Fathers Day celebration welcomed fathers and their families.

Fathers Day in Big Cypress

By Nery Mejicano
BIG CYPRESS — The celebration started early, with Paul Buster, Jonah Cypress, Fred Phillips and Marie Phillips providing the musical entertainment. The event was catered by the Swamp Water Café, which as always enticed the community with a delicious and varied menu to choose from. Seminole fathers were joined by their children, grandchildren, spouses and extended families to celebrate a day that is dedicated to them.

The staff of the Big Cypress Recreation department as well as other departments joined in decorating the BC gym with blue and white colors, welcoming the fathers and their families. The highlight of the day was the arrival of the South American music group, of Fito Rodriguez, Goyo Hoyos and Peter Yanez, whose music is mostly from the Andes region of South America.

The Andean flute combined with the marvelous fingers of Peter at the guitar, and the incredible playing of the cajón—a wooden box with a mike inside—by Goyo, made for a memorable musical experience.

The first Father's Day was observed on June 19, 1910 in Spokane, Wash. At about the same time in various towns and cities across America, were beginning to celebrate Father's Day. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge supported the idea of a national Father's Day. Finally in 1966 President Lyndon Johnson signed a presidential proclamation declaring the third Sunday in June as Father's Day.

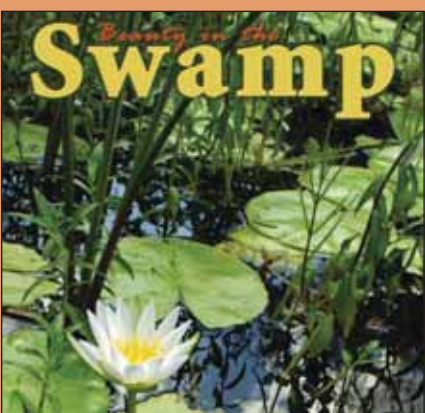
Father's Day has become a day to not only honor your father, stepfathers, uncles, grandfathers and all those men who by their role have become father figures. Let's not honor fathers only this one day, but every day of the year for they have given life and love to their children and grandchildren.

❖ See Page 31 & 32 for More Father's Day Coverage

Photo Quiz



Can you guess who we are?



Tribal citizens may pick up a complimentary copy of the 2006-January 2007 Seminole Tribal calendar at your reservation's field office.

This year's calendar features the Big Cypress reservation's Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and Billie Swamp Safari.

All others may purchase calendars for \$10 by ordering online at www.seminoletribe.com/marketplace or by calling Darline Buster at (954) 966-6300, Ext 1266.

Previous Photo Quiz



Katy Smith - Laura Mae's Mother

The Seminole Tribune

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

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

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As soon as we receive this information, your subscription will be mailed to you.

I always think of the past when a special holiday arrives and about what we had back when I was a young boy. We couldn't afford fireworks on the reservations and no big celebrations. We knew it was a holiday because we heard about it on the radio, but finances wouldn't allow us to have what we now have. Sometimes, the lit up Big Cypress sky would show us what was being done far away in a nearby town.

Today, we have so much to celebrate. We have our people and nice homes, cars, trucks and we are able to look to tomorrow with pride and provide an excellent education for our children.

Now when the fireworks go off on each reservation, not only are we celebrating the 4th of July, but all the blessings the Tribe has received. There is still a lot to accomplish but we are putting our goals in a line and meeting our objectives one at a time. Be happy because life is good and the future... very promising.

I want to wish all my Seminole people and staff a happy holiday. Remember to thank the Almighty for what He has given. Happy 4th and enjoy!

Mitchell Cypress, Chairman
Seminole Tribe of Florida

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I want to wish all my Seminole people and staff a happy holiday. Remember to thank the Almighty for what He has given. Happy 4th and enjoy!

Mitchell Cypress, Chairman
Seminole Tribe of Florida



Mitchell Cypress



I hope everyone will have an enjoyable 4th of July holiday!

Our freedom has cost us many American lives, including the lives of many American Indians. Many of our Seminoles have served with the US Armed Forces and we should be proud of them! Let's especially remember our Seminole warriors who fought and gave their lives so that our people could remain in Florida, our homeland. We need to always honor them!

Osceola, one of our greatest warriors, remains buried in South

Carolina; we need to honor his wish to be buried among his own people! He has certainly earned that right!

So, as we celebrate our freedom, let's remember the great contribution made to America's freedom by American Indians!

Moses Osceola

Moses Osceola, President
Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.

Survey of the Seminoles of Florida

By Roy Nash
[Editor's Note: This is a verbatim re-print of a survey of the Seminole Indians by Roy Nash conducted on behalf of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1930. This is Part 6 of a series The Seminole Tribune will re-print in its entirety. Please see the July 21 issue of The Tribune for Part 7.]

Excerpt 18. Part 1: The Florida Seminoles

SEMINOLE SURVEY OF 1930

By Roy Nash

CHAPTER III A TYPICAL CAMP OF 1930

SECTION 1: RETREAT

For well over a hundred years now the Seminole has heard, and perforce heeded, the command, "Move on you dirty dogs!" When Bartram traveled among them in 1774, Indians not only had free range of the whole peninsula but in cypress canoes large enough to hold 20 to 30 men they regularly crossed to Cuba and the Bahamas. Before the Seminole war about 200 were in the habit of training at the Indian Key, off lower Matcumbe. Now, no Seminole bathes in the sea or navigates salt water, except one or two who occasionally drift down into the Ten Thousand Islands.

When MacCauley traveled among them in 1880, 22 years after Billy Bowlegs surrendered and went West, the camps of the Seminoles were located in five main groups: (1) In the Devil's Garden southeast of LaBelle; (2) on Fisheating Creek, which flows into Lake Okeechobee from the west; (3) on Catfish Lake which lies between Lakes Pierce and Rosalie just east of the city of Lake Wales; (4) on the Miami River; and (5) on Cow Creek, 10 or 15 miles northeast of Okeechobee City.

"The moving lines on the white population are closing in upon the land of the Seminoles," wrote MacCauley. "There is no farther retreat to which they can go."

He was wrong.

The Devil's Garden, Fisheating Creek, Catfish Lake, the Miami River, Cow Creek—that white men would ever want such remote places did seem incredible. Yet the Seminoles in four of those five regions have heard the word again. "Move on, you dirty dogs!" Cattlemen from Fort Myers and hunters from La Belle crowded them out of the Devil's Garden and compelled their retreat into the Big Cypress swamp. The Atlantic Coast Line, a hard-surface road and the sugar plantations around Moore Haven have crowded the Indians off Fisheating Creek. The Bok Tower looks down upon the old Catfish settlement, from which Tallahassee and his band were driven in 1885, retreating across the Kissimmee prairies to Cow Creek. The greatest city in Florida has grown up about the camps in Miami River, metamorphosing one of them into a catchpenny for tourists where once upstanding men can now be viewed as exhibits coordinate with

snakes and alligators. Only the Cow Creeks occupied swamps so little desirable that they have been suffered to remain there 50 years.

SECTION 2: SEMINOLE CAMPS OF 1930

The location of present Seminole habitations is shown on my map of "Permanent Seminole Camps." By permanent camps I mean habitations which can not be packed up and moved, many of them are occupied only part of the year. In the nature of things, such a map can lay claim neither to precision or completeness; it does indicate the extent of Seminole dispersal.

Mr. Earl Anderson, Indian enumerator for the 1930 census, says that in Monroe county there are Indians on Rock Creek and Shark River, with Chokoloskee as their trading point. I found none as far south as Shark River. Ingram Billy has his camp on Lostmans River, Charlie Jumper (Chief Charlie) has his permanent camp beside the road at Monte Carlo Casino, and Jim Tiger camps down there somewhere. In Collier County there is Charlie Tigertail's camp on Turner River and a score or more in the Big Cypress and on the edge of the Everglades, all of them east of the Everglades-

Immokalee Road. From this group a band of 30 or 40 under Josie Billy migrated to St. Petersburg last winter to exhibit themselves in an amusement park.

The few camps in Hendry County are all south of the Devil's Garden; white hunters and trappers have preempted the territory between there and La Belle. The Indians from both Collier and Hendry Counties trade at Everglades, Immokalee, and Fort Myers. The Indians of Glades County live in three or four camps in the "Cabbage Woods" south of Brighton, using Brighton and Okeechobee as their trading points. I know of no permanent camps in Highlands County, although the Indians hunt as far north as Lake Istokpoga. The Cow Creek camps are 8 to 10 miles northeast of Okeechobee City, chiefly in St. Lucie County. Indians came into Kenansville, in Osceola County, but so far as I can learn they camp on the Brevard County side of the line, on Ten Mile Creek and the Blue



Family chickee



Traditional family campsite



John Poole in canoe

Coming south along the east coast, the venerable Billy Smith, medicine man for all these Okeechobee Indians, has his camp in the swamp 6 miles northeast of Fort Drum, in the southwest corner of Indian River County. In western St. Lucie County there are a few camps both north and south of the Fort Pierce-Okeechobee Road; these Indians trade in both county seats. In Martin County there are is but one Indian family, living between Indian town and the lake. In Palm Beach County there is one camp. And in Broward County there are the sick and indigent on the reservation at Dania, as well as the

Osceolas and Tommies who were crowded from their Fort Lauderdale hammock in the days of the boom and the Jumpers crowded from the coast a few miles south. In Dade County there are the Indians on exhibition at Musa Isle and in Coppinger's Tropical Gardens in the city of Miami; also one camp 15 miles west of Homestead, and perhaps two or three camps on islands in the Everglades north of the Tamiami Trail.

Inasmuch as all Indian habitations on the east coast between the head of Lake Okeechobee and Miami are the white man's creations, this region can not be considered Indian country at all in the sense that Cow Creek and the Big Cypress are Indian country. Number 6 of the Okeechobee camps and represents a band of 8 or 10 Indians who live in an old house on the farm of a friendly white man, Mr. Clarence Summerlin; they come and go working for him when he has work for them, hunting and berrying as the mood strikes them, distinctly a transition type. In No. 11 of the Okeechobee camps, Dan Parker houses his family in an old barn and makes a precarious living as a casual laborer. Number 12 of the Okeechobee camps represents an experiment in interracial friendship which is only 2 months old; Mrs. Ella Montgomery, a sister of former Chief Justice White, by the gift of a Ford car persuaded the family of Charlie

Cypress to abandon his home in the Big cypress and build a camp adjoining Mrs. Montgomery's home in Loxahatchee Farms, 10 miles west of Palm Beach.

The larger Seminole camps are simply multiples of the typical camp described in Chapter 1. The largest group in the

Cypress camping at one place numbers between 40 and 50, and at the camp of Billie Stewart and Charlie Snow south of Brighton there were about 25 living when I was last there.

Letters & E-mail

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

Dear Editor,

I work in marketing & public relations at Florida Hospital in Sebring. We do a monthly publication for our employees, which includes a small "Day Trip" column.

I recently visited Billie Swamp Safari and had a great stay. I wrote an article but would love it if you could forward me a high resolution photo. Thank you so much.

Sincerely,
Machelle Johnson
Marketing & Public Relations

Dear Ms. Johnson,

Che hun ta mo (Hello) from the Seminole Tribe of Florida! Thank you for your kind e-mail about your visit to Billie Swamp Safari. We have replied via email with a few images for you to use in your "Day Trip" column in your employee publication.

We truly appreciate your assistance with our tourism marketing efforts.
Sincerely,
Cindy Malin
Communications Manager

Dear Editor,

Can you tell me if one of your casinos is near Disney World in Florida?

Thanks,
Joyce Folkens

Dear Ms. Folkens,

The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino located in Tampa is just 45 minutes west on I-4 from the Disney area. You can get directions on our website at www.seminolehardrock.com. Just click on the Tampa location.

Hope to see you soon,
John Fontana
General Manager
Tampa Hard Rock

❖ Immokalee

Continued from page 1

kitchen which can provide for the entire community when necessary.”

Continuing she said, “The first floor will house the department of elders and their Hot Meals facilities. The library and educational counselors will occupy the second floor. Offices spaces are designated on the third floor for Administration and the roof top is equipped with a state of the art helicopter pad. Before proceeding with our speakers, Immokalee senior Louise Motlow will give the invocation.”

Chairman Mitchell Cypress addressed the gathering in Miccosukee and then recalled the history of the Immokalee reservation.

“During the late 50’s and early 60’s some of our people began settling in the Immokalee area because there was work to be found on the local farms and ranches,” he said. “What started out as a few chickees over on the curve, eventually developed into a small village. The youngsters became students in the local schools and as squatters on the land, it was becoming necessary to look for a more permanent home.

“The initial 5.7 acres of land was donated for their use. Women like Lena Frank, Mary Watts, Lucy Johns, Louise Motlow, Elaine Aguilar and Nancy Motlow, to name a few, built a village which eventually became the Immokalee Reservation. What began as chickees and then trailers, became a small field office and now a three story office building with



Judy Weeks

New building receives roof and tower.

fourth floor helicopter pad. It took the effort of many to make this possible.”

President/Vice Chairman Moses Osceola said: “If you believe in the power of prayer, you can appreciate what Louise Motlow had to say here today. This community has been an answer to many prayers and we pray now to continue to see growth, development and progress that will provide a future for our children. I congratulate Ralph Sanchez on the completion of this project and Elaine Aguilar and Nancy Motlow who were on the ground floor in it’s planning.”

“As Mitchell said, you started with a bare piece of ground, then chickees with no facilities, and now have a state of the art Administration Building which can double as a shelter from storm and provide for the entire community in times of need. The chairman and I will both have offices now on the third floor so that we can serve you better.”

David Cypress said: “Today marks the completion of a lot of work and vision on the part of many people. Mitchell can tell those stories because he is older and has a long memory,” he laughed, “but I am a young man with no stories. There have been so many elders who put their lives into making this possible



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Susie Kippenberger, David Cypress, Andrew Bowers, Mitchell Cypress, Ralph Sanchez, Moses Osceola and Max Osceola cut the ribbon for the new building.

that it would be hard to put their names on the building in recognition.”

“Take pride in what you have and in their memory prevent vandalism. They would be proud to see what has grown from the seeds that they planted. What you need now is the church and it will be next. Plans are currently being made and before long the ground will be broken,” promised David Cypress.

Looking around the room Max Osceola said,



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Norita Yzaguirre, Elaine Aguilar, Joe Kippenberger, Paul Bowers, John Collins and Susie Kippenberger.

“I’m glad that I am now 55 and can eat here. You are very fortunate to have such a wonderful new facility. You are the high point of Immokalee. When I was young, I came here to visit and found the Seminoles living on a little piece of unwanted ground next to the landfill and detention center. This was ‘Downtown Motown.’ Since then you have acquired land, built homes, the casino, water and sewer plant and become the hub of the community. You can be very proud of your achievements.”

Ralph Sanchez began by saying: “I remember how excited everyone was twenty some years ago when we got a new office in an old house. None of us could even imagine that something like this would someday go up within our community or that we would have grown to need it. The progress we have made in the past few years is incredible and future plans are extraordinary. I look forward to being a part of this growth. I would like to invite Nancy Motlow to come forward at this time with an announcement.”

Stepping forward, Nancy Motlow said: “It gives me great pleasure to be able to dedicate our new library as the Diane Yzaguirre Memorial Education Center. Born on August 5th, 1963, as the daughter of Dorothy Jimmie and Cleofas Yzaguirre, she put a great deal of emphasize on the value of education. She completed high school in 1981, married and had two daughters. As she raised her family, she encouraged them to stay in school and learn everything they could to provide a better future for themselves and their families.”

“Never losing sight of her own dreams, she entered Edison Community College when she finished raising her children. She received a two year degree in accounting in 2004 and accepted a position at the Immokalee Seminole Casino.”

Tearfully Nancy Motlow read a letter Diane had written upon receiving the casino job. It outlined her dreams, achievements and future plans which included returning to college to acquire a four year degree in accounting.



Judy Weeks

Exterior stucco is complete and interior partitions are being constructed.

“I recall growing up with my elders making a home wherever they could as they provided for their children. Finally, in 1968, they received the land across the road. I was living in Labelle at the time and had started my own family. I remember removing the back seat from my little old car and coming to haul fans for my mother, Lucy Johns, Mary Watts Billie, Alice Osceola and Lena Frank. The women were building their own chickees on this land that Miss Sherrod of the Roberts’ family had found for them. They were so excited because they would have something of their own and not be squatting on anyone else’s property.”

“The elders used to say ‘Look beyond your nose, past the tip to the future for your grandchildren.’ I started working for Education, then Board and Council. Cox once asked me what I wanted for Immokalee and I said a building to replace the trailer so we can expand and help our community grow. That wish has grown

into a Hot Meals for our seniors, Education department, Library and Administrative Offices. We came from nothing and today we have something to get down on our knees and thank God for,” Aguilar said in a burst of tears.

Coming to her rescue, Susie Kippenberger acknowledged the representatives from Gulf Building Corporation and Director of Education Cindy Hughes before suggesting forming a line at the luncheon buffet. Commemorative paper weights with a photo of the building had been placed on the dining tables and tee-shirts were available.

At the conclusion of the meal, tours were conducted of the structure. In addition to the Hot Meals kitchen and dining room, the first floor had a recreational area for the seniors in which a pool table was being assembled, television lounge, ceramics workshop and a sewing room.

Upon arriving at the second floor, the first doorway gives you access to the new spacious library facilities, rows of shelves loaded with books and room for expansion, study areas and a computer lab. The smaller children were intrigued by the little round tables and small upholstered chairs. Librarian Cris Marrero had laid out small golden books and the preschoolers were already checking them out.

Further down the hall were offices for Education Advisor Norita Yzaguirre, Intervention Counselor Diana Rocha, small interview areas and a



Judy Weeks

Exterior walls for 3rd floor are going up.

large conference room.

On the third floor offices had been provided for the community representatives, chairman, president, Housing and Planning department, etc. A large conference room dominates the center of the floor.

The interior designers had done a remarkable job in furnishing the building and the members of the tour group were very pleased with the end result. By far the highlight of the day were the numerous framed photographs displayed throughout the building which been extracted from the archives of the Seminole Tribe.

Traveling through the hallways, groups of people stood before the artworks and identified themselves, family members and friends, evoking fond memories. Many of the photos were very old and offered them a glimpse into their heritage.

Before departing, many of the guests traveled to the rooftop for a look at the helicopter pad and a few took a short ride over the reservation. However, the majority preferred to survey their surroundings from behind the safety of the lookout railings.

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VIOLENCE, AND ALL FELONIES AND MISDEMEANORS.

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.

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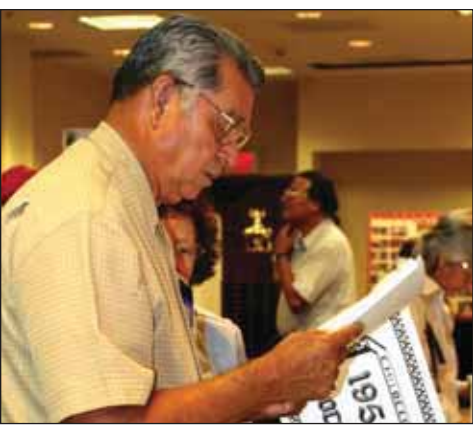
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Wonder Johns



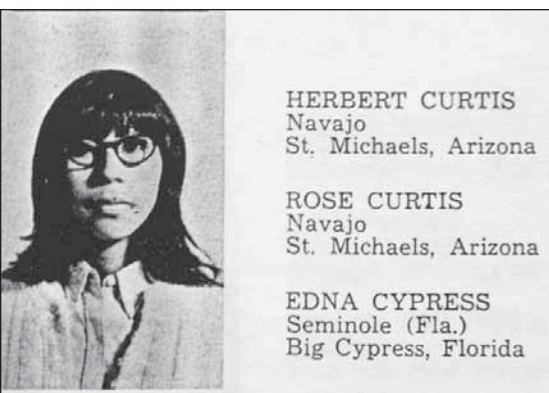
Alice Sweat and Jenny Johns' presentation.



Jenny Johns



Archie Johns



HERBERT CURTIS
Navajo
St. Michaels, Arizona

ROSE CURTIS
Navajo
St. Michaels, Arizona

EDNA CYPRESS
Seminole (Fla.)
Big Cypress, Florida

Edna Cypress



Timmy Johns (Upper Left)



Virginia Tommie

❖ Chilocco

Continued from page 1

Choir. The choir has performed for US presidents, at the site of the Work Trade Centers and at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.

Day one of the reunion closed with an indoor pow-wow. Cypress was honored at the pow-wow with a beautiful Pendleton blanket. The blanket had his name and the date of his hall of fame induction embroidered on it.

