

## Council Attends Special Meeting

BY CHRIS JENKINS  
 Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — The Tribal Council met on the Brighton Reservation on April 14 for a special meeting. They passed 30 resolutions, including:

**Resolution 17** - Service line agreement (400' x 5') between Embark FKA Sprint-Florida Inc. and Seminole Tribe of Florida for location of a buried telephone cable - Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation;

**Resolution 18** - Service line agreement (2,500' x 5') between Embark FKA Sprint-Florida Inc. and Seminole Tribe of Florida for location of a buried telephone cable - Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation;

**Resolution 19** - Service line agreement (6,386' x 5') between Embark FKA Sprint-Florida Inc. and Seminole Tribe of Florida for location of a buried telephone cable - Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation;

**Resolution 26** - Professional Adjustment Corporation of S.W. FL, Inc. Third Party Collection Services Agreement;

**Resolution 27** - Issuance of revocable permit to Cynthia J. Osceola for retail sales of ice cream and frozen desserts - Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation;

**Resolution 28** - Issuance of revocable permit to Cory Brooks Wilcox - Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation;

**Resolution 29** - Modification to business lease no. 1-2493 Native Management Group, Ltd. (lessee) - Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation;

**Resolution 30** - Issuance of revocable permit to Paul Bowers, Jr. - Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation;

**Resolution 31** - Second Modification of Business Lease No. 183 - Jacob Osceola, Sr. (Lessee) - Hollywood Seminole Indian Reservation;

**Resolution 32** - Business sublease agreement between Jacob Osceola, Sr. (sublessor) and Seminole Tribe of Florida (sublessee) for 2.4 +/- acres including improvements - Hollywood Seminole Indian Reservation;

**Resolution 33** - Termination of revocable permit No. P-2687 between Seminole Tribe of Florida (permittee) and Aranita Mae Tiger D/B/A Tiger-Das Corporation (permittee) - Hollywood Seminole Indian Reservation;

**Ordinance 34** - Seminole Tribe of

Please see **COUNCIL** ♦ Page 2

## Three Winners Announced at Star Search Finale

**David Billy, Spencer Battiest, Zach Battiest Win**

BY FELIX DOBOSZ  
 Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — After nearly three months of anticipation, the first-ever Seminole Star Search finale made its way to the Hollywood Headquarters Auditorium on May 2. The finale brought together the best of the best in Seminole talent who took top honors in their respective reservation's Star Search competitions, which took place Feb. 25-28, throughout Seminole country.

Finalists the Nunez Sisters: Arianne, Alicia, Amelia and Apolonia, Salina Dorgan, Alicia Nunez, Trina Collins, Adrienne Cypress, Tori Osceola, David Billy, Ignacia Rodriguez, Paula Bowers-Sanchez, David Nelson, Stephen "SCB" Billie, Zach "Truth" Battiest, Shelli Billie, Gordon Oliver Wareham, Brittany Yescas, Alexandra Sanchez, Paul "Cowbone" Buster, Talena Castillo,

Spencer Battiest and Theodore Nelson Jr. pulled up to the Seminole Star Search finale in true superstar fashion. They arrived in shiny, black limos and walked past the velvet ropes to shouts, cheers, applause and photoflashes from spectators excited to greet each performer.

The Seminole Tribe's Director of Promotions, and multi award-winning musician, Micki Free hosted the finale event, along with his co-host, Ft. Pierce Liaison Sally R. Tommie. In addition, members of the Tribal Council, which Free said supported Seminole Star Search since its inception, including Brighton Council Rep. Roger Smith and Hollywood Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., also attended the event.

"Welcome to Hollywood," Osceola said. "We always say Hollywood is the land of the stars, and all our stars are here."

Please see **STAR SEARCH** ♦ Page 4



David Billy sings Garth Brooks song at the Seminole Star Search finale. Felix Dobosz

## Tampa Hard Rock Receives Class III Upgrades



Top, Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. speaks to the local Tampa media before the event; above, Members of Tribal Council, led by Chairman Mitchell Cypress, pull the slot levers in unison. Photos by Chris Jenkins

BY CHRIS JENKINS  
 Staff Reporter

**TAMPA** — There are now more than 700 new opportunities to win big at the Tampa Hard Rock Hotel & Casino with the installation of their new Las Vegas-style slot machines.

The Class III gaming conversion of the Tribe's seven facilities continued on May 1 as Tribal Council participated in a ceremonial slot pull to signify that the new machines were ready for use. The facility is the third Tribal casino to receive Class III upgrades.

