

March 27, 2009

Brighton's Young Ladies Shine During Princess Pageant

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

Miss Florida Seminole 2008-2009 D'anna Osceola

The Brighton Jr. Miss Seminole Princess contestants

☐ Please see **PRINCESS** on page 11A

□ Please see PRINCESS on page 11A

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

More people are getting involved in each reenactment," Jumper said. "This will continue to allow people to see what the Seminole Tribe is really all about."



☐ Please see SHOOTOUT on page 2A

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

□ Please see LITEFOOT on page 2A

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

□ Please see RODEO on page 2A

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

Resolution 31: Approval of short form lump sum construction agreement with



EIRA President Josh Jumper (L) and EIRA Vice President Paul Bowers Sr. (R) present memorial plaques to Bill Osceola's descendants, Michelle (Center, Left) and Shelby (Center, Right) to honor his legacy.

RODEO

From page 1A

Vice President Paul Bowers made a grand entry into the arena in a vintage stagecoach with two of Bill Osceola's descendants, Michelle and Shelby Osceola. Following a short presentation, the women received plaques in recognition of Bill Osceola's contribution to the Seminole Tribe.

Successful rodeo is dependent upon sponsorship, quality livestock and dedicated, safety minded personnel. The EIRA acknowledged these attributes with a presentation to Marty Johns and Paul Bowers Jr.

The roster of athletes in the 2009 Bill Osceola Memorial Tour Rodeo read like the Who's Who in native American rodeo. Representing a cross section of North America, the participants hailed from as far away as Washington State, Northern Canada, the Mexican border, and all places in between. As a tour rodeo, the contestants received the opportunity to accumulate as many points as possible in their effort to qualify for the Indi-

an National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, Nev.

The three day competition was comprised of Slack, the Long Go and the Short Go. The top 10 contestants in each event received an opportunity to average their winning scores to determine the recipient of the All-Around Buckle in their category.

Each performance opened with a Grand Entry lead by the EIRA Senior Rodeo Queen Heather Peterson and Junior Rodeo Queen Ashton Baxley. The presentation of the colors with the National Anthem and "God Bless America" set the mood for an exciting evening of rodeo.

Competing on some of the finest rough stock in the country, the riders laid their lives and careers on the line every time the chute gate opened. Despite several harrowing experiences, only one rider sustained serious injury.

During the Long Go, Wolf Willow drew a bull known as Roach. This monster exited the chute and immediately began to spin like a top. He catapulted his rider onto the clay of the arena, where he was struck by his hind legs. Bull fighters and pickup men rushed to his aid averting catastrophe.

Returning the next evening on crutches from a dislocated hip and pelvis fracture, Willow proved its hard to keep a good man down, as he routed for his peers.

There were numerous outstanding exhibitions by the bull riders.

Casey McDonald scored an awesome 83 points in the Short Go. Brighton's Justin Gopher, who recently placed third in the Southeastern PRCA circuit, garnered 78 points on his spinning giant in the Long Go. Badger Black got high scores on both of his 8 second rides and his bull's grand finale included knocking down the clown's barrel with him inside.

Brighton's Seth Randolph may be one of the youngest bull riders, but he held his own among the seasoned contenders, not only getting his 8 seconds, but an impressive 77 points in the Short Go.

Oklahoma's Cody



Tuck Johnson keeps a firm grip on his horse during the Saddle Bronc event at the Bill Osceola Memorial Rodeo.

Marki Osceola pick-up men Clint Boney (L) and Spook Whidden (R) surround Alex Johns (C) as he prepares to dismount after earning 69 points in the Bareback competition.

The following deadlines apply to all submissions to The Seminole Tribune:

Issue: April 24, 2009
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Please note: Late submissions will be posted in the following issue.

Parker drew two bad broncs in a row for the Bareback competitions, but completed his 8 seconds on both with scores of 75 and 77 points, providing him with the top average for the rodeo. The crowd held its breathe for a few seconds when Brighton's Jacoby Johns got hung up on Delta Dawn after completing his ride in the Long Go. He was back the next night and scored 76 points on a bald faced maverick.

Veteran Seminole cowboy Alex Johns proved that he's still got the grit. He completed two fantastic bareback rides with scores of 71 and 69 points.

Jay Many Gray Horses came all the way from Alberta, Canada, and won two nights in a row in the Steer Wrestling. Earning first and second place, respectively, he averaged as the All-Around Steer Wrestler and won the Championship buckle.

Veteran Steer Wrestling Champion Kyle Dennison beat the clock by a few seconds when his steer broke free. He grabbed the tail, skied through the clay behind it, got a second grip and wrestled it to the ground, proving that there is more than one way to get the job done.

The crowd cheered when Saddle Bronc rider, Jess Cauliflower did three somersaults as he hit the ground and then sprang to his feet. He returned the next night to win first place.

Santana Castro's mount stalled in the chute, but came alive when he finally exited. First, he took out his rider and then bucked the saddle loose and dragged it down the arena. Justin Whiteley's boot came off when he got hung up and afforded him a chance to escape disaster.

Super Calf Roper Bret Givens placed in the Long Go, won the Short Go, and earned the All-Around Championship Buckle. Big Cypress' Al Tigerail scored an impressive 16.1 and 18.8 seconds, which placed him in the money in both rounds.

The calves in the Breakaway were a frisky lot both evenings with numerous no times. However, Sharon Smalls met their challenges with awesome runs of 4.8 and 3.6 seconds for the championship title.

Fifth and Over Breakaway winner Alan Fischer caught in 3 seconds flat. Moses "Bigg" Jumper Jr. lassoed his steer but ran right through the loop. Billy Joe Johns, had an illegal horn catch with his first throw, but carrying a second rope, he reversed the tide and scored in 3.1 seconds.

Team Ropers had a rough time both nights. In several instances, the rope had a mind of its own and created illegal catches.

Bret Givens skillfully managed to correct a head catch to horns with a rope flip but the clock beat his team time up. Broken barriers and one leg catches pushed up the scores and made for a difficult competition.

Carrera Gopher had the fastest score of 17.137 seconds in the Ladies Barrel Racers during the Short Go. Tina Billie's horse lost its footing on the second barrel and went down, briefly knocking the wind out of its rider. It was time to cowgirl-up and she quickly recovered her composure and waved to the audience as she left the arena.

Barrel racer Nibbel Fish took a hard fall when her horse cut to the left at the finish line throwing her into the gate of the bucking chute. Precautionary measures were taken and she will be back to ride in the next competition.

Professional rodeo clown Slim Garner kept the audience laughing with his repertoire of jokes and unusual antics that included a water trough fishing boat and exploding barbecue grill.

The EIRA Junior Rodeo took place on the afternoon of Feb. 14. A favorite among rodeo fans, the junior events provide an opportunity for the youngsters to learn their skills and prepare for the time when they will join their role models on the rodeo circuit.

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SHOOTOUT

From page 1A

Commander in the reenactment in charge of roughly 30 men and militia troops. He said the reenactment served multiple purposes for all people.

"It is our own history, whether you are white, black, Seminole or whatever race you are," Lamoreaux said. "It is always better to see everything in person as opposed to reading about it in a book."

Also known as the Florida War, the seven year conflict lasted from 1835-1842 with a total of three wars fought by the U.S. military against the Seminoles. The campaigns remain the longest, costliest and bloodiest of all the U.S.-Indian conflicts, as well as the most expensive Indian war fought by the U.S.

Some estimates report that initially there were about 32,000 Seminoles and Miccosukees involved; but that number was eventually reduced to approximately 400.

Although thousands were killed or removed to present-



A crowd of hundreds witness the reenactment as U.S. soldiers move into ambush territory set up by the Seminole warriors.

LITEFOOT

From page 1A

Viewing Osceola's recent accomplishments, LITEFOOT immediately took an interest in his work. Coordinating their ideas, the ground work was laid to shoot a video.

Sites were selected in Immokalee and local residents were encouraged to participate as extras in scenes, creating the atmosphere to enhance the meaning of the lyrics. Volunteers improvised their scenes as the director used man-powered carts and dollies to film the best angles.

Kenny Joe Davis and Gabriel Acosta came to Osceola's aid when he needed someone to carry him with his camera back and forth in front of the area to be filmed. The two took an oblong folding table from the gym and duct taped it on an old dolly for wheels on one end. Then they duct taped a skateboard under the other end and created a rolling camera stand.

They also spent 15 minutes sweeping the street to insure there wouldn't be any-



Rapper Litefoot (L) gets down in front of Immokalee's residents while Charlie Osceola (Right, Seated) captures the moment on film for the "Imma Problem" music video.

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day Oklahoma, the Seminoles were never defeated, and to this day, 3,000-plus Seminoles continue to thrive on their homelands in Florida.

As one of the premiere vacation destinations in South Florida, Billie Swamp Safari is located between Fort Lauderdale and Naples, on the Big Cypress Reservation just north of I-75 at Exit 49, known as Alligator Alley.



Tribal citizens, led by Victor Billie (R), perform a traditional Seminole Stomp Dance before the reenactment.



A crowd of hundreds witness the reenactment as U.S. soldiers move into ambush territory set up by the Seminole warriors.

thing to jiggle the camera, which had to run smoothly to get the shot. Osceola, with his camera in hand, climbed on board and Davis pushed him and pulled him back and forth at least 10 times during the filming.

Wasting no time, the initial shoot got underway on the first afternoon with a street backdrop. As LITEFOOT moved forward, residents were drawn from their homes into the street behind him, slowly creating a crowd that reacted to his rap.

As LITEFOOT rapped his song, groups of both adults and children danced to the music behind him. Then roaring street bikes and choppers made their entrance, creating an intense atmosphere.

During the following morning, filming continued around antique and classic vehicles and then moved to a wooded area and concluded within the vicinity of the ball field. Community residents were intrigued by the complexity of the production as they participated in as many as five and six takes for each scene before the shoot was called a wrap.



Rapper Litefoot (L) gets down in front of Immokalee's residents while Charlie Osceola (Right, Seated) captures the moment on film for the "Imma Problem" music video.

If you need a reporter or you would like to submit an article, birthday wish or poem to The Seminole Tribune, please contact the Editor-In-Chief Virginia Mitchell at (954) 985-5702, Ext. 10725, fax (954) 965-2937

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Community

Big Cypress 5A
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A

Native Learning Center, Housing Dept. Hold Open House

Non-Resident Liaison Offices Also Housed in New Facility

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Native Learning Center and the Housing Dept. hosted an open house event on Feb. 10. The new office, located at 6363 Taft St. in Hollywood, will also house the offices of Non-Resident Liaison Holly Tiger-Bowers and her staff. Assistant Director for the Native Learning Center Pete Russo explained the functions of the learning center to those who visited. He explained that classes planned for the center range from parenting, money management, financing, budgeting and more. He said these trainings are an important part of economic development for many Tribes throughout the U.S. Classes will range from one-time seminars to three day gatherings. Russo said the services provided by

the center would be available to all Native Americans nationwide. "There are no cost or tuition fees to Native Americans for these services," Russo stated. "We want to be innovative and do what we can with our resources." He said the program is funded by grants and the person is only responsible for lodging and travel. Russo encourages Tribal citizens to inquire about learning new things and even getting trained to become trainers for others. Also at the event, Assistant Director of Housing Lori Milano said the open house was planned for Tribal citizens and employees to view the departments and get an overview of the services offered to them. She added that the Housing Dept. assists with all facets of a housing project. From the start process of attaining the finances, to meeting planners, and even selecting a home design, Tribal citizens can expect the entire process to take six to eight months. "I want them to walk away knowing where we are and that we are a full service planning, development and member care for all the housing needs," Milano stated. The new building consists of three floors at 8,500 sq. ft. each, with a total of approximately 25,000 sq. ft. for the entire building. The Housing Dept. will be located on the third floor. The center will include four classrooms with the latest state-of-the-art audio and video equipment.

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(L-R) Assistant Director of the Native Learning Center Pete Russo receives a plaque from Chief Human Resources Executive Officer Lee Zepeda on behalf of the Human Resources Dept. staff. It reads "To commemorate the founding of the first owned and operated Native Learning Center."

Seminole Youth Council Holds Government Elections

Anissa Osceola Elected President, Deila Harjo Elected Vice

BY THOMMY DOUD
Boys & Girls Club

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Hollywood Youth Council held their first official election on Feb. 19 at the Hollywood Boys & Girls Club Teen Center. Six candidates, ages 12-14, presented their campaign topics to their peers in hopes of receiving the most votes for their desired positions. During the process many campaign strategies were used as the candidate's injected humor, personal experiences and promises into their messages. "Vote for me because I want to do more for the community and the club," said Deila Harjo, who went on to win the vice presidency. Harjo's statement set the tone as other candidates expressed their strengths and qualifications. Upon completion of the campaign process, it was time for the youth to vote. Each member in attendance was given an opportunity to cast his or her vote for each available position. The votes were collected and tabulated by Youth Council Coordinator Jarrod Smith. Once the voting results were in, the new elected officials were

announced to the group. In addition to Harjo, Anissa Osceola was elected President, Aaron Osceola was elected Treasurer and Daija Baxley was elected secretary. For three months prior to the elections, Tribal youth, members of the Seminole Police Dept., Boys & Girls Club and Smith met on a weekly basis to outline what was necessary in order to form a fully-functioning youth government. "Involvement and responsibility are the two main reasons why I feel the Youth Council is important, both for the youth involved and for the community," said Smith. Those involved in the planning stages agreed the student government would be in charge of creating service projects to benefit their Tribal community. Throughout these weekly meetings, the youth were exposed to the intricate details involved in creating a constitution and the responsibilities of being part of an organized governmental entity. The Seminole Hollywood Youth Council holds weekly meetings every Thursday at the Hollywood Boys & Girls Teen Center from 5-6 p.m. For more information please contact the Boys & Girls Club at (954) 964-5947.



Submitted by the Boys & Girls Club

The Hollywood Youth Council (L-R, Front Row) Aaron Osceola, President Anissa Osceola, Vice President Deila Harjo, Daija Baxley, (L-R, Back Row) Jonathan Bowers, Justin Frank, Maleah Isaac and Jonathon Frank.

The Seminole Hollywood Youth Council is an initiative undertaken by the Hollywood Boys & Girls Club of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. The goal of the Youth Council is to encourage the youth from the Hollywood Reservation to become a responsible entity unto themselves, as well as to their community. With ideas in mind to provide various services to the community, the Youth Council is an idea born from the notion that the youth are the future of the Tribe. Moreover, the council aims to provide the youth with a solid base on which they may become quality individuals, and, most importantly, contributing members to the future of the Tribe. The Youth Council is always open to new members, so parents of a youth between the ages of 12-17, should please encourage them to attend regular meetings. Meetings are held at the Hollywood Boys & Girls Club on Thursdays at 5 p.m. The atmosphere at meetings is very enjoyable and welcoming, and the council can always use more ideas for community involvement. Parents — we also need your help! The key to providing the youth with these opportunities is parent involvement. Currently, the Hollywood Youth Council is seeking any interested parents, community residents or Tribal employees who are interested to get involved in the Advisory Committee for the Youth Council. The Advisory Committee will provide knowledge and insight for the youth which is key to their success. Advisory committee meetings are held Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. at the Hollywood Boys & Girls Club. Those who have questions or would like to get involved, please contact Thommy Doud or Jordan Billie at the Boys & Girls Club at (954) 964-5947, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday-Friday, or Youth Council Coordinator Jarrod Smith at (954) 347-9315.



Elizabeth Leiba

Cherokee recording artist Shea (L) and Director of the Seminole Heritage Events and Promotions Dept. Micki Free (R) present Chairman Mitchell Cypress (C) with a guitar at the unofficial listening party for the Seminole Star Search Winners CD.

Chairman Presented with Commemorative Guitar

BY ELIZABETH LEIBA
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Heritage Events and Promotions Dept. hosted an unofficial listening party for the Seminole Star Search Winners CD with Chairman Mitchell Cypress as the guest of honor at the Hard Rock Café on March 6.

Chief Historic Resources Officer Tina M. Osceola welcomed the attendees to the gathering and expressed her gratitude to Chairman Cypress for being instrumental in the development of the Native Music Rocks Program, which kicked off last October. The Seminole Tribe has been a part of the initiative to showcase Native American musicians.

"I wanted to thank Mitchell [Cypress] for

allowing us to do this program," Osceola said. "When we go out into the public, we're representing Chairman Cypress and the Seminole Tribe of Florida; with that in mind, we can't fail."

Seminole Heritage Events and Promotions Director Micki Free also expressed his appreciation for being able to work with the Seminole Tribe of Florida and make a difference with Native people all over the country.

Free unveiled the cover of the Seminole Star Search Winners CD, which is scheduled to be released in April. The CD features the vocal talents of Paula Bowers-Sanchez, Hank Nelson Jr. and David Billy, the winners of the Seminole Star Search competition held in May 2008. Attendees were treated to a preview of a song by each of the recording artists from the CD.

To conclude the event, the Seminole Heritage Events and Promotions Dept. presented Chairman Cypress with a commemorative guitar used at an Inaugural Ball during the inauguration festivities for President Barack Obama in January.

Chairman Cypress accepted the guitar and expressed appreciation for the teamwork exhibited by the Seminole Heritage Events and Promotions Dept. in putting together the Seminole Star Search CD.

"The Seminole Tribe is very proud of the talent," said Chairman Cypress. "We're going to keep on searching. This is Volume 1; there is going to be more."



Elizabeth Leiba

Seminole Heritage Events and Promotions Dept. staff (L-R) Eric Sanchez, Carmella Gambino, Tina M. Osceola, Micki Free and David Billy with Chairman Mitchell Cypress (C).

HOLLYWOOD

Council Rep. Honors Mission Haiti Efforts at Luncheon

Firefighter/EMT Jordan Biglin Awarded Recognition Plaque

BY SHELLEY MARMOR
Assistant Editor

HOLLYWOOD — During the February birthday luncheon, held Feb. 26 at the Hollywood Headquarters, Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. recognized the philanthropic efforts of Firefighter/EMT Jordan Biglin of Big Cypress Fire Rescue.

At the luncheon, a bi-monthly event sponsored by the Human Resources Dept., Rep. Osceola presented Biglin with a plaque that honored his efforts during Mission Haiti. Rep. Osceola also thanked Biglin for a job well done on behalf of the Tribe and his fellow Tribal employees.

Tribal employees also viewed a photo slideshow presentation that depicted the tremendous amount of damage the island nation sustained, and still faces today, seven months after Hurricane Gustav made landfall on Aug. 26, 2008.

Mission Haiti was coordinated by Acting Director of Human Resources Sheila Elliott and Emergency Management Services Dept. Chief Brian Brown. The two, along with representatives from the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church & Academy in Davie, Fla., also pooled their efforts only a short time after Hurricane Gustav touched down in Haiti, sending Noah Connell, Benjamin Driscoll and Jason Allis, all from the Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue, on the first four-day mission.

According to Chief Brown, he intends to coordinate a third trip to Haiti in about four months. He said the employees in his department volunteered for the trip, but also volunteer to help out during local natural disasters and natural disasters that affect other Tribes.

"We have the money and we have the backing," he said. "We try and help where we can."

Biglin was the only member of the department to make the journey during the Tribe's second Mission Haiti outreach trip. He spent Dec. 26-31, 2008 in the city of Gonaïves, located on the northern part of the island. According to Biglin, Gonaïves, Haiti's third largest city, is still suffering from the devastation caused by Hurricane Gustav.

He said he, along with medical personnel from other organizations, provided basic life support to Haitian citizens. Biglin said he saw many cas-

es of malaria, the flu, and infection due to the stagnant water still prevalent in the city today — seven months after the hurricane made landfall.

Biglin, however, admitted the trip made him realize a lot about life outside the U.S., despite the obvious sadness.

He recalled one night of his trip when at about 4 a.m. nearly 15 school-aged children packed into a gas station, the only location with power for miles, to study the material they would have otherwise been studying in their classes, which were cancelled due to power outages. He said he was amazed to see how badly these children wanted to get an education and make a better life for themselves.

Chief Brown said Biglin, as well as the previous Emergency Management Services Dept. employees who traveled to Haiti, have come back with "life changing" stories such as these.

In addition to the plaque presentation ceremony, representatives from the Allied Health Dept. were on hand to distribute information to Tribal employees about heart health. To round out the events at the luncheon, employees from the Community Blood Centres of South Florida had their Blood Mobile in the parking lot of the Hollywood Headquarters to collect donations.



Shelley Marmor
(l-r) Firefighter/EMT Jordan Biglin of the Big Cypress Fire Dept. receives a plaque from Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. in recognition of his philanthropic efforts during Mission Haiti.



Marisol Gonzalez

Tribal citizen Betty Osceola displays some of the traditional Seminole dolls she has made.

Fifth Generation Seminole Craftswoman Passes on Tradition

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Betty Osceola, Bird Clan, grew up on a Miami/Tamiami Trail camp near Highway 41, and now resides in Hollywood.

She doesn't know her birthday because nothing was documented at the time of her birth. However, she was given a birth date of Oct. 1, 1933 by the Tribal Secretary's Office.

Osceola has been practicing her craft of patchwork designs and making traditional Seminole dolls for nearly 30 years. She recalled memories of learning arts and crafts from her mother, Mary Motlow.

"I learned by watching my mother," Osceola stated.

She continues to pass the sewing craft down to her family members. Niece Donna Tuttle said her aunt taught her how to make traditional shirts about six years ago.

Tuttle always goes to church. To this day, Osceola's strong faith still carries her.

"Remember where you came from, remember you are Seminole and remember God," she said. "A lot of people have forgotten about God, and you should love God; he made us."

Osceola is second youngest of nine

children from parents, Jimmie and Mary Motlow Osceola. Her brothers and sisters are Bill, Jimmie, Joe, Max, Ben, Maggie and Annie.

She said coming from a rather large family prepared her for having her own big family. She had four boys and two girls, Michael, Randolph, Dwight Ike, Laura, Darren and Shirley Clay.

Her grandchildren include Carline Osceola, Melanie Tuttle, Monica Cypress, Adam Tuttle, Candi Osceola, Brandi Clay, Jodi Clay and Timi Reynolds. She is also great-grandmother to at least 20 children and a great-great-grandmother to three.

She is the aunt of Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr.

Osceola said she and her family moved a lot because of her father's work at her Uncle Cory Osceola's tomato farm. Whether it was tomatoes or any other vegetables, the family made do eating what food they had available to them, including corn, plants and all types of vegetables.

"If there was work on a tomato farm, we ate tomatoes," she said.

Alongside her mother, she remembers digging in the ground with a small shovel-like hoe to find the necessary materials for their crafts. Making clothes, beaded jewelry, grass baskets, patchwork designs, dresses, shirts and dolls was a part of how their fam-

ily made a living, Osceola said.

"We would sell the things we made, cheap, at little stores along the streets in Dania," she said.

Osceola never attended school or received a formal education, although she does recall her brothers, Jimmie and Max, going to school.

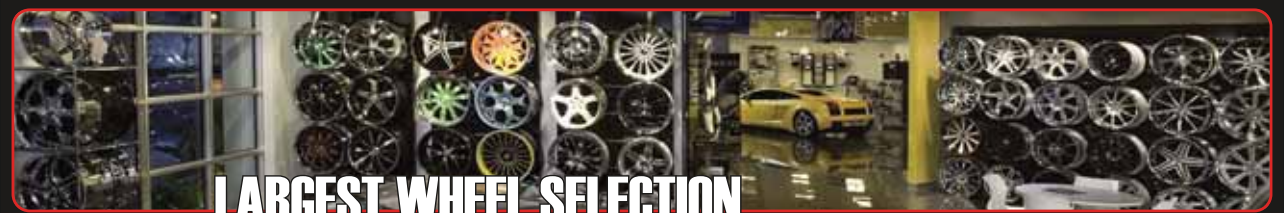
Osceola moved to Hollywood in the late 1950s, where she resided in a wooden home with chickens on the property. She said the homes were imported from Georgia and other states in the southeast. In 1959 she moved to the reservation where she recalled the narrow roads that were not paved and not easy to get around on; similar to Snake Road leading into the Big Cypress Reservation.

She said when she was younger her family would stay together, cook together and even eat together. She said now, that tradition is seen less and less often.

Osceola said she wants to spread her message because she may not be around much longer. She said she strives to teach and talk to the youth of the Tribe about traditions, Seminole culture and financial responsibility.

"Spend your money the right way, buy your food and take care of yourself," she advised the younger generation.

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BIG CYPRESS



Chris C. Jenkins

Instructor Tim Nevaquaya (L) shares his knowledge of flute making with participants and guests of the retreat.

Flute Enthusiasts Attend 11th Annual Retreat

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Guests from as far away as Oklahoma traveled to Billie Swamp Safari, Feb. 19-22, for the 11th annual Flute Retreat and Workshop.

Under the direction and instruction of brothers, Sonny and Tim Nevaquaya, the gathering centered around one of the most prehistoric of instruments in the woodwind family.

Flute prepping, basic construction, cleaning techniques, ornament construction, recording and playing were all a part of the activities.

In his second year with the retreat, Tim said he felt the workshop served several purposes including teaching about the fundamentals of Native American flute-making, learning about the history and origins of the instrument among the Northern and Southern Tribes and

understanding its reemergence in the 20th Century.

Playing for more than 20 years, he pointed out that the process of making flutes has also often been a form of therapy, and said "making them is something I enjoy just as much as playing them."

"I like to labor over a flute for a long period of time," Tim continued. "I put a lot of my heart and soul into it."

Both brothers said their father, Doc "Tate" Nevaquaya, helped them gain their knowledge and dedication to preserve the once dying tradition of making and playing the instrument.

In the late 1960s, their father remained one of only five Native Americans at the time still actively playing the instrument. He went on to play at colleges and universities around the world, and passed on the legacy and appeal of it to his sons, according to Tim.

"I enjoy the meditative part of it," Tribal citizen and Billie Swamp Safari tour guide William Cypress said.

He has been playing for close to 10 years, and picked up the hobby after an injury gave him enough free time to develop his interest.

"It is one of the few musical instruments that anyone can play," he said. "All that is needed is having the air [to blow out] and being able to hold a note."

He mentioned that practice, learning breathing techniques and learning the feel of the flute are all important.

Native American Culturalist Kris Roberson of Caddo Tribe said she began actively practicing and took a more serious interest in the instrument nine years ago. She has been attending the retreat gatherings every year since. This year she brought friends and relatives.

Roberson said after years of listening to flutes and wanting to play, her true connection came when she got one as a birthday gift from her aunt. She also revealed that she has continued to play throughout the years in spite of her Native tradition and culture-based belief that women are forbidden to play.

"It captivates everyone and it was something familiar about it that made me want to be a part of it," said Roberson. "It is also a healing instrument."

Beadwork artist Debbie Lowe helped cap off the workshop, as well as add to the look and appeal of the instruments, by directing the participants in making beaded accessories to accompany their flutes. She has worked with the Nevaquaya brothers for close to 10 years, and has beaded for close to three decades.

"I enjoy watching people create a beautiful piece of art," Lowe said. "What the flute makers do and what I do enhance one another."



Chris C. Jenkins

(L-R) Comanche Tribal citizen and instructor Sonny Nevaquaya and Tribal citizen William Cypress play together for the participants and guests at the 11th annual Flute Retreat and Workshop.



Gordon Oliver Wareham

(L-R) Paul Houlihan and Paul "Cowbone" Buster perform during open mic night at Osceola's Pizza & Games on Feb. 19.

Cowbone Band Performs at Open Mic Night

BY GORDON OLIVER WAREHAM
Contributing Writer

BIG CYPRESS — Paul Buster and the Cowbone Band performed at an open mic night on Feb. 19 at Osceola's Pizza & Games.

With Paul Buster performing lead vocals and guitar, and Paul Houlihan on steel guitar, they filled the Big Cypress night air with the sounds of country music. The

duo played fan favorites including "Highway 41," "Gator Country Blue," "Big Cypress Country" and "Home of the Seminole" from 7 p.m. till closing.

Every Thursday night is open mic night at the Osceola's Pizza & Games.

However, Owner Joe Osceola said: "If anyone wants to perform or try some new material, every day is open mic night."

Employees Honored at Comedy Show, Breakfast Event

Comedian Leon Lilly Promotes Drug-Free Workplace

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Tribal citizens and employees received some much due recognition, as well as a breakfast and a little dose of humor, Feb. 26 at the Big Cypress Community Center.

The BC Employee Assistance Program, along with BC Human Resources Dept., sponsored the Employee Appreciation Breakfast and Comedy Show.

"We want to bring awareness and acknowledgement to the fact that we do have a drug-free workplace and many people here represent that," said Crissie Carter of the Employee Assistance Program, and a certified clinical addition professional and clinical social worker with the Tribe.

She said the day will be a part of a bigger plan for 2009, as each month different departments will present a message relating to substance abuse prevention to the community during a dinner and/or movie event.

Event organizers also distributed informational materials that outlined the Tribe's drug-free workplace policy, along with information about the services and assistance available to employees with substance abuse questions or problems.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress and BC Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress also made appearances at the event to show their support for a drug-free Tribal workplace.

The Chairman spoke openly about his former struggles with alcohol abuse, his recovery and his dedication to working for the Tribe. He also encouraged those in attendance toward a better, healthier lifestyle.

"This was a good way to say you are dedicated to working for the Tribe and doing it drug free," Chairman Cypress told the employees.

Employees in attendance also took part in a special "years worked" countdown. They received a medallion, and those with 15 or more years of service took home a silver box of custom-designed M&M's® candy in the Seminole flag colors that read, "I work drug-free."

Chairman Cypress was among the employees honored. "I am so happy I have been given a chance to work for the Tribe," said the Chairman, a 35-year veteran employee.

The morning also featured special guest comedian Leon Lilly. The former drug addict has been performing for close to 20 years, both on stage and in film. He spoke about his struggles with abuse, and kept the audience laughing along the way.

"I often tailor my shows to what is going to hit people right between the eyes," Lilly said. "I am not on a crusade, I am just somebody who has made it through, been through it, and did not let it all ruin my life."

"There are a lot of times when [performing] is just a job," he added. "But getting audience feedback and coming up with an idea that is funny and translates to the people and having them say to themselves, 'I got it,' is important."

The Orlando-native made his first visit to Seminole Country with son, Austin.

For more information or for help with drug and alcohol abuse call (863) 902-3200, Ext. 13418 for confidential, short-term counseling or referral services.



Chris C. Jenkins

Chairman Mitchell Cypress, surrounded on stage by his fellow Tribal employees, shows off his gift as he speaks about his 35 years of service to the Tribe.

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BRIGHTON

Tribe Opens State-Of-The-Art Water Treatment Plant in Brighton

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Tribal officials and the Brighton community came together Feb. 17 for the ribbon cutting ceremony of the new water treatment plant on the Brighton Reservation.

"It's a great day for the Tribe," said Donnie Walker, director of the Public Works Dept. "The big job comes after this; protecting [the Tribal community] and making sure they are here for generations to come."

President Richard Bowers Jr. assisted Chairman Mitchell Cypress in cutting the ribbon. Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith, Brighton Board Rep. John B. Osceola Jr. and BC Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress stood alongside.

Following the ceremony, attendees dined on lunch catered by Renegade BBQ, and also sampled the newly-processed water.

"It tastes different, cleaner," said Rep. Smith.

The new water treatment plant took several years to design and build. The design of the facility was completed last in June 2005. The plant is comprised of sev-

en wells that carry the water through different stages, including degasification and microfiltration, to produce ultrapure water.

The water plant will provide the residents of the Brighton reservation, along with neighboring towns such as Lakeport, with clean pure water.

"We didn't build it just for us," Rep. Jones said. "The plant will pump out more than two million gallons of water each day. It has the capability of pumping 800,000 gallons in 1.2 hours, with an expansion ability to pump 2.4 million gallons in 24 hours."

There are 75 employees from all reservations that will maintain the plant. The staff has been fully educated with onsite and classroom training.

"I appreciate what they are doing," said Brighton community member Wonder Johns. "We've never had anything like this here on the reservation. It's good for the people and community."

Brighton's new water treatment plant is the largest with the highest and best quality in all of Indian Country.

"I'm very happy for the Brighton community," said President Bowers.



Rachel Buxton

(L-R) Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., Brighton Board Rep. Johnnie Jones Sr., Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Jr., Miss Florida Seminole Amber Craig, President Richard Bowers Jr., Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith, John Wayne Huff Sr., and BC Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress make history at the Brighton Water Treatment Plant ribbon cutting ceremony.



Valerie Marone

Brighton's youth participate in a Hula Hoop contest at the Valentine's Day Dance, held in the gymnasium on Feb. 11.

Youth Attend Valentine's Day Dance

BY VALERIE MARONE
Family Services Dept.

BRIGHTON — The gymnasium was transformed into a red, white and pink Valentine's Day masterpiece for the holiday-themed dance, held Feb. 11, for Brighton's 5 to 18-year-olds.

The evening started with a dinner, complete with sweet treats and even a chocolate fountain. After dinner, the Valentine's Day King Myrick Puente, Queen Justice Baker, Prince Jaycee Smith, and Princess Bridgette Koontz were crowned, as their Royal Court applauded.

The queen and princess received crowns, Valentine's Teddy Bears, roses and a box of chocolates. The king and prince received crowns, footballs, candy and a Valentine's cookie basket.



Valerie Marone

Myrick Puente is crowned the King of Hearts.



Valerie Marone

Justice Baker reigns as the Queen of Hearts.

The theme for this year's dance was Caring & Sharing. Going along with the theme, youth from the S.W.A.M.P. brought canned goods to be donated to a local food bank because of their wish to help others in need.

The S.W.A.M.P. is an alcohol/drug prevention program targeted at Tribal youth that promotes drug education, drug-free, fun activities and community service projects. S.W.A.M.P. stands for "Seminole Without Addictions Make Progress."

Howard Micco Rides Through Life With A Purpose

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Howard Micco can often be seen driving around the Brighton Reservation on his motorcycle, but is probably most well known for his love of God and his desire to help people.

Micco is a lifetime resident of Brighton and a member of the Bird Clan.

He jokes how some days he is 75-years-old, but on other days he is 74. The truth is he does not know his exact age. Micco discovered later in life that some documents listed that he was born in 1933 and others stated 1934. It wasn't until he retired from the government that he had to legally pick a year.

"I asked them which one was easier, they said 1933," Micco laughed. "I said 'OK' and became a year older."

Micco spent most of his childhood outdoors helping his father, Charlie. His father raised cattle and worked at the Red Barn in Brighton. Micco remembers riding horses and rounding up the cows as part of his duties.

"I used to go out to the pasture, catch a horse, throw grapevine around his neck and ride," Micco said.

When Micco wasn't working he could be found in the tomato fields picking tomatoes for a nickel. He said he would use his nickel to buy a Coca-Cola® and if he ever earned or saved up 15 cents he would see a "picture show."

"We would make a special trip into Okeechobee to see a movie; like one with Roy Rogers," he said.

The tomato fields were not just a place he used to work but the place he met his wife, Lois, who grew up in nearby Indiantown, Fla.

"We used to throw tomatoes at each other," Micco said, smiling.

Micco and his wife were married in 1956. They never ended up having any children together but Micco did inherit step-daughter, Leah Minnick. He and his wife eventually adopted daughter, Leta.

"My wife went to church for a ladies meeting and while I was sitting in my chickadee watching television a car pulled up," Micco said, recalling the day he met his adopted daughter. "They got out of the car and said 'we brought someone to keep you company.'"

Micco grew a love for the outdoors working with his father. He worked at a ranch in Moore Haven, Fla. working with the cattle and mowing the pastures. He also developed a career working for the Bureau of Indian Affairs doing road maintenance and construction. He retired in 1995.

"I thought when I retired I would spend my days sitting around watching television all day," Micco said.

However, he hasn't had time to sit around much since retiring.

While Micco was still working for the government he discovered a new calling — the ministry — and it has kept him busy. After discovering his calling, Micco went to church all the time and attended religious conferences in many locations.

"I listened to great preachers and great missionaries that were always happy and in good shape and health," he said.

It wasn't until he went to Hollywood for a Thanksgiving assembly and spoke with a preacher who was teaching a Bible study class there that he realized his place might be in the church.

Micco recalled an incident when the preacher talked the night of the class and discussed what the preacher did for the church. The preacher shared his dreams of building a roof for the church and including an air conditioning and heating system.

Micco recalled an incident when the preacher looked at him and said, "Well, looks like my time is up," and then asked Micco to teach the church.

"I told the church, 'I think God has called on me to take on the ministry,'" Micco said.

Micco became an ordained minister in January 1974 and helped out in Brighton until he went to Trail to preach from 1980-1984.

He then returned to Brighton for almost 10 years. In 1993, Micco was called to Big Cypress to officiate at Big Cypress First Baptist Church. He preached in Big Cypress until he decided to go back home to Brighton.

Micco continues to help out in Brighton whenever he is needed or asked. He preaches in a mixture of the Creek and English languages.

Every Tuesday, Micco travels to Immokalee to attend worship and tries to bring a handful of people along.

"I take the van and pick them up so they can go hear something," he said.

Today, Micco said he still has a love for the outdoors and enjoys taking "pleasure rides" on his motorcycle.

"I started out with a tricycle," he said. "Daddy wanted me to help him patch a fence and he bought me a bike."

Micco is always on the go. He recently purchased a new toy for himself, a John Deere® tractor that he hopes to take out and use wherever he can.

"I do whatever I can, whatever keeps me comfortable, and keeps me moving," he said.

Micco believes that his always-on-the-go attitude is what keeps him in good health and young at heart.

"People always ask how I do it," he said. "I just tell them, 'I'm still a young boy.'"



Rachel Buxton

Howard Micco's love for motorcycles and the open road began in his early 20s.

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BRIGHTON



Brighton Tribal citizens participate in the pole peeling competition, one of many activities that took place during the annual Brighton Field Days.

Biggest-Ever Brighton Field Days Draws Crowds

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Parking lots filled up as spectators gathered for the 71st annual Brighton Festival and Field Days, held the weekend of Feb. 20-22.

"Enjoy the activities and we will try our best to keep you entertained," Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith said, welcoming the crowd.

Visitors definitely did not have a lack of things to do, see or eat with this year's festival being one of the biggest ever.

The children from Brighton's preschool kicked off the festivities Feb. 20 with the raising of the flags. They then serenaded the crowd in the Creek language.

Entertainment was lined up for the rest of the day leading into the late afternoon.

Miss Indian World Nicole Colbert was among the scheduled speakers and entertainers. Colbert talked to the crowd and Pemayetv Emahakv students in the bleachers.

"You don't have to give in to peer pressure, drugs and alcohol," Colbert said. "It will break you."

She also talked about the youth today and the good they can do, saying "when they embrace who they are it becomes something very beautiful."

Colbert performed a dance from her native village in Napakiak, Alaska. The translated name of the dance means "down in the ocean." As Colbert danced, the little girls in the crowd mirrored her actions.

The crowd stood back as wild animal handler John Jones brought out Arthur, a Florida King Snake. Jones walked around the

arena as Arthur wrapped his body around Jones' arm to capture body heat on the chilly morning.

Cheers could be heard from the crowd as alligator wrestler James Holt reached into an 8 foot long and more than 300 pound alligator's mouth.

Other entertainment included a Cherokee dancing Pow-Wow group, magician and illusionist Matthew James Versteeg and Native American rapper Litefoot.

The Seminole Fire Dept. lead the parade into the circular arena on the Fred Smith Rodeo grounds the morning of Feb. 21. Grand Marshal and Florida State University football star and Rhodes Scholar Myron Rolle waved to the crowd donning a traditional Seminole jacket that was presented to him the day before by Rep. Smith.

Co-marshal for the parade Lonnie Pryor followed in a vehicle behind Rolle. Pryor is a student at Okeechobee High School and was recently signed to play football at Florida State University.

For more than an hour, floats made their



Chaka Y. Smith finishes in the top ten in the baby clothing contest.

way through the arena, followed by decorated ATVs and even little ones on bikes.

"I'm happy to participate in Field Day," said Chairman Mitchell Cypress as he rode in on a truck. "We are going to have a lot of fun."

Other Tribal officials rode in on horses and welcomed the spectators. Brighton Board Rep. Johnnie Jones Sr. joked with the crowd as his horse bucked and turned around.

"He likes to show off," Rep. Jones said of his horse.

The Brighton Recreation Dept. organized a variety of activities for Tribal citizens to partake in during the long weekend. The participants competed in an archery contest, skillet throw and a pole peeling competition. The Tribal youth took part in an obstacle course, running sprints and a lacrosse throw.

This year's famous clothing contest was spread out between two days. Women ran back and forth changing into traditional and modern Seminole garments, while the men sported their Seminole jackets, and all hoped to win. Children were dressed to the nines in Native wear as well.

The festival had more food and retail vendors than ever before. With more than 70 participants and a waiting list of vendors, attendees were able to feast on traditional Indian foods and items.

Each night as the festival came to an end, spectators made their way to the main Fred Smith Arena to watch some bull riding at the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association rodeo.



Brighton Board Rep. Johnnie Jones Sr. aims and shoots during the archery contest.

Brighton Family Services Dept. Participates in Field Days Parade

BY VALERIE MARONE
Family Services Department

BRIGHTON — Brighton's Family Services Dept. entered a float in the Brighton Field Days Parade, held Feb. 21 at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena.

The float showcased the wide variety of services the department offers the Brighton

community. These include the S.W.A.M.P. Treatment, Aftercare, Parenting and Family Preservation Programs.

S.W.A.M.P., an alcohol/drug prevention program targeted at Tribal youth, promotes drug education, drug-free, fun activities and community service projects. S.W.A.M.P. stands for "Seminole Without Addictions Make Progress."



Submitted by Valerie Marone
(L-R) Family Services Dept. Counselors Willie Hubbell and Peg Glick, Prevention/S.W.A.M.P. Advisor Valerie Marone and Family Services Dept. Community Liaison Jodi King on the float.

The Treatment Program provides substance abuse counseling for individuals working towards a healthy and happy drug-free lifestyle.

The Mental Health Counseling Program provides individuals with access to a psychiatrist.

The Aftercare Program continues on-going support for community members working a recovery program. Services include counseling, Narcotics Anonymous meetings, and drug-free, fun activities such as fish fry's, camp fires and block parties.

On March 5-8, the First Native American Recovery Convention also took place at the John Boy Auditorium in Clewiston, Fla.

The Parenting Program offers classes, play therapy and support for the children and parents of the Brighton community and The Family Preservation Program promotes the welfare of Brighton's families.

Seminole Broadcasting Films History of Brighton Campsites

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Seminole Broadcasting and Brighton Board Rep. Johnnie Jones Sr. have teamed together to help keep history alive through the creation of a documentary about Seminole campsites once located on the Brighton Reservation.

"The idea just kept getting in my head," said Rep. Jones.

Rep. Jones got the idea for the campsite documentary after speaking with a Brighton community member who asked him why traditional homesteads couldn't be saved.

Rep. Jones contacted Louise Gopher, former director of the Education Dept., for help since she played an instrumental role in the Broadcasting Dept. documentary titled "Seminole Cattle Heritage." Gopher also brought the campsite idea to Seminole Broadcasting and began the initial planning.

"We didn't want to bombard people with 40 or 50 camps," said Gopher.

To narrow down the sites, Gopher took senior Happy Jones on driving one afternoon and was able to point out prominent campsites from the past, including Billy Bowlegs' camp.

Once campsites were designated, employees from Seminole Broadcasting began making visits to Brighton to film interviews with seniors and community members who resided at those earlier campsites. Interviews included Happy Jones and Rep. Jones' mother, Shule.

"I heard my mom speaking and it was good to hear," said Rep.

Jones. "It brings back the feeling of when I used to ride around with my dad and he would show me places where he lived."

Rep. Jones and Gopher hope to give the final project to Tribal schools and museums to help teach the students about early Seminole life and what it was like to grow up on a traditional campsite.

"The youth today have never experienced anything like that," said Rep. Jones. "We want to keep it informational and historical."

The documentary will be the first Seminole Broadcasting project to ever be filmed in full high definition. It will include interviews on-location at old campsites, as well as then-and-now pictures of the campsites and families.

Anyone interested in contributing pictures taken during the earlier years of life on a campsite should contact Louise Gopher at (863) 634-7631. All pictures will be returned.

Look for the final campsite documentary DVD that is scheduled to be completed and released later this spring.



The remnants of the Gopher Camp, which the Seminole Broadcasting crew toured as they viewed Brighton's historic camps.

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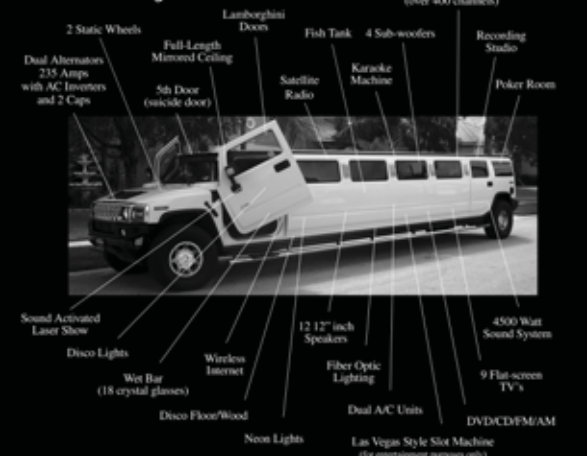


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Animal Control Celebrates Second Anniversary of Service

SUBMITTED BY CARTER ELBON
Community Health Supervisor

The Seminole Tribe of Florida is celebrating the second anniversary of the Animal Control Division. The Animal Control Division was launched in mid-2006 as part of the Seminole Tribe of Florida Health Department's Environmental Health Program.

Community Health Supervisor Carter Elbon now oversees the program. He has been with the Tribe for the past two years, starting in the Indoor Air Quality Program, and since the first of the year, transferred to Animal Control.

The division has three full-time animal control officers, Jonathan Vazquez, Gust Batista and Donna Williamson, who patrol the reservations during the work-week, with on call availability on the weekends.

Both Vazquez and Batista are nine-year veteran employees with the Seminole Tribe of Florida and have both been with the division for the past two years. The two previously worked at Billie Swamp Safari before joining Animal Control.

Vazquez was the first officer hired, and previously served as operations manager at the safari, where Batista was a senior guide and animal handler. The two both have experience in handling alligators.

Williamson has worked with Animal Control for two years. Her experience and knowledge has come from ten years working with the Seminole Tribe of Florida, starting in customer service, and working up to animal control officer. Her area of interest and training is in animal cruelty and rescue.

In addition to these employees, Environmental Health Supervisor Ava John has been instrumental from the beginning in implementing educational services and providing general encouragement within the Animal Control Division.

The division services all reservations, with a focus on domestic animals such as cats and dogs. In addition, the division also responds to requests for wildlife trapping and pickup

of alligators and snakes, when they represent a public health nuisance or hazard.

The main goal of this division is to protect Tribal citizens and animals. The staff members accomplish this goal by being proactive and offering programs to prevent problems. These programs include free rabies clinics on each of the reservations, stray animal pickups, numerous reunions of lost pets with owners, and classes taught at Ahfackee School on animal and pet safety.

The mission of the Seminole Animal Control Division is to enforce Tribal ordinance pertaining to animal control, management, and educating the Tribal community in responsible pet ownership and care. The Division also aims to prevent rabies in humans and pets, provide for the relocation, housing, and care of stray animals and coordinate adoption when possible or humane euthanasia, when adoption is not possible.

For the upcoming year, the division is establishing dates for rabies clinics for Hollywood, Big Cypress, Immokalee and Brighton. Also, in the upcoming year the division is moving to the "micro-chipping" of Tribal pets. This will help ensure that each animal is properly identified and quickly returned to the rightful owner.

Those having any questions about the Animal Control Program may call (954) 965-1300, Ext. 10325 for more information.



The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Animal Control and Wildlife Officers (L-R) Jonathan Vazquez, Donna Williamson and Gust Batista.

SEMINOLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

SPD Conducts Q&A Forum for Tribal Community

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — The Seminole Police Department (SPD) hosted a question and answer forum for the members of the Immokalee community at the Seminole Center on the evening of March 4.

The purpose of the meeting was to identify issues and areas of concern so SPD can better serve the members of the Seminole Tribe. Chief of Police William Latchford, Major John Auer and Lt. Jim Polan spoke during the forum.

During his opening remarks, Chief Latchford acknowledged that each Tribal community has separate issues; however, they share similarities such as narcotic abuse and law enforcement, which are in constant need of attention.

"Incest is an epidemic that circumvents the United States and infiltrates every crevice of society," said Chief Latchford. "It is our wish to rid the Tribe of this plague that threatens to cripple its present and destroy its future."

"We have instituted a zero tolerance for drugs," he added. "This war requires everyone's cooperation. It is our goal to earn your respect so that we can effectively do our job to protect you."

Chief Latchford assured the members of the Immokalee community that addressing the issues they face is SPD's number one priority.

"Although your community may be smaller than some of the others, its problems and security share in importance," he said. "Since accepting my position, I have instituted programs to take SPD in a new direction."

This included adding an on-duty command person, Lt. Jerry "Gator" Sapp, two officers and a sergeant for each shift, 24 hours a day.

During the forum, the three members of SPD outlined the objectives of his staff to create a dialogue with

the people that they serve to be able to make responsible decisions under diverse situations. Indicating a policy of transparency, he offered assurance that there would be no secrets hidden within his department.

However, some information must be repressed until the completion of ongoing investigations. He said it is his intention to maintain an open line of communication with all Tribal citizens.

In addition to law enforcement and security, SPD has a series of programs available to Tribal citizens upon request.

First time drivers are encouraged to participate in their driving course prior to obtaining a valid driver's license. A driving pad is currently available at the Big Cypress Reservation. An ATV course teaches driving skills to insure the safety of the operator, passengers and individuals with whom they come in contact.

SPD offers a fully accredited DUI school for persons attempting to reinstate their driver's license or desiring to reduce the number of points against their current license. Youth and elderly units have been created to bridge the gaps in order to better serve the Tribe.

Due to current economic conditions, a discussion took place regarding the need for heightened awareness whenever Tribal citizens leave their communities. Desperate people are turning to crime to supplement their needs, and the Seminole Tribe has become a target. It is the job of SPD to identify individuals that prey upon the community, but it is up to everyone to take precautionary measures when in public places.

A question and answer period took place with a lengthy discussion on topics of personal and communal concerns. Situations were documented and numerous suggestions introduced.

Among the noteworthy issues were conferences that have taken place with local county law enforcement to establish mutual aid with regard to traffic issues and control of narcotics. Excessive force and abusive tactics will not be tolerated on any level. Whenever possible, problems should be solved within the community to avoid outside intervention.

"Communication is the key to keeping the Immokalee crime rate low and fighting complacency within the organization," said Chief Latchford. "Our police officers are held accountable for their actions. Their visibility throughout the community is a first line of defense."

"I propose that we work together to solve problems," he continued. "You should be able to go to sleep at night, knowing that the Seminole Police Department is ensuring your safety."



Seminole Police Chief William Latchford conducts a question and answer forum at the Immokalee community.

Vehicle Burglary: A Crime of Opportunity

SUBMITTED BY SEMINOLE POLICE DEPT.

Vehicle burglary is most often a crime of opportunity. Our own carelessness is often causing our vehicles to be broken into. However, you can minimize your chances of being a victim by taking away the opportunity.

Recently, it has been discovered that individuals are targeting unsuspecting customers of electronic retail stores with clever yet effective methods. These individuals are posing as customers in these electronic stores while monitoring other customer purchases.

Once these individuals see a potential victim with their new purchase, they discreetly follow them to the parking lot and then to their vehicle. Their hope is that this potential victim will not go directly home but to yet another location, such as a restaurant or another retail store. While the potential victim's vehicle is unattended, these individuals will break into the vehicle and remove these newly purchased items.

Here are some helpful tips:

Always lock your vehicle and secure your windows when unattended, even at quick stops such as the gas station; Remove all out of sight items from your vehicle or place them out of view when left unattended; try to avoid unnecessary stops after purchasing expensive items — make these stops first. At night, park in well lit

areas with lots of people around; and use anti-theft devices such as car alarms. Be aware of your surroundings and check on your vehicle regularly.

Remember, vehicle burglary is a crime of opportunity. By following the above advice, you can potentially reduce your chances of becoming the next victim.

What Items are Most Commonly Stolen from Vehicles?

- Backpacks, gym bags, briefcases, day planners
- Cash/coins, checkbooks and credit/debit cards
- Wallets and purses — even when hidden under a seat or in an unlocked glove compartment
- Laptop computers, iPods, MP3 players and docking stations
- Cell phones and chargers
- Portable GPS navigation systems
- Stereo/CD players and faceplates, amps and speakers — even when bolted down
- Jewelry, keys, tools and mail, which can be later used in identity theft crimes
- Firearms
- Anything of obvious value



Chairman Mitchell Cypress explains the importance of the state's official approval of the Class III Gaming Compact.

Briana Abitton

Council, Citizens Speak Before Committee on Compact Ratification

Tribal Delegation Travels to State Capital to Push Gaming Compact

BY BRIANA ABITTON
Seminole Broadcasting Reporter

TALLAHASSEE — In an effort to maintain a good, working relationship with the state, members of the Seminole Tribe stood before the Florida Senate Committee on Feb. 19 and reached out to their neighbors in Tallahassee for the second time in a month.

The group aimed to get the Seminole Gaming Compact approved for Class III gaming. Chairman Mitchell Cypress explained the importance of official approval of the compact, and what brought him to Florida's capital.

"I'm here because of the needs of my people, especially education and health," the Chairman said of the revenue generated from Tribal gaming.

Back in November 2007, Florida Governor Charlie Crist signed the compact, granting the Tribe full Class III rights to operate on all reservations. The compact states that the state of Florida would be granted \$288 million dollars upon approval and 10-25 percent of profits on a sliding scale of percentages, so long as gaming exclusivity is kept. This is one of the most unique Native compacts the government has seen yet.

According to Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., the ratification of the compact is important not only to the Seminole Tribe and its 70-plus social programs, but Florida can reap the benefits as well.

"We're willing to donate \$288 million dollars to Florida this fiscal year," Rep. Osceola said. "We're willing to create 45,000 jobs for the citizens of the state of Florida."

In addition, he said the compact will also benefit the Floridian communities with Seminole gaming facilities on them.

However, the Senate Regulatory Committee doesn't see it that way. According to Jim Allen, CEO of gaming operations, there are three opposing forces working against the compact.

The first are those fundamentally against any type of gaming. The second are the local race tracks and pari-mutual facilities located in both Dade and Broward Counties that feel the compact will hurt their business, and third, are those parties outside of South Florida that operate dog and horse tracks that don't feel their businesses will stay afloat without the addition of slot machines.

In addition to Chairman Cypress and Rep. Osceola, other members of the Tribal Council testified before the Regulatory Committee. Richard Bowers Jr., president of Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc., said he simply wants the opportunity, like every other citizen of the U.S., to live a life with the ideals of freedom, equality and opportunity.

"We want the American dream to be ours too," President Bowers said. "Not everybody can have one, but we're striving to have our American dream."

Under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, in order for the Tribe to operate Class III gaming, the state's approval is unnecessary. However, the Tribal Council hopes to go through federal procedures with the Florida Legislature's support.

"Once The Tribe requests negotiations from the state, if there is no compact within 180 days, then the Tribe has the right to go to federal court to request the federal court to determine whether or not the state negotiated in good faith," said Barry Richards, a Tribal legal representative.

Tribal citizen Max B. Osceola III from the Hollywood Reservation said he is most concerned about the outcome of the Tribe's future.

"Obviously, the Gaming Compact has a huge impact upon everyone, and I want to know what's going to happen to my grandchildren and my grandchildren's grandchildren," Osceola said



Briana Abitton

(L-R) Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., President Richard Bowers Jr., Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith and Chairman Mitchell Cypress testify before the Florida State Senate.

'Reach the Rez' Makes Stop in Immokalee

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — When the Reach the Rez tour bus rolled into Immokalee on Feb. 24, it was like a family reunion for Litefoot and wife, Carmen.

The two have traveled more than 100,000 miles while visiting more than 300 reservations in 40 states during the past three years on Litefoot's Reach the Rez Tours. The Seminole Tribe of Florida is sponsoring his 2009 leg of the tour.

The award-winning Cherokee rap artist, actor and motivational speaker, has become a familiar figure on the Seminole reservations as he makes stops on the annual tour.



Judy Weeks

Litefoot talks to the Immokalee community about his life experiences. He said there are unlimited possibilities available to those who follow the Creator's path.

Despite having a successful entertainment career, Litefoot's greatest endeavor continues to be his effort to bring hope and inspiration to Native Americans.

During the evening, Litefoot spoke to the members of the Immokalee community following a buffet dinner in the gym. His presentation dealt with many subjects that affect individuals, families and whole communities.

"You are a product of the Creator. Encourage the spirit inside yourself, be humble and meet your challenges head on," Litefoot said about the difficulties of daily life. "It is essential that you accept responsibility for yourself and those who depend upon you."

"Every day is a challenge," he continued. "Never underestimate what you can do if you follow your Creator."

While advocating traditional beliefs, Litefoot transcended boundaries to create a bond with the contemporary generations.

"When it comes to tradition and culture, we are only strong if we remember," he said. "Put your life in perspective. Learn respect and teach it to your children and they will carry your culture into the next generation."

"Our young people are literally dying for someone to care and lead them," he added. "Reunite your families and this will be a beginning, not an end for our people."

At the event he also spoke to a group of employees.

"Look for ways to improve your job skills and meet the needs of your people," he said. "You can't sit around and wait for something positive to happen. You have to become that positive force and raise your expectations. Believe in yourself and the battle will be half won."

Litefoot is a dynamic motivational speaker with a strong belief in the Creator. He is known for speaking from the heart, while attempting to encourage and inspire Native Americans to follow the path of their destiny and strive to reach their potential.

Litefoot has released more than 10 albums and won seven Native American Music Awards, including Best Hip Hop/Rap Recording, Best Male Artist and Artist of the Year. In addition, he has starred in 10 films and television productions, which include "The Indian in the Cupboard," "Mortal Kombat: Annihilation," "Kull the Conqueror," "Adaptation," "Song of Hiawatha," and the TV shows CSI: Miami and Family Law.

He recently released his latest album, "Relentless Pursuit."

Tribal Citizens Present Their Art, Poetry in State's Capital

BY ELGIN JUMPER
Contributing Writer

TALLAHASSEE — On March 3, despite the devastating loss of one of my daughters a month earlier, and the subsequent mourning and grieving pertaining to such a tragedy, Moses "Bigg" Jumper, Jr. and I had the honor of reading poetry and sharing Seminole art and culture with the students, instructors, professors, and faculty of both Florida State University (FSU) and Cornerstone Learning Community, located not far from the prominent college campus in Tallahassee.

We presented at FSU as part of their recent Folklore Festival, which took place earlier, but was postponed for us for obvious reasons. As for the events at Cornerstone, they came about as a result of FSU Professor Michael Uzendoski's kind help and urging, as his daughter, Sisa, attends the school, and suggested we go in and share our art and poetry there. It was a marvelous idea!

Aside from the poetry, however, I was fortunate enough to take an oil painting workshop in to the students as well. The poetry presentations and painting workshop were incredible and I think it's safe to say we truly enjoyed them. But what really floored me was when Maya Mast, a small six-year old girl, read us a poem that was inspired by "Hymn for the Sacred Path" a poem from my poetry chapbook, *Nightfall*. Another little girl, Riley, was equally inspired to poetry. It was memorable.

I thoroughly enjoyed the oil painting workshop, and thankfully it was well-received by the students. I was so amazed at how much the children were interested in poetry, drawing and art, and the sunrise painting started in the workshop will be presented as a gift to the community upon completion.

"Thank you for bringing your stories and gifts to Cornerstone," wrote Tony Brown, Upper School Director, and Bev Well, Lower School Director. "All of us learned from your words and your presence. Teachers to our youngest students will remember your quiet way of teaching. We hope you will visit our website to read the Friday news regarding the poetry and painting lessons you brought to our community."

It was strange for me, though, going from the lowest depths of sorrow a month before, to the highest elevations of honor, gratification, art and poetry in that short span of time. And I really have to credit "Bigg" for traveling up to Tallahassee in support, especially after his tremendously successful weekend with the Seminole battle reenactments in Big Cypress. Thanks so much, "Bigg"! Happily, I'm learning so much from you about being a true Seminole poet.

"Well, I always enjoy talking to the youth, as well as FSU," emphasized Jumper in an interview after the

events. "I'm always open to going out and giving the people a better idea of who we are, and that's the big thing for me. The more we get out there and let them know and see the reality of who we are, as a people, how diversified we are in the different things that we do."

The Folklore Festival at FSU was organized primarily by Professors Michael Uzendoski, Prof. of Modern Languages, Juan Carlos Galeano, Prof. of Modern Languages, and Sarah Buck Kachaluba, History, Humanities Librarian.

"The idea of the festival is to show the diversity and importance of folklore in a variety of aspects - in Amazonian cultures, in contemporary film, and among Native American artistic expressions and culture in general," explained Uzendoski.

"Bigg" and I read our poetry for the FSU students and professors and other faculty in the Scholars' Commons Reading Room of the Stroz Library. I was also



Ests Liederman



Elgin Jumper reads his poetry while his artwork is also displayed on the wall.

fortunate enough to have eight of my contemporary paintings set up for display. The paintings will be presented in the library for a month.

Other presenters for the festival were Juan Carlos Galeano, Maria Willstadt and Michael Uzendoski, all professors of modern languages and Dana Weber, Ph.D. candidate at Indiana University and also an instructor on modern languages.

I must say that the visit to Cornerstone Learning Community and FSU was exhilarating and unforgettable! Cornerstone and FSU were incomparable as hosts and I look forward to more visits to share art and poetry. Sha-na-bish. Thank you so very much for the invitations and for seeing to our needs and comfort while we were there. Long shall we remember those days.

"I think we revealed a lot of truth there - just for that time we were there, and I think it was a big plus for the Tribe," observed "Bigg."



2009 ELECTION DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, April 8	5pm - Deadline to submit platform to Seminole Tribune
Tuesday, April 14	5pm - Turn in petitions and pictures
Wednesday, April 15	Announce candidates
Monday, May 4	Deadline for mailing out Absentee ballots
Tuesday, May 5	Deadline for walk-in voting
Monday, May 11	Election Day

Tribe Shares Culture, Traditions at Annual Chalo Nitka Fest

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

MOORE HAVEN, Fla. — The Seminole Tribe of Florida returned to Moore Haven, Fla., located just south of the Brighton Reservation, on March 7 to participate in the 61st annual Chalo Nitka Festival and Parade.

"It's important for the Tribe to show their support for surrounding neighbors," said Norman "Skeeter" Bowers, a member of the Chalo Nitka Festival Committee.

Last year, when Chalo Nitka faced cancellation, the Seminole Tribe stepped forward to play an integral role in continuing the longstanding tradition. This year, the Tribe returned to the festival with even more Tribal vendors and entertainment.

"We are absolutely delighted to have them bring their traditional events back," said Tracy Whirls, executive director of Glades County Economic Development Council.

The Chalo Nitka parade was full of Seminole Tribe participation with students from the Pemaquash Emahawk Charter School representing the Tribe on a float decorated with a handmade chickee. In addition, Tribal officials rode in the parade on horseback and the Seminole princesses made their way down the route in a motorcade.

"Every relationship we have with another community is important and the fact that they have interest and want our culture here is rewarding," said Miss Seminole Princess D'anna Osceola.

Several Tribal citizens, including Shule Jones and Mary Jo Micco, had booths selling traditional Seminole arts and crafts.

Jones returned to Chalo Nitka this year, selling beadwork and jewelry at her booth, while Micco pleased attendees with her traditional Indian food booth, selling the ever-so-popular frybread.



Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith returns to Chalo Nitka after the Tribe gave the festival a much needed boost last year.

The Seminole Tribe has been involved in Chalo Nitka — which translates to "bass day" in Creek — since the early days. Many Tribal citizens remember the days when they were children and visited the festival.

"It's like being back home," said Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith. "I used to run all around here and remember barbecuing with the elders."

President Richard Bowers Jr. reminisced about his alligator wrestling days when he won first place at the Chalo Nitka Festival at the age of 16.

"It's good for us to support something like this that has a Seminole flavor," said President Bowers.

Tribal entertainment included alligator wrestling, a snake show and a baby clothing contest.

According to Norman "Skeeter" Bowers, the Tribe hopes to eventually build an Indian Village on the grounds to have on display and for people to visit.

"From this year out, it will only get better," he said.



Mary Jo Micco offers her famous frybread to festival goers.



President Richard Bowers Jr. and Louise Roper remember the day when the winning fish from the bass contest would be on display during the festival.



Miss Seminole Princess D'anna Osceola attends Chalo Nitka for her first time.

Seniors Attend Annual Strawberry Festival

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

PLANT CITY, Fla. — The Immokalee seniors boarded a bus on Feb. 27 for a three-day trip to the Strawberry Festival in Plant City, located about 25 miles east of Tampa.

The seniors look forward to the annual event, which

offers them an opportunity to visit some of their favorite shopping areas. Donating an entire morning to shopping at local fabric stores, they added to their arsenal of cloth and sewing supplies before making their way to the fair grounds for the Strawberry Festival.

In addition to the carnival midway, the festival offers everything found at a state agricultural fair. It took an entire day to investigate the vendors, art and craft exhibits, home economic displays and the livestock pavilion.

Nightly entertainment included country musician Jake Owens, as well as other local country western bands and Christian gospel groups.

Following a long day on their feet, the group looked forward to an evening dinner at the Tampa Hard Rock Hotel and Casino.

On the morning of March 1, the last day of their trip, the seniors visited Parkesdale Farm Market, the largest strawberry and citrus market in Florida. After sampling their famous strawberry shortcake, several of the seniors purchased a bounty of fresh fruits and vegetables to take home.

Visiting the three large greenhouses, they added plants and flowers to their cargo before they began their homeward journey.



(L-R) Eva Russell, Gayle Greer, Nancy Motlow, Jovita Turruabarte, Elaine Aguilar, Mary Sanchez, Ruth Osceola, Linda Frank and Richard Billie descend from the bus for a day of shopping at the Strawberry Festival.



NCAIED Chairwoman Margo Gray-Proctor (L) and Miss Indian World Nicole Alek'ag Colbert (R) present President Richard Bowers Jr. (C) with the annual American Indian Tribal Leadership Award.

President Bowers Honored at Reservation Economic Summit 2009

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

LAS VEGAS — The Reservation Economic Summit, known as RES, brought together some of the most ambitious and brightest minds in the Native American business community March 9-12 at the Las Vegas Hilton Hotel.

The conference, in its 23rd year, is known as the largest and longest running national American Indian business conference and trade fair in the U.S.; the Seminole Tribe of Florida held co-title sponsorship.

The National Center for American Indian Enterprise and Development (NCAIED) organized the event and also celebrated its 40th anniversary. Native Muscogee also sponsored by the Tribe entertained overnight and Seminole Heritage Events and Promotions Director Micki Free hosted the affair.

This year featured the theme, "Going Global, Thinking Green, Generating Growth" with a golf tournament, learning sessions, and a procurement pavilion on the schedule of events.

In his second year at the conference, President Richard Bowers Jr. represented the Tribe receiving two special honors. He was presented a special Hopi-kachina doll as a representative for the Tribe in sponsoring the summit. He also received the annual American Indian Tribal Leadership Award for his continuous work in agriculture, cattle work and other business ventures among the Seminole people.

"I am humbled to see that people are watching what we do," President Bowers said. "The award validates the fact that the Seminole Tribe is in a major leadership position."

"The time is right to get together with the other tribes to network," President Bowers continued. "The old saying, 'Tribe to Tribe' is in order here today; let us not let that be in vain."

"In everything you do, you should position yourself and do your own due diligence," he advised the listening audience. "This will help position you to provide for yourself and your family."

President Bowers also participated in a panel discussion on some of the major topics facing the Native community economically including individual entrepreneurship, economic stability and joint partnerships.

"What they want is a good experience and substantial in what the panel was doing. It was definitely a positive," President Bowers said afterwards. "The whole experience was a great opportunity to connect the strings and put everyone together."

First year NCAIED Chairwoman Margo Gray-Proctor said efforts to improve the conference each year continue to be successful. This year marked the first time in its history that a Tribal enterprise such as the Seminole Tribe of Florida has been a presenting sponsor. She said the selection of honoring the Tribe and President Bowers was unanimous among board leaders and members.

"The Tribe's organization has helped grow our organization and plant a new seed of growth and also pro-

vide a new energy," Gray-Proctor expressed. "President Bowers has also unselfishly directed his affairs and just has a good business mind. He gets it and is ahead of the game."

In the trade fair the Tribe had four information booths on display: the Hard Rock Hotel and Cafe franchise, the new Native Learning Center, Ha-Sho-Bee Golf and the popular Seminole Pride Orange Juice brand.

Guests and fellow businesses got a chance to sample the drink with more than 30 gallons brought in for the show.

President Bowers explained that the financial venture of the non-pasteurized, freshly squeezed brand of juice was established through Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. It currently has distribution at the Big Cypress Trad-



(L-R) Lynn Grubb of the Native American Group, along with Tribal citizens Candy and Amy Cypress of the Native Learning Center, answer questions and distribute information at their RES trade show booth.

ing Post, the Hard Rock locations and the Billie Swamp Safari. There are also hopes of nationwide distribution, with established distribution points in Tempe, Ariz. and Lakeland, Fla.

The Native Learning Center helps assist and support Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities through education, training, and technical assistance in the planning and implementation of affordable housing activities.

RES began in 1986 as a meeting place for Native enterprises and entrepreneurs that have faced challenges in Indian country and attracts thousands each year. Its purpose has been to offer a forum of networking between Native businesses, Tribes, corporations and federal resources.

For more information on NCAIED log on to www.ncaied.org or call 1-800-462-2433 ext. 243.

For information on any of the Tribally owned businesses contact the following: Joe Tillman with Seminole Pride Orange Juice at (863) 983-8350 or email at joetillman@seminoletribe.com, for the Native Learning Center log onto www.nativelearningcenter.com, for Ha-Sho-Bee Golf contact Mitch Osceola or go to www.fnga.net. For specific information on the Hard Rock, please log onto www.hardrock.com.



President Richard Bowers Jr. (Second from Left) discusses native economic issues during a RES panel at the conference.



Deliah Carrillo sets the stage to tell the legend of the little frog.



Breanna Billie presents a slideshow about how to sew a traditional dress during the talent portion.

PRINCESS

From page 1A

"Hallelujah" to the elders in her church. Her voice won her the top talent presentation award.

Aiyana Tommie did a cooking demonstration, showing how to make a true Seminole diet staple, sofkee.

Kiylier Baker talked about the well-known tradition of using shakers for dancing. Baker put on a demonstration on how to make a shaker, completing her performance with a dance.

The pressure was still on after the talent presentations when the ladies went up on stage one-by-one to answer an impromptu question.

When asked what she wants to be when she grows up, Brydgett Koonitz, had no difficulty answering.

"I want to be a lawyer because I put up a fight for what I believe in," Koonitz said.

Harley Johns and Stevie Brantley were asked why they wanted the titles Brighton Jr. Miss Seminole Princess and Brighton Miss Seminole Princess, respectively. Both declared they wanted the titles to educate and be role models. Brantley said the title would give her the opportunity to be a spokesperson on important issues.

Luzana Venzor and Kirsten Doney discussed their favorite subject in school. Venzor answered P.E. because it allows her to play with her friends. Doney responded with arts and crafts because she said she enjoys sewing and drawing.

After all impromptu questions were answered, the judges began to make their final decisions. Judges included Nicole Colbert, Miss Indian World, Anastasia Pierre, Miss Florida USA, Matthew James Versteeg, professional magician and illusionist, Nicole Pierre, Anastasia Pierre's mother, and Ashley Burnham, Versteeg's assistant.



Raylon Eagle, in traditional garments, was coached by aunt and past Brighton Seminole Princess Salina Dorgan.



Elizabeth DeHass brings a friend on stage to tell a legend of how the little dog came to be.

Before the winners were announced, past Brighton royalty were brought on stage and acknowledged. Many offered words of advice to the competing ladies as well as to the parents.

"It's hard to compete today, we didn't have to do talent or impromptu questions," said 1985 Brighton Seminole Princess Theresa Ann Nunez. "Encourage your daughters; this is what makes them ladies."

Keeping with tradition, Jr. Miss Seminole Amber Craig presented the current Brighton Seminole Princess Jaryaca Baker with a necklace thanking her for her time and dedication representing the Tribe during her reign.

Jennifer Diane Chalfant was recognized and given a very special gift. Chalfant is the only individual to successfully hold every royalty title. She was crowned Brighton Jr. Miss Seminole in 1998, Brighton Miss Seminole in 2004, Jr. Miss Florida Seminole in 2005 and Miss Florida Seminole in 2007.

"It took me 10 years to complete my goal, but I did," Chalfant said with tears in her eyes.

Rep. Smith presented Chalfant with a charm bracelet with four crowns in the medicine colors representing the Tribe.

"I hope they continue to go on," said Chalfant of the pageant contestants.

At the end of the night all the contestants were brought back on stage for the much anticipated announcement of awards.

Brighton Jr. Miss Seminole Princess third runner up was Harley Johns, second runner up Breanna Billie, and first runner up Cheyenne Nunez.

Brighton Seminole Princess third runner up was Erena Billie, second runner up Kasandra Billie and first runner up Kirsten Doney.

Brighton Jr. Miss Seminole Princess participation awards went to Brydgett Koonitz, Deliah Carrillo, Tyra Baker, Raylon Eagle and Luzana Venzor. Brighton Seminole Princess participation awards went to Brianna Nunez, Jennie Eagle, Kiylier Baker and Elizabeth DeHass.

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Higher Ed Student Celeste Billie Takes Classes at Edison State

BY LINDA ILEY
Higher Education Advisor

When Celeste Billie, Panther Clan, first applied for the Billy L. Cypress Scholarship Program in the summer of 2007, she was 42 years old. She had never attended college after graduating from high school in 2001.



Marisol Gonzalez
Celeste Billie

Even before graduating, she was working in different Tribal programs including the slaughterhouse in Big Cypress, Billie Swamp Safari, the Family Services Dept., and she even built chickens and worked as a tour guide at Shark Valley in Everglades National Park on the Tamiami Trail.

While working at the Seminole Casino-Immokalee, she did not fully understand the words and technology being used in different areas on the job. Billie said she then realized she had to go for a higher education to be more prepared for the work environment.

□ Please see BILLIE on page 3B

Ahfachkee School, Boys & Girls Club Begin Partnership

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — In an initiative established by Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress and Tribal Boys & Girls Club Director of Development Robert C. North Sr., the Ahfachkee School and the Boys & Girls Club established a new partnership Feb. 24.

During the kick off event, about 10 Ahfachkee School students in grades 2-8 came together to offer their input in the development of an afterschool Boys & Girls Club program. According to North, providing a place for the children to go after school hours keeps them off the streets and out of trouble.

"This club works because it engages kids during critical times," North said. "We just want to complement what is already going on here in BGC."

North pointed out that plans for the partnership have been in the works for several months with Ahfachkee Principal Walt Swan Jr. and staff. The news follows on the heels of Tribal Council passing Resolution C-074-09 in January, calling for the opening of a Boys & Girls Club in Big Cypress.

□ Please see CLUB on page 2B

Ahfachkee Has First Family Literacy Night

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Ahfachkee School took another step forward in its education agenda March 5.

A packed house of more than 500 family members, students and parents attended the first-ever Family Literacy Night at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.

"This was part of our movement to continue to improve our literacy program," said Ahfachkee School Principal Walt Swan Jr. "We want to create a whole different level of learning."

Swan made a bet with the students and staff and said he would shave his head if attendance signatures reached the 400 mark. He admitted to giving 100 signatures toward that mark, and lived up to his end of the bargain. He said although the goal came slow initially, it was finally met.

Event coordinator and first-year seventh grade teacher Diana De LaFuenta said hopes are to have the event twice a year. She said the event was successful even based on the attendance alone, with nearly 100 percent of the school population participating.

"We want to try to get even more parent involvement in a more entertaining way," De LaFuenta discussed. "The teachers enjoyed themselves along with the families and it was great."

□ Please see LITERACY on page 2B



Shelley Marmor

The Trail middle schoolers from the Miccosukee Indian School surround Education Dept. Director Emma Johns (Center, Left) and Trail Liaison William Osceola (Center, Right) to cut the ceremonial ribbon and officially open Trail Seminole Learning Resource Center on March 10.

Trail Community Gets State-Of-The-Art Education Center

BY SHELLEY MARMOR
Assistant Editor

TAMIAMI TRAIL — The 140 members of the Trail Seminole community now have an education facility to call their own after the Trail Seminole Learning Resource Center officially opened its doors.

At the ribbon cutting ceremony, held March 10, the middle school children from Trail who attend the Miccosukee Indian School, Trail Liaison William Osceola and Education Dept. Director Emma Johns cut the ceremonial ribbon to officially open the center.

According to Johns, the Trail Seminole Learning Resource Center, located next to the Trail Field Office, will provide a permanent place where students of all ages can get one-on-one and group tutoring, as well as any other educational assistance they may need.

She said prior to the center's opening, the Education Dept. could only partially serve the needs of those living in Trail.

"Before this, there was never really coordination with the Education Dept. and the Trail community," Johns said.

According to Johns, once a week a staff member from the Hollywood Education Dept. offices would travel to Trail to assist community members with their educational needs. She said they would offer their services from a makeshift office located in the Trail Field Office.

The community now has a permanent structure, complete with five computers, high-speed internet, two private rooms for one-on-one tutoring, and a large main room for group tutoring.

"If you give somebody a nice place to learn, they perform better," said Liaison Osceola.

Tutor Coordinator Julissa Collazo echoed Liaison Osceola's remarks, boasting that "grades have gone up" and "none of our kids are failing."

She said the center will provide the community members, both young and old alike, with a designated learning space. According to Collazo, adults designed help with their college-level classes or GED testing can also utilize the center for tutoring.

She said she has also been in talks with the Tribal Culture Dept. about having culturally-based classes in the Trail Seminole Learning Resource Center in the future.

Though the facility features all the modern, state-of-the-art educational tools now, Liaison Osceola said it used to be nothing more than a concrete structure.

"It's an old building with a lot of history," he said. According to Liaison Osceola, the structure was

□ Please see TRAIL on page 3B

FSU Football Star Myron Rolle Visits Charter School

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The students at Pemaevy Emahav got a very special visit Feb. 20 from Florida State University (FSU) football player and Rhodes Scholar Myron Rolle, who spoke to them about the importance of education.

"Education is like a key," Rolle said. "A key that will open up limitless doors."

Rolle shared stories from his childhood like how his parents wouldn't let him go outside and play sports or with his friends if his school work wasn't done. He said he got a slap on the back and a "good job" if he scored a touchdown, however, admitted when he scored home straight

A's that he got two big pizza pies and a slushie.

"At 22-years-old I see how important it is to have academics be the priority for you," he said. "You may not see it now and that's perfectly fine. Just trust me on this."

Rolle stressed to students that they have been given an opportunity in life to do great things and have the support and guidance of wonderful parents, teachers and community.

"It's always encouraging to hear a story of someone that has been through it, that has gone a little further than you have in your life," he said.

Rolle received a Rhodes Scholarship, one of the most prestigious education awards given, and will be traveling to



Rachel Buxton

Myron Rolle (C) takes the court with the Charter School students. He said he expects to be back on the field and playing for the NFL in 2010.

England next fall to attend the University of Oxford.

"I'm going to get to travel the world and that's not because of anything I did on the football field," Rolle said. "That's simply because of the knowledge I have been able to acquire and how I have been able to apply it."

Rolle has become a household name and permanent fixture at Pemaevy Emahav. Last summer he partnered with the Tribe and developed an academic curriculum called Our Way to Health that focuses on health and wellness. He has tried hard to educate students on diabetes and the need to live a healthy lifestyle through his program as well as his frequent calls and visits to the school.

"I love coming back and I am always welcomed with warm arms," he said with a smile. "It is a wonderful experience to be able to fellowship and have a relationship with the Seminole Tribe of Florida."

Before his speech, Rolle met the fifth graders at the Brighton Gym for a physical education class. Students ran up and greeted him with high fives and hugs. Rolle and students enjoyed an hour of football and four squares.

Rolle said he wants the students to be persistent, and told them "there will be people outside that will throw roadblocks; just keep going."

"Think that being smart is the cool thing, because it is," Rolle said.



Rachel Buxton

(L-R) P.E. Teacher Chris Goodwin and Myron Rolle discussed physical education. The two worked together to implement the "Our Way to Health" curriculum, which Rolle started.

CLUB

From page 1B

He said the goal is to have a schedule of events and activities in place by May. The new club will fall under the umbrella of the existing Hollywood Boys & Girls Club branch, chartered by the Boys & Girls Club



Ricky Joe Alumbaugh concentrates on hitting the ball in the game.



(L-R) Ahfachkee students Eyanna Billie and Rose Jaramillo, and Ahfachkee School Coordinator Eileen Hager, listen to ideas during the kick-off meeting.

of America in 2004. The Seminole branch officially opened its doors in 2005 and boasts an enrollment of 344 children.

North said that start up funding has now been secured through the U.S. Department of Justice Programs for Ahfachkee to begin the program. He said after its completion, this will be the second Native American Boys & Girls Club in the state of Florida.

"I know this is going to be a proven product that works," Ahfachkee School Dean of Students Dominique Troadec said. "There are a lot of creative activities that have already been successful at the Hollywood Reservation as well and they are going to bring that here."

North explained that this club also serves two other important purposes, encouraging healthy lifestyle choices and maintaining a physically active lifestyle.

"I like it because it is supervised and the kids have fun," said Vicki Pratt, mother of Ahfachkee students, Evanne and Ryanne.

"They loved it in Hollywood and they will definitely love it out here," she added. "It always has something different for them to do, which is also why I really like it."

North emphasized that the Tribe remains one of just 11 Tribes nationwide to have a Tribal school join together with the Boys & Girls Club in this type of venture. He said the blueprint for the BC plan came from visits with the Chippewa Indian Tribe of Wisconsin.

Presently there are more than 200 clubs established within Native American communities nationwide, serving 140,000 Native American youth and teens.

According to its website, seminolebgc.org, the mission of the Tribal Boys & Girls Club is to assist Seminole youth in the areas of self-confidence, self-esteem, native culture skills and the ability to grow into productive, responsible contributors to society. For more information please call (954) 964-5947.



(L-R) Ahfachkee School students Allie Swan, Evanne and Ryanne Pratt receive backpacks, courtesy of Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress.

LITERACY

From page 1B

Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress and Tribal Board Rep. Cicero Osceola also took part in the evening and awarded special certificates of appreciation from the Ahfachkee School staff and students for their continued support of education in the community. Both purchased backpacks and MP3 players for the students.

"Literacy is one of the main problems in our Tribe," Rep. Osceola said. "Anything I can continue to do to help these kids, I will do to help."

He explained that he was also pleasantly surprised upon being recognized for his efforts to help the Big Cypress community at the event.

"I was very appreciative for it, but did not expect anything," he pointed out. "We need to do a lot more to help our kids."

With every grade level represented at the affair, teachers set up decorated booths with learning materials and door prize give-a-ways as well. Attendees also had the chance to learn about the Read Right® Program, which is utilized by the school, according to Swan.

According to its website, readright.com, the Read Right® methodology for teaching reading was developed in 1991. It implemented reading intervention programs in elementary schools, middle schools and high schools across the U.S. The program has also taken on the challenges of support for at risk students in alternative high schools.

Its unique approach to teaching reading enables students with reading problems to improve their reading skills in a short period of time. The Read Right® system of instruction helps integrate knowledge from brain research, learning theory, and reading theory and is consistently successful in permanently eliminating reading problems.



Principal Walt Swan Jr. shows off his new haircut after losing the event's attendance bet.

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Shelley Marmor

The Trail Seminole Learning Resource Center provides a state-of-the-art education facility for both youth and adult students.

TRAIL

From page 1B

once Trail community member Norman Huggins' convenience store, some 30 years ago, and he said it remained empty ever since. He said his in-house construction team, headed up by Jake Keyser, transformed the structure into something the entire community will benefit from.

In fact, all the land the Trail offices sit on was donated to Liaison Osceola by community member Pete

Osceola Sr. about five years ago so his community could have a common area for meetings, social events, and other administrative purposes.

Tutoring at the Trail Seminole Learning Resource Center is available Monday-Thursday, and Friday by request only. Tutor Coordinator Julissa Collazo can be reached at (954) 931-1532 to coordinate Friday tutoring requests.

For more information on the Trail Seminole Learning Resource Center, please call (305) 553-8245, Ext. 18714.



Shelley Marmor

(L-R, Back Row) Trail Seminole Assistant Office Manager Michael Cantu, Education Dept. Director Emma Johns, Trail Liaison William Osceola, Trail Coordinator Julissa Collazo, Trail Executive Administrator Assistant Yusefyn Manso and Education Advisor Will Bacon with the Trail community children inside the center.

BILLIE

From page 1B

"I felt something is lacking in some areas of my life," she said. "If I go back to school it will open doors in business and to the society."

Understandably, her attempt to attend college was a rough road in the first few semesters. "I didn't know how to deal with the vast majority of people and I didn't understand the words the professors used," Billie explained.

With assistance from the school she is attending, Edison State College in Southwest Florida, and a tutor provided by the Education Dept., she has shown a remarkable improvement. Billie made A's and B's in her tests in reading and writing, and has learned new vocabulary words.

"Celeste has shown a different level of commitment now compared to when she started," said her tutor Janet Marti. "She is very eager to learn and prioritize her studies."

Given her enthusiasm, Marti thinks Celeste will complete her associate's degree in one and a half years, when it normally takes two.

A large part of it also comes from her determination and personal growth. Having to overcome many obsta-

cles, including an accident in 1998 which left her with brain injury, causing memory problems and depression, Billie exemplifies the spirit of never giving up.

For years, she had been battling depression and there were days that she said she just did not want to do anything. Only when she realized her spirituality did she feel better.

"Re-dedicating my life to Christ and my spiritual healing has made me more positive and focused," Billie said.

A lot of her past negative experiences have been part of her journey toward recovery. She now feels good about herself, and confident that she can accomplish her goal of finishing her associate's degree, and even attaining further degrees. Billie said she ultimately sees herself working and helping the Tribe as a counselor or a teacher.

Asked what she thinks about the youth today, Billie said she is scared for them due to many temptations in the environment. If given a chance to be in a leadership position, she said that she would stress to the youth to get educated past high school and she would be spending a lot of time with the youth and the elders.

"The Tribe's unity is important and has to leave the conflict issues behind and come together as one," Billie said.



Marisol Gonzalez

Higher education student Celeste Billie (R) gets help with her schoolwork from her tutor Janet Marti.

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PEMAYETV EMAHAKV STUDENT HONORS

Awards for Jan. 20-30, 2009

Kindergarten Mrs. Duncan – Rubie Osceola Mrs. Webber – Hyatt Brugh	Second Grade Mrs. Ball – Aiden Tommie Mrs. Moss – Kyle Palmisano	Fourth Grade Mrs. Tedders – Samuel Osceola Mrs. Williams – Jaden Puente
First Grade Mrs. Davis – Tucker Johns Mrs. Ringstaff – Madison Osceola Mrs. Hudson – Hunter Howard	Third Grade Mrs. Clements – Joseph Osceola Mrs. Pryor – Morgan King	Fifth Grade Mrs. Dobbs – Imillakiyo Osceola Mrs. Finney – Dezmom Shore



Awards for Feb. 2-12, 2009

Kindergarten Mrs. Duncan – Heith Lawrence Mrs. Webber – Ryanna Osceola	Second Grade Mrs. Ball – Luzana Venzor Mrs. Moss – Andrew Fish	Fourth Grade Mrs. Tedders – Lanie Sedatol Mrs. Williams – Jaden Puente
First Grade Mrs. Davis – Dante Thomas Mrs. Ringstaff – Nyah Davidson Mrs. Hudson – Rubie Osceola	Third Grade Mrs. Clements – Ivess Baker Mrs. Pryor – Marquis Fudge	Fifth Grade Mrs. Dobbs – CW Ortiz Mrs. Finney – Trista Osceola



Ahfachkee Tile-Making Contest Supports Fight Against Diabetes

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The students of Ahfachkee School showed their artistic side, while supporting a good cause, Feb. 18-19.

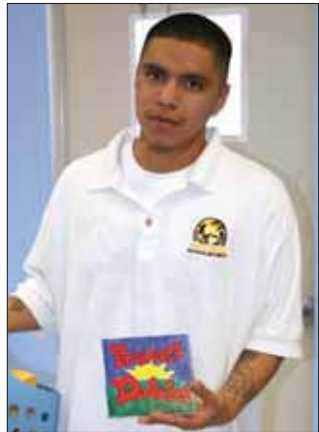
The Tribe's Allied Health Dept. sponsored a tile painting contest in support of diabetes prevention.

"It was something we could get the whole school involved in," said Tribal citizen and contest co-ordinator Barbara Billie. "[The students] have remembered the purpose of it, for sure. They have come up saying they remember things they have been taught especially in eating healthy."

The contest began in December of last year with entries held and collected at the school Diabetes Carnival. The official judging took place in January. The winners received a nutritional gift basket courtesy of the department.

Students in grades pre-kindergarten through 12th participated in the event, with up to three winners selected from each class.

The winners were: Pre-Kindergarten: Harmony Cypress, Charlie Osceola; Kindergarten: Brandi Osceola,



Chris C. Jenkins

Twelfth grade tile-painting contest winner, Steven Hannahs.

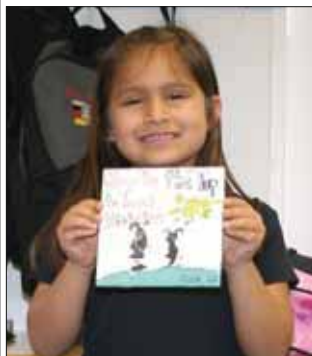
Amaya Solano; First grade: Thoya Robbins, Shana Bentine; Second grade: Alyssa Osceola, Mazzy Robbins; Third grade: Jathaniel Brooks, Fourth grade: Darius Friday; Fifth grade: Echo Porter; Sixth grade: Mika Lopez; Seventh grade: Chloe Wolf; Eighth grade: Alexis Aguilar; Ninth grade: Stevie Billie, Ragan Osceola, Robin Landin; Tenth grade: Renee Engel, Jose Cisneros Jr.; Eleventh grade: Chauncey Osceola; Twelfth grade: Steven Hannahs.

"I am surprised I won, but happy," said fourth grade winner Darius Friday.

"When [the instructors at the Diabetes Carnival] were talking about eating healthy it made me think about vegetables and other stuff," Friday, whose painting idea centered on good eating habits, added.

His teacher, Mr. Garcia, said Friday and the other students benefitted from the contest.

"I think the whole thing was very engaging for the students," he said. "They learned a lot and had fun with it."



Chris C. Jenkins

Second grader Alyssa Osceola displays her winning tile painting about diabetes prevention.



Chris C. Jenkins

(L-R) Community Health Advocate Barbara Billie shows off the winning tile made by fourth grader Darius Friday.

Rapper Litefoot Encourages Charter School Students to Excel in Life

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Native American rapper Litefoot took a break from his Reach the Rez Tour Feb. 19 to pay a visit to Pemayetv Emahakv to speak with students about a very important issue.

"I want to encourage you to do some good things in your life," said Litefoot. "Make your family proud, your Tribe proud, and your community proud."

Students listened as Litefoot told a legend about a little boy that didn't know what he was to do with his life in order to help the people in his village.

Litefoot drew the kids in with his amazing story telling and performing abilities. The story went on to tell how the little boy went away and finally figured out how to help his community only to later be distracted by a snake symbolizing evil and drugs.

"If your heart is Litefoot told you it's not right, it's not right," Litefoot told the students.

He explained to the students that parents and teachers are trying to teach them so they will be able to make the right decisions when they get older.

"If people are telling you something, they are because they care for you," Litefoot said.

Litefoot is no stranger to speaking and empowering Native communities. He travels across the U.S. and throughout Indian Country using his music to send positive messages.

"There's a lot of negativity and we need to send another message," he said. "We need to be proactive and go out into the community."

Litefoot is a member of the Cherokee Nation and resides in Seattle, Wash. He is currently on tour to promote his latest album "Relentless Pursuit," and travels in his tour bus that was donated by the Seminole Tribe.

In addition to his successful music career, Litefoot has also starred in movies including "The Indian in the Cupboard" and "Mortal Kombat: Annihilation," as well as the TV series CSI: Miami.



Jeanine Gran

Cherokee hip-hop artist Litefoot speaks to the Charter School students on Feb. 19.

HEALTH



(L-R) Family Services Dept. Director Helene Buster, Ray Yzaguirre Sr. from the Immokalee Family Services Dept. After Care Program, Andy Buster and Immokalee Prevention Program Manager Fred Mullins greet partygoers at the Unity in the Community event.

‘Unity in the Community’ Event Promotes Drug-Free Lifestyle

IMMOKALEE — The Immokalee Family Services Dept. has initiated a program called Unity in the Community for members of the Immokalee community to take a stand against drug and alcohol abuses, and to promote wholesome family and cultural values.

A pit for the Community Camp Fire was constructed beside the lake and its welcoming blaze drew people of all ages for gatherings on Jan. 9 and Feb. 13.

A simple concept, Unity in the Community continues to grow in popularity under the coordinated efforts of Family Services Dept. Director Helene Buster and others.

“Hanging out doesn’t have to be on a street corner, in a bar or gang,” she said. “It can be a wholesome social activity such as the community fire. You don’t have to be high to enjoy yourself and the companionship of others.”

In addition Buster’s husband, Andy, staff from the Immokalee Seminole Ranch,



(L-R) Jaila Yzaguirre and grandfather, Ray, sit around the campfire at the Immokalee first-ever Unity in the Community event.

Preparing for Mosquito Season

BY AVA JOHN & DOUG WILSON
Environmental Health Program

With the spring season, come mosquitoes. In addition to being a nuisance and causing severe reactions to bites in some people, mosquitoes can also transmit diseases including malaria and Dengue in humans, equine encephalomyelitis in horses, heartworm disease in dogs and cats, and West Nile virus in many species.

Throughout the years, Florida has confirmed several mosquito-borne disease outbreaks like St. Louis encephalitis, Dengue, malaria and dog heartworm. However, since 1959, St. Louis encephalitis has become the most common mosquito-borne disease found in humans in Florida. The virus cycles between birds and the Culex mosquito, which breed in stagnant water.

While stagnant water is where most mosquitoes lay their eggs, it is the adult mosquito that carries the encephalitis virus away from the water. Only in very rare cases is the St. Louis encephalitis virus passed from infected females to their eggs. This is why it is important to maintain yards to help reduce the number of adult mosquitoes, which may be carrying the virus.

Here are some simple tips to help reduce the number of mosquitoes resting in your yard.

Lawn: Mosquitoes like to rest in tall grass. Keep your grass cut short.

Trees/Hedges/Bushes: Keep your tree branches, hedges and bushes trimmed from a ground level to a height of 12 inches. The more shade you have, the more mosquitoes will be attracted to rest in your yard.

Tire Swing: Drill drainage holes in the bottom of tire swings to eliminate standing water that serves as an excellent mosquito breeding habitat.

Kiddie Pool: Empty it, clean it, and store it when not in use. Standing water can become stagnant and produce an optimum mosquito breeding site.

Sand Box: Make sure sand box toys are not flooded and left for long periods of time. A pail or push toy full of water is a potential breeding site for mosquitoes.

Litter: Remove litter from your yard. Mosquitoes can lay eggs virtually anywhere - including discarded wrappers, cans, and bottles.

Bird Bath: If you have a bird bath, flush it at least once a week to avoid stagnant, nutrient-rich water - a mosquito’s favorite breeding ground.

Rain Gutters: Don’t forget to clean out your rain gutters - debris can reduce flow, creating a mosquito haven.

Sun: Try to have lots of open space in your yard. Mosquitoes don’t like direct sunlight. The more sun in your yard, the better the chances are for minimizing mosquito activity.

Rain Barrel: Empty rain barrels once a week. Standing water is an ideal breeding site for mosquitoes.

Pool: Treat pools with bleach, which kills off mosquito larvae.

The Mosquito Control Program requests those with questions please call the Health Dept. at (954) 965-1300 for information.

NATIVE BOOK REVIEW BY RAMONA KIYOSHK

[Editor’s Note: Ramona Kiyoskh is a freelance writer and member of the Ojibway First Nation of Wapuk Island, Ontario. The opinions she expresses are her own. She can be reached at satin.moccasins@gmail.com.]

Betty Mae Tiger Jumper is indeed a legend in her own time. The “Jumper” was added at age 24 when she married Moses Jumper, a childhood friend. The venerable lady, in her eighties, is still active in the work she loves best — helping her Seminole people to a good life — and by her own example, showing them what is possible.

Her story, documented in the book “A Seminole Legend: The Life of Betty Mae Tiger Jumper,” reads like a contrived script for the silver screen, but this is a case where fiction pales beside real life. No writer, regardless of talent, could have come up with this saga of survival against all odds: from Tribal ousting to healer, leader and national icon.

Betty Mae Tiger was born in the Everglades, when Okeechobee was still the Big Lake and Indiantown was a tiny settlement in the wilderness, home to a few Indian, white and Spanish families and a stopover for trappers and traders.

The Seminoles were an insular people then. Still recovering from years of war and hardship, they shunned the white perpetrators and held the European culture and lifestyle in contempt. Their adamant resistance, after three costly battles over a 40 year period, forced the U.S. Army to withdraw in frustration.

Very few Seminoles were coerced into the long march to Oklahoma in what was termed the Great Removal, Andrew Jackson’s solution to the Indian problem.

The small band of surviving Florida Seminoles, less than a thousand, guarded their freedom tenaciously, ever suspicious of outsiders, especially white people. Miscegenation was a crime punishable by death. On April 27, 1923, Ada Tiger, of the Snake Clan, living in the Seminole camp in Indiantown, gave birth to a baby girl whose father was a French trapper. The child was named Elizabeth after the white woman, Sis (Elizabeth) Savage, who helped deliver her.

Betty’s father was driven off and the Seminole medicine men and elders plotted to put the half-breed child to death. Half-white children were drowned or suffocated by filling their mouths with sand. Sometimes a child was left out in a field where no one could hear its cries. Fortunately for baby Betty, her grandfather had converted to Christianity and he tried to protect the child and her mother. Still, the baby was in danger of being seized and killed.

Betty’s uncle took her to live with Fannie Savage, the sister of the midwife. Fannie was expecting a child and not-nursed Betty until she could be with her own mother in a safe place.

“I don’t know what my family would have done without the Savage family in those days,” Betty writes in the memoir. “Before me, all half-breed kids were killed as soon as they were born. None were as lucky as I, being born into a family that had received Christ.”

Just two and a half years later, Betty’s brother, Howard, also half-white, was born. After a confrontation that resulted in gunfire and the arrest of Betty’s grandfather,

the family decided they would move to the federal reservation at Dania, now called Hollywood. Betty writes about the move in her book.

A big truck took her grandfather and their belongings and pets. The women and children followed on the train. When they reached the station in Dania, they set off on foot in the heat and dust, loaded down with bundles.

In their new home, the children were no longer in danger of being killed, but as half-breeds in a Christian family; they were still the targets of prejudice and scorn in the community.

Very few people lived at Dania in the beginning. Traditional Seminoles viewed any accommodating gesture by the government as a trap and many refused to move their families to the federal reservation.

It was mainly poverty, brought about by the Great Depression and Second World

political office.

Betty Mae would have to overcome many barriers. Her own grandmother was against her going off to the Indian boarding school to get an education. Reading and writing was the white man’s way, they said, as was speaking English and worshipping as a Christian.

In the community, the Indian kids ostracized her and her brother. The white kids who came in contact with the reservation kids called them “dirty Indians” and threw rocks at them. They were not allowed to attend the schools in the white community, and often were forced to use the back doors of restaurants and stores, reserved for blacks. Still Betty Mae would not be discouraged.

She finished high school, got her nurse’s training and went to work with the Seminoles, visiting the remote communities. Her stories about riding around South Florida in an ancient Ford Model T, to help the sick, injured and to deliver babies are funny and sad. Betty Mae drove to the far-flung Seminole communities with Miss Esther Drury, the public health nurse, who was scared to death of Indians.

They had to change tires, coax a dead engine to life and often ended up sleeping in a disabled vehicle in the middle of nowhere. They would joke about their choice of work when they could be in a cozy job in a hospital in town.

Often they were chased away from the villages and camps by gun-brandishing Seminoles who insisted they had their own medicine men. They battled superstition, witchcraft and mistrust, still they persevered. Betty Mae Jumper would one day become known by the Seminoles as Doctor Lady.

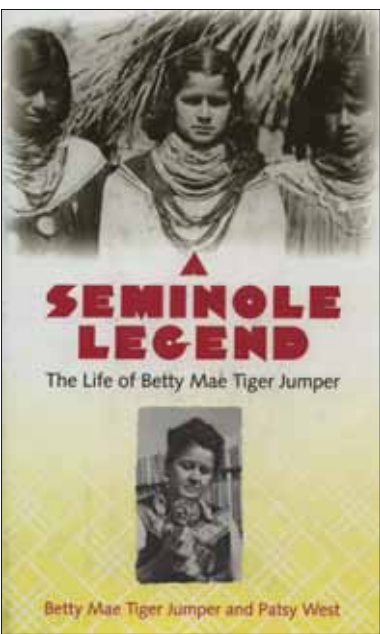
In 1946, Betty Mae married Moses Jumper. They would have three children. In the 1940s and 1950s, Florida Indians were involved heavily in tourism, living in theme parks, where the public would pay to see them going about their everyday activities. Alligator wrestling was added to the attractions. Moses Jumper was a star alligator wrestler, often earning more than \$100 a day in tips.

Betty Mae’s other accomplishments included creating the first Tribal newspaper, the forerunner to the *Seminole Tribune*, getting elected as the first chairman of the Seminole Tribe, heading the Seminole Communications Dept., and receiving an honorary doctorate from Florida State University.

President Richard Nixon appointed her to a two-year term on the National Indian Opportunity Council. As well, Betty Mae has authored three books, made recordings of Seminole legends and history and continues to work toward the betterment of her people. She is a strong disciple of Christ. It was Betty Mae who insisted the Tribal flag include the words “In God We Trust.”

This book is recommended reading. A single review cannot do it justice. It is a true story filled with hair-raising escapes, colorful adventures, in a sweeping landscape of a people and a place that transcends time, history and imagination.

For more about Betty Mae Tiger Jumper, visit www.seminoletribe.com/bettymae/index.shtml. Jumper’s books are available on the Seminole Marketplace at www.seminoletribe.com/marketplace.



A Seminole Legend: The Life of Betty Mae Tiger Jumper By Betty Mae Tiger Jumper and Patsy West Hard cover, 199 pages University of Florida Press, 2001

War, that made more families choose to relocate and reluctantly take work as field hands and laborers. A craft industry sprang up when the women learned that tourists would buy souvenirs.

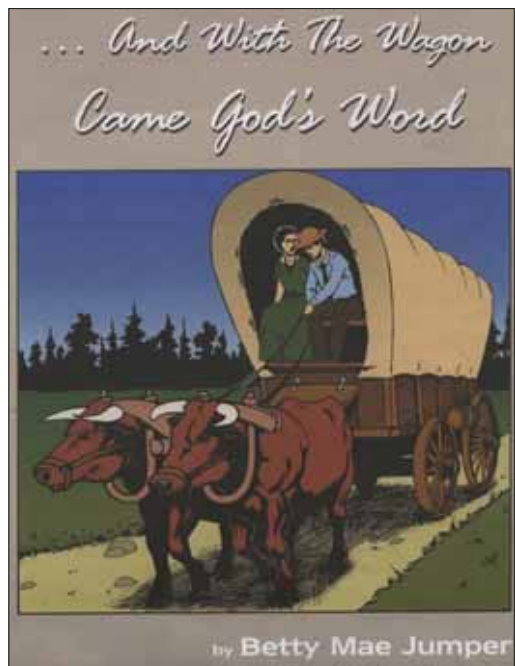
The tension between the traditional Seminoles who clung to their old ways and the new Christian converts continued. Betty Mae Jumper had by then become a committed Christian, finding peace and safety in her faith.

Years ahead of her time in her thinking, she saw value in both Seminole tradition and in the Christian way of life. She would strive to meld the two paths as she set out on a life plan that included getting an education, becoming a nurse to deliver health care to the remote areas, and finally getting elected to

opportunity Council. As well, Betty Mae has authored three books, made recordings of Seminole legends and history and continues to work toward the betterment of her people. She is a strong disciple of Christ. It was Betty Mae who insisted the Tribal flag include the words “In God We Trust.”

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...And With The Wagon Came God's Word By Betty Mae Jumper For Young Readers Seminole Tribe of Florida Communications's Dept., 2000

Sports

Rodeo2C

C



(L-R) BC Board Rep. Cicero Osceola, Fitness Dome staff member Gina Allardice, President Richard Bowers Jr., Fitness Dome staff member Luis Gutierrez, Chairman Mitchell Cypress and BC Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress at the ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony of the Big Cypress Fitness Dome.

Community Celebrates Grand Opening of Fitness Dome

Facility Will Offer Fitness Programs, Classes to Big Cypress Community

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — A fitness event three years in the making took place on March 4 as Tribal representatives, Big Cypress community members and invited guests gathered for the unveiling and ribbon cutting ceremony of the Big Cypress Fitness Dome facility.

Classes at the new center will be tailored to in-

crease health and fitness within the area. "I remember a long time ago we did not have things like this so it shows you that the Tribe has come a long ways," BC Board Rep. Cicero Osceola said. "I hope everyone enjoys it."

Equipped with gymnastic and martial arts equipment, the dome will serve multiple purposes. Youth Fitness Coordinator Gina Allardice explained, "We want to run a really great program and have a lot of kids come through here," she said. "Having

this facility is fun whether a person is competing or not."

Gymnastics classes started on March 9, while martial arts began on March 12.

The weekly schedule of events will cater to both youth and adult activities. Regularly scheduled Monday through Friday activities will include Parent and Me Programs, an On My Own Program, both individual and joint adults, boys and girls programs, a preschool program, as well as Youth Field Days and Senior Get Fit Days. Hours and times will vary.

"It does not matter what you are into, it is here, and you have no excuse now not to come," BC Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress said.

Allardice added that part of her goal with the facility is to increase the overall health of the community. Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Ft. Pierce Liaison S.R. Tommie also encouraged those in attendance to improve their health through fitness, with Liaison Tommie saying she hopes the facility "will be a part of your everyday life."

Chairman Cypress agreed. "Fitness is for everybody; it has always been a part of the Seminole Tribe," he said. "We just needed to get it together and do it."

Tribal mother Toi Andrews said daughter, Dayra Koenes, will definitely take advantage of the facility, especially since it is located so close to home in BC. "I think it is a great idea," Andrews said. "To actually have my kids into something like this in our backyard is just great."

According to the American Council on Exercise one in five children in the U.S. are overweight and about 15 percent of children and adolescents ages 6-19 are seriously overweight. The percentage of children and adolescents who are defined as overweight has also nearly tripled since the early 1970s.

For registration information please call Denise Masak at (954) 445-1274 or for more information about the Big Cypress Fitness Dome call Gina Allardice at (954) 989-9457, Ext. 12416 or at (954) 605-8909.



The Seminole Warriors cheerleaders show their spirit as they perform a routine for audience members to commemorate the Fitness Dome opening on March 4.

Lady Eagles Make it to FHSAA State Semifinals

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

LAKELAND Fla. — The Hollywood's basketball team traveled to the Lakeland Center to compete for the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) state title on Feb. 26. Aimee Osceola, Malesha Issac and Ariah Osceola represented the Tribe on the team.

Although they were not victorious, they played as a team and made it to the semifinals. The team was the only 2A team that made it back to the top four from their district for the FHSAA semifinals for the second consecutive year.

Assistant Coach Marl Osceola said they had a successful great season overall. He also added that everyone on the team had a specific job, whether to score, defend or assist the team to succeed.

"The girls work together as a team," Osceola said. "They can't win with only one person."

Osceola said the girls on the team have a lot of potential and as long as they keep working hard they can achieve whatever they want. He encourages the girls to fulfill their dreams and take the chances and opportunities that are given.

"I hope to see the girls attend college and even play in the WNBA in the future."

he said.

During a typical day, the girls would attend school during the day and practice in the afternoon. During their summer break, the girls typically put in more time for practice for tournaments they participated in through the Tribe's basketball teams.

Coach Osceola said in some cases, they played in two or three games a day.

Ariah Osceola, daughter of Marl and Francine Osceola, has been playing basketball since about the age of 8. In April 2008 she was named All-Broward County Class 1A-3A by *The Miami Herald* newspaper. This was an honor of which only a handful of middle school students were chosen from participating in various sports.

She is currently a freshman at Hollywood Christian Academy. She plays as a guard, and this season averaged 15.8 points per game.

In May of last year, the Below the Rim Hollywood basketball team, which had several players from the Lady Eagles team, participated in the Amateur Athletic Union Spring Fling 2 in Orlando. There, they emerged victorious, taking home the championship title. They then went on to the Vision Sports National Youth Basketball Championships in Las Vegas in July, and also came back with a championship title.



Aimee Osceola shoots and scores at the FHSAA state semifinals on Feb. 26.

Tribal Citizens Compete in Gasparilla Sporting Events

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Writer

Raevin Frank, Carson Knaby and Cathy Cypress traveled to Florida's west coast to take part in Gasparilla sporting events the weekend of Feb. 27-28.

Frank, 11, and Knaby, 10, joined more than 3,000 fellow athletes who rolled and tumbled their way to one of the largest gymnastics meets in the U.S. The two competed on Feb. 27 in the 21st annual Gasparilla Gymnastics Classic, held at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg.

Both girls had an amazing finish, with Frank placing sixth all-around and Knaby finishing eighth all-around in their USA Gymnastics Level 4 division.

The teammates traveled from Hollywood to represent Park Avenue Gymnastics in Cooper City, Fla., where they each train three days a week.

"They work very hard when they are in the gym," said Coach Brett Wargo. "It never seems like a job for them."

The girls competed in four events: vault, uneven bars, balance beam and floor exercises.

Frank scored a 9.425 on the vault, giving her a second place finish in that event.

Knaby made an impressive comeback on the bars after not competing in the event for half the season. She kept focus and completed the routine, which she learned just days before.

"Carson has made a lot of improvement on the bars," said Wargo. "She has struggled, but has continued to work hard."

□ Please see GASPARILLA on page 4C

Eastern Indian Rodeo Held in Conjunction With Field Day

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) hosted its 2009 Brighton Field Day Rodeo on the evening of Feb. 19 at the Fred Smith Rodeo arena. "The Brighton Field Day Festival is in its 71st year and rodeo has become a major part of the celebration," said Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith. "Cattle were introduced to Brighton over 75 years ago and have become an important part of our economy. Like many in our community, my family raised beef and supported the rodeo activities that evolved from ranch life."

Fifteen little Munton Busters, decked out in their colorful chaps, vests and helmets, won the hearts of the audience as they exited the chutes on their woolly mounts. Bull fighters, clowns, arena stewards and parents awaited their explosive entry into the arena to rescue the young riders from peril when they landed in the clay.

Tightly gripping a handful of curly hair, Myron Billie managed a 7.16 second ride for first place. Hot on his heels to place were Amaya Shenandoah and Norman Osceola.

Pony Rider Jabea Johns had tough luck when his mount balked upon leaving the chute. This misfortune granted him a re-ride option. Snapping up the opportunity, Johns took first place with 51 points on his re-run.

Frank Huff's paint catapulted him through the air, but not before he earned 49 points for a second place win. Third, Mark Holmes scared everyone when his hand became entangled in the rigging and he was dragged a short distance. The bull fighters cornered the pony, giving Holmes a chance to break free.

Calif Rider Raven King drew a cream colored bombshell for a wild ride, but it didn't keep him from beating the clock for a 40 point first place. The next longest ride went to A.J. Tigertail and Drayton Billie. Jode Johns somer-

□ Please see EIRA on page 2C

SKATERS Nation Opens X Park for Community

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Some (SKATERS) Nation originated at the Seminole (KIDS) National Tribal organized in mid-2008 as a character building athletic club under the supervision of the Family Services Dept. Prevention Program and the Immokalee Recreation Dept.

Family Services Dept. Prevention Advocate Fred Mullins and Immokalee Recreation Dept. Director Johnny Boone coordinated their efforts to facilitate the final steps necessary in opening the previously constructed skateboard park to be known as the X Park.

Skateboarding is currently one of the fastest growing sports in the U.S. During the past few years, skateboarding has also become very popular with the Native American communities, which have been organizing intertribal competitions.

The 2008 Gathering of Nations, the largest pow-wow in the nation, hosted the Native American skate jam with entrants from all across the North American continent.

SKATERS held their first meeting in Immokalee just before the first of the year. Establishing an assessment period, Mullins and Boone created a set of rules and regulations to apply to all age groups and held safety classes for the participants.

Skateboarding professional Frankie Leon, known throughout Florida as "The Dirt King," or simply, "Dirt," provided his experience in setting up a program that would benefit as many youngsters as possible. Holding several clinics and exhibitions, Dirt explained how to create a safe sporting atmosphere. Working with individuals and groups, the skate master encouraged participation at all age levels. In mid-January so the children could construct their own boards. This order only lasted for the first class, and another set of 20 kits quickly followed.

□ Please see SKATERS on page 4C

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RODEO

EIRA

From page 1C

saulted to the ground in fourth position.

Andre Jumper had a Steer Rider's nightmare when his beast threw itself to the ground and rolled over on him. Breaking free, Jumper went back into the chute and took first place with 51 points on a re-ride. Rayven Smith's 46 points for second place came hard, but he exited the arena with a big smile.

Junior Bull Rider William Bearden earned 60 points on a black and white speckled monster that spun like a top as he raced the clock. Billy Foley and Josh Johns were hot on his heels until Jamie Gonzales slid into second place, dropping them back in the lineup.

The Junior Barrel Racers competed in three age appropriate categories, however, this doesn't define their skills. Some of these youngsters have been competing for a long time and began their careers on lead line while only 4 years old. Others didn't start until they reached age 10 or 12.

Dayra Koenes, Brighton Bauman, Budah Jumper and Canaan Jumper came up through these ranks and are now vying for the winning places in the 4-8 age category, as they fly through the barrel patterns on their own.

In the 9-12 Barrels bracket, riders like Ahnie Jumper, Calgary Johns and Kelton Smedley achieved 16 and 17 second runs that are the envy of some of the adults. Winners in the 13-18 age division were determined in part by the penalties for knocking over barrels.

Separated only by fractions of a second, this group achieved awesome scores with a final outcome of Acelynn Wyngblood, Ravenne Osceola, Ashley Parks and Ragan Osceola Tigertail.

first place during the main event. However, Grey Wolf Herrera pushed him back to second during the running of the slack at the end of the night with a 5.3 run. Brent Belkham finished third.

Hilliard Gopher's fast time of 14.4 in the Calf Roping turned into a heart breaker when the buzzer indicated a broken barrier and added a 10 second penalty. Josh



William Bearden prepares to free his hand following a winning ride in the Junior Bulls event.

Jumper took first with a clean 16.1 and Ivan Bruised Head squeaked into second with 11 flat, plus 10 for the barrier.

Incredibly, there was a three way first place tie in the Ladies Breakaway between Lizzie Dixey, Trina Bowers and Taylor Johns, all scoring 4.1 seconds. They filled all the winning slots by splitting first through third awards.

With a 60 second time limit, EIRA Vice President Paul Bowers Sr. needed only 17.4 seconds to become the winner of the Breakaway Legends Roping.

A total of 29 teams competed in the Team Roping event with brothers Josh and Naha Jumper setting the bar at 6.7 seconds at the very beginning. Greg Lewis and Shawn Fisher slid into second and the remainder of the lineup fluctuated back and forth during the slack for the next four places.

The final tally included Marvin Bowers/Hilliard Gopher, Jess Colloffower/Shawn John, Ivan Bruised Head/Wise Bruised Head and Al Tigertail/Brent Belkham.

Ladies Barrel Racers competed with the Bull Riders for the most dangerous sport of the evening. Reisha Doctor was temporarily knocked unconscious when she went off her horse on the home stretch. Marilee Johns flew head first into the arena floor as she came off the third barrel. Fortunately, both women suffered no permanent injuries and plan to ride again.

With 20 contestants racing through the pattern, the winning times were tabulated within thousandths of a second, ranging from 16 to 16.495. The final analysis included Shelby DeHass, Boogie Jumper, Lorelita Peterson and Leanna Billie.

Teenager Seth Randolph stole the show in the Bull Riding when he completed a remarkable 82 point score.

Randolph began his career on sheep in the Junior Rodeo and has worked his way to the top. Past Champions Badger Black, Greg Lewis and Justin Gopher congratulated their new competitor.



Following a family tradition, Clarissa Bowers starts her son, Kaleb, out on lead line in the 4-8 age division Barrels event.

Andre Jumper was robbed of a first place win in the Junior Breakaway when his steer was lassoed but ran through the loop to freedom. This created an opening for Josh Johns with his exceptional 4.7 second run for first. He was followed by Dalton Bonney with 5.7 and Kelton Smedley with a time of 9.11 seconds.

Due to the high volume of Junior entries, the EIRA Sanctioned Events got a late start. Moses "Big" Jumper Jr. was impressed with the number of young riders.

"Rodeo is a part of Seminole tradition and anytime is a good time to rodeo," he said. "Many of the contenders that you see this evening began their careers in the juniors and before long you will see the youngsters work their way into the adult lineup."

In the opening event, Junior Bareback Riders Andrew Holmes and William Bearden tied for first place with 58 points. Following the customary procedure for ties, first and second place winnings were totaled and then divided equally between the recipients. Joe Wilson, Shilo Amiotte and Brighton's Jacoby Johns garnered the high scores in the adult division.

First place Saddle Bronc winner Kaden Deal didn't see the last of his ride until he was bucked over the pickup rider's horse upon dismounting. Ivan Bruised Head and Jess Collofflower tied for second and Tuck Johnson brought in a close third.

Steer Wrestler Scott Many Gray Horses needed only 7.5 seconds to take



No longer on lead line, Araya Youngblood completed a perfect barrel pattern in 81.804 seconds.

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RODEO



Competitor Jason Morgan rides Seminole Wind during the PRCA Rodeo, held Feb. 20-22, in conjunction with Field Days.

Cowboys Give Their All at PRCA Field Days Rodeo

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Cowboys from all across the country joined in Brighton's Field Day festivities as they participated in the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association (PRCA) rodeo, held the weekend of Feb. 20-22, at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena.

The rodeo consisted of eight events with each night featuring different riders. It was anyone's competition with the cowboys only having one shot to make their mark and take the lead.

Bareback riders were the first out of the gate. Many drew rough rides with difficulty staying on for the full 8 seconds. Jake Brown from Hillsboro, Texas rode like a pro on Klein Brothers Pro Rodeo's Plain Jane scoring an 82 and taking first place. Bee Jay Scott from Otley, Iowa fell short by two points, and took second.

Juan Alcazar of Saint Cloud, Fla. wrestled his steer to the ground right out of the box. He finished in an impressive 4.4 seconds claiming his spot at the top of the leader board for the rodeo and giving him third ranking in the Southeastern Circuit Standings.

Shane Hanchey of Sulphur, La. showed why he is ranked first in the Southeastern Circuit Standings when he claimed the first place spot in Tie-Down Roping with a time of 8 seconds. Derrick Traylor from Eustis, Fla. took second place, just 1 second behind Hanchey.

Cowboy Jesse Kruse of Great Falls, Mont. owned the Saddle Bronc Riding competition, being the only rider to score in the 90s. Kruse got a score of 91 on Five Star Rodeo's Tiny, giving him the rodeo title and a fifth place ranking in the PRCA world standings.

The steers put up a great challenge for headers and heelers in the team roping event. Header Bradley Massey of Perry, Fla. and Heeler Justin Johnson of Live Oak, Fla. were up for the challenge when they roped their steer in 5.5 seconds, earning first place. Cory Kidd of Charlotte, N.C. and Adam Plyler of Pageland, S.C.

snagged second place with a time of 5.6 seconds.

The ladies made a name for themselves during the barrel race competition of the rodeo, especially when Joanna Parker raced her way to first place with a time of 15.06.

Every night the crowd anxiously awaited the favorite event of every rodeo - bull riding. Bull rider Wayne Hontz Jr. from Orlando was definitely worth the wait and didn't disappoint. Riding on Five Star Rodeo's #559, he held on for 8 seconds and took the competition by six points with a score of 85.

Hontz is currently ranked fifth in the Southeastern Circuit Standings.



Brandon Holmes of Livingston, Ala. ranks 36 in the world standing for bareback riding.

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Rachel Buxton
Raevyn Frank finishes the season with a 9.075 for the floor exercise event.



Rachel Buxton
Carson Knaby performs her routine on the uneven bars. She scored an 8.5 in the event.

GASPARILLA

Frank and Knaby both shined in the floor exercise portion of the competition with second and third place



Rachel Buxton
Cathy Cypress crosses the finish line with a time of 1:19:14, beating her goal of 1:30 by almost 10 seconds.

finishes, respectively.
The Gasparilla Gymnastics Classic was the final event of the sport's season. However, these girls won't be taking a break from the gym or their training any time soon.

"I'm still going to go to practice," said Knaby. This summer, Frank will be attending a gymnastics camp in Pennsylvania, taught by Olympic gymnasts, which she said she hopes to be one day.

Cathy Cypress of the Big Cypress Reservation made her way in the wee hours of the morning Feb. 28 to run amongst thousands in the 2009 Publix Super Markets Gasparilla Distance Classic, held in Tampa.

Cypress ran in her first 15K, or 9.3 mile, marathon and came in with a time of 1:19:14. "It was pretty easy," Cypress said. "I just concentrated on having long strides and keeping my pace and listened to my music."

Cypress is an avid runner and can usually be found running along Spades Road or training in the gym in the early morning hours.

"I'm a morning person," Cypress said. "I have four kids so I get them up and out of the house and then I get out."

Cypress began running at the age of 16, primarily for health reasons.

"It began for weight loss and then I ended up liking it," Cypress said.

In January, Cypress participated in the ING Miami Marathon, where she ran a 13.1 mile half marathon. She said it was the furthest she had ever run in competition at the time.

Running has become second nature for Cypress. She has her next marathon already lined up, a 12K in St. Petersburg, Fla.

"They have those stickers that say 'Running is cheaper than therapy,'" she joked. "It's true; running helps."

SKATERS

From page 1C

The project included maple boards, surfacing materials, pro trucks, precision bearings and poly wheels. Using permanent art supplies, the kids decorated the bottom of their boards after constructing them, giving each a personal touch.

Safety is a paramount issue and all of the youngsters can quickly recite the rules upon request. Helmets in a variety of sizes are available from a storage area constructed beneath the ramps and racks support the boards in between usage.

The park is surrounded by security fencing and closely supervised by Recreation Dept. personnel whenever open for activities.



Judy Weeks
Christopher Briscoll lays out horizontal as he flies off the ramp.



Judy Weeks
Billy Walker has perfect balance as he shoots the half pipe on his new board.



Judy Weeks
Family Services Dept. Prevention Advocate Fred Mullins (C) watches as (L-R) Jon Jimmie, Troy Cantu, Jillian Rodriguez and Crystal Garcia complete three new skateboards.

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Exercise Promoted at Monthly Preschool Physical Fitness Day Event

BY SHELLEY MARMOR
Assistant Editor

HOLLYWOOD — Once a month for about the last two years, Youth Fitness Coordinator Gina Allardyce and other members of the Fitness Dept. lead the Tribal preschoolers in various activities during the Get Fit Field Day events.



Shelley Marmor

Natalia Perez of the Fitness Dept. stretches with the preschoolers before they begin their activities.

About 90 children from the Hollywood Preschool attended their event Feb. 25 on the ball field.

Students in the 1-, 2-, 3- and 4-year-old classes rotated through four stations, circuit training, a ball toss, a soccer/relay race station, and a station where they pushed around a large, inflatable ball, to get in their exercise for the day. The infant class was also on-hand to watch the activities from their strollers.

"We want to promote fitness and exercise in young people so it gets instilled in them at a young age and they stay involved," said Allardyce, who coordinates the Get Fit Field Day events.

Allardyce said the activities promote hand/eye/foot coordination and other important skills in early childhood development.

She said once a month the Fitness Dept. hosts similar Get Fit Field Day events on each reservation, but said they do switch up the activities to keep the youngsters interested. The department also regularly hosts Get Fit Field Day event for the Tribal seniors on all reservations.

"I started Field Days five years ago with Hollywood Rec.," said Allardyce of the event that only used to take place in Hollywood. "Then when I joined Fitness [Dept.], we made it Tribal-wide."

Jay Garland, Natasha Perez, Kenny Bayon, Neil Prager and Tracey De La Rosa, all of the Fitness Dept., assisted the preschoolers as they rotated through each station.

In addition, the Fitness Dept. has gymnastics, martial arts and kickboxing programs on various reservations.

For more information about the Get Fit Field Day, please call Gina Allardyce at (954) 989-9457, Ext. 12416 or at (954) 605-8909.



Shelley Marmor

Youth Fitness Coordinator Gina Allardyce leads the preschoolers in a warm-up stretch routine before they make their way through the four Get Fit Field Day stations.



Shelley Marmor

Caidence Marie Smith of the 4-year-old class makes her way out of the tube, one of several activities at the circuit training station.



Shelley Marmor

Alisa Mae Brooks (C) of the 3-year-old class takes the lead during the relay race at the soccer station.



Shelley Marmor

(L-R) Kenny Bayon of the Fitness Dept. gives Moses Riley Jumper from the 3-year-old class some words of encouragement as he gets ready to kick the ball at the soccer/relay race station.

Preschoolers Attend Miniwalk to Benefit March of Dimes

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Seminole Health Dept. and the March of Dimes teamed up Feb. 24 to host the 4th annual Physical Fitness Miniwalk for preschoolers at

the Brighton Preschool.

"The goal is to make exercise fun," said Brighton Health Educator Barbara Boling.

Classes took turns completing the Miniwalk, which consisted of several stations where the children had to stop and complete a physical activity that was posted on a stake next to the event.

At the first station, the children had to do the Bunny Hop all the way to the next station. Other stations instructed the preschoolers to skip and walk backwards.

A relay was set up at the fourth station where students divided into two lines and had to run to pick up a baton and race back to the finish to pass it on to the next person in line.

Students also got to race each other through little tunnels, taking turns crawling in and out.

After the Miniwalk, the children got to have some play time and blow bubbles.

The March of Dimes provided a snack of animal crackers and juice for the students to enjoy after the walk.

In the weeks leading up to the Miniwalk, the preschoolers collected money for the March of Dimes. The March of Dimes helps raise awareness on the issue of premature babies among women of childbearing age as well as the general public.

"By having the Miniwalk with the preschool children, we can help to make young families more aware of the March of Dimes prematurity campaign," said Boling.



Rachel Buxton

Cousins Pherian Baker, 4, and Jayton Baker, 5, race to the finish line.



Rachel Buxton

Students from the preschool do the Bunny Hop down the trail at the Preschool Miniwalk on Feb. 24.

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Annual Howard Tiger Memorial Fishing Tournament Held

Tyler Baker, Arlen Payne Take First Place in Leg 1 of Tourney

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Fishing teams, comprised of one adult and one youth, launched their boats at 6:30 a.m. in the L-28 Canal on March 7 to participate in the 9th annual Howard Tiger Memorial Fishing Tournament.

This marked the beginning of the Seminole Pro Bass Annual Triple Crown Series of three tournaments, which takes places in one month intervals.

Tournament coordinator Steve Young welcomed the anglers to the tournament, a joint venture between the Hollywood and Big Cypress Recreation Departments. Young also explained why the tournament is held in honor of Howard Tiger.

"A Tribal official, Howard Tiger, was instrumental in the creation of the Seminole Recreation Program and a strong advocate of projects to shape and enhance the lives of Seminole youth," Young said. "Being an avid fisherman, the Howard Tiger Memorial Fishing Tournament was initiated in his memory and is now in its ninth year."

He went on to explain that the combined weight of the fish caught by each two-person team would determine the winners for Leg 1 of the tournament.

The total weight from each tournament will be counted toward the overall winner at the end of the series. The Sonny Dicarlo Memorial Big Bass Trophy will be awarded to the team with the champion bass of the day.

Traveling all the way from Hollywood, Tyler Baker didn't mind getting up in the wee hours of the morning to fish with Rev.



Judy Weeks

Rev. Arlen Payne and Tyler Baker hold up their first place winning catch and the whopper that claimed the Sonny Dicarlo Big Bass Trophy.

Arlen Payne, especially when they won first place for overall catch and pulled in the biggest bass of the day.

Terence Hill may have been reluctant to touch his slippery prize, but had no problem holding up the beauty that helped his team tie in fourth place. He laughed along with the crowd as his father, Bronson, recounted how Terence went to check on the fish well.

"He opened the box and our biggest bass jumped straight into the air past his head, flipped around and then jumped overboard," said dad, Bronson. "It looked like they were dancing with each other."

Tristen Wilcox and Alena Stockton said they enjoyed riding in their dad's boats as much as they do fishing. Andre Jumper, Alycia Cypress and Mailani Perez Jumper agreed that fishing is just one of the many sports that they look forward to participating in with their fathers.

An avid sports enthusiast, Rashaun Jim eagerly joined Bello Solano for a day on the water. Their combined catch of 11.14 pounds weighed in as a close second behind Baker and Payne. Father and daughter team, Tyrone and Alycia Cypress, admitted fishing is their favorite pastime. Their 3.95 pound whopper easily pushed their total into the third position.

The team of Josh and Andre Jumper and their competitors, Bronson and Terence Hill, split the fourth and fifth place winnings when they tied for fourth position with a combined weight of 8.45 pounds each.



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Bello Solano and Rashaun Jim caught a total of 11.14 pounds of bass for second place in the fishing tournament.



Rachel Buxton

Students Joshua Madrigal (L) and Odessa King (R) dribble and jump while Robert Fudge (C) watches.

Pemayetv Emahakv Exceeds Expectations at 'Jump Rope for Heart' Event

Charter School Raises Record-Breaking \$18,420 for Heart Association

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School held their second annual Jump Rope for Heart event Feb. 12 at the Brighton Gym.

Students participated in the event, sponsored by the American Heart Association (AHA), during their regularly scheduled PE classes.

In the weeks prior to the event, students collected money to help raise awareness and fund lifesaving heart and stroke research by the AHA.

"It is important because it brings awareness not only to the children but also the community," said P.E. teacher Chris Goodwin. "The response has been amazing."

The school collectively raised \$18,420. Fourth grader Erik Garcia was the top school money raiser, raising \$9,590 alone. Garcia was given a special award from the AHA for his contribution and for being the top fundraiser ever in the Greater Southeast Affiliation.

Garcia and his brother, Michael, were recently diagnosed with a rare heart condition called Long QT Syndrome, Type III.

"I think that's what pushed him a little harder for this fundraiser," said Garcia's mother, Rita McCabe.

At the start of the fundraiser Garcia set a goal of \$5,000 for himself.

"When he told me his goal, I just thought 'That was ridiculous; how could he ever raise that much?'" said McCabe. "I didn't want to discourage him so I said 'OK' and we set the goal."

Garcia started a webpage to bring in donations. He also wrote local businesses asking for support. He received donations from the community as well as from people living all the way in Arizona and California who stumbled upon his webpage.

"It feels great," said Garcia when asked about his contribution to Jump Rope for Heart.

The Charter School raised more than double what they raised for last year's Jump Rope for Heart event.



Michelle Thomas

Damean Searle of the American Heart Association presents Erik Garcia, the top fundraiser in the U.S. so far this year, with a special award.



Rachel Buxton

Suraiya Smith sinks the putt to win the hole.

Tribal Citizens Tee Off for Field Days Golf Tourney

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

LAKE PLACID, Fla. — Seminole Tribal citizens took part in one of the many events during Brighton Field Days as they teed off Feb. 18 at Placid Lakes Golf Course.

Seventeen members from surrounding reservations divided into four teams and had a shot gun start to begin the friendly competition.

Coordinators for the event were Suraiya Smith and Terry Hahn.

"The golf tournament offers a chance for Tribal members from all of the reservations to come together and to enjoy a round of golf," said Smith.

All four teams started on the back nine of the course and drove their balls down the fairway playing in a scramble format. After everyone teed off, their best shot was selected and each player hit their second shot from that spot, continuing in that style all the way



Rachel Buxton

Jackie Smith, visiting from Tampa, helps her team go on to place third.

to the pin.

In the scramble, players Marcellus Osceola, Mike Micco, Marilyn Doney, Suraiya Smith and Terry Hahn, took first place. Second place went to the team of Charlie Cypress, Lawrence Osceola, Diane Smith and Trisha Osceola.

On all Par 3 holes, the players competed to see who could drive their ball closest to the pin.

For the men Lawrence Osceola won on Hole 2 and Hahn won for the ladies. On Hole 6, Allen Huff snagged the win. Huff also out drove everyone on Hole 11 along with Diane Smith. Ricky Doctor and Hahn took the wins on Hole 13.

It was no surprise when seasoned players Huff and Hahn won the longest drive competition.



Rachel Buxton

John Madrigal takes a break from his Field Day emcee duties to enjoy the tournament.

Golfers Compete in Annual Tribal Fair Tourney

BY GORDON OLIVER WAREHAM
Contributing Writer

HOLLYWOOD — The 38th annual Seminole Tribal Fair Golf Tournament, sponsored by the Tribal Council, took place at Orangebrook Golf & Country Club on Feb. 11. With clear skies, a light breeze and 68 degree weather, it was a good day to golf.

The tee-off took place at 8 a.m. and the format was a four-man blind draw tournament. A total of 14 teams competed in the tournament. The winning team, with a score of 62, consisted of Ricky Doctor, Jon Beaver, Kelly Funmaker and Robert Martin.

Mitch Osceola emceed the event, assisted by Jeremy Harrison and Jenny Alleredy. Four of the Seminole Hard Rock calendar girls visited the tournament and the participants had the chance to take their picture with them. Each of the participating golfers received a Hard Rock Calendar - Hollywood Edition, signed by the four calendar girls.

At noon the first teams started to enter the clubhouse with their scores. Lunch was served and the winners were announced.

Seminole Tribal Fair Golf Tournament Results

1. Ricky Doctor, Jon Beaver, Kelly Funmaker and Robert Martin, 62 points
2. Elliott Young, Earnest Riley, Butch McIntosh and Chris Miskokomon, 63 points
3. (tie) Charlie Cypress, Sandi Pemberton, Kevin Sandi and Anthony Young, 64 points
3. (tie) Diane Smith and Anthony Young, 64 points
3. (tie) Mickey Tiger, Lawrence Osceola, Grant Dial and Rod Bomberry, 64 points
3. Scarlett Young, Alexander Daniel, Sandra Hill and Leroy King, 64 points.

SSM, Torretta Foundation Team Up for Charity Fundraiser



Chris C. Jenkins

Gino Torretta welcomes guests to the live and silent auction during his charity event in Seminole Paradise's Passions night club.



Elizabeth Leiba

Mondo Tiger sizes up his approach on the hole during the celebrity golf tournament, held March 9 at Jacaranda Golf Club in Plantation.

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The 7th annual Gino Torretta Foundation Celebrity Blue Tee Weekend brought together celebrities and guests once again for a good cause March 7-9.

The foundation raises money to fund research that aims to cure amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), often referred to as Lou Gehrig's Disease. The disease is named after the New York Yankee who was diagnosed with ALS in 1939, and died of it just two years later.

Highlighted by poker, golf and other festivities, Seminole Sports Management (SSM) and Seminole Media Productions, teamed up with the Torretta Foundation for the affair, held at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

Assistant Director of SSM Philmon Bowers said the rest and relaxation the Hard Rock provides, as well as the partnership between both SSM and Torretta, has been a win-win situation for both organizations.

"The support of the Hard Rock was great," Torretta added. "The people continue to come back every year."

Torretta, the 1992 Heisman Trophy winner and National Football League quarterback, said he and wife, Bernadette, had little knowledge of ALS when they were forming the charitable foundation. He said once he found out the specifics, he wanted his foundation to help find a cure.

"Once you find out about it and it strikes, it is fatal; there is no coming back," Torretta said.

He said they began the foundation in 2002 after Bernadette's grandmother was diagnosed with a neurodegenerative disease similar to ALS.

The events during the weekend began on March 7 with an invitation-only meet and greet for casino players and special guests in the VIP Plum Lounge. The night wrapped in Seminole Paradise's Passion Nightclub.

Sports fans had the opportunity to bid on their favorite sports memorabilia in a silent auction by sports and celebrity gift store chain, Field of Dreams. One-of-a-kind items included an autographed basketball from the

National Basketball Association and Boston Celtics great Larry Bird, an autographed helmet from Detroit Lions and National Football League Hall of Famer Barry Sanders, a Jackie Robinson jersey and an autographed Muhammad Ali picture with glove.

Live performances and entertainment also included the USO Liberty Bells and country musicians Keith Burns and Steve Azar.

Azar, a longtime friend and golf buddy of Torretta's, said his friend's focus and commitment to finding a cure keeps him coming back year after year to support the cause and attend the charity weekend.

"It all starts and ends with him," Azar said about Torretta. "In tough times like now, he has still been dedicated to this."

On March 8, Torretta hosted a charity Texas Hold 'Em poker tournament in the Poker Room of Seminole Paradise. Tournament prizes included a trophy and an autographed football signed by Heisman Trophy recipients Mike Rozier, Tony Dorsett, Chris Weinke, Andre Ware, Johnny Rodgers and Torretta.

On the final day of the weekend, March 9, the festivities wrapped up with a celebrity golf tournament at Jacaranda Golf Club in Plantation.

Torretta's friend Johnny Rodgers, a 1972 University of Nebraska Heisman Trophy winner, said he and wife, Reina, support all the worthy causes the Torretta Foundation fights for.

"We have a brotherhood," Rodgers said of his fellow Heisman Trophy winner. "He is trying to do things for the community."

Rodgers said Torretta often provides his support for other worthwhile causes as well, including Rodgers' own Omaha, Neb.-based foundation called the Truancy Assistant Program Service or TAPS. The organization helps combat the problem of youth high school dropouts in Omaha, where only about 30 percent of students graduate — one of the lowest rates in the nation.

For more information on The Torretta Foundation and ALS, please see <http://www.thetorrettafoundation.com/index.html>. The Torretta Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.



Chris C. Jenkins

Celebrity attendees (L-R) Mike Rozier, Johnny Rodgers and Chris Weinke on the red carpet before the event.



Chris C. Jenkins

National Football League Hall of Famer Tony Dorsett looks at silent auction items before bidding begins.

Johnson vs. Judah II Hits Hard Rock Live

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Boxing fans saw a reunion six years in the making on Feb. 27 at the Hard Rock Live.

Tabbed as unfinished business between the two, light heavyweight contenders Glen Johnson and Daniel Judah had their much anticipated rematch, with the winner moving one step closer to a title shot.

Johnson vs. Judah II was the main attraction as a part of ESPN2's Friday Night Fights coverage. The two finished in a draw in their first match up.

Seminole Warriors Boxing once again sponsored the high profile, energized event, which also featured seven other bouts on the card.

Coming in, Glen "The Road Warrior" Johnson (48-12-2, 33 KOs) sported the reputation, experience and record to put on a good show. Johnson won four of his last five bouts by knockout, with his only recent loss coming at the hands of current light heavyweight International Boxing Federation and International Boxing Organization champion Chad Dawson last April.

Judah (23-3-3, 10 KOs) came off an impressive 12 round win against Jaffa Balogun last December. As the brother of famed former welterweight champion Zab Judah, the 31-year-old speedy southpaw faced his toughest challenges to date.

Although both fighters maintain respect for the other, Judah voiced some strong beliefs and predictions coming in at the pre-fight press conference.

"This is the hardest I have ever trained for a fight," he said. "I am coming to fight."

Judah's manager Scott Carpel upped the ante even more, predicting, "We are going to move right through this guy."

From the opening bell, the elder Johnson came out strong. Known for his stamina and straight-ahead style, he immediately went to attacking Judah to the body.

The highlight of the bout came when Johnson landed a stiff right late in the first sending Judah onto the ropes. Judah received an eight count.

Throughout, Judah looked tired, but stayed clear of Johnson's power while John-

son continued to his assault using short crosses, uppercuts and jabs. He went on to pick up a unanimous decision in 10 rounds — 99-90, 99-90 and 99-89.

"I thought I would get him out of there in three rounds, but it turned into a survival fight for him," Johnson explained afterwards. "I wanted to make a statement and get him out of there. Every time I get in the ring I want to show the people I still have it."

Also in action, welterweights Norberto Gonzalez and Antwone Smith went head to head in co-main event, with Smith picking up the win by a unanimous decision in eight rounds.

Among light welterweights, Danny O'Connor and Jamar Saunders squared off, with O'Connor winning a unanimous decision in four rounds. Jesus Pabon faced Lenin Arroyo winning by a unanimous decision in six rounds and Habib Allahverdiev, one of the newest additions to the Seminole Warriors Boxing stable of fighters, remained undefeated with a first round TKO over Richard Pitt.

In the middleweight division, Miami's own Eli Augustama moved to 3-0 over William Deet by a close majority decision.

The two heavyweight attractions saw former wrestler Henry Funes stay perfect against Samuel Brown with a third round TKO and Magomed Abdusalomov, another new addition to Warriors, stay undefeated against Maurice Winslow by a first round TKO.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress, BC Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress and Fort Pierce Liaison S.R. Tommie also made appearances for the action.

Celebrities in attendance included former middleweight champion Jermaine Taylor, former National Football League and Minnesota Vikings All-Pro Robert Smith as well as several players from Major League Baseball's Baltimore Orioles.



Redline Media Group

Jesus Pabon (R) stumbles an overmatched Lenin Arroyo (L), connecting with a powerful straight left shot.

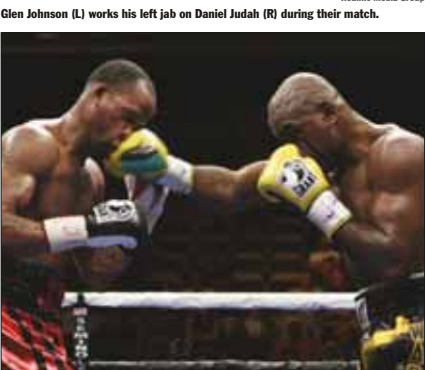


Chris C. Jenkins

Chairman Mitchell Cypress (C) with main bout lightweight contenders Glen Johnson (L) and Daniel Judah (R) before their much-anticipated rematch on Feb. 27.



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Redline Media Group

Glen Johnson (R) drops a strong right cross on Daniel Judah (L) in their lightweight match-up.

Announcements D

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POEMS

But I Can't Write An Abecedarian Poem (Alphabetically Arranged)

An abecedarian poem? What?
But I can't write an abecedarian poem!
Couldn't even start it if I tried.
Don't get me wrong. I want to ...
Even if I did, what would it be about?
Forget it. I'm not good at this kind of stuff.
Get someone else to do it.
Hey, how about taking it easy on me.
I've got so many loungin' opportunities,
too.

Just rethink the whole thing.
Kind of re-evaluate it, you know.
Let's discuss it for a good long while first.
Maybe we'll get back to it later.
No, better yet, let's postpone indefinitely.
Or have you reconsidered my exclusion
yet?

Perhaps we could call it day, anyways.
Quit everything and be on our way.
Roam far and wide and high and low.
Somewhere lazily we'll stroll.
Tuesdays we'll pause for cheeseburgers.
Under a live oak's where we'll rest,
Visiting crazy dreams in the warm air ...
X my name right on out of it!
You can have your abecedarian!
Zero's the number of poems I'll write.

—Elgin Jumper
January 27, 2009

POEMS

Red-Tail Hawk

Red-Tail Hawk swoops the air.
Resounding shrieks denotes no fear.
Brave red feathers as gray skies clear.

He sees Native Americans in prayer.
He's the rocket's red glare.
As he surveys his cypress swamp lair.

—Elgin Jumper
January 25, 2009



The Termin-Otter

I sing to thee of the Termin-Otter
He's part robot and part animal.
He says playing is all that matters.
He wears two moccasins, two sandals.

He wears Termin-Otter glasses.
He swims sorta funny.
He says he swims the fastest.
Because his smile's so sunny.

He's real cool in his Termin-Otter glasses.
He swims rather funny.
He knows he swims fastest,
Because his smile's always sunny.

—Elgin Jumper
January 25, 2009

Florida Bird

Florida bird sings joyful songs
and strives to be strong in the mystical
dawn.

in solar flares and the bright heart of the
Florida sun,
whose chariot, even now, travels the bluest
domes,
and he shall soar his wings, never to be
broken,
even 'gainst the severest storms.

—Elgin Jumper
January 25, 2009

Crow

Crow sings out in flight.
I've seen and I've heard him.
Blue-black feathers, oh, what a sight.
Like little bits of thunder within the wind

He darts from tree to tree
and sings little crow songs.
He expresses his young crow poetry
and feels as though he belongs.

—Elgin Jumper
January 25, 2009

CORRECTION



In the Feb. 27 issue of *The Seminole Tribune*, Frances Osceola of the Trail community was misidentified as Sally Billie in a photo caption that accompanied the story "Seminoles Compete in Annual Tribal Fair Clothing Contest." Pictured above are (L-R) Elsie Bowers, Mary Osceola-Moore, Frances Osceola and Onnie Osceola.



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POEMS

EEH CHE POO TE CHACH CHA LEE WAH

Eeh Che Poo Te Chach Cha Lee Wah, Big Sis
Smile & don't worry about your little brother,
This warrior is doing OK.
You raised me to be mean & tough,
That I will always be,
Standing tall in this world where
The weak-minded continue to fall all around me.
Where you & I lived off the Rez,
Only the strong survived in that spot,
Little they knew, we were Panthers, born to prey
& plot.
Big sis, you & I were conditioned to go days at a
time,
No, they couldn't handle your world & mine.
Those others sure thought they had they hood on
lock,
Until we moved there & I started pulling out with
it cocked.
We were just playing the cards we were dealt,
Living where we did, two Unconquered Semi-
noles,
One sister & her little brother, the stick up kid.
Many in that hood felt the pain I can bring, when
they wake up they head still ring.
They now know what it means to be dedicated to
one,
Big Sis, you're the greatest sister, second to none.

Everybody in that spot knows I will die for you,
That's why their respect is sincere & true.
Big Sis, most back home on the reservations don't
understand where I'm coming from,
Because most never seen the streets where vio-
lence is being done.
We were living in that spot before the wealth
today,
Surviving on instincts & putting the jack on dis-
play.
You & I really didn't get the opportunity to live
the easy life as the Tribe.
Only because time wasn't on our side.
I'll be missing you Big Sis, just as the song said,
At least I was able to give you a nice big tomb-
stone engraved with a poem to be read.
I'll always remember what you told me way back
then,
"Lil' Bro, it's always been just us" surviving how
we been.
Eeh che poo te chach cha lee wah & so will
momma, your kids, the family & your friends,
You have their unconditional love Big Sis & I feel
your spirit as you ride the wind.

— *Ike T. Harjo*
Panther Clan

Pure Love & Pure Strength

Pure love & pure strength is what you show,
Happy birthday to Aawaache Jennie B. Harjo.
Another birthday & many more to come,
This goes out to the greatest waache, from a very
proud son.
Waache, you raised me proper, taught me right
from wrong,
I remember those days clearly, though it's been so
long.
I think about us going to Swap Shop or the mov-
ies all those years ago,
Waache shanabishaa, for not saying no.
Amposhe & Waache feeding me at the Clock,
B.L.T., cheeseburgers & fries, listening to the
Little Jukebox.
Yes, I remember all those great times when I was
young.
Aawaache & Poshe speaking Mikasuki, our Native
tongue.
Waache, I treasure those days gone by,
Once again I'm very proud, always with my head
held high.
You are always there for me in my time of need,
That hasn't changed since my birth Waache, still
doing great deeds.
Affach Koo Chez Ken Ugg Lum Mele Waache
everyday,

Continue taking care of yourself, stay stress free
OK.
Waache always hold your head high for the many
great things you have done,
Even when it comes to the only hell you ever
raised, your youngest son.
Because Waache I'm a better man now than I was
before this ten,
Wiser, focused & determined, as I continue to
write with this pen.
I'll never profess to be a saint like many people
do,
Waache, my big sis also raised this warrior to be
mean & tough in environments like this blue.
Waache, I'm a warrior that will always stand tall,
In a world where the weak-minded continuously
fall.
Nahkee engely nomogah cha chonoshbun cho
thool len ungele,
Waache, ahhayake, eeh chino gotchu mele.
Pure love & pure strength from a woman that's
100% Unconquered Seminole,
Happy birthday Waache, from your youngest son,
Ike T. Harjo.

— *Ike T. Harjo*
Panther Clan

ANNIVERSARY

Eric & Barbara Cypress Eight Year Anniversary April 1, 2009

To the Creator,

I pray to the Great Spirit, our Creator,
I give thanks for all you have given us;
the path to bring two lives together as one.
My wife and I are grateful.

Today we look back and ask one another has the time gone.
I know that you put her into my life so we can live life as one;
I know you put him in my life so we can love life again.
When we hold one another our hearts beat as one.
We thank you for giving us this time,
Now we have the wisdom to forgive ourselves
so we can love one another.

I pray for love, knowledge, wisdom, forgiveness and understanding.

Ahkee mato.
(H. Jim)

Jealous Ones Will Envy

Jealous ones will envy for what you have
achieved,
Lil' homies stay real & stand your ground, they'll
take heed.
There are haters all around the world that will not
end,
Just continue writing those lyrics with that paper
& pen.
Lil' homies I want you to know I am proud of
what you've done,
Making it the right way without a pistol grip
shotgun.
I always like to see my own kind doing well,
Hanging out with family & friends, staying free of
this cell.
To all my people, keep that unity tight,
Don't give into hate like the black & white.
Always be proud you're different & hold your
head high.
Ya tah thi he tho guyo, we are, that's why.
I apologized once & I will again Caridine,
Just to show you how remorseful I am for being
cruel & mean.
I apologize & thank you at the same time,
Caridine I appreciate what you did for me,
That comes from this heart of mine.
Keep ya head up lil' homie & always stay real,
As Biggie once said, something 2 die 4 to me is

family & friends
For you all I will kill.
To my lil' homie Eli, it's great to know you're
doing fine,
As Pac once said, I hope your wife know she gotta
player for life in his prime.
You come a long way Eli, continue to hold it
down,
Lil' homie, leave those streets to those cowns in
the Rez hood,
Plant that seed in their minds & water it
"Ain't no thing in the streets good."
Caridine & Eli keep doing what you do,
Once again your big homie Ike is proud of you.
"Life" is crazy ain't it?
One day I'm there with you & the next time I'm
gone,
10, 20, "Life" goes on.
Jealous ones will envy whether or stick it wrong
or right,
Lil' homies keep rappin' to the crowd's delight.

— *Ike T. Harjo*
Panther Clan



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