On day two the Seminole Tribe of Florida sponsored a pool tournament. The tournament was held at a local billiards establishment. The Seminole Tribe also sponsored an exhibition by billiards champion Vivian Villarreal. Villarreal then offered a game of 9 ball to a brave few.

The first place winners of the tournament received a Seminole jacket. Prizes were awarded to the top four slots in the men's and women's divisions. Tribal citizen

Jenny Johns placed fourth in the women's; one of her competitors for this place was her sister Alice Sweat.

Following the tournament and the highlight of the reunion was the banquet. This much anticipated event first honored special awards to Juanita Tate, class of 1928, and Velma Jones, attended Chilocco 1922-1933. These two ever sharp women were presented with gorgeous native pottery made especially for them by another Chilocco alum.

Service awards were then presented to Fred and Judi Underwood, Trent and Peggy Tilley and Lou Ellen Henson.

This year Chilocco inducted two of its alumni into their hall of fame. The first is George England, class of 1953, who was also the master of ceremonies for the banquet. England is also the Chairman for the Chilocco Hall of Fame.

Fellow Tribal citizens and Chilocco alumni Jenny Johns and Alice Sweat introduced Chairman Cypress, class of 1966, with a slide presentation. They also provided nar-

ration for the slides which included a very amusing senior photo of Cypress.

Oklahoma Senator, artist and Principal Chief of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Enoch Kelly Haney presented Chairman Cypress. Senator Haney jokingly alluded to Chairman Cypress' high school nickname and spoke highly of Cypress' merits.

"Mitchell comes for a humble beginning," said Senator Haney. "Coming from a humble beginning makes people more passionate. This passion is what makes a good leader and it keeps you connected to the people."

Upon receiving the award Chairman Cypress dedicated it to the class of 1966 and to his Tribe.

"I'm honored to be here with you all. It's not just about me, it's about all of us. We helped each other then and we're still in it together now," said Cypress.

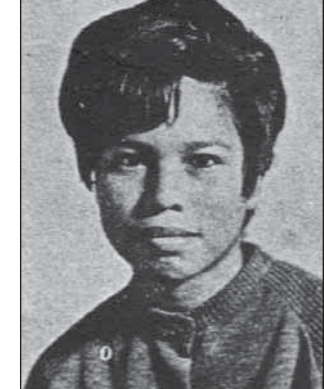
Next year's reunion will be held in Albuquerque, N.M. For updates, please visit to www.chilocco.org.



Naomi Fewell



Cecil Johns



Jenny Johns



Class of 1966



Mitchell Cypress

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

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New Generators Installed at Headquarters

Just in time for the 2006 hurricane season

By Felix DoBosz
HOLLYWOOD — On June 1 the start of hurricane season new generators were installed on top of a giant concrete slab at the Hollywood Headquarters. One turbo diesel generator supplies 500 KW of power for the central air conditioning system. The other generator unit supplies 310 KW of power to keep all electrical components and various other infrastructures such as the tribe’s computer network at full capacity for six to eight days.



Electrical workers hook up generators. Felix DoBosz

The generators were hoisted by a large industrial crane onto their final installation place adjacent to the NW Parking area where the Employee Park is located. John Snowdy, president of JBS Electric, Inc., who is the electrical contractor responsible for the installation on this complex project offered comments. “These generators will provide a full load automatically when and if the power fails,” he said. “The storage tanks hold a combination of approximately



Crane lifts new diesel generator to concrete slab. Felix DoBosz

2700 gallons of diesel fuel, which should provide plenty of fuel before a refill is needed.”

Building and Grounds Director Joe Kippenberger said: “The new generators will be up and running and providing the added security and safety needed during an emergency outage. Everybody will be able to work normally during rescue efforts.”

Kippenberger explained that a new 100 KW generator and a 400 gallon tank were also installed at Seminole Police Department’s headquarters in Hollywood.

The Brighton Field Office water tower and treatment facility will also have a generator for power outages. There are more plans in the works for installing more generators for individual’s Tribal citizen’s homes.

Kippenberger recommends not to buy units from the Home Depot because the units are only 15 KW’s and might burn up running a house for 24 hours a day. The units Kippenberger is getting quotes on and planning to install for tribal members homes are the larger 33 KW’s.

On June 5, Hollywood experienced a powerful late afternoon storm that tore trees and branches apart and knocked out FP&L power at headquarters. The lights went out at headquarters and five seconds later the new generators kicked in and brought power back online to the office building, ironically the generators were to be tested that very afternoon and performed successfully, exactly as they were designed to do.



Three transfer switch units installed onto building. Felix DoBosz

Tips for Preventing Wildfires

Submitted by Lt. David Logan, Lead Fire Inspector

Wildfires often begin with little or no warning. They spread quickly, destroying trees, brush, and your home. The major cause of most wildfires is due to people leaving campfires burning, discarding cigarettes out automobile windows, and children playing with matches.

Play it safe by making sure campfires are out completely, do not discard cigarettes out the car window, and keep matches out of the reach of children. There are just several things that you can do to prevent and protect your home from such fires.

Here are a few more helpful hints:

Fire Wise Landscaping:

Create a 30 to 50 foot safety zone around your home by raking leaves, branches and clearing all flammable vegetation, remove leaves, twigs from gutters, trim tree branches that extend over your



Photo submitted by Eva Cain, PIO
(L-R) BC Station 2 FF/EMTs Cory Brown and David Coosia extinguish a small grass fire. The fire was located on the side of Josie Billie Highway, just south of the reservation line. The cause of the fire was undetermined.

Other Ideas to protect your home and yourself

- Install smoke detectors on all levels of your home, especially near bedrooms. Test them on a monthly basis and change batteries twice a year.
- Install at least two ABC type fire extinguishers in your home, one in the kitchen, one in the garage and teach family how to use them
- Post emergency numbers by every phone
- Plan several escape routes from your house and a central meeting place for family members.
- Choose a contact person for everyone to call
- Remember, fire prevention begins with you. Together we can make this a safe community.

roof, plant fire resistant shrubs and trees such as Dogwood, Sycamore, Magnolia, Oaks, Red Maple, prune tree branches and shrubs within 15 feet of the ground, a well irrigated area around your house, mulch, even though it retains soil moisture, can dry out and become flammable, have the power company remove tree branches that are near or touch power lines, remove any vines or any combustible that cling to outside walls and keep grass low.

Fire Wise Designs:

Use a fire resistant or non-combustible material on roofs and exterior structure of your home, treat structures that may be attached to your house with fire resistive material (UL approved fire-retardant chemicals), Class-A asphalt shingles, slate or clay tile, metal are good fire resistive, non-combustible roofing materials, use wire mesh no larger than one-eighth of an inch thick around all vents to prevent sparks from entering your home.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP OT060730 MOSCAD INSTALLATION FOR THE DISTRICT’S SURFACE-WATER NETWORK

The Procurement Department of the South Florida Water Management District will receive sealed proposals at the 2nd Floor, B-1 Building, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, Florida, 33406, for MOSCAD installation for the District’s surface-water network on July 7, 2006, at 2:30 P.M. local time, at which time proposals will be opened and publicly read.

An optional PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE will be held June 7, 2006, at 2:00 P.M. 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406, Building B-1, 3B Bridge Conference Room. All proposals must conform to the instructions in the Request for Proposals and include a properly executed Contract Compliance Disclosure Form.

Solicitation documents will be available May 26, 2006 in the SFWMD Procurement Office, at the above address, by downloading a free copy from the District’s website at www.sfwmd.gov, by calling (561) 687-6391. Interested respondents may also call the 24-hour **BID HOTLINE 800-472-5290**. The public is invited to attend the RFP opening. **Information on the status of this solicitation can be obtained at our web site – www.sfwmd.gov.**


For more information, please contact Don Hill, Contract Specialist at (561) 682-2045.



Seminole Tribe of Florida
Emergency Services


Portable Generator SAFETY

- Keep children away from portable generators at all times.
The dangers are burns from hot exhaust, electrical shock and carbon monoxide
- Inspect the generator for damage or loose fuel lines.
- Keep the generator away from open windows, doors or vents.
The danger is carbon monoxide, an odorless, colorless gas that can kill if inhaled
- Use the generator outdoors 10 feet away from the house.
This will help to isolate the equipment if there is a fire or exposure to carbon monoxide gas.
- Don't refuel a generator while it is running and never store fuel indoors.
Generator must be turned off before refueling and allowed to cool down for a few minutes. There are very hot areas that can ignite the fuel.
- Plug appliances directly into the generator. We recommend using a minimum 12 gauge outdoor extension cord that is grounded (three prongs).
- Never plug your generator directly into your home electrical system.
Back feed from the generator can energize the power grid and cause severe electrical shock.
- Please read and follow the instructions from the generator manufacturer.
Each generator manufacturer has different instructions although the safety requirements are generally the same.
- Generators emit carbon monoxide (an odorless and colorless gas).
- Install a carbon monoxide detector near the closest door or window to the generator.
We recommend this and can provide them to tribal members.



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Hard Rock Café Hosts Two Rockin' Parties

Hard Rock Cafés 35th Annual Anniversary Founders Day Osceola Celebrates 14th Birthday



Virginia Mitchell, Young Ron, and Shelli Osceola enjoy the festivities at Hard Rock Cafe.



BIG 105.9 go live at the Hard Rock Cafe.



Hard Rock Cafe staff dress to impress in their 70's style gear.



Big 105.9 Paul and Young Ron, pose with Victor Osceola, and birthday girl, Shelli Osceola.

By Lila Osceola
HOLLYWOOD — Talk about party like a rock star...Shelly Osceola came pretty close as she was apart of the Hard Rock Café's shindig of the week.
On June 14, the Hard Rock Café celebrated Founders Day, a holiday in recognition of the first Hard Rock Café opening 35 years ago. To celebrate the important milestone in rock history, Hard Rock Café's around the world turned back the clock to 1971 when they opened the original.

Everything in the café from the music to the prices even rolled back to 1971's for the day. The Hard Rock Café featured music from artists of the era, and staff stepped back in time by wearing the memorable fashions of the 70s. But the best thing of all was the Hard Rock Café legendary burgers which cost only 71 cents.

The Hard Rock Café did not leave out the most important birthday feature—the cake. A slice of birthday cake was served to each guest at both lunch and dinner.

Radio personalities from BIG 105.9 including Young Ron Brewer, Paul Castronovo, Brie Miller, Tommy Owen, Andrew Bebe, Sea Bass, Courtney Young and Doc Reno teamed up with executives from the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, such as Scott Jacobs, general manager and Robyn Melvin, sales and marketing manager suited up as guest waiters for the day.

The atmosphere in the café was intense with a true rock style feel. Video cameras everywhere, camera flashes in your face every two minutes, people getting interviewed, lots of excitement and fun. Deco Drive's Sherese Sandoval was on site interviewing, and getting involved with the festivities.

Shelly Osceola's big moment at the party came when it was time for her to stand on a chair while the whole restaurant sang "Happy Birthday" to her. Her birthday lunch entourage was brother Victor Osceola, grandma Virginia Mitchell, Editor in Chief of *The Seminole Tribune* and staff.

Fortunately, Shelly celebrated her 14th birthday with style, and handled the two hours of fame like it was a usual occurrence. Young Ron was her server and did a marvelous

job; but as the saying goes "don't quit your day job" Ron.

During the event, BIG 105.9 gave away tickets to see Bon Jovi's concert at the Hard Rock Live. Guests were also able to register to win a trip to New York City for the finale of the Hard Rock International Ambassadors of Rock Tour.

All proceeds of the event went to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, which is the world's largest private organization for breast cancer research and community outreach programs.



A \$5,000 dollar check presented to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Organization from the Hard Rock Cafe.



Blake Osceola and Vice President of Hard Rock Michael Bloom enjoy the work day with a festive party.



Hard Rock Cafe 35th Annual Founder's Day ice sculpture.



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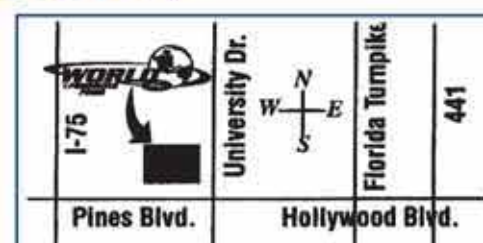
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Brighton Holds End of the Year Bash

By Emma Brown
BRIGHTON — On June 9 different departments from the Brighton reservation hosted an End of the School Year Bash for the kids in the community at the Brighton Rodeo arena grounds. From 9–11 a.m. kids enjoyed fun time by jumping in bounce houses, riding mini trains, swinging bungee style, eating snow cones, and much more. After the morning fun a barbecue lunch consisting of hot dogs and hamburgers was served with favorite sides like mac & cheese and chips. From 12–2 p.m. students gathered in the bleachers to hear guest speakers from the Seminole Police Department, Family Services Department, Brighton Council office, Seminole Communities and many more. Students that stayed for the guest speakers received wrist bands that entitled them to entire drawings to win prizes like X Box 360s, iPods®, gift cards and much more.

The goal of the Brighton departments was to bring drug and alcohol awareness to our children and community and to make learning about these issues fun and exciting. The drug and alcohol problem is becoming more prevalent each day and the staff and parents of the Brighton community are making an effort to combat the problem while incorporating fun activities at the same time to grab the interest of the kids. It was a successful day and every child left the bash with a prize and a greater knowledge of the detriment that drugs and alcohol can bring to your life.



Trista Osceola, Brooke Osceola

Emma Brown



Kids enjoy the softball throw.

Emma Brown



Kids stop and listen to the substance abuse speakers and their important message.

Emma Brown



The pink super slide was one of the most popular rides.

Emma Brown



Ruben Burgess takes a break.

Emma Brown



Minnie Osceola and Melanie Jones battle it out on the large open bounce house.

Emma Brown



Bungee jumping had kids lined up for a jump.

Emma Brown



Skyler Burke stops to give a big smile at the end of the year bash.

Emma Brown



Camryn Thomas takes a spin at the end of the year bash.

Emma Brown

Preschool Registration Info

Fall registration for the Brighton, Big Cypress, Immokalee and Hollywood

Seminole preschools will be July 10–24.

The 2006–2007 fall session begins Aug. 7.

Parents can get an application from the parent involvement aide at the preschool.



The parent involvement aides are:

Cathie Marin, Brighton (863) 763-7264

Claudia Perez, Big Cypress (863) 902-3222

Michelle Ford, Immokalee (239) 229-9194

Dawna Bell, Hollywood (954) 989-6840.



Tampa Education

The Tampa Education department would like to congratulate our 2006 High School graduates:

Kevin Frank and Kaylin Henry.

Tampa's Education department would also like to congratulate Josh Smith for receiving his GED.

Good luck in the future with all that you pursue.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Johns
Seminole Tribe of Florida
Tampa Education Advisor



Ahfachkee High School grads are all smiles in shiny new cap n' gowns.

By Felix DoBosz
HOLLYWOOD — The graduation celebration started off with a delicious dinner buffet for everyone to enjoy. Graduates, family and friends and distinguished guests gathered early for Big Cypress's annual Ahfachkee School graduation dinner and ceremony, held June 1 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

Following the wonderful dinner buffet everyone adjourned to the next ballroom where the actual graduation ceremony took place. In the early evening

graduates lined up along the back wall of the ballroom in shiny new caps and gowns. The music started and the students marched in single file to their places in the front row seats of the ballroom.

The next scheduled event was the pledge of allegiance to the flags. Tia Osborne recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag followed by K'ahna Jumper reciting the pledge to the Seminole Flag.

The invocation was then offered by Dr. Arlen Payne of the Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church. The master of ceremonies was principal Lenora Roberts who welcomed everyone warmly and with great enthusiasm.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress smiled and addressed the graduates and guests.

"It's good to be here tonight, the door is open for you, whatever you want to accomplish or school or go tech, whatever you want to do," he said. "You made it and that's what counts, we always encourage each and every one of y'all to continue wherever they're at, but don't forget the Seminole Tribe is here and we need y'all to come back and help our Tribe."

He also acknowledged Winifred Tiger's passing and her great contributions to youth sports and education, and asked everyone to bow their heads for a silent moment in recognition of her distinguished achievements for the Tribe.

2006 Ahfachkee School Graduation Ceremony

President Moses Osceola was the next speaker to address the graduates and guests.

"I know it's not easy, but I want all you seniors to go on to college and the Tribe will pay for you to continue your education," he said. "The Tribe has the resources to send you to any school you choose. So choose the best schools because we need you to get the best education you can so you can come back and help your Tribe ...especially truant officers."

The graduates laughed at that amusing remark. The president continued to talk about how tough it was in the old days learning in those poorly funded Indian boarding schools.

"Soon you're going to be completely on your own, don't be happy or satisfied with the dividends given by the Tribe," Osceola said. "The money you

have to search for it but it is there. Whatever career you choose never give up, and be successful."

Gary Bryan finally completed his motivational talk and it was time to present the graduates with what they had worked so hard to achieve. Each happy student ceremonially walked up to the podium and received their diploma in hand from the Principal to the delight of family and friends cheering and shouting their loving support to all the graduates.



Kelsie Jumper accepts her diploma from Principal Lenora Roberts.



President Moses Osceola was a key speaker.



8th grade grads line up for ceremony.



Juanita JoJo Osceola gets a bouquet of red roses.


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Nunez Receives Letter from President Bush

Students Complete 5th Grade

By Emma Brown
BRIGHTON — Destiny Nunez is the daughter of Dallas and Deanna Nunez of Brighton. She has just completed the fifth grade at Central

prove that through student and parental commitment you can excel academically while playing sports. Destiny is definitely a shining star and a role model to her peers and sets a fine example to be followed.

Destiny's parents wish to let her know how proud they are of her and her accomplishments. The Education department looks forward to many more milestones for Destiny and wish to congratulate her on a job well done.

Other awards earned by Destiny for the 2005-2006 school year: Gold Awards all year (all A's), Effort Awards, Presidential Excellence Award (3.5-4.0), super problem solver, Hershey's Track & Field (100m relay), first place science fair in behavioral and social science, student council and safety patrol.

Dallas and Deanna Nunez are the proud parents of Destiny Nunez

Elementary in Okeechobee, Fla. Destiny's accomplishments for this school year were many, but the most precious of all was an original letter from President Bush congratulating her on her 4.0 GPA for the entire school year.

Destiny has always been an excelling student with this year being one of her best. Central Elementary held their fourth nine weeks awards program on May 25 and Destiny made several trips to the center stage to collect her awards. She was the only student to receive this in the fifth grade at Central Elementary.

She is also very athletic and her achievements



Destiny Nunez makes her way to the stage to pick up one of many awards recieved at Cental Elementary's awards day

Preschool Students Visit Local Elementary



Fall 06 Kindergartners stop for a picture as they visit Moore Haven Elementary School to prepare them for kindergarten.

By Emma Brown
BRIGHTON — On May 17 the Brighton Preschool students in the fall took a field trip to Moore Haven Elementary School.

This visit was set up so that the students could experience what being in elementary school was like so that when they enter kindergarten in the fall they will be a little familiar with the daily routine. The students were able to tour the school, visit classrooms and have lunch in the cafeteria just as they would if they were students at the school.

The Brighton Preschool provides this experience each year for their students with both of the local elemen-

tary schools in Glades and Okeechobee County.

The Brighton Education department also offers a six week kindergarten preparedness class for students entering kindergarten in the fall. This class presents material that will help the students start of successfully as they begin their educational career. It is the goal of the Education department to help make the transition from pre-school to primary school as smooth as possible for the students.

If you have any questions about the summer kindergarten program or any other educational questions please contact Emma Brown at (863) 763-3572.



On May 13 Seminole Tribal citizen Richard Allen Keyser was among the hundred-plus students who received their high school diploma from Johnson Country High School in Mountain City, Tenn. Richard is the 18 year old son of Trail resident Richard Keyser Jr. and Tiffany Fiorella of Mountain City.

Starting in the fall semester he will be attending East Tennessee State University.

Pictured from left to right Rene Lundin, Richard Fiorella, Falon Keyser, Richard A. Keyser, Richard Keyser, Jr. Darian Cypress-Osceola, and Ericka Cypress-Oseola.

Florida Museum of Natural History



Students stop for a break befor taking a tour of Florida's museum of Natural Hlstory on the campus of the University of Florida.

❖ University

Continued from page 1

that the university has with the Seminole Tribe of Florida and how much respect the staff and students at FSU have for the Seminole Tribe.

He invited all of the students back in October for the unveiling of a new statue that will be positioned at one of the stadium entrances. The statue will honor the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Seminole Tribal flag will permanently fly along side of the new statue. The Florida Seminoles will be forever remembered daily at the home of the 'Noles.