"It has been a very hard road to get here,"

Chairman Mitchell Cypress said. "When you go after something and fight hard, you finally reach what you set out for."

President Richard Bowers Jr. said the process has involved a lot of patience.

"We have been waiting a long time for this moment," President Bowers said.

This latest conversion is just part of recent changes and expansion with an additional 150,000 square feet of added casino space over the last year. Seminole Gaming Chief Executive of Operations Jim Allen said the plan is to have nearly

Please see **UPGRADES** ♦ Page 2

## Seminole Students Tour FSU, UCF Campuses

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ  
 Staff Reporter

**ORLANDO** — Dozens of students, parents, chaperones and Education Department staff members attended this year's College Tour. The group visited the University of Central Florida (UCF) in Orlando and Florida State University (FSU) in Tallahassee.

The first group arrived at UCF on April 3 and took a tour of the school. The participants were able to interact with staff from the university and ask questions. Esmeralda Billie, a sophomore from the Immokalee Reservation, said that she brought back lots of information about the classes and the school itself.

"Walking around, touring the schools and hearing the history

Please see **TOUR** ♦ Page 27

## Sally Tommie Receives Humanitarian Award

BY JUDY WEEKS  
 Freelance Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Sally R. Tommie received the Humanitarian Rose Award from the People's Princess Charitable Foundation (PPCF) at a British-themed ceremony that took place in the Hard Rock Ballroom on the evening of May 5. The PPCF is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the philanthropic work of Princess Diana of Wales.

Rorech Dunkel, who created the Humanitarian Rose Award, presented the awards during the banquet. In addition to Tommie, Emmy® Award Winning South Florida television journalists Jackie Nespral of WTVJ-TV NBC 6 and Lynn Martinez of WSVN-TV Channel 7 also received Humanitarian Rose Awards.

Upon introducing the honorees, calling them "a force for charitable causes in South Florida," Rorech Dunkel, brought each one to the stage and presented them with their awards. An emotional Tommie, Bird Clan, addressed the gala audience.

"It is within the structure of our culture to say that 'It takes a village to raise a child,'" she said. "We are all children of our Creator, and as one big family, we must show compassion for each other and make the world a better place in which to raise our children."

Please see **TOMMIE** ♦ Page 3

**"We are all children of our Creator, and as one big family, we must show compassion for each other and make the world a better place in which to raise our children."**

—Sally Tommie

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## Olympic-Style Games Held for Ahfachkee School Students

BY CHRIS JENKINS  
 Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — In the spirit of the 2008 Olympics, to be held this summer in Beijing, China, the Ahfachkee School held their own version of the centuries-old games April 29.

Students from grades pre-kindergarten through 12th competed in a 12-station Olympics-style series of events. Also in the spirit of the actual Olympic games, the day was complete with gold, silver and bronze medals going to the winners. Big Cypress Board Rep. Cicero Osceola emceed.

"It's a good time, it's a nice break after the school year," Rep. Osceola said. "It also allows them to have a relief from studies and was just a good, fun day for them."

One of the methods for determining medal placement was the Sneaker Scramble. In this game, one player from each team had to leave one shoe in a pile, then on a signal, one-by-one, play-

ers had to find their team's shoe, tie it, and repeat the process until one team had all their members' shoes on and tied.

The results in the pre-kindergarten through 4th grade division were: Gold Medal: Black Team (four-way tie), Silver Medal: Aqua Team, Bronze Medal: Orange Team. The fifth grade through high schoolers also competed in the Sneaker Scramble, with the following results: Gold Medal: Blue Team, Silver Medal: Red Team, Bronze Medal: Orange Team (two-way tie).

Tribal citizen Savannah Tiger, 11, said she enjoyed socializing with her classmates at the event, while participating in some physical activities.

"I enjoyed getting to know everyone a little better," Tiger said.

Second year Physical Education Coach Randall Clevelker helped organize the day.

"It was about having fun camaraderie and working as a team together," Clevelker said.



(L-R) Emmitt Osceola and Katesa Kirkland use teamwork on the water bucket challenge. Chris Jenkins

See More Photos on Page 18



## Community News



The Tribal Council recognized Seminole Police Department employees from each reservation at the meeting.

