



Watermelon Festival
COMMUNITY □ 8A

Candy Osceola Pool Tourney
SPORTS □ 3C



Brittany Smith in Miss Indian World
COMMUNITY □ 3A



The

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Tribal citizens lead University of Miami students and staff in the Friendship Dance at the UM campus on April 30, as part of the Finals Fiesta celebration. UM set up the event this year focusing on Seminole culture and traditions. Adina Loochkart

Seminole Culture, Traditions, Featured at Finals Fiesta Event at University of Miami

BY ADINA LOOCHKART
Editor

Alligator wrestling, stomp dancing, Native American food, Seminole story telling, arts and crafts and raffles were all part of the Finals Fiesta, an event hosted by the University of Miami aimed at educating students about the Seminole culture.

The UM organizes a Finals Fiesta each year to celebrate the end of the semester, and this year's theme was centered for the first time on the Seminole Tribe.

Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. was present April 30 to open the festivities.

"I think it's a way to establish cultural exchange, education, to learn more about the Seminoles. Any time you can learn about each other it's good," he said.

Ambassador and former Chairman of the Tribe Joe Dan Osceola also gave a speech in front of students and staff gathered on the green in the campus. He has been ambassador for five years and he goes on goodwill tours, welcomes visitors to reservations and introduces them to Seminole culture.

"I think all the universities here ought to have Native studies, Indian studies in the class itself. The Seminoles have so much to give, and a lot of people don't understand where we come from," Osceola said.

Tribal citizens and UM students JoJo Osceola and Kellie Tigertail were co-chairwomen and instrumental in organizing the event.

Tigertail is from the Big Cypress Reservation and lives on campus as a sophomore studying human and social development.

"I was contacted back in the fall semester by the Multicultural Student Affairs Office, which sent a mass e-mail to any students identified as Native American and asked if we were interested in bringing Native American culture through an event or programming," she said.

JoJo, a sophomore studying political science, has been involved in organizing the Fiesta since day one. She said there was a lot of work put into setting up the activities.

"There was a lot of time spent and a lot of time away from our families, which were very supportive of me. So I wanted to thank my family, my husband for supporting me."

JoJo's mother, Virginia Osceola, put together a table with traditional crafts: basketry, tabuleths, beads and Palmetto dolls.

"I want to thank my mother for contrib-

Please see FIESTA on page 2A

Innovative Cultural Programs Focus on Preservation of History, Guarantee a Future for Seminoles/Miccosukees

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

History has proven that cultures which lose their language and fail to pass on their heritage from generation to generation become extinct after a short period of time.

In addition to standard educational agendas, Pemayetv Emahavk in Brighton, the Ahfackkee School in Big Cypress and the Miccosukee Indian School on the Tamiami Trail have instituted innovative cultural programs in their curriculum to ensure preservation of Tribal history and heritage.

"As Miccosukee-Seminole descendants, we are all related by blood or clan," said Miccosukee Chairman Collie Billie during opening remarks at the 74th anniversary of the 1936 Seminole/Governor's Conference at Monroe Station.

"Our forefathers gathered here to discuss our future and because of their determination to remain free and guard their homeland, we are here to benefit from their decisions. It is our job to follow in their footsteps and secure a future for the next generations."

The words signify the cultural responsibility of all Seminoles and establish the purpose and mission of the cultural programs of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida.

Native Americans in the Southeastern United States share their origins and have made numerous migrations from ancient times to present in order to benefit and ensure their survival. Masters of adaptation, the Seminole forefathers have been hunters/gatherers, developed an agricultural economy, domesticated livestock and reverted to a nomadic lifestyle as changes in their environment have dictated.

"We come from strong willed, determined people, who learned how to survive under whatever conditions they encountered," said Seminole Chairman Mitchell Cypress. "We are a part of this land and our heritage comes from the strength and resourcefulness of our culture. It is important for our young people to know that their ancestors were instrumental in shaping the history of Florida."

Teaching language arts is a primary objective of each of the schools and is a part of the daily classroom studies. Today's families live in separate homes without the traditional camp atmosphere of extended families. The use of the native tongue is extremely limited in many instances. The schools are attempting to build a strong linguistic foundation and encourage the parents to reinforce this at home in an effort to increase fluency among the new generations.

After several years of intensive work, a

Chris C. Jenkins

Gov. Charlie Crist, center, along with officials from the Tribal Legal Department and Tribal Council, complete the finalized paperwork on the new gaming compact under the beloved Tribal monument Council Oak.

Tribe and State of Florida Formalize Gaming Compact

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Tribal Council and Board of Directors joined Florida Gov. Charlie Crist to finally put the finishing touches on the new state Gaming Compact, signing the agreement in front of hundreds at the fabled Council Oak.

Employees, elected officials and invited guests also came to witness the historic event May 5 to complete a new 20-year plan.

The deal maintains the Tribe's exclusivity to operate blackjack, baccarat and chemin-de-fer games at its casinos in Broward County, Immokalee and Tampa as part of a five-year extension.

It comes amid a long-standing journey filled with debates and squabbles from various competitors, opponents and legislative groups and has extended through four governorships dating back to 1991.

First Seminole Baptist Church Opens in Immokalee

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — The hopes and prayers of more than five generations of Immokalee residents were answered when Tribal leaders cut the ribbon for the opening of the Immokalee First Seminole Baptist Church.

The April 28 event signified the beginning of a new era for the Immokalee Reservation and the numerous Tribal Christians who have traveled there to spread the gospel and administer to the community.

"Seeing this church become a reality has been a long, hard struggle of many years," Immokalee Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar said with emotion. "Several of the seniors here today first met with their mothers under a chickiee in the old camp on the curve to pray for a church to guide them, but it was only a dream. Our elders wanted this church for everyone, but one by one, they have gone without it becoming a reality. Today, their dream comes true."

"These are tears of happiness," Liaison Aguilar said. "I made a promise and because of faith in God and his confidence in me, I have been able to keep my word to the elders. My goal was to assist in fulfilling their wish for a church to give guidance to our future. Satan tempts us and I encourage you to come to this sanctuary and pray for all of us."

From the time of the ground breaking on Dec. 11, the Immokalee residents have patiently watched their sanctuary and fellowship hall evolve under the supervision of their contractor, David Nunez, Jr. of Seminole Design Build, Inc., Architect Mike Noell, Superintendent David McGee and Project Manager Randy Atkins. On Easter Sunday the doors opened for worship for the first time and the walls echoed the songs of praise.

Gathered in front of the church, the

Please see CHURCH on page A2

Mothers Honored on All Reservations

SEE MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL SECTION ON A9

Gianna Honey, 3, left, and Sarah Robbins, 4, give their grandmother, Big Cypress Tribal senior Mary Jane Robbins, a loving kiss, at the Mother's Day Community Luncheon at the Big Cypress Gymnasium.

Naji Tobias

INSIDE:

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EDUCATION: B

Health 7B

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 9B

Don't Miss the Seminole Channel's 2010 Hurricane Season Special on June 3



JoJo Osceola sits next to a table with basketry, tablecloths, beads and Palmetto dolls, arranged by her mother, Virginia Osceola.

FIESTA

From page A1

uting," JoJo said.

Tribal citizen from the Hollywood Reservation Everett Osceola lead the traditional stomp dances and was involved in presenting the different activities.

Speaking of the event, Everett Osceola said, "It's pretty good. It will put a face on the Seminole Tribe; show our culture, dances, stories. It's eye opening for us and for them."

Renee Callan, director of Multicultural Student Affairs Department at UM said part of the department's mission is to highlight the variety of culture.

"We wanted this to be a true authentic experience, for the students to get a taste of the Seminole culture," Callan said. "I [we wanted] to educate the students about the people who were here before us; to expe-

rience Seminole culture live, not from history books. It's not someone else's interpretation; you hear it from the source."

Callan said UM is definitely interested in having more events showcasing Seminole culture on campus, emphasizing on the idea that we're connected to something that grounds us.

"[...] and we see how we're connected with the Seminole culture," she said.

Callan said her favorite part was the alligator wrestling, the storytelling and witnessing the traditions.

John Jones, wrestler with the Okalee Indian Village and the wildlife manager at the village, came to wrestle a 10-year-old American alligator. He also brought an American crocodile to teach the audience about their differences.

"I think it's important that we educate the public on everything, the tradition," Jones said. "It's nice to have the awareness especially with the wrestling, to understand



Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. with the UM mascot Sebastian the Ibis.

how this came about, that this was initially practiced to feed their families. The more educated we are, the more we understand things."

Senior student Nicole Ralph-Forton from Miami said she enjoyed the activities the Tribe offered.

"It's great; it's the first time the UM has put an event featuring the Seminole culture. I liked the dancing and chanting," Ralph-Forton said. "A lot of international students who do not get the chance to see this were excited."

Ariel Penaranda a sophomore at UM, had to wait in the long line to grab a plate of Indian hot dogs, burgers and pumpkin bread. "I enjoy the Seminole Tribe theme and waiting for the alligator to show up," he said.

Tribal citizen and JoJo's husband Byron Billie donated iPods and iPhones that were raffled, to the delight of the students in the audience.



Above, Okalee Indian Village alligator wrestler John Jones amazes the crowd at the Finals Fiesta event. Below, Tribal citizens enchant the audience with the Crow Dance.



CHURCH

From page A1

crowd listened as Sally R. Tommie presented the opening remark, "God is a part of our lives and makes our accomplishments possible. By giving us this house of worship, he has made us a part of the big picture. Today we reaffirm the words 'In God We Trust' and count our blessings."

"Christianity began to find its way to us as early as the 1840s and by the 1870s the Creek missionaries came to spread the word," said Tommie. "We had always known how to pray and give thanks to our Creator, but we were learning new methods of doing this. From the Glade Cross Mission to the fellowship in the chickees and under the old tin shed, God has heard our voices and he is with us today as we enter this house of worship."

"As far back as the 1930s, the Semi-

nols sought guidance from their Creator in Immokalee," said Paul Buster. "General Store owner, Dius Roberts was a devote Baptist and long time friend of the Seminole. Coming all the way from Big Cypress and down in the Everglades, they were encouraged to gather on the porch of the store to listen to Bible stories. Oklahoma missionary Stanley Smith met with them here and was instrumental in spreading the Christian faith."

As the congregation filled the pews, the mosaic mural on the wall of the baptismal was illuminated. The Seminole figures being baptized in the waters of their homeland across from a chickee came to life and gave significance to the meaning of the Grand Opening celebration.

"Church is a warm place that draws us in," said Chairman Mitchell Cypress. "Lucy John, Lena Frank, Mary Watts and so many others in this community have looked to God for guidance and now there

is a place for their descendants to worship. Our Tribal Council is gathered here today and I pray that they will receive God's help as they strive to map a future for us. Seated before me, I see the faces of so many who

have faithfully traveled from their homes in Brighton, Big Cypress and Hollywood over the years to give fellowship to this community. Their faith and determination helped to make this a reality."

President Richard Bowers Jr. reflected, "Growing up in church characterizes us and remains with us throughout our lifetime. God is the greater power and he watches over us. If you commune in this house that you have provided for him, he will guide your footsteps."

Quoting from Psalms, Hollywood Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. said, "The Bible tells us that God is here with us and we have only to ask for his guidance and he will provide it. However, it is up to us to recognize the path that he sets before us and do not stray. The strength of the Seminole comes from God, Our Creator."

"Today we recognize the strong, determined elders who built this reservation for future generations based upon their faith. They laid a foundation for us in God," said Big Cypress Council Rep. David Cypress. "Elaine and I were children back then, but now we are seniors and we are getting the job done for them."

Beginning with Big Cypress Board Rep. Paul Bowers, Tribal Citizens came forward and made contributions to the oral history of the founding of the Immokalee First Seminole Baptist Church. Immokalee church members, Louise Motlow, Mary Sanchez, Rachel Belores and Immokalee Board Liaison Dolores Jumper shared memories of community worship from the time when they were children in the 1940s and 1950s until the present.

Following a short presentation by Pastor Duane Pratt and closing prayer, the assembly dispersed to examine the fellowship hall and share a luncheon buffet.



Judy Weeks

From left, Martha Billie, Debbie Osceola, Bonnie Frank, Jane Billie, Winter Dawn Billie, Thomas Billie, Billy Walker, Norman Huggins and Dannie Billie visit the historic marker for the 1936 Seminole/Governor's Conference after talking to the Miccosukee School students.

CULTURE

From page A1

Creek dictionary is now in print and has become a basic resource for the language department at Pemayetv Emahakv. The culture staff at Ahfachkee is currently working on a Miccosukee dictionary to broaden the scope of their teaching aides. Vocabulary and grammar are emphasized at the Miccosukee School where they have numerous books and creative teaching materials that expose the students to their language. Storybooks for fourth and fifth grade have been written in Elapokke in an effort to reinforce language skills.

Standard American and world history courses are enhanced by the Native American experiences whenever possible. The historic journey of the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes is emphasized as part of Florida history together with their struggles during the three Seminole Wars and gradual move into South Florida.

Elder community members play an integral part in the cultural education programs as guest speakers, host teaching workshops and serve as inspirational guides during field trips. The benefits of their contribution have proven to be an extraordinary source for oral history and cultural awareness.

In addition to traditional arts and crafts, each of the schools promote a variety of activities to introduce the next generation to the construction of chickees and dugout canoes, hunting and fishing techniques, preparing and cooking of game, growing traditional gardens and preservation of food supplies.

On a monthly basis the Miccosukee Indian School conducts Culture Days, as well as an Everglades Ecology Class in which kindergarten through 12th graders learn about the ecosystem and their responsibility to protect it. Twice a year the students are included in the annual survey of the Miccosukee lands along with administrative and community members. On these field trips they learn about the diverse habitats of the Everglades, study water quality, native plant identification and view historic campsites.

Pemayetv Emahakv arranges field trips to historic locations that have included the Red Barn and old campsites. These tours

provide the students with a glimpse into the lives shared by their grandparents and great-grandparents who grew up in the more primitive atmosphere of their ancestors.

Field trips at the Ahfachkee School are enhanced by Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum exhibits, ecology studies and presentations by Tribal historic consultants. Their Spring Culture Festival coordinates activities for all ages including a vigorous game of stickball, traditional food preparation, story telling, and art and craft demonstrations.

The distance between the schools limits frequent interaction. Despite these restrictions, ball games, canoe races, gar fish jigging, airboat rides, swamp buggy tours, museums, traditional garden planting and elder presentations have established the ground work for cultural exchange.

The Cultural Departments in each of the Tribal communities host extensive Indian Day celebrations designed to include all ages and coordinate traditional activities and heritage.

Shared events, such as the recent 74th anniversary of the Seminole/Governor's Conference, emphasize historical awareness. Members of the Miccosukee Tribe initiated replacement of the historic marker on the site in 2008. The anniversary was a project of the Miccosukee School staff, Head Start program, Language Arts Department, the Miccosukee Tribal Business Council and community elders. An invitation to the anniversary was extended to all descendants of the approximately 275 Seminoles attending the original meeting in 1936.

Speaking from the heart, Miccosukee, Seminole and Independent factions shared aspects of the past and present with their audience. The Miccosukee School orchestrated a commemorative book for the occasion that included a replica of the historic marker with photos and information about the 1936 leaders, Josie Billie, Doctor Tiger, Corey Osceola, Ingraham Billie, Mike Osceola, William McKinley Osceola and Jimmie Osceola, accompanied by long time friend and trusted advisor, W. Stanley Hanson.

History continues to take place every day and cultures must adapt and reinvent themselves to meet the challenges for existence. However, it is important that the basic principles of heritage are reinforced and the Seminole cultural programs are playing an important role in achieving these goals.



Chris C. Jenkins

Gov. Charlie Crist, center, with Tribal Council/Board officials, from left, Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress, Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Vice Chairman Richard Bowers Jr., and Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. show off the newly signed Seminole Gaming Compact.

COMPACT

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"This took a lot of patience," said Crist. "I want to thank the Seminole Tribe of Florida though. I thank you for all you have done for the state of Florida."

The specifics of the arrangement call for the Tribe to guarantee money to the state of Florida and up to a 10 percent share of net profits to maintain the exclusivity for another 15 years. The Class III Las Vegas-style slot machines will also continue to operate at four casinos outside Broward and Miami-Dade counties.

The state of Florida will in return receive funding as part of a new revenue-sharing plan with the majority of the funds going toward the continued improvement of the educational system throughout Florida.

"The children are the real winners today. That is what we always have to take into account especially when you are in public service," Crist said to reporters.

Tribal Council Chairman Mitchell Cypress equated the efforts involved in the deal to a football team winning the big game.

"You have to have a team to win the

game and we have won the game," Chairman Cypress said. "But, if it were not for Jim Shore and his team this would not have happened today."

"This is the happiest moment for the Tribe in its existence," Tribal Council Vice Chairman Richard Bowers Jr. added.

Seminole Gaming Chief Executive Officer Jim Allen has also been at the forefront of the negotiations. He said the contract will serve both the Tribe and the state well.

"It is historical and monumental and it is a good deal where both sides can grow," said Allen. "The goal here and always has been for the Tribe to not put anybody out of business but for everybody to prosper and grow."

The Tribal community gave their impressions on the day as well with high hopes and expectations for the future.

"It is exciting for me," said Miss Florida Seminole Princess Brittany Smith. "My favorite events are the ones that take place here [at Council Oak]."

"I think it's something we deserved from the beginning," Tribal citizen Melissa Billie of the Big Cypress Reservation said. "I think it is going to be good for my children and their children."



Judy Weeks

From left, Minnie Doctor, Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Betty Osceola and Juanita Osceola explore the new Immokalee First Seminole Baptist Church.

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Community



Miss Florida Seminole Brittany Smith demonstrates how to make a traditional Seminole patchwork bag at the 2010 Miss Indian World Talent Presentation.

Brittany Smith Competes in Miss Indian World Pageant

BY RYAN WATSON
Staff Reporter

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The Seminole Tribe received strong representation from Miss Florida Seminole Brittany Smith in the 2010 Miss Indian World Pageant.

The pageant was held April 20-24 in Albuquerque, N.M. The presentation portion of the contest at the Albuquerque Convention Center served as the opening attraction of the 27th Annual Gathering of Nations Powwow.

Smith was one of 27 young women from Native American reservations all over the United States who exhibited talents indigenous to their respective tribes.

"It was a great learning experience for me," Smith said. "Just getting to learn different stuff from other young Native women of other cultures was a great experience."

Each contestant had the opportunity to perform a three-minute cultural demonstration on stage. Penalties were given to those who exceeded the allotted time.

"I knew that was going to be the hardest part," said Smith, who repeated the basket making demonstration that helped her win the title of Miss Florida Seminole. "Getting the demonstration done in under three minutes was what I prepared for the most."

To compete in the Miss Indian World Pageant young women must be

18-25 years of age, single with no children and have verifiable tribal affiliation. They were judged on the following:

-Traditional Talent Presentation representative of each contestant's Tribe.

-Public Speaking and Private Interview with Judges.

-Dance Competition (Expression through Powwow music)

-Raffle Ticket Sales, with special awards given for number of tickets sold.

In the end it was Dakota Brant of the Mohawk Six Nations Territory (Canada) who took home the crown of 2010 Miss Indian World. Even in victory she applauded the efforts of Smith who was one of the many young ladies she bonded with during the week of preparation.

"She was very well rounded and as an ambassador she was prepared to take on the title of Miss Indian World," said Brant, who stated that she has visited Seminole reservations in Hollywood and Big Cypress. "All of Seminole people can be well assured that Brittany Smith will be socially responsible and accountable for the future of your people."

Kalli Edmo of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe also competed in the 2010 Miss Indian World Pageant. Kalli is the reigning 2010 Miss Shoshone-Bannock and shares Tribal membership with Anna Bowers, the wife of Seminole Tribe President Richard Bowers Jr.

Tribe Attains Most Successful Year Ever in its 27th Annual Cattle Sale

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Cattle owners have been waiting to sell off their cattle all year long. That was no longer the case on May 6, the day of the Tribe's 27th Annual Cattle Sale.

Held at the Big Cypress Reservation's Cattle and Range Office, scores of cattle owners were glued to their television, with many a word uttered amongst them. Tribal and non-Tribal herders from Brighton, Big Cypress, Immokalee, Clewiston, Moore Haven, Lakeport and Okeechobee participated in this year's cattle sale.

Throughout the hour-long live video auction of the Tribe's cattle, the throng of herders sat intently, filling out their sale documents to make sure they sold all of their prized products to buyers nationwide. The pin-drop silence came to an end when it was discovered that the Tribe had sold about 5,500 calves to the buying public for a whopping \$2.75 million in sales this year — the Tribe's most profitable year ever in its 27-year cattle sale history.

According to Tommy Mann, a representative from Fort Worth, Texas-based Superior Livestock, among large organizations, the Tribe garnered the best sales in the state this year. He said that the slightly improving economic conditions, in addition to the increasing demand for cattle, played a role in the Tribe's success this year.

The calves were sold to the public from \$1.10 to \$1.32 per pound, with these animals typically weighing each between 400 and 600 pounds.

That's a difference from what was a fluctuating cattle market in the past, when the products struggled to sell to the public for more than 90 cents per pound.

"Cattle prices were decreasing for several years due to import and export restrictions," Mann said. "But there's now a higher demand for beef in the United States."

Brighton Reservation Board Rep. Johnnie Jones, meanwhile, attributed the cattle sales to the quality of the Tribe's products, which are considered to be certified and all-natural.

"It's been ongoing," Jones said of the Tribe's cattle, which has been under its own certified natural identification system since 2006. "We're not branding or earmarking our cattle, so we're able to get a better price for it."

Just two years ago, the Tribe implemented a few components to its cattle health program, which include an annual vaccination initiative and a concentrated effort by cattle owners to make their products all-natural. As a result, the cattle do not receive any antibiotics or growth stimulants, giving them a competitive edge in its market.

With the reputable quality the Tribe's cattle has, it's considered good enough to be exported to the European market.

"People are looking for meat and what quality that comes out of it," Jones said. "I would have to say we have the highest quality from our cattle's genetics."

The live video auction, used by the Tribe for cattle sales since 1983, has played a significant part in the success of its agricultural business for many years. Prior to 1983, the year that the Tribe made Native American history as the first to air its cattle on television, auctions were

Seminole Tribe of Florida's Cattle Shipping Dates

July 5-10: Brighton Reservation (2,467 steers and heifers from 14 lots)
July 12-15: Big Cypress Reservation (900 steers and heifers from nine lots)
July 19-23: Seminole Tribe Board Cattle I - Tribalwide (716 calves from three lots; shipped from the Miccosukee Reservation)
July 26-30: Seminole Tribe Board Cattle II - Brighton Reservation's St. Thomas Ranch (380 calves from three lots)
August 2-6: Seminole Tribe Board Cattle III

conducted exclusively through telephone. That made it impossible for buyers nationwide to view the Tribe's cattle up for sale.

"With the video auction, I thought it was a better way to advertise our cattle to the whole country," Jones said. "We're now able to get more buyers nationwide to take stock in our cattle."

According to Mann, the outlook for cattle operations in the country is considered to be good for the near future due to its inventory being the lowest on record since the 1950s. If it continues to be that way, then cattle sales may continue to improve on its best sales year ever.

"The Tribe has established a reputation of having good cattle over the last 40 years," Mann said. "They're well-known throughout the U.S. for their cattle operations."

"[Cattle operations] is a good business to be in," Mann said. "The Tribe takes a lot of pride in their land and how they use it. The family-oriented operations they have here is second to none."

Statewide, steers and calves were sold on May 6 and 7. The Tribe's cattle will be shipped to the buying public in July of this year.

The cattle sale was aired on the Rural Farming Development Channel, which is Channel 231 on DirecTV.



Seminole Cattle and Land Operations Natural Resources Operator Don Robertson, left, and Superior Livestock Auction Representative Tommy Mann work the phones, as they call the Fort Worth, Texas-based agricultural organization to sell the Tribe's cattle during its cattle sale.



Cattle owners are glued to their sale sheets as the Tribe's cattle sale airs live on the Rural Farming Development Channel.

Native Rights Advocate Speaks to Community

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — As one of Indian country's leading advocates for Native rights and sovereignty, John Echohawk discussed those issues in front of Tribal officials, citizens and employees at the Tribal Headquarters Auditorium.

The leader and founder of the Native American Rights Fund gave an insight and overview into his organization as well as the past, present and future state of Native Tribes and their independence.

"If you do not understand the sovereignty status of Native peoples you simply do not understand Natives," Echohawk explained on May 4.

Since 1970 Echohawk and NARF have focused on several issues within the Native world such as: preserving Tribes, protecting Tribal resources and human rights, maintaining governmental responsibility in Native life, and the continued development and expansion of Indian law according to its website at www.narf.org.

"Our responsibility as Natives is to make sure our nations survive and to exercise our sovereignty in a responsible way to preserve our culture and traditions. If we lose this, we will lose who we are," Echohawk said.

Tribal Board President Richard Bowers Jr. said Echohawk's years of hard work have been inspiring.

"He [Echohawk] has always been a person I admired and wondered how he could go through what he has over the last 40 years helping our Tribes," said President Bowers. "The sovereignty issue has been on a lot of the people's minds, our elders in particular. I just wish our youth were here to see this."

Echohawk said the Tribe's influence and accomplishments have served as a proud moment for his organization and provided a symbol of strength and dedica-

tion.

"It is nice to see what the Seminole Tribe has done and all the successes they have made," the Pawnee Nation citizen said. "I am living my dream and the success of the Seminole Tribe is part of that dream as well."

Echohawk said through NARF the treaty rights movement and Eastern Tribe recognition as well as other civil rights successes including the drafting of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act have been vital issues addressed.

"He [Echohawk] represents something we [as Natives] have needed for a long time. I refer to his organization as comparable to the first line of defense for the state government to our indigenous people," said Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Andrew Bowers Jr.

Echohawk is also the brother of Larry Echohawk an attorney, legal scholar and head of the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs under President Barack Obama.

As a pioneer in the Native American self-determination movement, John became the first Native American to graduate from the University of New Mexico School of Law and was a part of the first group of Native American attorneys supported by the federal government for recruitment.

Echohawk said in spite of the strides made by his group the biggest challenges faced by Natives today involve the federal courts embracing more Native Americans in the system. He said there are currently no Native judges on the U.S. federal level.

"We have to get people used to having Native people in the conversation when it comes to appointing judges in our federal courts."

Other issues discussed included: environmental preservation, the Seminole Tribal court systems development and Public Law 280, as well as trust land assistance and development.



From left, Brighton Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr., Big Cypress Board Rep. Paul Bowers Sr., John Echohawk, Tribal Board President Richard Bowers Jr., and Big Cypress Council Rep. David Cypress.



SPD Officer Joseph Sommavigo, left, explains to Tribal class students Sarah Osceola, Candy Cypress and Vera Herrera how a bulletproof vest works during a Citizen's Police Academy class on April 26.



Tribal academy students Eldeen Tecumseh, left, and Rowdey Osceola, right, are taking a look at SPD's duty belt.

SPD Begins Its Third Citizens Police Academy Series of Classes

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — In its first four weeks of operation, the Seminole Police Department has touched on a variety of topics in the organization's third installment of its Citizen's Police Academy.

With the entire 10-week series being held at the Big Cypress Public Safety Complex Building, Tribal citizens have learned about some of the SPD's operations and how they could benefit from them. The Citizen's Police Academy is an initiative that the SPD has put in place to foster healthy relations between the Tribal members and its law enforcement.

"It really means a lot to us," SPD Sgt. George Gonzalez said. "We need to build trust with the Tribal community in order to protect our future investment."

On April 19 — the academy's first class — Sgt. Gonzalez and his fellow officers distributed a questionnaire to the Tribal students, asking them what they expected not just from this academy, but from the SPD organization as a whole.

The common responses from the Tribal participants were that they expected the SPD officers to exhibit exemplary behavior, obtain stellar training and display a sense of competence in all its units. In addition, Tribal citizens expect the SPD officers to not only uphold the law, but to be honest, fair and transparent when it comes to dealing with the Tribal communities.

"It's the only way to give out the best of the best," Sgt. Gonzalez said to the Tribal participants. "You are our eyes and ears to the community. You are vital to making our communities the best and safest places possible. It's not about us; it's about serving you all to the best of our abilities."

Operations discussed in detail at the four-week point were as follows: road patrol, communications, community policing, citizen complaints, Tribal training opportunities, Tribe services, crime prevention and the youth and elderly units.

In the Week 3 class on May 3, citizen complaints served as a popular topic with the Tribal academy stu-

dents. Common complaints that Tribal citizens have against law enforcement include their side of the story not being heard, officers speeding down the highway and officers displaying rudeness toward them.

According to SPD Sgt. Leonard Noonan, citizen complaints are an integral element to the SPD's operations because it maintains a sense of checks and balances within law enforcement.

"Police work is service-oriented," Sgt. Noonan said. "What this [citizen complaints] does is keep everybody honest. Nobody wants to work with a dirty cop."

The Week 4 class on May 10 focused primarily on the SPD's youth and elderly unit. To become a new SPD officer, prospective candidates, also known as field training officers, must spend time with the unit to get acclimated with the Tribe's youth and elderly — widely considered as its two most important age groups.

"Once you know how to treat the people right, they'll do the same to you," SPD Youth and Elderly Officer Scott Akin said. "If they [the seniors and youth] know you're there for them, then they'll open up to you and you'll be able to help them out better."

Big Cypress Tribal citizen Candy Cypress, one of this year's Tribal academy students, said she's learning more about how the SPD works. Initially skeptical of how the class series would turn out, Cypress is happy with the way the SPD officers are presenting their material to the Tribal participants.

"You need to take into account what your audience is," Cypress said. "We're aware of the negative stuff that goes on with law enforcement. But when they admit their shortcomings and try to reach out to us, we appreciate them more for it."

SPD's 10-week Citizens Police Academy began on April 19 and is slated to conclude with a graduation ceremony on June 28.

For more information on the Citizen Police Academy, contact Sgt. George Gonzalez or Officer Marvin Stanley at 954-967-5100.



The 35- to 44-year-old Tribal women looked stunningly elegant in their modern traditional Seminole attire at the Seminole Arts and Music Festival's clothing contests on May 1.

Naji Tobias



Ahnie Jumper gazes at the interior of Eric Osceola's 1971 Chevrolet Impala hardtop sedan at the car show.

Naji Tobias



The Best in Show winners and the Elite Judging Group celebrate the success of the Seminole Arts and Music Festival's first-ever car show on May 1.

Naji Tobias

Art Show Results

YOUTH (10-17 YRS. OLD)

Acrylic: 1. Kalgary Johns, 2. Stevie Brantley, 3. Daniel Nunez Jr., 4. Cheyenne Nunez; Mixed Media: 1. Cheyenne Nunez, 2. Braudie Blais-Billie, 3. Stevie Brantley, 4. Brianna Blais-Billie, 5. Tia Blais-Billie; Oil: 1. Tia Blais-Billie, 2. Braudie Blais-Billie, 3. Kirsten Doney, 4. Brianna Blais-Billie, 5. Kalgary Johns; Pen and Ink: 1. Brianna Blais-Billie, 2. Stevie Brantley, 3. Kalgary Johns; Pencil: 1. Braudie Blais-Billie, 2. Tia Blais-Billie, 3. Jonathan Frank; Photo: 1. Braudie Blais-Billie, 2. Stevie Brantley, 3. Cheyenne Nunez, 4. Daniel Nunez Jr., 5. McKayla Snow; Sculpture: 1. Stevie Brantley, 2. Mason Sweat, 3. Cheyenne Nunez, 4. Daniel Nunez Jr.; Watercolor: 1. Stevie Brantley, 2. Cheyenne Nunez, 3. Kalgary Johns, 4. Daniel Nunez Jr.

ADULT (18 YRS. OLD AND UP)

Acrylic: 1. Jimmy Osceola, 2. William Cypress, 3. Jeff Johns, 4. Holly Johns, 5. JoJo Osceola; Mixed Media: 1. Holly Johns, 2. Jeff Johns, 3. JoJo Osceola; Oil: 1. Jimmy Osceola, 2. Holly Johns, 3. JoJo Osceola; Pen and Ink: 1. Holly Johns, 2. JoJo Osceola; Pencil: 1. Jimmy Osceola, 2. Gordon Wareham, 3. Carrina Frank, 4. Holly Johns, 5. JoJo Osceola; Photo: 1. Byron Billie, 2. JoJo Osceola, 3. Marlon Tommie, 4. Anthony Osceola, 5. Patty Entry; Sculpture: 1. Charlie S. Osceola, 2. Jimmy Osceola, 3. Jeff Johns, 4. Alice Sweat; Watercolor: 1. Jeff Johns, 2. Holly Johns, 3. Jo Jumper, 4. JoJo Osceola.

Car Show Results

BEST VEHICLES

Domestic Two Door - Car: 1. Holly Tiger Bowers; Domestic Four Door - Car: 1. Justin Aldridge; Import Four Door - Car: 1. God of War (Dwight Turner), 2. Dionna Levin; Truck: 1. Ronnie Billie Jr.; Sport Utility Vehicle: 1. Sandy Billie; Donk Two Door: 1. Eric Osceola; Donk Four Door: 1. Brandon the 'U', 2. 50; Classic Two Door: 1. Daniel Jumper, 2. Ronnie Billie Jr., 3. Richard Osceola; Classic Four Door: 1. Moses 'Big Shot' Jumper, 2. Ronnie Billie Jr.; Metric Cruiser: 1. Marc Hickman; Best Golf Cart: 1. Virgil Doctor; Big Boy Toy Two Door: 1. Sandy Billie Jr.; Special Construction Chopper - Bike: 1. Thomas M. Billie; Special Bobber - Bike: 1. Chris Betancourt; Best Custom Bike: 1. Thomas Billie; Best Paint Motorcycle: 1. Robert Hill (Suzuki GSXR-1000); Best Chrome: 1. Robert Hill; Best Upholstery: 1. Robert Hill (Suzuki Hyabusa); Big Boy Toy Four Door: Joe Jumper (Ford F-350); Sport Bike: 1. Robert Hill (Suzuki GSXR-1000), 2. Robert Hill (Suzuki Hyabusa).

BEST OF...

Best in Show - Car: 1. Brandon the 'U'; Best Paint - Car: 1. Dionna Levin (Scion xD); Best Engine - Car: Brandon the 'U' (Chevrolet Impala); Best Interior - Car: Eric Osceola (Chevrolet Impala convertible); Best in Show - Motorcycle: 1. Mark Hickman (Kawasaki ZKR 1200R); Best Bicycle: 1. Chris Betancourt (Schwinn)

Seminole Arts and Music Festival Displays Wide Variety of Talents

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS - Holly Tiger Bowers envisioned the first-ever Seminole Arts and Music Festival as a means to show off the myriad of talents the Tribal citizens possess.

The Tribal visionary sought to have the two-day inaugural exhibit, held from April 30-May 1, in a relatively laid-back and centrally located Tribal facility. That is what made the Junior Cypress Rodeo Grounds the perfect spot to host a festival of this magnitude, according to Bowers.

"I really missed that open, festival feel we had in years past," Bowers said, referring primarily to Tribalwide events such as the annual Tribal Fair in Hollywood, which she feels is located in an urbanized setting. "I wanted to make sure that element was alive at this event. That rustic Seminole feeling is alive and well here at Big Cypress."

The Seminole Arts and Music Festival featured a car show, a slew of clothing and art contests, carnival rides and several performances by Tribal musical artists.

To top it off, there were two country music performances on separate nights, as veteran artist Charlie Daniels performed a two-hour long live night set on April 30 and

upstart country star Phil Vassar wowed the audience with his 23-song live night set on May 1.

Fans of the two artists were able to gain access into their tour buses for a meet-and-greet session each of the two nights, receiving autographs and taking pictures with the celebrities just before they performed onstage.

Bowers delved into why the two talented artists served as the headliners for the Seminole Arts and Music Festival.

"I remember country music being the common denominator at all the reservations growing up," Bowers said. "Charlie Daniels is an old-school country musician who can relate to our Tribal elders but still has a current sound. Phil Vassar is a new artist, but he's good at what he does, especially when he plays piano onstage. Overall, I wanted to let people see the different variations country music has to offer."

While country music took center stage at the Rodeo Grounds Arena, it was the slew of Seminole musical arts that attracted the most attention at the two-day festival.

Held at the Rodeo Grounds Entertainment Building, Paul Buster and the Cowbone Band opened the musical festivities on April 30 with several gospel cover songs.

It was followed by a 45-minute long live set by Seminole rap group Savage Money, as they energized the audience with performances of some of their tracks, including "I'm a Seminole" and "Seminole Style," to name just two rap songs.

The Seminole youth clothing contests came after those two Tribal musical acts, as they showed off a variety of old-style, traditional and modern traditional attire to those in attendance.

The Tribal seniors and adults displayed their Seminole clothing attire in the three aforementioned categories the next day [May 1].

"It was just a way to draw Tribal participants and other people to the clothing contests," Bowers said. "It's always good to display the Seminole colors in clothing and let them know what Tribal members wore in earlier days."

It wasn't just the clothing contests and country musical performances that took place both days. More Seminole musical artists displayed their talents to the festival attendees on the event's second day [May 1], with Seminole Star Search winner Tori Osceola belting out a few tunes to begin the action.

Tori Osceola and her band mates per-

formed covers of some of the latest hits, including Adam Lambert's "Whatdya Want From Me" and Justin Bieber's "Baby."

The duo of Larissa De La Rosa and Jillian Rodriguez, also known as the I-Town Girls Dance Group (Immakalee Reservation), stood out in the sea of performances, performing high-energy dance sequences to "Baby" and Beyonce's hit, "Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)."

Osceola and Stephen Billie were among other Seminole standout artists who gave performances on the festival's second day of action.

"If you look around, it's awesome what you see here," Tori Osceola said. "It's wonderful for us Seminoles to show off all our talents to everyone."

The Seminole Arts and Music Festival's Car Show featured 18 cars, four motorcycles, a bicycle and a golf cart, with former NBA All-Star and current ESPN basketball analyst Jamal Mashburn making an appearance.

Elite Judging Group also served as the car show's judges for the event.



Naji Tobias

In the Seminole Arts and Music Festival's clothing contest, the trio of Hollywood Tribal citizens Neil Baxley, Marlon Tommie and Markell Billie represented themselves well in the adult men's modern traditional 25- to 34-year-old category on May 1.

Cardinal Gibbons Senior High School Graduate

HALI

*I can't believe it's finally here.
My baby has made it to her senior year.
You're so young, beautiful and very smart.
With the thought of you graduating:
Happiness just fills my heart.
All of the problems along the way:
Will be well worth it.
When we reach that day,
Baby, I pray and wish you the best.
I know you're strong and can handle life's test.
Please make the best of your senior year.
Before you know it, that day will be here.*

*Congratulations!
I love you baby,
Eric D. Sanders Sr.
Daddy*

Best wishes at Florida State University!



Marc Fomby, left, educates Sabre' Billie on what the messages are in today's music hit from a variety of genres.

Marc Fomby Brings Gang and Music Awareness to the Big Cypress Reservation

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS – The Big Cypress Community received an eye-opening experience in the arenas of music and gang activity at a workshop series hosted by FTC Prevention Services President and Chief Executive Officer Marc Fomby.

Fomby, a motivational speaker, gave the Tribal, community and employee attendees an in-depth look at the impact that gangs and music can have on youth. "We have to be careful about our future," Fomby said. "We need to invest in our children. It's our responsibility as adults to show them the right way."

During the two-day workshop on April 14-15, Fomby touched on how important it is for parents to know what their children are doing and who they associate themselves with. Fomby encouraged parents to know the types of music their kids are listening to.

All of that, Fomby said, can strengthen the parent-child relationship and mitigate trouble down the line for their young ones.

"Get involved with your kids," Fomby said. "It's important we get them and track and spend time with them."

Studies show that without a proper family structure, youth may turn to gang activity for inspiration. The top three reasons children nationwide join gangs, according to studies, are to seek a sense of belonging, structure/discipline, and safety and security.

"You need to find out what's going on in your community," Fomby said in a session called "Gangs 101," the first of four workshop meetings that took place April 14 at the Big Cypress Community Center. "It takes a whole village to raise a gangster."

With two boys and two girls of his own, Fomby knows that being aware of child activity in the home and abroad is a crucial element to their development. In other words, Fomby encouraged the parents to "snooper-vice" their kids.

"Be nosy," Fomby said. "You need to pay attention to what's going on with them [your kids]. If you find things in the home that don't seem right, then it's

a chance for you to intervene. If you find nothing, then you can pat your child on the back."

Fomby encouraged parents to know and understand the words to many of the latest music hits, which can contain obscene and vulgar language. As hip-hop has become a billion-dollar business, youth now has access to the genre in many ways – even in cartoons, according to Fomby.

In a session entitled "Message in the Music: Blame It on the Alcohol," Fomby played snippets of several hip-hop songs and videos to both the youth and parents, including Jamie Foxx's and T-Pain's "Blame It," Soulja Boy's "Crank That" and New Boyz's "You're a Jerk."

Particularly with the Grammy-winning hit song "Blame It," Fomby went over the words with the attendees, explaining that the song is basically about having sex while being drunk.

"Do y'all even know what they're saying?" Fomby asked the Tribal youth in attendance.

"No," they responded in unison.

The questionable music lyrics that appear in hip-hop music can appear in other genres as well, such as country and rock-and-roll, according to Fomby.

"Music knows no boundaries," Fomby said. "If you take the music away and just listen to the words, it's a whole different song."

Big Cypress Tribal youngster Rashaun Jim was surprised at the messages he found out in music. Though Jim listens to hip-hop music and other genres, he said he's careful not to just play that around anyone.

"The message was interesting to me," Jim, 14, said. "When there are little kids around, I don't listen to rap. I feel like I'm disrespecting the elders by doing that. I don't want to poison someone else's kid."

Fomby offered some parting thoughts to the Big Cypress Community.

"I want you to take the information and do something with it," Fomby said. "If we do nothing to help our kids out, then it will only get worse."

For more information, call Fomby at 601-939-0020, e-mail him at fombysconsulting@bellsouth.net or visit www.marcfomby.com.

Tribal Citizen Set for Film Debut

BY CHRIS. C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Tribal citizen and filmmaker Sam Tommie will be making his feature film debut as executive producer for an upcoming, full-length film entitled "Damaged Souls."

The multi-talented writer, artist, director and producer has several endeavors to his credit with filming for his latest project set to begin on June 13.

The film will be based on the true account of a dysfunctional Fort Lauderdale family spotlighting the mental and emotional trauma, isolation and struggles of a young woman from adolescence through her adult years.

"I feel it is a personal venture for me and I have a devotion to it," Tommie said. "Any human misfortune to families is very personal to me. It is also personal for me to relay the message to keep moving on."

The Bird Clan member said the film will be shot with local talent from the Fort Lauderdale/Broward County vicinity and on location throughout the Hollywood area over a 12-day period through Tommie's newly formed company Spirit Star Productions.

"It is a good cast, good script and I think the cause is something I am glad to be a part of. I want to be involved in helping people who are less fortunate," Tommie said.

He said that most of the real individuals' names and identities for the film have been changed.

The film will be directed by friend Wedens Raymond. He will be making his feature film directorial debut. Tommie said he is confident in Raymond and looks forward to the two working together.

"He [Wedens] is pretty passionate and is good at what he does," Tommie said.

Although Tommie will be making his first go-round in the executive seat, he still has plenty of forthcoming film and documentary projects he is writing and directing.

The film's red carpet trailer premiere was held on April 30 with cast members, friends and family on hand for a sneak peek at the MI-VI Theater in Hallandale Beach's Gulf-

Stream Park.

Tommie said it was all a part of an experience he enjoyed.

"I never thought I would be a part of such a thing but once I was there it opened up a lot of doors from a contact standpoint," he said. "I was happy to be there to support the cast members and glad my family was there to support me."

Tommie said Women in Distress of Broward County has also been a big supporter of the film and has been circulating the short film version of the movie at its facilities.

Women in Distress of Broward County is a nationally accredited, state certified, full service domestic violence center in Broward County providing victims of domestic violence with safe shelter, crisis intervention and resources as well as education in their communities to stop abuse. It also offers a 24 hour crisis prevention hotline and support for victims and their children at various locations within the county according to its website at www.womenindistress.org.

For more information on the film "Damaged Souls" or for casting and internship opportunities log on to the facebook damagedsouls-officialfilm page.



Chris C. Jenkins

Film director, writer and executive producer Sam Tommie at work.

Big Cypress Recreation Department Entertains with Family Skate Night



Naji Tobias

Richard Billie, left, Jonah Alvarado, center, and Isaiah Alvarado all took to the skating rink as Michael Jackson's smash hit, "Billie Jean", played in the background, during the Family Skate Night event at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium on April 23.

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Third Annual Spring Fling Goes Green with Information

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

FORT PIERCE — Approximately 125 Tribal members, employees and guests participated in the third annual Spring Fling at the Fort Pierce Chupco Youth Ranch celebrating this year's theme, "Can you hear the eco?"

Eleven Tribal departments came out April 17 in an effort to promote going green along with the many programs and events they have to offer Tribal members within the Seminole Tribe.

"You've often heard that it takes a village to raise a child. This is our village," said Fort Pierce Liaison Sally Tommie. "The Tribe embraces its people and provides programs and provides departments, and without the people representing those programs and departments a lot of the things we have, we wouldn't have today."

The participating departments included Community Planning, Seminole Police Department, Adult Education, Family Services, Education, Environmental Resource Management, Housing, Seminole Indian 4-H, Seminole Health, Fire Rescue and Fitness.

Each department had a booth set up with flyers, brochures and take-home goodies for Tribal members and guests. The Seminole Police Department handed out mugs and information on their new Explorer program offered to Tribal youth to help build leadership and drug safety awareness.

"It's important so they know that we are available not only to protect them, but also to work with them, to getting their kids involved in positive activities," said police officer Colleen Hardin.

The Seminole Health Department set up a mock farmer's market handing out fresh fruits and vegetables. Barbara Boling

and nutritionist Valari Fauntleroy passed out nutritional brochures educating Tribal members on how to cut out sodium and how to easily add fresh produce into their daily diet.

Adult Education along with the Education Department offered information about scholarship opportunities for upcoming graduates along with programs such as the Cultural Exchange, provided by the Education Departments for students and adults seeking higher education.

Throughout the day a few departments took to the stage to put on brief demonstrations to further educate Tribal members on their provided programs.

Fire Rescue put on fire extinguisher demonstrations and allowed children to spray the fire hose, adding to the excitement. At their booth, Fire Rescue passed out information on the programs provided, including the senior citizen home inspection, Risk Watch program for students and fire safety.

"We want them to be safe. We want their home to be safe," said Seminole Fire Marshall David Logan.

The Fitness Department brought volunteers on stage to demonstrate a few techniques they use in some of their fitness classes offered. Natasha Perez and Denise Masak informed the crowd of a few new classes offered such as martial arts and handed out schedules of classes available.

The Environmental Resource Management Department provided an array of material pertaining to the theme of the day going green. Craig Terper spoke on simple things individuals can do to help save the environment. His department passed out reusable drink thermoses to cut down on plastic use. Brochures were given out informing the Tribal members from different counties on the specific recycling restrictions to their area.



Rachel Buxton
Alex Tommie visits with Education's Vocational Administrator Marile Dufour on how he can further his education.

"We want you to make an effort," said Tommie. "We want you to make a conscious decision in changing some of your habits so that this earth will exist for our grandchildren and our great grandchildren. Protecting the Earth and going green is our responsibility."

As parents and the older teens gained pertinent information regarding the many opportunities the Tribe offers, the little ones were entertained with face painting, balloon artists and a bounce house.

Also on display were the renderings to the new Fort Pierce Community Center that is set to break ground this summer.



Chris C. Jenkins
Everett Osceola of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Community Outreach talks about the customs and traditions of Tribal foods during the Seminole Moments presentation April 15.



Chris C. Jenkins
Tribal senior Paul Buster talks about the meals his family had growing up and performs one of his original songs for Tribal employees.



Chris C. Jenkins
Tribal employee Shelia Elliott, right, asks a question about the tradition of the Seminole drink sofkee.

Seminole Moments Series Features Traditional Foods

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The foods of the Tribe are as traditional as their heritage and customs. Everett Osceola of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Community Outreach Program gave some interesting insight into their diet and meal preferences in the latest Seminole Moments series featuring traditional foods.

Tribal employees gathered at the Tribal headquarters for the April 15 event with a special appearance and performance by Tribal senior Paul Buster. He gave his thoughts on traditional diet choices growing up and the connection between the Seminole culture and nature.

"The Seminoles have used everything around them for meals. This is how they were able to survive," Osceola said. "In our culture we have an array of things we are accustomed to trying and eating."

Buster explained that for hundreds of years the Seminoles have been known as a farming people.

"Much of our existence has been dependent on living off of the land," he said.

"Back in my time we lived in harmony with nature and each other." "Many of our youth today do not know about the traditional foods and customs from my day."

Historically, the Seminole women harvested corn, sweet potatoes, beans, berries and squash among many other types of fruits and vegetables. The men did the hunting and fishing, catching game such as gar fish, deer, turkey, rabbits, turtles, and the well-known Tribal delicacy alligator tail. Dishes include cornbread, gopher and turtle stew, soups, as well as another Seminole staple — sofkee.

Osceola said the drink played an instrumental role in the Seminoles' survival centuries ago because it was very edible and simple to prepare while in wartime, times of hiding or other times of crisis. He said at one time the root "Coontie" was the main source for the drink since it was the only thing available.

As a warm or cold beverage the recipe can be made with grits, roasted corn, fruits and many other ways.

The predominate choice ingredient in modern times is corn using hominy meal (or hulled corn) in boiling water.

The recipe calls for boiling two quarts of water then adding one teaspoon baking soda, two cups of white rice and three tablespoons cornstarch. The mixture is then stirred intermittently to prevent the rice from sticking to the bottom of the pan. Boiling should be from 12-15 minutes while lowering the heat then adding baking soda while stirring frequently until the rice is tender, then allow the drink to cool.

Other traditional foods are fry bread and boiled swamp cabbage. Fry bread is a batter mixture fried in hot grease in a flat-bottomed pot over an open fire. Boiled swamp cabbage (or Taal-holeke) is cut from the heart of a cabbage palm. It is prepared by stripping off the outer hard tough fronds to reach the white heart which is the tenderest part and is normally cut into strips or cubes. It is then cooked slowly in a small amount of water for 20-30 minutes, adding cane syrup, sugar or salt for flavor and taste. It should be stirred frequently to prevent sticking and appears on grocery shelves as "Hearts of Palm."

For more information, visit www.seminoletribe.com/Culture/SeminoleFood.

Tribal Youth Participate in 2nd Annual Family Fun Day

Amber Cypress gets her face painted during the Family Fun Day organized April 23 at the baseball courts on the Hollywood Reservation. The Family Fun Day wrapped up the Week of the Young G-Bl event. For a week parents were invited to have breakfast with their children and on April 23 parents showed up to play and spend more quality time. The day featured bounce houses, face painting, train rides, and more.



Adina Loockhart



Adina Loockhart
Tribal children take a ride in the colorful train during the second annual Family Fun Day.

Author Brings Story Time at Billy Osceola Memorial Library



Author Elaine C. Huffman stopped by the Billy Osceola Memorial Library in Brighton May 6 to read her newly published book "The Mis-Tails of Moosha and the Little Wekiva River" to more than 30 kindergarten students from Pemayetv Enahavk Charter School. Huffman shared how the book is based on her real-life cat Moosha along with her love of the outdoors and nature. Through her story Huffman hopes to educate readers about preserving the environment and the need to take care of wildlife.

Rachel Buxton

Big Cypress Youth Dance, Have Fun at Rock Star Party

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — An upstart rock band visited the Big Cypress Reservation on April 23 as it performed classic songs at the Community Center's "Rock Star Party."

Stella's Basement energized the youth crowd with its style of play, covering hits such as Billy Idol's "Rebel Yell," Godsmack's "Keep Away" and Tom Petty's "American Girl."

The Fort Lauderdale-based band spent much of its three hours performing 35 songs in an almost nonstop fashion, wowing the Tribal and community youngsters.

About 35 children and teenagers attended and took to the dance floor. Lisandra Baker, 13, and Tri Osborne, 16, teamed up to become the focal pieces of attention for the night.

Big Cypress Community Center Assistant Director Arellys Valdes, who spent some time dancing with the youngsters, said she was excited about the band coming out to perform. Valdes added that with events like that, it showed that "we're here for the kids."

"We just want them to have a good time," she said.

Stella's Basement, which consists of bass guitarist Bobby Bell, vocalist Ken Johnson, drummer John Shelton and Lis

guitarist Billy Simonelli, was tapped to perform at the reservation by Big Cypress Community Center Director Jack Gorton. Johnson said he was thankful that Gorton, Valdes and the Big Cypress Reservation gave his band a chance to put their talents on

display for the youth. "It was a pleasure playing for the people here at Big Cypress," Johnson said. "It's like one big family here. It's a friendly atmosphere."



Naji Tobias
Stella's Basement puts on a rousing three-hour long performance set for the Tribal and community youth at the Rock Star Party on April 23.

Immokalee Presents Employee Appreciation Day

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — A day of fun and excitement marked the Third Annual Employee Appreciation Day in Immokalee.

"It's that time of the year again to show my appreciation to all of the employees who

work so hard and diligently to make the Immokalee Reservation such a success," Immokalee Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar said. "It takes a lot of hands, strong backs, minds and dedication to the job to make things run smoothly and your combined effort makes this possible."

Kicking off a fun-filled day April 7 was

a relay around the community that wound up at the lake for canoe races. Grown ups are just children who have been around for a few years longer and they had a blast competing on the water and land.

Dividing into teams they hit the softball field running with ample players on both sides and a wild and rowdy cheering section. Then it was back to the Gym for a game of Deal or No Deal and a much appreciated lunch.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress presented Certificates of Appreciation to all of the employees regardless of time served.

"One person who puts their heart into their work can only do so much, but working together you are each important links in the chain and the job gets done," he said. "It is human nature to take for granted the things that people do for us daily. Today, we want you to know that this is not the case. We need you and appreciate your effort all year long."

Chairman Cypress congratulated Aguilar on more than 30 years of service to her community and the Seminole Tribe of Florida. He said, "Elaine has made a lifetime commitment to taking care of others and under her supervision your reservation has been transformed from a few chickens to a full service community that is still growing."

Distribution of tote bags, towels, water bottles and memorabilia marked the occasion.

Seminole Moments Presentation in Fort Pierce Teaches about Native Languages



Rachel Buxton

Willie Johns speaks to Fort Pierce community about the similarities and differences of the 47 United States Southeastern Tribes during a Seminole Moments presentation May 5 at the Fort Pierce Chupco Youth Ranch. Johns explained how the major difference between the tribes is their language even though the majority of the Indian languages are derived from the Seminole Creek language.



Adriano Nunez
Immokalee employees gathered along the shore of the lake between turns in the canoe race on Employee Appreciation Day.

Big Cypress Community Celebrates Sixth Annual Watermelon Festival

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS – A sense of camaraderie between Tribal and non-Tribal citizens was felt in the relatively hot and humid air at the sixth annual Watermelon Festival on May 8.

Held at the Big Cypress softball field, the celebration featured a host of live activities, which included a car show, a seed-spitting contest, a rib cook-off and a watermelon eating contest to highlight the action.

Approximately 20 Big Cypress departments collaborated on this year's Watermelon Festival, with the event being sponsored by Chairman Mitchell Cypress, President Richard Bowers, Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress, Big Cypress Tribal Board Rep. Paul Bowers and the Big Cypress Recreation Department.

The event began with a 15-minute long alligator wrestling performance by Big Cypress Tribal citizen Billy Walker, who galvanized the crowd of onlookers with a few of his signature alligator moves such as the Everglades hop and the alligator smile to end the show.

It was followed by a horseshoe tournament, which the Tribal citizens participated in under a tent at the ball field.

Further down the softball field was a rib cook-off contest that featured Tribal participants Paul "Cow-

bone" Buster, Paul "Chunky" Buster, Daniel Jumper and Joe Herrera. All four rib cooks were seen steaming their meat products on the grill, with many of the approximately 300 Watermelon Festival attendees sampling the food.

A car show was held toward the rear of the ball field, displaying several classic and modern vehicles.

Tribal and non-Tribal youngsters took part in a host of games and rides, including a rock climbing device, a water dunking machine and a slew of bounce houses and water slides to choose from.

"This is about family activities here," Paul "Cowbone" Buster said. "It represents family time, which is a positive thing to do. With all the contests we have here today, we can all show our Seminole talents to the public."

Since 2005, the Watermelon Festival has attracted hundreds of people from different locations to not just enjoy the bevy of activities available, but to also celebrate the watermelon harvest, which typically takes place between mid-April and mid-May of each year.

According to Big Cypress Recreation Department Assistant Director Stan Frischman, the watermelon farmers nearby have recently begun releasing the fruits to the public just as the harvest season has come to a climax.

Frischman said that about 200 watermelons were made available for the Watermelon Festival, courtesy of

Mark's Produce, a watermelon farming firm located just north of the Big Cypress Reservation.

Frischman tasted some of the watermelons after sipping up the fruit in time for the watermelon-eating and seed-spitting contests, saying it was "fresh and juicy."

That boded well for all the contestants in the watermelon eating contest, as Tribal and community citizens were instructed to eat the cut-up watermelons as fast as they could.

Melissa Billie, a watermelon-eating contest entrant, used the competition as a means to try out something new and different. Though Billie said she doesn't like watermelons all that much, she felt it didn't hurt to give it a shot anyhow.

In the end, Billie captured first place in the contest's adult category.

"Once we started the contest, I pretty much know I had in the bag," Billie said. "I was just swallowing it, while everyone else was chewing it and taking their time."

When the final event of the day reached its conclusion, Billie, who took a few minutes to get rejuvenated and refreshed, offered some parting thoughts on the Watermelon Festival.

"It's always good every year, you know," Billie said. "It's a great thing that everyone pitched in together to make it a fun time for everyone, especially our kids. I would like to see something like this again."



Naji Tobias

With a host of Watermelon Festival participants watching in the background, alligator wrestler Billy Walker, from Big Cypress performs a set of tricks to the crowd's bewilderment, which includes his signature move, the Everglades hop.



Naji Tobias

Ridge Bailey, left, Roderick Bert, center, and Chaska Osceola, right, are racing each other to see who can eat the fastest during the watermelon eating contest at the Watermelon Festival on May 8.



Naji Tobias

Both Michelle Evanston, left, and Melissa Billie, right, finish in the top two for the adult category of the Watermelon Festival's watermelon eating contest.



Naji Tobias

Paul 'Cowbone' Buster places a special touch on his grilled ribs as he cooks his way to the top prize at the Watermelon Festival's rib cook-off contest.



Naji Tobias

Caitlin Cypress and Leana Billie face off in the 13-17 year old category at the Watermelon Festival's watermelon eating contest.

WATERMELON FESTIVAL RESULTS

Watermelon Eating Contest

Ages 3-5: 1. Kadin Tommie, 2. Xzavion Tommie; Ages 6-8: 1. Analysis Stockton, 2. Harmony Cypress, 3. Billy Bailey; Ages 9-12: 1. Cameron Osceola, 2. Ridge Bailey, 3. Alyssa J. Osceola; Ages 13-17: 1. Leana Billie, 2. Caitlin Cypress; Ages 18-54: 1. Melissa Billie, 2. Michelle Evanston, 3. Renee Tigertail; Ages 55 and up: 1. Elden Tecumseh, 2. Teresa Jumper, *T-3. Keeno King and Paul Buster.

Seed Spitting Contest

Ages 3-5: 1. Xavier Hill (7-foot-10), 2. Kadin Tommie (7-6), 3. Aniya Cypress (5-10); Ages 6-8: 1. Harmony Cypress (9-5), 2. Arissa Cypress (7-0); Ages 9-12: 1. Romeo Garcia (17-9), 2. Terance Hill (11-5), 3. Cameron Billie (9-7); Ages 13-17: 1. Caitlin Cypress (11-9), 2. Katie Bert (8-8); Ages 18-54: 1. Georgina Grasshopper (30-4), 2. Cathy Jumper (26-6), 3. Paul 'Chunky' Buster (25-4); Ages 55 and up: 1. Mary Tigertail (17-0), 2. Keeno King (10-5).

Rib Cook-Off Contest

Tribal: 1. Paul 'Cowbone' Buster, **T-2. Paul 'Chunky' Buster and Daniel Jumper, 4. Joe Herrera; Non-Tribal: 1. Evelyn 'Ms. Maxine' Gilkes, 2. Carter Clough.

Horseshoe Tournament

Men's Singles: 1. Charlie Cypress, 2. Alvin Buster, 3. Sandy Billie; Women's Singles: 1. Demetria Tigertail, 2. Renee Tigertail, 3. Cecilia Tigertail; Senior Men's Singles: 1. Rudy Osceola, 2. Billie Johns, 3. Joe B. Osceola; Senior Women's Singles: 1. Mary Tigertail, 2. Daisy Jumper; Co-Ed Doubles: 1. Charlie Cypress and Carol B. Osceola, 2. Billie Johns and Cathy Jumper, 3. Mary Tigertail and Joe B. Osceola.

Car Show

Classic Cars Category: 1. Daniel Jumper, 2. Ronnie Billie Jr.; Best Interior – Classic Cars: 1. Daniel Jumper; Best Engine – Classic Cars: 1. Ronnie Billie Jr.
Muscle Cars Category: 1. Charlie Cypress, 2. Sonny Marbury, 3. Ricky Doctor; Best Interior – Muscle Cars: 1. Charlie Cypress; Best Paint – Muscle Cars: 1. Charlie Cypress; Best Engine – Muscle Cars: 1. Charlie Cypress.
Other Cars Category: ***1. Patrice Dalton 4 x 4 Trick Category: 1. Sandy Billie, 2. Daniel Jumper, 3. Ronnie Billie Sr.; Best Paint – 4 x 4 Truck: 1. Sandy Billie; Best Interior – 4 x 4 Truck: 1. Sandy Billie; Best Engine – 4 x 4 Truck: 1. Sandy Billie.
Jeep Category: ***1. Sandy Billie.
Sport-Utility Vehicle (SUV) Category: 1. Keifer Bert, 2. Myra Jumper; Best Interior – SUV: 1. Keifer Bert; Best Paint – SUV: 1. Myra Jumper; Best Engine – SUV: 1. Keifer Bert.
Street Bike Category: 1. Ronnie Billie Sr., 2. Ronnie Billie Jr.; Best Paint – Street Bike: 1. Ronnie Billie Sr.
Hoggs Category: 1. Ronnie Billie Sr., 2. Ronnie Billie Jr., 3. Thomas Billie; Best Paint – Hoggs: 1. Ronnie Billie Sr.
Side-by-Side Category: 1. Christaltee Coppedge, 2. Keeno King.
Best at Show Category: 1. Charlie Cypress (Ford Mustang Shelby).
Sound-Off Category: 1. Sandy Billie.

IPad Raffle Winner: 1. Sandy Billie Jr.

50/50 Drawing Winner for \$150: 1. Keeno King.

Notations: *T-3 means tied for third place. **T-2 means tied for second place. ***In the "Other Cars" category, Patrice Dalton also won for Best Interior, Best Paint and Best Engine. ****In the "Jeep" category, Sandy Billie also won for Best Interior, Best Paint and Best Engine.

Emergency Departments Advise to Prepare for Any Emergency, Not Just Hurricanes

BY CARL FOWLER
Emergency Management Coordinator
Brighton, Fort Pierce and Tampa Reservations

In the past month, several disasters have occurred that remind us how vulnerable we are to both natural and man-made events. As we approach the start of the 2010 Atlantic hurricane season, it's important for us to prepare for all types of emergencies.

Two of the disasters that happened in April were unusual yet catastrophic.

The eruption of Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull volcano, dormant for 200 years, generated millions of tons of ash that devastated much of that country's farmland. It also produced an ash cloud that drifted east toward Europe and virtually shut down the continent for several days. Authorities banned commercial air traffic out of fear that the plume would stall a passenger jet's engines. Travelers bound for Europe found themselves stranded in numerous cities all over the world when their flights were cancelled indefinitely. Altogether, the eruption of the

Eyjafjallajökull volcano affected over 1 million airline passengers and cost the airline industry hundreds of millions of dollars.

On April 20, an oil drilling platform operated by British Petroleum in the Gulf of Mexico exploded, burned and sunk in water over one mile deep, killing 11 workers on the rig and injuring several others. In the process, the platform's pipe that carried oil from beneath the seabed to the surface ruptured and began leaking crude at a rate of 210,000 gallons per day. Thus far, all efforts to stop or reduce the leaks have failed, and the oil spill has already become an environmental disaster of historic proportions.

While the communities of the Seminole Tribe are not likely to be directly affected by a volcano eruption or a massive oil spill, these disasters remind us that we need to be prepared for any occurrence that can disrupt and possibly endanger our lives.

In Florida, the warmer months of spring and summer bring hazards that we're fa-

miliar with: severe thunderstorms, floods, lightning, wildfires and of course the possibility of hurricanes and tropical storms. Having a family disaster plan and a family emergency supplies kit are two of the best defenses against these severe weather conditions.

The family plan

Discuss with all of your family members how to prepare for and survive a severe weather event. Look for any weaknesses in your home (such as a leaky roof, and windows and doors that aren't protected), and take the steps to correct them. Identify a safe room or area in your home away from windows where your family can go to if necessary. Know where the nearest tribal community or county shelter is located should you need to evacuate your home, and identify a single point of contact for all family members (preferably someone out of the area or out of state) if you evacuate and become separated. If you have pets, put together a plan for them as well. Buy a NOAA weather radio if you

don't already have one, and make sure that it has a fresh battery installed at all times.

The emergency supplies kit. Prepare a kit that includes nonperishable food and beverage items and first aid supplies should you decide to stay in your home during a storm or other severe weather emergency. For drinking water, one gallon per person per day is the average recommended amount. And remember to include supplies, pet supplies and foods for those in the household with special dietary needs.

Preparing now for severe weather will help lessen the impact on you and your family if it occurs. For more information, please visit the Department of Emergency Management web page at <http://www.stofem.com/> and go to the All Hazard Guide (click on All Hazard PDF file to the left of the page).

Severe weather facts

• The deadliest hurricane to strike the U.S. was a Category Five unnamed storm

that struck Galveston, Texas in 1900, killing 8,000 people.

• The strongest hurricane to strike the U.S. was also an unnamed Category Five storm that hit the Florida Keys with a pressure of 892 mb.

• There are no hurricane names that begin with Q, U, X, Y, or Z. That's because there aren't many names that begin with those letters.

• The sustained winds of Hurricane Katrina were 140 mph when it made landfall in Grand Isle, Louisiana, in 2005, but Hurricane Camille was stronger. Its winds were an incredible 190 mph when it struck the Mississippi Gulf coast in 1969.

• More people are killed by lightning each year than by any other type of hazard except floods.

• Tampa is generally considered to be the lightning capital of the U.S.

• Tornadoes can sometimes be extremely high as well as wide. One that struck the Sequoia National Park in California reached an altitude of 12,000 feet.



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The hiring of an attorney is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisement. Castillo worked as a Public Defender in Broward County from 1990-1996 and has been in private practice for nine years. In 1995 he was voted the Trial Attorney of the year. He graduated from Capital University in 1989 and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1990, Federal Bar in 1992, and the Federal Trial Bar in 1994.

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COMMUNITY CELEBRATES MOTHER'S DAY



Gilbert Guerrero, 2, gives his mother, Heather Billie, a kiss for showing up at the Preschool's Mother's Day Breakfast on May 6.

Big Cypress Preschool Celebrates Mother's Day with Breakfast

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter



Tommi Stockton, 1, and her older brother, Micah Stockton, 4, give roses to their mother, Tommi Billie.

BIG CYPRESS — The Preschool's Mother's Day Breakfast on May 6 provided an opportunity for the Tribal and community mothers to spend quality time with their young children. There were mothers and children there who exchanged hugs and kisses, to the delight of the preschool's staff.

To the mothers' surprises, they each received roses from their children, capping off the hour-long morning function.

"We want to show the parents out there they are appreciated," said Claudia Esparza, the preschool's parent involvement aide. "It's a blessing that they are able to be with their kids at this important part of their lives. We're glad to share in this special occasion with all of our mothers out there."

The preschool has held a Mother's Day Breakfast for about 10 years, according to Esparza.

Tommi Billie, the mother of Preschool students Micah Stockton, 4 and Tommi Stockton, 1, shared her thoughts on what celebrating Mother's Day means to her.

"I'm very blessed that my two children are here with me," Billie said, adding that she had a very peaceful time at the breakfast. "Some mothers have passed away and the children can't see them anymore. We're blessed to have mothers, aunts, grandmothers and cousins that help fill the void for children that don't have one."

The Preschool's Mother's Day Breakfast was provided by preschool cooks Elizabeth Rivera and Karen Shaw.

Naples Community Recognizes Mothers at a Special Mother's Day Brunch

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

NAPLES — Naples Community members took part in a special Mother's Day brunch at McCormick & Schmidt's Restaurant from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 9.

In addition to custom omelets and gourmet treats, traditional Seminole dishes lined the buffet table, bringing back memories.

"As we enjoy our meal, we should think about our mothers and grandmothers, who spent a lifetime feeding their families by working in their gardens, processing the corn, pumpkins, melons, beans and coontie," said Naples Liaison O.B. Osceola, Jr. "They cleaned game and fish and then worked for hours in the cook chicke over an open fire. Those days may have passed, but the aroma and taste of those meals prepared with love linger in our hearts."

A special addition to the day's festivities was the distribution of the new Naples Community Newsletter. The publication is designed to inform its readers and bring them closer together by reinforcing the bonds they share, despite the fact that their homes are scattered across many miles. Each addition will feature a biography of a member or family, complete with priceless photos, quotes and memories that will archive the community.

"The sacrifices of our mothers saw no end," Liaison Osceola said. "They bore their children, nourished them, cared for them in sickness and in health, sewed their cloth-



Doug Zepeda gives his grandmother, Tahama Osceola, a Mother's Day hug at the Naples celebration.

ing and hired out as day laborers in the fields to insure a future for their people. Times have changed but the burdens of responsibility are still carried by our mothers. We owe them our existence and everyday is Mother's Day."



Brothers Joseph, left, and Dominic wish their mom, Karie Osceola-Lugo a Happy Mother's Day at the Naples brunch.

Mothers Get Royal Treatment at Immokalee Celebration

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Surrounded by their children, mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers were rewarded at the Immokalee Mother's Day celebration on the night of May 7.

Lavishly decorated for the occasion, the gymnasium was the perfect setting for family reunions and commemorative opportunities.

"You have only one mother and because of her you are here tonight," Immokalee Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar said. "No matter where you go or what you do, your mother always prays for your safety and wants the best for you. Her love is unconditional and you should return that love in the same way."

"If we are lucky enough to see our mother everyday, we have a tendency to take her for granted or find fault with her. Remember that just like you, she is only human and when she is gone, you will miss her and you will not be able to recapture the opportunity to share in her love," Aguilar said.

Following an elegant dinner and gourmet dessert, raffle tickets were drawn. Every mother in the community received an opportunity to come forward and select a gift from the vast assortment of cherished items that filled the tables.

Applause filled the gymnasium as seniors were given special recognition for their contribution to their families and community. Each one of the elders received a piece of luggage on wheels for use during their senior adventures and gift baskets.



Maria Billie, left, and Ruby Garcia assist Rachel Billie with her Mother's Day presents at the Immokalee Community celebration.



Louise Motlow requires more than her wheelchair to carry away the bounty of gifts that she received for Mother's Day in Immokalee.

Brighton Council Office's Brunch Honors Mothers



Rachel Buxton

David Nunez and Alice Sweat. Brighton community members honored mothers May 7 at a Mother's Day Brunch sponsored by the Brighton Council Office. Children, young and old celebrated with their mothers and grandmothers at the Council Oak catered brunch held in the auditorium of the Brighton Veterans' Building.



Monica Johns, left, and Agnes Bert.



Rachel Buxton

Lottie Huff, left, with daughter Loretta Peterson



Rachel Buxton

From left, Brighton Board Rep. Johnnie Jones Sr., Joanne Osceola, Mary Jo Micco and Shule Jones, front.

Tampa Community Offered a Day of Fun to Mothers at Lakeland Property



Ryan Watson

The Tampa Community celebrated Mother's Day at the Lakeland Property with contests and prizes including Closest to the Pin, Horseshoes and Bingo. From left, Maggie Garcia, Susie Doctor and Jane Osceola.

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Tribal senior Betty Osceola, center, with event crew members of the Sixth Star Entertainment/Marketing company.



Tom Jones impersonator Harmik Kazanchian and Tribal elder Mary Moore dance while Kazanchian sings one of Jones classic songs.

Brighton Mothers Have Fun at Senior Mother's Day Tournament



Gary Sampson bowls during the Senior Mother's Day Bowling Tournament May 6 at Lake Placid Royal Palms bowling alley. The seniors dedicated the tournament in remembrance of all the seniors they have lost this year.

Hollywood Throws 1950s Themed Party for All Mothers

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Tribal community celebrated the Mother's Day holiday in true throwback style at the Recreation Center with a 1950s theme.

Complete with dinner, songs, a live band, and décor from the decade, Tribal Board and Council sponsored the May 3 evening dedicating it to all mothers, with a few surprises as well.

"Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers out there. I am glad we are able to celebrate and get together here tonight. Mother's Day is everyday," said Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. to all the mothers and families in attendance.

Hollywood Tribal Board Rep. Marcellus Osceola Jr. spoke about the strength and perseverance of mothers.

"I am very thankful for the mothers who have been strong and have allowed us to be here today," Rep. Marcellus Osceola said.

Board Rep. Osceola's office also gave away custom Tribal Board necklaces and hats.

The night was also highlighted with the band The Fabulons playing many of the era's classic hits along with special guest appearances and performances by Elvis Presley and Tom Jones impersonator Chris MacDonald and Harmik Kazanchian.



Tribal senior Minnie Doctor, right, is all smiles as Elvis impersonator Chris MacDonald serenades her during his performance.

Mothers Are Invited to Luncheon in Big Cypress



First Baptist Church Pastor Bruce Pratt speaks to the attendees at the Mother's Day Luncheon, telling them mothers are God's greatest gift.



Big Cypress seniors Dale Grasshopper, left, and Lucille Jumper are two of many mothers who received special recognition at the Mother's Day Luncheon on May 6.



The Big Cypress seniors share some special time before and during lunch at the Mother's Day Community Luncheon on May 6.



A hearty lunch is served to the Big Cypress Tribal citizens, community members and employees to culminate the Mother's Day Luncheon on May 6 at the Big Cypress/Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.

Results	
Women 55-64	Men 55-64
1st place Julie John	1st place Elbert Snow
2nd place Mary Jo Micco	2nd place Gary Sampson
3rd place Jenny Johns	3rd place Amos Tiger
4th place Oneva Baxley	4th place Sammie Gopher
5th /6th place Sarah Sampson	5th place Parker Jones
5th /6th place Molly Shore	6th place Buster Baxley
7th place Alice Sweat	Men 65 & up
8th place Judy Snow	1st place Wonder Johns
9th place Judy Jones	2nd place Billy Micco
Women 65 & up	3rd place Joe L. John
1st place Onnie Osceola	Handicap
2nd place Mable Tichenor	1st place Agnes Bert
	2nd place Happy Jones



Mary Jo Micco joins her friends at the tournament.



Onnie Osceola gets ready to bowl.



Elbert Snow claimed the first place spot in the men's 55-64 age category.

Immokalee Presents Senior Mother's Day Party



Judy Weeks

From left, Immokalee seniors, Elizabeth Oleo, Immokalee Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar, Nancy Mottow and Linda Frank gather around Sylvia Marrero, center, to share a piece of cake during their Senior Mother's Day Party on May 7. The group started the morning off with nine games of Bingo, a Cinco de Mayo luncheon and then boarded a bus for the Council Oak in Hollywood to round out a Happy Mother's Day celebration.

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Education

B

Ahfachkee Field Day 2010 Energizes Students, Teachers

BY JUDY WEEKS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Students and teachers participated in the Ahfachkee School Field Day on April 16, rotating between the Herman L. Osceola Gym

and the community ball field for organized events.

Coaches Randall Cleckler and Bernadette Schyvinch enlisted the services of the teaching staff to coordinate competition on ten separate courses at the community ball field. The courses were

designed to promote exercise, hand to eye coordination, balance, muscle control, agility, teamwork, sportsmanship and an all around fun-filled day.

Pre-kindergarten through fourth grade students were evenly distributed into ten teams with equal representation from all age groups. A numbered score system evaluated the performance of each team as they circulated through the obstacle course of activities.

Allowing 10 minutes per event, team members formed lines and took turns competing in the ring toss, long jump, ball in a sock toss, hula hoop pass, hurdles, golf ball in the cup, soccer ball kick, Frisbee toss and foam javelin throw. The final challenge carried the most enthusiasm as the youngsters took part in a tug-a-war.

Assigning a different color T-shirt for each team, the members were easily identified and quickly developed

team spirit. Older children assisted the younger players and scores began to climb.

Fifth grade through high school children were divided in a similar fashion into six color-coded teams and took turns participating in a round robin tournament of softball, basketball and volleyball. All of the teams had an opportunity to play against each other during the five rounds with a transition taking place every 20 minutes.

Following a cafeteria lunch at the school, the student body attended an awards ceremony during which the top three elementary teams were announced and received lanyards and medallions. Moving to the gym, the older teams competed their round robin and awards went to the winning teams.

Coach Randall Cleckler congratulated the assembly. "Applaud yourselves for what you have accomplished here today," he said.

"This is about taking ownership and pride in Ahfachkee. You are raising the level of your school."

The Ahfachkee Field Day concluded with a staff/student challenge on the basketball and volleyball courts. The students triumphed at volleyball, but the staff succeeded by a small margin at basketball.



Coach Cleckler congratulates Team 4 upon their winning first place in the fifth through 12th grade Round Robin Tournament.

Ahfachkee Field Day Winning Teams

Pre-K to 4th Grade: 1st Place - Team 7: Maria Villarreal, Miguel Perez, Dacia Osceola, Anthony Avalos, Camden Rymes, Elise Brown, Myron Cypress, Mya Cypress, Evanne Pratt and Jared McInturff. 2nd Place - Team 9: Cyliah Avila, Keithanna Onco, Chyler Villarreal, Spencer Aguilar, Amaya Solano, Craig Huckabee, Janesa Jones, Chaska Osceola, Elisah Billie and Celia Reynosa. 3rd Place - Team 5: Kassim Stockton, Nicholas Andrews, Barbara Jimmie, Daleen Osceola, Ricky Rodriguez, Precious Jimmie, Edward Aguilar, Issiah Alvarado, Hehchoo-Ye Jumper, Mazzy Robbins and Kevin Ivy.

5th to 12th Grade: 1st Place - Team 4: Jonathan Robbins, Jalen Cypress, Rayce Noah, Tyrus Billie, Grayson Billie, Alison Herrera, Susie Jim, Leana Billie, Chelsey Alvarado and Ignacia Rodriguez. 2nd Place - Team 3: Jon Ross Billie, Derrick Tiger, Quenton Cypress, Matthew Bluebird, John Robbins, Cooper Rivers, Terri Baker, Sabre Billie, Michaela Cypress, Taylor Fulton and Michelle Jimmie. 3rd Place Team 2: Ronnie Billie, Anthony Cypress, R. J. Alumbaugh, Dalton Koenes, Micah Hargis, Tia Osborne, Starzie Vargas, Chana Rodriguez, Chloe Hendrickson and Ryan Cypress.



Teams 8 and 5 square off during the Tug-a-War challenge.

Students Prepare for Culture Exchange With Canoe Training

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

DANIA BEACH — More than 20 Tribal students, parents and members of the Education Department and other Tribal Departments geared up for the second annual Culture Exchange two-week canoe journey to visit the Muckleshoot Tribe in Washington state by attending a mandatory canoe training and information session.

The training was in Dania Beach on April 24 and

was conducted by the skipper of the Muckleshoot Canoe Family and Dean of Students for the Muckleshoot Tribal School, Will Bill Jr.

The first half of the class consisted of a PowerPoint presentation introducing the participants to the Muckleshoot Tribe and Canoe Family. The students learned about the history and tradition of the Muckleshoot Native Tribe and how canoeing is a major aspect of their culture.

"I feel that exposing them to other Native Tribes may help them with their own sense of identity as

well as help them to realize how fortunate they are to be members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida," Director of Education Emma Johns said.

The PowerPoint project also advised students on what type of clothes and equipment to pack for their journey. They learned about coldwater conditions and what to do if their boat capsizes.

After the information session the class made its way to West Lake Park for hands-on canoe training.

Bill worked with the participants on the proper paddling techniques including how to pull together in sync, how to hold the paddles and how to most effectively guide the paddles through the water to get the most effective pull possible.

"It was important to expose students to the experience of paddling," Johns said. "Some of them had never before been in a canoe. Although the canoes we trained in are extremely different, it gave them some sense of what to expect."

The Culture Exchange program was started by the Education Department as an avenue for students to identify with their own culture and the culture of other Natives across the country. It was also designed as a way for students to give back to other communities. The second annual Culture Exchange will take place July 5-21 with 17 Tribal students from all reservations participating. The students will join students from the Muckleshoot Tribe and will canoe through the Makah Nation camping in tents every evening.



Students use their newly learned knowledge and practice paddling canoes.

Rachel Buxton



Alex Buck, front, and Seminole Tribe firefighter Josh Eveleth practice paddling in sync.

Rachel Buxton



Rachel Buxton

The speech contestants await their turn to try to impress the judges.

Students Compete in Tropicana Speech Contest

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Students of Pemayetv Emahaky overcame the common fear of public speaking as the school's third-through sixth grade Tropicana speech finalists competed for the chance to advance on to the Glades County division.

One-by-one, students took to the podium April 27 in the school cafeteria and presented their speeches in front of classmates, teachers, family and a panel of judges.

The first and second place winners of each grade level advanced on to the county contest May 11.

Rudy Juarez and Chloe Chalfant will represent fourth grade taking first and second place respectively. Erik Garcia received first place for fifth grade, with Andrew Dobbs winning second. Boyd Brown took first place honors for sixth grade followed by Rumor Juarez coming in second.

"I think it builds self-confidence," Principal Russell Brown said about the speech contest, "and you need to have self-confidence to get up in front of people and I think that the competition is good for them as individuals and will help them throughout their lives."

The students showed personality and were very animated while giving their speeches, capturing the judges' attention.

Rudy Juarez used a variety of hand gestures while explaining why it isn't easy being him during his speech titled "It's Not Easy Being Me." Erik Garcia used different tones of excitement in his voice talking about his cousin Ila to grab attention. Rumor Juarez stepped up to bat to demonstrate why she loves softball.

"The creativity of the titles and subjects of their speeches was new," Brown said. "This year was a wide gambit of subjects and it was quite entertaining."

The Tropicana Speech contest is an annual 4-H competition sponsored by Tropicana Products, Inc. with more than 150,000 participants in more than 50 Florida counties each year. The speech contest is designed to build self-esteem and help students gain valuable communications skills.



Rachel Buxton

Principal Russell Brown introduces Zeke Matthews, who spoke about the Harlem Globetrotters.

Fun Rules at the 10th Annual Hollywood Preschool Day



Adina Loockhart

Hollywood preschoolers enjoy a day of various activities during the 10th annual Hollywood Preschool Day on April 28. After exercising through obstacle courses, running, and playing, the children were awarded hand sanitizers in the shape of a toy to remind them how important it is to keep their hands clean.

SEE MORE
PHOTOS ON 5B



Judy Weeks

Brighton Charter School Visits Billie Swamp Safari

Kindergarteners and first graders from Pemayetv Emahakv pet a baby alligator during a field trip to the Billie Swamp Safari on April 16. Students observed nature during an eco-tour aboard a swamp buggy, participated in a reptile show and shared a picnic lunch in the tropical gardens surrounded by a variety of birds, animals and reptiles.

Students Advance to State Hershey's Track and Field

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

OKEECHOBEE — Students of Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School competed in track and field events May 7 at the local division meet for a chance to advance to the Hershey's Track and Field state competition.

The local meet was held at the Okeechobee High School with students

ages 9-14 from all schools in Okeechobee county competing.

Fifty-four students represented Pemayetv Emahakv at the local level with 15 qualifying to compete at the state competition that will be held June 19 in Miami.

"It feels really good where we can show our strength that we can actually do this," Aiyana Tommie said about representing the charter school.



Rodney Riser

Tyra Baker takes a big jump in the standing long jump, one of three events she competed in.

Qualifying students:

Boys/Girls Ages 9-10
Lance Howard – 50 Meter Dash
Chandler Pearce – Standing Long Jump
Sunni Bearden – 200 Meter Run, 4 x 100 Meter Relay
Raeley Matthews – Softball Throw, 4 x 100 Meter Relay
Cady Osceola – Softball Throw, 4 x 100 Meter Relay
Chloe Chalfant – 4 x 100 Meter Relay
Boys/Girls Ages 11-12

Demetrius Clark – 200 Meter Run, Standing Long Jump
Thomas Bearden – Softball Throw
Odessa King – 200 Meter Run, 4 x 100 Meter Relay
Lahna Sedatol – 400 Meter Run, 4 x 100 Meter Relay, Softball Throw
Bethany Billie – 800 Meter Run
Deliah Carrillo – 4 x 100 Relay
Shae Pierce – 4 x 100 Relay
Boys/Girls Ages 13-14
Kelton Smedley – 800 Meter Run
Kailin Brown – 800 Meter Run



Rodney Riser

Layne Thomas rounds the corner in the 200-meter run.



Rodney Riser

Sunni Bearden races to the finish in the 200-meter run taking first place with a time of 36.22.



Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School Students of the Week

Awards for Feb. 26 – March 5

Kindergarten
Mrs. Duncan – Dathen Garcia
Mrs. Pearce – Caitlyn Olivarez
Mrs. Webber – Corey Jumper

First Grade
Mrs. Davis – Billy Bailey
Mrs. Johns – Shaela French
Mrs. Ringstaff – Todd Pierce

Second Grade
Mrs. Clements – Kai Osceola
Mrs. Moss – Jason Sampson

Third Grade
Mrs. Pryor – Satie Rico
Mrs. Williams – Ridge Bailey

Fourth Grade
Mrs. Paige – Dalton Girtman
Mrs. Tedders – Jaylynn Jones

Fifth Grade
Mrs. Dobbs – Diamond Shore
Mrs. Finney – Bailey Tedders

Sixth Grade
Mrs. Hudson – Zeke Matthews
Mrs. Wells – Lahna Sedatol

ESE
Mrs. Bond – Aleah Turtle

Awards for March 8 - 19

Kindergarten
Mrs. Duncan – Kyra Toneges
Mrs. Pearce – Jason Webber
Mrs. Webber – Lupe Mora-Lara

First Grade
Mrs. Davis – Tanner Shore
Mrs. Johns – Aubee Billie
Mrs. Ringstaff – Caylie Huff

Second Grade
Mrs. Clements – Silas Madrigal
Mrs. Moss – Nyah Davidson

Third Grade
Mrs. Pryor – Keely Billie
Mrs. Williams – Krysta Burton

Fourth Grade
Mrs. Paige – Isaac Osceola
Mrs. Tedders – Sunni Bearden

Fifth Grade
Mrs. Dobbs – Trevor Thomas
Mrs. Finney – Josh Madrigal

Sixth Grade
Mrs. Hudson – Jaron Johns
Mrs. Wells – Elizabeth Johns

ESE
Mrs. Bond – Sheldon Garcia

Awards for March 22- April 6

Kindergarten
Mrs. Duncan – Leilani Burton
Mrs. Pearce – Hawk Micco
Mrs. Webber – Hannah Moss

First Grade
Mrs. Davis – Heith Lawrence
Mrs. Johns – John Beck
Mrs. Ringstaff – Jessie Benjamin

Second Grade
Mrs. Ball – Dakota Micco
Mrs. Clements – Robert Harris
Mrs. Moss – Shyla Gopher

Third Grade
Mrs. Pryor – Alicia Fudge
Mrs. Williams – Conner Thomas

Fourth Grade
Mrs. Paige – Chloe Chalfant
Mrs. Tedders – Richard Harris

Fifth Grade
Mrs. Dobbs – Odessa King
Mrs. Finney – Jermaine Bennett

Sixth Grade
Mrs. Hudson – Jaron Johns
Mrs. Wells – Rumor Juarez

ESE
Mrs. Bond – Spawn Lauder milk

Big Cypress Library Hosts Mother's Day Gift Basket Workshop



Rodney Riser

In what was a Mother's Day Gift Basket Workshop at the Big Cypress Library on May 5, Tribal youngsters coming from the Alafachkee School took the time to create mosaic papier-mache collage boxes for their mothers in advance of the national holiday. Jaylee Cypress, 4, left, painted her mosaic box with the help of Big Cypress Library Assistant Heather Galassini, second from left. Jalycia Billie, 7, second from right, and Kamari Ivey, 6, also joined in the activity as they placed their works of art into action.

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Ahfachkee School's Inaugural Math Fair Places Curriculum in Spotlight

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS – With the 2009-2010 academic year now headed toward its conclusion, the Ahfachkee School unveiled a slew of curriculum possibilities at its inaugural Math Fair on April 22.

Located at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium, Tribal and community students and their parents were fixated on 16 math exhibits, each focusing on different math-related concepts.

With decimals, graphing, fractions, estimation and time measurements among those concepts taking center stage at the Math Fair, it allowed for the Ahfachkee School to highlight some of its achievements made in the classroom over the past several months.

It also provided a platform in which the parents were able to have a say in the selection of the school's math curriculum for the upcoming 2010-2011 academic year.

Ahfachkee School Teacher Coordinator Valerie Whiteside said the math curriculum from pre-kindergarten up to the 12th grade is currently under close evaluation, as there are two programs up for consideration in the kindergarten through fifth grade and three programs for grades six through 12.

For kindergarten through fifth grade, the two programs in the running are the Envisions Math Curriculum, which focuses on blending mathematical skills with inquiry learning; and the Saxon Math Curriculum, which focuses squarely on the students

meeting the Florida Sunshine State Standards in the subject.

Ahfachkee Dean of Students Pete Cade said it would streamline efforts to help achieve the school's goal of making academic gains in math for the 2010-2011 academic year.

"This school year, we focused more on reading," Cade said. "So now, going into our next academic year, we want to take a closer look into our math. That won't mean we'll focus less on reading...We're just going to continue to improve in our academics, that's all."

Ahfachkee staff members recently reviewed 10 different math programs, using a three-page comprehensive form to evaluate each curriculum. From there, it was narrowed down to the aforementioned programs to possibly be used in the next school year.

The curriculums were rated from 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 as the highest.

According to Cade, there's no specific set date yet as to when the school will officially decide on a final math curriculum for the following academic year.

But what matters most to him is that the Ahfachkee School's staff has spent the bulk of this school year working to ensure a good foundation of math skills for the students.

"We're focusing on our kids getting a handle of basic math skills," Cade said. "Once we do that, we can take them to the next level."



Ahfachkee School Reading Teacher Allison McCulloch, left, works with third grader Alejandro Rodriguez, right, as he spins the market wheel for a prize at the Math Fair on April 22.



Ahfachkee School Kindergarten Teacher Michelle Walker, left, works closely with second grader Carlee Billie, right, on a building project at the Symmetry Math Station during the Math Fair festivities on April 22.



Ahfachkee School teacher Antonio Wright, left, helps third grader Destiny Cypress, 8, solve a math addition problem at the Economics 101 Quiz Show station at the Math Fair.

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Pemayetv Emahakv Students Advance to Hershey's Track Meet

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students braved the heat April 23 to participate in the school's track and field meet, competing for a chance to advance on to the 2010 Hershey's Track and Field local meet in Okeechobee.

The school's track meet was at the Brighton softball field with students competing in a variety of events including the 50-meter dash, 100-meter dash, 200-meter run, 400-meter run, 800-meter run, standing long jump, softball throw and the 4x100-meter relay.

Weeks prior to the track and field meet, students worked in their physical education classes preparing and conditioning for the competition.

"We did a two-week track unit," said Physical Education teacher Chris Goodwin. "The first week we worked on skills and technique. And the second week the kids chose what events they felt they were best suited for."

Students ages 9-14 who placed either first or second in their event, advanced to the local Hershey's Track and Field Meet on May 7 where they competed against students from the entire Okeechobee school district.

Kindergarten through second-grade children also participated in the school track and field meet events but only to receive ribbons handed out to the top winners in each event.

"It offers individual competition rather than team," said Goodwin. "They just love competition and really step it up and give it their all. It's great to see all the hard work they put in the past week pay off."

The National Hershey's Track and Field program was started in 1978 by Dr. Donald Cohen in an effort to promote physical fitness in today's youth. It has become the largest youth sports program with more than 400,000 participants.



Crysten Smith hands the baton to her relay partner Raylen Eagle, left, for the second leg of the race.



Courtney Gore gives it her all in the softball throw.



Tyler Howard puts his body into his throw.



Jermaine Bennett gets a running start in the softball throw.



Lucas Osceola, left, and Chandler Pearce fight for first place in the 400-meter run.



Bly Davidson, left, and Rylee Smith are neck and neck in the 400-meter run.

Track and Field Results

Boys (9-10)

50 Meter Dash
1. Alyke Baker
2. Lance Howard
3. Gage Riddle

100 Meter Dash
1. Ivess Baker
2. Oscar Yates
3. Billy Yates

200 Meter Run
1. Easton Moss
2. Layne Thomas
3. Billy Yates

400 Meter Run
1. Chandler Pearce
2. Lucas Osceola
3. Lance Howard

Standing Long Jump
1. Lucas Osceola
2. Chandler Pearce
3. Joseph Osceola

Softball Throw
1. Andrew Fish
2. Ivess Baker
3. Ridge Bailey

4x100 Meter Relay
1. Easton Moss, Layne Thomas, Chandler Pearce, Morgan King
2. Andrew Fish, Drake Lawrence, Lucas Osceola, Ridge Bailey
3. J.J. Tones, Alyke Baker, Gage Riddle, Aiden Tommie

Girls (9-10)
50 Meter Dash
1. Cady Osceola
2. Alicia Fudge
3. Paige Micco

100 Meter Dash
1. Alicia Fudge
2. Paige Micco
3. Keely Billie

200 Meter Run
1. Sunni Bearden
2. Raeley Matthews
3. Keely Billie

400 Meter Run
1. Satio Ricco
2. Krysta Burton

Standing Long Jump
1. Sunni Bearden
2. Alicia Fudge

3. Camryn Thomas
Softball Throw
1. Chloe Chalfant
2. Raeley Matthews
3. Cady Osceola

4x100 Meter Relay
1. Raeley Matthews, Cady Osceola, Chloe Chalfant, Sunni Bearden

Boys (11-12)
100 Meter Dash
1. Drayton Billie
2. Dylan Sheffield
3. Drakar Smith

200 Meter Run
1. Demetrius Clark
2. Brian Bishop
3. Josh Madrigal

400 Meter Run
1. Dyami Nelson
2. Brady Rhodes
3. Bly Davidson

800 Meter Run
1. Zeke Matthews
2. Sean Osceola
3. Andrew Dobbs

Standing Long Jump
1. Drayton Billie
2. Demetrius Clark
3. Drakar Smith

Softball Throw
1. Josh Madrigal
2. Dylan Sheffield
3. Zeke Matthews

4x100 Meter Relay
1. Zeke Matthews, Zach Hudson, Drakar Smith, Thomas Bearden
2. Demetrius Clark, Josh Madrigal, Dylan Sheffield, Drayton Billie
3. Brian Bishop, Dyami Nelson, Zach Gopher, Trevor Thomas

Girls (11-12)
100 Meter Dash
1. Shae Pierce
2. Aiyana Tommie
3. Krystal Tones

200 Meter Run
1. Odessa King
2. Deliah Carillo

400 Meter Run
1. Lahna Sedatol
2. Bethany Billie

800 Meter Run

1. Bethany Billie
Standing Long Jump
1. Bethany Billie
2. Bailey Tedders
3. Aiyana Tommie

Softball Throw
1. Lahna Sedatol
2. Odessa King
3. Chastity Harmon

4x100 Meter Relay
1. Deliah Carillo, Odessa King, Lahna Sedatol, Shae Pierce
2. Crysten Smith, Lanie Sedatol, Raylen Eagle, Courtney Gore

Boys (13-14)
100 Meter Dash
1. Kelton Smedley
2. Desmon Shore
3. Jayce Smith

800 Meter Run
1. Kelton Smedley
2. Rayven Smith

Standing Long Jump
1. Jayce Smith
2. Boyd Brown
3. Robert Fudge

Softball Throw
1. Kelton Smedley
2. Rayven Smith
3. Jayce Smith

4x100 Meter Relay
1. Dezmon Shore, Michael Garcia, Rayven Smith, Jayce Smith

Girls (13-14)
100 Meter Dash
1. Keyana Nelson

800 Meter Run
1. Kallin Brown

Standing Broad Jump
1. Tyra Baker
2. Keyana Nelson

Softball Throw
1. Kalgary Johns
2. Tyra Baker
3. Brydgett Koontz

4x100 Meter Relay
1. Melany Williams, Kalgary Johns, Tyra Baker, Keyana Nelson

Second Grade Boys
50 Meter Dash

1. Echo Billie
2. Myron Billie
3. Edward Gaucin

100 Meter Dash
1. Kai Osceola
2. Tucker Johns
3. Sheldon Garcia

200 Meter Run
1. Blake Baker
2. Ozzy Osceola
3. Tavis Jumper

400 Meter Run
1. Silas Madrigal
2. Dante Thomas
3. Malcolm Jones

Standing Broad Jump
1. Echo Billie
2. Donovan Osceola
3. Edward Gaucin

Softball Throw
1. Robert Harris
2. Donovan Harris
3. Myron Billie

4x100 Meter Relay
1. Malcolm Jones, Ozzy Osceola, Donovan Harris, Silas Madrigal
2. Caillou Smith, Echo Billie, Myron Billie, Kai Osceola

Second Grade Girls
50 Meter Dash
1. Bevynt Billie
2. Katie Beck
3. Jacee Jumper

100 Meter Dash
1. Kierra French
2. Bevynt Billie
3. Katie Beck

200 Meter Run
1. Savannah Fish
2. Madisyn Osceola

400 Meter Run
1. Dakota Micco
2. Luzana Venzor

Standing Broad Jump
1. Luzana Venzor
2. Aubrey Pearce
3. Araya Youngblood

Softball Throw
1. Burgundy Pearce
2. Dakota Micco
3. Jacee Jumper

4x100 Relay Meter
1. Aleah Turtle, Madyson Osceola, Jacee Jumper, Savannah Fish
2. Luzana Venzor, Brienna Brockman, Dakota Micco, Kierra French
First Grade Boys
50 Meter Dash
1. Tanner Shore
2. Todd Pearce
3. Jagger Juarez

100 Meter Dash
1. Ramone Baker
2. Jayton Baker
3. Kobe Jimmie

200 Meter Run
1. Justin Gopher
2. Jaylen Baker
3. Billy Bailey

Standing Broad Jump
1. Ramone Baker
2. Jaylen Baker
3. Tanner Shore

Softball Throw
1. Delonce Carrillo
2. Billy Bailey
3. Jayton Baker

4x100 Meter Relay
1. Billy Bailey, Jaylen Baker, Delonce Carrillo, Tanner Shore
2. Norman Osceola, Jagger Gaucin, John Beck, Canyon Billie

First Grade Girls
50 Meter Dash
1. Shayla French
2. Caylie Huff
3. Kyandra Harris

100 Meter Dash
1. Destiny Elliott
2. Caylie Huff
3. Haylie Huff

200 Meter Run
1. Hannah Moss
2. LaShae King
3. Joss Youngblood

Standing Broad Jump
1. Caylie Huff
2. Haylie Huff
3. Kyandra Harris

Softball Throw
1. Destiny Elliott
2. Kyandra Harris
3. Mariah Billie

4x100 Meter Relay
1. Morgan Yates, Shayla French, Destiny Elliott, Aubee Billie

Kindergarten Boys
25 Meter Dash

1. Phierian Baker
2. Taden Santiago
3. Diego Meras

50 Meter Dash
1. Zion Romine
2. Corey Jumper
3. Diego Meras

100 Meter Dash
1. Hawk Micco
2. Phierian Baker
3. Dathen Garcia

200 Meter Run
1. Hawk Micco
2. Jaytron Baker
3. Zion Romine

Standing Broad Jump
1. Jaytron Baker
2. Phierian Baker
3. Warrik Billie

Softball Throw
1. Hawk Micco
2. Dathen Garcia
3. Diego Meras

Kindergarten Girls
25 Meter Dash
1. Elie Thomas
2. Tammy Martinez
3. Mariah Bennett

50 Meter Dash
1. Joss Youngblood
2. LaShae King
3. Alanis Baker

100 Meter Dash
1. Elie Thomas
2. Hannah Moss
3. Kalyn Hammil

200 Meter Run
1. Hannah Moss
2. LaShae King
3. Joss Youngblood

Standing Broad Jump
1. Joss Youngblood
2. LaShae King
3. Elie Thomas

Softball Throw
1. Jahcole Arnold
2. Hannah Moss
3. Reese Davis

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Naji Tobias

Afhachkee School student Mariah Smith looks at a Seminole cowboy and a young Seminole girl pictured in the Big Cypress gallery of the Clewiston Museum April 28.



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Library Director Barbara Oeffner and Ahfachkee School student Thomlynn Billie take a look at the variety of beetles and butterflies on the display wall at the Clewiston Museum.



Naji Tobias

Clewiston Museum Director Butch Wilson displays a tibia bone of a bison.



Naji Tobias

Clewiston Museum Director Butch Wilson, right, shows Ahfachkee students Thomlynn Billie and Mariah Smith a tibia bone of a bison during a presentation of Florida's early history on April 28.

Big Cypress Library Takes Ahfachkee School Students to the Clewiston Museum



Naji Tobias

To start off the tour of the Clewiston Museum on April 28, Ahfachkee School student Thomlynn Billie, left, is holding a femur bone from an ancient mammoth, while fellow student Mariah Smith holds up the mammoth's ribs. Both items were recently discovered in Hendry County, where Clewiston and the Big Cypress Reservation are located. The Clewiston Museum trip was hosted by Big Cypress Library Director Barbara Oeffner and Library Special Projects Curator Gretchen DeBree.



Naji Tobias

Afhachkee students Thomlynn Billie and Mariah Smith view a set of jawbones during their visit to the Clewiston Museum.

MORE PHOTOS FROM THE 10TH ANNUAL HOLLYWOOD PRESCHOOL DAY



Adina Loockhart

Hollywood preschoolers enjoy outdoor activities during the 10th annual Hollywood Preschool Day on April 28.

Preschoolers on roller boards race across the basketball court.



Adina Loockhart



Adina Loockhart

Pemayetv Emahakv Students Say Aloha



Rachel Buxton

Aiyana Tommie and Demetrius Clark are awarded best dressed April 15 at the Charter School Luau organized by Pemayetv Emahakv's student council. Third through sixth graders enjoyed an afternoon off as they danced in the Charter School cafeteria decorated with a Hawaiian theme. Students competed in the limbo and simply spent time with friends.

Pemayetv Emahakv Students Learn Life Skills on History Field Trip



Rachel Buxton

Happy Jones, front, tells the students of Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School how she remembers having to preserve meat for meals, during a history field trip April 29 to her cousins' old campsite known as the Buster Twins Campsite on the Brighton Reservation. Jones explained how she and her cousins would hang meat out to dry due to lack of electricity. She encouraged the students to learn the ways of living back then, so they can be educated in survival skills.

Ryanne Pratt Scores Grand Prize in the Ahfachkee School's Second Annual Science Fair Exhibit

Alison Herrera captures 1st place out of all the high school student entrants

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS – A moment after Ryanne Pratt found out that her Science Fair entry won grand prize on May 6, she took one last look at her project.

Just before the Ahfachkee School's staff packed all of the Science Fair items up at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium, Ryanne Pratt gazed at her entry, entitled "Who Lit the Fire in the Biomass Tipi," and talked about how it all came together.

Ryanne Pratt's entry encompassed some extensive research on a combination of these following science categories: environmental, technical, physical, biological and life.

"It was hard to wrap around the aluminum foil with the copper wire," the Ahfachkee school fourth-grader said of her exhibit entry. "I tried my best to get it on there. But what I liked the most about it was when I got to light up the beads and mosses with my project."

Ryanne Pratt's entry was judged as the best overall out of all the Tribal school's 76 project entries, with Alison Herrera winning first prize for her project in the high school category, among the fair's standouts. According to Ahfachkee School Teacher Coordinator Valerie Whiteside, between the class and individual science projects, 99 percent of all the school's students created a Science Fair project.

Whiteside noted that in the weeks prior

to the school's second annual Science Fair, the staff and students spent many after-school hours working together on the entries.

"The students are really interested in science and they have a really high aptitude in that subject," Whiteside said. "As far as planning went, every staff member really just pitched it to make this work. You can't pull off something of this size without everyone being involved."

Among those who appeared at the Science Fair were Chairman Mitchell Cypress and President Richard Bowers Jr., as they gave words of encouragement to the Tribal school's students and staff alike.

"The Science Fair is what we need in the community today," Chairman Cypress said to the event's attendees. "You never know who will become a scientist from our school...Everybody is a winner and everyone has a project that describes something that's never really been thought of before. We have some great minds right here at the Ahfachkee School."

President Bowers singled out the teachers for what they accomplished in assembling this year's Science Fair.

"It's a very good thing the teachers came up with this," President Bowers said of the Science Fair. "Teachers, you have the future of the Seminole Tribe of Florida in your hands. Students, the world is in front of you and your teachers will help you shape your future. I thank you all for your dedication to our kids as we strive to provide a

brighter future for them."

Ahfachkee Physical Education Instructor Randall Cleckler, who was tapped to organize this year's Science Fair, was among the staff members who received a boost from the Tribal leaders' presence at the event. He briefly delved into what that meant not only to him, but to the school as a whole.

"Education is an important aspect for our leaders and their Tribe," Cleckler said. "They [the Tribal leaders] want to challenge us to do our best as educators. We're definitely on board with what they want for their school."

In spring 2011, the Ahfachkee School plans to send the top winners from the school's third Annual Science Fair this fall to compete in the National American Indian Science and Engineering Fair competition in Albuquerque, N.M.

The American Indian Science and Engineering Society's National Science Fair, an annual event typically held in the spring, is open to any Tribal student from an accredited Tribal school nationwide. The Native American national fair accepts Tribal entrants who range from the fifth through 12th grades.

"We're just always trying to promote a higher level of expectation for our students and to make improvements to our school," Cleckler said. "We're just trying to raise the bar."

NAISEF is sponsored by AISES. For more information, visit www.aises.org.



Naji Tobias
Destiny Cypress, left, and Thunder Billie, right, pick up some picture books at the Science Fair on May 6. The event also included the Book Fair, which took place from May 3-10.

2nd Annual Science Fair Results

Grand Prize: 1. Ryanne Pratt (4th Grade); High School: 1. Alison Herrera (9th Grade), 2. Cooper Rivers (10th Grade), 3. Taylor Pratt (10th Grade); 4. Ronnie Billie – Honorable Mention (11th Grade); Middle School: 1. Katherine Bert (7th Grade), 2. Dalton Koenes (6th Grade), 3. Sabre Billie (7th Grade), 4. Starzie Vargas – Honorable Mention (8th Grade); 4th and 5th Grades: 1. Ryanne Pratt (4th Grade), 2. Jonah Alvarado (5th Grade), 3. Kevin Ivey (4th Grade), 4. Annabelle Whiteside – Honorable Mention (4th Grade); 1st through 3rd Grades – Class Projects: 1. Ms. Tiger's 3rd Grade Class, 2. Mrs. Caldwell's 2nd Grade Class, 3. Mrs. Kittredge's 3rd Grade Class, 4. Mrs. Paige's 1st Grade Class – Honorable Mention; Pre-Kindergarten-Kindergarten: 1. Miss Stoots' Pre-Kindergarten Class, 2. Mrs. Barry's Pre-Kindergarten Class, 3. Mrs. Klammer's Kindergarten Class, 4. Mrs. Hucklebee's Kindergarten Class – Honorable Mention.



Naji Tobias
As Ahfachkee School's Ryanne Pratt, center, is called up to receive her grand prize certificate and medal at the Science Fair, both Chairman Mitchell Cypress and President Richard Bowers Jr. congratulated her on her achievement.



Naji Tobias
President Richard Bowers Jr. analyzes the Science Fair entry of Alison Herrera, who placed first in the high school category.

Hollywood Employees Take Their Kids to Work



Adina Loonchartt
Children are waiting in line to show off their drawings reflecting knowledge of the Tribe during the Take Your Kid to Work Day at Hollywood Tribal Headquarters April 22.



Rachel Buxton
Justin Harper samples a nutritious snack after learning the importance of living a healthy lifestyle during a presentation by the Seminole Tribe Health Department as part of Take Your Kid to Work Day.

Big Cypress Brings Families Together at Take Your Kid to Work Day



Naji Tobias
Big Cypress Library Assistant Heather Galassini, left, and her 8-year-old son, Caleb Frey, are working together on a food pyramid sheet at the reservation's Take-Your-Kid-to-Work-Day event on April 22 at the Big Cypress Community Center.



Naji Tobias
Seminole Fitness Program Director/Trainer Neil Prager works with Stephanie Vargas, left, Gloria Silva, center, and Starzie Vargas, right, on the assisted row exercise, which is designed to increase strength in the shoulder blade and lower back areas.



Naji Tobias
Tribal employee parents and their children spend some time stretching at the Fitness Dome during the Take Your Kid to Work Day event on April 22.

Health

Tribe's Animal Control Offers Rabies Clinic for Pets in Advance of Hurricane Season

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS – Tribal citizens from the Big Cypress Reservation braved torrential downpours and gusty winds as they brought their pets to a rabies clinic at a chickee hut.

Located adjacent to the Big Cypress softball field, participants came out in droves to the health function on April 18 in an effort to safeguard themselves and their pets for the upcoming hurricane season.

Approximately 120 animals were vaccinated, including 10 cats. Most received a combination of rabies and distemper shots for protection, while quite a few also received a microchip.

With a microchip, the animal is given a pet identification to let the owners know where they are at in case they become lost. The Seminole Animal Control and Health Departments gain access to the pet identifications as well.

"We never know when a natural disaster will come and what damage may be caused during that time," Seminole Animal and Wildlife Services Officer/Coordinator Jonathan Vazquez said. "Cages can get damaged, homes can get damaged. ... During these times, animals get scared and run away to seek safety. When we find animals eventually, we're able to take them back to their owners."

Big Cypress Tribal Citizen Brenda Tommie, who has four dogs at her residence, is one pet owner that's in favor of the vaccination efforts. She reflected the four hurricanes of 2004 and Hurricane Wilma in 2005, which got her to place the dogs in a horse trailer to keep them safe.

Back then, Tommie had only one dog with her. Tommie and her family stayed in living quarters, while the dog actually slept in a horse trailer.

Tommie said she took the dogs to the rabies vaccination in order to protect her children.

"People bring their kids over to our house to play with them," Tommie said. "We want to make sure our dogs get updated with their shots so when the kids come around them, they won't have to worry about diseases or anything like that."

And the idea of not having to travel to a

veterinarian clinic fared well with Tommie. Fellow Big Cypress Tribal resident Klaressa Osceola said she was happy with the decision as well, despite the heavy rains and winds.

As Klaressa Osceola carried her 3-year-old Yorkshire dog to the clinic for vaccination, she reflected on the role that her dog, Maisy, plays in the family as far as hurricanes are concerned.

"Maisy is an inside dog," Klaressa Osceola said. "She'll be pretty much protected during hurricane season."

The Animal Control and Health Departments hope the rabies vaccination awareness efforts spread to all of the Tribe's six reservations.

The Brighton, Hollywood and Immokalee reservations will be the next three site stops for pet vaccinations, according to Vazquez. Tribal residents from the Tampa and Fort Pierce reservations, meanwhile, are advised by the Animal Control and Health Departments to take their pets to a nearby veterinarian clinic as soon as possible.

In the near future, the Fort Pierce Reservation will be starting a pet voucher program. It is meant to provide the reservation's residents a way to better be able to have their animals vaccinated and registered with the Tribe's Animal Control Department.

The rest of the Tribal residences will receive this benefit later this year, as rabies clinics will be held annually at the four aforementioned reservations – beginning this year.

"This keeps the reservations safe," Jacob Osceola said. "If our pets stay healthy, it will only benefit the Tribe. You don't want an animal that has rabies to pass it to another one. That would be a major concern right there."

The 2010 hurricane season begins on June 1 and ends on Nov. 30.

For detailed information on disaster preparedness for pets, call the Seminole Animal Control Department at 954-965-1321.



Naji Tobias

Veterinarian Fitzgerald Oliver right, administers a rabies shot to Sparky, a Chihuahua dog, as Big Cypress Tribal pet owner Linda Beleso, right, holds on to her pet. The Chihuahua also received a distemper vaccination shot and a microchip for his pet identification at the April 18 event.



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Tribal pet owner Klaressa Osceola, left, brings her 3-year-old Yorkshire dog, Maisy, to the April 18 rabies clinic as her animal is scanned for a microchip tag by Pinegate Assistant Robert Daley.



Judy Weeks

Immokalee Seminole Health and Nutritionist Charlotte Porcaro and American Cancer Society Community Rep. Melissa Pfeffer greet life supporters.

Immokalee Seminole Ranch Hosts Annual Relay for Life

BY JUDY WEEKS
Staff Reporter

IMMOKALEE – A record turnout supported the annual Immokalee American Cancer Society Relay for Life.

The Immokalee Seminole Ranch donated the use of their facilities for the on the May 7 event, which attracted residents of Immokalee and the surrounding communities.

Team Seminole, captained by Seminole Health and Nutritionist Charlotte Porcaro, was one of 12 teams pledging their commitment to fight against cancer and support its survivors. Composed of Tribal members and employees wearing their turquoise T-shirts, team members took turns carrying the spirit stick as they made laps around the track.

"Cancer isn't prejudice and doesn't play favorites," said Immokalee Liaison Elaine Aguilar. "None of us can afford to ignore this dreadful disease, which strikes at random without warning. It is your responsibility to yourself and your family to

have preventive checkups and seek medical attention for abnormal growths, wounds or bodily functions. By heeding the warning signs, it is frequently possible to stop this killer in its tracks."

The Immokalee High School Color Guard participated in the opening ceremonies and lent its support to the Survivors Lap before setting the pace for an evening of fun-filled activities which included a human wheelbarrow race, Miss Relay contest of female impersonators, tug of war, musical chairs and the tastiest treat contest.

American Cancer Society Community Rep. Melissa Pfeffer coordinated the fund raising activities which included Luminaria sales, concession booths, raffle ticket sales, donations and pledges. Team booths lined the track and participated in entertainment activities throughout the night.

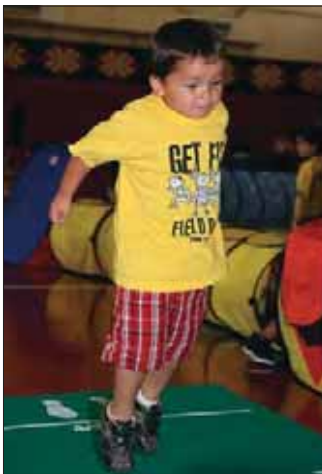
Among the supporters in the fight for a cure for cancer were the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and Billie Swamp Safari, who donated tickets for the fund raising raffle.



Judy Weeks

Immokalee Seminole Health and Nutritionist Charlotte Porcaro mans the Team Seminole Booth at the Immokalee Relay for Life.

Fitness Dept. Hosts Get Fit Day for Preschoolers



Rachel Buxton

Quaye Urbina jumps high and far in the standing broad jump after crawling through the many tunnels set up for Get Fit Day



Rachel Buxton

Jana Johnson pops out of one of the tunnels used during Get Fit Day



Rachel Buxton

Ferron Sampson and Willo James are bumper to bumper during Get Fit Day April 16 at the Brighton Gymnasium, an event organized by the Fitness Department in effort to introduce daily exercise and physical activity to the Brighton preschoolers. The Seminole Health Department helped out providing snacks for the children in between fitness circuits.

Know These Pet Hazard Safety Tips

BY JONATHAN VAZQUEZ
STOF Animal Control Supervisor

Spring and summertime hazards present numerous threats to pets. Pet safety is essential and planning or prevention is the best way to avoid serious dangers to companion animals.

Snake encounters of the venomous kind can be deadly to your pets so taking preventative steps can reduce the possibility of a pet emergency. On reservations such as Big Cypress, Brighton, and Immokalee it is not uncommon to hear of a pet that was bitten by a snake. Most pets are curious and a rattling sound or vibrating tail meant to be a warning may seem like an invitation to play for an innocent victim. Dusky pygmy rattlesnakes are the most common culprit of all. The size of this snake makes it hard to take seriously but pets beware, they can deliver a painful bite. Other snakes such as the Eastern diamondback and Water moccasin can be deadly but their size and disposition will usually win over the animal's curiosity. Here are some preventative steps you can take to keep your property free of these slithering guests and keep your companions safe.

Always keep your pet confined to your property.

A wandering animal not only presents a nuisance to your neighbors and community, but it also increases the opportunity of the animal coming in contact with a venomous snake and not being able to make it back home.

Keep your yard tidy.

Clear any undergrowth, debris, tool, toys, and similar items where snakes can hide. Make sure that shrubs, bushes and flower plants do not encroach on your pathways or walkways so you and your pets have a clear vision of anything in your path. Clip bushes so that they are at least 10 inches or more off the ground to remove hiding spots for snakes. Ultimately the idea is to remove any items that obstruct your view and your pets' view of places a snake could hide and be stumbled upon unexpectedly. Most rattlesnakes ambush unsuspecting victims in hiding places humans inadvertently establish.

Keep attractants to the minimum.

Your pets' food can be an attractant to rodents that



will establish themselves in areas that is fruitful to them. All uneaten food by your pet will provide food for rodents and where you have the presence of these vectors you will have snakes. Even an innocent bird feeder should be kept on the perimeter of the property instead of close to your home or yard.

Identifying snakes.

Even taking all these steps will not guarantee that a snake will not slither on to your property in its travels for food or a mate and inadvertently find itself face to face with your pet. Always peruse your yard before allowing your pets out to play. If you see a snake, identify it. Not all snakes are venomous and some snake will eat others including venomous snakes. Learn to identify the six venomous snakes in Florida and leave any other snake alone.

Keeping your self safe.

Do not try to kill a snake to protect your pet. Snakes have a striking distance that is longer than most people anticipate. Most snakes can strike half their body length, so a six foot snake can bite you at three feet away. That means if you are close enough to kill it, it's close enough to bite. Make every attempt to keep your pet away from the snake without putting yourself at risk.

Treatment for your pet.

If you suspect or know your pet was bitten by a snake, you should seek immediate veterinary assistance. Do not attempt to treat the bite yourself. You may cause more harm than good. Most veterinarians carry antivenin and can successfully treat a venomous snake bite if attended to promptly. Not many people know but there are rattlesnake vaccinations available for some pets. Although the canine vaccine remains controversial it is significantly safer than the antivenin treatment.

Calling for assistance

If you see a snake in your home or yard and need assistance, call the Seminole Tribe of Florida Animal and Wildlife Service at 954-965-1321. Don't forget to keep track of the slithering intruder from a safe distance so it can be removed when we arrive.



Marijuana's Effect on the Brain

BY DR. THOMAS RYAN
Family Services Department

Marijuana is the most commonly abused illicit drug in the United States. According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, in 2007, 14.4 million Americans aged 12 or older used marijuana at least once in the month prior to being surveyed, which is similar to the 2006 rate.

About 6,000 people a day in 2007 used marijuana for the first time—2.1 million Americans. Of these, 62.2 percent were under age 18. The main active chemical in marijuana is delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol; THC for short. Marijuana is usually smoked as a cigarette (joint) or in a pipe. It is also smoked in blunts, which are cigars that have been emptied of tobacco and refilled with marijuana. Since the blunt retains the tobacco leaf used to wrap the cigar, this mode of delivery combines marijuana's active ingredients with nicotine and other harmful chemicals.

Scientists have learned a great deal about how THC acts in the brain to produce its many effects. When someone smokes marijuana, THC rapidly passes from the lungs into the bloodstream, which carries the chemical to the brain and other organs throughout the body. THC acts upon specific sites in the brain, called cannabinoid receptors, kicking off a series of cellular reactions that ultimately lead to the "high" that users experience when they smoke marijuana. The highest density of cannabinoid receptors are found in parts of the brain that influence pleasure, memory, thoughts, concentration, sensory and time perception, and coordinated movement.

Not surprisingly, marijuana intoxication can cause distorted perceptions, impaired coordination, difficulty in thinking and problem solving, and problems with learning and memory. Research has shown that marijuana's adverse impact on learning and memory can last for days or weeks after the acute effects of the drug wear off. As a result, someone who smokes marijuana every day may be functioning at a suboptimal intellectual level all of the time. Long-term marijuana abuse can lead to addiction; that is, compulsive drug seeking and abuse despite its known harmful effects upon social functioning in the context of family, school, work, and recreational activities.

Long-term marijuana abusers trying to quit report irritability, sleeplessness, decreased appetite, anxiety, and drug craving, all of which make it difficult to quit. These withdrawal symptoms begin within about 1 day following abstinence, peak at 2-3 days, and subside within 1 or 2 weeks following drug cessation. Research clearly demonstrates that marijuana has the potential to cause problems in daily life or make a person's existing problems worse. In one study, heavy marijuana abusers reported that the drug impaired several important measures of life achievement including physical and mental health, cognitive abilities, social life, and career status. Several studies associate workers' marijuana smoking with increased absences, tardiness, accidents, workers' compensation claims, and job turnover.

Should you wish to learn more about the effects of marijuana, please feel free to schedule a confidential meeting with a Family Services Counselor on your respective Reservation.

—Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse (2009)

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Announcements

MOTHER'S DAY LETTERS

"Jessy Espallat"

Happy Mother's Day! You're our inspiration to us! You worked and still work very hard to keep us happy, healthy and God bless us with your Mom! Keep up the great job! Love Daysha, Aaliyah, Tony and Antonio Billie.

Jennie B. Harjo:

Happy Mother's Day to our one queen that's been there for us no matter what the situation was or is. We love you and always will for being the greatest mother and grandmother!!!

Love, the Harjo Family

P.S. Only the strong survive. Love, your son Burton L. Harjo.

To: My Big Sis

I sincerely appreciate how you are always near. Even though you have crossed over to the Spirit World, just as in this world you still have my back. I'll always remember what you told me back in the day, "Li bro it's always been just us surviving how we been." Shed no tears Big Sis, your little brother is pure warrior. Shonaabisha for raising this fierce Panther. Blood's thicker than water, this bond cannot be broken. Happy Mother's Day, Big Sis. I love you and miss you.

Che He Cha La Ne Ool Tho Le Kuul.
From your little brother, Warrior 4 Life,
Ike T. Harjo
Panther Clan



From: A warrior 4 life
With much respect for you,

To: Lena H. Billie

Poshe there isn't a day that goes by I forget where my strength to survive the test of time originates. Because of you I can smile and laugh at what tears down the average human being. I'll always remember my childhood days with you being a big part of my life. Even today your spirit makes sure you're still a big part of my life. Happy Mother's Day Poshe, I miss you and I love you just as I did in my childhood days. Shonaabisha for all the great memories Poshe. Blood's thicker than water, this bond cannot be broken.

From: A warrior 4 life
Your one and only grandson named,
Ike T. Harjo
Panther Clan



To: Donna Cypress

Although many years have went by I still must say thank you very much for trying to show me a better way. Of course I didn't listen (smile) but that does not change the fact that you tried to tame this nomadic warrior back in the day. One thing I know and two for sure you would be surprised. Because I am finally that better man. Wiser, determined and focused. Anyway, Happy Mother's Day and know that I always wish the very best for you and your loved ones.

Ike T. Harjo
Panther Clan

To: Jennie B. Harjo

Waache in one day out the year I cannot express my love and appreciation for you. It takes since day one of my birth until the day I cross over to the Spirit World. Even then, that's not enough time to show you my unconditional love and appreciation for you.

Happy Mother's Day, Waache every day, stay strong and know that I love you with all my heart. Waache blood's thicker than water, this bond cannot be broken. Shonaabisha Waache.
From your youngest son, Warrior 4 Life
Ike T. Harjo
Panther Clan.



Happy Mother's Day to
Mayra! We are there for you, stay
strong,
Love,
Ike and Jennie.

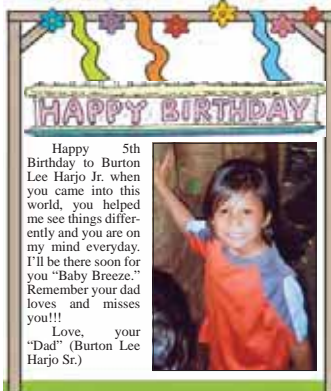
To: Tash

Ain't nothing change after all these years. When you stood your ground on that stand and didn't flinch. You showed loyalty that's rarely seen in that spot. Words just can't express my gratitude! Everyday I'm hopping the best for you and your love ones. I want you to know until I breathe my last you will be appreciated. Thank you for being real, thank you for that rare loyalty. Happy Mother's Day Tash.

From: A warrior 4 life that has utmost respect for you.
Ike T. Harjo
Panther Clan



BIRTHDAY



Happy 5th Birthday to Burton Lee Harjo Jr. when you came into this world, you helped me see things differently and you are on my mind everyday. I'll be there soon for you "Baby Breeze." Remember your dad loves and misses you!!!
Love, your
"Dad" (Burton Lee Harjo Sr.)



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POEMS

One Love

One love to all the ladies of the Native American race,
There is no other in the world that can compete
with your natural beauty, elegance and grace.

You are everything in a lady a Native American man needs.
Defiant, intelligent, strong, sensitive and not possessed by greed.

There is not a race of ladies that has the qualities
That makes you blessed, remain proud for many reasons
Other than that you are superior the best.

Many of you ladies are very athletic as well, whether it be basketball, softball or volleyball, may your game continue to excel.

Represent all Native Americans in everything you do,
It goes without saying us men will too.

It's a fact you ladies have a natural beauty no other can match,
So beautiful from head to toe, even with a scar or scratch.

You don't have to paint a face on everyday,
Or get a store-bought tan, no need for weave or glue on nails
Because you're natural understand.

We Native Americans have in every aspect of life been blessed.
Even though we are few, thanks to you ladies, we stand strong
From the north, south, east and west.

Let's continue to multiply and purify the Native American bloodline,
Regardless what Tribe or nation, keep that unity and let our pride shine.

One love I wish all our Native American ladies
The very best, remember, you are superior, so do not settle for less.

—Ike T. Harjo
Panther Clan.

With the wind

With the wind I can feel you Big Sis, prowling like the panther
since you been gone from this world I've truly missed.

There is no other that can fill this void in my life,
Though I truly do appreciate those that have tried in this land of
strife.

Since the day you crossed over, Big Sis, you have been on my mind
To me you are the greatest Sister — one of a kind.

As I have said, in this world you will not be forgotten as life goes on.
How can I? When you remembered me after all these years I've been
gone.

The bond we share is and always will be intact,
The sadness I feel within will remain until I am where you're at.

As you already know where your body was laid to rest
I made sure it looks nice, for my Big Sis it didn't matter how much
the price.

Thank you always for being there for me that hasn't changed,
With that land I appreciate what you arranged.

I started the process to have a home built on that site,
Thank you for thinking of me
Because without you, you knew I'd need my own right.

I will continue to stay strong as I have since day one,
Big Sis, you raised a warrior second to none.

With the wind you will always be near,
I love you Big Sis. Smile and shed not another tear.

—Ike T. Harjo
Panther Clan

**You can take the Warrior outta Rez
However
You can't take the Rez outta Warrior**

The sun travels far beyond the horizon to share its warmth on mother Earth with its enchantments determined and enforced by the laws of nature. A majestic and sacred location materializes — "Da Rez"

In the early dawn there is a stillness of every existence in nature welcoming another beautiful day by expressing shonabish to the creator of the universe through acknowledgment of its presence, honoring its grace and celebrating its offerings. A precious gift of another day on Earth.

Da Rez, where an eagle soars gracefully high above and Spanish moss gently sways from an ageless oak tree as whispering winds echo soothing and reassuring calmness to the body, spirit and soul. A place like no other.

Oral stories fascinate a young Seminole boy on long winter nights, little does he know, however, a vital seed is planted that would be embedded deeply and strongly in his heart and mind. He faces the journey of life.

Mornings, days and weekends are filled with endless activities of discovering nature, but also he's ever mindful of the consequences for deviationism for a day will arrive when he must acknowledge, confront and accept his greatest enemy, himself. As a result, he learns to forgive.

To secure, maintain and strive for an equilibrium of oneness with ancestors, a leisure stroll during a light mist heightens all of his senses to the world around him while saw grass quietly dances with delight and joy.

Da Rez where Seminoles long before him sacrificed in battles and wars with the blue coats for survival and presentation of cultural identity.

As he walks through a hammock, a thought comes to mind, and he wonders what may have occurred here: Was it a camp? A hunting grounds? A ceremonial grounds? A battle field? A location where crops grew abundantly, a mound, or a place where two young lovers met in secrecy.

He makes a sincere gratitude of appreciation for the blessings offered in psychological stability, spiritual strength, and physical nourishments imperative for a healthy and balanced lifestyle. An essential homage.

As the sun fades in the west and a full moon appears, he is fully aware tomorrow is not promised to him. The mysticism of an open fire is perpetually etched in his being for life. Remove him from da Rez physically, he's at home mentally. Warrior knows! Regardless of location, he is always at home when he reminisces about the place where his heart beat began.

—Daniel Tommie



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ANNOUNCEMENT

Trip to Albuquerque

I had the pleasure of chaperoning my mother on the trip to Albuquerque, New Mexico on April 21-25, 2010.

While we were there some of us, (Dora Tiger, Sheli Tiger, Meg Buster, Minnie Doctor and Nettie Stewart) went site seeing and went on the Sandia Peak Tram.

My mother wanted to go on it, I myself was not to thrilled about it but she insisted. So off we went, it was very, very, very cold

up there and windy and snowing. We about froze up there, but my mother (Minnie Doctor) enjoyed every bit of it. We all went to their restaurant, High Fiance Restaurant and had lunch, then we headed back down. That was such a blessed beautiful day that us ladies enjoyed.

Thanks to my mother, the daring, adventurous lady that she is, we had a wonderful time!

— By Nettie Stewart



Minnie Doctor, sitting in the chair. Standing, from left: Dora Tiger, Meg Buster, Nettie Stewart and Sheli Tiger.

Submitted photo

NEW BABY



From left: Louise Billie, Jennie Billie, and Juanita Osceola. Baby - Phillip Joel Sampson

Submitted photo



Submitted photo

Minnie Doctor holding Phillip Joel Sampson

Newest Big Town!

The Frank Family welcomes the newest kid in town! Marge Osceola hosted a baby shower for Sunshine Frank at the Hard Rock on Tuesday, April 27th. All the family were there to welcome the newest Big Town, Phillip Joel Sampson. Here is Phillip Joel Sampson Frank with his grandmas', Jennie Billie, Juanita Osceola and Louise Billie. His Big Town grandma Minnie Doctor. Then finally his grandma, Sharon Osceola, mom (Sunshine), and grandma Jennie.

We all enjoyed ourselves, Marge

had us playing games, like putting a dime between your knees and walking over to drop the dime into a glass. It was fun watching everyone take turns to do this, needless to say nobody got the dime in but Marge! Then we all drew a picture of Phillip Joel Sampson Frank with our paper on our heads, Nettie, auntie or mothers side won that prize. After dinner our evening came to a close with Sunshine opening up all the gifts that were brought for Phillip Joel Sampson.

— By Nettie Stewart

POEM

Eeh Che Poo Te Chach Cha Lee Wah
—By Ike T. Harjo, Panther Clan

Eeh Che Poo Te Chach Cha Lee Wah Big Sis Each and everyday,
Smile and don't worry about your little brother this warrior is doing OK.

You raised me to be mean and tough that I will always be,
Standing tall in this world where the weak minded continue to fall
all around me.

Where you and I loved off the rez only the strong survived in that spot,
Little they knew we were panthers born to prey and plot.

Big sis you and I were conditioned to go days at a time,
No they couldn't handle your world and mine.

Those others in that spot sure thought they had they hood on lock,
Until we moved there and I started pulling out with it cocked.

We were just playing the cards were dealt living where we did,
Two unconquered Seminoles one sister and 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 know I will die for you,
That's why their respect is sincere and true.

Big sis most back home on the reservations don't understand where I'm coming from,
because most never seen the streets where violence is being done.

We were living in that spot before the wealthy today, surviving on instinct
and putting the jack on display.

You and 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 tombstone 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 and so will momma, your kids, the family and your friends,
You have their unconditional love big sis
and I feel your spirit as you ride the wind.

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Sports

C



Chris C. Jenkins

Seminole professional boxer Elliot Alvarado in action. He currently has a 3-1 overall professional record.

Seminole Sparring Competition Attracts Aspiring Tribal Boxers

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Tribal youth, teen and adult up-and-comers on the boxing scene got the chance to show their wears once again with a rare, fun and competitive sparring showcase at the Seminole Boxing Gym facilities, and with good results.

With a dozen or more bouts scheduled for all young, willing and able Tribal citizens, Seminole Boxing Manager Milo Osceola and Seminole Boxing Trainer and Coach Richard Clark organized a sparring competition April 17.

It was their latest scheduled event among several others in past years, all with the hopes of maintaining and sparking an interest in the sport.

"It has always been a part of me and always kept me away from the drugs and alcohol," Osceola said. "I want to give these Tribal kids an opportunity and if they take it somewhere then fine. There is no excuse for them to not do it now."

Osceola and Clark said designating "champ of the ring" winners at the end of each match was also one of

their new ideas put in place to measure progress and future competition. Medals were also given out to the youth that participated.

Amateur and professional fighters lead by current Tribal professional boxer Elliot Alvarado also made the trek from Immokalee and other areas to participate in the event.

Brothers Kano and Jaden Puente came all the way from the Brighton Reservation for the event with brother Ignacio "Nos" Orozco, Fitness Specialist at the Brighton Fitness Studio and grandmother Angles Bert. "I think it was fun," said the younger brother Kano, 8.

Eleven-year-old brother Jaden said boxing offered him something else unique to do.

"I already tried wrestling and I just thought boxing would be fun too," he said.

Both said their brief exposure to boxing has also helped in their coordination skills.

Whether a purist for boxing or a fan of its newest competitor-mixed martial arts, the benefits of both sports from a discipline and fitness standpoint can not be disputed. One success story is in that of sparring participant and Tribal citizen Joshua Josh.

Josh's life has made a 180-degree turn from the heavy drug and alcohol abuse of his past. Now clean and sober two years, he said in part because of his love and interest in boxing he has lost over 50 pounds and counting.

"Getting back into it took my health to another level," Josh said. "From a discipline standpoint it saved me because I had to discipline myself to eat and train right and everything." "I have always had a passion for it [boxing] but when I began to be involved I just got hooked," he continued.

The married father, GED graduate and vocational school student said he has no current plans for a career in boxing but he is keeping his options open.

Osceola said there are no set plans or date for their next competition but those interested should stay tuned.

For more information on Seminole Boxing or the Brighton Fitness Studio, call 954-445-5245, 954-330-7939 or 863-697-6870.



Chris C. Jenkins

Joshua Josh warms up on the heavy bag before competition.

Professional Bass Fisherman Tyrone Cypress Rides Solo in Triple Crown Series

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — It is 5:43 a.m. on May 7, with the morning skies almost pitch black and the fog beginning to rise on the L-28 canal waterway.

That is when Tyrone Cypress, a professional bass fisherman, hops in his fishing boat to get ready for competition in the 10th Annual Bass Busters Fishing Tournament. By 6:11 a.m. — 19 minutes before the tournament was slated to begin — Cypress is prepared to battle with the rest of the competition and catch some bass in the canal waters.

Cypress, wearing a Seminole Tribe of Florida-designed shirt customized just for him, gets ready to pull out of the L-28 dock with only one thing on his mind — focus. He talks very little at this time, as the fisherman is trying to get an ample head start on the other competitors, who haven't even prepared their boats yet.

Overcoming the early morning fog, Cypress drives his fishing boat as fast as 70 miles per hour in his quest to find a good spot to catch some big bass. Since Cypress is fishing alone — he was one of only three entrants for the entire Triple Crown Series to do so — he allows absolutely no distractions to throw his focus off.

In sync with the chirping birds, cricket sounds and the steady currents encompassing the L-28 canal waterway, Cypress catches his first two bass in just 40 minutes of action. The two fish were caught within seven minutes of each other.

At 7:24 a.m., when the sun began to rise over the canal, Cypress has already caught four bass — seemingly well on his way to a successful showing at the Bass Busters Tournament. After a 15-minute breather, Cypress gets right back into action. But before he continues, he says, "I'm going to flip these weeds."

For at least the next two hours, it proved to be a self-fulfilling prophecy. Instead of catching more bass, Cypress captured a sea of bag weeds, stalling his progress in the tournament.

Scouring back and forth through the L-28 canal waterway, Cypress knows that as a bass master, it is not just sheer concentration and focus that embodies a great competitive fisherman. It is more about exhibiting a sense of patience, something Cypress had to show in the midst of the ever-increasing temperatures, the faster canal currents and the ever-rising sun on what goes on to be a clear, hot and humid day.

After missing on more than 20 consecutive attempts

to catch his elusive fifth fish, the look on Cypress's face showed his game face was still on, as if all that tired didn't faze him.

A fisherman cannot lose his cool, poise or composure at any point, especially during competition. Cypress's patience was tested at 9:20 a.m., when he seemingly missed a golden opportunity to catch his fifth bass. The fish apparently ate the bait but found a way to escape back in the deep canal waters.

Only seven minutes later — 9:27 a.m. — Cypress's focus would work to his advantage, as he nabs his fifth bass fish.

"I'm looking to upgrade," Cypress said. "They [the bass fish] all look the same to me."

Aware that his bass limit is five, Cypress grabs a bass from his live well and throws it back to the canal to replace it with a larger one.

Though Cypress knows at this point he has absolutely no shot of catching eventual Triple Crown winners Frank Marrero and Mario Posada in the final standings, he does believe he can win this final leg of the series.

At 9:48 a.m., Cypress fulfills his wish — a bigger bass.

"It's a better one," he said.

While Cypress keeps that bass fish, he throws the next one he catches back in the water.

"It's [the bass] is too small; that's not going to help me right now," Cypress said. "Right now, I'm just trying to upgrade. If it's not five pounds and over, I ain't having that."

Cypress caught one more fish at the fishing tournament, but not before the heat of the day forced him to try a variety of kinds of bait and navigate different routes.

Cypress ended up catching 11.7 pounds of bass — far less than what the top three fishing teams amassed.

Richard Doctor and Moses Wilson won the Bass Busters Tournament with 23.47 pounds, followed by overall Triple Crown winners Frank Marrero and Mario Posada with 19.15 pounds and the team of Tom Koenes and Walter Summeralls at 16.65 pounds.

Nonetheless, Triple Crown Series Organizer Moses "Big Shot" Jumper understood why Cypress decided not to team up with a partner — something the top performers did.

"Tyrone knows what to fish and how to do it," Jumper said. "He's a good sportsman and he works on his craft very well. If you get out there in the water by yourself, there's a sense of solitude to it. It makes Tyrone feel good. I guess."

Jumper had considered Cypress an early favorite to win the Triple Crown Series, in no small part due to his three-year experience as a professional bass master.

Asked before the final weigh-in if he would be surprised if he won the Bass Busters Tournament, Cypress said this:

"It would be nice if I win for once," he answered.

Cypress will get another shot in next year's Triple Crown Series, should he decide to compete again. He revealed that he was fishing with a sprained right ankle — the fisherman slightly turned it while working out a week before the tournament.

"I should have listened to my doctor, but when it's time to fish, that's what I'm going to do," Cypress said. "Fishing is what I love to do."



Naji Tobias

Tyrone Cypress shows off two basses.

Levi Stevens 2nd Annual Memorial Golf Tournament

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

NAPLES — A four-man scramble was the format for the second Annual Levi Stevens Memorial Golf Tournament held at Heritage Bay Golf Course.

Native Americans from all across South Florida gathered on the links for a 9 a.m. tee time on April 30.

"Levi was the son of my uncle, Jacob Osceola," said Raymond Garza, Sr. "Even though we were cousins, we didn't get to spend much time together since he was raised in the Tampa and Orlando area and he was a lot younger than me."

"A very athletic young man, he had a keen interest in sports. When I heard that he had taken up golf in high school, I went to Orlando to spend some time with him on the local courses. We were just getting to know each other better when he was lost to us. Even though he was only 18 years old, he had actively

participated in several tournaments and really enjoyed the game. I am sponsoring today's competition in his memory," concluded Garza.

The family team of Raymond Garza, Sr., Ray, Jr. and Virginia Billie won with a score of 64 on the eighteen holes. Finishing with a strong five point lead, Ray, Sr. carried the team with great iron shots and Virginia had her putter working to advantage.

Known for his powerful long drives, Ricky Dos Belivered the ball to the greens and his partner, Mondo Tiger, made every putt count. It was no surprise when they earned second place.

Cicero Osceola said that he is contemplating moving to Immokalee since he seems to be in the top three in every golf tournament he plays in this part of Florida.

Immediately following the tournament, the players moved to the Immokalee Seminole Casino for a luncheon celebration.



Judy Weeks

Elliott Young checks the lay of the green, as Lawrence Osceola sinks his putt.



Judy Weeks

A member of the winning team, Virginia Billie sinks a putt on the third hole.

LEVI STEVENS MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT RESULTS

1st	64	Ray Garza, Sr., Ray Garza, Jr. and Virginia Billie
2nd	69	Mondo Tiger and Ricky Doctor
3rd	71	Cicero Osceola and Bruce Pratt
4th	72	Elliott Young and Lawrence Osceola
5th	73	Charlie Cypress and Keeno King
6th	74	K. B. Campbell and Duane Pratt
Closest to the Pin:	6	Mondo Tiger
	8	Ray Garza, Sr.
	13	Lawrence Osceola
	17	Elliott Young
Longest Drive:	0-14 Handicap	Charlie Cypress
	15 Plus Handicap	Ray Garza, Sr.
	Ladies	Virginia Billie



Judy Weeks

Tripp Edgar grabs a handful of rigging for a 4.78 second score in the Steer Riding.

EIRA Cinco de Mayo Rodeo Revives Competitiveness

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — The Eastern Indian Rodeo Association Cinco de Mayo Rodeo in Immokalee on May 8 provided a unique opportunity for some members to climb back in the saddle again after several years since competing.

While three generations of Big Cypress Board Rep. Paul Bowers Sr.'s family are frequent EIRA competitors, his brother, President Richard Bowers Jr. doesn't often have an opportunity because of his heavy schedule. For once, everything worked to advantage and the two brothers joined forces to give their competition a run for their money in the Team Roping event.

Returning to the arena and carefully building his loop, President Bowers backed into the box and nodded for the steer re-

lease in the 50 & Over Breakaway. The gate opened, the steer bolted and horse and rider flew out of the run just in time for the steer to run through what appeared to be a perfect loop. Paul, Sr. had better luck and caught his steer in just a few strides earning a first place score of just 7.2 seconds.

"I've been riding horses all my life and working cattle, but I rarely have an opportunity to do it for fun," said President Bowers. "Even though it's work, I look forward to the roundups each year and always make time for the annual Cattle Drive at Big Cypress. I guess, being a cowboy gets in your blood."

Not being one to let her husband show her up, Ana Bowers returned to Barrel Racing after more than five years off. She took first place in the 50 & Over Race with an

Please see RODEO on page 5C



Jaime Hernandez

Mod Squad's George Micco prepares to swing at an approaching pitch against Immokalee Recreation.

Softball Tournament in Big Cypress Honors Memory of Virgil Billie

BY JAIME HERNANDEZ
Editor-in-Chief

BIG CYPRESS – Dozens of Tribal members and employees gathered at the Big Cypress softball fields with their bats and gloves to compete in the Virgil Billie Co-ed Softball Memorial Tournament.

The event was April 24 and was the first softball tournament held in Billie's honor, according to Stan Frischman, the assistant director of the Big Cypress Recreation Department. The department has organized five basketball tournaments in Billie's name but decided this year to switch Billie's namesake tournament to softball.

"Back in the day, he played basketball with friends," Maggie Puente, Billie's niece, said of her late uncle. "This year we did something different. I'm an athletic person and I like to play softball."

Prior to the start of the tournament, Puente reflected on her close relationship with her uncle. She said Billie often looked after her when she was growing up, helping her with her homework and ensuring that she had something to snack on when she came home from school every day.

Puente said her 12-year-old son, Joel Billie, enjoyed an equally close relationship to Virgil Billie and was affected deeply when Virgil Billie passed away in

2005. She said her son still cries whenever he visits Virgil Billie's grave.

Shortly after his uncle died, Joel Billie pushed Puente to get the Big Cypress Recreation Department to organize a basketball tournament in Virgil Billie's honor. "As a recreation department, we're always very pleased to be able to be part of this," Frischman said. "Families ask us to put something like this together and we just make it happen. ... This is a great opportunity for old friends to get together."

Puente threw out the tournament's ceremonial first pitch with several other young relatives. She said Joel Billie was at a skateboarding tournament in New Mexico and could not attend.

Large crowds turned out throughout the day for the tournament, which featured a double-elimination format and stiff competition between seven teams from several different Tribal reservations. Team Trail captured the tournament championship after it rallied from an 11-8 deficit late in the final game against Immokalee Recreation to win 15-11.

Puente, who played on Team Mix & Match, was happy to see the large turnout for the event.

"A lot of these people didn't know Virgil but I'm grateful that they are honoring his memory," Puente said. "This means a lot to me."



Jaime Hernandez

Maggie Puente, right, niece of the late Virgil Billie, stands behind home plate with younger relatives shortly after throwing out the ceremonial first pitch.



Jaime Hernandez

Team Trail's Benny Martinez waits for an approaching pitch against Team Motown.

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Family members of the late Candy Osceola gather for a photo at the start of the 14th annual Candy Osceola Memorial Pool Tournament. Back row, from left: Fallon Osceola, JoJo Osceola, J.T. Osceola, Carlene Osceola-DiCarlo, Charles Gopher, Richard Osceola, Bronson Hill. Front row, from left: Juanita Osceola, Jenny Osceola-Billie, Louise Billie, Russell Osceola. Dozens of Tribal citizens participated in the tournament at the Hollywood Gymnasium on May 7-8, which featured 8-ball, 9-ball and Scotch Doubles play for Tribal men, women, seniors and youth. The family of the late Candy Osceola was on hand to remember her and participate in the tournament. "She really enjoyed playing pool," said Juanita Osceola, Candy's mother. "She played two to three times a week. ... I feel gratified. This keeps her memory alive. She will never be forgotten."

Jaime Hernandez



8-ball tournament youth participant Rhett Tiger, left, talks with parents Elrod Bowers and Holly Tiger-Bowers before his match in first round action.

Chris C. Jenkins



Samantha Jimmie, cousin to the late Candy Osceola, lays out custom shirts for tournament participants prior play.

Chris C. Jenkins

Results of the 14th annual Candy Osceola Memorial Pool Tournament

Senior Men 8-ball: 1. Billy Brown; 2. Gary Clay; 3. Daniel Gopher; 4. Robin Buster; 5. Lonnie Billie.

Senior Women 8-ball: 1. Diana Only-a-Chief; 2. Laura Clay; 3. Louise Osceola; 4. Esther Buster; 5. Louise Buster.

Senior Scotch Doubles: 1. Daniel Gopher-Laura Clay; 2. Sammie Gopher-Louise Billie; 3. Lonnie Billie-Louise Osceola; 4. Russell Osceola-Juanita Osceola; 5. Joe Billie-Diana Only-a-Chief.

Men's 8-ball: 1. Boogie Nunez; 2. Tony Billie; 3. Elrod Bowers; 4. Tony Bert; 5. Bryant Thomas.

Women's 8-ball: 1. Theresa Nunez; 2. Phalyn Osceola; 3. Tonya Jumper; 4. Connie Williams; 5. Virginia Billie.

Youth Boys: 1. Neko Osceola; 2. Daniel Rodriguez; 3. Arek Jumper; 4. Cisco Rodriguez; 5. Waylon Micco.

Youth Girls: 1. Cheyenne Nunez; 2. Jessica Osceola; 3. Talia Rodriguez; 4. Danyelle Boromei; 5. Toby Gopher.

Scotch Doubles: 1. Bronson Hill-Carlene Osceola; 2. Boogie Nunez-Virginia Billie; 3. Charles Osceola-Phalyn Osceola; 4. Elrod Bowers-Theresa Nunez; 5. Ildy Garcia-Connie Williams.

Men's 9-ball: 1. Charles Osceola; 2. Jadrien Antuna; 3. Boogie Nunez; 4. Tony Bert; 5. Carl Yazzie.

Women's 9-ball: 1. Virginia Billie; 2. Theresa Nunez; 3. Miranda Steve; 4. Jane Freeman; 5. Phalyn Osceola.

Dozens Gather to Participate in the Candy Osceola Memorial Pool Tournament



JoJo Osceola prepares to shoot during the 8-ball competition.

Jaime Hernandez

Big Cypress Martial Arts Travel Competition Practice Builds Strong Characters and Bodies

BY ADINA LOOCHKARTT
Editor

Tribal youngsters from the Big Cypress and Hollywood reservations have started a different kind of martial arts training under the guidance of senior instructor and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Black Belt Luis Gutierrez.

After witnessing significant progress while teaching classes in Big Cypress twice a week, Gutierrez initiated a new program by merging the school from Big Cypress with students from One Dragon Martial Arts School in Pembroke Pines, and training children who have interests in competing.

Five students from the Big Cypress ka-

rate class traveled to One Dragon Martial Arts School on April 24, marking the first day of the Big Cypress Martial Arts Travel Competition Practice. The Tribal youngsters met with One Dragon students to practice together and learn from each other.

"I've been teaching at Big Cypress for a year, and we're limited to just two days a week, an hour each. Most kids who do this train four-five times a week, for an hour," Gutierrez said. "So, I'm trying to give them more hours. It keeps them motivated and challenged; gives them more sense of maturity."

The goal of the competition practice is that at the end of the year, or beginning of next year, for the students to be ready to compete on a state level.

Gutierrez said he brings those students from Big Cypress who show motivation and dedication to the program.

"It's a reward and a privilege for them to travel from Big Cypress and train," he said.

About 60 children are registered for karate classes in Big Cypress, 5 to 16 years old.

Big Cypress provides the transportation to Pembroke Pines and every child 13 years and older is eligible to participate in the training

competition program.

"The ones who come here [at One Dragon] will be the future teachers there, in Big Cypress," Gutierrez said.

"It will probably take four to five weeks just to get in the rhythm; this is the meet-and-greet," Gutierrez said of the first training session.

Gutierrez goes to Big Cypress from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays to teach three classes for different age groups: 5 through 8; 9 through 12; and 13 through 17.

"I want to build a sense of teamwork, to respect one another; that's the sense of community that will take with them," he said.

The first part of training is conditioning for endurance, strength and flexibility. The second is the technical phase when students learn about fighting strategies. The third phase is fighting in matches, learning the rules of sportsmanship, helping students with character development and getting to see the level they are at.

Gutierrez said that after the training they watch fight footage film and have discussions, a Q&A session, and learn about the ethics of martial arts. He said he emphasizes to youngsters that martial arts is only for self-defense and competition, for creating strong communities and not for bullying.

"It's for building people, not destroying them," he said.

Tribal citizen Adrien 'KC' Condon came with his wife, Dawna Bell, from Hollywood, to see their children, Kianna, Kyler



Tribal youngster Kianna Bell, in pink karate equipment, fights Aileen Cypress from Big Cypress during the first Big Cypress Martial Arts Travel Competition Practice.

Adina Loockhartt

and Adrienne train at One Dragon School. She said they have been taking karate classes for three years.

"They're in the best shape they've ever been; [they show] more discipline and the confidence is building," Bell said.

Speaking of the upcoming competi-

tions, Bell said, "I am confident in his [Gutierrez'] teachings. He won't let them go there if they're not ready."

For more information about One Dragon Martial Arts School, call 954-443-4183 or visit www.onedragon.com.



Adina Loockhartt

River Dillan Cypress, left, from Big Cypress, is training at One Dragon Martial Arts School school in Pembroke Pines.

FSU's Fisher Visits Seminole Club Golf Tourney



Ryan Watson

Tampa Tribal Member Jahna Smith, far left, FSU Coach Jimbo Fisher, left, Tampa Liaison's Assistant Jackie Smith, right, Tampa Tribal Member and FSU Alum Kyle Doney, New FSU Football coach Jimbo Fisher visited the Tampa Bay Seminole Club's Legends Golf Tournament April 30 as part of the Seminole Boosters Coaches Tour.



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The fishing team of Chuck Osceola, left, and Fred Haberman, right rides their boat toward the Big Cypress L-28 canal loading dock as the Bass Busters Fishing Tournament draws to its close.



The team of Mario Posada and Frank Marrero take home this year's Seminole Fishing Triple Crown title.

Frank Marrero, Mario Posada Blow Field Away to Capture Seminole Fishing Triple Crown Title

Team of Richard Doctor and Moses Wilson wins Bass Busters Fishing Tournament

BY NAJJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS – After all the bass were weighed in at the Big Cypress L-28 canal loading dock, a clear winner emerged in this year's Seminole Fishing Triple Crown Series.

The fishing tandem of Frank Marrero and Mario Posada outlasted the entire field for the season, finishing with an overall bass weight of 60.87 pounds in three tournaments.

Though Marrero and Posada held the runner-up spot in the Bass Busters Fishing Tournament on May 7 – their bass weighed in at 19.15 lbs. – it was more than enough to keep the next-best overall team of Tom Koenes and Walter Summeralls from overtaking them in the final standings.

The final margin of victory wasn't even close, as Koenes and Summeralls finished with a combined bass weight of 45.49 pounds – exactly 15.38 pounds less than what the winning team caught.

"Well, we caught 19 pounds today," Posada said after the weigh-in. "I thought that was enough to hold everyone else off."

But Posada's fishing team was beaten by the duo of Richard Doctor and Moses Wilson, as they caught 23.47 pounds of bass in the Bass Busters Fishing Tournament, the final one of the Triple Crown Series.

Doctor and Wilson also took home the Clyde Tiger Memorial Big Bass Award, capturing the largest bass fish at 5.65 pounds.

They also won the Sonny Dicarolo Big

Bass Award at last month's Seminole Recreation Fishing Tournament.

There were a total of 11 team entrants that competed in this year's Bass Busters Fishing Tournament.

"It was fun going out there to fish on the water, competing against everyone," Posada said. "We caught all our fish by 8:30 in the morning, so when it got too hot out there, we were already done."

Posada, 38, said that fishing closely with Marrero for almost 20 years played a role in this year's Triple Crown win. The two have been fishing together since Posada turned 18 years old.

As a young adult, when Posada began to fish with Marrero, he would always want to cast his fishing rod the same way his mentor did.

"Frank Marrero is the best Big Cypress fisherman I know," Posada said of his teammate and brother-in-law. "He taught me not to do that and go the other way, so we don't cross our lines. We cover more water that way."

Marrero and Posada have won their second Triple Crown Series title, the first coming a few years back.

"Frank taught me everything about fishing in fresh water and salt water," Posada said. "I thank him for what I know about the sport. He's the only person I'm really comfortable working with as a team. When there are two people on a fishing boat together, it's important to communicate with each other without talking. So if he fishes one way, I automatically know to fish the other way."

Moses 'Big Shot' Jumper, the Triple Crown Series Organizer, predicted an easy overall win for Marrero and Posada after they took first place in April's Seminole Recreation Fishing Tournament.

"From the second tournament, I knew they were going to win the Triple Crown," Jumper said. "The rest of the field just couldn't keep up with them."

The Bass Busters Fishing Tournament began about 10 years ago with fishermen catching a variety of freshwater fish such as bass, bream, gar and mudfish. All of that is now allowed for the Seminole Recreation Fishing Tournament.

In the other two tournaments of the Triple Crown Series – the Bass Busters and the Howard Tiger Memorial Fishing Tournament – only bass fish are allowed to be caught.

"This has been the most competitive Triple Crown tournaments we've had thus far," Jumper said.

"You get in the water and know exactly how to fish. Evidently, Frankie and Mario had the right bait and the right partner, so that's why they did so well."

Marrero and Posada plan to compete again next year.

"It's a great tournament to compete in, because you can have one off-day and do well later on and still win it."

As for his team's chances of repeating as Triple Crown champions?

"We got to defend our title next year," Posada said.



Najji Tobias

Bass Busters Fishing Tournament Results

1. Richard Doctor and Moses Wilson - 23.47 lbs.,
2. Frank Marrero and Mario Posada - 19.15 lbs.,
3. Tom Koenes and Walter Summeralls - 16.65 lbs.

Clyde Tiger Memorial Big Bass Award

1. Richard Doctor and Moses Wilson - 5.65 lbs.

Seminole Triple Crown Fishing Tournament Champion

1. Frank Marrero and Mario Posada – 60.87 lbs.

Mario Posada, a Triple Crown-winning fisherman, holds up a big bass fish at the weigh-in after the conclusion of the Bass Busters Fishing Tournament on May 7.

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BC Senior Center Hosts 9th Annual Pool Tournament

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Billiards players gathered at the Senior Center to shoot pool in the 9th Annual Big Cypress Seniors' Pool Tournament.

A previous engagement kept Chairman Mitchell Cypress from entering the competition, but he still found time to stop by and offer encouragement to the players.

"I grew up with these jokers and we all learned the game from each other," he said. "We may have grown older, but never grown apart. Coming here today brings back a lot of great memories and laughs. Unfortunately, each year our number decreases, however on days like this we remember all of our old friends."

"Everybody here has a great sense of humor and I can't think of anywhere else you can go and find competitors routing for each other," added President Richard Bowers Jr. "Life hasn't dulled their enthusiasm, it has sharpened their wits."

George Billie, 82, said he had spent much of his lifetime at the tables.

"I started playing way back before the 1960s and enjoy the game as much today as I ever did," he said. "It keeps your mind sharp and puts you in company with good people."

Louise Billie said she has been playing the last 15 years but still looks forward to every game.

"I had to get my family grown, and then I was able to join my late husband John at the table," she said. "If he was here today, I know that we would win the Doubles."

The winners were as follows:

8-Ball: Women: 1. Louise Billie, 2. Louise Osceola, 3. Virginia Tommie, 4. Teresa Jumper, 5. Esther Buster. Men: 1. Joe Junior Billie, 2. Russell Osceola, 3. Rudy Osceola, 4. Ricky Doctor, 5. Jonah Cypress.

Mixed Doubles: 1. Joe Junior Billie and Teresa Jumper, 2. Ruby Osceola and George Billie, 3. Russell Osceola and Louise Billie, 4. Rudy Osceola and Esther Buster, 5. Jonah Cypress and Virginia Tommie.



Teresa Jumper lines up for the shot that put two balls in the pocket at the ninth Annual B. C. Seniors' Pool Tournament.



George Billie, 82, credits pool with giving him a lifetime of entertainment.



From left, Ruby Osceola looks on as Mixed Doubles winners, Teresa Jumper and Joe Jr. Billie collect their prizes and tournament T-shirts.



Nick Andrews and Mr. Brown may look short, but dynamite comes in small packages.



Kalgary Johns takes another first place in the 9-12 Barrel Race with a time comparable to the adult division.



Josh Johns catches his steer, digs in his heels and takes it down during the Chute Dogging.

EIRA CINCO DE MAYO RODEO RESULTS

JUNIOR RODEO

INFR Steer Riding: 1. Frank Huff, 2. (tie) Kelton Smedley and Andre Jumper. Mutton Bustin: 1. Creek Gopher, 2. Jason Yeampierre, Jr., 3. Dwayne Billie. Pony Riding: 1. Tripp Edgar, 2. Daniel Rodriguez. Calf Riding: 1. Jayron Baker, 2. Mark Holmes. Steer Riding: 1. Frank Huff, 2. Daniel Rodriguez. Jr. Bull Riding: 1. Ernie Courson, 2. William Bearden. Chute Dogging: 1. Andrew Holmes, 2. Tyler Tigertail, 3. Josh Johns. 4-8 Barrel Racing: 1. Brighton Bauman, 2. Jacee Jumper, 3. Budda Jumper. 9-12 Barrel Racing: 1. Kalgary Johns, 2. Ahnie Jumper, 3. Harlie Maggard. 13-17 Barrel Racing: 1. Ashley Parks, 2. Acealyn Youngblood, 3. Reagon Tigertail. Jr. Breakaway: 1. Dalton Boney, 2. Andre Jumper, 3. Tyler Tigertail. Jr. Steer Undecorating: 1. Kalgary Johns, 2. Blevyns Jumper. Sr. Steer Undecorating: 1. Dalton Boney, 2. Chebon Gooden, 3. Andre Jumper.

SANCTIONED RODEO

Bareback Riding: 1. Jacoby Johns. Steer Wrestling: 1. Quinn Campbell, 2. Warren Rubio, 3. Robbie Chalfant. Calf Roping: 1. Ivan BruisedHead, 2. Josh Weekley, 3. Naha Jumper. Breakaway: 1. Boogie Jumper, 2. Shelby Osceola. 50 & Over Breakaway: 1. Paul Bowers, Sr. Team Roping: 1. Marvin Bowers and Preston Williams, 2. Freddy WarBonnet and Todd Johns, 3. Warren Rubio and Jon McCabe. Ladies Barrel Racing: 1. Mackenzie Bowers, 2. Scooter Johns, 3. Trina Bowers. 50 & Over Ladies Barrels: 1. Ana Bowers, 2. Mary Jene Koenes. Bull Riding: No Qualified Ride

RODEO

From page C1

impressive 19.369-second run. Hot on her heels was Mary Jene Koenes, who is a grandmother several times over and hasn't raced since her kids were in high school.

Seniors weren't the only ones to make headlines in the EIRA rodeo circuit during the weekend. Teenager Andre Jumper has grown up in rodeo and started his career in the Mutton Bustin. Before heading to Immokalee, he climbed on the rough stock at the Wrangler Junior Rodeo Qualifier earlier in the day and came away with a first place in the Steer and Bull Riding. His next stop will be the State Championship Rodeo.

The Cinco de Mayo Junior Rodeo got an early start at 2 p.m. due to the vast number of entries in each event. 2010 has been a great year for these kids and lots of new talent has been joining their ranks. As the feeder system for the Sanctioned Rodeo, this is great news and ensures a bright future for the circuit.

Vying for points for the Year End Finals and Qualifiers for the Indian National Finals, the competition in the Sanctioned Events was vigorous. Beginning at 8 p.m., the events lasted until well after midnight with the running of the slack.

Miami Dolphins Players Take Time Out to Meet Brighton Youth



Miami Dolphins linebacker Channing Crowder signs posters and spends time with Brighton Tribal youth, from left, Cheyenne Fish, Alexis James and Alicia Fudge on May 7 at a meet and greet held at the Brighton Gym.



Miami Dolphins defensive end Phillip Merling autographs a poster for Morgan King at a meet and greet hosted by Brighton's Recreation Department May 7 at the Brighton Gym.



Ricky Doctor tees off as Mondo Tiger looks on in a golf cart during the Woods Haven Preparatory School & Academy Celebrity Golf Classic on May 1. Approximately 80 teams participated in the tournament, which was held at the Inverrary Golf & Country Club in Lauderhill. The Seminole Tribe of Florida and former Miami Dolphins tight end Troy Drayton hosted the event.



From left, Mabel Doctor, Ronnie Doctor, Vince Micco and Loretta Micco pose during the Woods Haven Preparatory School & Academy Celebrity Golf Classic on May 1.

Woods Haven Preparatory School & Academy Celebrity Golf Classic



Former Miami Dolphins tight ends Troy Drayton, center, and Ed Perry, right, stand with boxing heavyweight Oliver McCall, left, and friends during the event.



Lawrence Osceola lines up a putt during the Golf Classic.



Mabel Doctor pumps her fist after sinking a putt as husband Ronnie Doctor looks on.



Kevin Osceola sinks a putt as, from left, Elizabeth Bowers, Steven Bowers and Shannon Rhodes look on during the Woods Haven Preparatory School & Academy Celebrity Golf Classic on May 1.



From left, Kevin Osceola, Shannon Rhodes, Elizabeth Bowers and Steven Bowers pose at the event.

15th Annual March Madness Basketball Tournament



Terence Shelman scores a slam dunk for 2-Legit in the final game of the 15th Annual March Madness Basketball Tournament held April 24 at the Hollywood Gym. 2-Legit beat Team Loyalty 69-55.



Tribal citizen Richard Osceola, middle, of the Hollywood Recreation Department, poses with players on April 24, at the 15th annual March Madness Invitational Shootout – the home of the Hardwood Classic. Osceola said the tournament is usually organized the first week of March, but this year, due to schedule changes it was moved to April. Osceola would like to thank the following sponsors for supporting the tournament: Miccosukee Tribal Council, the Seminole Tribal Council, Seminole Recreation Department and Big E Entertainment.



Tribal participant Cicero Osceola sizes up his approach toward the green.

Chris C. Jenkins

Chaka Stars Foundation Golf Tourney



Chris C. Jenkins

Brighton Tribal citizens and guests from the surrounding community show their support together in between holes for the second annual Chaka Stars Foundation Golf Tournament held at the Okeechobee Golf and Country Club on May 8. The Tribal-sponsored gathering featured foursomes in a scramble and shotgun format with sports memorabilia items up for bidding along with lunch and prize drawings. Hollywood Board Rep. Marcellus Osceola Jr. participated in the event as well as other celebrity sports guests, including University of Miami Hurricanes quarterback Jacory Harris and Miami Dolphins linebacker Channing Crowder. For more information, call 863-634-7424.



Chris C. Jenkins

Hollywood Tribal Board Rep. Marcellus Osceola Jr. goes for an easy putt.



Chris C. Jenkins

Miami Dolphins standout linebacker Channing Crowder admires his shot from the tee.



Chris C. Jenkins

Chaka Smith, far right, with Okeechobee County officials and special guests Univ. of Miami quarterback Jacory Harris, far left, Univ. of Florida receiver Deonte Thompson, third from left, and Univ. of Miami receiver Travis Benjamin, second from right.

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