After a few pictures with Wetherell the students were addressed by Liz Maryanski, student affairs, and Will Hudson from the CARE Program, who

ful buffet style lunch.

Following lunch the group met with John Lata from the FSU Athletic Department for a tour of the basketball facility. During the tour of the basketball facility, FSU Women's Basketball Coach Sue Semarau stopped to speak to the students and expressed how much respect her and her team has for the Florida Seminoles.

Next it was back on the bus for a short ride to FSU's "reservation." The reservation is located



Women's basketball coach, Sue Semarau, speaks to students about the respect FSU has for the Seminole Tribe of Florida.



Future college students listen to history of University of Florida's stadium.

spoke with them about admissions into FSU and about the atmosphere around campus. Then it was off to the newly remodeled Suwannee Room for a wonder-

on beautiful Lake Bradford. The reservation is a recreational facility that allows students to come enjoy activities such as canoeing, volleyball, and ropes courses.

After visiting the reservations the group was taken back to the Moore Athletic Center to meet with John Lata again and take a tour of the Florida State Seminoles locker rooms and football field. First stop on the

room with national championship trophies, rings and much more memorabilia, a room most public never gets to see.

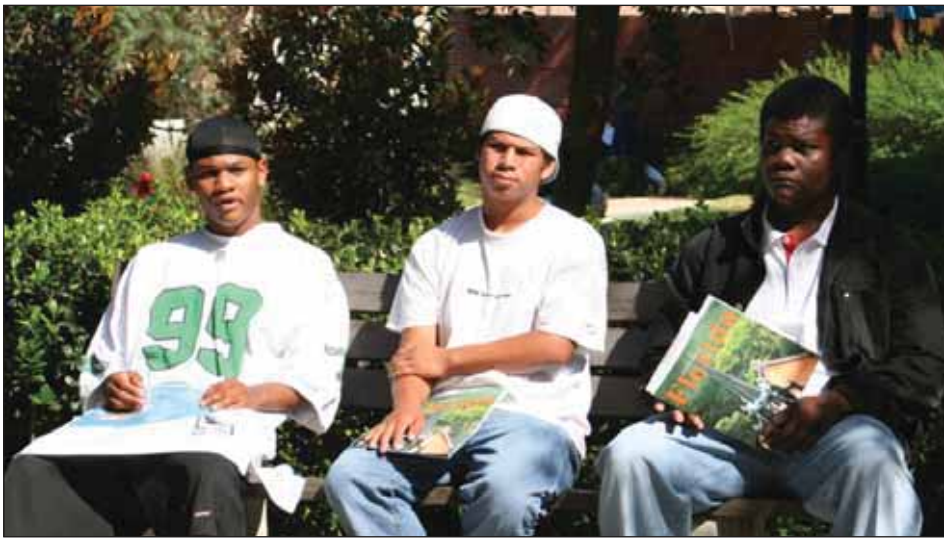
Lata said, "Only new recruits and their families are allowed in this room."

The students felt very fortunate to be shown such precious FSU memories. It is an understatement to say that the FSU staff rolled out the red carpet for these Seminole students, and the students were very appreciative for their day at FSU.

The entire trip was a chance for students to feel and experience "college life" and was an attempt by the Education department to motivate them to pursue higher education. I think each student came away from the college visits with a great deal of inspiration to pursue not only college, but sports as well. Both universities have a great deal to offer in the area of sports and academics and being a part of the university world for a day really seemed to inspire many of the students on



Damen Bert takes a seat in Bobby Bowden's office.



Marty Tommie Jr., Damen Bert and Marty Tommie recieve an orentation on life at the University of Florida.

tour was the office of FSU Football Coach Bobby Bowden. Coach Bowden's office has a beautiful view overlooking the stadium and the field, with a door that opens up to an outside balcony that he uses during game days for many Hollywood celebrities and family to sit and watch the games.

The students were taken into a

the trip.

Any Tribal citizens interested in visiting a college or would like more information on the Billy L. Cypress scholarship program, please contact your local reservation's education advisor or the Higher Education Advisor Linda Iley.

Kindergarten Program Begins

By Emma Brown
BRIGHTON — On June 12 any student entering kindergarten in the fall was invited to be a part of the six week kindergarten enrichment program offered by the Brighton Education department. This program is designed to prepare students for what is to come as they enter kindergarten.

The students are taught daily by a certified teacher, Jane Ehrhart, along with one teacher's aide, Efrain Ochoa and one student assistant, Alyssa Willie. The summer kindergarten program teacher works along with the local elementary school to devise lessons based on items students will need to know to be successful in kindergarten. The students are given breakfast and lunch each day and spend the day simulating an actual kindergarten classroom.

This is the third year for the summer kindergarten program and it is off to a great start with 11 students enrolled.



Mrs. Jane go overs the alphabet first thing in the morning with the summer school students as Mr. Efranin, and Miss Alyssa look on

End of School Year Bash

By Susan Etxebarría
BRIGHTON — The children attending Brighton’s End of the School Year Bash were told to have a good summer, stay safe and remember to “Say No to Drugs.” Drug awareness was the theme of the event; fun rides, food and fantastic departments: Seminole Police Department (SPD), Seminole Fire Rescue, Recreation, Library, Education, Community Care for the Elderly, Family Services, Council, Housing and the Chairman’s Office. Culture served coolers, water, Gatorade, and fruit juices.



Susan Etxebarría

Seminole Fire and Rescue FF/EMTs participating in the demonstration were: Acting Lt. “Kevin” Lois, Chris Campbell, Juan Gomez, Willie Weeks, Greg James, Dave Harris, Frank Montenegro and Joe Thomas; not all are pictured.

prizes, the entertainment.

Various community departments helped produce the bash held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on June 2. Because of their team-

John Madrigal had the job of emceeing the afternoon speeches and demonstrations. With so many kids running and playing and eating it was hard to round them all up and get them to sit down, but he did it. He announced the rules for getting your name in the drawing, which included attendance at the guest speaker presentations and demonstrations after the lunch. The door prizes were an Xbox 360, chopper bike, a lap top, iPod®, gift certificates, water slides, skate boards and more.

First up on the stage after lunch were greetings from Brighton Council Representative Andy Bowers and Brighton Board Representative Johnny Jones. Both wished the youth a good summer.

“Stay straight, stay out of trouble. Have fun,” said Bowers.

Then, Officer Ulysses Bodin, from the SPD Crime Prevention Office, spoke about dangers of various drugs. He stressed that sniffing kills brain cells and over time will break a body down. He told the children that the SPD is really serious about curbing drug use around the reservation.

Then he introduced Officer Steve Casserly and the Brighton drug dog, Coda. Casserly told the children his dog can smell things one hundred times better than humans. He said it takes a lot of time and patience to train a police dog.

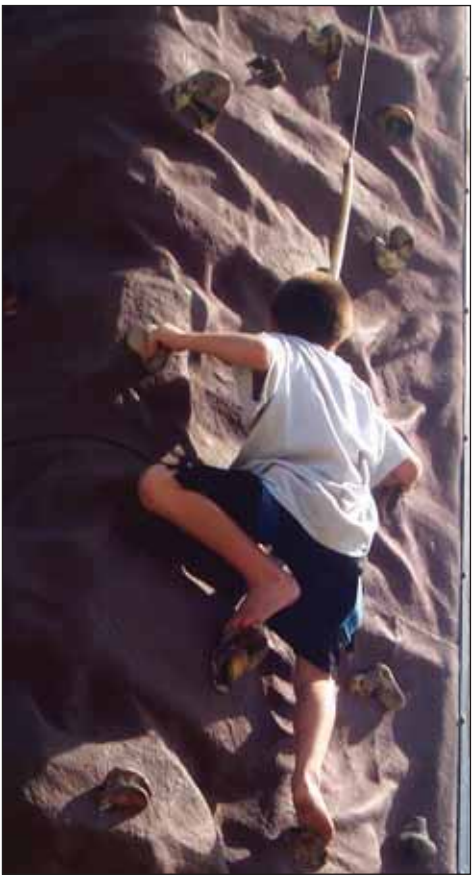
Often the dogs come from overseas; he said Coda is Dutch-born.

Coda had first been trained to follow commands in the Dutch language and so Officer Casserly had to use the Dutch commands until Coda learned to follow English commands. Casserly said that a police dog is assigned an SPD identification number just like all the officers and that an attack against a police dog carries the same penalty as an attack against a police officer.

Next, the Seminole Fire and Rescue department performed a live demonstration, reenacting what happens after a drunken driver hits a tree. The fire department towed on the grounds near the stage a real car that had been damaged badly in a real accident. Then they had a fireman sit inside and pretend he was the unconscious driver.

The Seminole Fire and Rescue truck and ambulance arrived at the stage area. Out jumped the fire fighters and paramedics. The firefighters and paramedics were dressed in heavy bunker gear. It was so hot they had to drink gallons of water to stay hydrated.

They went to work to show the audience what it takes to save the man inside the car. The firemen showed how they must first shower the car so it won’t flame up and explode how they stabilize



Susan Etxebarría

Kelton Smedley on the rock wall.

the car and break the windows to get inside the locked car. Getting the victim out of the car safely but quickly took more time and was harder to do than one would expect. The firemen worked very skillfully.

“This is what is happening every day, several times a day, all over the State of Florida, when someone drives under the influence of drugs or alcohol,” Officer Robert Curtis of Brighton Fire & Rescue told the audience.

After this dramatic demonstration, Barbara Bowling of the Health Clinic explained the effect of certain drugs on human health. She told the audience about their short term affects and long term affects. She said cocaine is bad for the heart and crystal meth can cause brain damage. She talked about the health problems that can develop from the use and abuse of tobacco and chewing tobacco, steroids, heroin, alcohol and marijuana.

The final departmental speaker on the stage was someone who motivated everyone. Mental Health Counselor Basil Phillips has a way of encouraging every-



Susan Etxebarría

Council Rep. Andrew Bowers addressed the kids.

one to think positive and to be happy.

“Here’s the lesson you can take away today,” he said. “If you take drugs something will happen to you. So why do you do it?”

He said sometimes it is because we are hurting. He said the Family Services department is there to help with the hurt. He said everyone who spoke, all the parents and the Seminole Tribe, cares about each one of the children and everyone wants to help them be happy and to grow up healthy.

“If you love yourself you won’t take drugs,” he said. He said Family Services will help you learn how to love yourself,” Phillips said.

Shining Future for Immokalee Graduates

By Judy Weeks
LABELLE, FL — Two young people are making great strides toward a bright future in Immokalee as they became members of the graduating class of 2006.

MARICRUZ YZAGUIRRE
Graduation ceremonies for the Labelle high school seniors took place on the evening of May 20 on the Labelle High School Football Field. The proceedings got underway as the graduates marched onto the field in caps and gowns to the traditional “Pomp and Circumstance” with the girls dressed in white and the boys in red.

The Labelle principal introduced the graduating class to the proud parents and friends who have anticipated this moment for many years. Following his presentation, the assembly listened intently to the addresses of the Hendry County Superintendent of Schools, salutatorian and valedictorian.

In recognition of their academic achievements, each student was presented with their certificate of graduation to a round of applause.

Eighteen year old Maricruz Yzaguirre is the daughter of Patricia Franco and the late Dannie Yzaguirre. For her these proceedings were the conclusion of one era in her life and opened the door to another. She is looking into the possibility of entering Southwest Florida College where she would like to study for a degree in criminal justice.

ANGELO COLON
Immokalee High School held

Principal Armando Touron and Chief Academic Officer Dr. Cynthia Janssen presented diplomas to approximately 282 students as their families and friends witnessed this glorious event.

Among these graduates was eighteen year old Angelo Colon who has been fighting the odds for quite some-time. After losing his father at an early age, he lived with his mother, stepfather and their children. With the sudden passing of his mother, he remained with his siblings for a while but then chose to return to his father’s family in the



Judy Weeks

High school graduate Maricruz Yzaguirre.

Immokalee community.

His grandmother Rachel Billie and uncle Allen Colon gratefully accepted him into their home. They were quick to provide him with the support and understanding, he so deeply desired following his troubled youth.

“I didn’t get into trouble, but I just didn’t care about much of anything. I went to school and just floated along doing what was expected of me with as little effort as possible,” said Colon.

“Nothing much mattered. Then I began a relationship with a very nice young lady and soon discovered that I was going to become a father.”

“It didn’t take long for me to realize that I was going to have to make some big changes in my life. No way was my son going to grow up without a dad like I had,” he added.

Although I had never dropped out of school, I lacked one and a half credits for graduation. The Drop Back In Academy was able to help me acquire these credits so that I could graduate with my class and still work at a job to support my growing family. I guess what I am saying is that I had to grow up fast,” he remarked.

Looking at three month old Angelo Colon, Jr., he said, “My wife and I take turns babysitting and working so that we can be responsible for ourselves. We are living on our own in Lehigh and it is my plan to enter the VoTech in January to study business management and auto mechanics.”

Holding her great-grandson in her arms, Grandma Rachel Billie smiled and said how very proud she was of Angelo and the way that he was accepting responsibility for his life.

Her son, SPD Officer Allen Colon said, “I am as proud of Angelo as if he were my own son. He has taken a negative beginning and turned it into a very positive future. He is setting a good example for the youth in our community.”



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Grad Angelo Colon, grandma Rachel Billie, new baby Angelo Jr. and uncle and SPD Officer Allen Colon.

its commencement proceedings at the Harborside Convention Center in Fort Myers on the evening of May 26. Following the processional, Immokalee High’s Junior ROTC did the presentation of colors, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem.

Dressed in red caps and gowns with white tassels, the graduates filled the entire front of the auditorium which had been decorated in class colors. A short video presentation of class achievements and extra curricular activities preceded the commencement addresses of the Salutatorian and Valedictorian.



Susan Etxebarría

(L-R) Pamela Martin, Lynett Hollinghurst, Brenda Walker and Kerry Lanier at the Family Services booth.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Role Model in the Making

By Lila Osceola

HOLLYWOOD — Everyone has a story along with a past, and a good ending to a great beginning is the best way for Lydia Lee Cypress to tell us her story. Lydia, 23, Wind clan, and the proud daughter of Lydia Lee Cypress and Benny Hernandez went into great detail about her life and how it changed for the better.

In good times and bad, everyone has an inner beauty whether it shines through day to day, or comes out from time to time. Lydia is the type of young lady that

never saw her inner beauty through the drugs and alcohol. And by doing drugs and alcohol thought it would make her braver, prettier, and invincible. Thank God it wasn't too late, she said.

"I never thought I would make it to my 18th birthday," Lydia said.

Lydia is the youngest of five siblings, and started doing marijuana around the age of 11 and drinking by age 12.

"I kept my feelings inside and only way I knew to let them out was through anger," she said.

Her mom sent her to Tampa Bay Academy when she was 13 years old, thinking that would keep her out of trouble. Tampa was a therapeutic school that simply housed kids of Lydia's nature, Lydia explained.

The whole time Lydia was there she never knew why

she was sent away. She spent nearly eight months there.

"I felt abandoned because of something that happened to me when I was 12 years old," she said. "I didn't want to be there, I did my chores at home, went to school, why am I here?"

After she had been away at Tampa Bay Academy, she went home to Big Cypress. Lydia had left in the middle of her eighth grade year, Afachkee School was kind enough to let her come and walk with her graduating class.

Being home for two weeks was nice, but brought back painful memories. She was ready to go back to her new found home in Tampa; of course a boy was involved, which led to the eagerness to leave Big Cypress. Why else would a 14 year old be so eager to back to school.

The progression of the Tampa Bay Academy level system is Level 1 Learning, Level 2 Working, Level 3 Trust, and Level 4 Graduation.

Lydia had a very bad anger problem; she went off the deep end at times and was put in therapeutic holds, papoose holds and injected with shots when times got out of control. Therefore, she could never get passed the Level 2, working stage. She had told her boyfriend she was leaving and didn't want to come back. She packed up her things and of course already missed him, went back to Big Cypress.

She had been home in Big Cypress for four months upon waiting on acceptance of Montverde Academy, a private boarding school in Clermont, Fla. She had been there for about six months, getting involved with activities like, basketball and volleyball.

The struggle between being homesick and trying to be good at this new school was a big challenge for Lydia. Her mom wanted her there, so she tried her best to cope. Getting involved in activities led her to meet new people. But the stay was brief, friends or no friends she was ready to go back to Tampa or Big Cypress, but in her heart she didn't want to be there.

She ended up back in Tampa for about four months. Fortunately, the school gave her another chance, but Lydia was only back for two weeks, got into a fight or two, got in trouble and kicked out that fast. She admits to her bad behavioral problems and the confusion of "why can't I just be home", overwhelmed her which led to a bad temper. During a two year period she was in and out of Tampa Bay Academy for disciplinary reasons.

At age 16 she left for UNITY in Cherokee, N.C. This school was an all Native American rehabilitation school. She was at the school for five days, though she was supposed to be there for three months, and had a severe misunderstanding and temper flare up because her mom wouldn't let her come home.

Lydia got furious and threw a coffee pot on the floor. Someone from the school saw what happened told the advisors that she threw it at somebody. The cops came and arrested her; put her in "real" jail for five days. Her case worker from Brighton, Tony Bullington, came and bailed her out. Upon her release from the "big house" she went home to try to start fresh.

She was home one month when things turned for the worse. Hanging out with the wrong people, with a little peer pressure and a whole lot of time on her hands she turned to drugs for company, drinking snorting cocaine and smoking weed. Boredom and peer pressure at full throttle aren't a good mixture with kids.

Lydia was spending \$20-40 a day on marijuana and \$100-200 dollars a month on cocaine. She stayed up for three or four days at a time. By age 17 she added a list of drugs to the arsenal of drugs she already took religiously, like Acid, Xanax, Ecstasy, plus drinking alcohol in large quantities.

After long days of using and much money wasted, Lydia's eyes were opened when the blackouts became a scary situation instead of just passing the time.

"I would wake up in my bed, clothes and shoes on, and not knowing where I've been or how I got home, my self esteem was so bad, I didn't even want to be sober," she said.

Therefore the process would start all over again.

From that point in her life she went to stay at a half way house in Delray, Fla. She arrived with no expectations and for once in her life she had a great experience. With lots of counseling and support she finally came to a point in her life that she could admit "drugs took many years away from me, the friends in my life when I was using weren't really my friends."

In order for her to be able to grow in a healthy state she was not able to return back to Big Cypress. However, her old buddies in Big Cypress didn't understand she wanted to be clean, and stay clean.

"Everyone still uses that I used with" she said. Very emotional time in her life was the healing process; she said: "I'm proud of myself; I was never able to say that, I had the attitude that I was not going to make it."

She didn't know there are other ways to have fun without being wasted. Being sober is something she takes serious.

"I didn't do it for anyone else but me," she said.

Lydia was only supposed to live at her current Delray house for the minimum three months then go home. But now she feels good and explains the feeling.

"Each day that goes by, each day that I'm sober, I feel good, like I accomplished something," she said.

Finally realizing that her mom was trying to help her and be by her side all through the hard times. Giving thanks for having a mom who cared for her so much takes top priority.

There are so many possibil-

ities and she is thankful she will be able to have goals and actually get a chance to accomplish them. Excitement in her voice reveals that she appreciates the new opportunities out there. Understanding where she's been and where she wants to go is the most exciting thing in her life right now.

"I can't do anything about the past, but I have the power of the future," Lydia said about how she looks at her day-to-day struggle.

She is now a member of *The Seminole Tribune* staff, and loves every minute.

"I love working here and the people I met make me feel special, it's a wonderful feeling," she said. "I'm okay with myself, and I love myself, and I tell myself I'm proud of you, that's something I couldn't do before."

When Lydia goes home to Big Cypress and sees people from the past she said she is not "okay with that." In her struggle with her past, she is able to find security with God, saying "it's hard sometimes; if I pray about it then I'm okay." Her gift to others is her laugh, her personality and for her most vulnerable self to open up to you with hopes of helping one person out there.

Photos by Felix DoBosz

Lydia's advice:

There's a road you can't imagine, there's things to go for, can still have fun without using and meet people you never think you can meet. If you want to come clean and recover than you will have to do hard things. You'll have to leave family, friends and kids even. You'll have to do it. In the long run it will pay off. I know leaving the reservation's a struggle and you feel you're going to miss something, but all you're doing is missing out on your life. What I can't change in the past I can't change it. All I can do is grow from it. Be able to do it for you, if I do it for someone else it won't work. I actually did something I never knew I could do. My family can tell me how much they are proud of me, but it means more if I tell myself.