## ❖ Council

Continued from page 1

Florida Eminent Domain Ordinance;

**Resolution 35** - Appointment of new manager of Seminole HR Holdings, LLC;

**Resolution 36** - All Hazard Mitigation Plan Adoption;

**Resolution 37** - Approval of Law-son Software Americas, Inc. Master Services Agreement and Addendum to Master Services Agreement; and statement of work; and

**Resolution 38** - Eldorado Computing, Inc.; approval of Business Process Outsourcing Agreement.

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## Happy Mother's Day from the Chairman

Though the calendar told us May 11 was Mother's Day, I believe that Mother's Day is everyday of the year. However, on Mother's Day each year, I pray you acknowledge and respect your mothers because there is no love like your mother's love and no stronger bond on earth. A mother's love is also strong, and when her children need her most, she is always there.

God bless these special mothers, each one of you, for all the tears and heartaches and for the special work that you do, day in and day out. I urge everyone to be thankful for your mothers, for they love with a higher love, from the powers God has given from up above.

I also ask that you say a prayer for the mothers that are serving our country during this time of war.

Thank you and God bless,

*Mitchell Cypress*

Mitchell Cypress  
Chairman, Seminole Tribe of Florida



## Letters • Naak-enchaok-hocheshfeek • Nakhoce Acentuthoyvt

Dear Editor,

This year, I participated in the 12th Annual Seminole Tribe Cattle Drive. The event was a class act from beginning to end. Nothing was spared in assuring the comfort and safety for horses and riders. The drive was well organized and the hospitality extended by The Tribe was unsurpassed. The breakfast at the Swamp Water Café, the lunch stop and the barbecue after the ride were all delicious.

I want to thank the Tribal leaders for such a great day and for keeping the tradition of the Seminole Cattle Drive alive. We truly enjoyed riding at the beautiful Big Cypress Reservation. I also want to thank Judy Weeks, who writes for your paper, for sharing a wealth of information regarding the history and culture of the Seminoles. I spoke with Judy at the cow pens before the ride started, and the history she shared with us made the ride even more enjoyable.

Glenn Gardner, the event photographer, posted more than 600 pictures on-line, making it possible for us to share the ride with some friends who missed it. We want to thank him for such a vivid record of the Cattle Drive.

Sincerely,

Manny Alvarez  
Board of Directors  
South Florida Trail Riders

Dear Editor,

Our troop, Boy Scout Troop 18, attended the Big Cypress Shootout on the weekend of Feb. 22. Troop 18 has attended many event camp outs put together by a large number of organizations, and we thought yours was by far one of the nicest. We also thought the public demonstrations and reenactment were well done.

When I spoke with Sherry Blanset at Billie Swamp Safari on the phone to reserve our stay, she was polite, cheerful and helpful. She had checked back with me to see if there were any other services they could help the troop with. Yes, this can be expected by people handling reservations for an event, but very often this kind of caring personal service is overlooked these days.

Needless to say, from the moment we arrived her example was continued by all of the staff involved. The security guards even learned the names of our adult leaders and said hello when they came by.

There were special deals for the scouts, which we took advantage of. However, even the regular vendors at the event had their prices set at a fair value. One of my assistant scoutmasters was very impressed by the size of the hot dogs being sold at a reasonable price.

Our guide on the airboat was funny and spoke with the boys, not at them. He did not sound like he has been saying the same thing over and over again, eight hours a day,

for the last few years.

We even had the good fortune of a special visitor stopping by our camp site — an albino doe. She was quite tame and came very close to our scouts.

Our boys are still talking about the wonderful time they had.

Thank you,  
Michael R. Memoli  
Troop 18 Scoutmaster

Dear Editor,

The Water Resource Management Dept. wishes to express appreciation to all those who worked hard to make this year's annual Earth Day event a success: BIA Seminole Agency, Billie Swamp Safari, Brighton Board Representative Roger Smith, Penayevy Emahavv Charter School, Brighton Council Representative Johnnie Jones, Buildings and Grounds Dept., Culture Dept., Education Dept.,

Emergency Services Dept., Environmental Health Dept., Fire Dept., Housing Dept., Information Systems/GIS Dept., Utilities Dept., Brighton Seminole 4-H, South Florida Water Management District, Tribal Community Planning Dept., US Dept. of Agriculture, and last but not least, the Water Resource Management Dept. staff.

Sincerely,  
The Water Resources Management Dept.

## ❖ Upgrades

Continued from page 1

1,700 machines installed by the end of June.

Many of the most popular game names featured include: Wheel of Fortune, 10 Times Play, Video Blackjack, Secrets of the Nile, Roulette and Keno Cash, to name a few.

