



(L-R) Jimmy Hank Osceola and Betty Osceola observe the colorful koi fish at the Morikami Museum and Gardens on their trip. Please see full story on page 28.

## Mother and Daughter Graduate with Honors

By Susan Etsebarria

Jeanette Cypress, 51, and her daughter, Desiree Jumper, 24, both earned their Associate of Arts degrees last December. Cypress graduated from Palm Beach Community College at Belle Glade and Jumper graduated from Rowan-Cabarrus Community College in Salisbury, North Carolina. Both mom and daughter graduated with high honors and were inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.



Desiree Karl Jumper

"It was exciting at home for both of us to be graduating at the same time, but I think it was even more exciting for my mother because it was the end of a long journey," Jumper said.

Jeanette Cypress never graduated from high school. She dropped out when she was a teenage mom. Later, she acquired some college credits from classes she took at the University of Albuquerque, N.M. in the '80s. "I always wanted to go back to school someday," she said. But it took a long time to attain her goal because she returned to Big Cypress and raised eight children while working at various jobs over the years.



Jeanette Billie Cypress

Cypress said her grandmother couldn't speak English and so she was the grandchild who translated for her. But her grandmother taught

◆ See GRADUATE, page 10

## Tribal Council Passes 32 Resolutions

By Chris Jenkins

**BRIGHTON** — The Tribal Council met May 18, passing 32 resolutions which included:

**Resolution 14:** Third Amendment to the 19th Annual Work Plan submitted to the South Florida Water Management District by the Seminole Tribe of Florida

**Resolution 15:** Environmental Affairs Consultants, Inc. service agreement to provide wetland migration and monitoring for the Seminole Motocross Project

**Resolution 16:** United States Environmental Protection Agency Funding request for general assistance in environmental programs for the Seminole Tribe of Florida for all Seminole Indian Reservations

**Resolution 17:** Suite license agreement with Tampa Bay Arena, Ltd.

**Resolution 18:** Software Specialists, Inc. DBA New Wave for New Wave Automation license agreement

◆ See COUNCIL, page 3

## Brighton Hosts Grand Opening or Field Office Expansion

By Susan Etsebarria

**BRIGHTON** — Two new office buildings have been added to the Field Office complex at Brighton, giving much needed space to four expanding departments. A grand opening celebration was held May 10.

Brighton hosted an open house and grand opening for the new Chairman and Non-Resident Offices as well as Housing Department and Information Technology Offices. These offices are now located in two large modular buildings adjacent to the Field Office.

Each department now has several office rooms for staff and its own restroom facilities. Housing and Information Technology share one building with a mutual conference room. The Chairman's and Non-Resident

offices share the other building. Both buildings include ramps for the handicapped.

Non-Resident Director Holly Tiger, beamed with happiness. "We have been working tirelessly for six months on this move. The Tribe is growing by leaps and bounds and so are the needs for services," she said. This is the first official space exclusively provided at Brighton where non-resident Tribal citizens can meet with Tiger.

The grand opening ceremonies were held outdoors under a white tent.

"Today we have accomplished a lot," Chairman Mitchell Cypress said, speaking from the podium. "Holly and Jo Leigh (Boogie) Jumper worked together on this

◆ See GRAND OPENING, page 3

## Hard Rock Opens Nonsmoking Gaming Area

Casino Expansion Makes It Largest in Florida

By Felix DeBoz

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino opened a 10,000-square-foot nonsmoking gaming area on May 25. This newest addition makes the Hollywood casino the largest in Florida.

Guests waited patiently for noon to roll around with the local media on hand to record the celebration. A large crowd gathered in the front of the entrance next to the food court in anticipation of announcements from Seminole Hard Rock President Michael Bloom and General Manager of Gaming Operations Larry Frank.

Bloom explained that there is "positive air pressure that we have in this room; it blows air out, it doesn't allow smoke to infiltrate into the room." He added, "We built this room with everyone's comfort in mind."

The new nonsmoking gaming area has 311 games and offers ATM machines, redemption

◆ See JUMP, page 27



The new nonsmoking area at the Seminole Hard Rock Casino

Felix DeBoz

## What's Inside



### Annual Big Cypress Watermelon Festival

Page 8



### Ahfachkee School Hosts Cultural Festival

Page 9



### "Eliminated" Boxing Match at the Hard Rock

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## Immokalee Community Celebrates Mother's Day

By Judy Weeks

**IMMOKALEE** — With a genuine desire to acknowledge one of the most influential people in their lives, the members of the Immokalee Seminole Community hosted a very special Mother's Day celebration on the evening of May 9.

Following a royalty theme, the Gym was lavishly decorated in shades of purple and silver for the festive occasion. Grey velvet transformed the walls into an elegant atmosphere with purple crushed silk table cloths and silver slip covers on the chairs. Massive spring bouquets of flowers decorated each of the tables.

The pungent odor of Peace Lilies and Baby's Breathe encircled the room which was lined with more than 150 vases of flowers intended for every mother in attendance.

Weeks of preparation went into the planning of the event, which was sponsored by Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Council Representative David Cypress and Immokalee Board Liaison Raymond Garza.

A committee of Tracy DeLaRosa, Vanessa Aguilar, Cecilia Pequeno, Juanita Martinez and Susan Davis acquired the gifts and door prizes and coordinated the many entities required to orchestrate a production of this size.

Kenny Joe Davis, Gabriel Acosta and Raymond Mora were in charge of the technical aspects of lighting, music, public address system and power point presentation. Their combined efforts resulted in a fabulous success.

Photographs of the mothers of the community had been obtained, including those of the founding elders, depicting various moments in the progression of their lives.

The resulting video presentation was not only enjoyable but very emotional as it brought back pleasant memories from the past. The effect on the gathering was overwhelming.

In addition to gifts of purses, toilet articles and bathrobes with slippers, each of the women received a beautiful acrylic picture frame engraved a poem titled "Dear Wauchee."

◆ See MOTHER, page 6



## Photo Quiz



Who are these cowboys?

Tribune Archive Photo

## 2007 Tribal Calendars are Still Available

Seminole Tribal citizens can pick up their complimentary copies of the 2007 calendar at either the Hollywood Headquarters, Suite #235, the Big Cypress Council Representative's Office or the field offices on the Naples, Brighton, Immokalee, Tampa and Fort Pierce reservations.

Additional copies are available at the Tribune office for \$10. For more information, please contact Darline Buster at (954) 966-6300, Ext. 1266.



## Correction

In the Tribal election results reported in The Tribune on May 18, Board of Directors candidate Willie Johns' votes

appeared in the wrong column. They should have been attributed to Brighton. The number of votes listed was correct.

## The Seminole Tribune

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

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

**Issue: June 29, 2007**  
Deadline: June 13, 2007

**Issue: July 20, 2007**  
Deadline: July 5, 2007

**Issue: August 10, 2007**  
Deadline: July 25, 2007

**Issue: August 31, 2007**  
Deadline: August 15, 2007

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## God Bless Our Dads and Uncles



Father's Day brings many memories to mind. Many of us were lucky to grow up with our dads and our uncles who, in our culture, reprimanded their brother's or sister's kids. There were times when I would see my uncle running after one of his nephews, chasing him with a stick ready to scratch him and make him behave. I would laugh until they were running after me.

There were good times, too, like hunting in the hammocks looking for deer or anything we could find for dinner maybe wild turkey, turtles or herons. I remember sitting around a fire and listening to the stories our dads had to tell of days gone by. We loved those moments and thought they would never end.

We have a lot to be grateful for today. Our Tribe has come a long way and I am very proud to be Seminole. Our culture and traditions have always kept us pushing forward. We must always remember from where we have come, so that we can be successful in where we are going. I wish you a very wonderful day and the goodness of children and grandchildren to make you feel special and loved. God bless our dads and uncles.

*Mitchell Cypress*

Mitchell Cypress, Chairman  
Seminole Tribe of Florida

## Editorials

## The Legacy of Alcatraz

By Dr. Dean Chavers

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

Most people have little idea about the far-reaching impact of the Indian occupation of Alcatraz Island in 1969. Very young Indian people often have never heard of Alcatraz. But it was one of the most important events of my life.

The impact of Alcatraz has been huge. It literally inspired dozens of land occupations, demonstrations, protests, and other actions all over Indian Country. It was like the dam had burst and Indian people were not willing to take it anymore.

Richard Oakes, a Mohawk, was the leader of the occupation. Denis Turner and LaNada Means were his main supporters and leaders of the occupation. Richard was a student at San Francisco State. LaNada was like me a student at Berkeley, and Denis was at UC Santa Cruz. I was the mainland coordinator for the first two months, a title Richard gave me the first night.

One of the most famous of the Alcatraz occupiers was Eldy Bratt, a beautiful South American Inca Indian mother who lived in San Francisco. She came out to the Island with her baby and four other kids and stayed for months. The baby was Benjamin Bratt, the now-famous movie and TV star. Eldy was probably the most-photographed person on the island because of her bubbling personality and good looks.

Among the more noted demonstrations after Alcatraz were:

- A successful demonstration at Pyramid Lake, Nev., against the big ranchers and developers who were draining the lake, which is located totally on the reservation;
  - The takeover of Fort Lawton in Seattle and turning it into Daybreak Star Center (Bernie Whitebear);
  - A protest against the horrible conditions of Indians who participated in the Gallup InterTribal Ceremonial in August 1970;
  - The occupation of several pieces of land at Pit River in 1970 and later;
  - The occupation of the Nike missile site near Davis, Calif. that eventually became D-Q University;
  - The occupation and takeover of Rattlesnake Island in Clear Lake, Calif. by Pomo Indians;
  - The occupation of Plymouth Rock by members of AIM;
  - The occupation of the BIA headquarters in Washington, D.C. by AIM; and
  - The showdown led by AIM over the murder of Raymond Yellow Thunder in Custer, S.D.
- Steve Talbot, who was a graduate teaching assistant at UC Berkeley at the time we took over Alcatraz, wrote an article later in which he summarized the Alcatraz demands:
- Self-determination, or Indian control of Indian lives and lands;
  - All-Indian unity;
  - Equal educational opportunity;
  - Cultural revitalization;
  - Mutual assistance among Indian people;
  - Changes to the BIA and other government agencies to reflect more Indian power and control;
  - Peaceful coexistence between humans and the rest of the world, an Indian ecology, and
  - The rebuilding of the Indian land base leading to self-

sufficiency for Indian people.

But to me, the most important things that happened post-Alcatraz were the changes in legislation. Important legal progress included:

- The passage of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Act;
- The revision of the Johnson-O'Malley Act to provide better education to Indians;
- Passage of the Indian Financing Act;
- Passage of the Indian Health Care Act;
- Creation of an Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs post in the Department of the Interior, upgrading the Commissioner's position;
- The return of Mount Adams to the Yakama Nation in Washington;
- The return of the sacred Blue Lake and 48,000 acres of land to the Pueblo of Taos;
- The development of Indian programs at over 300 colleges in the U. S. Prior to 1969, Indians were found on only a couple of dozen campuses in the United States. The total number of Indian college students

has grown from a few thousand to over 60,000 today;

- An end to the "relocation" program by which Indians were forcibly removed from their homes on reservations and taken into cities and dumped, often with little or no training;

- An increase of 22 percent in funding for the BIA;

- A huge increase in funding for the Indian Health Service;
- The issuance of President Nixon's Indian policy of July 1970, in which he called for many changes in Indian policy, including

an end to termination;

- And last, but not least, the end of the termination era. Nixon signed this bill in 1970 as a direct result of the pressure from Alcatraz.

What happened to the Alcatraz people? Many of them have since made important contributions to the Indian world. Dr. LaNada (Means) Boyer (Shoshone) completed her doctorate in political science at the University of Idaho a decade ago, and works in education. She was Director of Education for her Tribe for a while.

Al Miller (Seminole) moved back home to Watonga, Okla. several years after Alcatraz. In the early 1980s he was elected Vice Chief of his Tribe.

Denis Turner (Luiseno) served as Chairman of the Rincon Reservation and has been the Executive Director of the Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association for over a quarter of a century. He finished his degree at UC Santa Cruz.

Dennis Hastings (Umon Hon) has been the official historian and museum director for his Tribe in Nebraska for over two decades, after finishing his Master's degree in California.

Gerald Sam (Bridgeport) finished his degree at San Francisco State, worked as a city planner for the City of San Pablo, then moved home and became the chief executive of his Tribe.

Vicky Santana (Blackfeet) finished her law degree, moved back home, and rewrote the Tribe's constitution. Verna Clinton (Navajo) finished her degree, got married, and teaches school in her home of Chinle, Ariz. Linda Aranydo (Creek) finished her degree, went to medical school, and has been a doctor in Indian Country for over 30 years.

The number of others who took up the cudgel is huge. One article said 5,600 Indian people went to Alcatraz at one time or another. It changed their lives, made them mad, made them more hopeful that they could make a difference, and started them in that direction. In that sense — that they won't take it any more, that they are willing to fight — Alcatraz was a positive occurrence.

I think we need to do it again.

## Photo Quiz Answer



Roy Nash Osceola 1930-1986

**ATTENTION:**

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

**800-617-7517**

Press the following for your reservation:

**Press 1 for Hollywood & Trail**

**Press 2 for Big Cypress & Immokalee**

**Press 3 for Brighton, Ft. Pierce & Tampa**

This number is available: 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. Monday to Friday - All Day Saturday & Sunday

## Charles Lanza Appointed Director of Emergency Services Department

Submitted by the Department of Emergency Services

**HOLLYWOOD** — Chief John Cooper has announced the appointment of Charles V. Lanza as the new director of the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Department of Emergency Services.

Chief Lanza joined the Fire Service in 1978 with the City of Miami Springs Fire Department that merged with the Metro-Dade County Fire Department in 1980. Lanza rose to the rank of deputy director. His first assignment as a division chief was in Communication and his second was in Emergency Medical Services. Twice during his tenure with Miami-Dade County, Lanza was asked to head county departments: first as the director of Trauma Services, then from 1995 to 2003 as the director of the Office of Emergency Management.

In 2003, Lanza left Miami-Dade County and became the first Director of Homeland Security for the Broward Sheriff's Office. He was appointed fire chief for BSO Fire Rescue in 2005. Most recently, Lanza was a professor at St. Thomas University where he taught business ethics and organizational behavior at the graduate level.



(L-R) Chief John Cooper shakes hands with Director Chuck Lanza.

In addition to holding certification as a Fire Fighter II and paramedic, Chief Lanza is a registered nurse and a Certified Emergency Manager. He completed his course work for a doctorate and is currently working on his dissertation. He lives with his wife Kathy in Cooper City.

## ❖ Grand Opening

Continued from page 1

project with Andy Bowers, the Council representative. We're all happy to move forward and I want to thank all the staff for their hard work."

Cypress said he and the staff from Hollywood are glad to have a nice office to work in and meet with Tribal citizens when they come to Brighton. Jumper was very grateful after moving from tight quarters. "I love it! It's home. It's awesome," she said.

Jumper is the chairman's assistant and Lisa Osceola is the administrative assistant. Barbara Donley is the receptionist. Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) matters are managed here as well. The Chairman's Office has its own new phone number, 863-824-6044. Non-residents will continue to call the switchboard at 863-763-4128 ext. 15422.

Brighton Housing Manager John Madrigal said the new buildings are built to withstand hurricanes, so he and his staff can watch the weather there and be right on top of things when storms pass through the reservation. Housing is responsible for boarding up houses before hurricanes hit and making repairs after they are gone.

Working alongside Madrigal is Member Care Specialist Connie Fulton, and Kelley Vasquez, receptionist. They can continue to be reached through the Field Office switchboard at (863) 763-4128.

Seminole Tribe Housing Director Clayton Troland V. Clay told the audience that things are really getting done at Brighton.

"Your efforts here are at Brighton are on the fast track," he said. "There are 87 housing projects under way and that number is growing. The housing



"Boogie" Jumper and the chairman in his new office

"Information technology has always had a presence with people coming up from Hollywood for the day and then going back the same day, but then we brought Jason Thomas [of Brighton] on board. He has worked in a closet for four years. Now, the need has grown and we have two additional employees. As far as turnaround time, things are going much faster."

The new IT headquarters is occupied by Thomas, who is the junior network administrator and PC technical supervisor; and Jerry Craig and Ryan Thomas, both PC technicians.

Their flyer about IT services states: "We fulfill the technical needs of the Brighton Reservation's Government and Tribal member people. We are responsible for maintaining all of the computers, printers, copiers and telephone and network related devices for the government side." Their list of computer services includes assisting homeowners, but some of these services require a fee. They can also be contacted through the Field Office switchboard.

After the welcome speeches, the guests went on a tour of the new facilities. Although light snacks were provided in the new offices, all were invited to eat lunch in the Field Office auditorium after their tour. Indian patterned T-shirts designed by Solano Dorgan of Solana's Impressions were given away as gifts to the guests.

The new offices are all decorated tastefully with comfortable seating for the Tribal residents and private rooms for confidentiality. The Chairman's Office has numerous works of art that really impress upon the visitor the beauty of Native American legacies, such as Navajo horsehair pottery and several clan paintings by artist Mike Moore.

Affordable Art & Framing of Okeechobee and Brighton resident Wendy Johns of The Gift Shed decorated the interior.

All residents are invited to stop in and see the newest improvements and meet the staff.

## ❖ Council

Continued from page 1

for software and services for W2G and Title 31 System to be used at six Seminole Gaming facilities (Seminole Hard Rock Hotels & Casinos, Hollywood and Tampa; Seminole Indian Casinos, Hollywood, Coconut Creek, Immokalee and Brighton)

**Resolution 19:** I-S Design and Manufacture, Inc. proposals and contracts for interior and exterior renovations at the Seminole Indian Casino, Brighton

**Resolution 20:** Equipment purchase and installation agreement between the Seminole Tribe of Florida and Long's Air Conditioning, Inc.

**Resolution 23:** Standard form of agreement between owner and contractor where the basis of payment is a stipulated sum between the Seminole Tribe of Florida and Reyna Construction and Concrete, Inc. for the renovation of the Housing Department Office and showroom on the Immokalee Seminole Indian Reservation

**Resolution 30:** Amendment to Seminole Product Distributors Inc. agreement for hot dogs and non-alcoholic beverage sales in the Lucky Street Garage at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino

**Resolution 31:** Seminole Product Distributors Inc. agreement for cigars at the Seminole Indian Casino Coconut Creek and the Seminole Hard

Rock Hotel and Casino, Tampa

**Resolution 33:** Amendment to the application for trust status dated September 22, 2006 reducing the number of acres to be conveyed by the Seminole Tribe of Florida and S.T.O.F Holdings, Ltd. to the United States of America in trust status for the benefit and use of the Seminole Tribe of Florida from 43,965 +/- acres to 23,171 +/- acres

**Resolution 35:** Termination of service contract with H-Systems Design Service and Installation, Inc.

**Resolution 36:** DirecTV Inc. First Amendment to agreement for DBS Satellite Exhibition of Programming

**Resolution 37:** Approval of agreement with W.G. Yates and Sons Construction Company for construction of improvements at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Tampa; limited waiver of sovereign immunity

**Resolution 38:** Ford Motor Credit Company Indian Tribal Government lease-purchase agreement No. 49990 as amended by Schedule 4999053; waiver of sovereign immunity

**Resolution 39:** Ford Motor Credit Company Indian Tribal Government lease-purchase agreement No. 49990 as amended by schedule 4999054; waiver of sovereign immunity

**Resolution 40:** Elimination (write-off) of outstanding Tribal council loans to deceased Tribal members



(L-R) Chairman Mitchell Cypress, John Madrigal of the Housing Department and Non-Resident Liaison Holly Tiger-Bowers in Madrigal's new office

need is extraordinary and we are trying to meet that need," he said. "We want to run our housing services like a good business, get to know you and provide good customer service," he said.

Information Technology Director John Anderson related a funny anecdote.

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## Sustainable Development Symposium

By Chris Jenkins

**HOLLYWOOD —** With the Tribe's continued growth and development, the Housing Department on May 9th offered an opportunity to learn, understand and empower Tribal citizens and employees. The department hosted its first Sustainable Development Symposium titled "Cultural Preservation Natural Resource Conservation and Economic Development."

The all-day affair at the Tribal Council Auditorium featured several topics including:

- |                       |   |                            |
|-----------------------|---|----------------------------|
| ing.                  | — Indian housing  | <b>Housing Director Tr</b> |
| background;           | — Seminole cultural   |                            |
| history and land use; | — Preserving and restoring the natural environment (while living in it);  |                            |
|                       | — Community planning: cultural and environmental;   |                            |
|                       | — Considerations in the community development process;  |                            |
|                       | — Florida's political economy and the opportunities afforded;   |                            |
|                       | — Powering down: housing construction methods and materials with environmental focus and energy efficiency; and |                            |
|                       | — Powering up: Solar energy does work in Florida.   |                            |



Housing Director Troy Clay speaks to the audience.

Chris Jenkins

"We [Seminoles] came from the chickee to concrete buildings. The younger generations are going to benefit from what we do here today, and what we do today benefits people tomorrow." Seminole Tribe Housing Director Troy Clay said he hoped the gathering could become part of the norm with plans to meet every three to six months. "Housing is a very aggressive initiative right now for Tribal council," Clay said.

Others who weighed in with perspectives, thoughts and presentations were: Vice Chairman Moses Osceola, Ah-tah-thi-ki Museum Director Tina Osceola, and Tribal citizens Joe Frank and Jeanette Cypress.

"You have to have an intelligent ongoing dialogue with all the people who are involved in Tribal housing. We had architects, engineers and other departments along with our housing staff that plan and build a lot of things, so that we can put everybody on the same page," Clay said.

## BC Preserve Closed to Off-Road Vehicles

**Submitted by Bob DeGross,  
National Park Service**

**BIG CYPRESS —** Acting Superintendent Pedro Ramos announced that Big Cypress National Preserve will be closed to all recreational off-road vehicle (ORV) use through Thursday, Aug. 2, with trails reopening on Friday, Aug. 3.

This closure, which took effect June 4, applies to types of ORVs including swamp buggies, airboats, ATVs and

The Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan calls for a 60-day seasonal closure to allow a period free from resource pressures related to ORV use. The off-road vehicle closure within Big Cypress National Preserve was instituted in 2002. This closure does not apply to landowners who hold special use permits to access their private properties within the preserve.



## Seminole Broadcasting Announces New Times for Seminole Channel

**HOLLYWOOD** — Seminole Broadcasting would like to let all subscribers to the DIRECTV bulk rate program know that the Seminole Channel will now be broadcast each Thursday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The change took effect June 7. Tune in each week and see the latest information, job announcements and event coverage from all the Seminole Tribe reservations.

## Broadcasting Offers Video Production Workshop for Tribal Youth

**HOLLYWOOD** — Seminole Broadcasting has developed a video production workshop program to introduce Tribal youth to the video and television production industry. This five-day workshop will introduce the participants to the various aspects of video production and will be taught by Seminole Broadcasting staff and industry professionals. Each class will be made up of five students. The workshop will conclude with the showing of a video produced by each class.

The workshop will take place July 23-27 in Hollywood, Fla.

The department would like assistance in identifying Tribal youth who are interested in the video production field and forwarding the attached

application to those interested. Class size is limited, so we are looking for the following number of ninth – twelfth graders from each location:

- Brighton: 2; Big Cypress: 2; Hollywood: 2  
Tampa: 1; Trail: 1; Immokalee: 1; Fort  
Pierce: 1

Seminole Broadcasting is sponsoring the workshop. Lodging and meals will be provided. You may fax completed applications to 954-965-2727. For further information please contact Marisol Gonzalez in Seminole Broadcasting at 954-364-5217, ext. 10708 or e-mail [MarisolGonzalez@SemTribune.com](mailto:MarisolGonzalez@SemTribune.com)

APPLICATION FOR SEMINOLE BROADCASTING  
YOUTH VIDEO PRODUCTION WORKSHOP

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to pursue a career in the broadcasting or video production field?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, give permission for my son/daughter \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ to attend the Youth Video Production

Workshop being presented by Seminole Broadcasting.

Signature of Parent \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Discussing the Art of Poetry With Poet and Teacher Elisa Albo

By Elgin Junper

**PEMBROKE PINES, Fla.** — The sun was bright and warm and the white-gray clouds contrasted well against the blue sky as Poet/Professor Elisa Albo sat at her desk in the English Department of Broward Community College's south campus. On her desk were stacks of poetry, fiction and other literary texts, as well as several photos of her husband and two small daughters.

With a lit-up computer screen behind her, the poet looked out across the level of the desktop.

"People motivate me," she said, explaining the inspiration that urges her poetry forward. "Universal experiences. What's going on in the world. I'm motivated very much by socially conscious ideas. I'm inspired by my children, but it always relates to something that is because it's happening to other children." Her face brightens when she mentions her family.

Albo's first book of poetry, *Passage to America*, was published in 2006, and addresses the poet's birth in Havana, Cuba, and her family's subsequent immigration to America. Her poems have been featured in journals and anthologies such as *Crab Orchard Review*, *The MacGuffin*, *Poetry East*, *Tigerlily*, *A South Florida Poetry Annual*, and *Irrespressible Appetites*. She received her bachelor's degree at the University of Florida, and went on to complete her master's degree in fine arts at Florida International University. She now teaches English and creative writing at BCC's south campus.

Renowned poet Campbell MacGrath had some fine words for Albo's first collection, *Passage to America*, praising it as "a lyrical journey to be savored." MacGrath said he was "impressed by the precision and passion with which she has written these poems of personal, genealogical, and historical witness to immigrant experience. Her eye for lyrical detail and social nuance is marvelous."

Albo points out that her poems often come to light through sensory perception: "I usually hear or see something and it just starts the writing in my head." When she's inspired, she takes notes that she reviews, then refines later on. "Sometimes," she noted, "I'm inspired by real events, real incidents that will trigger the feeling that there's something to be said there. I don't always know what it is, but once I write it, I discover it."

Her poems reveal themselves both immediately and through discovery. "I get something right away," she said, "but it's not what it's going to be — it's just a start. And then ... I discover what the true subject is later." She remarked that she does keep a lot of drafts and retain them for future reference. She's very interested in the "evolution of what happens" as a poem is written. She says her writing process involves much condensing and compressing as well as "trying to get to the essence" of what she's going to say. She's fascinated by writing, and strives for lyrical and descriptive poems with the power to transport readers.

Although the poet was born in Havana, she and her family immigrated to America when she was quite young. "We briefly lived in Tampa and Pennsylvania and Gainesville, but then we settled in Lakeland, in central Florida," she said, "so by the time I was in the first grade, until I went to college, I was in Lakeland. My parents are still there. And then after college — I didn't know what I wanted to do — I found an editing job at a magazine down here in South Florida and moved to Fort Lauderdale. But after six months, I decided that wasn't what I really wanted to do, so I went back to school and started taking education classes."

Commenting on her influences, the poet explained, "When I went to graduate school in '88, the professor gave us a poem by Sharon Olds and it was as if I had found my voice. I had found a frame. I found a way to write." Albo's poems are very narrative — as are the poems of Sharon Olds — and Albo said she was both shocked and relieved when she discovered Olds, who has been called "a metaphor machine."

Albo said her family life also contributed to her development as a poet: "I had some influences growing up. My father can recite poetry he memorized in his youth, when he was in Cuba. My father's always been very much into the arts. He loves opera and classical music."

"Both my parents love to read. We always had books, magazines, literature at our house. Reading is absolutely key. You can't write if you don't read. That's just absolutely key."

She said she's also influenced by the work of Jim Daniels, who is known for his narrative poems and for writing poetry that is quite accessible.

"I like my writing to be accessible," she said, "and yet, if someone knows about poetry, to be able to find something else in there as well."

Albo is inspired, too, by the great Chilean poet, Pablo Neruda. She remarked on "the imagery, the concrete specificity" of his work. She also mentioned the influence of the gifted poet Thomas Lux, who she knows personally through poetry workshops, as well as novelist Toni Morrison and the great writer and poet Maya Angelou.

Albo has done some drawings and she has even taken five drawing courses at BCC's south campus.

"And I read fiction and nonfiction," she said. "I love to read biographies about writers and artists. Those are my favorites."

While traveling, the poet was captivated by the many different cultures she encountered. "I went to a big writers' conference in Prague about 10 years ago. Prague is such a gorgeous city!" she exclaimed. "It was never bombed. You have to go to Prague. It's amazing. The architecture is so stunning. There are frescoes on the outside of buildings. The city itself is a museum. But I kept waiting for the inspiration. And a lot of times while I'm experiencing something is not when I write about it. It usually comes out later too. After I digest it and assimilate it."

She mentioned traveling to Italy as well. "But I still haven't written that many poems about that," she acknowledged, adding, "Sometimes it takes years for certain ones." These days, as the poet disclosed, her writing is concerned more with her childhood and her late grandmother. A recent event often moves her to write poems about her past, she said. She added that she places great emphasis on note-taking. "And even if I'm writing bad notes, then at least I'm rewriting the details, and then it starts to come out."

It is true there are days of difficulty and frustration

in the life she has chosen, and though she has considered doing other things, the poet admitted, "I've actually tried giving it up. I said, 'I'm not writing!' But I just couldn't. I have to write. And I know that's a cliché too, but I do. Things come out in poetry for me." The poet even recalled her close friend, Vicki Hendricks, who was asked during a reading why she writes, and she remembered the novelist's quick answer was "because she couldn't sing."

"Writing's not easy," she declared. "Every time I sit down to write a poem, I wonder do I know how to write poetry? And it doesn't matter that I'm published, that I have a book. It's not easy."

Albo has been teaching poetry workshops for some 15 years now. "But I don't think you need workshops to be a writer," she pointed out. "I think what the workshop does is it speeds up the process. Most writers, well, all the well-known writers we've ever known in literature, that is, didn't do workshops. How did they learn to write? They read. You read. And you learn from what you read."



Elisa Albo with her book of poems

Eta Liederman

"I always loved to read, and when you really love something, at some point, you start saying, 'I want to do that too.' Like I love art, and I ended up taking five art courses here on campus at one point. I love art. So a lot of times when you love something so much, when you have a passion for it, at some point, you want to do that thing. So from reading, I wanted to do that. I wanted to create that effect that I was receiving from great writers. But the point is, the workshop speeds up your process. You can pick up a lot of tips and ideas."

"You learn to be an editor quicker, to edit your own writing quicker. You develop your editing eye. You learn how to revise because, after all, writing is revising. You learn the patience that good writing requires. And you realize that everything you do is not always great, that it needs time. And when you have other eyes looking at your writing, you learn more quickly."

Albo doesn't have any poetry readings scheduled at present, although she is working on a full-length collection of poetry. "I've had them in the

past," she said, "but I've taken them apart, and I keep doing them over." Recently, Albo and several colleagues took part in Broward County's "The Big Read," which featured presentations of Ernest Hemingway's writings, plus food.

"Hemingway and the influence of food," she explained. "We brought in food, and it was a lot of fun."

Albo said she also attended the Key West Writers' Workshop last October and enjoyed the experience immensely.

"It was great! It's like four or five days. Good workshops. Intensive workshops. I got some new work from that," she related, continuing, "And that's another thing about workshops — it helps you generate a lot of work. And unless you're highly self-disciplined, sometimes you can't do as much. I remember trembling when I was graduating from my MFA, thinking, 'Oh, my God, I'm going to be on my own! I like the structure of a class.'"

She recalled last year when noted poet Thomas Lux made an appearance at the workshop of the Palm Beach Poetry Festival. "He helped me refine my editing eye even more," she said. "In fact, we didn't get to my poem until about the third day. And on the third day, I came in with a brand new set of copies, and said, 'OK, throw away the other poems because I've revised the old one again during the workshop. I mean, he just showed me how to cut through the affectations I had in the poem, and the things I just didn't need. But yes, I do like his work a lot.'"

"It's always something of a struggle to get people interested," Albo observed, commenting on how to create more of an interest in reading, writing, and reciting poetry. "But poetry can be accessible. That needs to be realized. It's contemporary and people can relate to it. So it is something of an uphill struggle, but we'll just keep doing what we do, trying to have the readings, publishing the books, and get people to attend the readings, because once we get them there, then they say, 'Oh, OK, this is interesting.'"

Even preschoolers can appreciate poetry, Albo said, advising, "Bring them in early." She said teenagers also connect with poetry frequently and use it to express themselves. "Poetry is a great avenue for teenagers," she said. "My daughters hear poetry every week. Classic and the ones made for children. So yes, the key is to expose them early to poetry."

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# Seniors Celebrate May Birthdays and Mother's Day

By Judy Weeks

May was a merry month for Tribal seniors who enjoyed festivities in Immokalee and Big Cypress.

Site Manager Lonnie Gore and her staff at the Senior Center in Immokalee prepared a wonderful luncheon to celebrate Mother's Day on May 10.

Each of the seniors received a gift-wrapped package containing a beautiful sterling silver locket engraved with the recipient's initials. Each heart-shaped locket, large enough to hold two portraits, was suspended from a delicate silver chain.

In celebration of Rachel Billie's birthday, a cake was served with ice cream for dessert. Beautiful floral centerpieces were distributed among the guests at the end of the party.

Immokalee Seminole Youth and Livestock Ranch Director Kenny Joe Davis, his assistant Gabriel



Judy Weeks

The Immokalee seniors take a short break at the Culture Village on their wagon ride through the ISY&LR woodlands.

Acosta and their staff brought a covered wagon drawn by a matched team of Percheron draft horses to the Senior Center the following day. Traveling along the beautiful wooded trail from the Seminole community to the Culture Village at the Youth Ranch, the seniors and their chaperones enjoyed a pleasant afternoon in the great outdoors. It brought back wonderful memories of days gone by and a time when things moved at a much slower pace.

On May 22, the Big Cypress seniors gathered at the Hot Meals facility to celebrate the May birthdays of Nicodemus Billie, Mabel Frank and Betty Tigertail.

Site Manager Cecilia Solano Guzman and her staff were assisted by the Wellness Department in organizing a game of Healthy Bingo. The group spent the morning laughing and enjoying themselves as they competed for bingo prizes. Raffle tickets were drawn throughout the party and door prizes were distributed.

Following a pleasant luncheon, a celebration cake was served and everyone wished the guests of honor many more happy birthdays.



Judy Weeks

Rachel Billie (back row) celebrates her May birthday.



Judy Weeks

(L-R) ISY&LR Director Kenny Joe Davis and Assistant Gabriel Acosta helped the seniors and chaperones aboard the covered wagon.



Judy Weeks

Delores Jumper, wearing a T-shirt in honor of her late mother, Tommye Jumper, displays her new engraved silver locket.



Judy Weeks

The mothers from the Immokalee community were honored at a grand celebration in their honor.

## ❖ Mother

Continued from page 1

There were many tear-filled eyes, as the poem was read and memories abounded of departed mothers and grandmothers. Several elders gave emotional recognition of the hard working, self-sacrificing women who had not only given them life, but were instrumental in the founding of the Immokalee Reservation as they prepared a pathway for a better life for their descendants.

Overwhelmed with sentiment, Elaine Aguilar cried, "Take time out of your daily lives to share a few moments with your mothers as often as possible. Listen to them. Benefit from their many years of wisdom and learn about your past. My mother has been gone seven years, and I can't tell you how often I think of her and wish that I had spent more time paying attention to her. She tried to tell me stories about my distant ancestors, clansmen and our relationships and origins, but I didn't pay close enough attention. Every day I wish that I could talk with her and hear her words of wisdom. Don't let these valuable moments slip away, because you will not get a second chance."

A group photo placed several new mothers and glowing expectant mothers together. Hugs and embraces followed a universal applause for motherhood.

A fantastic catered buffet included fish, chicken, ribs and a multitude of side dishes served on attractive place settings, which completed the evening's ensemble. Immokalee Seminole Casino donated fry bread for the occasion.

Door prizes were raffled off throughout the event and Elizabeth Oleo was the recipient of the Grand Prize—the coveted foot and calf massage machine which everyone had been admiring throughout the evening.



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Vanessa Aguilar and Cecelia Pequeno deliver the grand prize massage machine to winner Elizabeth Oleo.



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Juanita Martinez, Cecilia Pequeno, Vanessa Aguilar and Tracy DeLaRosa were instrumental in organizing the Mother's Day event.

## DEAR WAACHEE

*You filled my days with rainbow lights,  
fair tales and sweet dream nights,  
A kiss to wipe away my tears,  
Pumpkin fry bread to ease my fears.  
You gave the gift of life to me,  
And then in love, you set me free.  
I thank you for your tender care,  
For deep warm hugs and being there.  
I hope that when you think of me,  
A part of you, you'll always see.*

Happy Mother's Day  
I Love You, Waachee  
2007



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Sheila Aguilar, Elaine Aguilar and Michelle Ford



Emma Brown

Rita McCabe, Louise Gopher and Michael and Eric Garcia



Emma Brown

Trisha Osceola with daughter Riley Osceola and cousin Janessa Smith



Emma Brown

Reese Bert with mom Agnes Bert and grandson Eric Puente



Emma Brown

Josephine Youngblood with daughters Grace Koontz, Suraiya Smith, Micki Burton and grandkids



Emma Brown

Lorene Gopher with daughter Charlotte Burgess and grandchildren

## Brighton Celebrates Mother's Day

By Emma Brown

**BRIGHTON**—The Brighton Council office sponsored a Mother's Day breakfast on the morning of May 11 to honor all the mothers of the Brighton community.

The appreciative fathers, along with the Building and Grounds crew, showed up at 5 a.m. to rustle up a breakfast consisting of scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, grits, biscuits, and much more. Jody Goodman from Buildings and Grounds worked very hard on the beautiful and colorfully decorated kitchen. The breakfast was a nice gesture to show

appreciation to all of the mothers of the Brighton community and the mothers seemed to really appreciate the dedication of their families to make sure that their Mother's Day started off wonderfully. Many mothers showed up to visit and enjoy their meal with their children and other family members, and it was a moving experience to see families enjoying their time together.

Thank you to all the mothers for everything that you do each and every day to make the lives of your children and community full of love and happiness!



Emma Brown

Dad Willie Johns helps prepare breakfast for the moms.





Melissa Sherman

Choo-choo, here comes the birthday locomotive down grandma Virginia Osceola's street.

## Turning One Is So Much Fun



Melissa Sherman

Draven Osceola-Hahn and mom Mercedes get ready to blow out the candle as grandpa Joe Dan Osceola looks over them.

By Melissa Sherman

**DAVIE, Fla.** — Turning one is so much fun, especially when you add a bounce-house, a choo-choo train and a face painter.

Mom Mercedes and dad Pete Hahn threw a birthday celebration May 6 for Draven Osceola-Hahn at grandma Virginia Osceola's house in Davie. Friends, family and cousins-to-be gathered together to soak in the sunshine and slurp down snow cones. As if Baby Einstein party favors weren't cool enough, sweet cotton candy remnants covered the already painted faces of lots of the kiddies. The big kids attempted to pace themselves with the treats after a hearty meal prepared by the Osceola family, but the snow cones were no match for the young at heart.

In the distance you could hear the faint sound of the choo-choo trains' bells going down the street loaded with kids big and small, and kids rough-housing in the bounce house filled the yard with laughter. Soon Mom called everyone over to sing "Happy Birthday."

Draven opened a huge pile of gifts with the help of his mom, selecting carefully for himself which ones to taste. As the party came to an end, after all the presents were opened, Dad sat on the grass with Draven and together they enjoyed the birthday boy's new noisemaking toys.



Melissa Sherman

Spiderman shows off his birthday loot.



Melissa Sherman

Draven reports that his Big Bird toy tastes like chicken.

## Emergency Services Trains Class No. 07-02

Submitted by Capt. Brian Brown, Public Information Officer, Emergency Services

The Seminole Tribe of Florida Department of Emergency Services is currently training a new recruit class to help meet the ever-growing demands for quality fire protection and emergency medical services of the Seminole Tribe and its citizens.

This class is No. 07-02, meaning this is the second recruit class of this year. These recruits have a long list of requirements that must be met prior to coming onto full duty status with this department. For six weeks the candidates of recruit class 07-02 will go through daily intensive physical training and vigorous mental conditioning to prepare themselves

before coming onto full active duty with this department.

Some of the different types of training vary from vehicle extrication, fire ground operations and rescue skin diver to advanced cardiac life support, EKG recognition courses, and pediatric advanced life support.

The Department of Emergency Services wants only the best candidates for the Tribe and follows strict guidelines during these six weeks of training to determine who would be the best candidates to serve the Seminole Tribe and its members as a firefighter EMT or firefighter paramedic.

## Country, Elegant and Sweet Sixteen

By Melissa Sherman

**PLANTATION, Fla.** — What do you get when you mix a flowing pink gown and hot pink ostrich skin boots? Shelby DeHass celebrating her Sweet 16, of course.

At this ballroom affair, country met elegant and had an incredible evening together at the Marriott Renaissance Fort Lauderdale Hotel on May 5. Mom Debbie DeHass made it all possible; from the dazzling blue and silver dangling from the ceiling to hiring the DJ from Solar System Music to serenade guests with soft music.

Even though her birthday isn't until July, this was Shelby's official Sweet 16 party.

"Some of my friends go away for the summer so I wanted to have it early," Shelby explained.

A few weeks before, after a long day of barrel racing and roping in Jacksonville, Shelby and her mom ventured to David's Bridal — still in their rodeo gear — and found the perfect gown they were searching for.

Shelby stepped into the room and graciously lifted her gown, letting her boots peek out. Guests clapped and welcomed her into the room. Shortly after her entrance, a close friend of the family adorned her with a lovely diamond bracelet that complemented the entire outfit.

Thirty of Shelby's closest friends were invited; some she knows from the rodeo circuit such as



Melissa Sherman

Birthday girl Shelby DeHass

Rodeo Queen Azye Henry, and some of her classmates from the Nova Southeastern University's University School.

After the traditional birthday song and a quick candle extinguishing, the music went up and the lights went down as the song "Let's Get It Started" by the Black Eyed Peas began to play. A smart, pretty, outgoing cowgirl, Shelby did what every good cowgirl would: She herded friends one by one out of their seats and onto the dance floor.

Onlookers laughed as the dancing partygoers lined up on the dance floor for some custom choreography to the '70s classic "Apache" by the Sugar Hill Gang and sang its lyrics: "Tonto, jump on it ... Kemosabi, jump on it ..." while doing the Pony. Once the music went up, the adults slipped out to the patio for some sanity and fresh air. Back inside on the dance floor the partners did the Electric Slide and the Cha-Cha Slide and danced to "Peanut Butter Jelly," "Laffy Taffi," "Chicken Noodle Soup" and other delicious songs.

After a whole night of dancing and fun, guests went home, one by one, all danced out. Relieved mom Debbie joked lovingly about her daughter.

"In a few years she can go to college and get a job," she said. "It will be her turn to work all day and then I can sit on the couch and watch TV."



Melissa Sherman

Shelby DeHass shows off a little line dancing talent.



Melissa Sherman

Friends and family get down on the dance floor with Shelby DeHass till midnight.

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# Ice Watermelon Cold

a  
Festival  
at  
Big Cypress

By Susan Etzbarria

**BIG CYPRESS** — The myriad of inflatable bouncers was popular among the many children who loved getting wet on a muggy hot day at the yearly Watermelon Festival and Car Show. The daylong community festival was held May 5 on the ball fields at Big Cypress Seminole Reservation.

Kids of all ages, even toddlers, were running nonstop in and out of a gigantic soapy inflatable car wash with its cleansing after spray. The children seemed happy jumping in the big cloud of suds. Moms stood by with towels ready.

Children also splashed joyously down the bounce water slide while others preferred to shoot each other with giant water guns at the fort known as Water Tag. Anything to get wet!

Meanwhile, the parents and grandparents, cousins, aunts and uncles sat under large show tents and relished ice cold watermelon, as well as other barbecued foods being cooked on a grill, like ribs, hot dogs and hamburgers. Roasting corn from the Councilman's Office was given away.

The large slices of pink juicy watermelon sat in barrels of ice and those who wanted to pick up a slice or a plateful and take it back to their table were encouraged to do so. Hundreds of watermelons were cut up throughout the day. Whole watermelons and some cantaloupes were handed out to residents when they left the grounds. It seemed like everyone loved melon.

It's no wonder watermelon is a favorite fruit at Big Cypress Reservation. It sits smack in the midst of watermelon-growing country where such farms abound in Henry, Lee and Collier counties. The Florida Department of Agriculture cites this region as one of the largest areas in the state for watermelon growers. Trucks loaded down with watermelons are often seen driving along Snake Road through the reservation during the peak spring or fall seasons on their way to markets.

There were also unwanted guests gathering under the cool tents: the pesky "love bugs" that plague Florida for about five weeks each spring. Most people were resigned to the invasion of these little flies and ignored them as much as possible. Fanning them off was the only defense.

Upbeat music was played throughout the day from the Brighton Recreation Department's excellent sound system. The beat kept a party mood going, while many adults played horseshoes under another tent.

The busiest place all day long was the family-centered games and activities tent where various Big Cypress departments hosted carnival-style booths and gave away gifts or prizes. This involvement gave residents a chance to learn more about the services offered by each department at Big Cypress. It also gave residents an opportunity to meet new staff or chat with veteran staff.

Ah-fachkee

Schools' booth was a miniature putt-putt golf course with a game they called the Tiger Woods Challenge. The elaborate landscape backdrop, designed by the Varying Exceptionalities class, was a color collage and painting of the natural surroundings of Big Cypress with its chickees and wildlife.

Many booths had dart games; the Utilities Department gave out snacks and 4-H offered up snow cones. The Fitness Department provided a High Striker where the contestant tried to hit the ball with a sledge hammer to make the bell ring. The building department had a hammering contest. Whoever could hammer nails faster than one of their carpenters won a prize.

Watermelons may be 92 percent water, but they have a ton of seeds inside. Contestants in the seed-spitting challenge picked out their own seeds (three apiece) from a bowl of watermelons at the start line, looking for the largest ones they could find.

The futile attempts of some spitters to spit far enough to win the game were comical and naturally a crowd gathered to watch. Some spitters had practiced; others sputtered, and the seeds fell just feet away. One spitter brought laughs when he accidentally spit the seed more than 20 feet away and it bounced off Stan Frischman's brow.

Frischman is the assistant director of the Big Cypress Recreation Department. As the games coordinator and emcee, he was using a tape to measure which seeds were spit the furthest. He was caught by surprise, then laughed. Soon everyone else was laughing too. The wayward seed went out of bounds.

There were many age categories and the seed-spitting contest lasted a few hours.

Later in the day came the watermelon-eating contest. The eager contestants may have had big appetites but eating low-calorie watermelon is good for the health. It's high in lycopene, vitamin A and potassium, according to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Lycopene is said to cut the risk of developing some cancers.

All day long some very special cars, trucks and motorcycles were on view. Residents strolled past specialty vehicles owned by Tribal citizens from several reservations. Men checked under the hoods and talked car talk. Women looked at the leather seats and fancy features.

The show vehicles were in four basic categories: trucks, cars, off road dirt bikes/ATVs and motorcycles. Parked in rows at one end of the field, the vehicles were so highly waxed and polished they shone in the sun. Judges chose first through fifth-place winners in numerous classifications. At the end of the day, special trophies were given for best of show in three categories: the sound off (quality of the sound system), the paint and the interior.

The recreation department produced this successful and timely event at the height of the watermelon season for the Big Cypress community. It was a hit. The parking lot was full and vehicles were lined up and down the reservation road. Lists of the many winners for all games and contests are available at the Big Cypress Recreation Department.

Photos by Susan Etzbarria



## Education ♦ Emahaayeeke ♦ Kerretv

## School's Spring Festival Promotes Culture in All Facets of Kids' Lives

By Judy Weeks

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Ahfachkee School Cultural Spring Festival is a major event on the school's annual calendar. Under the direction of Jeannette Cypress and her assistant, Danielle Jumper-Fry, the Seminole Cultural Preservation Program works directly with the Ahfachkee School in an effort to promote the Seminole culture in every facet of the students' lives. Working side by side, the staff, students and advocates of the program attempt to preserve the rich heritage of their Native American culture.

This year's festival got under way on the morning of April 26th, when the entire school united in the cafeteria to watch a video of the instructors teaching the students various aspects of their culture. The self-reliance of their ancestors is being passed on to the future generations through gardening, cooking over the open fire and making frybread, fashioning fishing gigs, creating baskets and chickee building among other things.

Watching the presentation, the students were reviewing the accomplishments of the past year's activities which were being preserved as a learning technique.

Mary Jean Koenes is the liaison for a language program being sponsored by the Seminole Tribe through Fairfield Language Technologies. Called Rosetta Stone, the program uses phonetics, pictures, words, videos and tapes to teach 30 languages in a very comprehensive manner.

"Today people live in separate homes without extended families and are losing their identity in the mainstream of the fast-paced world in which we live," Koenes remarked. "We come from a society of clans in which the 'camp' atmosphere prevailed. Our people believed in the old saying that it takes a village to raise a child. You learned discipline and self-preservation from your uncles and aunts. Grandmothers and the elders took care of the children and taught them the stories of their origin and spiritual development. It is time for you to challenge your parents."

As the students, parents and visitors entered the cultural village behind the Ahfachkee School, it was like taking a step back in time. The students and their advisors have worked very hard throughout the school year to capture the essence of their culture.



Judy Weeks

Pineapples were among the many fruits and vegetables that Troy Cantu found in the village garden.

The village is entered through a magnificent garden featuring fruits, vegetables, flowers and herbs. The neat rows have been carefully tended in an all-natural manner without employing harmful pesticides and chemicals, and the results are astounding. Heading this portion of the project is Maxine Gilkes. "I love working with the children and the soil," she remarked. Pointing to her young assistant, John Ross Billie, she said, "He is my right arm and becoming a master gardener. We have spent long hours here together tending to nature's creations."

The wonderful smell of wood smoke and delicious food came from the cooking chickee, where Nanette Cypress, Wanda Billie and Jeannette Cypress were hard at work preparing the midday meal. Their youthful assistants, Breanna Robbins and Kory Sanders, were intently employed in making the frybread.

A beautiful display of the students' projects included pillows, patchwork, wood carving, beadwork and baskets. All the youngsters were eager to show off their handiwork and share their newfound skills with their parents.

Thomas Cypress had an extensive display of tools, raw materials and finished products in the wood carving chickee. Students had assisted in peeling the logs, preparing the fans and assembling

a small chickee nearby. It was apparent that a great deal of care and effort had gone into this project.

Pedro Zepeda from the Ah-Tab-Thi-Ki Museum gave a very comprehensive demonstration of the nearly lost art of split palmetto basket making. He lamented, "I haven't been able to find anyone that does this anymore. My grandmother, Tahama Osceola, has never made one, but she was able to tell me how her mother and aunt used to do it. Selecting and cutting the palmetto stems is just the beginning of a very long, tedious task. It takes several months to complete one basket." Using a very sharp knife, he was carefully scraping the fibers from the stems in order to leave only the glossy, polished surface, which will then need to be dried before the actual weaving can take place.

As little children examined the palmetto fiber base, Agnes Cypress and her student, Trisha Walker, were skillfully turning a large bundle of dried sweet grass into small, intricate baskets. This also is a time consuming project, but the end result is definitely worth the effort.

Immediately upon entering the village, a large group of students of all ages swarmed around Joe Cypress, who was distributing stick ball rackets. There was an atmosphere of excitement as the leather ball came sailing through the air. This large throng of youngsters worked their way back and forth across the playing field for well over an hour in an enthusiastic game of stickball. Skillfully managing his rackets, the athlete Joe Cypress and his assistant, Doug Sanders, appeared to be everywhere at the same time.

Jay Holata from

Broadcasting was documenting the event with the help of student volunteer Allen Michael Venzor.

Meanwhile amateur student photographer Joey Porter was committing the event to memory with his camera. Working with Danielle Jumper-Fry, he helped design the T-shirt honoring all native warriors that was being given out as a keepsake of the day's event.

With just the slightest hint from his mentors, Steven Hannabs, the errand runner, came out of nowhere to give assistance.



Judy Weeks

Joe Cypress is not only an instructor but participated in the stickball game.



Judy Weeks

Joe Cypress distributes rackets in preparation for a game of stickball.



Judy Weeks

Charlie Osceola is intrigued by the soil and worms in the garden.



Judy Weeks

Agnes Cypress teaches the art of making sweetgrass baskets.



Judy Weeks

Danielle Jumper-Fry holds up the T-shirt Joey Porter helped her design for the cultural event.



Judy Weeks

Boys and girls of all ages participated in the stickball game.



Judy Weeks

The Ahfachkee garden produces fruits, vegetables, flowers and herbs.



Judy Weeks

Wanda Billie prepares frybread for the midday meal.



Judy Weeks

Family and friends admire the workmanship of the young craftsmen.



Judy Weeks

Thomas Cypress teaches wood carving and building to the young Tribal descendants.



Judy Weeks

Jeannette Cypress was one of the women who prepared the meal over the fire.



## Education ♦ Emahaayeeke ♦ Kerretv

## ♦ Graduate

Continued from page 1

her the Seminole ways. "She inspired me to learn our culture but she always pushed me to get an education," she said.

By the time Cypress returned to college three years ago, she was already working for the Tribe as the culture teacher at Ahfachkee School. Now she wants to continue further in her college education and obtain a bachelor's degree, and then, if possible, a master's degree. "I tell my students what I have learned from my life. If life doesn't turn out the way you think you want it, you have to just pick yourself up and keep on going." Someday you will reach your goals, she said. Even if it takes a lifetime.

"My grandmother wasn't there to see me graduate. She passed away. But my mother, Agnes B. Cypress, was there. I was her first child to graduate from college," Cypress said.

A couple of her own children are now attending college. Desiree Kari Jumper is the first to earn a degree.

Jumper plans to return to school as well. She intends to get her Bachelor of Arts in elementary education. "I came from a big family and I love children," she said. She hopes she will be able to teach one day at a Seminole Tribe school. "My ultimate goal is to come back and teach for my people, but life doesn't always work out the way you want," she said, echoing her mother's sentiment.

Jumper graduated from Clewiston High School in 2001. She said college is hard work. "The main reason I have been able to get through school is because of my family. They came to visit me often. They came when I got awards. They were so supportive. My father, Danny Jumper, came to see me and encouraged me."

"It's very important with the way the world is going for Tribal members to get educated and come back to the reservation and take over the leadership of Tribal departments," she said.

Jumper is expecting a child this fall, but she said motherhood won't stop her from going back to school after the birth. "I don't have an excuse. If mom can go to school at 51, with eight kids, I can do it."

## Seminole Graduate from Hollywood Christian

By Sandy Hamilton

**HOLLYWOOD** — May 25, 2007 is a day that will be forever remembered by Zachary James Battiest and Shelby Osceola. It is the day that they graduated from high school.

Along with 42 other seniors, Zach and Shelby received their diplomas at an awards ceremony at Hollywood Christian School.



Sandy Hamilton

Zachary James Battiest

It was an emotional ceremony that included several laughs when baby pictures of the graduates were displayed on a wide screen for all to admire. Three valedictorians provided words of inspiration and Dr.

Wesley Scott, who graduated in 1982, motivated the

students to prepare for what he called the race of life. Zach's spirits were high as he made funny faces at the camera. A more subdued Shelby looked nervous and excited.

A talented artist, Zach intends to pursue a career in the entertainment industry. His charisma, which seems effortless and natural, along with his talent and dedication to his craft, can only lead him along the road of success.



Submitted by Tabitha Osceola

Shelby Osceola

Shelby, a volleyball player and National Honor Society member who received a college prep diploma, will pursue a career in veterinary medicine. An accomplished rider, she received a rodeo scholarship to Troy University in Alabama.



Adelsa Williams-Rivera

Rubi-Anne Alexander (C) shows her diploma in the company of her family.

## Rubi-Anne Alexander Graduates Junior High

By Adelsa Williams-Rivera

**SAN MARCOS, Texas** — Tribal citizen Rubi-Anne Alexander came a long way from home to focus on her studies, and her hard work undoubtedly paid off.

Rubi-Anne is the daughter of Catherine Tommie Alexander and the granddaughter of Linda Tommie from the Big Cypress reservation. They are all members of the Bird clan.

On May 18, Rubi-Anne received her eighth grade diploma from the prestigious San Marcos Baptist Academy in San Marcos, Texas.

Formerly known as a military academy, the school is celebrating 100 years of Texas tradition.

The early morning commencement ceremony began with a grand march procession of the students as the middle school band members played "Pershing Rifles" and the "Ode to Joy" from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

The speaker for the event was the Rev. Corey Bearden, the youth director at San Marcos First Baptist Church.

"Keep a positive attitude, keep the desire to

excel and always a thirst for the prize," Bearden advised the new graduates.

Rubi-Anne began attending the boarding school less than a year ago and said she looks forward to returning next year as she moves on to high school.

Her proud parents, her five siblings and even the family's dog made the road trip all the way from the Big Cypress reservation in Florida to attend the graduation. Not only did they show their support and dedication on that special day, but they also made the trip several times in the past year to visit Rubi-Anne, pick her up and drop her off during spring break, and attend parent weekend.

The Seminole Tribe's education advisors guided Rubi-Anne to find the academy she attends. The school offers junior high students a special learning skills program, a foreign language department, military science and Christian studies. The academy's curriculum is designed to meet individual students' needs along with providing a general program to prepare them for college and other opportunities after high school.

Rubi-Anne said she was excited to return and meet up with all of the wonderful newfound friends she's made during her time in Texas.



Adelsa Williams-Rivera

Rubi-Anne Alexander walks the stage.



Adelsa Williams-Rivera

Rubi-Anne Alexander with some of her closest newfound friends.

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## Education ♦ Emahaayeeke ♦ Kerretv



Teacher Jenny Johns (back row) with the Pull-Out Council, (L-R) Ives Baker, Maude Gopher, J.T. Smith and Kiylier Baker, make a presentation at the End of the Year event.



Kindergarten student Alicia Fudge



Brothers (L-R) Yopalakiyo and Imillakiyo Osceola



Reading and Writing Creek teacher Jenny Shore making a presentation with Kindergarten students (L-R) Jaylon Baker, Tavis Jumper and J-Wayco Billie



Student Emery Fish and mother Monica Johns review the carving work that he completed during his Arts and Crafts Pull-Out classes.



Language Arts teacher Jenny Johns with fourth grade students (L-R) Breana Billie, Jennifer Tommie, Layton Thomas, J.T. Smith, Myrick Puente, Braetson King and Brooke Osceola, who are doing a presentation demonstrating their knowledge of Creek prepositional phrases.



Carving teacher Joey Micco (R) talks to mother Monica Johns (C) about the work her son Emery Fish (L) made during his Arts and Crafts carving classes. Lahnna Sedatol is seen next to Micco looking at the artwork selected to be placed in the Pull-Out yearbook.



Students (L-R) Layton Thomas and Randy Shore look at the Pull-Out yearbook they received.



Mother Avalon Puente reviews the work her son Jaden completed during his Pull-Out Reading and Writing Creek classes.

## The Brighton Pull-Out Program Completes Fifth and Final Year

By Emma Brown

**BRIGHTON** — The fifth successful year has come and gone for "Pemayevt Emahakv" or the Brighton Pull-Out Program. On May 18 the teachers and staff of the Pull-Out Program hosted an end of the year celebration for the parents and community of the Brighton reservation.

This gathering was an opportunity for the teachers of the program to share their unique teaching approach and to display the leaps and bounds gained by the students through their culture and language demonstrations during the program. Upon arrival, parents and guests were able to visit each classroom to see what the students have been participating in. Students were also given their yearbook, the first in the Pull-Out program, and they enjoyed seeing their pictures from the past few years and having friends, family and staff leave them a lasting message in the autograph section.

Following the classroom visits, Director of Education Louise Gopher shared a little of the history of the program with the audience and how, through the support of Okeechobee County School Board and the support of past Superintendent Phoebe Raulerson, the Pull-Out Program was able to become a reality.

Brighton resident and mother Rita McCabe once asked the question, "Why can't we be pulled out one day a week to learn about our culture just like students are pulled out one day a week to attend the gifted program?"

With this question in mind, Louise Gopher along with others from the Culture Department met with Superintendent Phoebe Raulerson who said, "Do it!" So they did, and completed their fifth year on May 18. Following remarks from

Gopher, Pull-Out's Student Tribal Council members introduced themselves in the Creek language and led the audience in the Creek and American pledges and the singing of the Happy Birthday song in Creek. Next, Gopher introduced the many dignitaries from Glades and Okeechobee counties who were present, along with Councilman Andrew Bowers Jr.

Phoebe Raulerson shared that it is such a joy to see what the Seminole students have done over the years and that her concerns about the Tribe losing its language motivate her to be completely supportive of such a program. "If you no longer have your language then you no longer have a Tribe," Raulerson said. Before lunch, the teachers of the program demonstrated their teaching technique, called Acquired Second Language Acquisition.

Each grade demonstrated the ASLA program and their knowledge of language by use of nouns, verbs, prepositions, etc. After lunch, the staff presented students with special recognition awards. This was a special day for the students and staff for the Pull-Out Program. It may have been the last day of the "Friday school" but it is the beginning of something big for the students of the Brighton Reservation.

The vision of having "our own school" will come to fruition Aug. 20 when the Pemayevt Emahakv Charter School opens its doors to the students of Brighton. This has been a dream for the Brighton community for years and through the vision, dedication, and perseverance of the Cultural Education Department and Education Department the dream will become a reality. The Charter School is planning an open house to take place sometime in the fall.



Pull-Out students (L-R) Rylee Osceola, Bethany Billie and Lanie Sedatol autograph yearbooks. Donovan Osceola is seen in the background looking at his Pull-Out certificates.



Mother Claudia Olivarez with her fifth grade son Christopher Olivarez



Language Arts teacher Jenny Johns with the fifth grade Pull-Out class providing the audience with a Creek reading demonstration. The class is reading the Creek book "Esvn Sukkace Ceyucv?" The students are (L-R) Emery Fish, Kiylier Baker, Randy Shore, Jessi Osceola, Christopher Olivarez, Kirstin Doney, Maude Gopher and Marshall Tommie.



Pull-Out student Jalynn Jones proudly displays the artistic project she made in her Arts and Crafts classes.



Language Arts teacher Jenny Johns makes a presentation of the Creek words for nouns with students Royce Osceola and Richard Smith during the Pull-Out event.



Second grade students (L-R) Ruben Burgess, Alexus James, Bethany Billie, Diamond Shore, Odessa King, Rylee Osceola, Trevor Thomas, Jaden Puente, Sean Osceola, Crysten Smith and Lanie Sedatol make their presentation.



## Education ♦ Emahaayeeke ♦ Kerretv

# “When I Grow Up I Want to Be a Kindergartner”

## Hollywood Preschool Graduation Commencement

By Lila Osceola-Heard

**HOLLYWOOD** — Many parents, friends, family and teachers gathered to celebrate the class of 2007 leaving a world that included nap time, letters, numbers and coloring, and entering the world of reading, writing, arithmetic and especially recess.

The Hollywood Preschool commencement took place for the graduating class of 2007 on May 11, in the auditorium of Hollywood headquarters. What a milestone in a young person's life; a picture and a video to last a lifetime.

In previous years, all graduations were held in one location with all reservations invited, but this year's graduation ceremonies were held separately on the students' respective reservations.

Parent Involvement Coordinator Dawna Bell said, "It was decided by the parents, even though they liked the graduations together, they wanted to bring it back to the community and make it more personal to each family."

Kindergarten can be a scary new adventure for some parents but what an exciting future of learning for the students. Josephine North, chief officer of the Boys and Girls Club, emceed the ceremonies, and called Max Osceola, Hollywood Representative to say a little something for the kids.

"I can't tell you the future, but I'm with the future — this is the future," Osceola said.

**When I grow up I will be...and in my preschool class I will be remembered for:**

**Konyan Lamar Arriol:** Fireman ... **Calmness**  
**Aden-James Tea** Cypress: Policeman ... **Standing his ground**  
**Chandler Andrew DeMayo:** Veterinarian ... **Ability to carry a note**  
**Destiny Paige Diaz:** Teacher...**The way she says goodbye to her father**  
**Celena Kayandra Osceola Doctor:** Seamstress ... **Seamstress**  
**Cachalani Hayes Frank:** Teacher ... **Knowledge**  
**Melinda Nadine Gentry:** Pilot ... **Athletic ways**  
**Krishawn Drayton Henry:** Chairman ... **Strong Will**  
**Dana James Holt:** Good Dad ... **Imaginary play**  
**Analyse Jena Jimenez:** Dentist ... **Pigtails**  
**Tyree Philip Jimmie:** Astronaut ... **Jazzy hair and loving smile**  
**Gordon Anthony Jumpers:** Soldier ... **Sweetness and hugs**  
**Cedric O Neal Martin Jr:** Soldier... **Bringing his teacher treats**  
**Xiora Hailey Osceola:** Chef ... **Chef**  
**Isaac Osceola Pichardo:** Soldier ... **Saying "Yeah, right"**  
**Joey Boo Boo Puente:** Artist ... **Funny faces**  
**Adakai Xavier Okchane Robbins:** Doctor ... **Kindness and caring**  
**Tulia Rodriguez:** Cheerleader ... **Ability to express herself**



Lila Osceola-Heard  
Hollywood Council Representative Max Osceola Jr. shakes hands with graduate Xiora Hailey Osceola.

The class of 2007 bravely walked onto the stage and said the Pledge of Allegiance, which is *Monitee* in Mikasuki. The stage was not only set for the class of 2007, but for the class of 2008. The 4-year-olds sang about the wheels on the bus, *Baash-shen-che-neh-le*. The class of 2007 showed their acting skills with a cute skit called *Do U Remember?*

Following the skit, the class of 2008 sang *La-fo-fan-kek, La-fo-fan-kek O-wa-che-koo-che* — "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."

Following the presentation of the two classes, the slide show presentation was the ultimate tearjerker for parents. It showcased their babies as little students



Lila Osceola-Heard  
Graduates wait their turn to walk the stage.



Lila Osceola-Heard  
The Class of 2007 proudly show their future work attire.

forming into great Tribal citizens, with pictures of them in their classrooms, playing with their friends, happy and always smiling at the camera. At the end of the slide show, the teachers and preschool staff included a trait that each student will be remembered by.

When their names were called, the children proudly walked to the stage in their Seminole attire and graduation caps and gowns. They received their graduation certificates and heard their accomplishments recited. As nervous and scared as some may have been, they stepped to the stage and introduced themselves, giving quick autobiographies in their native language. Mikasuki. Then they shook hands with Hollywood Representative Max Osceola and Preschool Director Leoma Williams-Tommie, and walked off the stage with heads held high because they are soon to be kindergartners.

Language teachers Bonnie Motlow, Natoshia Osceola, Cornelia Osceola, Paul Buster and Josephine North and culture teachers Donna Turtle, Alex Tommie and Shani Billie, along with the little graduates' parents, sat in the



Lila Osceola-Heard  
Class of 2008's flowerchild Anyah Cypress.

audience with pride in their hearts and tears in their eyes. The future of the Tribe will live on through these little minds, and they all had a part in it.

Preschool Parent Committee President Carla Cypress was responsible for preparation and supplies, getting ideas from the parents and shopping and decorating for the program.

"We were a group of friends and our kids are friends," Cypress said. "This group of parents was involved, and they were a good group to work with and we are glad we could make them happy."

The little graduates received many gifts: fruit baskets by Edible Arrangements, and piggy banks with pictures, displayed as centerpieces on the tables, handmade by Carla Cypress, Dawna Bell and preschool staff. Also, pink camouflage and regular camouflage backpacks filled with school supplies, a musical book, and a beach bucket and ball for the summertime.

Seminole Preschool Director Leoma Tommie-Williams teamed up with the Seminole Boys and Girls Club and Allied Health to make a picture book entitled, "Happy and Healthy ABCs." It's a memory book filled with 96 pages of pictures of the graduating class of 2007 from all reservations. All the reservations graduating preschoolers received one on their big day.

Good luck to all the kids going to kindergarten! Learn hard, play hard, and most of all have fun.

In the words of Leoma Tommie-Williams: "This class, like all classes, it seems as they just started in the infant class and already they have grown up and are graduating already. They have left a lasting impression on all of us! During their performance, especially the shy ones, leaving a lump in my throat thinking my babies, all grown up, will be going to big school."



Lila Osceola-Heard  
(L-R) Chairman Krishawn Henry, Teacher Destiny Diaz and Veterinarian Chandler DeMayo



Lila Osceola-Heard  
Thanks to the Allied Health Department, Boys & Girls Club and Preschool for these "Happy and Healthy ABCs" books.



Lila Osceola-Heard  
Mom Melissa DeMayo with son Chandler DeMayo



Lila Osceola-Heard

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## Education ♦ Emahaayeeke ♦ Kerretv

## Immokalee Preschool Graduation

By Judy Weeks

**IMMOKALEE** — Family and friends of the Immokalee Seminole Preschoolers gathered at the gym on the evening of May 15 to attend the graduation exercises. The auditorium had been decorated in primary colors with a preschool arch, festive table centerpieces and bouquets of balloons.

The graduating class of 2006-2007 was composed of cousins Miah and K.J. Davis. Wearing red caps and gowns accented with patchwork in the Tribal colors of red, yellow, black and white, the two students marched down the aisle and took their places on the stage.

Preschool Manager Michelle Ford gave opening remarks and introduced the evening's special guests: Preschool Health and Nutrition Coordinator Michelle Harris Farrell; Disability Coordinator Hilary Denerstein; Preschool Transportation and Building Coordinator Dolores Michaels and administrative assistant Darlene Dempsey.

All eyes were focused on the large screen beside the decorative arch as a slide show presentation depicted precious moments in the lives of the young graduates.

Beginning with their first photographs after birth, the audience watched them taking their first steps and glimpsed their birthday parties, pets, nap times, play dates and school activities.

Under the supervision of their culture teachers, Amy Clay and Diane Hall, Miah and K.J. inde-

pendently said the Pledge of Allegiance in Mikasuki to both the American and Seminole Flags without prompting. Then, joined by their fellow student, Mercedes Davis, they recited their shapes, colors and numbers in their native language.

Appearing self-assured and comfortable, they were unfaltering in their presentation and everyone applauded their success.

Before the ceremony, the graduates took a short quiz and their spontaneous remarks were read by Michelle Ford.

For example:

"K.J.'s favorite color is red, he enjoys painting and playing with his cousin and aspires to be a Go-Cart driver when he grows up."

"Miah enjoys coloring, writing and being bossy. Her favorite color is pink and she wants to be just like her mommy."

Congratulating their students on a job well done, teachers Maria Castro and Frances Fregoso joined Michelle Ford in distributing awards in the form of book bags, school supplies, picture frames, a necklace with a charm and a class ring.

K.J. Davis will be attending kindergarten in LaBelle next year. Miah Davis' parents are considering enrolling their daughter at the American Heritage School in Hollywood.

Amy Clay offered a blessing. Then all enjoyed a generous buffet.



K.J. and Miah Davis, the Immokalee Preschool Class of 2006-2007

Judy Weeks



Judy Weeks

Friends and family filled the gym for the Preschool graduation ceremonies.



Judy Weeks

Diane Hall stands close by while Miah Davis confidently recites the Pledge of Allegiance to the Seminole Flag in Mikasuki.



Judy Weeks

Speaking clearly and without hesitation, K.J. Davis recites the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag in Mikasuki.

## Education Department Presents Opportunities at Summer School Sessions

By Felix Dobosz

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Education Department's adviser Julissa Collazo was busy on May 17 in the Tribal Headquarters auditorium lobby as host to students and their parents for an informal presentation by recruiters from out-of-state boarding schools.

Esther Gopher, Hollywood community resident and Snake clan member, purposefully brought her two daughters, Chelsea Mountain, 17 and Kristen Billie, 14 to hear about these summer session programs. To get things started, the Education Department provided a delicious Latin style steak, beans and rice dinner catered by the local Cuban restaurant Las Vegas.

Northfield Mount Hermon School in Northfield, Mass. has a beautiful campus with lots of big trees and green hills. It's located near a variety of New England colleges and universities. Greg Leeds, director of the school's summer session, said it challenges students who are seriously goal-oriented and provides a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. Leeds said one of NMH's famous graduates is Elrod Bowers, chief operating officer of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

The STOF sent representatives to visit this school from the Chairman's and Executive Administration offices as well as the Education Department. Leeds was then asked to make his presentation. Concerned Tribal citizens such as Emma Brown, Tina Lacey, and Holly Tiger made sure this opportunity was offered to the Tribe's students.

One summer program being offered is for middle school students entering the 7th, 8th or 9th grade. They can take two college courses for 75 minutes each, six mornings a week, for five weeks. There is also a college prep program for students entering the 10th, 11th or 12th grade. Students are allowed to study one college major subject in detail for three hours every morning, six days a week, for five weeks. Tuition for either of these programs is the same, \$5,700.

NMH is well-organized and has a teacher/student ratio of 1 to 7. Classes average about a dozen students. There are many social activities, as well as on- and off-campus trips, which many students find to be rewarding and exciting diversions from their studies. The school's ultimate goal is for students to have a unique experience while becoming self-motivated to broaden their academic horizons and earn credits for college.

Some of the resources the brochure boasts include "access to multimedia labs and online library with more than 78,000 volumes; specialty studios for painting, ceramics, photography and dance; music building with pianos and practice rooms; tennis, basketball, and volleyball courts; playing fields for soccer and softball, gym with pool and fitness center and even a nine-hole golf course. Phone and computer network connections in the student dorms."

The DVD displayed smiling groups of young people enjoying various campus events at NMH with

faculty members conducting many activities in academic and sports settings. Tuition for a full year of enrollment is about \$40,000, which includes room, board and other items. To learn more about this school please visit [www.nmhschool.org](http://www.nmhschool.org).

The Riverside Indian School of Anadarko, Okla. has a few mottos, one of which is "Striving for Excellence." This Indian school has a rich history. It was established in 1871 by the Bureau of Indian Education for grades 4-12. Michelle Harjo, director of recruitment for Riverside, spoke about "taking care of our own."

Acceptance for enrollment is based on verification of membership in a federally recognized Tribe as well as classroom availability and individual student needs. Free transportation is provided upon acceptance, and room and board is free, fully funded through federal grants. High school students attend 50-minute classes with a focus on ACT preparation and testing for college admission.

Those on a different career path may attend the Caddo-Kiowa Vocational Technical Center in near-



Felix Dobosz

Greg Leeds from NMH speaks to Chelsea Mountain and mother Esther Gopher.

by Fort Cobb, Okla. The center provides half-day technical training for high school age students. Tribal language courses and cultural awareness courses are also offered.

Riverside has many athletic programs: basketball, baseball, boxing, cheerleading, cross country, golf, power lifting, softball, track and field, volleyball and wrestling. There are plans to add football in the fall of 2008.

Dormitory living, with separate housing for boys and girls, is supervised by a student services staff that provides a safe and secure structured home style environment.

Students who refuse to comply with school and dorm rules may be sent to the Wichita Transition Dorm. This dorm gives students with behavioral issues and substance abuse problems an alternative that includes individual counseling and regimented activity like that found in military boot camps. Students in this dorm learn self-discipline, respect, confidence, self-esteem and anger management in a structured environment.

Riverside also provides students with work study programs and extracurricular activities such as Indian Tribal clubs, the Drum Group, cultural dance troupes and hand game teams. To learn more about the Riverside Indian School please visit [www.ris.bia.edu](http://www.ris.bia.edu).



Engine No. 2 crew pulls hoses to set up for a fire attack inside the school.

## Seminole Tribe Performs School Fire Drill

By Captain Brian Brown, Public Information Officer

**BIG CYPRESS** — On May 23 the Seminole Tribe of Florida Fire Rescue Station No. 2 was given a surprise fire drill at the Ahfachkee School in Big Cypress. Battalion Chief Larry Ware directed the crews on Engine No. 2, Tanker No. 2, Rescue No. 2 and Rescue No. 202 in their initial fire attack on a simulated fire, located in one of the classrooms inside the school.

The fire drill was part of a combined training

session with school representatives and the Seminole Tribe's Fire Prevention Bureau. The drill was run by Fire Marshal David Logan, with the assistance of Prevention Officers Lieutenant Robert Brown,

Inspector Michele Polan, and Lieutenant Robert Levy. The crews of station No. 2 did a great job in their performance of mock structural attack while the school administrative staff and teachers were impressive with removal of students from the classrooms to the designated safe zones.



Battalion Chief Larry Ware holds open a door while directing the crews on the fire location.



## Education ♦ Emahaayeeke ♦ Kerretv

## Marrero, Garza Graduate

By Judy Weeks

**IMMOKALEE** — Seminole Tribal citizens Efrain Marrero III and Allison Marie Garza were among the 292 students who graduated from Immokalee High School on May 25 in a ceremony at the Harborside Convention Center.

Dressed in red caps and gowns, they entered the auditorium to the familiar notes of "Pomp and Circumstance" before an audience of more than 2,000 friends and family members. The Immokalee High School Junior ROTC presented the colors, and classmates Eric Aponte and Shayna Glover led the Pledge of Allegiance. The national anthem was sung by Ramces Rouzard and Joshua Washington.

It is a tradition at Immokalee High School for the graduates to participate in the entire graduation presentation. The evening's entertainment began when Joshua Washington at the piano was joined by Ramces Rouzard and Lederian Townsend in singing "End of the Journey," which they had written especially for this occasion. Their performance drew a standing ovation.

Alternately speaking in English, Spanish and Creole, Jose-Diana Charles, Leslie Flores and Britney Matthews welcomed everyone to the ceremony. A short video presentation prepared by Brittany Gonzalez, Aaron Henry and Caroline Radus featured the graduates at various stages of their lives and participating in school activities.

Valedictorian Lucio Martinez and Salutatorian Heather Caseres gave their commencement addresses. Singing a medley of popular songs, Ramces Rouzard, Principal Armando Tournon, Lederian Townsend and Joshua Washington performed the class dedication.

Principal Armando Tournon gave the class presentation in three languages before singing the Garth Brooks classic "The River" in lieu of a speech. As he performed this beautiful song, the graduating class participated by waving a sea of long-stemmed red roses in unison.

Diplomas were presented by Tournon and Collier County School Board member Richard Calabrese. The class poem and tassel ceremony preceded the singing of the alma mater and recessional.

Both of the Seminole graduates are very special young adults who have overcome what many would consider to be insurmountable odds. However,

they don't consider this to be the end of their struggle, but rather a beginning of a lifelong battle they are prepared to win. They are representative of their high school motto, "Success is our Goal... Failure is not an Option."

Efrain Marrero III, known to his classmates as Frankie, was born with serious physical impairment which has confined him to a wheelchair for life. Thanks to his strong will, determination, perseverance and the devoted support of his family, he sees no limitations to his achievements.

Frankie has been a mainstream student in the public school system, maintaining above-average grades with the assistance of his tutor, Guadalupe Lucio. Acting as his arms and legs, she has been by his side attending all of his classes since the sixth grade.

"Frankie is a joy to work with on all levels," Lucio said. "He is polite, appreciative, intelligent and dedicated to achieving all that he can. He is an inspiration to students and adults everywhere."

Because of his special needs, Frankie has elected to attend the DeVry University through home computer courses and is striving for a degree in business administration. Particularly fond of cooking, he said he plans to explore the gourmet food market and possibly open his own restaurant after graduating from college.

Allison Garza was an average student until reaching her junior year in high school. When she told her guidance counselor she wanted to take classes to prepare for college, he informed her she was not a college material and should look in some other direction.

Infuriated, this young lady set out to prove him wrong.

Against his better judgment, the guidance counselor allowed her to sign up for the heaviest class load possible. Carrying all academic courses for the next two years, she worked very hard, did extra credit projects and managed to maintain nearly an A/B average at all times.

At 17, she has graduated in Gulf Coast University, where she said she will major in environmental studies. Her plans include a possible transfer to the study of law and a career in Tribal government.

It would take a very foolish person to say no to either one of these determined young adults. The odds are they would prove you wrong.



Efrain Marrero III



Allison Marie Garza

## Institute Teaches High-Tech Way To Preserve Native Language

By Shelley Marmor

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Indigenous Language Institute's (ILI) Language Materials Development Center hosted a "Storytelling with Technology" workshop May 15-17 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

Storytelling with Technology is part of the ILI/IBM Regional Tech Knowledge Workshop Series, through a partnership with the IBM computer company.

The workshop taught participants how to develop high-tech teaching tools to aid in native language preservation. Workshop participants, including several representatives from the Seminole Tribe's Language and Culture departments, used the Microsoft Publisher program to create a Native Language Storybook. These storybooks are targeted toward young children and utilize both images and words as teaching tools.

Tribal representatives who attended the workshop included: Language Department Director Jo Motlow North, Brighton Language Coordinator Jenny Jones, Tribal-Wide Cultural Education Coordinator Shelly Walker, Language Instructors Donna Turtle and Bonnie Motlow, Director of Cultural Programs Lorene Gopher, Culture Instructor Alexandra Tommie, and several others.

Shore told her fellow conference attendees about the Charter School that will soon open in Brighton. She said the school will teach students lan-



(L-R) Alexandra Tommie, Paul Buster, Cornelia Osceola, Bonnie Motlow, Carla Cypress, Jo Motlow North and Carol Cypress work on their Native Language Storybooks as ILI Web Manager Tonia Williams (back row) walks around offering assistance.

guage and culture, for which they will receive academic credit as part of their curriculum.

ILI Operations Manager Tom Kauley of the Kiowa Tribe responded to Shore saying, "We'll work with you in any way you want us to."

Kauley also introduced the "core team" who would instruct participants in workshops during the three-day conference. The team included representatives from ILI's Technical Advisory Committee, many of whom also work in the computer technology field. The team consisted of: ILI Web Manager

Tonia Williams, ILI Head of Research and Development Chris Harvey, IBM Software Engineer Kerry Langford, graduate student Candace Galla, Native American Public Telecommunications Producer Jack Pohler and Microsoft International Project Manager Manuela Noske.

Noske led one of the classes, starting from the beginning and teaching conference attendees basic operations, including how to boldface, italicize and resize text. Noske then moved on to more advanced topics, such as how to add graphics to storybook pages, before telling everyone about a crucial step in their layout process.

"The most important thing to do after we made these changes is to save your work," Noske said.

For more information on the ILI, please visit their website at [www.indigenous-language.org](http://www.indigenous-language.org).



Operations Manager of the Language Materials Development Center Tom Kauley discusses the role of the IBM computer company in the ILI's language preservation efforts.

## Parents' Appreciation Night at Ahfachkee

By Susan Etzebarria

**BIG CYPRESS** — Parents were invited to a night of a family fun with games, raffles, various exhibits of students' work, student skits and speeches, followed by a great dinner at Ahfachkee School. The occasion was the end-of-the-year Parents' Appreciation Night, held May 9 and organized and hosted by the entire staff of teachers, supervisors and employees of the school.

"I think it was a success," Principal Terry Porter said. "It really opened up doors. I believe in the Native Circle of Life and within that circle I believe all things are connected. In education, we have a triangle. The students, the staff, and the parents — all three are necessary with each one representing a vertex which comprises the triangle and that triangle fits within the circle."

The event started at 2:30 p.m. when staff at the registration table began signing in parents, grandparents and other guests of the family, and handing out raffle tickets for those in attendance. The crowd swelled in the school lunchroom within the hour; people hustled for a place to sit together at lunch tables, and the group games began.

There was excited chatter as family teams worked together with teachers to win the games of dice, correctly answer a questionnaire, and complete the Football Challenge in which knowing a team's mascot or other sports trivia made them winners.

"The purpose of the games was to promote bonding experiences between the students, the staff and the parents — and it worked!" said Dean of Students Dominique Troadee, who helped coordinate the event.

As the party progressed, the raffle proceeded among many events that evening. Most of the items were very nice home décor, foamy bath body gifts, Native American artwork and more. The final prize raffled was a beautiful handcrafted and painted Native American lamp set and clock donated by Principal Porter. Because it was the parents' night, tickets were given to parents, and the gifts were for them — not the students — but the children proudly escorted their moms and dads up to the table to pick out their prizes.

The atmosphere was very different from the normal, more formal school open house.

The walls were plastered from top to bottom with colorful art designed by children in all classes, created with crayon and watercolors in art class. This was accomplished in the previous week by the new art teacher, Ivette Lopez. There were numerous wall and table displays by the first and second grades covering all the windows from top to bottom so you could-



Councilman David Cypress helps kids with football. (L-R) Ricky Joe Alumbaugh, Justin Roff, Nathaniel Jim, Hayden Littlebear

n't see out of them. Students in the fifth grade class made posters and cards titled "Why I Appreciate My Parents" while the sixth grade students made a Parent Appreciation Book.

There were intriguing standing exhibits of science projects from the kindergarten through seventh grade Gifted Enrichment Program. If that wasn't enough, parents had the opportunity to go to their child's home room and examine the specific educational structure of the classroom.

Porter wanted to make sure that the parents knew just how valuable they are and how much they are appreciated. He was the subject of a film project, a growing educational tool developing at the school, in



Painting by student Red Heart Billie adorned the wall along with many other paintings.



It's game time for sister Ignacia and Lariah Rodriguez (in white T-shirts) and other families.



Arnold and his dad Nicodemus Billie win raffle. Teacher Bernadette Schyvinch gave out the prize of hand tools.

which he was interviewed by high school student Allen Venzor, and filmed by high school student Herschel Frank. This project is under the guidance of Ahfachkee Technology Coordinators Abelardo Solano and Douglas Zepeda and has been an excellent learning tool for the students, Porter stated.

Porter acknowledged the work of Director Danny Jumper and Jay Holata of the Broadcasting Department, for their assistance with the process of teaching kids how to become videographers.

In the film, Porter said he really appreciates parents who take an interest in their child's education and want to know more about the school's role in the community.

"We have an open door pol-



Teacher's aide Jennifer Christian and second grader Ayssa Burnette Osceola play a game.

icy here and communication is the key," he said on film.

The skits were performed on a new stage area created in the lunchroom just for such occasions. Getting up before audiences and performing and speaking is one of the scariest things for people to do so school is the best place to learn this skill.

"It is really about teaching and encouraging students to express themselves in positive ways," said Troadee.

The students who performed before their families and peers courageously took to the stage. The third graders are studying American government in Rhonda Iglesias' class. Each was assigned to give a short speech about an American state they studied. Arnold Billie relayed this interesting tidbit about North Carolina.

"Something interesting about my state is that it grows more sunflowers than any other state," he said.

DeLynn Koves explained some facts about Arkansas, saying "My state tree is the leaf pine." Michaela Cypress let everyone know what she liked most about studying California — it was Arnold Schwarzenegger.

"My governor is the Terminator!" she said.

Most of the seventh- and eighth-grade students were on a field trip to Washington, D.C. and couldn't be there but they wrote a letter to be read to their parents telling them how much they appreciate their support and encouragement.

The fourth graders performed the skit "Hey, Where's My Paycheck!" while the eighth grade class designed a colorful collage-type banner adorning the stage that read "It's awesome to have rockin' parents like you!"

There was an outdoor exhibit as well with Culture Class teachers demonstrating the abundant variety of wholesome vegetables the students have grown this year in their Traditional Garden. Even nicer for the parents who drifted outside to look at the exhibit in the nearby chickee was the generous giving away of all these fresh vegetables, potted plants and flowers to parents and guests.

Before dinner Big Cypress Tribal Council Representative David Cypress gave his support and told the parents how grateful he was to see all of them at the Appreciation Night. He also stressed the importance of education and acknowledged Porter for all the positive changes which have occurred since his arrival.

"I really want to recognize the special efforts of the fourth grade teacher Orlando Garcia, the fifth grade teacher Russelle Lee and Gifted/Talented Teacher Jill Grismore, who spearhead this event; and everybody who contributed," said Porter.



# Tribal Employee Anna Puente Embarks on Nursing Career

By Judy Weeks

**IMMOKALEE** — Seminole Tribal Employee Anna Puente achieved another one of her life's ambitions when she graduated from the Lorenzo Walker Institute of Technology on the evening of May 24 with a degree in practical nursing.

Joining the staff of the Seminole Tribe of Florida in 2000 as a home care facilitator, she was elevated to community health representative two years later. With her cheerful smile and upbeat personality, she quickly became a member of the Immokalee community that had won her heart.

When the Immokalee Reservation opened its first clinic two years ago, Puente realized that she could be doing a lot more for her patients and advance

her career by enhancing her education. As a single mother of two teenagers, it was obvious that she would have to continue working her day job while going to school at night and on weekends. The nearest accredited school that offered this kind of a schedule was LWIT in Naples, nearly 70 miles from her home in LaBelle.

With the support of her family and friends, she decided to put everything else aside and enroll in school. For the next 14 months, she held down a full-time job, took care of her home and family, attended school several nights a week and tackled mountains of homework. Most of her days began at 5 a.m. and ended at midnight or the wee hours of the morning.

She wasn't the only one in this predicament. Her LPN class got under way with 18 students and had dwindled to 11 by the time they were ready to do their internship training at Naples Community Hospital. Although burning her candle at both ends, she never became depressed and wearily dragged herself toward her goal, which was now in sight.

During commencement proceedings, her classmate Lilliana Negron mentioned Puente in her Reflections Address. "Some of the students graduating in our class tonight were required to make many sacrifices in order to be here. Puente has become a role model for us as she made the daily long trip from LaBelle with a smile and encouraged us whenever we faltered. Regardless of age, we all look up to her. She has proven that the road is open and the choice is ours."

In red cap and gown, Puente received her diploma in the auditorium of the Gulf Coast High School. Walking down the aisle, she was applauded by her daughter, Kristine, son Josh, family, friends, co-workers and Tribal citizens who were on hand to help her celebrate this momentous occasion.

As a Graduate Practical Nurse, Puente participated in a pinning ceremony on May 29 at the LWIT Campus dressed in her white nurse's uniform. As she made her pledge in a profession dedicated to helping others, her instructor said, "When asked what this world is coming to, you can reply that it is coming to you."

Following her state board exam this summer, Puente will be certified as a Licensed Practical Nurse. Continuing to work for the Seminole Tribe, she looks forward to accepting the responsibilities her new career has in store.



Judy Weeks

Following her graduation ceremony, Anna Puente holds her diploma as she looks to a future in the nursing profession.

## BCC South Adds Chickee to Campus

By Sandy Hamilton

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Seminole heritage is going to college — Broward Community College, south campus. Thanks to Dr. Kyra Belan, the students at BCC will get a feel for Seminole culture.

Belan, who has been in Florida for 30 years — she graduated from Florida State University and received her doctorate from Florida International University — has fought for a project to bring two chickees to the campus, host symposiums with guest Seminole speakers, and present an art exhibit to showcase the work of Tribal citizens.

The chickees, which are being built now, will provide a constant reminder to the students that this land belonged to others before it was used by them. The chickees are being built by Tribal citizen Joe Dan Osceola, a war veteran who takes pride in the excellence of his work. He has been in business for over 25 years and receives most of his business through word of mouth. Osceola explained that the "sun doesn't penetrate through the leaves," so students will be able to cool off between classes. The chickees are leakproof and will last at least four years.

Belan is not only having chickees built on campus, she is also having native plants planted around them to make the space more authentic. According to Belan, 90 percent of the students she asked did not know what a chickee was. Her hope is that she can introduce them to Seminole culture with the help of Tribal citizens. Belan wants the students to use the chickees to study, relax and even meditate.

The Seminole arts and culture symposiums will include Tribal citizens who are willing to speak about their talents. Belan is looking for Seminoles who sew, do beadwork, carve, and write poetry; also historians, as well as Seminoles willing to share their culture through storytelling. Belan says she believes it is important to make the students more aware of their



Kyra Belan

The newly completed chickee will be used by students to study.

neighbors and dispel some of the mystery that surrounds the Seminoles.

The symposiums, slated to start Sept. 18, are intended to be an annual staple, not a passing fancy. Seminoles interested in participating may contact Belan at 954-201-8895 or via e-mail at kbelan@broward.edu. Tribal citizens will be compensated for their participation in the symposiums.

The Seminole arts exhibition will be showcased in the art gallery on campus. Belan stresses that she is looking to represent all Seminoles, especially underrepresented female artists. As with the symposiums, the Tribal participants will be compensated. The first exhibition, "Artist Seminole," will preview Jan. 10, 2008.

Oswald Thomas, a third semester freshman, says the "school has mixed races and mixed cultures (and he feels that) it is a good idea to bring the Seminole culture to campus."



Lila Osceola-Heard

Graduates of Hollywood Christian bid their final farewell to elementary school.

## Seminole Grads Shine On Hollywood Christian School Stage

### 5K and Sixth Graders Move On to Next Grade Level

By Lila Osceola-Heard

**HOLLYWOOD** — On the evening of May 24 a procession of sixth graders and several youngsters in grade 5K took place at the Hollywood Christian School. Many Tribal citizens showed their commitment to academics as they walked across the stage to receive their diplomas.

According to the Hollywood Christian School website, www.hollywoodchristianschool.org, teaching the child in a Christian atmosphere to grow with God during the early years encourages the development of mature and effective Christian adults. With that said, the rain couldn't stop families, friends, uncles, aunts, grandmas and grandpas from patiently waiting for their little students to glow in their special moment.

Seminole 5K graduates from Miss DeLaCruz's class included Chayse Billie, Jason Cypress, Toby John Jr., Javon Jenkins and Matthew Osceola. Grads in Diana Bomback's 5K class included

Aniya Gore, Colby Cypress, Grant Osceola, Sheldon Osceola and Amber Velez.

Darion Cypress, Maleah Isaac, Brandtley Osceola and Hunter Osceola all graduated from the sixth grade.

The evening was blessed with a beautiful array of musical selections including, "There is Hope," "Here I am to Worship," "Merciful God" and "Jesus is All the World to Me." The salutations and valedictorians' addresses by the 5K and sixth graders was followed by the presentation of diplomas and presentation of graduates.

Each Tribal citizen walked up on stage, gave his or her teacher a high five, a handshake or a dramatic hug, took a diploma and walked back to his or her seat as cameras flashed. Following the recessional, families and friends gathered by the stage, eager to get photos with their graduates.



Lila Osceola-Heard

Brandtley Osceola stands proudly with grandmother Betty, father Milo, mother Brande and sister Mila.



Lila Osceola-Heard

Sheldon Osceola takes the stage as a 5k soon to be.



Lila Osceola-Heard

(L-R) Matthew Osceola, Sheldon Osceola, and Javon Jenkins prepare to walk the stage.



Lila Osceola-Heard

Matthew Osceola with his family



Lila Osceola-Heard

Toby Johns Jr. accepts his diploma.

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The hiring of an attorney is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements. 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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Virginia Billie and Raymond Garza pose in front of the big bad bear.

## Seminoles Compete in 24th Annual Western Classic Trail Shoot

By Felix DoBosz

**REDDING, Calif.** — Eight Tribal citizens competed in the 2007 Annual Western Classic Trail Shoot archery tournament May 4-6. Coordinator and archery coach Steve Young from the Hollywood Recreation Department assisted in sponsoring this challenging event. Tribal shooters came from the Hollywood, Tampa and Immokalee communities.

The archers included two seniors, a traditional shooter, five compound bow shooters. The individual shooters were classified into different age groups and bow styles.

Targets were an assortment of replica animals formed in 3-D foam. Shooters were challenged with measured yardage from point to set-up targets and were competing for the most accumulated points for each type of event that required different skills and calibrated equipment.

Some notables worth mentioning: Out of 27 shooters, Richard Henry placed eighth in the freestyle category. Don Osceola, an avid archer, came in second in traditional, and Joel Frank Sr., also a fervent archer, placed second in the compound shooters senior's category.

Six weeks ago, Virginia Billie picked up a bow for the very first time and she liked it so

Joel Frank, Second Place, Freestyle limited senior

Don Osceola, Second Place, Traditional senior

Virginia Billie, Sixth Place, Bow hunter limited

Richard Henry, Eighth Place, Freestyle limited

Eli Marrero, 11th Place, Freestyle limited

Raymond Garza, 12th Place, Freestyle limited

Sunny Frank, 16th Place, Freestyle limited

John Jumper 18th Place, Bow hunter limited



Senior Don Osceola takes a shot wearing his hat and dark glasses.



Sunny Frank takes a break next to the Archery God.



John Jumper

much she practiced hard; this helped her beat out four other challengers and come in sixth in her division. Virginia was left-eye dominant but shooting with her right hand, which makes it extremely difficult to be 100 percent accurate. Coach Young said they gave her a new compound bow so she could learn to shoot with her left hand.

Young is also trying to get the archers used to shooting in groups so they will be familiar with other competitors, especially in Native American tournaments like the big indigenous games in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada in 2008.

Thanks to archery coach and Hollywood Rec's coordinator Steve Young for his valuable contributions to this story. To learn more about this tournament please visit the website [www.straightarrowbowhunters.com](http://www.straightarrowbowhunters.com).

## Seminole Receives Top Honors in Cheerleading Competition

Submitted by David Billy

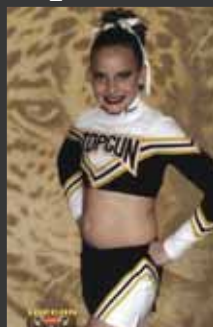
**ORLANDO** — Seminole Tribal citizen Kaitlin Billy competed April 6 and 7 at the Cheerleaders of America (COA) Championships at the Gaylord Palms Resort in Orlando. There were more than 800 cheerleaders from all over the world representing countries including Canada, Colombia, the United Kingdom and of course the United States.

Kaitlin competed as a member of Top Gun Juniors/Level 4. On the first day of competition, Kaitlin's team finished first with a strong performance. On the second day, once again they were unbeatable. The Top Gun Juniors finished first and were crowned the champions. The girls received leather jackets and a large trophy for the gym.

The Top Gun traveling competition teams are based out of Miami, and have a satellite set of elite teams in Naples. For those not familiar with competition cheerleading, it is the same as you see on the Sunshine network, with multiple tumbling passes and serious dedication.

Top Gun took a total of 19 teams from both Naples and Miami. Seventeen of them finished No. 1 and Top Gun was recognized as the overall tournament grand champions.

Also competing for Top Gun Miami were Micosukee Tribal citizens Mariah Cypress and Ariella Tigertail.



Kaitlin Billy

David Billy

## Second Leg of Triple Crown Bass Fishing Tournament

### 27th Annual Fishing Tournament is Tribe's Oldest

By Felix DoBosz

**BIG CYPRESS** — On May 12 from 10:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., a dozen bass fishing teams competed in the second leg of the Triple Crown Bass Tournament. They fished the waters of the L-28 Canal. The hours were changed to give everyone a fighting chance and ultimately pull in a heavier catch than the first leg of the Triple Crown series.

Half of the \$100 entry fee went to the winner of the "Josiah Johns Memorial Big Bass Award" for the heaviest bass. The other half goes toward the other prizes determined by the total weight of the five heaviest bass. Total weight from all three tournaments is tallied to determine the grand champion at the completion of the Triple Crown event. Critics were allowed to be caught in separate smaller contests fishing for the biggest gar, mud, and other fish like tilapia, oscar, carp and shad.

Tyrone Cypress, a Tribal citizen from Big Cypress, was the winner with the biggest bass, 6.88 pounds.



Participants from the tournament gather for a picture after their cruise down the canal.

Cypress said, "I feel real good. It was a little slow at first, but it caught on later. The bigger bites came later; I used jigs, with 14- to 20-pound test line. I used to watch the pros on TV for inspiration, like Roland Martin on that outdoor channel. All the different techniques they show on TV help me learn the skills to become a better fisherman."

#### Results

1st Place  
Tyrone Cypress, 20.40 pounds

2nd Place  
Bronson Hill and Bello, 15.52 pounds

3rd Place  
Josh Jumper and Hilliard Gopher, 15.32 pounds

4th Place  
Kassin, 11.83 pounds

5th Place  
Naha Jumper and Justin Gopher, 7.68 pounds

Biggest Bass (6.88 pounds) and winner of the Josiah Johns Memorial Big Bass Award  
Tyrone Cypress



Tyrone Cypress won the Biggest Bass award, with 6.88 pound catch.



Amos Tiger holds the little bass fish he caught with his bare hand.



(L-R) Moses "Big Shot" Jumper, Steve Young, Bronson Hill and Joe Collins



Jacoby Johns

Keith Lovejoy

## Rodeo Participants Head to High School Finals

By Emma Brown

**BRIGHTON** — Shelby Osceola of Hollywood and Jacoby Johns and Hilliard Gopher, both of Brighton, each earned a spot in the 2007 Florida High School Rodeo State Finals.

Shelby is the daughter of Bill and Tabitha Osceola. She headed to the state finals holding fifth place in the girls break-away roping and 13th place in the goat tying event. Shelby will also be heading to Alabama this fall to attend Troy State University and to join the college rodeo team.

Hilliard is the son of Beulah Gopher. He entered the state competition as the sixth-place heeler in the team roping event.

Jacoby is the son of Jeff and Wendy Johns. He headed to the finals with second place in the bareback riding event. Jacoby also won the title of Okeechobee High School Rodeo Team Rookie of the Year.

Each of these young athletes have been very active in the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association, giving the adults a run for their money at each rodeo. In order to qualify for the state finals, contestants have to be in the top 15 in an event with a grade point average of 2.0 or higher.

The state finals were scheduled for June 7-10 in Kissimmee, Fla.





## Sports ♦ Ham-pa-leesh-ke ♦ Vkkopvkv



Okeechobee Brahman Girls Softball team group shot

## Brahmans Excel in State Tournament

By Emma Brown

**OKEECHOBEE** — The Lady Brahman softball team reached the State Fast-Pitch Softball Tournament for the first time this season. With their 2-1 regional finals win, the Lady Brahman softball team (24-3) traveled to Plant City, Fla., May 7-12, to participate in the state softball championships.

The entire city of Okeechobee and the Seminole Tribe were extremely supportive of the team and backed them the entire way through their district championship sweep, their Regional Championship

and to the state playoffs where they finished with a 26-4 record for the season. The Seminole Tribe of Florida was recognized in the May 9 edition of the *Palm Beach Post* and was commended on their support to the team by providing them with hotel rooms while traveling and providing them with a school bus to use.

Brighton's Mary Edith Huff, is a member of the Lady Brahman Softball Team. Mary Edith is the 11th grade daughter of John Wayne and Vickie Huff. Mary Edith is a three-year letterman varsity softball player and plays second base/pitcher as a starter.

Mary Edith is an outgoing, intelligent and athletic young lady who excels in whatever she does. She has always been an excellent student who has set high standards for her peers. She was chosen as Athlete of the Month.



Mary Edith Huff, Athlete of the Month.

Month sponsored by Publix and the *Okeechobee News* in May 2007. She is also a member of the 2007 Florida Eliminators traveling softball team and is looking forward to her summer participating in a sport that she loves so much.

Not only is Mary Edith an outstanding student and awesome softball player — she is often seen cruising around on her ATV with her nephews because she is an active aunt.

She will be a senior next year at Okeechobee High School and has already begun preparing for college and making positive choices for her future. Mary Edith is in the top 25 percent of her class and maintains a 3.0 GPA.

### Athletic Achievements

- 2002: Florida State University Camp
- 2002: Choctaw firesticks 14U
- 2003: Choctaw Heat 14U
- 2004—2005: Choctaw Firesticks 18U
- 2003-2005: University of South Florida Camp
- 2005&2006: Okeechobee Varsity Softball
- 2006: Florida Eliminators 18U Travel Softball Team
- 2006: Nayo Champions 18U; Most Valuable Player
- 2006: Fall Ball Choctaw Firesticks 18U
- 2007: Florida Eliminators 18U winter Travel Team

## Eliminator at the Hard Rock

By Chris Jenkins

**HOLLYWOOD** — May 16th was a night to further reputations and extend hopes of winning a championship for two boxing veterans with a resume of a combined 92 victories.

The Hard Rock Live Arena hosted ESPN2's Wednesday Night Fights live broadcast as light heavy-weight contenders Montell "Ice" Griffin (48-6, 30 KOs) and Glen "The Road Warrior" Johnson (44-11, 29 KOs) went at it.

This was an elimination bout with the victor next in line to face current International Boxing Federation (IBF) champion Clinton Woods. Seven other action-filled matches were also on the card.

Both fighters brought extensive and impressive reputations to the table, facing the likes of Roy Jones Jr., Antonio Tarver, Bernard Hopkins, James Toney and Julio Gonzalez in their careers, to name a few.

If Johnson could get past Griffin, the challenge to face Woods again would be a familiar one. Both have faced off three times prior, with each bout — a draw, a win and a loss — ending differently for Johnson. His last action was for the IBF title in September 2006, with a split decision going to Woods in 12 rounds.

The road was more difficult for Griffin as he was 0-2 in IBF eliminator bouts dating back to 2004. He came in with momentum, however, from a 12-round unanimous decision win versus Norman Jones in March 2006.



Submitted by Redline Media Group

Glen Johnson (L) lands a powerful left cross to Montell Griffin in route to a convincing victory.



Glen Johnson braces for a shot to the abdomen from Montell Griffin.

was not surprised by Johnson's performance.

"Griffin I knew was durable, slick and mobile," he said. "Glen knew what he had to get done and he did it. He's always in great shape and he's a great fighter."

"He's great. He's a true warrior," Margules continued.

The next action for Johnson is a potential match-up versus former light heavyweight champion Roy Jones Jr. this fall.

The evening's other action included Joe Greene staying undefeated over Jose Spearman in eight rounds by unanimous decision, and Joel Julio over Mauro Luero in round one by KO among middleweights.

In light welterweight action, Khabib Alakhverdiev remained unbeaten over Damian Tinker in a unanimous decision in four rounds and Damian Frias took care of Travis Hartman by TKO in the second round.

Junior welterweight action saw Kenny Galarza winning in his debut over Jesse Francisco in the second round by TKO.

In cruiserweight action, Alfredo Escalera and Derrick Brown ended in a draw after six rounds and debating super middleweights Jean Palacio and Eric Clinton squared off in a no contest decision.

Celebrities appearing included former light welterweight champion Arturo Gatti, former light middleweight champion Vernon Forrest, former light heavyweight champion Reggie Johnson, former women's welterweight contender Christy Martin and Miami Dolphins Pro Bowl linebacker Zack Thomas.

The Tribal Council also showed its support, with Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Council Representative David Cypress, Fort Pierce Liaison S.R. Tommie, Trail Liaison William Osceola, and Non-Resident Liaison Holly Tiger-Bowers attending.



Felix DuBois

Alfredo Escalera (L) swapping punches with Derrick Brown (R).



Felix DuBois

Tribal citizen Zach Battisti (R) and Miami Dolphins Pro Bowl linebacker Zack Thomas.

Before the action began, there was a special memorial tribute to fallen former super featherweight champion Diego Corrales.

In a dominating performance, Johnson took charge from the beginning, pounding Griffin with jabs leading to a TKO win. Johnson was able to dictate the tempo in what many fans and experts thought would be a fight ultimately decided by the judges.

While Griffin seemed content to measure his shots and opportunities, Johnson stayed in his face as the clear aggressor. In the 11th round, a wobbling, bleeding Griffin held on, but at the 2:38 mark his corner had seen enough, stopping the fight.

Seminole Warriors Boxing Executive Director Leon Margules said he respects Griffin but



Felix DuBois

Travis Hartman tries to recover from a low blow.

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Who: Students 6 to 9 years old\*

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- Handling Peer Pressure
- Identifying and Avoiding the Dangers of Smoking, Alcohol and Methamphetamines.

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Sports ♦ Ham-pa-leesh-ke ♦ Vkkopvkv

# 8th Annual Seminole Sports Festival



Lila Osceola-Heard  
Amanda Smith hits a fast ground ball to third.



Lila Osceola-Heard  
Long day for the Brighton Coed softball team, a victory over Ant and Kate's team.



Lila Osceola-Heard  
Winners of Homerun Derby, D.J. Fields and Heather Hokeah



Lila Osceola-Heard  
Carla Cypress tosses the ball to first base for an out.

## Coed Softball

By Lila Osceola-Heard

**HOLLYWOOD** — It was a long weekend of red dirt, skinned knees and legs from sliding, and going from field to field, game after game, on May 25 and 26. But it was well worth it for the Brighton championship coed softball team. Nine teams participated in the tournament, representing Hollywood, Brighton, Dade County and Mississippi and playing at two different ball parks, the Seminole Sports Complex and the Bamford Sports Complex in Davie, Fla.

The Hollywood Seminoles defeated the Mob Squad for a chance to move onto the semifinal round to face Brighton. After playing back-to-back games, the Hollywood Seminoles fell short against Brighton and took third place in this year's tournament.

Brighton fought to come back through the loser's bracket to play a double elimination series to face Ant and Kate's team in the championship game. Brighton won the first game against Ant and Kate's team with their first loss of the tournament. Therefore, they would have to play another game following the fast-pitch games interlaced with the coed games.

After the first men's fast-pitch game, the second championship game was ready to go. By the end of the night of May 26, Ant and Kate's team was plagued with injuries and Brighton took full advantage of the situation.

With the score of 7-0 leading into the fourth inning, Ant and Kate's team came alive and pulled in six home runs with the non-injured women carrying all the weight on their shoulders. Brighton pulled a bigger lead in the fifth inning and put an end to Ant and Kate's hopes of winning the championship. Finally, in the wee hours of the morning, the Brighton team was named tournament champions.

## Coed Results

1st place- Brighton  
2nd place- Ant and Kate's Team  
3rd place- Hollywood Seminoles



Lila Osceola-Heard  
Homerun Derby contestants wait patiently for their turn.

## Golf Results

Day 1

2-Man BYOP: 1. Marcy Osceola & Steve Tooshkenig, 2. John Madrigal & Jason Tommie, 3. Dwayne Whaler & Kendall Whaler, 4. Gary Henson & John Easter, 5. P.J. Bluebird & Karey Whaler; Closets to the Pin: #3 Joe Osceola Jr., #8 Randy Beaver, #11 George Grasshopper, #17 Ronnie Doctor Sr.; Longest Drive, #6: Men: Dwayne Whaler, Women: Gina Allardye; 3. Senior Men: Lawrence Osceola, 4. Senior Women: Mabel Doctor.

Day 2

2-Man BYOP: 1. Jason Tommie & Steve Tooshkenig, 2. Ronnie Doctor & Jeremy Harrison, 3. Charlie Cypress & Marcel Osceola, 4. Bruce Pratt & P.J. Bluebird, 5. Joe Osceola & Mark Sebastian; Closets to the Pin: #3: Senior Men: Matt Tiger, Men: Rocky Loeust, #8: Senior Men: Ricky Doctor, Men: Charlie Cypress; #11: K.B. Campbell, Men: Mitch Osceola, Senior Women: Cornelia Osceola, Women: Senior Men: Jackie Thompson, Longest Drive: #14: Senior Men: Matt Tiger, Men: Jeremy Harrison, Women: Leoda Poore, Doctor.



Chris Jenkins  
(L-R) Gary Henson, John Easter pose with tribal citizen Lawrence Osceola and K.B. Campbell for a group shot.



Chris Jenkins  
Travis Williams from Peoria, Ariz.



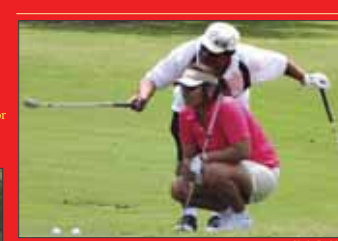
Chris Jenkins  
Stephen Bowers



Chris Jenkins  
Rufus Tiger



Chris Jenkins  
Charlie Cypress



Chris Jenkins  
Leon Wilcox, Seminole Baseball Commissioner



Chris Jenkins  
Leoda and Sid Poole plan their next putt.



Chris Jenkins  
Golfers get ready to tee off.



Chris Jenkins  
Tribal citizens Bobby Frank and Elrod Bowers watch the other golfers



Chris Jenkins  
(L-R) Miguel Mata, Raymond Garza Jr., Gina Allardye and Bo Young



## Sports ♦ Ham-pa-leesh-ke ♦ Vkkopvkv

# Highlights from Seminole Sports Festival

By Felix DoBosz

**HOLYWOOD**—The ballrooms of the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino were packed with Native American Tribal citizens representing Tribes from as far away as Oklahoma for the Seminole Sports Festival Pool Tournament, held May 25-27.

Twenty-four Diamond brand pool tables were for competition play in games ranging from Men's/Women's 8-ball to 9-ball and 8-ball Scotch Doubles. There were senior and regular divisions for all games played during the Sports Festival.

One of the favored players was, Virginia Billie, Tribal citizen of the Bird Clan from the Immokalee community. She was a hot item coming off her big championship win in Women's 9-ball division at the 2007 Tribal Fair. An affinity towards billiards may run in the fami-

ly since her dad, Frank Billie, also played a little pool.

Virginia said she started playing about 15 years ago with her "Jacoby" cue stick, until it was stolen. She favors a 20 ounce cue stick but uses a special breaking cue stick on her break shot.

"It has to be a 20, not a 19 or a 21, ounce cue stick for comfort, but these pockets on these tables are too tight," she said.

Virginia was eliminated in the first round. She said she was practicing hard for two weeks but wasn't really used to the tight pockets. But she is looking forward to the Women's Professional Billiards Association Tour, which she qualified for. The tour will make a three-day stop at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino near the end of June.



David Cypress and Mitchell Cypress



Brighton Elder Alice Snow shoots in the women's senior 8-ball tournament.



Juanita Osceola collects her winnings from Chairman Mitchell Cypress.



Philmon Bowers



Spectators hang out and watch the bowling.



Virginia Billie

## Pool Results

### Women:

8-Ball: 1. Naomi Williams, 2. Theresa Nunez, 3. Cheryl Backward, 4. Aron Allen, 5. Kathryn Hair; 9-Ball: 1. Naomi Williams, 2. Michelle McDermotte, 3. Theresa Nunez, 4. Kathryn Hair, 5. Cheryl Backward; Team 8-Ball: 1. Melting Pot, 2. Oklahoma Sooners, 3. 2 Noles & 2 Okies, 4. Lady Predators, 5. Native Women.

### Men:

8-Ball: 1. Stan Tourangeau, 2. Elrod Bowers, 3. Derrick Smith, 4. Phil Tourangeau, 5. Charles Osceola; 9-Ball: 1. Stan Tourangeau, 2. Elrod Bowers, 3. Jimmie Clay, 4. Daniel Littlebear, 5. Eric Woodward; Team 8-Ball: 1. All In, 2. Red Stix, 3. Sharp Shooters, 4. Boogie Men, 5. The Odds.

### Senior Women:

8-Ball: 1. Laura Clay, 2. Lee Stokes, 3. Dale Grasshopper, 4. Diana OnlyAChief, 5. Sandy Jones; 9-Ball: 1. Esther Buster, 2. Juanita Osceola, 3. Jessica Brown, 4. Louise Osceola, 5. Jane Doctor.

### Senior Men:

8-Ball: 1. Charlie Lasarge, 2. Sonny Tiger, 3. Joe Billie, 4. Glen Harjo, 5. Roley Johnson; 9-Ball: 1. George Grasshopper, 2. Joe Billie, 3. Roy Snow, 4. Glen Harjo, 5. David Cypress.

### Scotch Doubles, 8-Ball:

1. Stan Tourangeau & Naomi Williams, 2. Les Gourd & Theresa Nunez, 3. David Nunez & Arica Buck, 4. Daniel Gopher & Jane Doctor, 5. Phil Tourangeau & Karla Bagley.



George Grasshopper shows his winning style.



Betty Osceola



Theresa Nunez

## Bowling Results

### Men:

Singles: 1. Danny Tommie, 2. Leon Wilcox Sr., 3. Marcy Osceola, 4. Kevin Tommie, 5. Bobby Frank; Doubles: 1. Chris Hulbutta & Issiah Billie, 2. Danny Tommie & Leon Wilcox Sr., 3. Bobby Frank & Marcy Osceola, 4. Elton Shore & Derrick Thomas, 5. Dewayne Billie & Merle Billie; Team: 1. Mich Osceola, Ollie Wareham, Bobby Frank & Philmon Bowers, 2. Chris Hulbutta, Leon Wilcox Jr., Leon Wilcox Sr. & Pittman Sampson, 3. Dean Stokes, John Madrigal, Kenny Doney & Marcy Osceola.

### Senior Men:

Singles: 1. Ronnie Doctor, 2. Elbert Snow, 3. Moses Osceola, 4. George Grasshopper, 5. Eugene Bowers; Doubles: 1. Elbert Snow & Eugene Bowers, 2. Moses Osceola & Ronnie Doctor, 3. Elbert Snow & Gary Sampson, 4. Bear Osceola & Archie Johns, 5. Archie Johns & Gary Sampson; Team: 1. Gary Sampson, Elbert Snow, Eugene Bowers & Archie Johns, 2. David Jumper, Bear Osceola, Elbert Snow & Archie Johns.

### Women:

Singles: 1. Farrah Jones, 2. Wendi Snow, 3. Alfreda Muskett, 4. Toni Johnson, 5. Trisha Osceola; Doubles: 1. Denise Billie & Terri Frank, 2. Farrah Jones & Patricia Wilcox, 3. Marilyn Doney, Archie Johns & Alfreda Muskett, 4. Denise Billie & Sonya Johns, 5. Alfreda Muskett & Terri Frank; Team: 1. Mahala Madrigal, Marilyn Doney, Amanda Smith & Farrah Jones, 2. Denise Billie, Alfreda Muskett, Jackie Thompson & Terri Frank, 3. Wendi

Snow, Valeri Holata, Patty Entry & Salina Dorgan.

### Senior Women:

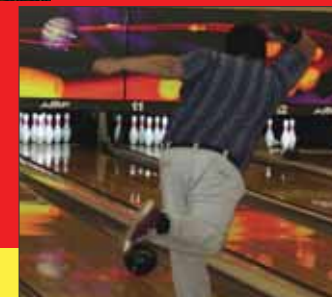
Singles: 1. Dora Tiger, 2. Mabel Doctor, 3. Mary Tigertail, 4. Mary Bowers, 5. Ruby Osceola; Doubles: 1. Mary Tigertail & Dora Tiger, 2. Mary Bowers & Agnes Bert, 3. Mary Bowers & Bobby Billie, 4. LaWanna Osceola & Nancy Motlow, 5. Sarah Sampson & Mary Tigertail; Team: 1. Sarah Sampson, Agnes Bert, Mary Tigertail & Dora Tiger, 2. LaWanna Niles, Nancy Motlow, Bobbie Billie & Sarah Sampson, 3. LaWanna Niles, Nancy Motlow, Bobbie Billie, & Mary Bowers.

### Mixed Doubles:

1. Merle Billie & Amanda Smith, 2. Denise Billie & Ollie Wareham, 3. Patricia Wilcox & Danny Tommie, 4. Margaret Wilcox & Leon Wilcox Jr., 5. Terri Frank & Bobby Frank; Senior Mixed Doubles: 1. Elbert Snow & Mary Tigertail, 2. Elbert Snow & Dora Tiger, 3. Dora Tiger & David Jumper, 4. Eugene Bowers & Mary Bowers, 5. Gary Sampson & Sarah Sampson.

### Mixed Teams:

1. Leon Wilcox Sr., Patricia Wilcox, Margaret Wilcox & Danny Tommie, 2. Stacey Jones, Alfreda Muskett, Amos Billie & Ollie Wareham, 3. Stacey Jones, Alfreda Muskett, Issiah Billie & Amos Billie; Senior Mixed Teams: 1. Sarah Sampson, Dora Tiger, Gary Sampson & Elbert Snow, 2. Mary Tigertail, Dora Tiger, Archie Johns & David Jumper, 3. Bobbie Billie, Mary Tigertail, Elbert Snow & David Jumper.



Gordon Ollie Wareham



Ft. Pierce Tribal Citizen, Dean Stokes

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# Osceola Memorial Pool Tourney

By Chris Jenkins

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Seminole Recreation Center Gym was a place to reunite, remember and reminisce on May 18-19. Loved ones and friends gathered for the 11th Annual Candy Osceola Memorial Pool Tournament to compete and celebrate the life of Osceola, who died at the age of 26 in an automobile accident.

There were youth, adult, senior and scotch-doubles divisions in the event featuring 8- and 9-Ball



In her memory



Randy Osceola warms up before play begins.



Louise Billie (l) and David Cypress relax in between competition.



Betty Osceola

action, as well as cash prizes for the winners.

Hollywood and Big Cypress Tribal Council Representatives Max B. Osceola Jr. and David Cypress, respectively, were major sponsors.

Organizers Juanita Osceola and Carlene Di Carlo gave special thanks to tournament managers Steve Frost and Jose Solano. Osceola is the mother of Candy and says she was happy with the support.

"It was good pool and is always a good turnout," she said.

Di Carlo, Candy's sister, was also impressed with the weekend.

"We enjoyed it and we got to see and meet people we haven't seen in a long time," she said.

The winners were:

Youth, Boys: 1. Greg Carter, 2. Lee Stewart, 3. Allen Hernandez, 4. Randy Osceola, 5. Nelson Osceola; Girls: 1. Rebecca Osceola, 2. Chelsea Mountain, 3. Jessica Osceola, 4. Mila Osceola, 5. Mailani Perez.

Seniors, Men: 1. George Grasshopper, 2. David Cypress, 3. Ronnie Doctor, 4. Keeno King, 5. Howard Osceola; Women: 1. Laura Clay, 2. Juanita Osceola, 3. Annie Jumper, 4. Louise Osceola, 5. Betty Osceola.

8-Ball, Men: 1. Randy Clay, 2. George Grasshopper, 3. Jack Billie, 4. Chris Lawrence, 5. David Cypress; Women: 1. Laura Clay, 2. Nina Frias, 3. Louise Osceola, 4. Juanita Osceola, 5. Diana Onlyachief.

9-Ball, Men: 1. David Cypress, 2. Jack Billie, 3. Leon Micco, 4. Elrod Bowers, 5. Russell Osceola; Women: 1. Virginia Billie, 2. Louise Osceola, 3. Jane Doctor, 4. Linda Jones, 5. Nina Frias.

Scotch Doubles: 18 and Older: 1. Roy Garza Jr. and Louise Osceola, 2. George Grasshopper and Jane Doctor, 3. Elrod Bowers and Holly Tiger-Bowers, 4. Raymond Garza and Virginia Billie, 5. Jack Billie and Arica Buck; Seniors: 1. George Grasshopper and Jane Doctor, 2. David Cypress and Laura Clay, 3. Daniel Gopher and Louise Osceola, 4. Bobby Clay and Betty Osceola, 5. Joe Billie and Annie Jumper.



Chris Jenkins

Irvin (black hat) poses with members of the winning team. Precision Packaging was victorious in the Pros versus Average Joes championship flag football game.

## Charity Weekend Brings Hall of Famer to Hard Rock

### Michael Irvin Attends on Behalf of His Organization

By Chris Jenkins

**HOLLYWOOD** — Take a Hall of Famer, add football, fun, a good cause and the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, and there was something for everyone over the weekend of May 18-19.

The major attraction was former National Football League and Dallas Cowboy great Michael Irvin, who hosted several weekend activities to benefit Playmaker Charities and Foundation, Inc.

The two-year-old non-profit agency helps provide assistance and support to underprivileged children in and around Broward County.

"What we're doing [right now] is what it is all about and that is about reaching out and touching these kids and doing things around them and teaching them the importance of being well-rounded," Irvin said.

The May 18 red carpet event and poker tournament started off the events, which featured DJ Irie from radio station 99 Jamz. Close to \$15,000 in cash prizes was up for grabs. Events taking place on May 19

included a youth clinic, a flag football tournament, a party and live and silent auctions.

Former NFL stars joining Irvin with their support included Bernie Kosar, Darrell Green, Deion Sanders, Cornelius Bennett, Zack Crockett and Johnnie Mitchell, among many others.

A Who's Who of autographed sports memorabilia was also up for grabs. Some of the popular auctioned items included a Dan Marino picture, a Roy Jones Jr. picture and glove; a Miami Heat team basketball; Wayne Gretzky gloves, puck and picture; a Shaquille O'Neal/Dwyane Wade picture; and several Irvin pieces.

Executive Director Soulan Johnson says the weekend accomplished what it set out to.

"I think ultimately we did a good job in getting people to come out for a good cause," she said.

Irvin, a Fort Lauderdale native, is best known for his 11 seasons with the Dallas Cowboys as their star wide receiver. Over his career he amassed 750 receptions for 11,904 yards and 65 touchdowns. He ranks 10th in receptions and ninth in yards. He was elected into the Professional Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio earlier this year.



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## Sports ♦ Ham-pa-leesh-ke ♦ Vkkopvkv

## Seminole Teams Sweep NASA Title

By Lila Osceola-Heard

**HOLLYWOOD**—Memorial Day weekend is always filled with lots of things to do and see here in Florida. However, on this particular holiday weekend the 8th Annual Seminole Sports Festival was in town for some sports action, giving Tribal citizens and other Native Americans plenty of sports to participate in.

The Native American Sports Association, or NASA, is made up of five member Tribes: Seminole (Florida), Cherokee (North Carolina), Seneca (New York), Poarch Creek (Alabama) and Choctaw (Mississippi). They have a revolving tournament system that covers fast-pitch, slow-pitch, basketball and golf. Fast-pitch is a combination of slow-pitch softball and baseball.

Slow-pitch is considered more of a recreational sport. Baseball is a fast-pitch game that usually caters to the young. Therefore, fast-pitch softball can be a fast-paced competitive version of slow-pitch, allowing adults to keep playing the sport they love without having to play baseball, which is much harder because of the size of the ball and the ages that play it.

This year's tournament brought many Tribes to sunny South Florida. The men's bracket had six teams: two from Seneca, two from Choctaw, and one each from the Cherokee and Seminole Tribes. This allowed them to play regular tournament bracket.

The women's side of the brackets only had three teams: Seminoles, Choctaw Lady Sluggers and Choctaw Travelers—meaning they had to play a round robin due to the lack of teams. The tournament play resumed on Saturday. This allowed all the teams to get more games in, which meant more practice before the playoffs started. The team with the best record will be seeded as a no. 1 seed; next best would be a no. 2 seed, and so forth.

The tourney was well under way with teams playing hard for the trophy. The Hollywood Recreation Department scheduled two fields for use during the tournament: the Bamford Sports Complex at Pine Island Park in Davie and the Seminole Sports Complex, Field No. 1, on the Hollywood reservation.

The women's championship game pitted the Seminole All Stars against the Lady Sluggers of Mississippi. In the first game, these two teams met under different circumstances compared to what happened in the championship game. In game one, errors caused the Seminoles to lose the first game in pool play to the good hitting of the Lady Sluggers.

But the Seminole All Stars fought back to come through the loser's bracket and beat the Travelers in five innings to move onto the championship and face the Lady Sluggers. The majority of the ladies on all teams played both slow- and fast-pitch, so after a long day of softball, the championship game was here and it was game time.

To give the Seminoles All Stars a burst of energy, the pitching duo of Kansas native Jose Palmahmie and Oklahoma native Tao Tiger, made the infield's job easier by pitching fierce fast balls and change-ups.

With hard hitting by the Seminoles, led by Oklahoma native Heather Hokeah, homerun derby winner with 7, along with Maggie Puente and Juanita "JoJo" Osceola, the team continued to place the ball in the field with fierce heat. The Lady Sluggers just couldn't get the bats going, and Seminole All Stars' infield defense was too demanding.

Dominant pitching, along with mighty bats, overpowered the Choctaws and helped the Seminole All Stars Ladies repeat as NASA champs and claim this year's 2007 trophy. The final score: 14-3, over the Mississippi Choctaws.

All-Star honors went to Oklahoma natives Sara Walker, Heather Hokeah and Tao Tiger, and Seminole Tribal citizen Maggie Puente. Puente commented on her first All-Star honor saying, "This is awesome. This is my first All-Star ever," as she hugged her kids one by one. It was a proud moment for Puente who practiced hard in preparation for this tournament.

All-Stars from the Lady Sluggers were Christie Roach and Charity Waller.

The men's fast-pitch championship game was in a situation where the team coming out of the loser's bracket had to beat the winning team twice. Because the layout of the tournament was a double elimination game, the Seminoles had to beat Cherokee Pirates two times in order to capture the championship.

The first championship game victory went to the Seminoles. The second game lasted well into the night, ending at 11:30 p.m. on Saturday. This game was plagued with injuries from the start: there was an ankle sprain, a hamstring, the catcher jammed his wrist, the pitcher's calf was hit by one of the Cherokee Pirates and a runner was hit by a throw from left to third base—most of this happening in the first inning.

Some players played both slow- and fast-pitch all day giving them four to five games played already. Fatigue had set in and many of the spectators went home, with only the two teams left battling it out for the trophy.

In the second inning, the score was 3-2, with the Seminoles up by one and holding strong. By the bottom of the fourth the Seminoles rallied and gained a 6-2 lead over the Cherokee Pirates. Tribal citizen Leon Wilcox Jr. played stellar defense at short stop, stopping anything in the vicinity, turning single plays into doubles for the Cherokee Pirates. However, the Pirates couldn't hang on and fell short in the second championship game.

Oklahoma native Kevin Belhorne hit one out the park and gave the Seminoles an 8-2 lead. Coaches John Jumper and Terry Tartsah coached their team through injury after injury, which hurt the Seminoles but didn't keep them from winning the battle. The final score of the 2007 NASA championship was Seminoles 8, Cherokee Pirates 2.

The All Star Team consisted of Myron Bolen, Terry Tartsah Jr., Kevin Belhorne, Tony Stay At Home, Choctaw Gavin Williams, and Tribal citizen Leon Wilcox II.



In field gets things going before the first championship game.



Cherokee Pirates', Milo Osceola (L) catches the ball at first base as Seminoles, Terry Tartsah Jr. is safe.



Lila Osceola-Heard

Men's NASA champions proudly stand by their trophy.



Danny Rodriguez

NASA back-to-back champions, Seminoles



Lila Osceola-Heard

Cherokee Pirates, 2007 NASA 2nd place winners

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# Announcements ♦ Ahaaheeke ♦ Nak-ohkērkēcetv

## Happy Birthday



Happy 16th birthday Isabel and happy 1st birthday to Wesley.

Love,  
Momma  
(Valerie Frank)



I would like to wish my son Ozzy Fred Osceola a happy 6th birthday on June 18. Seems like just yesterday you were born; now you're turning 6 years old. You make us so happy and proud of you. You have been through so much in so little time but you are a strong boy and I know you will get through this. Always know that even though Daddy's not here, he's in your heart and loves you dearly. We love you and will always be here for you.

Love always,  
Daddy (the late Billy Osceola),  
Momma (Angel Osceola), Brothers  
(Briley and Trent) and Sissy (Lauren)



## Congratulations Graduates



Congratulations Courtney Juliet-Alice Jim on your promotion to the third grade. We are all very proud of you. Hooray!

Love,  
Mom and Dad



Hip, hip hooray, Noel Lorraine Jim! You finally did it. You made Class of 2007! Congratulations on your graduation from the Miccosukee High School. Continue forward in your life and especially excel in your education.

You are the next generation and life is what you make of it, so be strong and bold. Stand your ground and I will be there to back you in every way. Don't forget about your traditions and way of life that have been instilled in you throughout the years.

We are so proud of you then, now and in the future.

We all love you,  
Juliet, Courtney and Michael

## In Memoriam

### Billy Jimmy Osceola June 17, 1975 – April 12, 2007

We love you and you're going to be missed on your special day, June 17. You were so young and had so much to live for. But God did that path for you and you had to follow it. So you had to turn your back and leave it all behind.

### If Tears Could Build A Stairway

If tears could build a stairway and memories alone  
I'd walk right up to heaven and bring you home again  
No farewell words were spoken, no time to say good bye  
You were gone before we knew it, and only God knows why  
Our hearts still ache in sadness, and secret tears still flow  
What it meant to lose someone like you, no one will ever know  
But now we know you want us to mourn for you no more,  
To remember all the happy times and the ones life has in store  
Since you'll never be forgotten, we pledge to you today  
A hallowed place within our hearts, is where you'll always stay

We love & miss you,  
Your wife (Angel),  
Children (Ozzy, Briley,  
Trent, Lauren) and the rest  
of the Osceola Family



## Healing Through Humor

I am definitely your garden-variety drunk. By this I mean you could quite frequently find me passed out in the neighbor's garden ...  
I love comedy, as do most of the members of my so-called "family."  
I get a laugh when I hear people in groups stress anonymity, which I believe must strictly come with sobriety.  
These very same folks didn't seem so concerned about staying anonymous as they were dancing on tables in bars and removing their clothes ...

It seems that humor is usually a trait used by a drunk to downplay and soften their fear of their condition.  
I think joking around is a pain killer, "the tears of a clown" ...  
The saying "Laugh to keep from crying" comes to mind ...  
But as we joke, we must abstain and heal rather than mock.  
Healing Through Humor

— Willie M. Osceola  
Panther Clan  
April 19, 2007

## 1999

1999 was the year it all went down, two Seminole warriors would no longer be around.

In January of that year my homie Wild Bill went to the other side, his spirit still prowls like the Panther though physically he died. In September of that year I was sentenced to life without parole; that was the beginning of the end for this Seminole. That was a great year for those with envy and hate, only time will tell what will be

your fate.  
We are gone but not forgotten by all, two Seminole warriors that always stand tall. We represented to the fullest in everything we've done, whether it was running smooth talk game on the ladies or just having fun.  
1999 was the year it all came to an end, much love to all family and those few chosen friends.

— Ike T. Harjo  
Panther Clan

## New Kids



Amina Cummings was born April 9. Her proud parents are Kimberly Alvarado and Aldrice Cummings; grandparents are Mary Lou and Roy Alvarado. All are residents of the Immokalee Seminole community.



Denise Sonia Gonzales was born May 2. She weighed 6 pounds and measures 19.5 inches in length. Proud parents are Susan Renea Davis and Dennis Gonzales; Brothers Christopher Briscoll and Dennis Gonzales Jr.; Grandmother Martha Billie Davis. All are members of the Immokalee Seminole community.



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## News From Indian Country

### Dr. Robert Martin Selected as President of IAIA

Submitted by the Institute of American Indian Arts

SANTA FE, N.M. — Institute of American Indian Arts Board Chair Loren Kieve (Cherokee Nation) has announced the selection of Dr. Robert G. Martin as IAIA's president. Martin will begin his term as president on July 1.

"We are delighted to have Dr.

American Indian Arts. I look forward to working with the IAIA Board of Trustees, faculty, staff and students in continuing to build upon its rich history and tradition of excellence in art and cultural education for American Indians and Alaskan Natives," Martin said.

"Dr. Martin is highly regarded among educators as a person of great skill and vision. He's well-respected and knowledgeable, and is a strategic thinker and problem solver. We will put his talents to work as he guides us in shaping the future of IAIA, and warmly welcome him into the IAIA family," Kieve said.

Dr. Martin is married to Luci Tapahonso (Diné), a professor of American Indian Studies and English at the University of Arizona.

The Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development



Photo Submitted by IAIA

Dr. Robert Martin and his wife, Luci Tapahonso

Martin, a preeminent leader in education, serve as our next president," Kieve said. "We are confident he has the vision to lead us in making IAIA the premier institution of higher learning in Native American art and cultural studies in the United States. Dr. Martin's vast experience in academia will be a strong asset to our institution."

Martin (Cherokee Nation) has extensive experience in higher education as a faculty member and administrator. He served as president of Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institution in Albuquerque, N.M. from 1981-1989. He was president of Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan. from 1989-1999. He also served as president of Tohono O'odham Community College from 2001-2005. He is a member of the faculty and associate head of the American Indian Studies Programs at the University of Arizona.

"I am honored and excited to be selected as the president of the Institute of

(IAIA) is a multi-Tribal center of higher education dedicated to the preservation, study, creative application and contemporary expression of American Indian and Alaska Native arts and cultures. Located on a modern, 140-acre campus approximately 10 miles south of downtown Santa Fe, IAIA serves its full-time and part-time students through programs in contemporary and traditional fine arts, creative writing, indigenous liberal studies and new media. Established in 1962 by Congress, IAIA includes the Center for Arts and Cultural Studies (CACS), IAIA Museum, and the Achein Center for Lifelong Education, Research & Cultural Exchange (CLE). As a nationally accredited, degree-granting college, IAIA awards both four-year bachelor's degrees and two-year associate's degrees. For additional information visit [www.iaia.edu](http://www.iaia.edu) or call the campus information line at 505-424-2300.

### Native Scouting Conference Set for July in Oklahoma

Submitted by AISA

The American Indian Scouting Association will hold its 50th annual seminar for youth and adults July 7-11 at East Central University in Ada, Okla. The Chickasaw Nation is the host Tribe.

Participants will include both Indian and non-Indian youth (ages 12-17). They will explore strategies for youth development and improvement of life in American Indian communities through Girl Scout and Boy Scout programs and services.

Members will share Tribal traditions through native dress, dancing, music, sports and a tour of the host Tribe's community. Chickasaw history and customs will be featured.

A highlight of the seminar will be the presentation of the Joseph T. Provost Youth Award and the Francis X. Guardipee Grey Wolf Award, which recognizes distinguished service to American Indian youth.

Workshops will be available to assist adults responsible for leadership and administration of youth programs by providing training and a forum for the exchange of ideas.

AISA is a collaboration involving American Indian

Tribal leaders, Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. and Boy Scouts of America. This national organization was formed to address issues facing today's Indian youth and to provide training and leadership opportunities for adult leaders of American Indian youth.

The American Indian Scouting Association seeks to enable young American Indians to develop their talents and capabilities so they will be able to maintain their cultural identities while building bridges that will allow them to be successful and productive members of both societies.

The fee for the seminar is \$200 for adults and youths. This includes room and board and membership. Some funds are available for Youth Scholarship Grants, based on financial need.

For more information and registration forms, please visit the website [www.americanindianscouting.org](http://www.americanindianscouting.org) or contact Don Rogers ([drogers@netbsa.org](mailto:drogers@netbsa.org)), Boy Scouts of America, 1325 Walnut Hill Lane, P.O. Box 152079, Irving, TX 75015-2079, or Paayal Mahajan ([pmahajan@girlscouts.org](mailto:pmahajan@girlscouts.org)), Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., 420 Fifth Ave., 15th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10018.

### Two Teens Awarded SWAIA Youth Fellowships Jamie Brown, Ray E. Rosetta Honored

Submitted by SWAIA

SANTA FE, NM — Jamie Brown (Pogon Band of Potawatomi Indians) and Ray E. Rosetta (Santo Domingo Pueblo) have each been awarded a Youth Fellowship from the Southwestern Association for Indian Arts (SWAIA). Each Youth Fellow receives a \$500 award to use for supplies and/or art education opportunities, as well as the chance to sell his or her work at the annual Santa Fe Indian Market. The program exists to encourage artistic

potential among indigenous youth.

Caren Gala, SWAIA programs coordinator, said she was impressed by the quality of the young artists' work as expressed in their portfolios, which include a written statement.

"We were so pleased with the range of artistic talent in this year's applicants. It was rewarding to read through the applications to learn about this extraordinary group of young artists and how they are ensuring that traditions are being passed from one generation to the next. I was also thrilled to learn about all the new artistic directions being created by these talented native youth," Gala said.

Jamie Brown began learning basket weaving from her mother at the age of 8, noting that a basket's creation requires "a strong body, time, ambition, and talent." She and her family harvest their weaving materials from the black ash tree, a plant that thrives in the wet, swampy areas near their home in Shelbyville, Mich.

Brown will use her fellowship award to help set up a permanent work space in her family's home — rather than using her family's living room, her current work space — in which to weave and keep her weaving supplies. The 15-year-old's goals include continuing the traditions of black ash basketry and inspiring other young Native Americans to stay involved with their traditions and culture.

Surrounded by a family of jewelers, Ray Rosetta, 15, plans to combine his mother's family jewelry style with his father's to create a new, uniquely "Ray Rosetta style." Using spiny oyster shell, turquoise, onyx and other materials, he has



Photo Submitted by SWAIA

Traditional Santo Domingo Style Necklace by Ray Rosetta

made traditional Santo Domingo Pueblo style jewelry since the age of 8.

Recently, Rosetta has begun to study silverwork under the tutelage of his grandfather Juan Pedro Garcia. His prize money will be used to purchase supplies and stones to continue making jewelry. Besides learning to cast silver, Rosetta's artistic goals include keeping the artistic tradition of his village and native people alive.



Photo Submitted by SWAIA

Strawberry hamper by Jamie Brown

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A diminutive bull fighter is dragged through the area by the calf.

Judy Weeks

## Cinco De Mayo Celebration, EIRA Rodeo Draw Crowds

By Judy Weeks

**IMMOKALEE** — The Immokalee Seminole Youth and Livestock Ranch was host to a Cinco de Mayo celebration on May 5 at the John Jimmie Memorial Arena. This annual event sponsored by the Immokalee Seminole Casino and the Youth Ranch drew an enthusiastic crowd of approximately 2,400 people.

Although the evening's entertainment did not begin until 5 p.m., spectators began arriving by 3 p.m. to take advantage of the vendors serving traditional Mexican cuisine and offering a wide variety of merchandise from south of the border.

The arena had been divided in half to accommodate the bull riding exhibition, which alternated with the live performances taking place on the large stage at the opposite end of the enclosure. Barricades had been removed to permit the audience, which was overflowing the bleachers, to enter the arena and dance.

Beginning with Lider Musical de Durango, Bravo Norteno and Salomon Robles y sus Legionarios, the air was filled with the gentle serenades of guitars, violins and bass violas accompanying the vocal artists. Suddenly, the tempo would change and the dancers' feet would begin to fly to the strains of arousing Latin music.

Performing as Piel Ranchera, four beautiful Mexican women drew the wide appreciation of the audience while they sang and danced in their extravagant costumes.

Traveling all the way from Colombia, South America, Grupo Canaveral de Pávon was a highlight of the entire evening as they played one brass masterpiece after another on their horns. Over a thousand people crowded into the arena to dance to the clear, resonant notes of the 11-man troupe.

In between acts, the spectators surrounded the bull ring to support the brave young riders willing to sacrifice themselves on wild beasts with names like Pancho Villa, Veneno, Gavilan and El Toro de Oso.



The red clay on Andre Jumper's shirt sleeve is a small tribute to his first place in the Steer Riding competition.

other events, it provided good traction for the barrel racers. Starting with the 4 to 8 year olds, Ahmie Jumper grabbed the first position with Milla Osceola, Dayra Koenes, Cyrus Smedley and Brighton Bauman running close behind.

Nauthkee Henry, Kelton Smedley and Courtney Gore ran perfect patterns in the 9-to-12-year-old Barrel Racers. The arena was drying out and by the time the 13-to-18-year-olds came out the gate, Janae Braswell and Taylor Johns were blowing everyone's doors off.

Steer riders Andre Jumper and Timothy Bearden competed for first and second place and came up wearing big smiles despite the fact that they were covered with red clay at the end of their rides. Meanwhile, good-natured calf riders Dalton Koenes and Jobe Johns earned their points before dropping off into the freshly dragged arena. Billy Foley, Josh Johns and Cody Motlow took some hard licks but didn't let go until after the buzzer sounded in the Junior Bull Riding, putting them in the winning slots.

Future team ropers Dalton Boney, Blevins and Andre Jumper gave the calves a run for their money in the Junior Breakaway. Preparing their loops, they swung their lariats, threw and snagged their prey for the top three scores.

Suddenly lightning lit up the sky to the east, followed by rolling thunder. As junior bareback riders Ethan Arnold and Christopher Smith completed their rides, the thunder grew louder and continuous flashes of lightning drew closer to Immokalee. A report came in that hail the size of dimes was falling just 10 miles away.

It took less than a minute for the officials to postpone the sanctioned events until a future date. By the time that the rain arrived 15 minutes later, most of the livestock had been loaded in trailers and the participants were headed out the gates toward home.



Judy Weeks

Pauletta Bowers awaits her turn in the arena, which never came due to the violent storm that overtook Immokalee.

With a hush of expectation, the audience would wait for the gates to open and then cheer wildly as the riders fought to stay on their mounts.

The crowd became ecstatic when the arrival of Los Originales Enanos de Toreros was announced. This central Mexican group of midsize bullfighters entered the arena in full toreador attire to the wild applause of the audience. Using capes and imitation horses, they frolicked with the miniature Brahma bulls. Their diminutive appearance, costumes and antics created a hilarious presentation.

The climax of this eventful night was the appearance of "El Chapo," the Mexican Roy Rogers. This famous entertainer, Ernesto Perez de Sinaloa, charms his audience by singing from horseback and performing tricks with his talented well-trained horses. Very popular in the Latin community, he was the top performer of the Cinco de Mayo celebration.

### Eastern Indian Rodeo Association

Southwestern Florida, like most of the state, is suffering from severe drought conditions. Much to the delight of local residents, an unexpected rain storm settled in over Immokalee in the late afternoon of May 4, just as the EIRA was about to begin its Junior Rodeo performance.

## Casino

### '70s Disco Stars to Perform at Hard Rock Live

Submitted by Bitter Goodman

**HOLLYWOOD** — A night of gold disco acts and polyester pop hits from the '70s boogies into Hard Rock Live at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino on Tuesday, July 17 at 8 p.m. The Solid Gold Dance Party will feature the Village People, Thelma Houston, Penches & Herb, France Joli and Anita Ward. Tickets are on sale now.

The Village People, now celebrating their 30th anniversary, defined the disco era with international hits "In the Navy," "Macho Man," "YMCA," "Go West," "San Francisco" and "In Hollywood." They also recorded the title hit to the 1980 feature film *Can't Stop the Music* starring Steve Guttenberg, Valerie Perrine, Jean-Claude Billmaier and Bruce Jenner. Together, the band has sold over 85 million albums.

Thelma Houston is an award-winning singer, songwriter and actress. Houston claimed the top of the pop, R&B and dance charts with her high-powered rendition of "Don't Leave Me This Way," a classic gold record that gave her the distinction of being the first female artist at Motown to win the Grammy for Best R&B Female Vocal Performance. Houston will also be performing a tribute to Sylvester and a smooth cover of Al Green's "Love & Happiness" off her upcoming new album to be released this month.

Peaches & Herb, America's Sweethearts of Soul, have enjoyed an illustrious career spanning almost four decades. In 1979, their monster hit "Shake Your Groove Thing" became No. 4 in the world. It was closely followed by one of 1980's biggest hits, "Reunited," which became No. 1 in the world.

A Taste of Honey's first recording, "Boogie Oogie Oogie," hit the top of the charts around the

globe. The single and self-titled album went platinum and A Taste of Honey nabbed a Grammy for "Best New Artist of the Year." The song "Sukiyaki" off their third album went to No. 1 on the national charts and achieved gold status.

At the age of 16, France Joli performed her hit single, "Come to Me," to a screaming crowd of 5,000 in New York. She left the stage a star. "Come to Me" reached No. 1 on Billboard's dance chart and No. 13 on its pop chart, and is now regarded as a solid gold disco classic. In 1980, Joli released two Top 5 disco/dance hits, "The Heart to Break the Heart" and "Feel Like Dancing," from her sophomore album, *Tonight*. In 1981, she scored her second biggest hit with "Gonna Get Over You." It was the lead single from her third album, titled *Now*. France's awards include the Juno (Canada's Grammy) for Best New Artist in 1980 and Billboard's Disco Award as Best New Artist.

Anita Ward recorded "Ring My Bell" in 1979, turning it into an international No. 1 single to the tune of 10 million copies. On New Year's Eve 2002, she performed her hit in New York City's Times Square before a crowd of revelers as part of the city's official celebration. She has also delighted fans at the FIS World Cup alongside Nile Rodgers & Chic, the Village People, Thelma Houston and Rose Royce.

Tickets cost \$75, \$60 and \$45. All seats are reserved and available at the Hard Rock Live Box Office, open daily from noon until 7 p.m. Tickets also are available at all Ticketmaster outlets online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or charge by phone: Miami-Dade (305) 358-5885, Broward (954) 523-3309; Palm Beach (561) 966-3309. Doors open one hour before the show starts. \*Additional fees may apply.



Original Village People line-up from the cover of their 1978 Macho Man album (L-R) Randy Jones, David "Scar" Hodo, Victor Willis, Felipe Rose, Glenn Hughes, Alex Briley

## ❖ Casino

Continued from page 1

machines and even its own Players Club. Games provided featured the usual nickel, dime and quarter machines, and multidimensional games including Cleopatra, Wheel of Fortune, Wheel of Gold, Double Diamond, Triple Diamond, Snow Globes, Wild for Dolphins, Shake your Booty, and Mr. Cashman, just to name a few.

Four of the famous "Elvi," Elvis impersonators from Las Vegas, were on hand again to greet guests just as they had done back in May 2004 for the Hard Rock Grand Opening celebration. While walking on stilts, the Elvi pulled back the red curtain to reveal the gorgeous, newly renovated gaming room as The Doors' "Break On Through (To the Other Side)" played appropriately in the background.

Attendees remarked how cool and refreshing the air felt as they enjoyed roaming around the game floor. Guests enjoyed complimentary refreshments as they scrambled to be the first to play their favorite gaming machines.



Felix DeBos

Stilt-walking Elvi greeting nonsmoking guests.

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# Seniors Enjoy Trip to the Morikami Museum & Japanese Gardens



The seniors enjoy a sunny day at the Morikami Gardens. (L-R) Mary Moore, Cornelia Osceola, Jimmy Hank Osceola, Marie Osceola and Betty Osceola (seated).

By Felix DoBoz

**DELRAY BEACH, Fla.** — The Hot Meals program on May 11 sent about a dozen Hollywood seniors on a 32-mile bus trip north to the beautiful, tranquil Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens in Palm Beach County.

As a Japanese farming community the Yamato colony (named for an ancient Japanese state) started about 100 years ago with a few pioneer families, coming from faraway Japan, settling into southern Palm Beach County. They endured great hardships just working the land, and very few stayed to make a successful living farming in the tough natural environment.

One tough settler, George Sukeji Morikami, refused to give up. He kept working hard, growing his crops on his land, and created a successful wholesale fruit and vegetable market. In 1974, when George was in his 80s, he decided it was time to donate his land to the county for a park that would memorialize and honor the Yamato Colony.

The museum became a reality when it opened to the public in 1977. Morikami Garden Park has much to offer with over 200 acres of landscapes, strolling paths, resting areas, a tropical bonsai collection, and small ponds filled with koi and turtles, with birds flying overhead. The museum also has indoor galleries that display fine arts and objects from Japan. There are also tea ceremonies and seasonal festivals that celebrate Japanese culture and traditions.

The seniors strolled through the peaceful, quiet park, taking in the majestic tall bamboo grove along the path and enjoying the wildlife. They really liked watching hundreds of koi — large, bright orange fish — swim about creating a feeding frenzy when visiting schoolchildren tossed prepackaged fish food pellets from the rocks.

The biggest disappointments were the lack of water in the ponds and the absence of the refreshingly cool waterfalls. Some of the creeks had dried completely because of the enduring drought, and last week the county was forced to restrict water usage, leaving the lush tropical gardens at the mercy of the summer rains.

Betty Osceola was impressed with the collection of manicured bonsai trees on display in the Japanese garden.

Another senior on the trip, Jimmy Hank Osceola, said, "It's very nice and relaxing and I'm enjoying it."

All that walking around made everyone a little hungry so it was time for a traditional Japanese lunch at the lakeside terrace café, tasting authentic sushi and delicious fried shrimp tempura. Hey, watch out for that wasabi!

The Seniors enjoyed their trip and agreed that for dessert nothing would be better than a quick stop shopping spree at the local Wal-Mart Supercenter to top off a wonderful day.



Seniors enjoy the walk along the scenic paths of the gardens. (L-R) Cornelia Osceola, Betty Osceola, Jimmy Hank Osceola, Marie Osceola and Mary Moore.



A blackbird flies over colorful koi fish swimming in the pond



Beautiful manicured Bonsai trees are on display for everyone to admire in the garden.



The walkway at Morakami Gardens



The group heads back to the Lakeside Terrace café for lunch.



A Great White Egret captures a little fish.



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## Do You Know Where Your Children Are?

When it was first published in 2002, *Just Another Indian, A Serial Killer and Canada's Indifference* forced an indifferent public to acknowledge the brutal murders of four young native women from Saskatchewan. The stories of the victims in Warren Goulding's journalistic tour de force were all but ignored by the media and by the local police, even when their families tried to report them missing.

This is not a new book; still, it continues to fly off the bookshelves and is always out of stock on my favorite book websites. The recent arrest and ongoing trial of British Columbia's Robert William Pickton, aka the Pig Farmer — charged with luring women from the streets and bars of Vancouver's notorious East Side to his livestock farm, where he allegedly killed them and fed them to pigs — keeps this grisly topic fresh in the public mind.

The case of the four Saskatchewan women, so eloquently presented by Goulding, is not the same, but it is a testament of how justice and social attitudes trivialize disadvantaged women.

Goulding discovered that between 1990 and 1994, close to 500 Aboriginal women had been reported missing in Canada's West and little was being done to discover their whereabouts or their fates. The police attitude toward the families of the missing women was one of callousness.

In 1994, while the RCMP had the suspect, John Crawford, under surveillance, they watched him pick up an inebriated young native woman and brutally attack her. When she managed to escape from him, bloody and half-naked, the surveillance team of detectives arrested her and let the attacker drive off.

Goulding paints a picture of the Saskatchewan police and media that is less than flattering, especially in their condescension toward the Aboriginal population. Once their hand is forced, however, he gives the reader a detailed representation of professionals doing an exemplary job identifying evidence, dealing with a cynical media, setting up a cruel killer and using all the tools at their disposal to bring the criminal to justice. Forensic science becomes an exciting discipline as the skimpiest evidence is turned into damning proof and the decomposed bodies of victims are painstakingly identified.

You might ask: What took them so long?

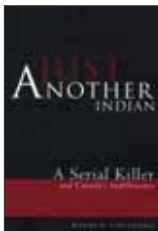
During his search of facts and justice, Goulding takes the reader into aspects of native spirituality and touches on some of the ceremonies, always with respect. He takes us to the desolate reserves in northern Saskatchewan and to a powwow in Montana with its dancing, music and frybread. Native life is painted deftly and warmly. The families of the victims become real and their pain articulated. He gives the plight of mourning parents, siblings and offspring a dignity denied by the press, the police and the Canadian public. Four anonymous Indian women are named and remembered.

The court battles, featuring the antics of Crawford's erstwhile friend turned stool pigeon, the expensive legal team hired by the killer's doting mother, and the subsequent appeal and retrial, are compelling, filled with drama and suspense. The coverage is clear and fast-paced. The hard work, the dogged research and the struggle to stay focused and objective are all evident in the quality of the product. But like any good work of art, the artist makes it look so easy.

At the end of the trial process, Canada's most prolific serial killer, a heartless bully who bragged about brutalizing his victims, gets three consecutive life sentences. He is serving his time in the Prince Albert Penitentiary where, fortunately for him, the 85 percent Aboriginal population knows nothing of the nature of his crimes. The case, which perhaps under different circumstances would have elicited national outrage, was barely touched on by the media. The question has been asked: If the victims were white women, would the response have been different?

Warren Goulding, a freelance journalist who lives in Saskatoon, covered the case from the beginning. His articles have appeared in *MacLean's*, the *Globe and Mail*, the *Saskatoon Star Phoenix* and other Canadian newspapers. *Just Another Indian, A Serial Killer and Canada's Indifference* should be required reading for all North American journalists and for aspiring native writers.

It should also put native parents across the country on notice with this chilling question: *Do you know where your children are?*



*Just Another Indian: A Serial Killer and Canada's Indifference*  
By Warren Goulding  
219 pages; \$22.95  
Fitzhenry Whiteside, 2002  
ISBN: 1-894004-51-5

## Kirk Mitchell, Storyteller

Review by Ramona Kiyoshk

Kirk Mitchell is not a Native American, although to read his racy crime-mystery novels, set in the heart of Indian Country, one would neither know nor care.

Tony Hillerman may have started the genre — Indian cops doing Indian things in Indian territory — but Mitchell has taken it to grand new heights. From policeman to SWAT guy to novelist, Kirk Mitchell's work includes more than two dozen books on history, fantasy, fiction and more. He has also novelized movies on a contract basis. He draws on his experience working on the reservations in California for background in a series of crime-mysteries involving Native Americans.

I probably would never have discovered this writer if a friend had not handed me a tattered, dog-eared novel called *Sky Woman Falling*, telling me I would love it. I read the book and cynically muttered, "Another wannabe. Everybody wants to be an Indian."

Fortunately, I was not too put off, and after page one, I was hooked.

*Sky Woman Falling* incorporates the best of modern police know-how and native spirituality and current lifestyles. Mitchell masterfully applies what he learned from his work in Bureau of Indian Affairs law enforcement and from the people he worked to protect. His storytelling skills are significant.

This novel is set on a reservation in upstate New York and involves the contentious issue of land claims. The late-night car chase, the snowy mountain roads, and the stake-outs pull you into a mystifying story of a criminal who has devised a diabolical means of killing people by dropping them out of the sky without use of aircraft or any other visible means.

The investigators in Mitchell's novels are BIA Criminal Investigator Emmett Quannah Parker, Comanche, and FBI Special Agent Anna Turnipspeed, Modoc.

I gave this poor, coffee-stained, torn paperback to a friend who gave it to a friend who ... you

get the idea.

*Cry Dance* was the first in the crime-mystery series featuring Parker and Turnipspeed. A brutally murdered and mutilated female corpse is discovered in a remote corner of the Grand Canyon, in the traditional home of the Havasupai Nation. Were the mutilations an attempt to conceal the victim's identity or was this a murder of passion by an enraged jealous lover?

With Emmett on the outside and Anna working undercover, they soon unearth evidence of adultery, bribery, and corruption. Emmett suspects they are being led into a killer's trap. Too late, our hero realizes Anna has become the bait in a desperate battle of wits and cunning in which Parker himself is the prize quarry. Oh, my!

In *Ancient Ones*, Parker and Turnipspeed find themselves on an Oregon reservation where the discovery of an ancient skeleton by an illegal fossil hunter threatens to pit traditionalists against scientists.

When it is announced that the 14,000-year-old bones are Caucasian, shattering long-held beliefs that Native Americans were the first inhabitants, a young anthropologist disappears and the fossil hunter is found brutally killed and mutilated. To complicate things even more, Parker and Anna begin stirring up some heat of their own. Those stake-outs can get a cop in trouble.

*Spirit Sickness* takes the reader to Hillerman country. One almost expects Joe Chin to make an appearance. A diabolical killer is on the loose, leaving a trail of blood and bodies across the quiet Navajo canyons. This fiend knows the ways of the people. Parker and Turnipspeed struggle to separate their own loyalties to tradition and to their law enforcement duties. This book offers a chill a minute.

In *Dance of the Thunder Dogs*, Parker finds himself back home in Oklahoma with his family and friends. After 13 years on the force, he is estranged from Anna and is painfully recovering from surgery on a wound.

The Thunder Dogs — what the Comanche called horses — is a society created to honor the accomplished men of the Tribe. They are drumming and offering an honor dance for their returning hero. When Parker is invited to join the elite Thunder Dogs, he has to decide where his commitment lies: to his people or to his role in law enforcement.

This novel is the last in the series, so far. Please don't bail, Emmett.



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# Health Corner ♦ Chah-nee-ken chao-ke ♦ Cvfeknetv onakv

## Women's Wellness Seminar in Immokalee

By Judy Weeks

**IMMOKALEE** — The leaders of the Seminole Tribe of Florida are very conscious of the need to promote good health and well-being with regard to Tribal community members and employees. With this thought in mind, they encourage the various departments of their government to use their facilities to deliver this message.

The Annual Immokalee Women's Wellness Seminar, under the direction of nutritionist Charlotte Porcaro, took place May 17 at the Immokalee Gym. Encircling the room were numerous booths staffed with knowledgeable people prepared to assist the community members in establishing a healthy lifestyle.

Representing the Immokalee Clinic, Charlotte Porcaro and Beth Morlang handled the sign-in, distribution of raffle tickets and tote bags for the materials that were being passed around the room. In addition to nutritional information, they were alerting the participants about the benefits of diabetic prevention and the dangers of fad diets.

Real eye-catchers were the recipe books being handed out by Nancy Holland of the American Heart Association. Catering to women and children, the mouth-watering recipes looked very appealing and encouraged healthful eating habits. The table was covered with valuable information concerning the relationship of diet and exercise to a healthy heart. The Body and Soul prevention planner was not just a calendar for exercise, but included diabetic, cholesterol, blood pressure and cancer tips that could benefit everyone.

Kerri Descheene and Jennifer Forbes approached dental health with an interesting topic that affects people of all ages — bad breath. They gave an in-depth explanation of the possible causes of this universal problem, along with tips on treatment and prevention. They distributed special mouthwash, toothbrushes and tongue scrapers in addition to discussing diet, internal complications and gum conditions that might require attention. Taking time to talk with everyone, they had one of the busiest booths at the seminar.

Diabetes is a very serious concern among Native Americans, and Susan Monteth and Cindy Henson were available to give educated advice concerning the control and prevention of this debilitating disease. They addressed issues like pregnancy, insulin production, treatment of neuropathy and the diabetic connection with obesity.

Rhonda Goodman and Angie Arreguin handed out gift bags of memo pads, body washes and scrubbers with lotion as they introduced their new community services designed to assist the elderly and handicapped.

Cecilia Pequeno and Elsa Zamora offered a comprehensive look at the services available to the community through the Recreation Department, whose employees are interested in working with all age groups at various levels. They were joined by mem-

bers of the Fitness Department. Personal trainer Joey Garcia explained the benefits of a regular controlled exercise routine and its relationship to calorie burn-off and physical fitness.

Massage therapist Tracy DeLaRosa offered thermal wax treatments and encouraged the participants to make use of the massage facilities, which can help with muscular discomfort and promote a more rewarding lifestyle.

The Diane Yzaguirre Memorial Library displayed a wealth of books and periodicals to inform the community concerning health issues and the library's research facilities. Many community members were unaware of the extensive materials available in their new library.

Family Services had by far the most attractive booth at the Seminar. Linda Freeman and Beverley Rose had dispersed their literature among bouquets of flowers, colorful table linens and photos of community projects. Their valuable community involvement speaks for itself.

Janet Perez of Prescription for Better Hearing was administering hearing tests throughout the afternoon and offering recommendations to those who proved to be hearing impaired. She and her colleagues offered some valuable advice concerning the use of radios, CDs, iPods and many of the high-tech speakers on the market. Misuse of these devices today can create serious hearing complications in the years to come, they pointed out.

Collier County Health Department representative Maggie Cisneros was available to discuss HIV, STDs, immunizations, child birthing classes and environmental health concerns. All of these services are available on a confidential basis through the local health department.

The Seminole Police Department had three tables available highlighting home security measures, handling of childhood emergencies, home and pool safety tips, childproof constraints, car seats and self-defense.

Environment Health made the community members aware of the sentinel chicken program, helicopter mosquito spraying and radon testing for healthy homes and disease control.

Animal Control Officer Donna Williamson for the Immokalee and Big Cypress reservations was very popular. She discussed ways to protect your pets, control of nuisance animals in the neighborhood and the many methods of combating the flea epidemic brought on by the severe drought that South Florida is currently experiencing. She kept a captive audience as she discussed possible home remedies as well as treatments available through veterinarians and the commercial market.

Nutritionist Charlotte Porcaro arranged for an appetizing and healthful luncheon that included fruit and vegetable trays, gourmet sandwiches and wraps.



Kerri Descheene discusses the various means of combating bad breath.



(L to R) Elsa Zamora and Cecilia Pequeno distributed raffle tickets and made the community members aware of the recreation programs available in their area.



Massage therapist Tracy DeLaRosa gives fitness trainer Joey Garcia a hot wax treatment.



The Diane Yzaguirre Memorial Library has a wealth of literature available to enhance physical and mental well-being.

## Brighton Hosts Women's Health Fair

By Emma Brown

**BRIGHTON** — This year's Brighton Women's Health Fair theme was "It's Your Time — Pamper Your Mind, Body and Spirit." The fair took place at the Brighton Field office on May 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Upon entering the health fair, participants were given a sheet with a complete listing of more than 20 departments and organizations represented, with a question that had to be answered at each booth. By answering all questions — essentially by visiting each booth — attendees were automatically entered into a grand prize drawing. There were representatives from many Seminole Tribe of Florida departments, including Dental, Nursing and Family Services.

Outside agencies such as Indian River Community College, Martha's House, the American Cancer Society, the Okeechobee Substance Abuse Coalition and many more were set up to provide some valuable information to the Brighton women.

Women feeling fatigued could stop by the massage therapist's booth for a demonstration. Those feeling out of shape could chat with Brighton Fitness Trainer Kai Frankum and learn a few healthful eating and exercise habits and even sign up for her individualized training.

Women could also visit the beauty booth provided by Sharon Cannon to learn the proper technique and importance of caring for your skin. There were also healthful snacks provided in case anyone got hungry during visits from booth to booth.

As they left the health fair, attendees could make one last stop at the Alzheimer's Association bus parked outside where they could have their memory tested. They could also learn how to properly perform the Heimlich maneuver.

A great deal of excellent information was provided at this year's Health Fair. Health educator Barbara Boling and dietitian Beth Morlang did an outstanding job assembling a wide variety of organizations that covered nearly every aspect of women's wellness.



Agnes Jumper speaking with a representative from the Okeechobee Substance Abuse Coalition.



Massage therapist Pat Johnston giving a stress relieving massage.



Nancy Shore being seated for her relaxing massage.



Rinella Bailey checking her cholesterol and blood glucose with Central Florida Health Care.



Alice Snow picking up information about menopause from a Florida Hospital representative.



Mandy Huff and Seminole Health Department staff discussing 'Fads and Myths of Dieting.'



Louise Gopher learning how to save a choking infant from a Seminole Health Department employee.



Michelle Thomas learning about cancer prevention from a Raulerson Hospital representative.

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# Health Corner ♦ Chah-nee-ken chao-ke ♦ Cvfeknetv onakv

## Shy's Team Walks for Cystic Fibrosis

By Judy Weeks

Shyanna "Shy" Marie Escobar is just one of the tens of thousands of children and young adults that suffer from the life-threatening disease of cystic fibrosis. This 5-year-old descendant of the Seminole Tribe is the daughter of Ralph and Noemi Escobar and granddaughter of Becky Yzaguirre Martinez.

Suffering from chronic respiratory problems since birth, this little girl was diagnosed in December 2003 after a nearly fatal episode, which began one of many lengthy stays in the hospital. Appearing to be a sinus problem, cystic fibrosis is often misdiagnosed as asthma; however, it is far more serious. Shy's body does not produce sufficient water in the lungs to cleanse the air absorption surfaces, resulting in severe lung infections and suffocation.

In the more advanced cases such as Shyanna's, patients have difficulty digesting their food because they lack the ability to produce digestive enzymes. They are unable to absorb the vitamins and nutrients required for a healthy life, and until recent years, the survival rate was very low. As the disease progresses, diabetes usually develops and the liver is eventually destroyed.

Because her body is being attacked from so many different directions, Shyanna's immune system is in a state of alert at all times and she must be continually fortified with antibiotics. She has a permanent port in the middle of her stomach for a feeding tube allowing her to be fed at regular intervals the necessary enzymes, nutrients and calories required to sustain life. Due to her condition, she takes 12 different medications daily.

According to her physician, Dr. Oscar A. Alea, until the last few years the life expectancy for cystic fibrosis patients was zero to eight years. Medical research has made great strides thanks to the generous donations of the many community fundraisers hosted by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and concerned citizens.

Today, more than 40 percent of the cystic fibrosis population are over 18

years of age and able to live reasonably normal lives. Life expectancy has been pushed back to nearly a 30 year average.

In 2006, family and community members formed Shy's Team in support of Shyanna. Joined by Team Seminole, they have become very actively involved in the annual fund raising efforts of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.



Members of Shy's Team participating in the warm up.



(Left) Shyanna Escobar's mother, Noemi, thanks everyone for coming out in support of her daughter.

Shy's Team assembled at the Immokalee Middle School track on May 12 and then joined more than 250 people at Lakes Park in Fort Myers on May 19 to become part of the fundraiser to help support cystic fibrosis victims. The 16 members of Team Seminole and Shy's Team participated in the early morning warm-up and then walked the two-mile course.

It was a beautiful, windy spring morning at Lakes Park that proved to be ideal for a pleasant walk around the lake, over the boardwalk bridge and through the carefully maintained wooded areas of the park. Birds were singing and butterflies fluttered about in the lush vegetation as if in support of this worthwhile cause.

Thanks to the support of her many friends and devoted care of her family, Shyanna is healthy enough to have walked all but approximately 300 feet of the two-mile journey. This is not a small feat for a healthy 5-year-old, but she has the determination to fight for the life she deserves.

The Florida Chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation has its headquarters in Tampa. Executive Director Scott Talcott was present at the Fort Myers walk to present information about the foundation and its focused research program.

Although they work all year long, the Florida chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation devoted more than six months of concentrated effort to the annual fundraiser. This year they collected more than \$125,000 in donations and pledges in Southwest Florida, including their Lakes Park Walk.

Eighteen teams participated in the walk on May 19 and were supported by several very generous businesses, such as the local Cracker Barrel restaurant, which donated 25 homemade pies to sell. The Immokalee Seminole Casino also donated a large gift basket for the raffle and a multi-ty of drinks and refreshments from local vendors.

At the conclusion of the walk, Ralph's Angels, a motorcycle club from Cape Coral, Fla., made a grand entrance to the park and delivered an impressive donation. With the very generous support of the Chairman's Office and Big Cypress Council Representative David Cypress, Team Seminole and Shy's Team were able to make a substantial contribution. In addition, the Immokalee Seminole Casino provided the refreshments for the May 12 activities in Immokalee.



Members of Team Seminole and Shy's Team traveled from all over South Florida to support Shyanna and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.



Edna McDuffie and Shyanna Escobar are all smiles as they wait at the starting line for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Walk.

### The Healthy Senior

By Fred Cicetti

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

**Q: Do men get osteoporosis?**  
**A:** Yes, men do get osteoporosis, but women are at greater risk.

Osteoporosis, or porous bone, is a disease characterized by low bone mass and structural deterioration of bone tissue. This condition creates an increased risk of fractures.

Osteoporosis is a major public health threat for 44 million Americans; about 68 percent

risk. Age is a major risk factor because bones become thinner and weaker as you age. Heredity can also increase fracture risk.

Low calcium intake appears to be associated with bone loss. Good sources of calcium include low-fat dairy products, dark green leafy vegetables, almonds and foods fortified with calcium, such as orange juice.

Some people may need to take a calcium supplement.

Vitamin D plays an important role in calcium absorption and bone health. It is made in the skin through exposure to sunlight. Vitamin D production decreases in the elderly, in people who are housebound, and for people in general during the winter. Depending on your situation, you may need to take vitamin D supplements.

Bone responds to exercise by becoming stronger. Weight-bearing exercise is the best for your bones. Get off the sofa.

Women who smoke have lower levels of estrogen compared to nonsmokers, and they often go through menopause earlier. Smokers also may absorb less calcium from their diets. Quit.

Regular consumption of two to three ounces a day of alcohol may be damaging to the skeleton. Heavy drinkers are more prone to bone loss and fractures, because of poor nutrition and increased risk of falling. Quit or at least cut down.

People may not know they have osteoporosis until their bones become so weak that a bump or fall causes a hip to fracture or a vertebra to collapse. See your doctor for a check-up.

Following a comprehensive medical assessment, bone mass measured. A bone mineral density (BMD) test is the best way to determine your bone health. BMD tests can identify osteoporosis, determine your risk for fractures, and measure your response to osteoporosis treatment. The most widely recognized bone mineral density test is called a dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry or DXA test.

A comprehensive osteoporosis treatment program includes a focus on proper nutrition, exercise, and safety issues to prevent falls that may result in fractures. In addition, your physician may prescribe a medication to slow or stop bone loss, increase bone density, and reduce fracture risk.

of them are women. One out of every two women and one in four men over 50 will have an osteoporosis-related fracture in their lifetime.

Our bodies remove old bone and replace it with new bone. During our growth stage, new bone is added faster than old bone is removed. We hit peak bone mass around age 30. After that age, we lose more bone than we form.

Who is at risk of getting osteoporosis?

The chances are greater if you are a woman. Women have less bone tissue and lose bone faster than men because of changes from menopause. Small, thin-boned women are at greater risk. Caucasian and Asian women are at highest

### Cleaning up U.S. Rivers: Progress But Much Room for Improvement

Q: Are we making progress in cleaning up America's rivers?

**A:** Maria B., via e-mail

When the Cuyahoga River caught fire in downtown Cleveland in June of 1969, a nation already becoming more aware of environmental problems took note. Across the country, people were fed up with bans on swimming and fishing due to growing pollution levels. And rampant logging was clogging many a remote river system with soil and debris, making them uninhabitable by the fish that had evolved there for eons.

In 1972, in response to such concerns, Congress passed the landmark Clean Water Act, which regulates the discharge of pollution into America's waterways. This important law has worked well to curtail pollution and keep development in check, but it does little to restore already damaged river ecosystems.

Luckily, a large array of local governments, nonprofit organizations and ad hoc citizen groups has risen to the challenge, making the United States the world's nexus for river restoration work. The National River Restoration Science Synthesis Project, a 2005 survey conducted by leading river scientists, identified 37,000 different river restoration projects either completed or underway across the U.S.

According to the survey, American taxpayers and foundations have invested nearly \$15 billion in U.S. river restoration projects — or about \$1 billion yearly — since 1990. Projects include reforesting riverbanks to curb erosion, recreating natural river channels to reduce downstream flooding, removing dams to allow fish to migrate more freely, and restoring wetlands so they can do a better job of filtering pollution naturally.

Some specific high-profile examples include Native Americans and farmers working together to bring wild salmon back to Oregon's Umatilla River, and the creation of natural habitat and buffer zones along Texas' San Antonio River. And General Electric finally complied with state and federal mandates to begin removal of the PCBs they had dumped in New York's Hudson River for years.

"It's no mystery why river restoration is booming," says Andrew Fahland of American Rivers, a leading nonprofit rivers advocacy group. "Rivers in good condition more readily meet the needs of the surrounding community than polluted and degraded rivers."

A new House budget resolution calls for increased spending on programs to reduce the amount of raw sewage going into American streams and to better manage the nation's 168 designated "wild and scenic" rivers. The resolution also calls for allocating funds for removing obsolete dams that could rupture and threaten nearby communities with potentially catastrophic flash floods.

Despite the positive trends, not all rivers are doing well. American Rivers' annual list of "America's Most Endangered Rivers" highlights river ecosystems across the United States that are still in disrepair or under threat. Those on the 2007 list include New Mexico's Santa Fe, New York's Upper Delaware, Washington's White Salmon, Texas's Neches, Wisconsin's Kinnickinnic, North Carolina's Neuse, Alaska's Chukna, Iowa's namesake Iowa River, Arkansas' and Oklahoma's Lee Creek and California's San Mateo Creek.

Contacts: The National River Restoration Science Synthesis Project, [nrrs.nhbi.gov](http://nrrs.nhbi.gov); American Rivers, [www.americanrivers.org](http://www.americanrivers.org).

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## Health Corner

# Fad Diets: Setting the Record Straight

Submitted by the Seminole Health Department

We are constantly being bombarded by new diets claiming that they will give us the secret for quick, fast, and dramatic weight loss. The U.S. diet industry brings in almost \$40 billion a year through diet foods, diet books, diet programs, and various other weight-loss gimmicks.

Currently on *The New York Times* best-sellers list is *The Volumetrics Eating Plan* by Barbara Rolls. This diet claims you will achieve easy weight loss by eating foods that help you feel full. Also on the list is the *Extreme Fat Smash Diet* by Jan K. Smith, who states that if you follow this diet you will lose 12 pounds in the first three weeks.

Most fad diets have some common themes — one of which is that losing weight will be quick and simple.

Another popular claim is that if you follow their plan you will not be hungry. Labeling foods as good or bad is another tool that is commonly seen in fad diets.

Some of these diets even go as far as eliminating foods from one entire nutrient group such as carbohydrates or fats.

The truth is that there is no magic pill for losing weight. However, with continued lifestyle changes that include healthy eating and regular exercise, it can be done. When starting a weight loss program a realistic goal is to lose one to two pounds a week. It is important to maintain a positive outlook and set goals that are realistic, sensible and flexible.

For assistance with a personalized weight management plan contact the nutritionist at your reservation's clinic. Sue Fundingsland, Big Cypress, (863) 983-5198; Beth Morlang, Brighton, (863) 763-0271; Doris Nicolas-Mir, Hollywood, (954) 962-2009; Charlotte Porcaro, Immokalee, (239) 867-3408.

Below is a chart that highlights some of the most popular fad diets:

Name	Claim	What You Eat	Is The Science Solid?
<b>The Volumetric Weight Solution</b> By Phil McGraw	Foods that take time to prepare and chew lead to weight loss. Other "Keys to Weight Loss Freedom" include "no-fat environments," "sign posting," "meaning feelings," and "Circle of support."	<b>Yes:</b> Seafoods, poultry, meat, low-fat dairy, whole grains, most veggies, fruits. <b>Less:</b> Fatty meats, sweets, refined grains, full-fat dairy, fried foods.	Tough-onve method that relies more on Dr. Phil's opinion than on science.
<b>Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution</b> By Robert C. Atkins	A low-carb diet is the key to weight loss (and good health) because carbs cause high insulin levels.	<b>Yes:</b> Seafood, poultry, meat, eggs, cheese, salad veggies, oils, butter (also) limited amounts of nuts, fruits, beans, veggies, whole grains. <b>Less:</b> Sweets, refined grains, milk, yogurt.	Low-carb "bible" overstates the results of weak studies and the evidence on supplements.
<b>Eat Right 4 Your Type</b> By Peter J. D'Adamo & Catherine Whitney	Your blood type determines your diet, supplements, and personality because it is "the key to your body's entire vitruvian system."	<b>Yes:</b> Type O: Meat, seafood, fruits, veggies <b>Less:</b> Wheat, beans. <b>Yes:</b> Type A: Fruits, veggies, beans, most seafood <b>Less:</b> Meat, dairy, wheat. <b>Yes:</b> Type B: Meat, beans, fruits, veggies <b>Less:</b> Chicken, wheat. <b>Yes:</b> Type AB: Seafood, dairy, fruits, veggies <b>Less:</b> Red meat.	About as scientific as a horoscope.
<b>The New Glucose Revolution</b> By Jennie Brand-Miller, Thomas Wolever, Kaye Foster-Powell, and Stephen Colagiuri	Low glycemic index foods keep you satisfied longer and help you burn more body fat and less muscle.	<b>Yes:</b> Beans, pasta, most fruits, veggies, low-fat dairy, poultry, lean meat, seafood. <b>Less:</b> Potatoes, white bread, fatty meats, full-fat dairy, watermelon.	Reasonable interpretation of the science, though stronger for heart disease and diabetes than for weight loss.
<b>Enter the Zone</b> By Barry Sears	Eating the right mix of the right fats, carbs, and protein keeps you trim and healthy by lowering insulin.	<b>Yes:</b> Seafood, poultry, lean meats, fruits, veggies, low-fat dairy, nuts. <b>Less:</b> Fatty meats, sugar, dairy, butter, shortening, (baked) grains, sweets, potatoes, carrots, bananas.	Exaggerates evidence that the Zone diet is the key to weight loss and implies that the diet can cure virtually every disease.

\*Nutrition Action Newsletter: January/February 2004

## Tribal Citizens, Employees Attend Health Fair

By Sandy Hamilton

**HOLLYWOOD** — This year's Women's Wellness Health Fair was held in the Hollywood Tribal Headquarters Auditorium Lobby on May 8. Tribal women and employees alike browsed several booth displays that were both educational and entertaining. A canvas bag was given to all who attended so that they could fill it up with the complimentary goodies and informational brochures about women's health-related topics.

The Seminole Tribe's Nutrition Program focused on portion size, and the misconceptions many have regarding what goes into a healthful diet. An interactive guide was given out to help women learn what healthful foods they could substitute when tempted by junk food. The booth also featured a replica of one pound of fat and one pound of muscle to demonstrate the larger amount of mass that was taken up by the fat cells.

The clinic's booth focused on diabetes awareness and prevention. Finger prick tests were given to all attendees who wanted one. The Dental Program distributed gift bags containing toothpaste, rinse and a tongue scraper.

Dr. Joseph M. Buckley, a chiropractor, was available to check spinal alignment. Dr. Dennis Harkins, from Pines West Chiropractic, explained that if the spine is out of alignment, it can affect the circulation of blood to the organs. He went on to explain that the nerve is choked and that decreases blood flow.

"Chiropractic [care is] where good health comes naturally," he said.

Cynthia Reese, from Memorial Healthcare System, helped explain Shaken Baby Syndrome with the use of several dolls. She demonstrated the effect that a few sudden movements can have on the developing brain of an infant. She helped dispel the myth about bouncing a baby on one's knee, informing attendees they should not do that.

"Many new parents are unaware of how fragile a baby's brain can be for the first couple of years," she said.

At another Memorial Healthcare System station, participants learned the importance of mammograms. Many were taught how to perform and what to look for when doing a breast self-exam.

The DiMaggio Children's Hospital at Memorial promoted awareness about cardiac surgery.

The American Vitiligo Research Foundation informed us about vitiligo, a skin condition that many associate with the African American community, but has an effect on all races. According to the American Vitiligo Research Foundation, vitiligo is a skin condition of white patches that result in loss of pigment. The charity was there to promote diversity and let others know that everyone is at risk.

The Seminole Family Services Department's display focused on something that everyone could relate to — stress. Informative flyers were handed out and everyone was encouraged to guess how many



Sandy Hamilton  
Renee Tigertail takes employee Carlo Gottshaw's blood pressure. He was one of the few men who were brave enough to attend the Women's Health Fair.

marbles were in a bowl in order to win a gift basket full of things to help one relax.

The Adult Vocational Program was there to let the women know that they are available to assist Tribal citizens in getting their GED, provide work experience for those 14 and older, and assist in enrollment in vocational programs.

Fitness instructor Cory Becker, from the Memorial Healthcare System, educated participants on the benefits of yoga. Becky introduced the Pink Ribbon Yoga which is a restorative yoga for anyone touched by breast cancer. She said yoga classes are taught daily at Memorial Regional Hospital in Hollywood and Pembroke Pines; they even have babysitting services for children 6 months to 11 years old.

The Environmental Health Program provided food thermometers and helped explain why cooking food to the proper temperature is essential to good health. Other information about the Environmental Health Program was available to educate about the other valuable services they provided.

Although it was the women's wellness health fair, several men showed up to join in the activities.

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# Heritage Day Celebrated in Immokalee Community

By Judy Weeks

**IMMOKALEE** — Citizens and descendants of the Seminole Tribe of Florida share a rich cultural background that has evolved over approximately 12,000 years.

Native Americans inhabiting the Southeastern portion of the United States developed a heritage known as the Muscogulgee whose people speak dialects derived from either the Muskogee or Hitchiti language.

The Tribe's ancestors were strong, intelligent and resourceful people who flourished in a very rich but hostile environment. Beginning as hunter-gatherers, they developed a society that embraced agriculture and harvesting from the sea. Prospering and increasing in population they became a very strong social group until the arrival of foreigners from the other side of the world. These new arrivals encroached upon their civilization and in approximately 500 years managed to nearly eliminate this noble race of mankind.

Falling back upon the strong will and determination of their forefathers, these indomitable people found the strength and fortitude to survive despite the worst of adverse conditions and have become what is known today as the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

While adapting to current conditions, the Tribe recognizes the need to preserve its heritage and has established a cultural program for this purpose.

Amy Clay of the Immokalee Culture Department summed things up by saying: "We must always remember who we are, what we as red people have been through in order to be here and continue to fight and struggle to keep our culture and language alive."

Coordinating the services of several individuals, she organized a Heritage Day celebration at the Immokalee Cultural Village on May 11 and 12.

During the two-day event, participants had an opportunity to learn about their clans, spiritual beliefs, survival techniques, arts and crafts. They witnessed the construction of a chickee, from the framework to the eventual thatching with palm fronds.

As instructors explained how their ancestors survived in the wilderness, participants had a chance to learn how to clean a turtle and a deer. Both boys and girls were given an opportunity to assist in the food preparation over the open fire in the cooking chickee.

Learning how to build the fire, prepare the food and cook it, the youngsters were particularly enthusiastic about making pumpkin bread and frybread.

Carol Cypress entertained the group with some stories from their ancestors. She

said, "These stories have been passed down by word of mouth for many, many generations and I have heard them numerous times while sitting around the campfire. They would tell us these things when we were trying to go to sleep and no matter who was speaking, they were always the same."

Whether relating the tale about the race between the rabbit and the turtle or the transformation of a man into a snake, she was teaching the children about the brotherhood of mankind and the rules by which they must live, using the same parables she had been taught.

Herbert Jim gave instruction in the making of moccasins. Starting with each participant marking the leather to fit his or her foot, he showed them how to cut the proper pattern and lace the

material together for adequate foot gear.

While his students were working on their projects, Jim told his captive audience the story of creation and the origin of their clans. The children listened intently and asked some very pertinent questions. During the second day, they observed the crafting of leather pouches.

While helping with preparation of the daily meal, the group learned from Valene Clay and Virginia and Ann Billie about the kinds of food grown by their ancestors and the methods for planting as well as gathering things from their environment. Traditional methods of preparing food were emphasized.

Board Representative Raymond Garza visited the cultural camp both days and remarked, "I am very committed to supporting cultural teachings and believe that this is very important for the preservation of our people. Our heritage is the one connection that makes us a family and gives us the roots we need to survive in today's fast-paced society. We draw strength and pride from our beginnings

and it is important that we pass this on to our offspring."

Regardless of age, everyone participated in a wild game of stickball orchestrated by Victor Billie. This traditional sport brings out the good-natured, aggressive behavior found in everyone.

A 2-year-old was scrambling for the ball, while an elder showed no mercy as she swept a teenager off his feet and then threw the ball for a scoring point. Before the game was over, she was tackled and lay in a heap of patchwork on the ground, but not for long. Jumping to her feet, she elbowed her way across the playing field, leaving fallen opponents in her wake.

Cheering and laughing, the players enjoyed a grand finale to a wonderful cultural experience.



Judy Weeks

Carol Cypress relates stories that have been passed down for generations about the history of mankind.



Judy Weeks

Lily Mora prepares her piece of frybread.



Judy Weeks

Virginia Billie watches as Lily Mora carefully lowers her frybread into the pan.



Judy Weeks

Canisha Cedartree goes to Virginia Billie's rescue after Paul Tahchawwickah knocks her down while his parents, David Tahchawwickah and Amy Clay, laugh with glee.



Judy Weeks

Herbert Jim has a captive audience as he explains how to make moccasins.

material together for adequate foot gear. While his students were working on their projects, Jim told his captive audience the story of creation and the origin of their clans. The children listened intently and asked some very pertinent questions. During the second day, they observed the crafting of leather pouches.

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Judy Weeks

Jack Tahchawwickah intently laces together one of a pair of moccasins he created at the Heritage Day Celebration in Immokalee.



Judy Weeks

(LoR) Victor Billie, Herbert Jim and Raymond Garza are first in line to sample the traditional Seminole dinner.



Judy Weeks

Tripping David Tahchawwickah, Ann Billie scrambles for the ball during a fast-paced game of stickball.



Judy Weeks

(LoR) Aliyah and Alicia Mora enjoy shaping frybread for the afternoon meal.



Judy Weeks

Virginia Billie gives Paul Tahchawwickah the elbow as she goes for the leather ball.

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## Princess Pageant Set for July 28



Submitted by Wanda Bowers

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

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

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

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



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