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Ask The Counselor

Dear Counselor,

I really enjoy reading your articles. I like the way you are able to provide solutions to difficult problems.

I am 26 years old and married with a very supportive wife. My wife and I have five children and we try to be good role models for them. I am new in the recovery program. I attend meetings and take it one day at a time. My problem is my confusion with the spiritual part of the recovery process. I am a Seminole my culture and belief is that the Great Spirit is my higher power.

People in the program talk about spirituality and then they are those in the program that talk about religion. I have seen people in recovery and at meetings argue about their faith being the right one as if one belief is superior to another.

Signed,
Seeking



Basil Phillips
M.S. Mental Health Counseling

Letters of interest from the community

All letters should be sent to
ASK THE COUNSELOR
Family Services Department
3006 Josie Billie Avenue
Hollywood, FL 33024
basilphillips@semtribe.com

ease you are sure to see that your life has become unmanageable. Seeking it is important for you to believe in a power greater than yourselves, because of the many disappointment and hard aches that many people in recovery experience the concept is not an easy one for individuals who have been disappointed time after time.

To believe in a power greater than ourselves begins with hope. Your hope will turn to faith as your life begins to improve. While many people question others about their spiritual beliefs, we must remember that our understanding of a power greater than ourselves is a personal one. The difference between religion and spirituality is based on the concept that religious people are afraid of going to hell, but spiritual people have been to hell and back.

Whether the comparison is fair or not, the fellowship of Alcoholic Anonymous (AA) presents itself as a spiritual rather than a religious program. Therapy offers explanation spirituality offers forgiveness. Native Americans elders say that the twelve steps originally compiled by AA have much in common with traditional native ways especially if they are viewed in a circle. As taught by the elders the time has come for you to awaken from your long sleep and search again for the teaching of the creator through which you will find healing.

As a Seminole you are part of the Seminoles in recovery and other Native Americans who are seeking healing, because they want to stop inflicting pain on themselves and their love ones. Addictive behavior brings addicts closer to the reality that no matter how hard they try to deny it, they are not the ones in control. This realization brings addicts closer to a higher power through spirituality.

Signed,
Counselor

The Healthy Senior

By Fred Cicetti
[Editor's Note: Fred Cietti is a syndicated columnist who writes about issues concerning senior citizens' health. The opinions he expressed are his own. If you would like to ask a question, please write fredcicetti@gmail.com. All Rights Reserved © 2006 by Fred Cicetti.]

Q. My daughter heard that grapefruit juice can be toxic for some people. Is that true?

A: The juice, itself, is not toxic, but you should be careful taking medicine with any grapefruit. Grapefruit juice can raise the level of some medications in the blood. The effect of grapefruit was discovered after using juice to mask the taste of a medicine. So, be sure to ask your doctor or pharmacist if it is safe to have grapefruit with your medications.

Taking medicine can be hazardous to your health. You have to know what you're doing.

For example, calcium-rich dairy products or certain antacids can prevent antibiotics from being properly absorbed into the bloodstream. Ginkgo biloba can reduce the effectiveness of blood-thinning medications and raise the risk for serious complications such as stroke.

You should educate yourself so you know what active ingredients are in the prescription and over-the-counter medicines you are taking.

Some people treat over-the-counter pain relievers as if they are harmless. They can hurt you if you take them improperly. They contain drugs such as acetaminophen, ibuprofen, naproxen sodium and aspirin.

Acetaminophen is in Tylenol. Ibuprofen is in Advil. Naproxen sodium is in Aleve.

Many prescription or over-the-counter medicines that treat multiple symptoms, such as cold and flu medications, also include acetaminophen and the

other pain-relieving ingredients. So you have to be careful not to take too much of any one ingredient by ingesting more than one medication that contains that ingredient.

Seniors take more medicines than any other age group because they have more health problems. Taking several drugs a day presents dangers. Here are some more tips to avoid side these hazards:

Always inform your doctor or pharmacist about all medicines you are already taking, including herbal products and over-the-counter medications.

Tell your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist about past problems you have had with medicines, such as rashes, indigestion or dizziness.

Don't mix alcohol and medicine unless your doctor or pharmacist says it's okay. Some medicines may not work well or may make you sick if you take them with alcohol.

The best advice is this: Don't be afraid to throw a lot of questions about your medicines at your doctor, nurse or pharmacist. Here are some good ones:

When should I take it? As needed, or on a schedule? Before, with or between meals? At bedtime? How often should I take it? How long will I have to take it? How will I feel once I start taking this medicine?

How will I know if this medicine is working? If I forget to take it, what should I do?

What side effects might I expect? Should I report them? Can this medicine interact with other prescription and over-the-counter medicines—including herbal and dietary supplements—that I am taking now?

And, ask your pharmacist to put your medicine in large, easy-to open containers with large-print labels.

Jimmy Wayne Holdiness

Seminole Indian Chickee Builder

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Weight Watchers At Work participants met once a week for 12 weeks.

Weight Watchers® At Work Meetings a Success

Submitted by the Seminole Health Department

HOLLYWOOD — On March 14 the Weight Watchers® At Work Program kicked off its first meeting at the Hollywood Tribal office building. The program was sponsored by the Human Resources and Health departments.

Due to an overwhelming response by both Tribal citizens and employees, two groups were formed to accommodate all those who were eager to join. Both groups met for an hour long meeting during lunch, once a week for a total of 12 weeks.

The format of each Weight Watchers® meeting included a weekly weigh-in, acknowledgement of members who have met goals such as every five pound weight loss, 10 percent weight loss and reaching their final weight goal along with a short discussion on a specific topic, and a question and answer period. A healthy, Weight Watchers® friendly lunch was provided at each meeting by the Allied Health department staff.

Connie Lehman, a trained Weight Watchers® leader, facilitated the classes which emphasized making healthy lifestyle changes. Lehman played a key role in motivating the participants by sharing her own personal story of weight loss success on the Weight Watchers® program and providing helpful tips and strategies.

Some of the topics covered in the meetings were: smart grocery shopping, recipe modification, healthy meal planning, eating more fruits and vegetables, increasing fiber intake, the importance of regular exercise and maintaining motivation. According to the

group participants the leader helped keep everyone focused on their weight loss goal, in addition to creating a supportive and open environment.

The Weight Watchers® meetings use the TurnAround™ Program for participants to incorporate into their daily lives. This program gave each person the choice to follow either the Flex or Core plan.

The Flex plan allows the participant to eat any foods they like as long as they control your portions and keep track of how much they have eaten throughout the day. With this plan keeping a food journal is the key to being successful. According to Lehman "if you bite it, you write, but just don't quit."

The Core Plan provides a list of healthy foods that you can eat without keeping track. Although the majority of the participants followed the Flex Plan everyone who stuck with the program was successful regardless of which plan they followed.

The success of the Weight Watchers® program was amazing to say the least. At week six, which was the halfway mark of the program, the participants in both groups had lost a total of 256 pounds. By the end of the 12 weeks the weight loss grand total for the both groups was a whopping 390 pounds!

The Health department would like to congratulate everyone who participated in the Weight Watchers® program for taking steps to improve their health. Anyone interested in participating in the next Weight Watchers® program scheduled to start in the fall should contact Doris Mir or Tina Mennella at (954) 962-2009.

One of the key components of Weight Watchers® is group support. Everyone shares the common goal of wanting to achieve a healthier lifestyle through weight loss/management. Within our larger group, there were some smaller groups with special ties to each other.

We had the husband and wife team of Don and Peggy Stivers, who lost a combined total of 34 pounds! They both have Diabetes and have marveled at how this weight loss has helped with their diabetes management.

Don was able to reduce his insulin medication from morning and evening, to just once a day in the morning. Sharing this experience together has been beneficial for the Stivers since they get to shop and prepare meals together, they can both help each other. This is a lot easier than each person having different food and perhaps tempting the other.

Another family that has lost weight together is Dorothy Tommie and her adult children, Clinton Tommie and Karen Twoshoes. They lost a combined total of 51 pounds! They feel that doing this together has worked very well because they



Shelley Marmor
(L-R) Dorothy Tommie, Clinton Tommie, and Karen Twoshoes.

on Ravenswood Road to attend the meetings together. It was worth the trip—they lost a total of 38.5 pounds! When asked what was helpful, they cited many aspects of the program. Having lunch provided was helpful so that they could see what some healthy options are and what portion sizes mean.

The group agreed that the program is "guaranteed to work if you follow it" and that the leader was "great and helpful." They said they also enjoyed the group support.

Three members of the Communications department embarked on the challenge of helping each other by chipping in and making healthy breakfast and lunch for each other. These enterprising coworkers are Janice Billie, Virginia Mitchell and Melissa Sherman. This was a fun way that they were able to continue to support each other throughout the week. They stated that they stayed determined and it worked—they have lost a combined total of 30 pounds!



Shelley Marmor
(L-R) Don and Peggy Stivers.

"keep each other motivated." Staying motivated is very important, and if one person feels like giving up, they have the support of their family member to keep them focused on their goal.

Some changes can even carry through to other family members who are not on the program. One such example is if there is a family cook out and the ones who are on Weight Watcher's help introduce some healthier options such as grilling chicken or fish and vegetables. You never know what you may like until you try it!

The workplace is another area that can provide support or temptation. Many times there are cakes and donuts in various offices and it's very easy to overindulge. However, there were two departments that each had employees that joined together to help support each other.

Cindy Cozier, Gail Seals, and Joy Sinberg made the trip every week from the Insurance office



Shelley Marmor
(L-R) Connie Lehman, Janice Billie, Virginia Mitchell and Melissa Sherman.

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New Martial Arts Program Kicks Off In Big Cypress

By Susan Etxebarria

BIG CYPRESS — For the youth, just about the hippest thing happening this summer is Go Dragon—a new program offered by the Seminole Tribe’s Fitness department. Go Dragon, a traveling Tae Kwon Do martial arts school, launched its first classes beginning in June at Big Cypress.

Classes will be offered in the coming months at all the reservations.

At Big Cypress, Go Dragon is fast becoming a very popular class among the Tribal youth even though it requires silence, obedience, concentration and discipline. It is amazing to watch four year olds to 14 year olds snap into place at the master instructor’s commands. They are so eager to develop strength of mind, body and spirit.

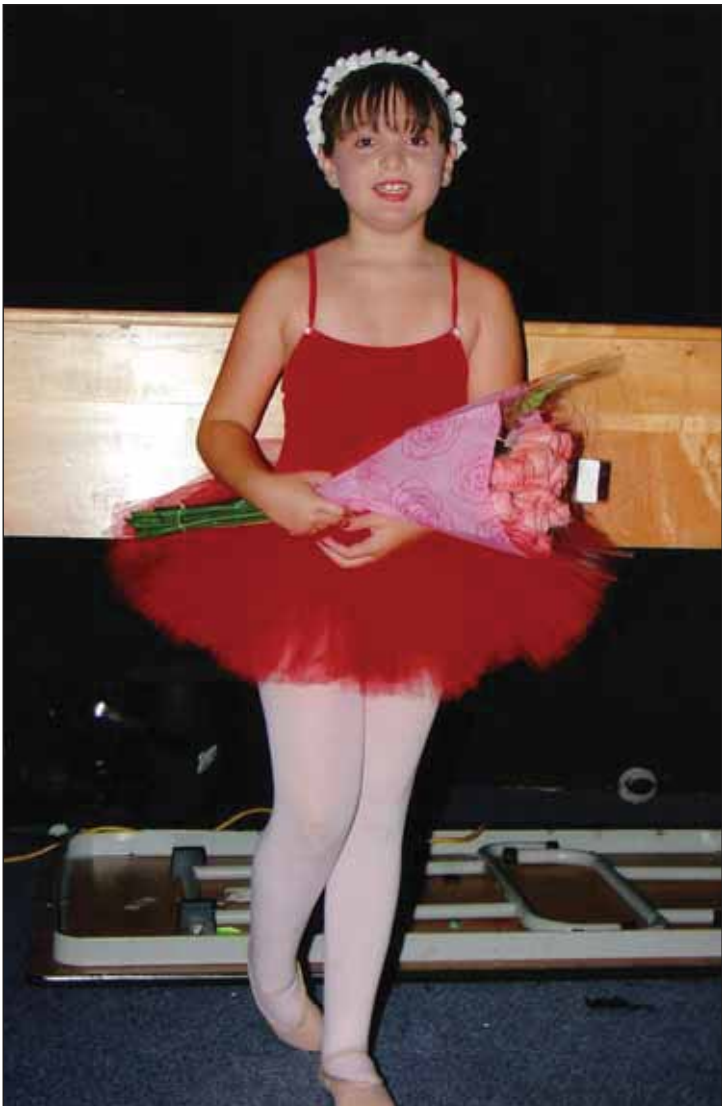
It is easy to recognize the strong appeal of martial arts in the expressions on the faces of the students lined up and listening with great expectations and respect for their teacher. Many of them just dream of getting their belts in martial arts.

At Go Dragon students learn the 2,000 year old Tae Kwon Do and many other forms of martial arts. Master Instructor Robert J. McCarthy is the founder of Go Dragon. He has more than 20 years experience, has competed in International



Susan Etxebarria

Eyanna Lee Billie and Raini Cypress play games that increase balance, coordination, and focus in a safe, controlled setting.



Judy Weeks

Ballet diva Chelsey Ford accepts a dozen roses.

World of Dance Recital Held Seminole Children Dance Sending Viewers Abroad

By Judy Weeks

LEHIGH ACRES, FL — The auditorium of the Lehigh High School was packed with a very appreciative audience who had come to enjoy an evening of entertainment being performed by the students of Patty’s Dance Studio on June 10.

This dance extravaganza was presented in two performances each lasting approximately three hours with a short intermission. More than 75 students participated in dance routines, which included chorus lines, solos, duets and carefully

dancers wearing fabulous costumes depicting various countries, nationalities and ethnic origins. It is seldom that anyone has an opportunity to see an amateur production of such high quality and with such extraordinary detail to costume and design.

The repertoire included: country western, Broadway classics, French Can-Can, Russian folk dancers, kung fu fighters, Arabian harems, boot camp hip-hop, jazz, choo-choo trains, ballerinas, Jail House Rock, geisha girls, clowns, Planet of the Apes, disco and so much more.

Dancers ranged in age from three to 78 years with the average being from six to 18.

Little Jada Holdiness joined eight other dancers in performing LaBamba in fabulous Latin flamboyance. Jillian Rodriguez had practiced for England Swings in a black, white, and gold attired chorus line and Farmer’s Tan dressed like Daisy Mae.

In a flutter of white fans, Chelsey Ford in a red tutu with garlands of flowers in her hair, joined her dance troupe in performing a beautiful rendition of Coppelias Ballet.

Larissa DeLaRosa, in combat boots and camoflaue, did some very awesome moves in the Hip-Hop productions and proved to be very aerobic. The Hip-Hop Revue in which she participated was asked to entertain during the half time at the Germain Arena on Saturday, June 17th during the Firecats Game.

Following the evenings entertainment, the entire dance company did a curtain call and the applause brought down the house.



Judy Weeks

Hip-Hop performer Laurissa DeLaRosa gets down in the Hip-HopRevue.

choreographed stage acts.

The theme for the production of World of Dance took the audience on a trip around the world. The stage was transformed with airport posters, foreign flags and travel memorabilia. Participating in the program were four young members of the Immokalee community who have been attending the school for the past year.

Each performance included 45 songs with the



Susan Etxebarria

Nigel Wells shows great determination in Little Warrior Class obstacle course.

Tae Kwon Do events and held two state titles in amateur boxing.

“Martial arts are really good for kids. It teaches discipline and self confidence. It shows them they can do anything if they put their mind to it,” said McCarthy.

He is an example of someone who developed life long skills and fitness from his martial arts career starting at the tender of age of four. Today he works full time for Seminole Fire & Rescue as a firefighter so he is a person who has proven himself as a tough, disciplined guy. Anyone has to be tough in order to fight fires and save lives. Now he passes on his knowledge and expertise teaching martial arts as well.

To get the all the willing Tribal citizens started, not just children, but also teens and adults, the classes are free. Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Council Representative David Cypress, Fitness Director Vicki Barrogiannis and Big Cypress Recreation Director George Grasshopper are all to be thanked for getting this program initiated.

Once Go Dragon has classes at all the reservations, and enough kids are ready to compete, intra-reservation tournaments can be held. A Seminole team can also be trained to kick butt in outside tournaments statewide and even nationally.

Many adult students will take the class for fitness only, while others will take the classes as a family project. There’s something for everyone; for dad, its great physical fitness, for mom, its flexibility and self defense. And what about your kids? Well, they may change right before your eyes.

“It produces tremendous family spirit,” said McCarthy.

What parents might be glad to know is that a fierce band of Koreans known as the “Hwarang” practiced Tae Kwon Do 1,500 years ago. According to a Go Dragon brochure, they preached “loyalty to your people, honoring your parents, being faithful to your friends, to never retreat in battle and to use good judgment before killing living things.”

McCarthy wants fans of martial arts to know about his style of instruction. He said he admires the martial arts legend, Bruce Lee, who advised his followers to “Take what works and use it.” With McCarthy’s foundation in the Korean Art of Tae Kwon Do he adds applicable techniques from various styles from boxing and kickboxing to jiu-jitsu. He wants his students to know practical means of self defense and how to avoid bad situations from the beginning.

Tae Kwon Do teaches more than jabs, kicks, jumps, hand and foot strikes. At the same time the body gains mastery the student learns to develop habits of courtesy, integrity, self-control, perseverance and an unbreakable spirit. It is this kind of training that combats drug use and addiction. Not all students will become a martial arts star but all students can gain from taking classes.

To learn more about this program, or to sign up for classes, call Go Dragon class coordinator and Assistant Director of Fitness Irena Loleski, at (954) 931-0515.



Susan Etxebarria

Mike Lopez, Sabre Billie, Adrienne Cypress, and Anthony Joe all listen as Mr. McCarthy teaches self-defense in Team Dragon Class.

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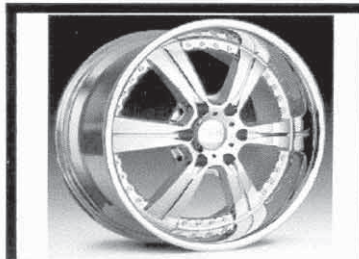
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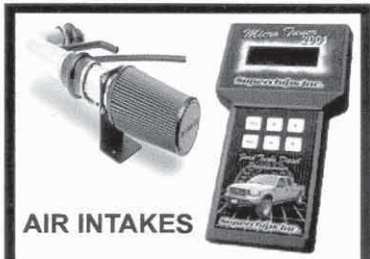
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Seminole Sports Management Supports Disney Trip

By Chris Jenkins
ORLANDO, FL — A happy child, in a happy place can go a long way with their growth and stability. Just imagine enjoying the day at a place priding itself on the motto, "The Happiest Place on Earth," Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom. On May 27, 40 Broward county youth lived the dream.



Chris Jenkins
Michael Irvin enjoys the tea cups with two Carter Park students.



Chris Jenkins
Michael Irvin poses with two lucky students Derek Walker (L) and Casey Barber (R) at Carter Park before leaving on the field-trip.

The opportunity to see and live such a dream came courtesy of Seminole Sports Management (SSM) and former Fort Lauderdale native and National Football League great, Michael Irvin through his non-profit charity, Playmaker Charities and Academies.

"A lot of these kids they've never been here before, for them, this is something that they saw in the little box called a TV and they really didn't know it existed," Irvin said. "I've been here a million times, but it's like I'm experiencing everything for the first time because I'm looking through their eyes."

Such a reward came because of dedication to their studies as part of after school programs with Carter Park in Fort Lauderdale.

Playmakers Charities and Academies was created to give kids in need academic, spiritual, and emotional support to aid them to succeed in life. Thus far, the foundation's efforts have helped provide donated computers from Broward County Crime Stoppers, and helped toward renovations of the Michael Irvin Academic Recreation Academy Building with a state of the art dance studio, as well as establish a professional reading program.

"We want to give them everything they need to become well-rounded, great individuals

that will contribute in a great way to this society," said Irvin.

As Foundation Manager for Playmakers and SSM, Tera Jenkins has worked hard behind the scenes preparing.

"SSM was intimately involved with the fundraising to make this event happen and was responsible for the planning and execution of the event," said Jenkins. "It was the job of SSM to utilize its experienced staff and resources to pull off such a smooth and successful trip for our client Playmaker Charities and Academies."

Seventh grade student Derek Walker felt the payoff was worth the work.

"We had to work really hard and always do the right thing and have good behavior," Walker said.

Irvin feels the experience has helped him gain a better perspective on the foundation's impact.

"If these kids walk out of here with respect for themselves and each other, then we've accomplished a great thing," Irvin said.

Jenkins feels the impact on the kids is immeasurable.

"This will be a lifetime memory for some of these kids. I believe that it may have given some of them some hope," she said.

Since retiring from the NFL due to a neck injury in 2000, the two-time Hall of Fame finalist day job is with ESPN as one of the most informative, respected, and lively analysts in the NFL. He also maintains strong ties to the South Florida community through his work with the University of Miami, radio guest appearances and his charity.



Chris Jenkins
The media swarm with questions for Michael Irvin.



Chris Jenkins
The students load up and prepare for the trip to Walt Disney World.

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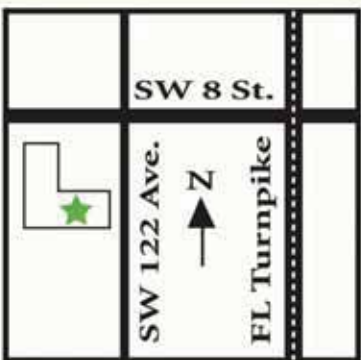


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Seminole One's Brady Latchford hits a double versus Driftwood.



Seminole Warrior, Kira Mowatt, 6, gets some hitting practice.

Divisional T-Ball Season Ends

By Chris Jenkins
HALLANDALE BEACH, FL — On May 30–31 some of the future stars of the softball and baseball field shined in the five to seven year old A and B division T-ball league. The Seminole Warriors and Seminole One ball clubs were in playoff action.

Coming in, Coach Terry Tartsah's Seminole One squad was in an all or none situation as they were 0-1 in tourney play and with one last shot to keep their season alive came up short with a 28-20 time-limit final. Coach Tartsah felt errors, having four players out, and a lack of experience all were major factors in the loss and an older more experienced Driftwood team took advantage.

"The game was close and we had them at first," said Tartsah.

Entering his tenth year, Tartsah had a new team taking the field, six of whom were new.

"I had first year ball players and I had some with me about two years playing this year," Tartsah said.

Seminole One ended their season at 5-12, including the playoffs.

"The kids did real good; the season was awesome," Tartsah said.

Second year coach Jason DiCarlo's Seminole Warriors, turned a slow start into a championship facing fourth-ranked Driftwood. With a 28-18 final, his bunch secured the Division B Championship.

"We did everything we had to do to win the game, it was a good team effort," DiCarlo said.

The key in the win was better defense highlighted by a fifth inning double play with the bases loaded, according to DiCarlo.

With a 1-5 shortened season last year due to Hurricane Wilma, and an 8-9 record this year, it is proof that in the post-season hard work and chemistry can make all the difference.

"We continued to improve throughout the season with steady improvement," DiCarlo said.

The season resumes for both teams in August and September.



Seminole head coach, Terry Tartsah discusses game line-ups with officials and Driftwood coaches.



Head coach Jason DiCarlo (middle) and his Division-B T-Ball Championship team, the Seminole Warriors.



Seminole One, Skylar Osceola bears down on the ball versus Driftwood.

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Seminole Indian 4-H Banquet

By Susan Etxebarria
BRIGHTON — The 2005-2006 Awards Banquet for Seminole Indian 4-H was hosted at the Seminole Tribe's Cattle & Land Headquarters in Brighton on Thursday, June 15. Occupying every seat at the decorated tables in the massive Cattlemen's Hall were 4-H members, parents, grandparents and whole families who seemed very pleased with their children who made so much progress this year in 4-H.

Prior to the program, the audience was treated to a videotape playing on a large overhead screen. It was the recent 4-H Show & Sale at Brighton. The special video, filmed by Seminole Broadcasting, was of a memorable night and fun to view.

The happy banquet began at noon with fantastic tender steak and swamp cabbage cooked up by J.R. Huff and John Wayne Huff, Jr. and, Mary Jo Micco catered the rest of the meal that included her tasty fry bread and famous chocolate cake.

The occasion was brought to order by Mary Huff, president of the Brighton 4-H Swine Club, who led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and the recital of this meaningful 4-H Pledge that members memorize. She recited it in a strong voice.

"I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service, my health to better living for my club, my community, my country and my world," she said.

Michael Bond, the Tribe's extension agent from the University of Florida, emceed the lively



Susan Etxebarria
Kalgary Johns holds her excellent record book.

Extension Services Mitch Flinchum. Bond thanked Flinchum for his work on behalf of the Tribe by preparing grants and obtaining significant funding for the 4-H Program.

Special recognition was given to two cattle owners whose herds produced top winners this year at the Annual Seminole Indian 4-H Show & Sale.

"The Seminole Tribe has one of the best herds in the United States and it is the top third on the east coast," said Bond as he also acknowledged these pioneer ranching families.

The Joe H. Tiger Estate produced Skyler Burke's grand champion steer and the Joe Johns Estate produced LeAnna Billie's reserve grand champion. Both girls were very diligent in raising their calves to maturity.

Also introduced were the Seminole Indian 4-H officers, the 4-H advisory committee and project leaders. 4-H volunteers were given special thanks. As the saying goes "it takes a village to raise a child" and their help makes 4-H happen every year.

A big hit at the banquet were the specially-designed, really sensational, green and white Seminole summer jackets presented to every youth in the Tribe as well as one to President Osceola and to Flinchum. The distinctive jackets with the 4-H logo were donated by Polly Hayes and Brighton 4-H.

Every youth in 4-H was presented with a certificate and their well-earned paycheck from the sale of their animal. The jacket and the new t-shirt was icing on the cake. Finally the 4-H members got their record books back after handing them in for their grade.

Each member's 4-H steer project record book or swine project record book was stacked up in one of three piles on the head table. It was the job of "Professor" Bond to grade these books and he had examined and evaluated them for days.

Bond was jubilant as he told the parents and children that the biggest pile was the record books that earned 100 points, or more. It was an astonishing feat to have so many. Since 100 is the top grade, Bond said the extra points were just a way of letting the kids know their extra efforts were appreciated.

Kalgary Johns received 105 points and Bond had written in the book "Awesome book & very well organized." There were too many excellent books to read and Johns agreed to let the Seminole Tribune use hers as an example. On quick glance it seemed as though many of the record books had super photography and original formats the youths had designed on their computers.

Every record book required lots of record keeping. It's almost like homework! Included are the inventory of supplies and equipment list and the feed expense records list with attached receipts required.

In her record book in the rate of gain column Johns faithfully recorded the weights her steer, Rocky, was gaining as he grew. Her steer weighed 708 pounds when she picked him from her father and grand-



Susan Etxebarria
Mitch Flinchum with his jacket while Michael Bond and Candi Mancil announce next person.

affair that was first kicked off with a thoughtful speech from President Moses Osceola.

"Thanks for inviting me here today to be with all of you," said Osceola. "To all the children I want to say 'Congratulations'. You had a really great show this year and you worked hard."

Osceola then addressed the families.

I have to congratulate the parents and grandparents I see here today. Your support of your children is really necessary, really important. It is good to see so much interest and support of your kids in 4-H." Then turning back to the youth, he said "You children, you stick with it. Stick with 4-H and in time it will pay off for you. It takes hard work to be successful and you can be successful. So, stay in 4-H; stay in school; and then, if you want, go to college."

Bond next introduced Seminole Indian 4-H Coordinator Polly Hayes Osceola, Brighton Assistant Dionne Smedley and Big Cypress Assistant Candi Mancil. He congratulated them for all their



Good food

Susan Etxebarria



Dionne Smedley and Mary Jo Micco serve 4-H members.

Susan Etxebarria

father's herd in Big Cypress. At the banquet, Johns' steer was given the merit award for most gained weight—a whopping 667 pounds. This is what Johns wrote in her record book when she had to answer this question: What Have I Learned?

She wrote "I have learned that raising steer is a lot of work. It is similar to raising a horse. They both eat two times a day and enjoy their hay. I believe I did a good job because I had good teachers. My parents, my 4-H directors, and my grandparents have taught me how to raise Rocky. The last time I weighed him he was 1,375 pounds."

Another 4-H member who worked hard but didn't win this year was Toby Gopher. She was complimented highly for her excellent record book as well.

In her swine project story she wrote: "I learned that it takes a lot of responsible stuff like cleaning his pen, washing him and feeding him every day. It is a lot of work but I got used to it so it is not hard. What would I do to improve my projects? I would spend more time with my hog and wash him every day."

2005-2006 4-H Merit Awards & Recognition

Steers: Grand Champion: Skyler Burke; Reserve Grand Champion: LeAnna Billie; Senior Showmanship: LeAnna Billie; Junior Showmanship: Ravenne Osceola; Herdsmanship: Rayven Smith; Most Gained Weight: Kalgary Johns.

Swine: Grand Champion: Kiylier Baker; Reserve Grand Champion: Levi Billie; Senior Showmanship: Mark Arrigo; Junior Showmanship: Jarayca Baker; Herdsman: Clint Bowers.

Special Recognition to Cattle Owners: Grand Champion Steer: Joe H. Tiger Estate; Reserve Grand Champion: Joe Johns Estate.

4-H Advisory Committee: Project Leaders: Chris Marrero, Immokalee, Organization Leader; Moleana Mora, Immokalee, Swine & Steer Leader; Candi Mancil, Big Cypress, Organizational, Steer & Swine Leader; Betty Billie Brighton, Swine Leader; Emma Urbina, Brighton, Steer Leader

2005-2006 4-H Volunteers: Amos Tiger, Amy Yaguire, Andre Jumper, Andy Bowers, Benny Hernandez, Betty Billie, Boogie Jumper, Brandi Clay, Ceceila Thomas, Chelsey Mancil, Connie Haight, Dallas Nunez, Danny Harmon, Debbie Johns, Dionne Smedley, Donald Hayes, Emma Brown, Emma Urbina, Ethel Gopher, Frank Thomas, Holly Johns, Jeanette Cypress, Jeanne Billie, Jennifer Mancil, Jessie Aldridge, Jessie Urbina, Joyce Piz, Juan

Tapia, Juanita Martinez, Judy Weeks, Kay Bowers, Keith Billie, Kelli Osceola, Kenny Joe Davis, Kevin Lawrence, Kenny Doney, Leoma Simmons, Lewis Gopher Sr., Lisa Osceola, Lizina Bowers, Lonnie Gore, Loretta Peterson, Mathew Piz, Melissa Kendrick, Michele Thomas, Milo Osceola, Naha Jumper, Nolan Mancil, Norman Johns, Paulette Lawrence, Peter Martinez, Raymond Mora, Reno Osceola, Rodney Osceola, Sam Smedley, Sandy Billie Jr., Sampson Gopher, Shannon Gopher, Sylvia Marrero, The Youth Ranch, Adam Turtle, Donna Turtle and Sheri Holmes.

2005-2006 Seminole Indian 4-H Officers: Immokalee 4-H: President Mark Arriaga, Vice President Justin Villarreal, Secretary Edward Yzaguirre, Treasurer Cassandra Jimmie, Sergeant of Arms Tommy Benson, Sergeant of Arms Rafeal Sanchez; Big Cypress 4-H: President Keifer Bert, Vice President Dani Jae Tommie, Secretary Andre Jumper, Treasurer Sonnie Billie; Brighton 4-H Swine Club: President Mary Huff, Vice President Jewel Buck, Secretary Stevie Brantley, Treasurer Lois Billie, Reporter Ashton Baxley, Sergeant of Arms Ty Huff, Sergeant of Arms Jaryaca Baker; Brighton 4-H Steer Club: President Reba Osceola, Vice President Dayne Johns, Secretary Kristina Osceola, Treasurer Katrina Bettyloun, Reporter LeAnna Billie, Sergeant of Arms Brandon Billie, Sergeant of Arms Ravenne Osceola.



Donny Hayes shows how to saddle a horse.

Susan Etxebarria

Horse Clinic held for Youth

By Susan Etxebarria

BRIGHTON — The grounds near the 4-H Horse Barn at Brighton, across from the rodeo arena, were filled by eager youths on the morning of June 14. They were dying to ride a horse. Some of the kids had never been on a horse and they really wanted to try it. Thanks to the efforts of the 4-H staff, the youth attending Brighton Recreation department's summer program were brought to the stables to attend a horse clinic.

Donny Hayes, who takes care of the horses for 4-H, set up the grounds and prepared the horses. He brought them out of their stalls, seven in all.

4-H Coordinator Polly Hayes showed the youth how to approach a horse, how to walk around a horse and where to stand and hold the reins. She showed them how to calm a horse before you ride by patting it gently, talking to it and brushing it. The youths took turns brushing.

They were shown how to put a saddle blanket on a horse and then saddle up the horse. They were helped as they

learned to mount a horse. 4-H Assistant for Big Cypress, Candi Mancil, came to help with the clinic. She took three of the youths on horses into one ring and Polly Hayes took four nervous riders into the larger ring.

Both women are very knowledgeable and experienced in riding horses.



4-H's Polly Hayes (right) demonstrates proper brushing.

Susan Etxebarria

From them the children got helpful instruction about how to lead a horse, ride a horse and stay calm and relaxed in the saddle. It took most of the next two hours to make sure everyone had their chance to ride a horse.



Donny Hayes shows children how to put a blanket on a horse

Susan Etxebarria

Miami Heat Handle Business in Championship

Sweep Mavericks in Florida, Win It All in Dallas

By Tony Heard

MIAMI, FL — The Miami Heat looked as if they were not the team to bring home the trophy after the first two games in Dallas. The Mavericks outthustled, outrebounded, and outran the Heat to take a 2-0 lead in the NBA finals. Luckily for the Heat all the games were not in Dallas, because once the venue changed so did the effort, hustle, and intensity of the Heat players. The crowd that assembled in American Airlines Arena for each game had a lot to do with that.

With some of the greatest fans in the NBA, the Miami players fed off of the excitement and energy that surrounded all of south Florida throughout the home stand at American Airlines Arena.

Fans and fanatics alike were on hand to show how much they believed in their team. Spectators showed up to games with their faces painted, waving signs of encouragement, and wearing white, supporting the “White Hot” theme of the playoffs this year.

There are no words that can describe the atmosphere and energy that was present during the final game here in South Florida. A few that come to mind are, remarkable, outstanding, and amazing. Anyone who was in attendance will agree, no one could have asked for a better game five. Series tied at two and both teams needing a win. There were big shots made by both teams, there were bad calls from the officials, technical fouls, confetti, and a wonderfully thrilling victory for all Heat fans.

“The D Wade Express” was headed to Dallas and all his troops are with him. With hopes that Wade could continue his astonishing play, and catapult his team to their first NBA championship in franchise history. It was definitely going to take a lot to overcome the rowdy and excited crowd in Dallas.

From the looks and sounds of the games here, I think the Heat players got enough support and cheers from the fans to help them bring home the championship.

The Heat traveled to Dallas and endured the taunting, sellout crowd, and weight of not winning in Dallas in the last three years. They stayed fifteen strong and behind Dwyane Wade captured the first NBA championship in history.

In a close game where Dallas seemed poised and determined to play a game seven, the Heat started out slow but finished strong. That has pretty much been the story of these finals for the Heat. With Dallas turning the ball over and missing shots at critical times the Heat held on to become the world champs.

Dallas let the momentum slip through their fingers to have double digit leads in game three, five, and six, but the Heat was determined, resilient, and snatched the championship from



American Airlines Arena is “White Hot” and ready for Game 5 tip off.

Lila Osceola



Tony Heard

Dallas Mavericks and Miami Heat battle in the paint for much needed rebounds.

the Mavericks on their home court.

This outcome could not have been scripted any better. Down 0-2 and then winning four straight to clinch the title shows the heart of true champs. The trials, injuries, and controversy throughout the year are no longer an issue. The 14,132 fans that piled into American Airlines Arena and all of those who celebrated until the wee hours of the morning deserve this championship also.

The support that is showed to this group of men is outstanding, and that is how all pro sports should be.

The difference maker in this series was the bench play of Miami. The bench had failed to step up in previous series, but they took some of the weight off of Wade and O’Neal and made huge plays when it came down to the wire.

There is no doubt about it, after the 95-92 victory on June 20, the Heat has the best player, D Wade, in the NBA on the best team in the NBA.

Coach Pat Riley said it best, “Fifteen strong, it will take us to win, 15 strong.” That’s exactly how it happened. Congratulations Miami Heat players, friends, family, and most importantly fans!



Lila Osceola

Joe Osceola shows his team spirit after the big win.



Lila Osceola

Miami Jr. Jammers break it down at time-out.

Tribal Citizen Beats Up the Maverick

By Virginia Mitchell

HOLLYWOOD — On June 13, bright and early before going in to work, Tribal citizen Victor P. Osceola went to Oakwood Plaza to join many others in Beat The Maverick promotion, sponsored by radio station BIG 105.9. Beat The Maverick was a pre-Heat and Dallas game exhibition to get fans excited for Game 3.

At the Beat The Maverick pep rally, Miami Heat fans got to beat up the 1977 Ford Maverick in hopes that the Heat would beat the Dallas Mavericks later that evening. Heat fans shelled out \$5 per swing with all proceeds going to the Miami Heat Family Outreach Charitable Fund.

BIG 105.9 producer/announcer Bruce Jenners called up Victor handed him the sledgehammer. Automatically, Victor climbed up the Dallas colors-painted Maverick and started with not one, not



Virginia Mitchell

two, but five huge blows demolishing the windshield out.

When asked how he felt afterwards he replied “I feel great now. Go Heat!” and needless to say the Heat won that night.



Tony Heard

Coach Pat Riley motivates his team at a time out.



Virginia Mitchell



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Happy Birthday



Happy birthday Kristy Leeann Motlow! Another year gone by and you're missed every single day. I know you're in a better place though. Thank you for always being there cuz.
Love,
Carolee Nelson

Happy birthday Akira. I remember when you were just a little girl. Now you're all grown up. We just want to wish you a happy birthday and many more to come.
With love,
Mommy (Doreen Cypress) and family



Seminole Artists Wanted

Submitted by the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

BIG CYPRESS — The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum at Big Cypress is in the planning stages of an exhibit on contemporary Seminole artists. The exhibit would showcase the artwork of tribal members, presenting their work to a wider audience. Artists may wish to have a day highlighting their work when they would be at the museum to answer questions, demonstrate, or give a short talk.

All types of art will be considered. In order to be part of this exciting exhibit, please contact Gretchen DeBree at (863) 902-1113, Ext. 212 or Cynthia Kasee at (863) 902-1113, Ext. 207 by July 12. Artwork must be ready for the exhibit by Aug. 15

Wonder and Mary Johns Celebrate 50 Years Together

Submitted by Carol Johns
Wonder and Mary Johns celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with an afternoon party hosted by family and friends at Brighton Indian First Baptist Church. They were married in Colgate, Okla. on June 3, 1956. Colgate is near the town where Mary Johns grew up, called Atoka, and also near where her mother lived at the time.
Early in their marriage, Wonder was served two years in the U.S. Army as a Private First Class stationed in Germany. Later he served as a Seminole Tribe employee for more than 30 years. Prior to his retirement, he was the pastor of Indian First Baptist Church in Hollywood and Brighton. Mary Johns was a nurse at Shawnee Hospital in Oklahoma but would later leave the workforce to raise their children and serve with her husband in the church.
They now reside in Brighton and have lived



there since 1973. Their children and grandchildren are daughter Cyndi Rodriguez (Juan) and their children Alyssa, Erin, Zachary, Nicholas; daughter Theresa Bowers (Marvin) and their children Trina and Clint; son Victor (Carol) and their children Ryan and Jillian. They have one great-grandchild, Ashlynn.

It Is Only Because Of You I Exist

I exist only because of you
Your beauty a wakes my soul
And arouses my body
There for giving me strength to carry on
Yet another day.
You smile is so intense
It is like sunshine to a world of darkness
And rainfall to a long drought
You touch so gentle
Like that from a newborn child
Your eyes hoe they hypnotize
And baffle me wild

It is you girl who has my heart
It is you who get me though
It is your soft hellos
And mellow gestures
And the ever to die for wink
The reason I feel a breeze
And I know I exist
And rejoice in happiness
All you.
Yes- you girl I cannot resist
It is only because of you I exist

—Markell (Eli) Billie

Happy Birthday Virginia Mitchell



I am a member of the Bird clan. At age nine, I moved to a Panther clan village and grew up there. My mother is full-blooded Seminole and my father was of Dutch descent. My mother gave me up to a friend who could not bear children. The woman and her husband were full blooded Seminole. I think of them as my parents.

When my stepmother passed, I went to live with her parents in the Everglades, in the Miccosukee community. I was the only young girl in the camp. My grandmother's sister had five boys and one girl. For the longest time the boys

called me "half breed," but the term didn't bother me. My grandparents told me stories of when half breeds were killed because they brought misfortune. When I heard this, I felt guilty to have bestowed this upon my loving family.

My stepmother passed, then not long after her sister passed. Then her father, my grandfather passed. This laid a very heavy burden on my conscience and my heart. I rarely talked about it; being silent was easier. I was very hard on myself.

Only one thought brought me comfort. I had been told that half breeds were supposed to bring bad fortune and not survive. But there I was, in my forties, and I was a survivor.

I started thinking about how my grandparents had treated me with so much kindness. They said, "Never forget who you are. Never forget where you come from." If I was so unworthy, why had they been so kind to me?

So many elders spoke kindly to me, and taught me what to expect in the future. I miss them terribly. The time spent with them is like a vision so vivid; it is like watching a motion picture. We still have some wise people among us. Let's go and visit with them! They are eager to talk to all who will listen. Let's open our ears and hearts. We will regret it if we never approach them and hear the greatest stories ever told.

Throughout my life, there have been many people who have mistreated me, talked ill of me, cursed me and abused me. But I have prayed and asked God to forgive every one of them. I know in the light one day, they will find the right way.

Every day I think of my brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, grandparents, cousins and all natives. Lately with all the things that have been happening, I've been thinking of the entire world. I am hopeful that one day we all will be grateful, thankful and joyful with all that the Almighty has provided for us.

We have been given brains which we are not using to their full potential. Too many of us are mistreating ourselves as well as others with no remorse. Let's quit mistreating our brains and hearts before they collapse and we are here no more.

Let us stop the circle of destruction and begin with a new circle of life with positive force. Let us all bring good fortune and peace to each other.
—Virginia Mitchell

One day when I worked in the Gaming department a woman came down and knocked on the door and asked me to help *The Seminole Tribune* out. I had only worked in the Gaming department for three months and rumor made its way upstairs that I went to school for computer graphics and I knew the exact software the *Tribune* had just purchased.

They were making a transition from paste up and type setting, to doing their own layout in house!

The lady seemed nice enough, so I agreed to help out on my lunch breaks and after hours. Very shortly after that I was invited to join the Communications department staff.

Like every family we have grown together and gone through many changes, even happy and sad times. Our desks have moved, we've seen new faces, our tummies have grown new lives and most importantly have something most people in America could only dream about... that is, being able to say that I have a boss that I respect and love to work with and think of like another Mom.

Happy birthday Virginia (Gandma Ginya), to my boss, friend, mother and grandmother to my children.

Love,
Melissa Sherman

In this world today it is hard to find genuine people. I've been a lot of places, and worked for a lot of different people, but Virginia Mitchell is as genuine as they get. To work for someone that cares about her employees as much as she cares about her people is unique and much appreciated! She is a diamond in the rough.

As we say in the Communications department, "when we work, we work hard and when we play, we play harder." Thank you for being the best boss, friend and family!

From,
Lila Osceola

I am wishing Mrs. Mitchell (AKA Bad Girl) the happiest b-day wishes. Thanks for being a good boss and friend.

From,
Chris J.

I started working in Communications department a little over two years now. I knew Virginia in and around Hollywood. I noticed an opening in her department, so I decided to put in an application, I was hired.

I worked with Virginia, and she was knowledgeable about the newspaper. She taught me so many things about the paper, and getting to go to work in a different field, which I love. I really like working with Virginia, she is a great lady, good boss and puts in 110 percent job-wise.



Happy Birthday Virginia and many more to come, Boss.
From,
Darline Buster

From your

most loyal employee, happy birthday wishes to *The Seminole Tribune* Editor in Chief Virginia Mitchell. As the great poet Robert Frost (1874–1963) once wrote: "A diplomat is a man who always remembers a woman's birthday but never remembers her age."
Felix DoBosz



Happy birthday Virginia! You certainly deserve to be happy.

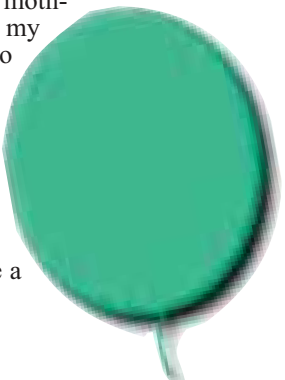
It has been many seasons since the days when we stayed in Grandma's camp in Trail. I remember being introduced to you as a cousin when I was about five or six years of age. We are Birds so we were taught that we are family. Though we lost touch for many years, you never hesitated to support me when I called. It is good to have people like you in the world. You survived the hard times and learned to live a productive life. Through example and encouragement you help others to do the same.
For that you deserve to be happy.
From,
Janice Billie

Happy birthday Boss! It's been fun during these past few years that I've been here. Thanks for always being good to me and for all your motherly advice, like "Don't get married... Don't have kids..." and all the other useful things you teach me. Work wouldn't be the same without you!

Love,
Shellerina

I met Virginia Mitchell about two years ago in an interview for a position at *The Seminole Tribune*. She was wonderful then and she is still wonderful now. She has taught me a lot we also have gone through a lot good and bad, she has been there as a friend, a mother, and a grandmother to my kids; she has been good to me and my family.

I know we go through some rough times and I am sure there will be even more rough times but I also know we will be OK. You are one of the best bosses and the most understanding boss and a good hearted person. Don't ever change a thing about yourself.
We love you so dearly.
Love, Chihuahua



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Seventh Annual Sports Festival

By Tony Heard
VARIOUS LOCATIONS, FL — This year the Seminole sports festival was held on May 25–29. This is a special event that many natives look forward to throughout the year. Seeing distant family members and competing in the many different sporting events top the list for reasons everyone looks forward to this time of year.

The various sporting events this year were golf, bowling, billiards, co-ed softball and rodeo. The rodeo was held on May 20, starting the festivities off with a bang. The 15-event rodeo was held in Big Cypress at the Jr. Cypress Rodeo Arena. The rodeo was sponsored by the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association. With both youth and adults competing in both sanctioned and non sanctioned events, the participant count peaked at an estimated two hundred natives ready to have a great time.

The non sanctioned events were: pony riding, calf riding, mutton busting, steer riding, Jr. Bull riding, jr. bareback, and barrels for ages 4–8, 9–12, 13–18, junior breakaway roping, and 50 and older breakaway roping. The sanctioned events at the rodeo were: bareback, calf roping, breakaway roping team roping barrels, and bull riding.

The competition was stiff but these individuals are the ones who topped their categories in the non sanctioned events.



(L-R) Football great Michael Irvin and national arm wrestling champion Cynthia Yerby.

Mutton Bustin; 1. Ahnie Jumper, 2. CJ Arnold, 3. Kirklin Boney; Pony Riding: 1. Austin Holmes, 1. William Bearden (tie), 3. Andre Jumper; Calf Riding: 1. Kelton Smedley, 2. Blevins Jumper, 3. Jobe Johns; Steer Riding: 1. William Bearden, 2. Cody Motlow (tie), 3. Andre Jumper; Jr. Bull Riding: 1. Seth Randolph, 2. Dayne Johns; Barrels (4–8): 1. Calgary Johns, 2. Ahnie Jumper, 3. Courtney Gore, 4. Jobe Johns; Barrels (9–12): 1. Kelton Smedley, 2. Acealyn Youngblood, 3. Korvette Billie; Barrels (13–18): 1. Janae Braswell, 2. Rebecca Osceola; Jr. Breakaway Roping: 1. Cody Motlow, 2. Seth Randolph; 50 and older Breakaway Roping: 1. Billy Joe Johns Jr., Bareback: Jacoby Johns.

The sanctioned categories were also very intense and competitive, and these are these individuals who came out on top.

Bareback: 1. Freddy Warbonnett;



The bowling competition was held at the Pembroke Pines AMF Bowling Lanes.

Calf Roping: 1. Naha Jumper, 2. Happy Jumper, 3. Josh Jumper; Breakaway Roping: 1. Trina Bowers, 1. Shelby Osceola (tie), 3. Boogie Jumper; Team Roping: 1. Josh Jumper/Naha Jumper, 2. Amos Tiger/Billie Tiger, 3. Billy Joe Johns/Rudy Osceola, 4. Virgil Motlow/Larry Motlow, 4. Happy Jumper/Moses Jumper (tie); Barrels: 1. Carrera Gopher, 2. Sheyanna Osceola, 3. Perrie Whidden, 4. Boogie Jumper, 5. Mackenzie Johns; Bull Riding: 1. Justin Aldridge, 2. Justin Gopher.

All of these participants are trying to qualify for the Indian National Finals which is held in San Carlos, Ariz., Oct. 19–22.

On May 25 the Seminole Banquet was held at the Bonaventure Resort, with tables decorated in tribal colors and the smell of food in the air. The banquet was a time to welcome everyone who traveled distances to attend and came to simply watch the skills being displayed and enjoy the atmosphere. Everyone ate good and had some laughs, now it was time for the games to begin.

Billiards and bowling started us off at twelve noon on May 26 at their

respective sights. The bowling was held at Pembroke Pines AMF Bowling Lanes, and the Billiard tables were set up in Global Ballroom C and D at the Bonaventure Resort. On University Drive between Taft Street and Stirling Road, the heat was on at the bowling alley. With all the competition only a few



Reverend Salaw Hummingbird gives invocation.

emerged atop the rest.

For the mixed teams the first place team was Denise Billie, Alfreda Muskett, Ollie Wareham and Amos Billie. Second place went to Phil Bowers, Mary Cantu, Miguel Cantu, and Denise Billie; and in third were Marilyn Doney, Farrah Jones, Kenneth Doney and Elton Shore.

Senior mixed team's winners were: Mary Bowers, Dora Tiger, David Jumper and Eugene Bowers. Men team champs were: Kevin Tommie, Emery Fish, Rufus Tiger, and Amos Billie. In second were Kassim Stockton, Phil Bowers, Ollie Wareham and Kevin Tommie. Eugene Billie, Bobby Frank, Rufus Tiger and Phil Bowers captured third.

Women's team champs were: Jackie Thompson, Denise Billie, Alfreda Muskett and Terri Frank. Taking second were Mahala Madrigal, Marilyn Doney, Armanda Smith, and Farrah Jones. Third place went to Cathy Jumper, Myra Jumper, Renee Tigertail, and Mary Tigertail.

Senior women's team champs were: Sarah Sampson, Mary Bowers, Dora Tiger, and Mary Tigertail. While



Members of the Seminole Tribe and Big Cypress pool teams compete in tournament.

the men's team champs were: Eugene Bowers, Moses Osceola, David Jumper, and Elbert Snow.

For the billiards section of the tournament there were 16 tables set up at the Bonaventure Resort. It seemed as though the majority of those who came in from out of town came for the billiards portion of festivities. There were nineteen different categories for men, women, and senior pool sharks to compete in.

The outcome following the long hours and concentration on the tables were as follows:

Men's teams: 1. Hustlin: OB Osceola, David Cypress, George Grasshopper, Stan Tourangeau and Phil Tourangeau, 2. Boogie Men: Boogie Nunez, Dallas Nunez, David Nunez, David Snow and Chad Huff, 3. Magoos Men: Eric Woodward, Jim Kimbrough, Glen Harjo, Fred Bear and Gene Harjo, 4. Big Cypress: Cicero Osceola, Danny Billie, Robin Buster, Charlie Cypress and Salaw Hummingbird, 5. Oklahoma Warriors: Ralph Gray, Sam Deere, Les Gourd, Rocky Pigeon and Joe Carson.

Women's teams: 1. Melting Pot: Diana Onlychief, Naomi Williams, Carla Bagley and Cheryl Backward, 2. Slick Shooters: Theresa Nunez, Donna Antuna, Jamie Onco and Arica Buck, 3. Regulators: Shirley Pigeon, Dale Grasshopper, Lee



Stan Frsichman from BC Rec pulls the winning raffle ticket.

Stokes and Rosie Billie, 4. Lady Predators: Virginia Billie, Connie Williams, Mindy Fish and Linda Billie, 5. Magoos Girls: Christi Woodward, Donna Howell, Sandy Johns and Tonya Jumper.

The men's 8-ball champion was Stan Tourangeau, overcoming many quality competitors. Second place belonged to Les Gourd, followed by Phil Tourangeau taking third. Randy Clay took home the fourth place prize and Elrod Bowers placed fifth in this category. Women's 8-ball ended with the first place winner being Naomi Williams, second place went to Theresa Nunez. Connie Williams took third, Shirley Pigeon captured the fourth place title and fifth place went to Arica Buck.

In the 9-ball competition the matches were all close and intense, but these are the men who finished on top: 1. Phil Tourangeau, 2. Stan Tourangeau, 3. Joe Carson, 4. Les Gourd, 5. Roley Johnson. The women finished with these



Male 8 Ball competitor reaches to make a shot.



The competition was held at the Bonaventure Conference Center.

ladies taking home the prizes: 1. Naomi Williams, 2. Theresa Nunez, 3. Cheryl Backward, 4. Virginia Billie 5. Phalyn Nelson-Osceola.

The doubles matches were some of the most interesting of the tournament. For the men's doubles the first place prize was taken home by Marcellus Osceola and Bobbi Frank. In second place was Kyle Doney and Ken Doney, while Kassim Stockton and Leon Wilcox took third. Coming in fourth was Elton Shore and Derrick Thomas while fifth place went to Danny Jones and Elton Shore.

The women's doubles top five finishers were: 1. Monica Cypress/Patricia Wilcox, 2. Linda Tommie/Farrah Jones, 3. Farrah Jones/Reina Micco, 4. Kasey Baker/Linda Tommie, 5. Denise Billie/Alfreda Muskett.

Mixed doubles ended up with Alfreda Muskett and Amos Billie leaving with first place honors. Following them were Farrah Jones and Kyle Doney in second, Reina Micco and Kevin Tommie in third, Afreda Muskett and Danny Jones



Womens division players wait for their matches.



Reverend Hummingbird surveys the table.

in fourth and Cathy Jumper and Miah Stockton placed fifth.

The singles portion of tournament play was intense and had fairly close matches all the way through. The champions for the men and women's singles competition were Rufus Tommie and Linda Tommie, respectively. Second place honors went to Kyle Doney and Reina Micco, John Tigertail and Alfreda Muskett placed third, fourth place went to Issiah Billie and Farrah Jones and Blake Osceola and Patricia Wilcox took fifth.

The conclusion to scotch doubles saw Phil Tourangeau and Karla Bagley take first place. Les Gourd and Theresa Nunez came in second, Stan Tourangeau and Naomi Williams took third, Randy Clay and Phalyn Nelson-Osceola came in fourth and Danny Billie and Pauletta Bowers captured the number five spot.

This tournament was also for the native seniors who have been playing this game for many years. The skills and experience definitely showed during the competition.

The senior mixed doubles were very interesting to watch but the ones who were more focused than the others were: 1. Mary Bowers/Eugene Billie, 2. Mary Tigertail/Elbert Snow, 3. Shirley Thompson/Elbert Snow.

The senior men doubles champs were Elbert Snow and Eugene Bowers; while the senior women doubles champs were Sarah Sampson and Mary Bowers.

Senior singles billiard matches are always fun to watch, because one never knows what new trick or shot that may be used by a crafty elder. Those seniors who excelled this year in the competition for the men were: 1. Eugene Bowers, 2. Elbert Snow, 3. Moses Osceola, 4. Archie Johns, 5. David Jumper. On the women's side of things: 1. Mary Tigertail, 2. Dora Tiger, 3. Mary Bowers, 4. Sarah Sampson.

The 8-ball senior men's 50 and older saw Joe Carson take the first place prize. George Grasshopper captured second place, Roley Johnson came in third, Ralph Gray took fourth and Rocky Pigeon went home with fifth place honors.

The women's 50 and older competitors showed off their 8-ball skills also. Results

are: 1. Juanita Osceola, 2. Sandra Jones, 3. Dale Grasshopper, 4. Linda Billie, 5. Diana Onlychief.

The golf section of the festival was played at the Bonaventure Country Club. The individuals who topped the list on the two separate days of competition are:

May 28 game: 1. Ricky Doctor, Ronnie Doctor, Terry Willie and Gene Harjo, 2. Frank Kaseca, Victor John, Lee Springwater and Leona Poole, 3. Marcy Osceola, Kyle Doney and Cicero Osceola, 4. Ken Campbell, Lee Yanola, and Marilyn Doney, 5. Bo Young, Matt Tiger, T.J. Young and Raymond Garza.

Longest drive on that day went to Marcy Osceola for the men, Virginia Billie for the women and Frank Kaseca for the senior men.

The KP winners for the day were: #3 (men & women) John Madrigal/Jackie Thompson, #3 (senior men) Lee Springwater, #6 (men & women) Raymond Garza/D.W., #6 (senior men) Frank Kaseca, #12 (men & women) Marcy Osceola/Jackie Thompson, #12 (senior men) Gene Osceola, #17 (men) Marcy Osceola.



President Moses Osceola in the bowling tourney.



Chris Jenkins
Red Rhythm Band performs.



Chris Jenkins
An Arrel Bird dancer performs.



Chris Jenkins
Keith Secola accepts his artist of the year award.

Highlights from the 2006 NAMMY Awards

Chris Jenkins
HOLLYWOOD, FL — On June 8, the hot spot for an entertaining evening was once again the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. For the second straight year, the eighth annual Native American Music Awards (NAMMY's) honored and celebrated the rich and unique culture and tradition of Indigenous music.

More than 125 nominees with origins from Alaska, Hawaii and New Zealand were part of the award categories along with a mix of new and returning talent. This year's show featured more than 25 awards categories and 12 live performances.

Hosted by the Navajo comedic duo of James Junes and Ernie Tsosie III, special guests included Little Steven, Mike Pinera, Steven Van Zandt and Hollywood Council Representative Max B. Osceola Jr., among others presenting. Native Miccosukee rock group, Tiger Tiger, consisting of brothers Lee and Stephen Tiger, received the Lifetime Achievement Award. Pioneer rocker, Link Wray was also inducted into the Native American Awards Hall of Fame.

A new addition to the show this year was a red carpet event from the VIP entrance prior to the show.

New contemporary artist Jana was confident about the growth and appeal of the NAMMY's from mostly traditional since its beginning in 1998 toward a more contemporary look and theme this year.

"This is going to become a big time for a lot of the native artists, it's gotten a lot bigger and a lot more support and hopefully it continues to get big enough to where it will be packed beyond concept and bigger than the Grammy's, so we'll wait and see," Jana said.

With her debut album, "Flash of a Firefly" winning Record of the Year, her fourth NAMMY, success continues to come Jana's way. Throughout, she remains humble.

"It's a wonderful thing to have that recognition," she said. Those on the winner's list this



Wanda Bowers
Micki Free (hand waving) with Jean Beauvoir, Dave Abbruzzese, Stevie Salas, and Jon Brant perform together.

year were: Keith Secola: Artist of the year, Rita Coolidge: Best Blues Recording, Brule': Best Compilation Recording, Silver Bird: Debut Artist/Group of the Year, Pura Fe': Best Female Artist, Keith Secola: Folk/Country Recording, Joseph Fire Crow: Flutist of the Year, Marlena: Gospel/Christian/Inspirational Recording, AIRO: Group of the year, Various Artists: Best Historical Recording, Arvel Bird: Best Instrumental Recording, Wade Fernandez: Best Male Artist, Douglas Blue Feather: Best New Age Recording, Eagle and Hawk: Best Pop/Rock Recording, Black Eagle: Best Pow-Wow Recording, Stephen Galfas and Alex Salzman: Best Producer, Buggin Malone: Best R&B/Rap/Hip-Hop Recording, Jana: Record of the Year, Bill Miller "Sacred Ground," Song/Single of the Year, Jim Boyd: Songwriter of the Year, Red Feather Woman: Best Spoken Word Recording, Lakota Thunder: Best Traditional Recording, Medicine Dream: Best Short or Long Form Video, R. Carlos Nakai Quartet: Best World Music Recording, John Densmore: Native Heart, Harold Owens and MusiCares: Humanitarian Award recipients.

On a night of great success and accomplishment,

Jana reflected on it all by pointing out, "It's wonderful to see our culture out there and our native people, and I'm very proud

of everyone that was here supporting native music."



Chris Jenkins
Best female artist winner, Pura Fe performs.



Wanda Bowers
Max Osceola, Christine McCall, Little Steven.



Chris Jenkins
The comedy of Buddy Big Mountain entertains the audience.



Chris Jenkins
Comedic duo, James and Ernie keep the audience laughing between performances and presentations.



Chris Jenkins
Best Instrumental winner, Arvel Bird gives a charged performance.



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Winifred Tiger has always been a very special person and a great influence in my life and I'm sure in the lives of many within the Tribe.

I remember when Mr. and Mrs. Howard Tiger began teaching us baseball and other sports when I was a child. At that time there was not much money for tribal activities. Howard and Winifred Tiger took it upon themselves to provide us transportation, refreshments and equipment. They did this without any pay whatsoever and used their own vehicle. Winifred was a great coach, score keeper and encourager.

Within her own family Winifred was a perfect example of a Proverbs 31 wife, woman and mother. She was a strict taskmaster and disciplinarian. She wanted the best for her family and the Seminole Tribe.

I have always admired Winifred for leaving her own people to come and spend the rest of her life with the Florida Seminoles. Even after her husband passed away she did not go home but stayed in Florida to make a future for her children.

She became a great public servant for the Broward County School Board and Seminole Tribe of Florida's Department of Education. She spent about twenty years serving as Truant Officer, Education Counselor, and Director of Education. She understood that education would be the foundation to improve the lives and future of our people and Tribal organization.

Winifred was also a Christian and member of First Seminole Indian Baptist Church where she served as a Sunday school teacher of youth. Winifred remained faithful till the day of her passing. I know that her family and those who knew and loved her can take comfort in the knowledge that God has welcomed her home in Heaven.

Winifred deserves all the honor and respect of all who knew her. She attained the status of First Lady as the wife of President Howard Tiger. I know that her own people, the Cherokees, can be proud of the fact that she was such a great ambassador of her people among the Seminoles.

Today many of the people she influenced in life have become great success stories; many serve the Seminole Tribe of Florida today in Tribal government.

Our deep sympathy, condolences and prayers continue to go to her children and family. I personally will never forget Winifred and will always be thankful for that great positive influence she and Howard Tiger were in my life and will always thank God for them.

May God bless you and the Tiger family.

—Moses Osceola
President/Vice-Chairman
Seminole Tribe of Florida

Winifred Tiger was a strong willed, caring woman who came here from Cherokee with her husband, Howard Tiger to make Seminole her home. She felt that our tribe would succeed if our emphasis was on the education of our children. She knew exactly what to do.

Winifred, when learning of any kid's attendance delinquency, went to the place that they stayed, pulled them from their beds and sent them to school. She became the crossing guard to make sure they were able to cross busy Stirling Road so that they could get to school. She became the Education Director and it was her way to watch the path our kids would travel to obtain an education.

All our children looked up to Winifred. She was the mom they came to when they needed understanding and advice. She was direct and told them how it was without fancy trimmings. Ms. Winifred was there for us always.

Winifred Tiger will be deeply missed. She was a friend to all and an outstanding matriarch among our Tribe. May God bless you Ms. Winifred and keep you beside Him.

—Mitchell Cypress, Chairman
Seminole Tribe of Florida

I remember the first time Winifred came calling at my house. We called her Hooter, I don't know why we just did. She came to my door hollering, "OK, Wanda, come on out, You gatta go to school, here I come." I was hiding in my closet under a pile of cloths. I had a test at school that day and I did not want to go. So I just waited until my mom and dad left for work which was about 6:00 a.m. I thought I was home free until I heard her, "OK, Wanda come on out." She was not one for giving up she would find you, where ever you were. She knew all the keen hiding places too. Even in the woods where Oak Prairie is now.

She was a very nice lady who cared about us, she worried about us as we were growing up. She made sure we made it to school and got through it. If you needed shoes, cloths or a ride to school she was always there. I am very thankful for that.

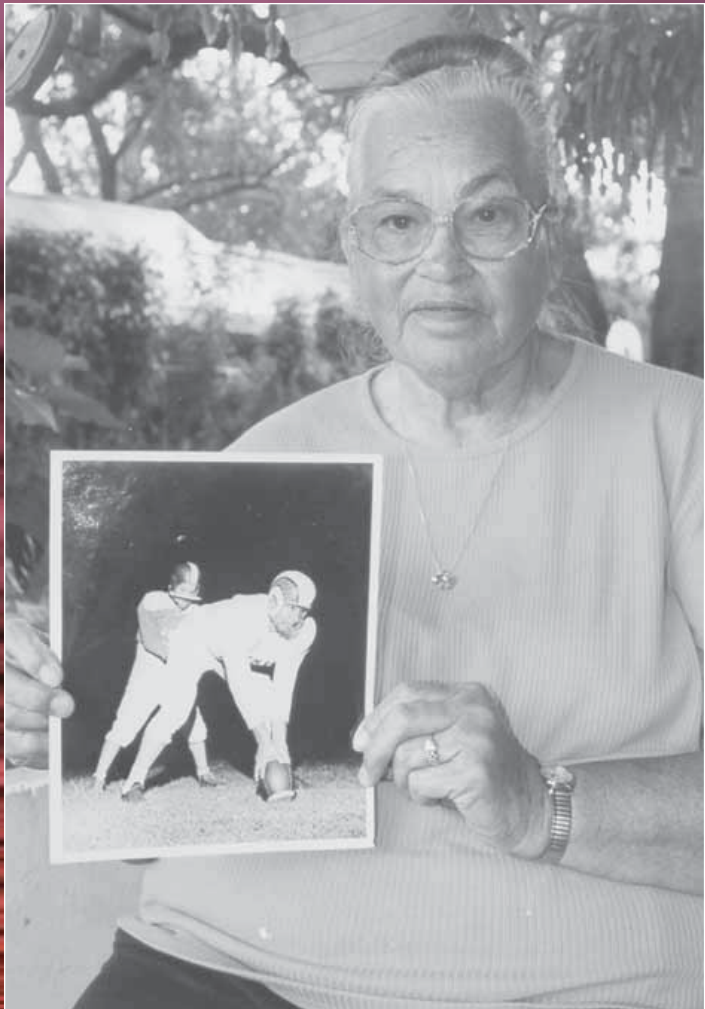
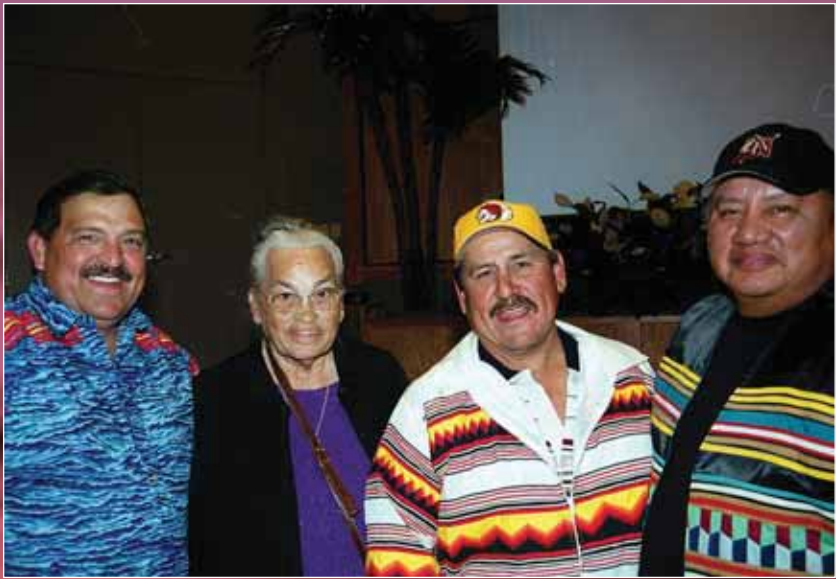
As I grew older she became my friend. I would visit her at the community meetings, at church. I would even see her cruising down the street from Rusty's house to hers. We would holler hello to each other and go on. She even came to one of our archery practices, just to watch us, well Mike too, and visit with everyone there. She was always a nice, friendly and very giving lady whom I will never forget.

I grew up with Mike, Rusty and Vernon. Clyde was older so I didn't know him that well while I was growing up. We got to be friends when he joined the "Seminole Color Guard." I saw he was always proud to carry his colors at different Pow-Wows.

She was a woman, wife, mother, grandmother, and my friend. No one will ever forget her.

—God Bless You,
Wanda Faye

Remembering Winifred Tiger



On June 2, 2005 family, friends and members of her community gathered at the First Seminole Baptist Church in Hollywood to say good-bye to Winifred Tiger.

Winifred was a member of the Cherokee tribe, born and raised in Cherokee, NC. She was one of ten children born to Campbell and Minda Sneed. While attending an Indian boarding school there, she met Betty Mae Tiger and her brother Howard Tiger. Eventually Betty Mae became her lifelong best friend and Howard became her husband.

Howard and Winifred made Cherokee their home early on and had the first three of their four children. Clyde, Mike and Ruscilla were adolescents and Winifred was carrying Vernon when the family moved to what was then known as Dania. It was 1956, the Seminole Tribe of Florida was reorganizing, working towards setting up their constitution and becoming a sovereign nation within a nation. Members of the constitution committee asked Howard to come home and be a part of the process. He was a Seminole who had graduated high school. He spoke and understood both languages and cultures. He was one of the first Seminoles to serve in the armed forces during World War II. His education and experience was an asset in developing the tribal government.

Winifred made a home here; she raised her children and helped her husband in his work. Later on, after her children were a little older she took a job as the crosswalk guard at Stirling Road and Highway 441. Her job was to look out for all the Seminole kids who attended Stirling Elementary and had to cross the highway to get there. This was the beginning of her lifelong dedication to helping Seminole youth. Appointed as the tribe's director of education she became a

March 25, 1924 — May 30, 2006



Ms Winifred (Hooter)Tiger. Hooter was what her late husband Howard Tiger called her. I called her Miss Winifred or Winifred. Miss Winifred was a great lady.

She knew all of our hiding places when we were in grade school. Mike Clay, late Randolph Clay, Reuben Billie, myself and a few others would try to skip school sometimes. When we were kids on a beautiful spring day we didn't want to go to school we wanted to swim in the lake beside Crenshaw's church or somewhere, anywhere but go to school. Miss Winifred knew all of our hiding places.

She didn't punish us she would talk to us and tell us the value of an education. And she would promise not to tell our parents if we went to school. (telling our parents would be painful, very painful !!)

When she became Education Director and I was the Health Planner for the Tribe, she became my ear. If I had a problem with a relationship or anything, she helped me. I could simply go to her office and close the door and we would talk. Miss Winifred was a great lady.

—Stephen D. Bowers

Winifred or Aunt Hooter as we, her family, called this wonderful lady, seemed to always be around.

Our family and the Tiger family were very close, so I grew up always getting instructions about life from my aunts. I am very lucky; I had some strong and influential females, aunts and relatives to help guide me through life.

Winifred was always a strong advocate for education, especially Indian education. A few years ago we held a banquet in her honor for her contribution as Tribal Education Director. I was very proud to be asked to speak at the occasion. The poem I wrote in her honor depicts her commitment to education.

I remember her working at 441 and Stirling at the crossing. She helped us get across the busy highway on our way to Stirling Elementary. I remember her wearing her orange helmet with her badge and whistle. These were some of the memories of her love for us as children.

Later on she was appointed Education Director for all the Tribal youth. I guess simple things that people do show to their love for others are eventually remembered. Sometimes the simple things in life produce the most impact in other people's lives.

She was my aunt, my friend and most of all she was a person who loved people.

—Bigg
Moses Jumper Jr.

Lady At The Light By Moses Jumper Jr.

Memories fill your mind as you think
Of the days gone by.

You remember little things that brought joy and
Many times brought a tear to your eye

As a young boy I remember the walk home
From school and the cans we would
Kick and toss...

It seemed like miles over the hill, rock,
Gravel we would walk till we reach
The main road to cross.

In my thoughts I can still see the cars going
By with angry people pointing a finger
At you.

Many times we wondered if and ever this
Mass of motion would ever let us through.

Then suddenly as if by magic or it seemed,
through

Her whistle it held some mystical power or might.

The shrill sound would rise above the noise
And the world seemed to stop for the
Lady at the Light.

Boldly she would walk out to the middle and
Wave us to her side.

With motors running, the cars would stop and
She would direct us to the other side.

As the years passed and the little dirt path
From school had faded out from sight
And you begin to understand a little
About wrong from right.

We understood about the path of life and
How much we appreciated the wonderful
Things that was done by the
Lady at the light.

No greater gift can another give than
For one to say that in her we would forever see,
Her commitment to God, home, education
And a will to serve others will be her legacy.

This being a small note of gratitude to the
One who has done much as we celebrate
Tonight.

We thank God for the direction she gave us
Across that road in life.
The beautiful Lady at the Light!

I was a single parent raising four children when I worked for the Seminole Tribe. As a part of my job, I sometimes had to travel. My children were old enough at this time to get themselves up and get to school. I instructed them to call on my sister Dorothy if they had any problems. However, as a parent the worries never end so I would call on Winifred whenever I had to go out of town.

She checked on my kids morning and night. She went out of her way, calling me each evening and easing my worry. I will never forget her unfailing kindness as a friend and her commitment to the service of others.

—Sadie Cypress

News From Indian Country

NASA and AIHEC Launch Program to Bridge Gap of American Indians in Science and Engineering

Summer Research Experience Program Equips American Indians with Tools to Reach for the Stars

Submitted by Live Wire Media Relations
ALEXANDRIA, VA — The American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC), together with NASA, announced the launch of the NASA/AIHEC Summer Research Experience (SRE) Program on June 12. This program is a strategic approach to inspire young American Indians to pursue careers in science and engineering. Sixty participants representing 14 Tribal colleges and universities partnered with seven of NASA's space, flight and research centers for eight to 10 week programs this summer.

American Indians and the Alaska Native population comprise 1.5 percent of the total U.S. population according to the 2000 U.S. Census. The National Science Foundation cites this population group as only 0.3 percent of the U.S. science and engineering workforce.

"American Indians are under-represented in the fields of science and engineering," said Gerald Gipp, Ph.D., executive director of AIHEC. "The NASA AIHEC Summer Research Experience Program is a critical step to changing that equation by encouraging young American Indians to pursue careers in science and engineering while also building a welcoming environment that nurtures their career path."

"We welcome Tribal college and university student and faculty teams to join NASA scientists and engineers in conducting hands on research at our centers as we implement the vision for space exploration," said Angela Phillips Diaz, NASA acting assistant administrator for education. "We look upon this summer as the beginning of a long-standing partnership with the Tribal colleges to inspire the next generation of innovators and explorers in science and engineering career fields."

Participants in the SRE Program will be assigned to research and engineering teams working on a broad range of topics, including robotics, 3-D design, geospatial data analysis and astrobiology. One goal of the program is to foster long-term relationships between the students and their research mentors at the NASA centers.

AIHEC was founded in 1972 by the presidents of the nation's first six Tribal colleges, as an informal collaboration among member colleges, today AIHEC is comprised of 34 colleges in the U.S. and one Canadian institution. AIHEC is the collective spirit and unifying voice of our nation's Tribal colleges and universities.

AIHEC provides leadership and influences public policy on American Indian higher education issues through advocacy, research and program initiatives; promotes and strengthens indigenous languages, cultures, communities and tribal nations; and through its unique position, serves member institutions and emerging Tribal colleges and universities. For additional information, please visit www.aihec.org or www.nasa.gov.

Tribal Colleges with students and faculty participating in SRE include:
Blackfeet Community College
College of Menominee Nation
Crownpoint Institute of Technology
Diné College
Haskell Indian Nations University
Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College
Leech Lake Tribal College
Little Priest Tribal College
Northwest Indian College
Oglala Lakota College
Salish Kootenai College
Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute
Tohono O'odham Community College
United Tribes Technical College

Touching Beauty Exhibit by Artist Michael Naranjo

Submitted by the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs

SANTA FE, NM — Michael Naranjo is on a mission. Celebrated the world over for his bronze and stone forms suspended in fluid, graceful movement, the blind artist's dream is to someday open a museum full of touchable art. He will be one step closer to this dream when an exhibition of his sculpture opens in the Atrium Gallery of the Bataan Memorial Building, in Santa Fe.

Touching Beauty is a long-term exhibition and opens with a free, public reception on June 30 from 4-6 p.m.

The New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs has recently relocated its administrative offices to the Bataan Memorial Building. This inaugural exhibit in the building's newly created Atrium Gallery reflects a partnership between Cultural Affairs and the Veterans' Services Department, also located in the Bataan Building.

"We welcome numerous veterans, their family and friends, into our business offices in the Bataan Building," said John Garcia, cabinet secretary of Veterans' Services. "Thanks to Cultural Affairs and this exciting new exhibit space featuring the work of Michael Naranjo, our guests will have an even greater appreciation of our veterans and their sacrifices."

Growing up in the Santa Clara Pueblo, Michael Naranjo passed his childhood days hunting with his brother and preparing clay for his mother, Rose Naranjo, a revered traditional potter. It could be said, in fact, that Naranjo had no choice but to be talented—he comes from a renowned artistic family. In 1968, however, he came back from serving in Vietnam a changed man. After losing his sight in a combat injury, he feared he would never create art again.

Today, small bronze sculptures line the wall of Naranjo's humble studio while life size pieces dot the desert landscape outside—a testament to the artist's unstoppable passion for art, beauty, and his roots.

Though without sight, Naranjo is nevertheless a truly visionary sculptor. His inherent abilities as an artist to create deeply meaningful works of art transcend the ordinary processes of producing sculpture. His workspace is full of the usual accoutrements of a working artist, but since his creative process is in part defined by his spatial awareness, he's comfortable working in what might seem a confining space to an artist with sight.

Naranjo's inspiration comes to him in many forms—dreams, books, his wife's descriptions of the outside world, and childhood memories. Inspiration for one of his pieces, for instance, occurred as he lay in bed drifting in and out of sleep. Describing what he calls his "golden vision", he saw a gold form appear before him that gradually grew bigger until he could make out the shape of an eagle. Then, as quickly as it came, it disappeared, leaving him with an image that he later transformed into bronze.

The artistic process, however, is not always

an easy one for Naranjo. Working with wax that is later cast in bronze, he will sometimes spend days on a piece, only to destroy it in one fell swoop when his hands fail to "see" perfection. At other times, his sensitive fingertips and intuition tell him that once again he has created a perfectly balanced work of art. Others around the world recognize this perfection as well—his work is in the collections of the Vatican, the White House, and the Heard Museum in Phoenix, Ariz.

With help from his wife Laurie, Naranjo has gained permission to touch famous sculptures around the world, including Michelangelo's David and many



original stone and bronze pieces at the Louvre. Having only his hands to experience works of art, he is passionate about letting others—sighted and not sighted—share this experience as well.

"Touching is necessary for adults and kids—it's good for everybody's soul and it's one of our senses that's so often denied," said Naranjo. "When you see someone you love, don't you want to hug them? When you see a puppy, don't you want to touch it?"

Encouraging people to touch his sculptures is one way Naranjo is calling on people to gain a different, and more intimate, art experience. Touching Beauty will include a sample of Naranjo's large- and small-scale touchable work.

"Michael Naranjo is an exceptional artist and human being," commented Stuart Ashman, Secretary of the Department of Cultural Affairs. "In the process of fulfilling his duty as an American and a soldier he endured the loss of his sight. Although he ceased seeing through his eyes, Michael developed a way of seeing with his hands and with his other senses. The result is a unique expression that depicts aspects of the artist's life and Native American culture with a deep sense of humanity. Michael encourages touching his beautiful bronze sculptures so that the viewer can experience his compelling works in the same way that he sees them."

ID Theft Alert for Veterans

Submitted by Steven Bowers


WASHINGTON, DC — In May, electronic equipment was stolen from a VA employee's home. The equipment contained personal information on up to 26.5 million veterans and some spouses, as well as on as many as 1.1 million military members on active duty, 430,000 members of the National Guard and 645,000 members of the reserves. No health records or financial information was lost.

VA has taken a number of steps to address this issue, including one year of free credit monitoring to people whose sensitive personal information may have been stolen.

What you need to know to protect yourself:

- Carefully monitor your credit cards
- Immediately report any unauthorized transaction, credit or other wise, attached to your name
- Ask for the annual free credit report you are entitled to under law
- For more information and updates: Call the U.S. Department of Veterans affairs hotline at (800) 333-4636, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. EST, Monday through Saturday

Go to www.firstgov.gov or www.va.gov/opa



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Mother's Day in Big Cypress

By Nery Mejicano

BIG CYPRESS — Multi color roses, great food, music and lots of love, were the ingredients that made Mother's Day a day to remember in Big Cypress. Daughters, sons and other family members joined in honoring the most important person in the family, a mother.

The BC gym as always served as the focal point for this celebration of love and appreciation. The parking lot filled to capacity with cars, trucks and other conveyances spilled across the road. Bicycles, four wheelers and even a couple of skateboards were parked in front of the gym as more kids arrived.

Smiling and happy grandchildren bounced on the laps of moms and grandmothers and Paul Buster's guitar filled the air with nice music. The food was great and a big yellow cake with "Happy Mother's Day" written on the sweet topping served as the final treat of the day. Big Cypress employees, as always, assisted in making this a very special and memorable Mother's Day.

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Underlined means added to the Section
~~Strikethrough~~ means deleted to the Section
Explanation follows each proposed addition or deletion

Proposed Modifications to the Corporate Charter and Bylaws of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.

Charter
Article V, Section 1

The Corporate management shall be vested in a Board of Directors composed of ~~eight (8)~~ ~~four~~ elected members and the Chairman of the Tribal Council, who shall serve as Vice-President. Each shall be vested with full voting powers.

This change is proposed to synchronize the Charter with new provisions providing for new, elected directors from the Fort Pierce, Immokalee and Tampa reservations, as well as the at-large director. The present version of the Charter does not provide for representation from reservations recognized after 1957. Under the original version of the Charter, each of the three existing Seminole reservations each had two directors and there was an at-large director.

Article VI, Section 1

The tribal corporation, subject to any restrictions contained in the Constitution and the laws of the United States ~~or in the Constitution and Bylaws of said tribe~~, shall have the following corporate powers.

This change is proposed to release the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. from any potentially restrictive language contained in the Constitution of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Article VI, Section 3

To purchase, take by gift, bequest or otherwise, own, hold, manage, operate and dispose of property of every description, real and personal, ~~subject to the following limitations:~~ However, no authority is hereby granted to sell, mortgage, or lease for a term exceeding twenty-five (25) years, any land within the reservations without the approval of the Secretary of the Interior or his duly authorized representative.

~~No sale or mortgage may be made by the corporation of any land, interest in land, including water rights, oil, gas, and other mineral rights now or hereafter held by the tribal corporation, unless specifically authorized by law and then only with the consent and approval of the Secretary of the Interior.~~

No authority is hereby granted to sell, mortgage, or in the case of a lease for a period exceeding twenty-five years, any land included within the reservations must be approved by Secretary of the Interior or his duly authorized representative.

No action shall be taken by or in behalf of the corporation, which conflicts with regulations authorized by Section 6 of the Act of June 18, 1934, or in any way operates to destroy or injure the tribal grazing land, timber or other natural resources.

This change is proposed to remove potentially restrictive and unnecessary language in the Charter limiting the ability of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. to sell, mortgage, lease, or limit the use of lands under its custody and control. Furthermore, the proposed change

❖ Amendments

Continued from page 1

Trueblood said that any Tribal citizen living within 30 miles of any reservation will be considered a member of that community, according to the proposed changes. Therefore any person living in Okeechobee, for example, will be considered part of the Brighton community due to their geographical proximity. This is outlined in Article III, Section 2.

In Article III, Section 4, the board wants to make several changes, including changing term limits for representatives. Currently the president can serve for four years, but the board wants to increase this to six. Also, representative terms will increase from two to four years, should this change be approved.

seeks to eliminate a provision which could be construed as limiting the Corporation from taking any action which may destroy or injure Corporate grazing land, timber land, or other natural resources, whether on-reservation or off-reservation.

Bylaws
Article II, Section 2

The number of directors of this corporation shall be ~~nine (9)~~ ~~five~~. The directors determined by popular vote shall be elected and hold office as herein provided, or until their successors shall have been elected and qualified. The Vice-President shall hold office in accordance with his tenure as Chairman of the Tribal Council.

This change is proposed to synchronize the Charter with new provisions providing for new elected directors from the Fort Pierce, Immokalee and Tampa reservations, as well as the at-large director.

Article II, Section 4

The presence of ~~five (5)~~ ~~three (3)~~ members at any meeting of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

This change is proposed to accommodate the new provisions providing for new elected directors from the Fort Pierce, Immokalee and Tampa reservations, as well as the at-large director.

Article II, Section 5

The act of a majority of the directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall constitute an act of the Board. Acts of the Board may be made by motion duly carried, except that any delegation of authority to any official, agent or agents of the corporation to act for or on behalf of the Board shall be by written resolution and shall specify the nature of the authority granted and the limitations, if any, imposed, excepting those authorities and responsibilities specifically outlined in Article IV hereof. In the absence of a governing provision contained in the Charter, these Bylaws or by resolution, the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the conduct of all meetings.

This change is proposed to formally adopt Robert's Rules of Order as the official parliamentary procedure of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. where there is no Charter or Bylaw provision, or resolution setting forth the policy otherwise. The Corporation utilizes Robert's Rules in its meetings at present, this is just its formal adoption.

According to Trueblood, the term limit increases will help "to ensure long term economic stability" for the board.

Should these increases be made amendments to the bylaws, the existing reservation board representatives will have their regular elections in May of every odd numbered year. The four new representatives will have elections in November of all even numbered years.

For a complete outline of these and the rest of the proposed changes, please see the side bar that accompanies this article. Please submit all written comments on these changes to: Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc., 6300 Stirling Road, Suite 325, Hollywood, FL 33024, Attn: Charter Amendment Comments.

If any director has a conflict of interest with regard to any matter before the Board of Directors, he or she shall disclose the interest to the Board of Directors. The director shall not vote on or otherwise take any formal action concerning the matter, shall not participate in any executive session concerning the matter, and shall refrain from attempting to influence any other member in voting on the matter. In addition, no director shall use for personal or private gain or purposes, any information which is not available to the public and which is obtained by reason of the director's position or disclose any such information except as required by law. For the purposes of this section, a conflict of interest does not include any matter involving the common interest of all shareholders, or any matter in which a similar benefit is conferred upon or is available to all persons or property similarly situated.

This change is proposed to set forth a conflict of interest provisions that requires disclosure to the Board of Directors of any conflicts and prevents the conflicted director from participating on any actions where they have a conflict of interest. There is an exception from the conflict of interest provision for matters where a similar benefit is available to all shareholders. For example, a director is not in conflict when participating in an action on a corporate program open to all shareholders.

Article II, Section 6

By resolution of the Board of Directors, the directors and officers may be paid fixed sums for attendance at each meeting of the Board of Directors or a stated salary as a director. No such payment shall preclude any director from serving the corporation in any other capacity and receiving compensation therefore. However, in the event a director is employed by the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc., they will only be entitled to be paid either a fixed sum meeting fee for attendance at each meeting or a stated salary as a director.

This change is proposed to prevent a director who is also an employee of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. from drawing two salaries from the corporation. Rather, an employee who becomes a director shall only be entitled to either a meeting fee or a salary.

Article III, Section 2

The shareholders of the Big Cypress, Brighton, Fort Pierce, Hollywood, Immokalee and Tampa ~~Hollywood, Big Cypress and Brighton~~ Reservations shall be represented on the Board of Directors by one (1) member from each reservation who shall be elected solely by the voting shareholders of the reservation they he shall represent. Shareholders residing within 30 miles of one of the aforementioned reservations shall be attributed to that reservation. Shareholders residing within the State of Florida but outside one of the aforementioned reservations will be represented on the Board of Directors by one (1) at-large member who shall be elected solely by those voting shareholders residing outside one of the aforementioned reservations. Any shareholder who has reached the age of twenty-one (21) years and has resided within the actual geographic boundaries of on one or any combination of the six (6) ~~three~~ Seminole Reservations mentioned herein for a continuous period of four years immediately preceding the election for the Directors may offer himself/herself as a candidate to represent that reservation, provided he or she shall give written notice of his or her intent to the incumbent Board supported by a petition signed by ten (10) or ten percent (10%), whichever is less, of the voting shareholders who reside on that reservation. Any petition submitted in support of any candidate shall be considered invalid when and if a candidate signed a petition supporting any other candidate for the same office. Nothing in this section shall preclude a shareholder who is prevented from residing within the actual geographic boundaries of the reservation due to a housing or land shortage from offering themselves as a candidate provided they also reside within 30 miles of the reservation.

This change is proposed to provide for elected, voting directors from three additional Seminole reservation communities – Fort Pierce, Immokalee and Tampa. Shareholders who reside within 30 miles of a Seminole reservation are considered shareholders of that reservation. Shareholders who reside within the State of Florida, but outside one of the Seminole reservations will be represented by an elected, voting at-large director elected by those who they will represent. To be eligible to run for the office of director, a shareholder must have resided on one or any combination of the 6 Seminole Reservations for four years prior to the election. In addition, a shareholder must submit a petition declaring their intention signed by either 10, or 10% of the voting shareholders who reside on that reservation. Any shareholder offering themselves as a candidate must reside within the geographic boundaries of the reservation unless prevented due to a housing or land shortage. If prevented, then they must still live within 30 miles of the reservation in order to be eligible to run.

In addition, the Board shall be presided over by a president at-large. Any shareholder who is ~~twenty-five (25)~~ ~~twenty-one (21)~~ years of age and has resided for a combination of the ~~six (6)~~ ~~three~~ Seminole Reservations may be a candidate for the Board's presidency provided he or she shall give written notice of his or her intent to the incumbent Board of Directors supported by a petition signed by ten (10) or ten percent (10%), whichever is less, of the voting shareholders from each of the ~~six (6)~~ ~~three~~ Seminole Reservations. Restriction on the signatories shall conform with those in Article III, Section 2(a) of these Bylaws.

This change is proposed to correspond with proposed changes in the previous section. A candidate for president must have resided on one or any combination of the 6 Seminole Reservations for four years prior to the election. Moreover, in order to be considered for office, the candidate must submit a petition signed by either 10, or 10% of the voting shareholders of each of the 6 reservations.

A shareholder is not eligible to serve as either president or a director if that person has been convicted of a crime of dishonesty, false statement or fraud.

This proposed change prevents those convicted of a crime of dishonesty, false statement or fraud from being eligible to serve as either president or a director.

Article III, Section 4

- (a) The candidate from each reservation receiving the largest number of votes shall hold office for ~~four (4)~~ ~~two (2)~~ years.
- (b) The presidential candidate receiving the largest number of votes shall hold office for six (6) ~~four (4)~~ years.
- (c) Successful candidates shall assume office on the first Monday in the month following their election. ~~The President as a condition of his office, shall agree to reside on Hollywood Reservation for the duration of his term.~~
- (d) In no event shall a successful candidate hold office for more than two (2) consecutive terms.

This proposed change will increase the term length of directors from 2 years to 4 years. The term length for president will be increased from 4 years to 6 years. These changes will promote needed stability to the corporation as it conducts business. Constant turnover in leadership in corporations leads to inefficiency, uncertainty and constrained profitability. The requirement that the President reside on the Hollywood Reservation during their term is removed. Both directors and the president will be limited to 2 successive terms.

Article III, Section 5

All elections including the first under this amended Charter, of the Board of Directors shall be by secret ballot with provisions for absentee balloting. The President and Board of Directors from the Big Cypress, Brighton and Hollywood Reservations shall be elected simultaneously in odd numbered years. The Board of Directors from the Fort Pierce, Immokalee and Tampa Reservations, as well as the at-large Director, shall be elected simultaneously in even numbered years. After the first election, the Board of Directors, subject to the review of the Secretary of the Interior or his authorized representative, shall enact a resolution wherein the form of the ballot, eligibility of voters, voting lists, rules for calling elections, absentee balloting procedures, selection of election officials, polling places, dates and such other necessary rules and regulations are established.

This proposed change is intended to establish a system whereby the President and existing Directors from the Big Cypress, Brighton and Hollywood Reservations are elected in odd numbered years. The at-large Director and Directors from the Fort Pierce, Immokalee and Tampa Reservations will be elected in even numbered years.

No person shall be elected to office who shall not have received a majority (51%) of the qualified votes cast for their respective office. If at any regular election, no candidate receives the majority of votes cast in the regular election, there shall be a runoff election which shall be held on the second Tuesday therefrom. In the runoff election, the two (2) candidates receiving the greatest number of votes at the regular election shall be voted upon and the one receiving the majority of votes cast shall be elected to office. In the event of a tie vote, a further election shall be held under the same procedure as the first run-off election, the date of which shall be set by the Board of Directors. This process shall be repeated until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.

This proposed change is intended to insure that a director or the president is elected by a majority vote. In elections where there is no candidate who receives a majority (51%) of the votes, a run off will be held within 2 weeks between the two candidates receiving the greatest number of votes. If the two candidates tie during the run-off, subsequent run-offs will be held until a candidate receives a majority of the votes.

In the event of the death, disqualification or withdrawal of either of the two (2) candidates prior to the holding of a second or subsequent election, the candidate who received the third greatest number of votes shall be substituted for such candidate. In any such event, notice of such substitution shall be posted at each polling place at the entrance thereof, giving a full explanation of the facts.

In the event that a candidate dies, is disqualified or withdraws before the run-off, the candidate who received the third largest number of votes during the initial election will be substituted for the candidate who died, withdrew or was disqualified.

Article III, Section 7

Under rules to be prescribed by the Board of Directors, any Board member may be removed for ineligibility for office, neglect of duty, gross misconduct, failing to disclose a conflict of interest, or any act reflecting on the integrity of the Board; provided, charges are made in writing and formally served upon the accused at least 10 days before a special Board meeting convened for the purpose of giving the accused full opportunity to reply to any and all charges made against him. If the Board, after full and careful hearings, shall decide that the charges are not substantiated, the Board may by majority vote drop the charges. If the Board shall decide that the charges are substantiated, the Board shall issue a notice to convene a shareholders meeting and a majority vote of those voting to retain or dismiss shall be final.

This proposed change is intended to make failure to disclose a conflict of interest a basis for removal as a director.

Article IV, Section 6

- (a) He shall keep and maintain open to inspection by any director or shareholder, or the Secretary of the Interior or their duly authorized representative, representative of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, at all reasonable times, adequate and correct accounts of the properties and business transactions of the corporation, which shall include all matters required by the Board of Directors, the Charter or these Bylaws.

This proposed change is intended to modernize the Charter. The old language required the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. to allow its books to be inspected by the State of Florida's Commissioner of Indian Affairs. The State of Florida no longer has a Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Moreover, the corporation is not required to allow the State to review any of its records. However, the corporation is required to allow the Secretary of the Interior to review its books.

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Brighton Fathers Day Non-Resident Dinner



Brighton Fathers Day

By Emma Brown
BRIGHTON — Lydia Child once said, “Blessed indeed is the man who hears many gentle voices call him father.” A father is someone every child should be thankful for. On June 15 the Brighton community gave tribute to their fathers by cooking them breakfast and inviting them all together to celebrate and thank them for being dads.

It was a chance for many of them to come together and shoot the breeze with long lost buddies or their own sons that they otherwise don’t have a chance to visit with. Some fathers brought their wife and some brought their children, and some came alone to enjoy the special meal and get together planned in their honor.

Brighton Council Representative Andy Bowers and Brighton Board Representative Johnny Jones, along with other departments, staff members, and mothers did a great job helping to create a special day for all of the dads from the Brighton reservation. They are all greatly appreciated and may they have a Happy Father’s Day.

Thank you to the mothers and staff that came in the wee hours of the morning to honor all of our Brighton community fathers.



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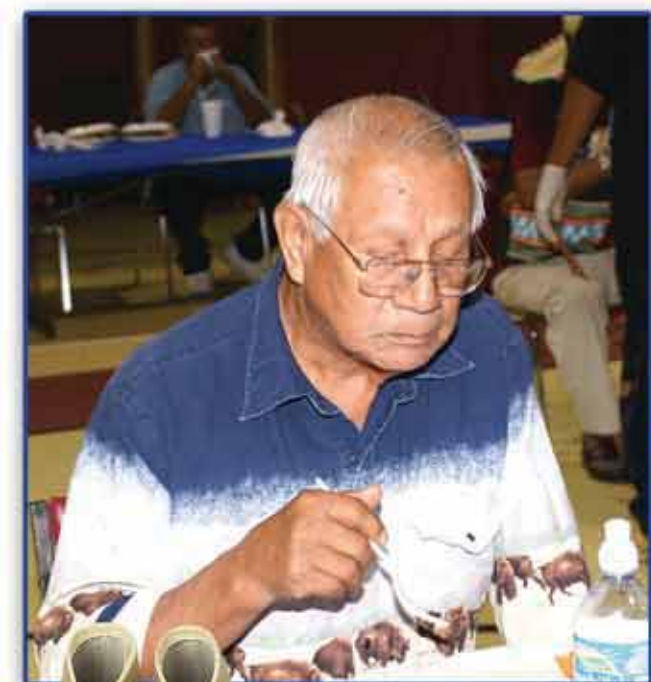
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Jonah Cypress and Paul Buster (standing in middle) and the South American Music Group.

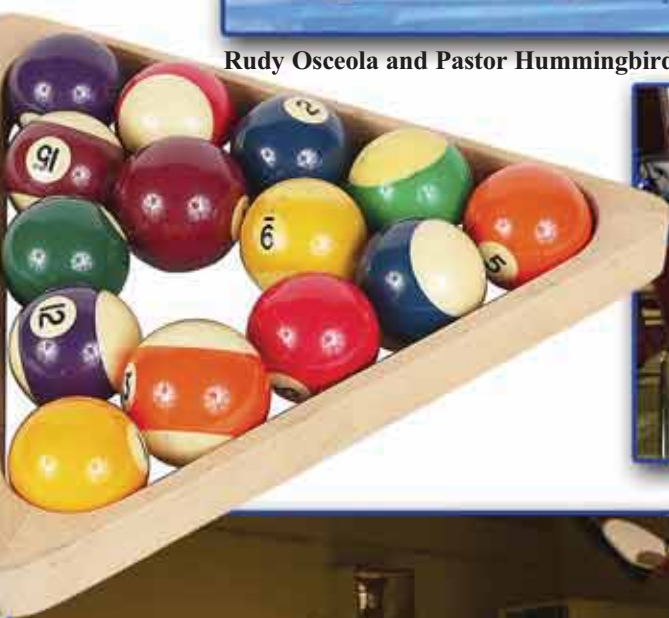
Big Cypress Father's Day [from pg 1]



Photos By Nery Mejicano
(Clockwise) Joe Osceola Sr., Ricky Doctor, Joe Billie, and George Billie. (Below) Janice Osceola with the South American Music Group band members.



Mike Onco



Ingram Billie and Paul Buster.

Fathers Honored with Dinner



By Tony Heard
HOLLYWOOD — Well it's that time of year again. No, not the time of year when kids start to run wild because school is out or everyone gets worried about hurricanes and gas pricing. Those are things on the minds of many in South Florida, but the time being referred to is the time to hug your father and tell him how much you love and appreciate him.

Father's Day fell on the 18th of June this year and in the past the Tribal Council and Recreation department have teamed up to have a dinner the Thursday or Friday before this special Sunday. The event began at 6 p.m. with smiles and laughter all around. The food was set up with some traditional dishes and some more contemporary dishes also, but it must have been delicious because there wasn't any complaining.

Families were there enjoying the atmosphere and the good music that was being provided by DJ Zack Baptiste. Zack is usually hired for special events that take place in the gym. His musical selection always fits the occasion, and he does a great job of playing a variety of styles.

Robin Osceola had a table set up and was in charge of the monetary distribution. All Tribal citizens who are blessed to be a father received a small token of appreciation from the Tribe. This was in addition to the various gifts council had prepared to hand out to all the special men in attendance.

The attendance over all topped out at about 70 people. But if you were one of the people who ended up getting there a little bit late, majority of the people had already began to file out. Curious to why people did not want to linger around and hold conversation, it

dawned on me that the Heat were playing in the NBA finals that night also. The good turnout, and importance of celebrating father was somewhat overshadowed by the excitement of the game.

Nevertheless, Barbara DiCarlo joined the event, and set up her area for anyone who was interested in a refreshing delicious smoothie. In the mist of all the gift giving, smoothie drinking, and father praising, Max Osceola Jr. and Gloria Wilson took a few moments to address those at the event.

Mentioning a couple of the obstacles and joyous occasions they each have been faced with throughout the years, both expressed great

appreciation and joy to those who gathered to let all the dads know how special they are.

Everyone was very receptive to the encouraging words and heartfelt thanks delivered by Council Representative Max B. Osceola Jr. and Board Representative Gloria Wilson.

When it was all said and done, there was one real reason everyone came together on that night, the love of father. A father's love can never be put into words or measured. Daddy, pop, old man, father, or just dad; regardless of what you call your father figure let him know how much you care, and how much you appreciate all the things he has done for you.



Jimmy Hank Osceola

Tony Heard



Rudy Osceola and Pastor Hummingbird.



Daisy Jumper (right)