Special guest Robin Zander, lead singer of 1980s rock group Cheap Trick, as well as several Tribal citizens, participated in the ceremony.

Photos by Chris Jenkins

At left, special guest Robin Zander (C) of 1980s rock group Cheap Trick joins the Tribal Council at the ceremony; below, Legal department General Council Jim Shore (far left) and members of Tribal Council display custom-made guitars, complete with slot machine handles, presented as gifts after the ceremony.





## Community News

## EMS Staff Member Saves Lives on I-75

### Elden Harner Assists During Car Accident

BY CHIEF BRIAN C. BROWN  
PIO, Dept. of Emergency Services

**BIG CYPRESS** — On the morning of April 18, a silver Cadillac heading west on I-75 (Alligator Alley) swerved to pass a vehicle and lost control, sending the car into the canal that runs parallel along the side of the highway. The Cadillac rolled over when it entered the canal, leaving the vehicle upside down under water with three victims trapped inside.

Dept. of Emergency Services Emergency Management Coordinator Elden Harner was heading back to the Big Cypress Reservation when he saw cars stopping and people pointing to the canal where the car was located. Harner and another bystander jumped into the canal and started to pry open the doors and remove the victims from the submerged vehicle.

They were able to remove two of the three victims from the Cadillac on their own but need assistance from the Broward County Fire Department to remove the third victim. All three victims were given immediate medical attention and transport-

ed to nearby hospitals for further advance care. Two of the three victims were able to recover from the incident, however, the third victim died from his injuries after arriving at the hospital.



Emergency Management Coordinator Elden Harner



(L-R) President of the Hollywood Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Phil Madow, Lynn Martinez, Sally Tommie and Jackie Nespral display their Humanitarian Rose Awards presented by Maureen Rorech Dunkel of the People's Princess Charitable Foundation.

## ♦ Tommie

Continued from page 1

She said receiving the award is an honor because Princess Diana was someone she admired for her commitments to helping those in need around the world.

"The princess rolled up her sleeves and went out into the trenches to get the job done," Tommie said.

Since the 2003 holiday season, Tommie said she has been committed to providing food and toys for less-fortunate families and children with medical conditions across South Florida. She said she also strives to help young Seminole women become motivated to succeed, recently establishing the Seminole Sisterhood to provide a positive environment for growth potential.

Her philosophy has always been, "See the need, fill the need," she said.

In addition to the award presentation, the night's festivities included the first South Florida exhibition of six of the late princess's dresses.

The dresses displayed comprise about half of the PPCF's 15-dress collection. They are part of the "Dresses for Humanity II: An Exhibition of the Dresses of Diana, The Princess of Wales" exhibit that made stops at both Seminole Hard Rock facilities; the Tampa Hard Rock from April 23-May 2, and the Hollywood Hard Rock from May 4-10.

President of the Hollywood Hard Rock Phil Madow introduced Rita Gilligan, a special guest "from across the pond." Gilligan, one of the original waitresses from the 1972 opening of the London Hard Rock Café, recalled numerous encounters

with Princess Diana, as well as other British icons such as Elton John, Eric Clapton and Paul McCartney, and shared stories about their charitable nature — something she said goes hand-in-hand with Hard Rock.

"The Hard Rock name has always been synonymous with charity and I can see by today's event that its new owners, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, are continuing the legend to help people help themselves," Gilligan said.



Rita Gilligan (R), one of the original 1972 Hard Rock London, shares some stories with the audience.



Sally Tommie (third from left) and Chairman Mitchell Cypress (sixth from left) join members of Tommie's family as they enter the "Dresses for Humanity II" exhibit.

## Osceola-Hahn Chosen for National Leadership Program

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ

Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Deputy Tribal Treasurer Peter Osceola-Hahn is the third member of the Seminole Tribe of Florida to be selected as an Americans for Indian Opportunity (AIO) Ambassador, beating out more than 100 applicants.

Tina M. Osceola and Johnny Whitecloud were a part of the 1993 class. Jo Dan Osceola was also a part of the AIO, serving on the Board of Directors in 1970.

This year's AIO Program will consist of ambassadors from 20 Tribes, representing 12 states, all working toward a common goal of helping their own and other Tribes succeed. The ambassadors will work with Native decision-makers and national policymakers in the U.S., as well as the indigenous peoples and international dignitaries from countries including New Zealand and Bolivia.

Osceola-Hahn was inducted into the 10th class of the AIO Program in early April. During the two years of the program, he said he will be traveling, both in the U.S. and abroad, and also implementing a community-based initiative that he will have to design himself.

Osceola-Hahn has already begun working on creating this initiative, which he calls TYME, or Tribal Youth Management Experience. He said he decided to do this to

take "time" out for the future generations, and hopes to get a large response from the youth. While this program is still in the works, he said he hopes it will allow him to spend time with Tribal youngsters so he can assist them in developing their own programs that will ensure prosperity for future generations.

Among other goals, Osceola-Hahn said he would like to see the number of Tribal employees double within the next 10 years. He said he hopes his TYME initia-

tive will get younger Seminoles to succeed in education, the workforce and their personal lives.

"Students should try to finish high school and find something that makes them happy and hold on to it," he said.

Osceola-Hahn began working with the Human Resources Department in February 2006 to gain a foundation for himself within the Tribal organization, and to see how the internal employment process takes place from beginning to end. Then, in February 2007, the Tribal Council selected him for the position of deputy Tribal treasurer.

In this position Osceola-Hahn works closely with Tribal Treasurer Mike D. Tiger and said he appreciates all the time and knowledge that Tiger has shared with him.

"I feel like I get a lot of knowledge from Mike [Tiger]," he said. "I appreciate him taking time out of his day and how willing he is to share with me. It's a great opportunity when you can work with someone like him."

Osceola-Hahn is the proud father of two children and is happily married to Mercedes Osceola-Hahn, the Tribal clerk. He is a graduate of Haskell Indian Nations University and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration with an emphasis in Tribal management.

He said his family and the Tribal community have always fully supported his endeavors and have helped him become who he is today.

Although Osceola-Hahn admits all the traveling that will come with his position as an AIO ambassador will be difficult on him and his family, he said overcoming these obstacles will better his family overall. He said he plans to leave every place that he visits more positive than it was before and to bring back as much knowledge as he can from all the people he meets and works with.

For more information on the AIO Program, please see [www.aio.org/ambassador.html](http://www.aio.org/ambassador.html).



Deputy Tribal Treasurer Peter Osceola-Hahn

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## Community News



Felix DuBois

Tori Osceola receives her Spotlight Award.



Felix DuBois

All the contestants, along with guest judge Matt Kramer (C), perform "We Are the World" during the show's finale.



Felix DuBois

Zach "Truth" Battiest receives a high-five after his performance.

## ★ Star Search

Continued from page 1

Tommie then also welcomed everyone to the event before introducing guest judge and rising musical star Shea (Cherokee), who opened the show with a song. Shea performed a newly arranged version of John Anderson's classic "Seminole Wind" along with guest musicians, Jon Brant of the band Cheap Trick on bass, Danny Flanders on piano, David "Hawk" Lopez on drums, Sonny Navaquaya on flute, and Micki Free on guitar.

"This is your song," Shea said to the standing room only audience of Tribal citizens, employees and guests at the conclusion of her performance.

Shea, along with Matt Kramer, formerly of the band Saigon Kick, and Jon Brant, judged both the preliminary Seminole Star Search competitions, as well as the finale. The three, all music industry insiders, offered positive, constructive criticisms to each of the contestants following their performance.

The judges evaluated the competitors based on a point system, paying close attention to each contestant's vocal ability, appearance, presence and star quality. David Billy, Spencer Battiest and Zach Battiest, each earned enough points to receive the grand prize—

a record deal.

Micki Free also recognized the Spotlight Award winners: Stephen "SCB" Billie, Theodore Nelson Jr., Paula Bowers-Sanchez and Tori Osceola. According to Free, the judges selected these four because they each have a lot of talent, which needs to be further developed. All Spotlight Award winners will be invited back to try for the grand prize during the next Seminole Star Search competition, to be held in 2009.

At the conclusion of the show, all the performers joined guest judge Matt Kramer for a group rendition of the 1980s mega-hit "We Are the World."

Although the 2008 Seminole Star Search is over, Free said there will be a Star Search Music Camp taking place in August. He and his "Star Search crew" will

be coming to various reservations to teach future stars how to sing better, look better on stage, and very importantly, how to prepare for Seminole Star Search 2009.

In addition to Free's Star Search crew, members of the Broadcasting Dept. also played an integral part in documenting the first-ever Seminole Star Search from start to finish. The media team of Briana Abittan, reporter, Deana Johnson, Roberta Schicchi and Allen Hoffman, editors, Celso Contreras, camera operator, and Free, produced a behind-the-scenes look at Seminole Star Search, following it from Tampa all the way south to Hollywood.

Their story aired March 20 on WSBC and the Seminole Channel. The finale will air on both channels in the upcoming months.



Photo Illustration

Seminole Broadcasting's media team (L-R) Celso Contreras, camera operator, Deana Johnson, editor, Briana Abittan, reporter, and Roberta Schicchi, editor.



Felix DuBois

Sally R. Tommie (L) and Micki Free (C) present guest judges (L-R) Shea, Matt Kramer and Jon Brant with commemorative records in appreciation for their assistance.

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David Nunez

David Nunez enjoys the view from the upper deck of the USS Iwo Jima.

## Tribal Citizen Takes Cruise on Navy Ship

BY DAVID NUNEZ  
Contributing Writer

FT. LAUDERDALE — I took a three-day cruise aboard the USS Iwo Jima during Fleet Week, held April 25-28, as the captain's complimentary guest. This was my first time on a naval vessel in 18 years.

I served in the U.S. Navy from 1988-1991 aboard the USS McCloy (FF-1038) stationed in Norfolk, Va. I was a petty officer 3rd Class in the engineering department. Our ship was a Fast Frigate whose duties included monitoring the coastline for foreign subs and providing protection for our aircraft carriers when traveling.

I stayed in the enlisted quarters, which brought back a ton of memories for me, including simply being with my fellow shipmates and playing an endless supply of jokes on each other. The upper decks offered a beautiful view of the breathtaking sunrise and sunsets — and I made sure to be on deck daily at 5:30 a.m., with my cup of coffee in hand, waiting for the sun.

The ship was truly a remarkable machine; but the real "machine" is made up of the young men and women who make the ship function. I got a chance to observe everyone moving about the ship with their own purposes, each doing their part to make their ship one of the most amazing ships to cruise and protect along the Eastern Seaboard.

When the USS Iwo Jima pulled into Ft. Lauderdale's Port Everglades, I was aboard on the top deck. From there, I recalled the pride and reality of what it's like to be in the service, as the Fleet Week spectators lined the dock and cheered for these enlisted men and women. I saw flags waving and heard the sounds of horns and bells to welcome the vessel.

I still get chills remembering that moment because I was proud to be standing amongst those sailors.

Nowadays, I mentor troubled young men and one thing that I tell them is that the armed services is great choice to help them get their lives back in order. They learn responsibility, teamwork and what it feels like to



David Nunez

David Nunez spent three days aboard the USS Iwo Jima.

carry pride in their hearts, as they provide the blanket of security that keeps this country safe.

All in all I had a wonderful experience on the ship. I don't think I could do what the young men and women in the service do — I couldn't stand leaving my family for 6-8 months at a time. But to those who do, I stand and salute you.







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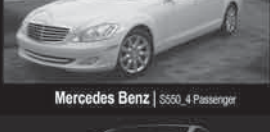
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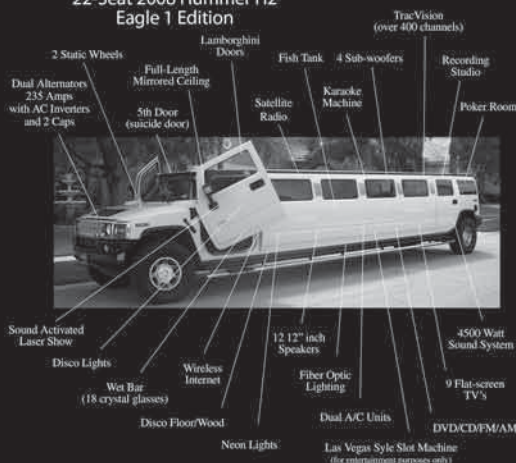


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## Community News



Marisol Gonzalez

More than 3,000 dancers fill the main floor of "The Pit" during the final evening's Grand Entry.

## Gathering of Nations Turns 25

**Jennifer Chalfant, R.C. North Featured**

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ  
Staff Reporter

**ALBUQUERQUE** — More than 3,000 native dancers filled "The Pit" on the final evening of North America's largest pow-wow, the Gathering of Nations, held April 24-27.

With the stands filled to capacity at The Pit — usually home to the University of New Mexico Lobos basketball team — the evening started with traditional songs and drumming and the Grand Entry.

The Grand Entry included the contestants of the Miss Indian World Pageant, including 2007-2008 Miss Florida Seminole Princess Jennifer Chalfant. Many past Miss Indian World winners were also on hand to commemorate the Gathering of Nations, now in its 25th year.

With hopes of walking away with the title, Chalfant, along with the other contestants were judged on their personal interview, public speaking abilities, tradi-



Marisol Gonzalez

Newly crowned Miss Indian World Nicole Alek'ak Colbert (Yup'ik Eskimo) from Napakiak, Alaska



Marisol Gonzalez

Miss Florida Seminole Princess Jennifer Chalfant autographs a Gathering of Nations program book for a spectator.



Marisol Gonzalez

R.C. North belts out a song during his performance on Stage 49, just outside the gathering.

tional talent presentation and knowledge of Tribal traditions. Chalfant came out with a smile as the contestants were introduced before the crowning ceremony. She stepped out and waved at all the attendees as well as her competitors.

Before the crown was given there were awards given out for best traditional presentation, best personal interview, best essay, best dancer, best public speaking, and of course, Miss Congeniality.

Although Chalfant did not walk away with the crown, she said she was happy to be involved in this traditional event and represent the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

"I had a wonderful time watching Jennifer Chalfant, Miss Seminole, participate in the 25th Annual Miss Indian World Pageant," said her Aunt Salina Dorgan, who attended the Gathering of Nations. "I was very proud to see my niece represent the Seminole Tribe of Florida to the best of her ability."

Although the Gathering of Nations took place indoors, many also took the time to see what was happening just outside the arena at Stage 49, which was set up specifically for the gathering. Tribal musical acts from across the country performed on this stage, now in its third year at the gathering.

One of the featured musical acts was Tribal citizen R.C. North's band, Hybiskus, which also includes his father Robert "Big Bad Bob" North Sr. and Eric Bricker of Family Services. They performed on the afternoon of April 26. It was Hybiskus' second performance at the gathering.

Emmett "Shkeme" Garcia was instrumental in bringing Stage 49 to the Gathering of Nations. He said he wanted to have a venue to showcase Tribal talent.

"We would like to endorse and work closely with the Seminole Tribe of Florida as well as young people and empower them to follow what they believe," Garcia said.



Marisol Gonzalez

Miss Florida Seminole Princess Jennifer Chalfant (R) helps pin a number on one of more than 3,000 who attended the gathering.



## Community News



Gordon Oliver Wareham performs a flute song at the Seminole Open Mic Night at the Okalee Village.



Hip hop artist Stephen Chad Billie, AKA "SCB," grabs the mic to perform some of his original material.

## Citizens, Employees Perform at Seminole Open Mic Night

BY FELIX DOBOSZ  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Okalee Indian Village hosted Seminole Open Mic Night. This event gave Tribal citizens and employees the opportunity to entertain the gathered audience with their artistic talents April 15.

Diana Stone, Okalee Indian Village education coordinator, introduced and welcomed everyone to the event, which featured music, poetry and storytelling. Stone looked around the dimly lit room and asked for a volunteer to go first. After a brief moment, Tribal citizen Everett Osceola stood up and took the mic.

"Tonight is my first night trying to sing, don't hold

it against me," he said. "I'm going to try to sing a song by my favorite band Flogging Molly."

"The story behind the song is, a few years ago I lost someone very dear to me, my mother, and everything turned upside down and the song kind of helped me get through that."

Later in the evening, Osceola introduced "Shake & Bake," consisting of himself on vocals, and R.C. North Jr. accompanying him on guitar. The duo performed a rendition of Osceola's favorite song, "Rivers of Babylon," originally recorded by Jamaican reggae trio The Melodians in the early 1970s, and re-recorded by contemporary musicians Sublime about 20 years later.

Ahfachkee School Art Teacher Giovanni Aramendiz, 20, also performed at Seminole Open Mic Night. He said he has written poetry for seven years and performed a biographical poem titled "Speech of a Poet" for the audience.

Next up, hip hop artist Stephen Chad Billie, AKA "SCB," performed a few original rap songs for the audience. One of his songs, "You Never Know," delivered a powerful message about making the most of life, because "you never when its going to be your time," a message SCB repeated in his song.

Gordon Oliver Wareham was the next performer at the showcase. He played a flute song and also recited some stories to the delight of the audience.

Vanessa Cedeno Lugo, retail store manager at the Okalee Indian Village, sang a ballad in Spanish called "No Me Queda Mas," originally recorded by the late Tejano music legend Selena. Lugo handed out sheets with the English translation to the song, which means "Nothing is Left for Me."

The next Seminole Open Mic Night is slated to take place in June.



R.C. North Jr. (L) accompanies friend Everett Osceola (R) to form the duo Shake & Bake.

## Citizens, Employees Learn About Seminole Culture

### Informational 'Museum Moments' Presentation Held

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Tribal citizens and employees alike attended a luncheon/informational presentation called "Museum Moments," hosted by the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's Community Outreach Program, in the Tribal Headquarters Auditorium Lobby April 16.

This was the first in a series of presentations the Community Outreach Program plans to host on all six Seminole reservations throughout the rest of this year.

The panel, which discussed the topic "The Green Corn Dance to Today's Traditional Seminoles," consisted of four women: Barbara Butera, her daughter Ciara Billie-Guerue, Butera's mother, Mary Osceola Moore, and Tribal Clerk Mercedes Osceola-Hahn.

Butera, the event host, welcomed all of the attendees to the event and then read a welcoming statement on behalf of Chief Historic Resources Officer Tina M. Osceola, who also thanked those in attendance for attending.

"We came to share and teach as much as we can ... [and] also to get rid of assumptions," said panelist Billie-Guerue.

The panel seemed to be in agreement, saying they hope "Museum Moments" presentations will disperse



(L-R) RoseMarie Pavlick and Pascuale Schettini, from the Accounting Dept., join other Tribal employees at the informational presentation.

accurate information about the Seminole Tribe, as told by members of the Tribe. They said they want to dispel any myths about the Tribe that are incorrect or misleading.

During the event's organization, Butera admitted she was worried a series of informational discussions would not generate a large turnout. However, after the event, she said she was surprised so many people attended. Butera said she is glad so many people want to learn more about the Seminole Tribe of Florida and its culture.

For more information on the next Museum Moments presentation, please contact Community Outreach Specialist Barbara Butera at (954) 931-5082.



Ciara Billie-Guerue (R) intrigues the attendees with answers to their questions. Other members on the panel included (L-R) Barbara Butera, Mary Osceola Moore and Mercedes Osceola-Hahn.

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Save the Date - July 26, 2008

## Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant

The Seminole Princess Committee and the Tribal Council are in the planning stages for the upcoming Miss and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant, scheduled for the evening of July 26. Please mark your calendar and make plans to attend the crowning of the new princesses. If you have any questions please contact Wanda Bowers at (954) 444-9827 or Ext. 11468.

For applications:

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Alice Billie  
Big Cypress  
Salina Dorgan  
Brighton Recreation Dept.  
Tampa Tribal Office  
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5. Ingram Billie - Brother of Josie, also a Powerful Medicine Man - Vanilla & Hazelnut
6. Laura Mae Osceola - Instrumental in getting Federal Recognition of the Seminole Tribe - Dark Chocolate & Banana
7. Joe Dan Osceola - Youngest elected President & First Ambassador - Almond & Dark Chocolate
8. Fred Smith - Longest serving Tribal President - Dark Chocolate & Mint
9. Jim Shore - Longtime General Legal Counsel of the Seminole Tribe - Dark Chocolate & Raspberry
10. Betty Mae Jumper - First Chairwoman of the Seminoles - Apple & Cinnamon
11. James Billie - Longest Serving Elected Chairman of the Tribe - Vanilla & Caramel

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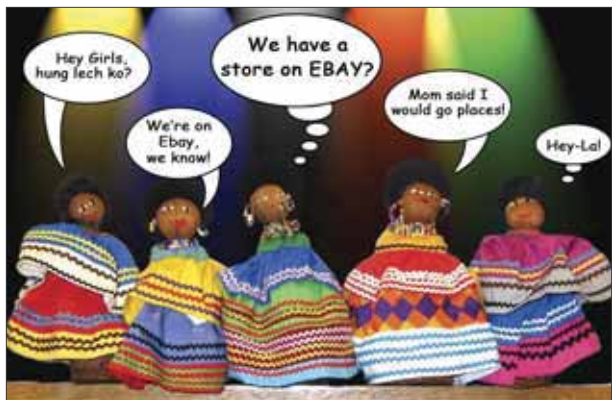


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14. Mitchell & David Cypress - Brothers and Leaders from the Big Cypress Reservation - White Chocolate & Caramel
15. David DeHass - Hollywood Representative - Board - Dark Chocolate & Coconut
16. