Volume XXXI • Number 3

March 26, 2010

Tribe Hosts U.S. Army **War College Seminar**

HOLLYWOOD — Fifty military officers representing 49 countries recently made their way to the Hollywood Tribal Headquarters Auditorium to learn about the Tribe's lifestyle and operations from its

administrators.

The Tribal Governor's Council on Indian Affairs, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and Education Department staff presented the officers with an educational seminar Feb. 18. The officers were part of the International Fellows Program at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle Barracks,

The seminar included a video that described the Tribe's administrative operations, a discussion about the Tribe's history and a Power-Point presentation that described the Tribe's ductation initiatives. The visitors also received a program produced by Seminole Media Produc-tions that contained welcome letters from Chairman Mitchel Cypress and President Richard Bowers Jr., as well as profiles for several Tribal

Tribal dignitaries who attended included Board President Rich

Tribal dignitanes who attended included Board President Kichard Bowers Jr, Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Oscola Jr, Everett Osceola of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Community Outreach Program, Tribal Chief Operations Officer Elrod Bowers, and Pedro Zepeda, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Tribal director of rourientes. director of tourism/tra-ditional arts specialist. Tribal citizen Ste-

Tribal citizen Stephen Bowers, liaison of the Governor's Council on Indian Affairs, served as the event's emcee. All shared with the officers their thoughts and opinions on the history, struggle, culture, survival and success of the Seminole Tribe.

"We are and were a rich and proud Tribe arich and proud Tribe."

a rich and proud Tribe way before the casi-nos and all the other things we are known for now," Zepeda said. "Sometimes, however,

♦ Please see SEMINAR on page 2A



Tribe Celebrates Okalee Village's 50th Year

with the annual Tribal Fair, which is usually held

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Seminole Tribal members, Native Americans from as far away as Canada and local visitors converged on the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino grounds to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Okalee Village, one of the Tribe's earliest business ventures.

The free festival, held March 11 through 14, showcased a variety of traditional activities, food and live entertainment. The attractions included an Okalee wildlife show, deepwater alligator show, the Anikituhwa Warrior Dancers, Monument Valley Dancers, the Cowbone Band featuring Paul Buster, storytelling, clothing contest, canoe races, and numerous sporting activities.

The celebration took place in concurrence

Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. said he has many fond memories of Okalee and recalled his tenure as a jamitor at the co-tourism attraction in his early teens.

"It is our own Smithsonian, kind of," Rep. Osceola said, "I have always looked at it as a place for cultural exchange. It is also a link to our past. ... It was a time to have one big celebration."

Okalee Village opened in March 1960 as one of the first business enterprises for the Tribal Board of Directors and Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. and provided an employment opportunity for many Tribal members. Originally located on the current site of the Hard Rock in Hollywood, the village attracted locals and tourists with its deepwater alligator wrestling shows and traditional Seminole Please see OKAIEE on page 10

♦ Please see OKALEE on page 1D

Complete Okalee Coverage ❖ Section D

From left, Danette Bowers, Homeowner Caryn Billie, Joe Osceola, Sr., Trail Liaison William Osceola Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Theodore "Teddy" Billie, Steve Osceola and Don Billie participate in the ground breaking ceremony for the new campsites on the Tamiami Trail.

Trail Breaks Ground on First of Six New Campsites

Hollywood Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. ad-

ses visiting military officers in the Tribal Iquarters Auditorium.

TAMIAMI TRAIL - Seminole Tribal

TAMIAMI TRAIL — Seminole Tribal members broke ground recently on the first of six original campsites along the Tamiami Trail, an area the Tribe has claimed as its own for years but was prohibited from building on by the federal government.

Architects, engineers, contractors, environmentalists, office staff and construction crew members participated in the long-awaited ground breaking ceremony Feb. 18. Many of these individuals had put years into bringing this project to its final phase and were looking forward to a completion of the first residence within six months.

"We went to war with the federal government 11 years ago to exercise our right to inhabit our original homelands within the boundaries of the Everglades National Park and Big Cypress Preserve," Trail Liaison William Oscola said. "We hit opposition during every encounter, but like our ancestors we did not accept defeat. Laying aside

our traditional weapons, we won the final battle by engaging our enemy with books, knowledge, experience, lawyers, lobbyists and legal action."

Osceola spearheaded the Tribe's campaign to secure federal government approval to build on the property. Working with proposed homeowners, Osceola selected high pieces of land or previously inhabited locations for the new campsites. The government had previously denied the locations on the grounds that the ancestral encampments were too deep within the Everglades.

The Tribe argued that Native Americans are environmental stewards of the land and strive to live in harmony with their surroundings. The government eventually reached an agreement with the Tribe that allows for provisional land use as long as there is a minimal impact on the environment, protection of endangered species of plants and animals, and basic ecological responsibility. A portion of the agreement allows hunting, fishing, trapping and ceremonial rites.

❖ Please see CAMPSITES on page 2A

Seminoles, Miccosukees Gather to Mark Anniversary

BY JUDY WEEKS Freelance Reporte

TAMIAMI TRAIL - The words "Just Leave Us Alone" echoed among Seminole and Miccosu-kee descendants who recently revisited a site near Monroe Station on the Tamiami Trail to mark the 74th anniversary of the historic Seminole/Gover-nor's Conference.

nor's Conference.

Representing the Seminoles were their acknowledged leaders of the time—Josie Billie, Doctor Tiger, Corey Oscoola, Ingraham Billie, Mike Oscoola, William McKinley Oscoola and Jimmie Oscoola. Accompanying them at the Feb. 22 gathering was W. Stanley Hanson, a longtime friend and trusted advisor of the Seminole-Miccosukee. Because of his knowledge of English, Cory Oscoola acted as spokesperson and interpreter for the occasion.

On Feb. 22, 1936, approximately 275 Semi



Judy Weeks
Students from the Miccosukee Kindergarten and Head Start Program offer the Pledge of Allegiance to the Miccosukee and United States flags at the 74th anniversary of the Seminole
Conference.

Seminoles, Local Community Reenact Battle at Big Cypress Shootout



Seminoles celebrate their victory over the U.S. at the Big Cypress Shootout, a reenactment of a Second Seminole War battle held at the Billie Swamp Safari Feb. 28.

BY NAJI TOBIAS Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS - Seminole war-BIG CYPRESS – Seminole war-riors on horseback pushed through a barrage of cannon and gun fire to take down dozens of U.S. Army soldiers and drive off the remaining regiment to se-cure land that the Tribe has held sacred for hundreds of years. Tribal members dressed as Semi-nole warriors and local community members impersonating U.S. soldiers recently took part in a battle that wasn't real.

real.

Hundreds of people converged at the Billie Swamp Safari to watch the Feb. 28 Big Cypress Shootout, a reenactment of a Second Seminole War battle in which Tribal warriors used guerrilla tactics to defeat a formidable U.S. Army unit. The war lasted from 1835 to 1842.

"This is our story," Moses "Big Shot" Jumper told attendees, "There were many confrontations throughout

Please see SHOOTOUT on page 2A





Health ...

"If there is a problem, there is a solution," Chairman Mitchell Cypress said.
"William Osceola tackled the system and as our coach, he brought in the winning team. Reintroducing camps like these into our modern social structure will go a long way toward preserving our heritage and insure our cultural future. It is important for our young people to know where they come from in order to know where they come from in order to know where they come from in order to know where they come



Trail Liaison William Osceola, right, joins Caryn Billie for the ground breaking of her new home at the Campsite #6 on the Tamiami Trail.

SEMINAR

the American dream forgets about Native

the American dream forgets about Native Americans."

Col. Alpo Portelli, director of the U.S. Army War College/International Fellows Program, said the program runs through June of each year and has 350 students with only a select few internationals chosen. The officers must have at least 15 years of service, and courses allow them the opportunity to study abroad for one year.

"I have the responsibility to expose them to the cultural diversity of American culture," Portelli said. "The Seminoles are a perfect success story."

The men who attended the event hailed from all parts of the world, including the

from all parts of the world, including the Czech Republic, Bosnia, Nepal, Pakistan, Botswana and India. "We honor you here because you pro-tect our freedom and you are true warriors,"

Rep. Osceola said to the officers.

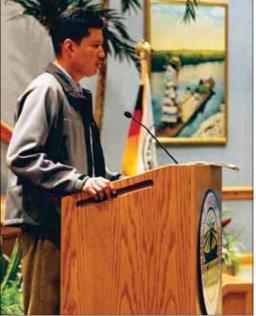
Hopes are to have the officers make the

visit annually.

visit annually. "I really enjoyed it because it gave me a chance to learn about American history from another perspective," Col. Kees Mathissen of the Netherlands. "The Seminoles have adapted in this modern society and I find it all fascinating."

The U.S. Army War College prepares selected military, civilian, and international leaders for the responsibilities of strategic leadership in a joint, interagency, intergovernmental and multimational environment, according to its Web site www.carlisle. army.mil.

The goals of its program are to educate current and future leaders on the development and employment of landpower, sup-port the operational and institutional force, conduct research and inform on national security and military strategy, as well as sup-port the Army's strategic communication efforts.



Tribal Chief Operations Officer Elrod Bowers speaks about the different functions and department operations within the Tribe to the officers in attendance.

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Letters/e-mails to the editor must be signed and may be edited for publication.

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inoles elude the U.S. Army during the battle reenactment

SHOOTOUT

the state of Florida. It's a battle that you'll

the state of Florida. It's a battle that you'll see in how we surrived and how we were persistent. We once owned all of the land in Florida, but we own six reservations today."

Jumper gave a narrative of the battle and a historical account of Seminole warrior Abiaka – the Tribal name for Sam Jones, who played an integral role in the Seminoles' early attempts to keep its native land in Florida. Jumper played Jones' part during the reenactment with music from John Anderson's "Seminole Wind" playing in the background.

Seminole warriors on horseback pre-pare for battle against U.S. Army sol-diers during the Big Cypress battle reenactment.

The war was the costliest Indian conflict in U.S. history and it is not known how many Seminoles were killed or wounded. "It's good for history," Seminole reenactment fighter and Fort Pierce Tribal citizen Marlon Tommie said. "People roled to hear the whole story ... [The U.S. version] is always one-sided. You don't get to hear about the Seminole Wars from the Seminoles. When the Indians won, it was always a nessacre. But when the U.S. soldiers won, it was always a victory to them." Chairman Mitchell Cypress welcomed attendees to the Shootout, which was scheduled to take place a day earlier but was postponed due to bad weather. Tribal vendors were on hand to sell food and sou-

venirs, and the event also featured a series of animal and cultural exhibitions on Feb. 26. One of the exhibitions was a traditional Seminole campsite that was tended to overnight by Tribal and community members dressed in traditional Tribal attire.

"That's how it was back then," Chairman Cypress said. "Your imagination will lead you back into time thinking that it actually happened."

ally happened."

After the Seminoles claimed victory on

After the Schimlores claimled victory of its own territory, Jumper summed up what the fight meant to the Seminole Tribe.

"We must fight for our freedom and survival," Jumper said. "Our warriors are few, but they fight bravely."





From left, Martha Billie, Johnson Billie, Bobby C. Billie, Dannie Billie, Bobby Clay, Chairman of Seminole Tribe of Florida Mitchell Cypress, Jimmil Oscoola, Chairman of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida Colley Billie, and Andy Buster were the contributing speakers at the 74th Anniversary of the Seminole Conference.

ANNIVERSARY From page 1A

From page 1A

noles met with Florida Gov. David Sholtz, Collier County Commissioner D. Graham Copeland, a chief justice of the Florida Supreme Court and several Florida Cabinet members to discuss the effects that the Great Depression had on the Seminoles Gov. Sholtz offered the Seminoles government assistance through President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal.

The Seminoles' emphatic response was "Pohoan Checkish" – "just leave us alone."

The Seminoles perceived the government's offer as a threat Many of them feared any intervention by the government following hundreds of years of encroachment by the white population on native lands, three Seminole Wars, relocation efforts and enforced seclusion within the South Florida swamplands.

The Seminoles were accustomed to living off the land and surviving on their own. The recent construction of the Tamiami Trail

across their homeland had opened new income opportunities, specifically through the tourist trade.

Because of the site's proximity to the highway, the 74th anniversary of the Seminole/Governor's Conference took place at the Oscoola Village at Monroe Station along the Tamiami Trail, approximately a mile east of the original meeting place. Following the ceremonies, attendees visited the actual site at Monument Lake and viewed the historical marker and studied its data.

Contributing speakers to the event were Bobby C. Billie, Andy Buster, Johnson Billie, Bobby C. Billie, Alligator Alley and Houston Cypress served as emcess, narrators and interpreters for the event. The students of the Miccosukee and United States flags during the opening ceremony.

"The speakers her today have given information to carry back to our families," Seminole Chairman Mitchell Cypress said.

"Tis book will serve as a teaching aid for future generations," she said.

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If you need a reporter or you would like to ubmit an article, birthday wish or poem to The Seminole Tribune, please contact the Editor Adina Loochkartt at (954) 985-5702, Ext. 10717 Or by fax at (954) 965-2937

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Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr., President Richard Bowers Jr. and Tribal citizen Roger Smith ride their horses down Avenue J at Moore Haven's Chalo Nitka Festival parade on March 6.

Hollywood Tribal citizen Mingo Jones leads the Chalo Nitka Parade in grand style as he rides on a palomino horse.

Tribe Co-Sponsors 62nd Annual Chalo Nitka Festival

STADITOBIAS

Staff Reporter

MOORE HAVEN — As thousands of people enjoyed the atmosphere of this year's Chalo Nitka Festival, President Richard Bowers Jr. reflected on how the city's bigset event was his favorite highlight of the year when he was growing up.

President Bowers, who graduated from Moore Haven High School in 1972, joined several former classmates, including Moore Haven councilman John Ahern, at the March event a feath of the was a great time of year because the snowbirds came in to see us," President Bowers said as he watched the alligator show at the Chalo Nitka Brown and the Chalo Nitka grounds. "The work of the work o

The festival also featured James Billie and the Shack Daddies Band, an alligator wrestling show hosted by Tribal member James Holt, a snake-handling sequence, a ranch rodeo, a country and western dance, the Seminole Arts and Crafts exhibit, a host of vendor booths and camival rides, and a Seminole fashion show.

The Pemaytev Emahakv Charter School won a Chalo Nitka award for most original float in the parade and the Brighton Seminole Princess Royal Court won the prettiest float award.

Since the Chalo Nitka festivities began

float award.

Since the Chalo Nitka festivities began in 1948, some of the most popular attractions included the turkey call and alligator

in 1948, some of the most popular attractions included the turkey call and alligator wrestling contests.

"Chalo Nitka has come a long way," Brighton Tribal citizen Larry Howard said. "We're trying to bring more Native events and culture back. Down here at the Caloosahatchee River in Moore Haven, this is where many of our Native activities took place. We traveled along that route, when we were allowed to eatch big bass back then. It's a big part of the Tribe's history.

Howard, who helped coordinate Chalo Nitka with the Moore Haven city commissioners, said he would like to see an image of a big bass fish at next year's festival. Chalo Nitka means big bass in the Creek language. Willie Johns said Chalo Nitka means common bond and camaraderie.

"A lot of our Tribal citizens went to school here in Moore Haven," Johns said. "So it's really nice to kick back with them."



The Tribe scored a big win at this year's Chalo Nitka Festival when it captured the Most Prettiest Float award, which featured Brights Seminole Princess Royalty Court of Cheyenne and Brianna Nunez.



thal Board President Richard Bowers Jr., fourth from left, special guest speaker Elouise P. Cobell.

Tribal citizen Sandy Friday, right, receives an speaker Boust Probable Pr



Native Rights Activist Inspires in Speech

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Blackfoot Indian Nation leader Elouise P. Cobell visited the Tribal Head-quarters Auditorium recently to share with Tribal citizens and employees how she successfully forced the United States government to pay billions of dollars in Individual Indian Trust royalties.

Tribal Board President Richard Bowers Jr. in-

Tribal Board President Richard Bowers Jr. in-vited Cobell after reading about her case and meet-ing her throughout the Native conference circuit.
"She is an inspiration for me in what she did and should be for all Native Americans," President Bowers Jr. said. "I have never seen a woman take down the government the way she did. It is im-portant for us as the Seminole Tribe in battling for our own civil rights that this woman [has] actually done it."

Big Cypress Board Rep. Paul Bowers Sr. also attended the Feb. 9 visit.

attended the Feb. 9 visit.

Cobell, along with co-plaintiffs Earl Old Person, Mildred Cleghorn, Thomas Maulson and James Louis Larose, filed a class-action lawsuit against the U.S. Interior and Treasury departments in 1996. The plaintiffs accused the federal govern-

ment of losing or never dispersing \$176 billion in oil, gas, grazing, timber and other royalties owed to hundreds of thousands of Native Americans who ment to just do the right thir wned land managed by the government for at least 100 years.

The two sides settled the case in December af-

ter years of repeated government appeals. The U.S. government agreed to distribute \$1.4 billion into a trust accounting and administration fund, as well as \$2 billion into a trust land consolidation fund. A \$60 million federal Indian Education Scholar-A \$60 million tederal Indian Education Scholar-ship fund has also been set up to improve access to higher education for Indian youth. The govern-ment agreed to appoint a commission to oversee specific improvements in the Interior Department's accounting for and management of Individual In-dian Trust accounts.

The settlement is believed to be the largest

The settlement is believed to be the largest ever against the federal government and is larger than the combined value of all judgments and settlements of all Indian cases in U.S. history. With approval by Congress, all funds are tentatively set to be dispersed in August. Cobell said the wrongdoing was all part of a contrived government cover-up she became suspicious of in the late 1970s as the former treasurer of

ner own Tribe in Montana.

"I just tried on my part to push the government to just do the right thing," said Cobell, whose team of forensic accountants determined the \$176 billion amount. "I felt it was all part of an Indian unity we had to pursue justice and that we would come full circle and back in order to gain the power we once had."

[Cobel] the formulation of the power we once had."

Cobell, the founder of the first Native Ameri-can-owned bank in the U.S., said maintaining con-

can-owned bank in the U.S., said maintaining confidence during the ordeal was vital to the cause. "Looking back it all just seemed like the stars aligned with the case," she added. "Every time I ran into a huge hurdle throughout, something good would happen."

Tribal citizen Sandy Friday was part of the class-action and is scheduled to receive monetary distributions. She said she has been following the case from the beginning and greatly admires Cobell. "I thought to myself when I heard about her, she has a long, hard road but she never gave up. She has a lady warrior," Friday said. "The money does not mean that much to me; the fact that she took on the federal government is huge. My monetary part means nothing based on what she went through."

Tribal Council Meets for Special Session

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — A resolution that allows an updated pre-school program handbook to be distributed to parents was one of 28 agenda items approved during the first of two Tribal Council meetings at the Tribal Headquarters Auditorium on the Hollywood Reservation on Feb. 23. Tribal Preschool Director Leona Tommie-Williams received unanimous approval from the Council on Resolution 16 for ap-proval of the updated preschool program handbook. Tommie-Wil-liams said the program is meant as a guide for parents at all four Tribal preschool locations in Hollywood, Big Cypress, Immokalee and Brighton.

"Putting myself in the position of a parent and adult is a guide

and Brighton.

"Putting myself in the position of a parent and adult is a guide
to make for a better parent," Tommie-Williams said.

The handbook provides information including hours of operation, policies and procedures, services provided and nutritional in-

During the afternoon session, the Tribal Council passed a reso-During the afternoon session, the Tribal Council passed a reso-lution meant to protect natural resources and wildlife in migration and breeding areas, as well as archeological lands and populations which may be vulnerable to extinction. Keith Neves, who represents the Seminole Tribe on the U.S. Interior Department's Bureau of Indian Affairs, said the resolution protects all Seminole lands in current Trnst status. The other resolution passed during the second session was Resolution 7, which called for the extension of the approved Forest Management Plan for the Seminole Reservations for a three-year period.

Other resolutions of note which passed during the first meeting

also included:
Resolution 14: A request to the Secretary of the United States Department of Interior to approve The Seminole Tribe of Florida Indian Forest Land Assistance Account expenditure plan for use by the Seminole Tribe of Florida Forestry Program.
Resolution 15: A request to the Secretary of the United States Department of Interior to approve The Seminole Tribe of Florida Forestry Program.
Resolution 18: Approved The Seminole Tribe of Florida Expenditure plan for forest management deductions for use by the Seminole Tribe of Florida Forestry Program.
Resolution 18: Approval of agreement with American Engineering and Development Corporation for the construction of a parking lot and site work at the Seminole Hard Rock and Casino-Hollywood.
Resolution 20: Ratification of the Section 18 of 18 of

parking lot and site work as the 2-Hollywood.

Resolution 20: Ratification of the Seminole Tribe of Florida

Resolution Valley Glen Entertainment, Inc. filming permission letter granting Valley Glen Entertainment, Inc. permission to film for the television series currently entitled "Kendra" at the Seminole Hard Rock and Casino - Hollywood on the Hollywood Seminole Indian Reservation; ratification.

SPD Chief Latchford Prepares for FBI Academy

HOLLYWOOD — Seminole Police Department Chief William Latchford can add a rare distinction to his law enforce-ment career – he is the first Tribal police of-ficer to be nominated to attend the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy is Overtice Vo in Quantico, Va

Latchford is one of 250 police and military officers from around the world to receive the prestigious invitation/nomina-tion-only honor. From April 12 to June 18, he will participate in six courses related to

issues such as youth violence, drugs, fitness, legal issues in law enforcement, and leadership.
"It is a tremendous honor that speaks volumes as to where we [SPD and the community] came from and are going," Chief Latchford said. "This whole experience will help broaden my scope in learning how to deal with issues faced in Seminole Country and the community on a day-to-day basis."

Latchford has served as police chief since June 2008 and oversees more than 200 employees. He first joined SPD in 1994 as a partol officer and rose through the ranks. Latchford left SPD in 2006 to become a

lice chief.

lice chief.

His grandfather served on the New York Police Department force, and his father was a New York State Police Department officer who went on to serve as police chief for the City of Port Richey, Fla. for 40 wers.

chief for the City of Port Richey, Ffa. for 40 years.

"We are very excited for him to have this opportunity and the relationships he can develop from such an experience," said Gerald Wheeler, a Tribal Chef Public Safety Officer. "It is also an opportunity to share the contemporary challenges our police departments share and face."

Broward County Sheriff Al Lamberti nominated Latchford for the academy, SPD Maj. John Auer, a 1994 FBI academy graduate and former BSO colonel, said Latchford's innovative approach to his job makes him an ideal

approach to his job makes him an ideal nominee.

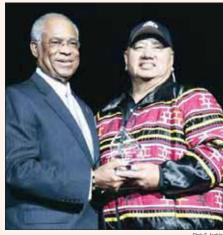
"He has a lot of enthusiasm for the Tribe and the community." Auer said. "He is one of the most energetic people you would ever want to meet. His insight into community policing and law enforcement is well beyond his years."

Auer said the experience is meant to enlighten and create a holistic process for attendees. He said he met law enforcement officers from all over the world who he shared experiences with and learned from. The course also helped him improve how to lead others, he said.

The FBI National Academy began in 1935 and was created in response to

The FBI National Academy began in 1935 and was created in response to a 1930 study by the Wickersham Commission recommending the standardization and professionalizing of law enforcement departments across the United States through the use of centralized training.

Broward Elected Officials Honor Rep. Osceola



City of Lauderhill Commissioner and Deputy Vice Mayor Hayward Benson, left, with Hol-lywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Oseoola Jr. at the fifth annual Broward Black Elected Officials Gala held at the Hard Rock Live on Feb. 28. Rep. Oseoola was among several award recipients and was offered a community award for service in the Tribe and his endeavors in the community and beyond. The theme for the event was Our Legacy.

Seminole Police Department Chief William Latchford is the first Tribal police officer to be nominated to attend the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy in Quantico, Va.

President Bowers Gathers Tribal Members Together for Dinner

President Richard Bowers Jr. chats with Tribal citizen Cornelia Osceola during a dinner he hosted for all Tribal members at Piccadilly Cafeteria on March 11. President Bowers said the social gathering was meant to bring Tribal members together to socialize and re-



Seniors Celebrate Feb. Birthdays



Chris C. Jenkins
Hollywood Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., left, hosts the February Birthdays celebration at Seminole Hard Rock's Council
Oak restaurant.

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Trail Liaison William Osceol left, poses with Tribal seni Joann Micco at the Februa Birthdays celebration at ti Council Oak restaurant at ti Seminole Hard Rock. Both co







Lorraine Posada, left, and Linda Beletso greets guests in the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Cultural Village, which provides an opportunity to see Seminole crafts.



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Director Anne McCudden oversees the Postcards and Perceptions Exhibit opening at the Museum



During a storytelling session in the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Village, Everett Osceola shared four traditional stories from the Seminole culture.

Everett Osceola, left, and Alligator Wrestler Billy Walker shared examples of Semin ole culture with

Postcards and Perceptions: Culture as Tourism Opens at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Ah-Tah-ThiKi Museum has opened its "Postcards and
Perceptions: Culture as Tourism" exhibit,
a large collection of picture postcards that
depict Seminoles from as early as the 1890s.
The exhibit gives visitors an opportunity to view part of the museum's postcard
collection and draw their own conclusions
about them. The photographs were extremely popular with Florida tourists and avidly
collected as souvenirs. However, critics
have questioned whether the tourists and
postcards had a positive affect on the Tribe.
"Scholars and private individuals have
evidenced many points of view on this subject since the beginning of the era." Exhibits
Manager Greg Palumbo said. "It is important to remember that this came at a time
of great social and conomic development
in Florida as well as the entire country. The

or great social and economic development in Florida as well as the entire country. The Seminoles had to adapt, while retaining the elements of their rich cultural history."

The exhibit opened March 6 and is expected to run through January 30, 2011. The opening day's activities provided an opportunity to view the exhibit in the main building and then progress to the ceremonial grounds and village for a glimpse of the Seminole fitsely let that initially drew the attention of the tourist trade and inspired the postcard industry.

The Seminoles at the time strived to remain independent and retain their culture while interacting with the social adjustments taking place in their domain. Throughout the era of the tourist villages, this selection of postcards provided an invaluable record of the history of the time and economic changes.

The postcard images have been enlarged and are attractively displayed in groupings that correlate with their original site location. A great deal of research has gone into identification of the characters, the approximate timeframe depicted and the content's history.

Spectators congregated at the ceremo-

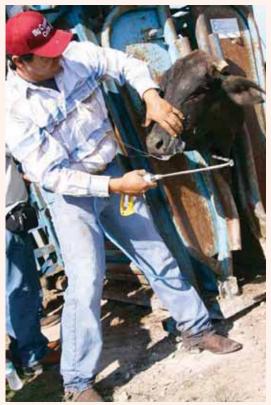
Rising Talents at Seminole Star Search Music Camp



Tribal citizens David Billy and Marsha Osceola sing a duet on stage as part of the first Seminole Star Search Music Camp held Feb. 20 at the Okalee Village on the Hollywood Reservation. The instructional event featured acts from many musical genres. The next scheduled camp will be in May.



Big Cypress Hosts Cattle Vaccinations



Tribal cattle worker Ivan Bruisedhead deworms one of Carl Baxley's cows with a dose of Valbazen va nation liquid on March 1. The annual cattle vaccinations were held from March 1 through 15 at the Cypress cowpen. Tribal members Carl Baxley, loe Frank, Mondo Tiger, President Richard Bowers Big Cypress Board Rep. Paul Bowers, Josh Jumper, Cicero Oscoola, Mary Jene Koenes and Joe Osco Sr. were among several Tribal cattle owners who took part in this annual event. The cattle vaccinati usually take place less than three months after the buil distributions, which were held Dec. 28.



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum representative Jonathan McMahon gives a historical account on the Seminoles' impa during a Seminole Moments presentation on Feb. 17 at the Big Cypress Community Center.

Seminole Moments Presentation Focuses on Postcards

BIG CYPRESS – Everett Oscoola looked on intently as a PowerPoint presentation scrolled through vintage 20th century postcards depicting Tribal alligator wrestlers, trading posts, and other pieces of Seminole history.

Then Oscoola saw a postcard of two Seminole cowboys during the 1930s and he immediately recognized the men – they were his grandfathers, Frank Shore and Harjeo Oscoola. He couldn't help lamenting how photographers used such images to commercialize the Tribe. "It's kind of like a double-edged sword," Oscoola said. "That's our history. We see pictures of our ancestors being sold everywhere. There were a lot of private collectors out there who made a lot of money off of us." Oscoola, 31, was one of several dozen people who attended the Feb. 17 Seminole Moments presentation at the Big Cypress Community Center. The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum hosts such presentations each month to educate Tribal members about Seminole history and culture. The PowerPoint Oscoola and others viewed featured postcards with photos that non-Tribal members took of the Seminoles decades ago.

Oscoola said many Tribal members did not learn about the postcards until the 1970s and that photographers had profited from the photos.

"From what I was told from my aunts and uncles, outsiders always took photos of them," Oscoola said in a bittersweet tone as he remembered seeing lots of Seminole postcards while growing up in Hollywood. "They were put on postcards when they came up but were not notified of it."

The Seminoles had little contact with outsiders for much of the mid-19th century. After the Third Seminole War, the only way of contact for the Tribe was through a chain of trading posts.

The most well-known examples, as told by Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum research coordinator Jonathan Mc-Mahon, were those operated by non-Native Americans Frank Stranahan and Ted Smallwood. Seminoles such as Charlie Tigertail and Charlie Willie also ran trading posts. McMahon said the two Tribal businessmen bought from other Seminoles and sold directly to markets.

In 1890, just three years before the World Columbian Exposition, picture postcards surged in popularity in America. At the time, tourists began visiting South Florida and the local American Indian population was an attraction for them.

Some of the postcards are on display at the "Postcards and Perceptions: Culture as Tourism" exhibit at the museum. The exhibit runs through January 2011. For more information, call Saul Drake, Curator of Exhibitions, at 863-902-1113 ext. 12227.

Ed Morse, of course!



Billie Swamp Safari Celebrates 12th Annual Flute Retreat

BY NAJI TOBIAS Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS – A flute is not just an instrument Sonny Nevaquaya – it's a door to serenity and inner

peace. "When I was playing the flute, it reminded me of a peaceful Sunday morning, with the birds chirping," Nevaquaya said. "You're surrounded by beautiful, won-the control of the beautiful, won-the control of the beautiful of

"When I was playing the flute, it reminded me of a peaceful Sunday morning, with the birds chirping," Nevaquaya said. "You're surrounded by beautiful, wonderful people at Big Cypress and it reminds you of how a flute can spread love through music."

Sonny spoke as the organizer of the 12th annual Flute Retreat, which took place at Billie Swamp Safari Feb. 18 through 21. Native Americans nationwide learned how to make flutes and immersed into another form of art: beadwork.

Debi Lowe, a Native American from the Turtle Clan of the Onondaga Native American from the Turtle Clan of the Onondaga Nation in Syracuse, N.Y., said the beadwork represents love, peace and happiness. Participants used bucksin, cones, cut beads and seed beads to make their craft. One of the most common forms of beading at the Flute Retreat was that of the Native American flag.

"There are many symbolic meanings to our Native American colors," Lowe said. "It could be symbolic of war, of creation, of life or simply of aesthetic value. And to me, beading isn't a craft. It's a form of artwork, like painting, sculpting and carving."

Sonny's brother, Timothy Nevaquaya, of the Comanche Tribe in Apache, Okla, said the Native American flute represents a calming quality that would invoke peace on an individual.

Hollywood Tribal citizen Darren Oscoola, who owns a cedar flute, spent the weekend focusing solely on his beadwork. To accessorize his flute, Oscoola said he considered the art of beadwork the timate to make a Kokopelli with a leather fringe.

Oscoola said he considered the art of beadwork the ultimate test of patience.

"You're using very thin needles, glass beads and a lot of different delicate tools," Oscoola said. "It's easy to misplace one bead, so if you mess up, you have to go back to where you missed it."

Though nobody, according to Sonny Nevaquaya, knows exactly which Native American fluite, they do know it almost beamer a totally lost art.

That was until 1969, when the North American flute's interest began to emerge.

Sonny Nevaqua

flute's interest began to emerge.

Sonny Nevaquaya said he recently traveled to Washington and conducted an extensive research of the



Native American flute's history. There, he said he found out through the Native American archives that the federal government has stored an artifacts collection of the flute's influence in Native American history.

It's bittersweet because they have flutes of differ

"It's bittersweet because they have flutes of different tribes that our people may never get to see in their lifetimes," Sonny Nevaquava said.

The Flute Retreat, which began in 1998, is organized each year at Billie Swamp Safari. Native American Tribes from New York, Alaska and Oklahoma joined the Seminole Tribe of Florida in presenting this year's event.

"The beauty of the North American flute is that we share it with everyone, no matter what race you are," [Tim] Nevaquaya said. "It was a gift from the great spirit, who's called by many names. God has made our flute retreat possible."



Jessica Osceola Sisters Marissa Osceola, left, and Karie Osceola-Lugo share a laugh during a late-night patchwork marathon at the Juanita Osceola Center in Naples.

From left, Traditional Arts Specialist Jessica Osceola, Samantha Veliz, Allegra Veliz, Ma-rissa Osceola, Lola Veliz rissa osceola, Lota Veliz and Kennedy Huggins joined other members of the Naples Commu-nity in creating tradi-tional crafts through their culture program to help fund their projects.

New Arts and Crafts Programs: A Cultural Marathon for Naples

BY JUDY WEEKS Freelance Reporte

NAPLES - Jessica Osceola has set un a tradition-ANTLES — Jessica Oscola has set up a traditional arts and crafts program at the Juanita Oscola Center in Naples to help keep the Seminole culture alive and pass it on to future Tribal generations.

The traditional arts calendar at the Juanita Oscola

Center sets aside time for beading improvement days, holiday arts and crafts, learning and perfecting patch-work designs, basket making, leather crafts, wood

working, clothing styles, traditional cooking, oral history and language arts.

"For thousands of years traditional arts and crafts have been passed from generation to generation by word of mouth and example," said Oscoola, a traditional arts specialist. "The culture and oral history of the Seminole people have always followed this route while building upon personal experiences and individual creativity. With this thought in mind. I have mapped a course to follow the initiative of our ancestors."

The response has been very favorable. Elders are returning to their sewing machines and bringing forth articles of clothing and styles from their personal collections. Adults are reapplying their talents or learning for the first time, and children are spending quality time with their parents and community members while learning about themselves and their heritage.

The arts program draws a daily group that swells each aftermoon with youngsters completing their after-school tutoring. The center also has organized special events such as a patchwork marathon and a movie night with a pottal and treve people of all ages.

The arts succome in many age groups and stages of accomplishment, and the result is a wide variety of marketable crafts to fit nearly everyone's budget. Participants have been able to market their items at the American Indian Arts Celebration and Big Cypress Shootout.

There has been no shortage of volunteers to man the booths and the proceeds are being used to acquire more supplies for the program.

"Creating family sessions, our youngsters are learning at their parents, grandparents and elders is dealing their parents, grandparents and elders is dealing their parents, grandparents and elders side while developing a sense of community," loscola said. "Similar to the old fishioned camp estings, our meetings have become social events as well."

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From left: Hollywood Tribal citi-zens Deanna Motlow and Darren zens peanna Motiow and Darren Osceola, along with Wilderna Moffer of Norman, Okla., finish beadwork decoration for their

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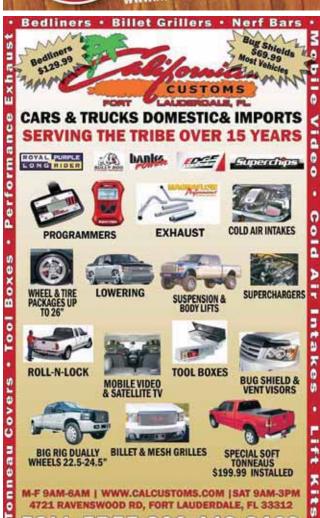
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Education

Students Kick Off FCAT Testing with Pep Rally

BRIGHTON - Students at the Pemayetv Emahaky Charter School were prepped, practiced and cheered on as they began Florida's Comprehensive Assessment Test testing recent-

lighthearted and get them enthusiastic rather than just focus on the test aspect."

To entertain the students, teachers put on skits that included a few lyrical performances scripted to include FCAT strategies and FCAT related topics. The kindergarten students cheered on the third-through sixth-graders with their revised rendition of YMCA using the FCAT leters.

Sunshine State Standards benchmarks. FCAT testing ran from March 9 th In the months leading up to the to the them the students were given practice tests an pated in FCAT Explorer, an online to program provided by the state to help the students.

Added incentives for the students. Added incentives for the students in the students.

ly.

Teachers held an FCAT per pally March
in the cafeteria to pump up the students before the big day. The cafeteria was decorated
in a tropical beach theme, complete with beach
chairs and towels.

"Everyone feels the pressure, the teachers
and the students," guidance counselor Jeanine
Gran said. "We just wanted to do something

Sunshine State Standards benchmarks.
FCAT testing ran from March 9 through 18.
In the months leading up to the test dates,
students were given practice tests and particle
pated in FCAT Explorer, an online test-taking
program provided by the state to help prepare
the students.

Added incentives for the students included pencils and bracelets with positive sayings to get them motivated. Some teachers have even offered achievement awards such as candy bars and Visa gift cards to students who score a high of 5 on specific test sections.

"We have just really tried to ease the pressure," Gran said.





Students participate in the FCAT pep rally festivities.

Kindergartners get into the spirit and cheer their fellow test-taking students on by singing "You Can Pass the F-C-A-T" to the tune of YMCA.

Ahfachkee School Celebrates Reading Achievements

BY NAJI TOBIAS Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS - Three classrooms at the Ahfachkee School

BIG CYPRESS – Three classrooms at the Ahfachkee School were recognized recently for achievements in reading. With a focus on intensive reading instruction and progress monitoring, significant learning gains were made at the kindergaren, first- and second-grade levels. The grade levels were tested on the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) assessment, which evaluates phonics, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, comprehension and fluency.

The number of students from Ahfachkee's kindergarten through second-grade group who are considered high risk for achieving reading proficiency dropped from 22 percent at the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year to 5 percent at the midway point.

"The students have been working really hard with our teachers," Ahfachkee School Principal Walter Swan said. "The teachers have been using the progress monitoring tools that we have at the school and it's helped our kids tremendously."

When the gains are made, students in that particular grade level are no longer classified as being a high risk for achieving reading proficiency. Once students are off the high risk list, teachers continue to work closely with them to make sure they stay either at or above grade level.

The achievements are tracked through rest scores. Swan said

above grade level. The achievements are tracked through test scores, Swan said.

"Our kids are moving from grade to grade, level to level," Swan said. "We can track that all the way up to the sixth grade right

now."

The three Ahfachkee staff members who made gains were hard three first-oracle teacher Lindsey

The three Aniaenkee start members who made gains were kindergarten teacher Statira Huckabee, first-grade teacher Lindsey Paige and second-grade teacher Yvonne Caldwell.

The recognitions, which took place Feb. 12, were noted by the teachers' ability to steer their Tribal students above the third-tier reading level. It is all part of the school's Tier Reading Program.

"With the grade-level reading achievements, these teachers are celebrating something that hopefully all of us will next year," Swan said.



Ahfachkee ESE Coordinator Jillian Francis pushes a cart of gifts to honor the classes, teachers, and aides who work with the Tier program.



Yvonne Caldwell's second-grade class cheers for the test score achievements, as she receives a vase of flow-ers from Pete Cade, dean of students at Ahfachkee.

Big and Small Learn How to Stay in Shape at Get Fit Day



Aubrey Cypress is all smiles inside the bounce roll, one of many activities for preschoolers, parents and instructors at the monthly det fit Day on the Hollywood Reservation softball fields Feb. 19. The event featured food, music and several fitness stations, all with a focus on early health and fitness. Flags were also given out to the participants.



Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School Students of the Week

Awards for Feb. 19

Kindergarten Mrs. Duncan – Tammy Martinez Mrs. Pearce – Kalyn Hammil Mrs. Webber – Tatiana Torres

First Grade Mrs. Davis – Ruby Osceola Mrs. Johns – Jagger Gaucin Mrs. Ringstaff – Davin Carrillo

Second Grade Mrs. Ball – Kaleb Doctor Mrs. Clements – Savannah Fish Mrs. Moss – Burgundy Pierce

Third Grade Mrs. Pryor – Mariah Smith Mrs. Williams – Billy Yates

Fourth Grade Mrs. Paige – Brian Bishop Mrs. Tedders – Pernell Bert

Fifth Grade Mrs. Dobbs – Demetrius Clark Mrs. Finney – Martina Herrera

Sixth Grade Mrs. Hudson – Michael Garcia Mrs. Wells – Jayce Smith

 $\begin{array}{l} \textbf{ESE} \\ \textbf{Mrs. Bond} - \textbf{Logan Ortiz} \end{array}$

Tribe Welcomes Library Program Manager

Program Manager. The Fort Lau-derdale native joined the Tribe in January and will assist Big Cypress and Immokalee Pro-gram Manager Barbara Oeffner with carrying out administrative duties, grant approvals, library promotion and other responsi-

Tribal Youth Recognized for Academic **Achievement**

Eighth grader McKayla Snow of Yearling Middle School receives a certificate of excellence from Okeechobee Superintendent Patricia Cooper for her achievements in the Okeechobee County and Regional Science Fair. Snow was one of several Okeechobee students honored for recent sports and academic achievements during the March 9 Okeechobee School Board meeting at the local School Board Office. Kirsten Doney was also recognized for her science fair achievements but was not present to receive her award.

Big Cypress Library Encourages Youth to Read



From left, Melissa Silva, Tribal citizen and employee Noella Dyan O'Donnell, and Li-brary Director Barbara Oeffner engage in brary Director Barbara Oeffner engage in a discussion at the Big Cypress Library on Feb. 23 about the book "Love Medicine" by Louise Erdrich. The purpose of the monthly Iribal adult reading series, according to O'Donnell, is to set a positive example for the Iribal youth. "If our children see us read, then they'll do the same," O'Donnell said.

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Tribal Youth Learn Importance of Giving Back

BRIGHTON — The Seminole Tribe of Florida continues to aid in the Haiti relief efforts, only this time with the Tribal youth taking a stand.

Pemayetv Emahakv participated in the national campaign Buckets of Hope where five-gallon buckets were packed to the brim with nonperishable items to be shipped to Haiti.

"I feel it's important for our children to know the importance of giving to others that may be in need," Principal Russell Brown said.

Students were assigned to bring in items such as rice, cooking oil, black beans, flour, sugar, spaghetti noodles and peanut butter.

Pemayetv Emahakv preschoolers take pride in representing the school during the Buckets of Hope campaign.

Second Annual Florida Native American Recovery Convention

BY ERIC BRICKER
Family Services

CLEWISTON – The Seminoles in Recovery group kicked of its second annual Florida Native American Recovery Convention on March 4 at the John Boy Auditorium in Clewiston. More than 160 recovering

Auditorium in Clewiston. More than 160 recovering individuals participated in the four-day convention, which featured 12-step support group speaker meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, and Alanon. In addition, there were cultural wellness activities such as a sweat lodge and talking circle.

The convention planners were pleased with the growth of the convention, which drew about a third more participants than last year's inaugural event. The convention was open to the recovering individuals in the general public. Attender registration fees and donations helped to pay for the event.

Several recovering Tribal citizens attend outside 12-step meetings off of their reservations and network with non-Tribal recovering people who support them in their sobriety. Many non-Tribal participants attended the convention to support one or more of the eight Seminole presenters who were featured speakers at the convention. Each of these speakers was required to have at

least one year of sobriety.

"We were never able to do something like this in the past because our Tribe didn't have enough recovering people with significant time in sobriety to qualify to be convention speakers," said Helene Buster, one of the founding members of Seminoles in Recovery. "Now, we have several people with a year or more."

Many of those in attendance at the convention were Tribal citizens, some of whom had attended the convenion."

Iribal citizens, some of whom had attended the conven-tion the previous year. The number of recovering Tribal citizens in attendance highlighted the increase in the Tribe's recovering individuals and demonstrated how many Tribal citizens are turning away from drugs and alcohol, and moving toward sobriety.

During Saturday night's recovery countdown, it was noted that the accumulated time in sobriety of all

was noted that the accumulated time in sobriety of all of those in attendance at the conference was 1165 years, three months and seven days. Several Tribal citizens in attendance contributed significantly to this number. At Sunday morning's closing meeting, Seminole Tribe of Florida Council Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Board President Richard Bowers Tr. addressed spoke in support of the convention and congratulated those in attendance for their commitment to living a better lifestyle in sobriety.



From left, Ray, Lyle, Herbert and Nathaniel enjoy the fellowship at the second annual Florida Native American Recovery Convention on March 4 at the John Boy Auditorium in Clewiston.

Seminole Fire Rescue visits Ahfachkee School's Eighth Graders

Seminole Fire Rescue Inspector Bruce Britton conducts a presentation on poison prevention to Alifa School's eighth graders on Feb. 16. Britton advised the Tribal students on how to avoid dangerous of such as poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac.



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Pemayety Emahaky Starts Honor Society

- Seventeen students BRIGHTON — Seventeen students were honored for their cademic achievements as they were inducted into the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's first-ever National Elementary Honor Society,

National Honor Society is one of the national representations that recognized

National Honor Society is one of the nation's premier organizations that recognizes outstanding students that have excelled in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service and character. Pemayetv Emahakv modified the organization to include the selected elementary students. The inductees received a gold plaque commemorating their academic achievement during the event, which was held

ing the event, which was held Feb. 23 in the Charter School cafeteria and included a dinner

cafeteria and included for parents and guests.

"Grandparents were invited, aunts and uncles came,"

"idance counselor Jeanine guidance counselor Jeanine Gran said. "It was just very, very

. National Elementary Honor National Elementary Honor Society members read the soci-ety pledge and spoke individu-ally about the responsibilities it

takes to be a member.

All students inducted into the National Elementary Honor Society must be nominated by a teacher and maintain a 3.0 GPA.

"We want them to be good role models," Gran said. "We don't just want them to provide service in the school but we want them to be well rounded good students within their community."

in their community."

Gran said that the school will induct new members every other semester.

hakv's National Elementary Honor Society include: Bethany Billie, Andrew Dobbs, Erik Garcia, Scan Oscoela, Diamond Shore, Crysten Smith, Trevor Thomas, Tamea Alen, Thomas Bearden, Boyd Brown, Kailin Brown, Michael Garcia, Zachary Hudson, Rumor Juarez, Zeke Mathews, Donovan Oscoela and Melany Williams.



Pemavety Emahaky inducts the first 17 students into their newly created honor society





Immokalee Tribal seniors Rachel Billie, left, and Elizabeth Tiger, right, along with Immokalee Recreation Aide Zakir Seymour, listen to a presentation on firearm safety Feb. 16.

Immokalee Seniors Receive Tips on Firearm Safety

IMMOKALEE – Several Tribal seniding and improperly storing firearms during a recent Seminole Police Department firearms afterly presentation.

SPD officer Michelle Daza advised the seniors during the Feb. 16 presentation to make sure that they're aware of their surroundings, especially when it comes to children and firearms.

"When your child leaves your site, you want your kid to know what to do in regards to firearm safety," Daza said.

Studies show that the misuse and abuse of firearms is the third leading cause of death in the United States after cancer and drunk driving. In addition, more than 30,000 people died in the U.S. a few years ago due to firearms.

Daza said children today are often exposed to video games and television shows that feature firearms, which may influence them to grab a gun. She also said BB guns, pellet guns and air rifles can be dangerous if misused.

"When you're buying those kinds of video games for your kids, explain to them that the firearms are not real," Daza said 'lin didition, in your kids see a realistic-looking firearm in real life, tell them not to play with it."

Daza said it's a good idea to store a firearmit in either a loek box or safe and to separate ammunition from the gun. A trigger lock can also provide peace of mind.
Daza gave a harrowing account of how a 2-year-old boy in Gilchrist County tod-dleraccidently shot himself in October last year, making national headlines. It was likely due to the child picking up something to play with and not knowing it was a loaded gun, she said.
"Treat every firearm like it's loaded," Daza said.
Daza said.
Daza also spoke with the seniors about the importance of avoiding violent confrontations with people, which she describes as a defensive tactic. It's better to walk away from a potentially dangerous situation than to fight someone. Daza said. Such confrontations can lead to deadly consequences.
"You never know the extremity of how someone could harm you," Daza said. "If your child is in a situation like that, tell them to call 911 and teach them how to practice gun safety."
SPD pave the seniors gun locks and gun

to call 911 and teach them how to practice gun safety."

SPD gave the seniors gun locks and gun safety brochures at the end of the presentation. But before Daza finished, she offered her audience a last piece of advice.

"If you don't teach your kids, someone else will," she said. "They pick up on things and remember it pretty quickly. Remember, you have a lot of influence of your kids."



SPD Officer Michelle Daza (right) educates the Immokalee Tribal seniors about gun safety precau-tions during the Feb. 16 firearm safety presentation, hosted by both SPD and Seminole Fire Rescue.



Immokalee Tribal senior Ruth Osceo-la and her grand-daughter, Horten-cia Yzaguirre, eat lunch while listening to the firearm safety presenta-tion at the Immo-kalee Senior Cen-

Hollywood Youth Winter Culture Camp



Aaron Osceola has fun on a cardboard sled at the Hollywood Youth Winter Culture Camp at RC North's residence in Idaho.



Anissa Osceola inside an Eskimo-style igloo created by the participating youth at the car



ninole stands together, proud to support the March of Dimes

Team Seminole Walks for a Cause

OKEECHOBEE — A group of 45
Tribal citizens, employees and friends gathered to represent Team Seminole in the Okeechobee March of Dimes March for Babes walk, which raised more than \$35,000.

The March 6 walk is one of the nation's oldest and biggest charity walks, with more than one million participants in 900-plus communities around the United States. The walk benefits the March of Dimes foundation, which raises money to support programs in local communities to help mothers have healthy, full-term pregnancies. The money raised also goes toward research to find answers to multiple problems that could threaten babies.

"In the past, when we didn't have the money, we had other agencies to help us with our special needs children," Seminole Tribe Director of Health Connie Whidden said. "So now we feel like we should give back to the communities."

Team Seminole was the leading fundraising team, helping Okeechobe reach its monetary goal.

"We are a significant part of this community and we have the resources to help people and I think it is all about giving back whenever you're able to," Tribal member Emma Johns said. "And it's about teaching our own Tribal members how to stay healthy."

The March of Dimes walk was one of the designated walks for the Pathways Walking program sponsored by the Seminole Tribe's Health Department. Pathways encourages Tribal members to live a healthier lifestyle.

Pathways coordinator Edna McDuffie said she was pleased with the turnout for the March of Dimes walk, with many newcomers participating and taking the first step in bettering their health.

"Part of my job is to try to get more Tribal members to come out and walk," McDuffie said. "I love it when I see a new face come out."



Martha Jones, right, keeps a steady pace with Seminole Tribe Recreation Department trainer Kai Setty.

Suraiva Smith, right, sets a healthy example for her children, Ka

March of Dimes coordinator Laura McCall, right, presents Health Director Connie Whidden with the award for being the top fundrais-



Tribal citizen Joe P. Billie Jr., right, sits in the lobby of the Health Department clinic on the Hol-lywood Reservation with his caretaker.

Health Department Maintains Pulse of Tribe

Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — As an integral part in the stability and welfare of more than 3,000 Tribal citizens across Florida, the Seminole Health Department has maintained durability and vitality in the midst of what many experts consider the worst of times on the healthcare front in the United States.

The Health Department is challenged with offering important services such as medical, dental and prescription medications at time when health care costs are rising at a 12.5-percent annual clip. Still, Director Connie Whidden said department personnel must be ready to expand services, especially as major health issues such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes and substance abuse continue to plague Native populations such as the Seminoles.

"Very seldom do 1 get up and out of bed in the morning and wonder, 'Oh, what am 1 going to face today?" Whidden said. "If we are going to provide service to our people and get better, we have to be prepared to grow."

Whidden oversees more than 100 employees and

service to our people and get better, we have to be prepared to grow."

Whidden oversees more than 100 employees and serveral divisions, including medical, dentistry, Seminole Pharmacy, Allied Health Services, Medical Records, Eligibility and Utilization and Environmental Health. All divisions adhere to the standards of the Indian Health Services Department, a division of the United States Department of Health and Human Services to American Indians and Alaska natives.

All Health Department facilities provide free care to Seminoles, descendants, Natives enrolled in a federally recognized Tribe, or any non-Indian pregnant by a Native.

Allied Health consists of the health education,

Health. All divisions adhere to the standards of the Indian Health Services Department a division of the United States Department of Health and Human Services to American Indians and Alaska natives.

All Health Department facilities provide free care to Seminoles, descendants, Natives enrolled in a federally recognized Tribe, or any non-Indian pregnant by a Native.

Allied Health consists of the health education, untrition, and diabetes programs that focus on disease prevention and health promotion. Allied Health organizes the annual Rez Rally — which features walking, running, and stroller/wheelchair competitions — as a way to promote diabetes prevention and threes, More than 1,000 Tribal members and employees participated in the Jan. 16 Rez Rally on the Brighton Reservation.

"Working hard to promote the health of the lives of Tribal citizens is our main priority," Allied Health Program Manager Suzanne Davis said.

Health Department falso has established clinics on the Immokalee, Hollywood and Big Cypress and the Immokalee, Hollywood and Big Cypress on the Immokalee, Hollywood and Big Cypress and the Immokalee, Hollywood and Big Cypress and Fall educations, nutritionists, environmental health special-ties and animal control experts.

Tribal citizen and Hollywood Health Clinic enter have allowed her to acknowledge a thoroughness muntiched by other outside healthcare facilities. She said call checkups, home visits (including her bility to translate in the native Mikasuki language to use of Tribal citizens is our main priority, "Allied Health program Manager Suzanne Davis said.

Health Department falso has established clinics on the Immokalee, Hollywood and Big Cypress on the Immokalee, Hollywood Health Clinic escribing to the time to the time to the customent of the ducation, and the least of the ducation, and the experiences as a Community Health Representative, Tribal citizen

under the direction of Tribal citizen Edna McDuffie of the Community Outreach Program. Introduced in October, Seminole Pathways is a six-month, point-based program designed to engage community members and families toward a more health conscious lifestyle through literature and walks to combat diabetes and other health issues.

"I have felt very good about this program," McDuffie said." It think it has been a very positive program. I have been proud of my group especially with the families participating and seeing the new faces. We want to keep it going."

The continued reliability of the Self-funded Supplemental Health Plan, which along with the federal Indian Health Services Plan provides Tribal members with medical insurance coverage, has been very important, said Tribal Administrative Health Services Director Terry Sweat. Established in 1998, the Self-funded plan allows Tribal citizens to choose their own doctor through a list of network providers. It covers medical, dental, hospitalization, substance abuse treatment, mental health and pharmacy needs.

Sweat said there are several measures in place which have allowed rate plans to stay cost effective for the Tribe and its citizens. They include establishing preferred provider agreements, a Catastrophic Health Expense Fund, incorporating the Medicare Like Rate Regulation Plan Act, and a Stop-Loss Plan (or reinsurance policy).

The Health Department also has established clin-

Tribal Citizens Learn About Heart Health

BY NAJI TOBIAS

BIG CYPRESS - Seminole Wellness Health Edu-BIG CYPRESS – Seminole Wellness Health Edu-cator Lance Vaz prepared vegetable omelets for Tribal members as nutritionist Jillian Guralski conducted a presentation on heart health during the Big Cypress Wellness Department's monthly Diabetic Day at the Seminole Health Clinic. SPD Officer and Tribal citizen Allen Colon partici-pated in the event for the first time. He said everyone in his family suffers from diabetes, which can cause heart disease. Colon said his brother, Vincent Jimmie, a Trail Seminole wes diagnosed with diabetes and hish blood

Seminole, was diagnosed with diabetes and high blood

pressure about 20 years ago.
"Health wise he's been pretty good," Colon said of his brother. "Vincent has done a really good job at con-trolling his diabetes. He doesn't even have high blood

pressure anymore

pressure anymore."

The vegetable omelets served at the event contained zucchini, red bell pepper strips, low-fat shredded cheese, no-stick cooking spray and broccoli florets. The breakfast dish, which has Vitamin A, Vitamin C and calcium, contains just 124 calories, three grams of fat and 5 milligrams of cholesterol.

Vaz also served the Tribal participants an assortment of fruits and juices for breakfast.

"It's really rewarding to see our Tribal citizens take an interest in their health," Vaz said. "It's important for them to take control of their own lives and make healthy decisions."

decisions."

The Big Cypress Reservation's Wellness Department hosts Diabetic Day the third Thursday of every

For more information, call the Big Cypress Well-ness Center at 863-983-5798.



Wellness Nutritionist Jillian Guralski and SPD Officer Allen Colon talk about the importance of engaging in a healthy eating and exercise regimen for a longer life.



Tribal senior Patsy Billie is served a vegetable omelet as Wellness Health Educator Lance Vaz makes sure she's satisfied with her assortment of fruits and coffee at Diabetic Day.



Jim signs up for the monthly Diabetic Day event on Feb.

Immokalee Preschool Supports MDA Hop-A-Thon



Fredrico "P.J." Rodriguez completed 569 hops in the Immokalee Preschool Hop-A-Thon to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association Fund Raiser.

IMMOKALEE — Fifteen students in the Immokalee Preschool recently from the Immokatee Prescuooi recently participated in a national Hop-a-Thon event at the Immokatee Gymnasium to help raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Associa-

Kids and parents obtained pledges for Kids and parents obtained pledges for the March 3 event from family members, friends and neighbors based on the number of hops they were able to complete during a 30-minute period or an overall donation. Each child received a support monitor to tabulate their hops in anticipation of collecting their pledges. Thirteen of the 15 youngsters who took part in this year's activities tabulated their scores.

sters who took part in this year's activities tabulated their scores.

"By participating in the MDA Hop-A-Thon Program, we are teaching our children about the importance of helping others," Immokalee Preschool Site Manager Michelle Ford said. "This sin't just about exercise and having fun. Our students are learning about disabilities, health issues and compassion for the needs of others."

In recent years, some 300,000 children attending more than 16,000 preschools, child care centers and elementary schools have taken part in the annual event. Donations raised through the Hop-A-Thon will help send children with neuromuscular diseases to MDA summer camp, assist with the purchase of wheelchairs and leg braces, and fund worldwide research for treatment options, according to the organization.

BOYS: Brandon Posada 2212 Angelo Colon 1063 J. C. Dimas 603 Fredrico "P.J." Rodriguez 569 J. R. Arteaga 404 Jack McTurff 30.

Denise Gonzales 1049 Jaylee Jimmie 541 Shaniah Correa 524 Alice Jimmie 225 Angelina Yzaguirre, 165 Ewanteke Roberts 70 Aubree Rodriguez 25.



Denise Gonzales took first place with 1049 hops in the girls' division.

Seminole Health Department Raises **Awareness with Free Health Screening**



Billie Micco, a member of the Seminole Pathways Walking program, gets his blood sugar level checked at a health screening sponsored by the Seminole Health Department at the Brighton Field Office Feb. 23. The event offered weight, blood sugar blood pressure and tobacco screenings to raise health awareness within the Tribal community. Participants also enjoyer arfifes and a cooking demonstration.

Is Your Backyard a Mosquito Breeding Ground?

Mosquitoes cause more human suffering than any other organism—more than one million people die from mosquito-borne diseases every year. Not only can mosquitoes carry diseases that afflict humans, they also transmit several diseases and parasites that dogs and horses are very susceptible to. These include dog heartworn, West Nile virus and Eastern equine encephalitis. In addition, mosquito bites can cause severe skin irritation through an allergic reaction to the mosquitoes saliva—this is what causes the red bump and itching.

As mosquito season amproaches the Seminole Health Decay and the service of the service of

an arcige reaction to the mosquires static are its stata ctass. As mosquito season approaches, the Seminole Health Department's Environmental Health Program would like the Tribal members' help in preventing the spread of mosquito-borne viruses by surveying their own yard for mosquito breeding sources. You can help control mosquitoes by simply removing stagnati water. Some common backyard breeding sources are neglected swimming pool, ornamental pond, open boat, birdbath water garden, tarps, tires, leaky watering equipment, clogged rain gutter, and anything that will hold water for more than a few days. Homes that maintain an ornamental pond, fountain or water garden are encouraged to use mosquito fish as a preventative measure against mosquito breeding. The use of mosquito fish is a natural way of controlling mosquito larvae without the use of insecticides or chemicals. An adult mosquito fish can consume up to 100 larvae a day. They have proven to be effective and

Stock garden ponds with goldtish or mosquito nsn, uney cat
the mosquito eggs and larvae
Empty and wash bird baths and wading pools every few days
The following precautions will reduce a person's risk to all
mosquito-borne diseases:

• Avoid mosquito-infested areas at dawn and dusk
• Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants whenever you
are outdoors
• Use insect repellent products with no more than 35 percent DEET for adults and less than 10 percent for children

If you are bothered by mosquitoes, need assistance with

dren
If you are bothered by mosquitoes, need assistance with
eliminating breeding sources on or around you property, or if you
would like general environment health information, please call
the Seminole Environment Health Program at 954-965-1300.

Environmental Health Program

Environmental Health Program

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Fort Pierce Reservation Holds First Aid Certification Classes

FORT PIERCE – Obtaining a certification in first aid and CPR was a top priority for Alex Head Tommie heading into this year.

As the president of the Fort Pierce Seminoles youth football organization and coach of the 140-pound class team, Tommie realized he needed to set an example for his fellow coaches. So Tommie invited Jessie Allen, who coaches the 75-pound class team, to a child/adult first aid and CPR training course at the Fort Pierce Best Western Hotel.

first aid and CPR training course at the rost the Mestern Hotel.

The day-long course on March 8 was presented by the Seminole Fire Rescue Department.

Tommie and Allen learned how to apply first aid and CPR. They used blue mannequin dummies to demonstrate rescue actions.

Both practiced different procedures on how to save someone's life, including using compressions to resustance.

Both practiced different procedures on how to save someone's life, including using compressions to resuscitate a person.

"Compressions are really important to saving lives," Seminole Fire Rescue Captain. Willie Weeks said. "It's about keeping a person circulated."

Tommie and Allen also took note of the various allergic reactions that occur with different individuals, including bee and wasp stings. Mild reactions to allergies include sweating, liching, blotches, and runny eyes.

"As a coach, you need to know whether or not your players have special needs," Weeks said. "If someone has a serious allergic reaction, you want to make sure that person has what they need."

Weeks also told coaches to be wary of signs of heat-stroke, a common risk during late spring and summer outdoor activities such as football practices. Symptoms of a heatstroke include vomiting, confusion or not being able to drink fluids. Someone who suffers a heatstroke could die if he or she isn't tended to right way.

"Watch out for hot skin and sweating," Weeks said.
"With heat exhaustion, you can cool the victim down moderately, But with a heatstroke, that person needs to be cooled down quickly."

Following a video presentation of all the possible conditions individuals can encounter, Tommie and Allencompleted the class and received their certifications



in preparation for the upcoming 2010 season.
"Just the simple fact that you're taking charge is a lot for the child." Seminole Fire Rescue Firefighter Steve Missett said. "A couple of minutes may be the dif-

ference between a life saved and a life lost."

The Fort Pierce infant, child and adult AED/CPR/first aid courses were also held March 2 and 16 at the city's Best Western Hotel.



Fort Pierce Tribal citizen Alex Head Tommie, left, is listening intently to Seminole Fire Rescue Capt. Willie Weeks as he gives a presentation on how to properly use an AED device on March 8. The AED device is used to revive someone if the heart is not operating. heart is not operating

Trail Seminole Pathways Program Winds Down

Chawndra Billie of the Trail Reserva tion goes through her final check-in with Seminole Health Departmen staff as a part of her participation in the six-month Seminole Pathway: points program. The March 9 gath ering provided information and liter ire on health and fitness, as well lunch at the new Petties Osceola ld House on the Trail Reservation.

The Dangers of Cocaine Addiction

BY DR. TOM RYAN

Cocaine abuse and addiction continue to plague our Nation. Today, about one in six Americans (15 percent in 2007) has tried cocaine by the age of 30, and 7 percent have tried it by their senior year of high school. The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) estimates that in 2007 there were 2.1 million current (past month) cocaine users, of which approximately 610,000 were current crack users. Adults aged 18 to 25 years have a higher rate of current cocaine use than any other age group, with 1.7 percent of young adults reporting past month cocaine use. Overall, men report higher rates of current cocaine use than awo there age group, with 1.7 percent of young adults reporting past month cocaine use. Overall, men report higher rates of current cocaine use than women. In 2007, according to the NSDUH, nearly 1.6 million Americans met Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders criteria for dependence or abuse of cocaine (in any form) in the past 12 months. Further, data from the 2005 Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) report showed that cocaine was involved in 448,481 of the total 1,449,154 visits to energency departments for drug misuse or abuse. This translates to almost one in three drug misuse or abuse energency department visits (31 percent) that involved oceaine.

The short term physiological effects of cocaine include constricted blood vessels: dilated pupils; and increased temperature, heart rate, and blood pressure. Large amounts of cocaine may intensify the user's high but can also lead to bizarre, erratic, and violent behavior. Some cocaine users report feelings of restlessness,

reschool teacher aide Laura Hernandez guides 9-month-old David Joe on irritability, and anciousness. Users may also experience tremors, vertigo, muscle twitches, or paranoia. There can also be severe medical complications associated with oceaine abuse. Some of the most frequent are cardiovascular effects, including disturbances in heart rhythm and heart attacks; neurological effects, including strokes, seizures, headaches, and even coma; and gastro-intestinal complications, including abdominal pain and nausca. In rare instances, sudden death can occur on the first use of cocaine or unexpectedly thereafter. Cocaine related deaths are often a result of cardiac arrest or seizures followed by respiratory arrest. Research has also revealed a potentially dangerous interaction between co-caine and alcohol. In fact, this mixture is the most common two drug combination that results in drug related death. With long term repeated exposure to cocaine, the brain starts to adapt, and the reward pathway becomes less sensitive to natural reinforcers and to the drug itself. Tolerance may develop — this means that higher irritability, and anxiousness. Users may also experiless sensitive to natural reinforcers and to the drug it-self. Tolerance may develop — this means that higher doses and/or more frequent use of cocaine is needed to register the same level of pleasure experienced during initial use. Users often take cocaine in "binges," during which the cocaine is used repeatedly and at increasing-ly higher doses. This can lead to increased irritability, restlessness, and paranoia. With increasing dosages or frequency of use, the risk of adverse psychological or physiological effects increases dramatically.

For more information on the dangers of cocaine, schedule a confidential meeting with a Family Services Counselor on your respective Reservation.

Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse (2009)

Seminole Fitness Dome Celebrates One-Year Anniversary, Gymnastics Students

art of gymnastics, including cartwheels, beam bars and trampolines, since the pro-gram's inception approximately a year ago. "We're really excited that all the kids are still participating at the Dome," Al-

BY NAI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Seminole Fitness Dome excently had a celebration tohonor its gymnastics program participants.

Seminole Fitness Tome excomply had a celebration tohonor its gymnastics program participants.

Seminole Fitness Tome and gymnastics program participants.

Seminole Fitness Tome and gymnastics program participants.

The program's Tribal youth gymnasts have learned much of the fundamentals and staff and programs are the programs and the programs are the programs and the programs and the programs are the programs and the programs and the programs are the programs and the programs and the programs are the programs and the programs and the programs are the programs and the programs and the programs are the programs and the programs and the programs are the programs are the programs and the program and the programs are the programs and the program and the programs are the programs and the programs are the programs and the programs are the programs and the programs and the programs are the programs and the program and the program and the program and the programs and the program and the programs and the programs and the program and the program and the programs and the program and perform in front of crowds in the future."

More than 100 Tribal children, including the preschool group, the on March 5, the Tribal youth left with special one-year commemorative Fitness Dome medals after the open gym session March 5.

Maria Alvadora, a teacher at the preschool for three years, said she noticed the improvements in students motored skills.

"The kids have learned a lot with that," she said. "Their arms and leg movement is have strengthened over the nast vers have strengthened over the nast vers she with the strength of the strength of

s have strengthened over the past year. They're well conditioned at their ages be-

said. "I'm very excited about what we're do-ing with them."







Stockton hangs on the parallel bar during the Fitness Dome's one-year celebration on March 5.

uth prepare to celebrate the Fitness Dome's one-year anniversary with a cake cutting at the Big Cypress Community Center on March 5

8B • The Seminole Tribune • March 26, 2010



Sports

EIRA Junior Rodeo Commemorates Bill Osceola

BY JUDY WEEKS Freelance Reporter

Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Experienced and novice youth rodeo contestants participated in the William "Bill" Osceola Junior Rodeo, many of them hoping to work their way up to the adult competition.

The Junior Eastern Indian Rodeo Associations ponsored the March 6 event. Many of the EIRA contestants currently qualifying for the Indian National Finals Rodeo post their beginning in the Junior Rodeo, announcer Moses Jumper Jr. said.

The Indian National Finals Rodeo has added Steer Riding to its fall lineup and youngsters hoping to make the grade entered this first-time competition. Twenty-one 3- to 6-year-olds entered the mutton bustin' contest. With a 30-second time limit for a qualified ride, the youthful riders grabbed a handful of wool and hung on for as long as possible.

Justin Gopher Jr., who is following in his bull riding champion father's footsteps, took home his first buckle.

The rough stock took its toll on the riders, rear-

riding champion father's footsteps, took home his first buckle.

The rough stock took its toll on the riders, rearing, bucking, spinning, throwing their riders into the fence and stomping them into the ground as contestants racked up their scores. With a 60-point ride, Andre Jumper earned qualifying points.

Chute doggers and steer undecorators honed their skills in hopes of some day moving up to steer wrestling and call roping.

Meanwhile, junior breakaway ropers turned in some scores that many adult ropers would envy. Jumper had the rope on his steer in a mere 4.5 seconds with Fyler Tigertail and Brandon Ben tied for second place with 4.9 seconds.

With three age groups for barrel racers, the audience chered the beginners on lead line, first-time lone riders and skilled athletes in each division. Exercising good control of their mounts, the youngsters had few broken patterns and knocked over barrels as they turned in some very competitive scores separated by fractions of a second.

Championship buckles were awarded to the first place winners in each category.

Born out of the cattle industry, rodeo became a part of Seminole history a long time ago. While president of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, William "Bill" Osceola was instrumental in establishing the first Pow-Wow Rodeo and organizing a rodeo circuit for local competition.

"A strong advocate of education and sports, Bill Osceola recognized the need to include the younger generation in the rodeo program," Jumper said. "Today's Junior Eastern Indian Rodeo Association works as a feeder system for the adult competition.

♦ Photos and Results on page 20

Bill Osceola **Memorial INFR Tour Rodeo**

BY JUDY WEEKS Freelance Reporte

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The 2010 William "Bill"
Osceola Memorial INFR Tour Rodeo attracted Native American rodeo champions from all across North America to the Junior Cypress Entertainment Complex at the Big Cypress Reservation.
The local Eastern Indian Rodeo Association contestants took home the championship buckles in two categories and gamered 16 places in the final countdown for the two-day event, which took place March 5 and 6. The heat was on for the valuable scores that will help in the accumulation of points to qualify for the Indian National Finals Rodeo Tour Rodeos next fall in Las Vegas.

There were some new faces in the lineup, but most contestants had already begun competing two weeks earlier at the Brighton Field Days Rodeo Tour Rodeos next fall in Las Vegas.

There were some new faces in the lineup, but most contestants had already begun competing two weeks carlier at the Brighton Field Days Rodeo Flast steers, broken barriers, lliegal eatches, one-leg penalties and missed time limits contributed to the lost opportunities in the roping events.

One of the most outstanding performances was delivered by Kalgary Johns, 12, who competed against all adult riders in the barrels. The talented garl earned the championship buckle and took first place in the Short Go.

Naha Jumper went from a fourth place finish in the Calf Roping Long Go to second place in the Short Go.

Naha Jumper went from a fourth place finish in the Calf Roping Championship buckle.

Traveling all the way from Navajo country, John Salois won his second Bareback Championship in two weeks. Salois took first in the Long Go with Freddy WarBonnet too nis heels. WarBonnet t

Photos and Results on page 2C



Naji Tolias
Hollywood Christian's Ariah Osceola, right, gets ready to elude two Bradenton Christian defenders as she sets up her teammates for a play in the second half of a 77-52 Class 1A state
semifinal win on Feb. 24.

Hollywood Christian Completes Best Basketball Season Ever

Despite heartbreaking 51-48 loss to Rock (Gainesville) in Class 1A State Finals, Eagles look to score state title in 2011

BY NAJI TOBIAS Staff Reporter

LAKELAND - So close, but still so far away. The thought has to run through the minds of Hollywood Christian Lady Eagles coaches Carlos Adamson and Marl Osceola. Their team steamrolled its way to a school-best 28-4 regular season record only to fall three points short against Rock (Gainesville) in the state Class 1A girls basketball championship game.



ond half of Hollywood Christian's 77-5 Christian in the Feb. 24 Class 1A stat

After three consecutive trips to the state Final Four, only one thing matters now to Oscoola, Adamson and the Lady Eagles – winning it all next year.

"It's right there. You can taste it, but you can't get it. There was a lot of emotion and pain," Oscoola said. "We put in so much hard work and to be that close and come up short, we think about what we could have done better. All the girls want to do now is come back and work harder."

Hollywood Christian's magical season ended Feb. 25 after a travel call with just 1.8 seconds left in the title game. Down 50-48 with just 1.6 seconds left, the Eagles took a spirited drive down he court with a chance to tie the game.

el.

"I couldn't see the play when the ref called travel,"
Osceola said. "But he made the call, so we have to live
with that. It shouldn't have come down to that. We had
plenty of chances, but the Rock is a great team and they
deserved to win."

Ariah Osceola (10 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists, 2
3-pointers) hit a key baseline 3-point jumper with 19.2
seconds left in the game to pull Hollywood Christian
within two points after being down 50-45.

That play sent the Hollywood Christian fans into a



frenzy, igniting their hopes of hoisting the school's first

frenzy, igniting their hopes of hoisting the school's first ever state championship.

But it wasn't meant to be as Hollywood Christian, which faced a 13-2 deficit in the first quarter, couldn't overcome Rock's size. Rock, which finished its championship season with a 30-2 record, boasted three players who stood above six feet. "It was speed against size.," Marl Osccola said. "We entered the third quarter on an 11-0 run and got back into the game. Once our team settled down, we got right back into it."

For most of the third quarter, it seemed as if Hollywood Christian was going to run away with the game. Ariah Osccola hit an open 3-pointer, giving the Eagles a 30-29 lead – its first since a 2-0 lead to begin the contest.

test.

test.

After Hollywood Christian jumped ahead 36-29 late in the third quarter, Rock mounted a 10-0 run to regain the lead at the end of the third quarter. Rock never trailed again and won 51-48.

"The Rock is probably the biggest team in the state, from Class 1A to 6A," Mar! Osccola said. "They're strength is under the basket. If they're down under, it's best to store them."

from Class 1A to 6A," Marl Oscoola said. "They're strength is under the basket. If they're down under, it's hard to stop them."
Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Oscoola Jr., who brought several Tribal citizens with him to the Lakeland Center for the Florida High School Athletic Association Class 1A Final Four Series on Feb. 24 and 25, said the Eagles should be proud of their season. "These girls should never think of this as a loss," Rep. Oscoola Jr. said. "They're a young team and have a lot of heart. I see them getting better and better next year. Even though they didn't win state, they're still champions."
Hollywood Christian's chances of winning next year's Class 1A title look good. The Eagles will be returning their entire lineup, including star junior guard Ariah Oscoola and sophomore forward Maleah Isaac – both Tribal citizens. Ariah Oscoola recently earned Mi-ami Herald First-Team All County honors for the second time in three years and South Florida Sun Sentinel First-Team All County honors for the second time in three years and South Florida Sun Sentinel First-Team All County honors for the second time in three years and South Florida Sun Sentinel First-Team All County honors for the second time in three years and South Florida Sun Sentinel First-Team All County honors for the second time in three years and South Florida Sun Sentinel First-Team All County honors for the third consecutive year.

year.

"I know what's going to happen," Marl Osceola said after being asked for his prediction for next season.
"Our only goal is to make a run again and bring home the state title to Broward County."



An emotional Hollywood Christian Eagles girls basketball team shows grace after hoisting the Class 1A state running plaque after the conclusion of the state chammionshin game on Eah. 2E

Big Cypress Rodeo Hosts Breakaway and Team Roping Sessions

BIG CYPRESS - Six Tribal women gathered around the Junior Cypress Rodeo Grounds for three rounds of breakaway roping as they

for three rounds of breakaway roping as they prepare for the 2010 rodeo season.

When it was all said and done, Pauletta Bowers came out on top, as she was the only female roper to succeed in all three of her roping attempts. It took Bowers 2.69 seconds to rope her calf in the first attempt, while the later successful tries improved significantly at 2.46 and 2.12 seconds, respectively.

Trina Bowers and Yolanda Nez, who finished second and third, successfully converted on two of three attempts.

on two of three attempts.

"It's something we like to put on for the girls to have fun with," said Big Cypress Rodeo Director Josh Jumper. "It lets them compete against each other and practice at the same time."

In order to win the jackpot competition, a roper must successfully snag a calf while riding a horse in all three attempts with the fastest

The competition was a bit tougher during the team roping segment as only two teams caught all three of their steers. It seemed like the steers had their way with most of the teams, as the animals eluded a few of them.

To win the team roping challenge, a contestant must successfully convert on all three attempts. If a competitor misses the first steer,

then he or she is disqualified from the contest.

The teams of Kiki Juvert/C.J. Clendon and Pauletta Bowers/C.J. Clendon caught all three of their steers, with combined times of 26.3 and 29.59 seconds, respectively.

"The cattle were kind of fresh; they haven't been roped a lot," said Benny Hernandez, who teamed up with Rawley Ben in the team roping challenge but did not finish in the top three. "But it was a good challenge for us. The steers kept us honest and it put everybody on a level playing field. We'll do better next time."

Rodeo season began on Feb. 20 and will continue until November's Indian National Finals Rodeo competition in Las Vegas.

Results

Breakaway Roping: 1. Pauletta Bowers, 2. Trina Bowers, 3. Yolanda Nez; Team ping: 1. Kiki Juvert/C.J. Clendon, 2. Pauletta Bowers C.J. Clendon, 3. Pauletta Bowers/Rawley Ben.



Mindy Fish makes the most of her three attempts at snagging down calves in the break roping challenge on Feb. 27.



Pauletta Bowers succeeds in all three of her roping attempts, as she wins the breakaway roping challenge on Feb. 27.



Ahnie Jumper, the youngest Tribal female contestant at 10 years old, takes an aim at a calf during her third attempt in the breakaway roping function.



From left: Pauletta Bowers and C.J. Clendon, who formed a winning team, successfully catch a steer in the short round of the team roping competition.



With a handful of wool, Jaytron Baker fights for precious seconds in the Mutton Bustin' competition.

Bill Osceola Memorial INFR Tour Rodeo



Nevin Longbrake earned 63 points for second place in Preston Williams won the Bill Osceola Memorial Champic the Saddle Broncs during the Bill Osceola Memorial e in the Calf Roping event.



EIRA Junior Rodeo Commemorates Bill Osceola



RESULTS OF THE BILL OSCEOLA MEMORIAL JUNIOR EIRA RODEO

RODEO
INFR Steer Riding: 1. Andre Jumper.
Mutton Bustin: 1. Justin Gopher, Jr., 2. Timmy Tigertail, 3.
Jarrett Beecham
Pony Riding: 1. Jobe Johns, 2. Mark Holmes.
Calf Riding: 1. Francisco Rodrigues, 2. Mark Holmes, 3.
Myron Billie.
Steer Riding: 1. Frank Huff, 2. Tripp Edgar.
Junior Bull Riding: 1. Josh Johns, 2. Ernie Courson, 3. William Bearden.
Chute Dogging: 1. Josh Johns, 2. Tyler Tigertail.
4 to 8 Barrel Racing: 1. Haradon Ben, 2. Savannah Fish.
9 to 1.2 Barrel Racing: 1. Hartye Maggard, 2. Kalgary
Johns, 3. Ahnie Jumper.
13 to 17 Barrel Racing: 1. Reagan Tigertail, 2. Nauthkee
Henry, 3. Melanie Perez.
Junior Breakeway: 1. Andre Jumper, 2. (Tie) Tyler Tigertail
and Brandon Ben
Junior Steer Undecorating: 1. Kelton Smedley, 2. Jobe
Johns, 3. Blevyns Jumper.



Mark Holmes works to free his hand before dismounting in the Pony Riding event at the Junior Bill Osceola Memorial



Josh Johns earned 65 points for his six seconds and won the

Bareback: 1. Freddy WarBonnet, 2. John Salois, 3. Bill Ollinger. Steer Wrestling: 1. Kyle Running Rabbit, 2. Naha Jumper, 3. Ivan BruisedHead.

From left, Brighton cowboys, Justin Gopher and Hilliard Gopher picked up doubles in the Team Roping Short Go at the Bill Osceola Memorial Rodeo.

RESULTS OF BILL OSCEOLA MEMORIAL "LONG GO" RODEO ON MARCH 5, 2010

NowMorth 3, 2010
Barreback: 1. John Salois, 2. Freddy WarBonnet
Steer Wrestling: 1. Ivan Bruised Head, 2. Ed Holyan, 3.
Quinn Campbell.
Saddle Bronc: 1. T.O. Yazzie, 2. Tate Longbrake.
Calf Roping: 1. Kyle Dean Dennison, 2. Brooks Dahozy, 3.
Happy Jumper.
Women's Breakaway: 1. Volanda Nez, 2. Lizzie Dixey, 3.
Ayze Jo Henry.
Team Roping: 1. Terry Fischer and Terry Koka, 2. Brooks
Dahozy and Preston Williams, 3. Leanna Billie and Ivan
BruisedHead.
Barrels: 1. Leanna Billie, 2. Ayze Jo Henry, 3. Loretta
Peterson.
Bull Riding Riding: 1. Dakota Louis, 2. Koty Brugh.

RESULTS OF BILL OSCEOLA MEMORIAL "SHORT GO" RODEO ON MARCH 6, 2010

Saddle Bronc: 1. Tate Longbrake, 2. Kevin Longbrake. Calf Roping: 1. Kee Etsitty, 2. Terry Fischer, 3. William Preston. Women's Breakaway: 1. Yolanda Nez, 2. Lizzie Dixey, 3. Mindy Fish. Team Roping: 1. Ty St. Goddard and Preston Williams, 2. Brooks Dahozy and Preston Williams, 3. Justin Gopher and Hilliand Gopher. Barrels: 1. Kalgary Johns, 2. Scooter Johns, 3. Loretta Peterson.

Bull Riding: 1. Greg Louis, 2. Jay Garza.

2010 BILL OSCEOLA MEMORIAL INFR TOUR RODEO CHAMPIONS

Bareback: John Salois Steer Wrestling: Naha Jumper Saddle Bronc: Tate Longbrake Caff Roping: Preston Williams Women's Breakaway: Yolanda Nez Team Roping: TyS. Goddard and Preston Williams Barrels: Kalgary Johns Bull Riding: Greg Louis

Pemayety Emahaky Honors Athletes

The Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School honored its first group of athletes Feb. 23 at a sports banquet held in the school cafeteria. Members of the girls volleyball, girls basketball and boys basketball teams all received plaques with team pictures commemorating the school's first year of adding athletics.

Teams competed against surrounding schools with players ranging from sixth to eighth grade. Despite the stiff competition, Pemayetv Emahakv had little difficulty snagging a win in its first year. – Rachel Buxton



Girls Volleyball Team Coach: Pam Matthews Rumor Juarez Kailin Brown Chastity Harmon Taylor Holata Tamea Allen Lindsey Sampson Keyana Nelson Melany Williams Kalgary Johns Brydgett Koontz Tyra Baker

Girls Basketball Team Coaches: Melody Webber, Jason Webber Chastity Harmon Kailin Brown Rumor Juarez Melany Williams Lahna Sedatol-Baker Tyra Baker Brydgett Koontz Kalgary Johns





Boys Basketball Team Coaches: Ryan Tedders, Ken Coaches: Ryan Tec Doney Dezmon Shore Zeke Matthews Rayven Smith Zachary Hudson Boyd Brown Donovan Osceola Jaron Johns Richard Smith

March Madness



Team Big Cypress' Deforest Carter (No. 11, center) tries to beat three Team Hollywood defenders for a rebound during the March Madness Basketball Tournament on Saturday, March 6 at the Hollywood Gymnasium. Big Cypress defeated



al citizen Leon Wilcox rolls a ball toward a waiting kicker during the Tribal Fair Kickball Tournament on Saturday, March

Hunting Club's Camping Trip

Richard Osceola, right, with his sons Harjoe and Bil-lie are setting up for a campfire on Feb. 13, the first of three days during the Seminole Recreation Hunt-ing Club's camping trip in Big Cypress. "This is God's country here at Big Cypress," Osceola said. "The Seminoles have survived in the swamp all these years. From how I look at it, we were provided with a lot of gaming good, such as deer, fish and turtle. With the hunting trip, we just let nature take its course in God's country right here at Big Cypress."







Billy Walker gives the campers a storytelling account about the significance of clans within the Seminole Trihe, among other topics, on Feb. 14 at Moses Jumper's pasture grounds in Big Cypress. The storytelling session was just one part of the camping trip. Other activities included skeet shooting, archery and giggling for the three-day trip, which lasted from Feb. 13 through 15.

GUY J. SELIGMAN

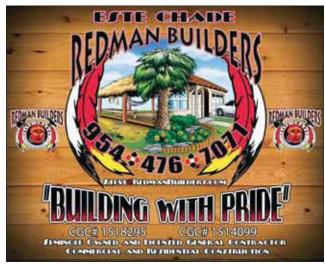
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The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely on advertisement. Guy J. Seligman worked as a Certified Legal Intern in the State Attorney and Public Defender's Offices in Dade and Broward Counties. He has been in private practice for 23 years. He graduated from Nova Southeastern University Law School in 1987 and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1988.

4C • The Seminole Tribune • March 26, 201



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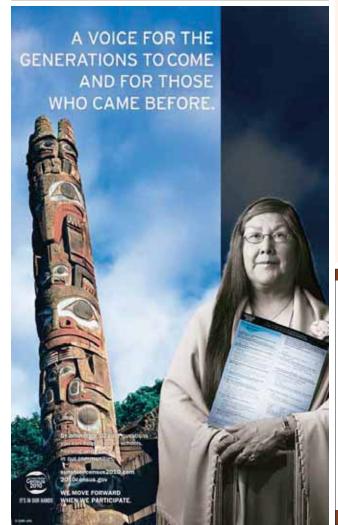


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BOWLING

1st Annual James F. Tiger Memorial Bowling Tournament



Family of the late father, Army veteran, and avid bowler James F. Tiger. Friends and other relatives were also on hand for the first annual James F. Tiger Memorial Bowling Tournament at the AMF Bowling Alley in Pembroke Pines. Participants played in games of regular, 3-6-9 and no tap, and the winners received cash awards. From left – Dorothy Tommie (sister), Imahaggi Tiger (son), Lawanna Oscoola-Niles (cousin), Dakota Tiger (grandson), Troy Tiger (son) and Derrick Tiger (grandson), (not pictured – Reese Bert) (son).

Results: Regular: 1. Antillis Stockton and Michele Oscoola (374), 2. Leon Wilcox, Sr. and Sheree Sneed, (371), 3. Kenny Doney & Marilyn Doney (370) 3-6-9: 1. Bobby Frank and Margaret Wilcox (433), 2. Oillie Wareham and Tricia Wilcox (420), 3. Philmon Bowers & Michele Oscoola (402), 10. Tap: 1. Amos Billie and Michele Oscoola (521), 2. Remus Griffin and Marilyn Doney (463), 3. Josh Sneed and Alfreda Muskett (452) Senior Women (3 games total-regular/ 3-6-9 / no tap): 1. Mable Doctor (525), 2. Lawanno Soscoola (387), 3. Maydell Oscoola (355) Senior Men (3 games total-regular/ 3-6-9 / no tap): 1. Eugene Bowers (589), 2. Ronnie Doctor (575), 3. Moses Oscoola (564)

Community Walk-Run Promotes Health



Tribal citizen and co-organizer Francine Osceola, second from left, is joined by other community participants as a part of the Hollywood Recreation sponsored Healthy Hearts Walk-Run campaign. The new program began Feb. 13 and is open to all reservations promoting health and fitness with meetings on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 9 a.m. at the Hollywood softball fields.



VOLLEYBALL

It's Not All About Stats for Brighton **Seminole Volleyball Teams**

BRIGHTON — Despite their recent successes, the Brighton Seminole youth volleyball teams are more concerned about responsibility and sportsmanship than wins

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Tin team."

Tumper said that she and Johns coach the girls in an effort to make their school program strong through practices, drills and competitions. While the young players are slowly becoming young ladies, they have been able to excel in the sport of volleyball as well.

The weekend of Jan. 30, the 10-and-under team finished third in the Gold Division.

The weekend of Jan. 30, the 10-and-under team finished third in the Gold Division.

The Have A Heart Tournament championship in Deer-field Beach.

The 12-and-under team consists of Brydgett Country Saray Johns, Kailin Brown, Odessa King, Shea Pierce, Courtney Gore and Chastity Harmoon.

The 10-and-under team members include Sunni Bearden, Crysten Smith, Aiyana Tommie, Burgundy Creec, Alicia Fudge, Raylon Eagle, Jacce Jumper, Savannah Fish, Cady Osceola and Alexus James.





The 12-and-under team is all smiles after winning the Have a Heart Tournament championship in Deerfield Beach

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The NLC Mission: Provide Native and Indigenous People with knowledge and skills that improve quality of life through housing related educational programs.

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nnouncements

HAPPY BIRTHDAY







Happy Birthday Shyla "ecoce" and Maycee "sukkace" Holata. Shyla is 6 years old and Maycee is 3 years old.

Love Dad (Jay), Mom (Felicia), Taylor Holata

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Seminole Insurance and Financial Services needs licensed insurance agents willing to work on each Florida Seminole reservation. Call 386-590-1046 for details or e-mail resume to bhahn@seminoleifs.com.



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NEW KIDS



Dana Buster (mom), Dantae Russell (son) – Danae Elene Gilkes, 11-18-09, new addition to the family.



Owachige Elice Runsabove (mom), Brock Runsabove (dad), Honor May Runsabove (baby) – 2-9-10 – new

Congratulations! Love, Mom



We would like to give our huge congratulations to our son-in-law Luis Viveros for his acting parts in the new movie "The Book of Eli" starring Denzel Washington that hit the theaters Jan. 15. Luis also starred in Toby Keith's movie "Beer for My Horses." Along with Davina, the rest of us are so proud.

Tom, Mary, Tomie, Deanna, Cody Motlow and the rest of our little gang

THANK YOU

I would like to Thank the Presidents Committee for planning, preparing and hosting the Presidents of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. Commemorative Luncheon on Feb. 16, 2010. Even though the committee's work was done in less than two weeks, it was a successful event. I would also like to Thank Chairman Mitchell Cypress for not only attending but also participating in the ceremony. Also, I would like to Thank Board Representatives Marcellus Oscoola, Ir., Paul Bowers, Sr., and Johnny Jones; Seminole Color Guards David Stephen Bowers, Theodore Nelson, and Gary McInturff; BIA Superintendent Keith Nevens; Joel M. Frank; Community Members and Family for attending; and the Seminole Broadcasting Department for the spectacular interview video which was truly wonderful and went beyond our expectations. Everyone involved with the Presidents of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. Commemorative Ceremony did a wonderful job. Ceremony did a wonderful job.

Sho-naa-bisha

Richard Bowers Jr., President



IMPORTANT NOTICE: Mandatory Animal Registration Drive

COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

THE SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA ANIMAL AND WILDLIFE SERVICE IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE FREE RABIES CLINIC FOR THE BIG CYPRESS RESERVATION ON SUNDAY APRIL 18, 2010 FROM IDAM TILL 2:00PM. THE EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE IN FRONT OF THE B.C. BALL FIELD OFF OF JOSIE BILLIE HAY 833. THIS CLINIC IS OPEN TO TRIBAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS ONLY. MAKE SURE TO BRING YOUR TRIBAL LD.

PLEASE MAKE ARRAGMENTS TO BRING YOUR PETS AND HAVE THEM VACCINATED AND REGIS-TERED. IF YOUR PET DOES NOT NEED THE VACCINATIONS, PLEASE BRING PROOF OF RABIES SO WE CAN REGISTER AND ISSUE A NEW ANIMAL TAG. ALL ANIMALS MUST BE VACCINATED AND REGISTERED WITH THE TRIBE.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL CATS AND DOGS MUST WEAR THE SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA PET ID TAG AT ALL TIMES. THIS HELPS IDENTIFY THE ANIMAL IF IT WERE TO BE LOST OR STOLEN AND WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO REUNITE THE LOST PET WITH THE OWNER.

WE WILL BE CONDUCTING A SWEEP OF THE BIG CYPRESS SEMINOLE RESERVATION IN THE DAYS FOLLOWING THE RABIES CLINIC. ANY ANIMALS FOUND AT LARGE WITHOUT FORM OF IDENTIFICATION WILL BE CONCIDERED STRAY AND WILL BE SURRENDERED TO THE COUNTY.

Please contact the Environmental Health Office if you have any questions about this or for more 954-965-1300 x 10363



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Standing room only when there I lay, Loved by few, hated by many as I'm being buried today

To those that love me, don't cry let me ride, May you live long prosperous lives I'll see you on the other side.

I want to thank those few for caring and being happy for me, Always there no matter what when I was running wild and free.

I have always appreciated you all for not turning your back, I know I deserved it for being a player that jacked.

In every sense of the word friend you few have been, That hasn't changed til the very end.

Waache you proved that blood is thicker than water since day one, Though I'm gone you haven't forgotten your youngest son.

some so-called blood relatives claim to be loyal to the clan, But the reality of it they are a disgrace to what we stand.

I miss those that are dedicated to the blood and no doubt those that have gone before me,
This Panther is always dedicated to the cause with loyalty.

To those that don't know what respect means you better learn Life ain't a game eventually you will feel that lead that burns.

Jealous ones still envy though I'm gone, As Pac said that's the way it is and life goes on.

Don't let your hatred for me and my happiness tear you up inside, Enjoy life to the fullest no more am I alive.

Though physically I'm gone my powerful spirit will always prowl, A Panther in its truest form once again making you bow.

The sky's the limit ain't that what Biggie said? My reach is long this old school unconquered Seminole is 100 percent pure red.

It's always been me against the world and still I rise, Even in the event of my demise.

Standing room only Waache smile 4 me, I love you, stay strong, my pride and joy you will always be.

"Creative Expressions"
by Elgin Jumper
In terms of the calendar it skips and echoes and glides across a golden surface of years. And yet you can feel a certain depth to those waters, those heartfelt magical expressions, here a meaningful voice, a purposeful story and song, there a time that streams by in pleasurable eloquence, radiating light, here a dash of songstress fire, there an art for sorrowed eyes, where exhitarations in quotations flicker and trickle, and surely, must go far. You express a great deal, and that is why it transforms itself into a holy white dove and ascends the very heavens, though such conditions requires you to weather intermittent challenges, expansive horizons, ripples on baptismal waters adorned by the light. Of course, a series carries forth into the future, ebbs and flows as though a winding river, a work of art created by many hands collaborating, contributing to the overall piece, time after time after time. Regarding the blessings, they are, to be sure, innumerable. They engulf us in their care. They encapsulate a piercing dawn, a love and passion which lasts forever, a symbol of creative expression, an enduring prayer. And what transforms the night collectively is the fellowship in creativity, and thus, what transpires has a lovely truth all it own. You've touched the stage countless times, enjoying every second, but can you tell me, if you will, shall the dazzling light there transcend the night or shall the illustrious dawn be rendered in all its sacred colors?

"Searchlight of Hope" By Elgin Jumper

Troubadours, bearers of the truthful word, scorched by trials of fire, drenched as you are in solar teardrops, lunar raindrops, and vibrant visions encircling! Never despair! It is a new dawn, your radiant ships have come in, and the sea will set you free. Once a sky so gray, the heavens now open up! All those broken dreams come back to you. Let them comfort you forever upon mystical wave-lengths. If ever there were reveries reverberating, the resuscitated voice could not contain the resurgence. For I am he who once traversed the night with colorful Seminole designs on my mind and in my eyes, but where the searchlight of hope could always find me, a fading ember now come back to light! And all that I have been through has been leading me to you, one ever-sincere, and standing with your arms out-stretched ecstatic! There is hope, dear friend, and dreams pouring like honey to help us on our way, sweeping us through picturesque landscapes, unhindered by the murmurs of the past, where we'll experience a brand-new tomorrow with our hearts.

PEACE DELEGATION TO COLOMBIA

Peace Delegation to Colombia

As Tribal members, we have a lot of opportunities and are very blessed. As we all know, many other tribes in this country struggle to give their members the same chances that we have. In other countries, indigenous groups are struggling for survival in their daily life and fighting extinction of their culture. I have been to Colombia and visited with several indigenous communities facing extinction and struggling to keep their children out of a decades-long conflict. The "War Against Drugs" also affects their way of life as it pushes them off their ancestral lands and destroys cultural traditions. I am working on a delegation to Colombia this summer with Witness for Peace to visit indigenous communities who have begun social movements to keep their cultures alive and to keep heir communities out of the war. My hope is that some of you, as Tribal members, will be interested in joining me on this delegation to learn more about people that we share so much in common with. As the "Unconquered." Tribe, we can give them hope while learning from them about courage. This is an amazing opportunity for students and non-students alike to learn from firsthand and build relationships with communities we would otherwise never meet. If this opportunity interests you, please contact me at jma77@yahoo.com or 415-525-3625. You can also learn more about the delegation on the Witness for Peace website www.witnessforpeace.org under Travel Colombia.

Jenice Martin

AHOY READERS! Seminole Tribe of Florida Library System LAUNCHES SUMMER READING PROGRAM

> 'Make a Splash—READ!" is the theme this summer at Billy Osceola Memorial Library.

Children will explore the world of water and water fun through stories, songs, games and other activities about oceans, rivers, lakes, and pools and the creatures that live there.

The 2010 Summer Reading Program is open to children ages 5 -12, with programs, prize drawings, story hours, a reading club, and more.

Registration for the Summer Reading Program begins on May 1st, 2010. For more information, call the library at (863) 763-4236.



OBITUARY

CHIEF PHILLIP MARTIN March 13, 1926 - February 4, 2010

Much will have been written and spoken about the accomplishments of Phillip Martin but the qualities of his character which made these possible will endure as the lasting lesson of his life.

Chief Martin's dedication to duty, passion for the Choctaw people, and belief in the innate goodness of his fellow man shaped his life's work. His drive to create opportunity and prosperity for the Choctaw people led him from the Tucker Community of the Choctaw Reservation to the halls of greatest power in the United States. Refusing to be bound by the past yet respecting the value of its history, he was unwilling to accept a legacy of dependency and powerlessness for his tribe and worked, step by difficult step, to create a strong, democratic and caring government.

pendency and powerlessness for his tribe and worked, step by difficult step, to create a strong, democratic and caring government.

He did so by understanding and promoting the strength of unity among the Choctaw people, among the tribes in the United States, and among his local and state neighbors. His became a voice heard and respected at home and afar. While his works as a national tribal leader led to lasting, beneficial changes in federal Indian policy for all tribes, his motivation was always to improve life for the Choctaw people and to protect the sovereighty of their government. His enduring legacy will be his unwavering quest for self-determination for not only the Choctaw but for the people of all tribes.

In his work and with his family, Chief Martin embraced life with a generosity of spirit which extended to young and old, tribal and non-tribal. He understood and practiced the values of family, friendship and honesty. He built bridges of cooperation, trust and support among tribal and non-tribal governments, always to the advantage of all. He viewed himself, foremost, as a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians but he was also a dedicative of his town, the same and the advantage of all. He viewed himself, foremost, as a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians but he was also a dedicative of the greatest duress. Obstacles became his possibilities. He taught, through example, that victories could be achieved through hard work, good humor, humility, and optimism.

and, father, grandfather and uncle. The Choctaw people have

optimism.

Chief Martin's family have lost a beloved husband, father, grandfather and uncle. The Choctaw people have ta friend. The state and country have lost a citizen and patriot. He will be remembered as a great visionary leader but those who knew him best will remember him for his love and loyalty to his family and the good-

ANNOUNCEMENT

SEMINOLE POLICE DEPARTMENT EXPLORERS PROGRAM

WHAT: The Seminole Police Department is accepting applications for the newly formed Explorers Program. Members will meet on a twice a month basis to learn about law enforcement. They will receive training in how the criminal justice system works. Community projects, field trips, guest speakers, and hands on experience are all part of the program to help create a bond between the police department and the tribal youth of our communities.

Those enrolled in the program will follow a code of conduct, wear a specially designed uniform, and govern themselves with the assistance of a police officer advisor. Members can advance from trainees, to explorers, to sergeants, to lieutenants. This is a volunteer program, not a paid position.

WHO: Tribal member youths, descendants, step-children, and any other children connected to the Tribe, both male and female, between the ages of 6-19 are encouraged to join.

WHERE: There will be an Explorer unit on each reservation. At times all units will participate in joint events or trips. Travel will be arranged when necessary.

WHEN: Meetings will be held twice a month on each reservation

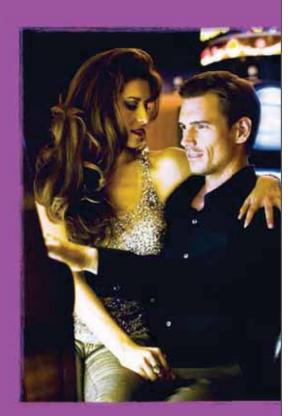
HOW TO APPLY: Complete the attached preliminary application to show your interest in joining or finding out more about the program. Those under 18 years of age will need to have the signed parental permission completed.

APPLICATION FOR SEMINOLE POLICE EXPLORERS PROGRAM

FIRST NAME	LAST N	AME				
NICKNAME						
BIRTHDATE	AGE	MALE	_ FEMALE			
ADDRESS						
RESERVATION						
PHONE NUMBERS 1)		2)				
SCHOOL		GRADE				
*If you are under 18 years of you to become a member of t						
I GIVE PERMISSION FOR			TO BE A			
MEMBER OF THE SEMINOLE POLICE EXPLORERS PROGRAM.						
Mother's signature						
Father's						
signature						
Guardian's						
Signature						

Submit this application to any Seminole Police Officer or at any Seminole Police Station: If you or your parents have questions, contact Lieutenant Jerry Meisenheimer at (863)

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Frank Billie attempts a sleeping maneuver on an alligator on March 14, the second day of the Freestyle Alligator Wrestling Competitions at the Okalee Village 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Alligator Wrestling Competition - a Showcase of Skill and Strength

thing exciting about our culture."

second night, impressing the judges with his water wrangling styles and earning him a score of 78.

them are giving the extra effort to be gentle and take extra risks for the spectators."



A group photo of the competitors, judges and organizers of the Freestyle Alligator Wrestling Competitions event at the Okalee Village 50th Anniversary Celebration.

OKALEE

From page 1A

clothing, food, beadwork, and art and crafts.

Okalee has played host to numerous Tribal events over the years, including the first Miss Semimole Princess Pageant, which featured the Tribe's first and only swimsuit competition. The Okalee Indian Festival, Annual Indian Day, the Native American Blues Festival and the Semimole Star Search Camp have also taken place at the venue in recent years.

"It has come a long ways over the years,"
Chairman Cypress said. "It turned out to be
the biggest money maker for the Tribe at the

the biggest money maker for the Tribe at the time."

Okalee Village continues to feature various arts and crafts demonstrations for people to better understand the Seminole culture and history. There is a gift shop with Seminole handicrafts and the park features many animal species that are unique to Florida. "When the Tribe first stepped into enterpreneurship, Okalee was our first step to set us up for the worldwide recognition as we have attained today," Rep. Oscools asid.

Okalee is a special place for Leoma Poore, the village's general manager for the past eight years. Her mother, Mary Buster-Motlow, was an Okalee employee throughout the 1966s and 70s.

"I remember in 1967 as a child, it was a muge place to us [as Tribal citizens]." Poore said. "I enjoyed watching my mom work. It is very fulfilling now to still be a part of it all because we were always taught as a child to get your education and come back to work for the Tribe, so I enjoy it now a lot. We made it through and we are still here today.



Hollywood preschoolers and staff recite the Mikasuki Pledge of Allegiance during the opening ceremony of the Okalee Village 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Okalee 50th Golf Tournament



- Results

 1. (Team 11) Ricky Doctor, Virginia Billie, Joe Anderson and Butch Mcintosh

 2. (Team 9) Rufts Tiger, Sandi Pembleton, Rick Davis and Allen Huff

 3. (Team 5) Ronnie Doctor, Mabel Doctor, Mondo Tiger and Abe Rockwell



Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. tees off from the first hole as part of team skins play. His team played as part of a 12-team scramble formatted event.

Tribal Fair Volleyball Tournament



Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Johnnie Jones of Team Brighton Recreation serves during first round play versus Team "Can You Dig It" during the an-nual Tribal Fair Volleyball Tournament at the Hard Rock, March 13. The nine-Rock, March 13. The nine-team tournament was open to Tribal citizens and employees and sponsored by the Hollywood Semi-nole Recreation Depart-ment.

Fourth Annual Tribal Fair Pool Tournament



Overall Results:

Girls 8-12 years old: 1. Danyelle Boromei, 2. Allison Gopher, 3. Talia Rodriguez Boys 8-12 years old: 1. Daniel Rodriguez, 2. Richard Primeaux, 3. Reed Gopher Girls 13-17 years old: 1. Jessica Osceola, 2. Hali Garcia, 3. Toby Gopher Boys 13-17 years old: 1. Man Anderson, 2. Neeko Osceola, 3. Joshua Boromei Adult Men 8-ball (singles): 1. Phillip Davis, 2. Roley Johnson, 3. Roley Johnson Adult Women 8-ball (singles): 1. Laura Clay, 2. Virginia Billie, 3. Donna Antuna Adult Men 9-ball (singles): 1. Harvey Shognosh, 2. Elrod Bowers, 3. Charles Osceola Adult Women 9-ball (singles): 1. Donna Antuna, 2. Jane Freeman, 3. Phalyn Osceola Senior Mens 8-ball (singles): 1. Charley LaSarge, 2. Roley Johnson, 3. Joe Carson Senior Womens 8-ball (singles): 1. Laura Clay, 2. Jane Freeman, 3. Linda Billie Senior Mens 9-ball (singles): 1. Charley LaSarge, 2. Billy Brown, 3. David Cypress Senior Womens 9-ball (singles): 1. Laura Clay, 2. Jane Freeman, 3. Esther Buster Scotch-Doubles: 1. 1. Virginia Billie and Raymond Garza, 2. Donna Antuna and Tony Billie, 3. Evelyn Yazzie and Carl Yazzie

Tribal Fair Bowling Tournament 2010



Tribal citizen O'Hara Tommie concentrates before his turn on the lanes during the 2010 Tribal Fair Bowling Tourna-ment at the Sparez Bowling Center in Davie. The annual event was open to all natives, spouses and employees with partner play in games of regular, 3-6-9 and no tap. There was also a special senior men's and women's division.



Denina Isaac, center left, is chased down the third base line by Hollywood Rec-reation Depart-ment infielder Jo Jo Osceola during Game 1 of the Tribal Fair Softball Tournament at the Hollywood softball field on March 5. Hollywood Rec-



Tribal Fair Softball Tournament

Freestyle Alligator Wrestling Competition Media Day



Tribal member James Holt wrestles an alligator during a demonstration at the Seminole Okalee Village outside the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood. The preview was part of a media day on March 9 to showcase the Freestyle Alligator Wrestling Competitions for the Okalee Village 50th Anniversary Celebration, which ran from March 11 through 14. Fox News, WFOR CBS-4, WLRN, The Miami Herald, the South Florida Sun Sentinel and El Nuevo Herald were among the media outlets that attended the demonstration.

Results

Regular: 1. Leon Wilcox, Sr. and Michele Osceola (404), 2. Bobby Frank and Terri Frank (398), 3. Duane Billie and Marilyn Doney (376)

3-6-9:

3-6-9: 1. Jerome Davis and Alfreda Muskett (460), 2. Leon Wilcox, Sr. and Sheree Sneed (454), 3. Dean Stokes and Mary Alice Smith (419)

No 1ap: 1. Duane Billie and Farrah Branthoover (505), 2. Bobby Frank and Alfreda Muskett (483), 3. Josh Sneed and Jackie Thompson (474)

Senior Women (Regular, 3-6-9, and No Tap): 1. Mable Moses (508), 2. Sarah Sampson (497), 3. Lawanna Niles (465)

Senior Men (Regular, 3-6-9, and No Tap): 1. Elbert Snow (689), 2. Moses Osceola (638), 3. Gary Sampson (568)





In a changing of the crowns, former Little Miss Seminole Aubee Susie Billie, right, places the crown on new Little Miss Seminole Elle Thomas.



Outgoing Little Mr. Seminole Lance Howard, left,

The Future is Bright - Little Mr. and Miss Seminole Shine at Competition

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Sixty enthusiastic and nervous youth made their pitch to become part of Tribal royalty in the 25th edition of the Little Mr. and Little Miss Seminole pageant at the Tribal Headquarters Auditorium.

The March 12 event coincided with the Okalee Village 50th Anniversary Celebration and Tribal Fair held from March 11 through 14 on the Hollywood Reservation. This year's group of participants was leargest ever to enroll. Princess Committee Chairwoman Wanda Bowers said.

Hunter Howard and Elle Thomas, both of the Brighton Reservation, were crowned Little Mr. and Little Mrs. Seminole. Both were joined by dozens of proud parents and relatives, who were on hand in anticipation of the winners. Hunter's and Elle's crowning marked the second straight year that the pageant's winners came from Brighton.

"I think it all ran very smoothly and I loved it," Bowers said afterward. "I just want to thank all my committee members for all their help throughout."

Bowers gave special recognition to the following committee members: Salina Dorgan, Alice Billie,



Seminole boys line up in traditional attire to impress the judges during the Little Mr. Seminole pageant.

Tribal ladies model old traditional garments with no patchwork or rick-rack

Tribal Members Dress to Impress

HOLLWOOD — Tribal members from all reservations showed off their traditional Seminole attire as they competed in the Okalee Village 50th Anniversary clothing contest.

The youth kicked things off the night of March 12 at the Hollywood headquarters auditorium after being forced to relocate from the outdoor Okalee Village amphitheater grounds due to heavy rain. The adults picked things up the next day at the amphitheater, which is located next to the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Hollywood.

"This is pretty much one of the main reasons everyone comes to Tribal Fair," Suraiya Smith said, referring to the annual Tribal festival that was held in conjunction with the Okalee anniversary celebration this year, "I've been competing ever since I was really little."

ally little."
All clothing was inspected and tagged prior to

the competition to confirm the authenticity of the gar-ments and to make sure that the clothing was made by either a Seminole or Miccosukee Tribal member within the past six months. Tribal members modeled traditional and contem-

Tribal members modeled traditional and contemporary Seminole designs, including jackets and modern-day fashions. Many clothing articles displayed a variety of rick-rack and patchwork styles that showed the detail and hard work that went into each piece.

"It helps the younger generations know where they came from and that a lot of hard work goes into making these clothes," Salina Dorgan said. "When I was little I used to watch my mom put things together but it wasn't until later that I really got into it."

Some participants spent the past several months working on their individual outfits, some using cotton material and others using satin, silk and velvet. Dorgan said she finds it easier to use cotton but that all the different fabrics used is just a way to show a variety of their culture to the children.

"The clothing contests bring everyone together,"





Jimmy Smith, right, and Billie Micco go head-to-head with The senior men add silver jewelry to showcase their 1900s-era traditional attire.



Connie Whidden, right, takes first place in the 1900s-era tra













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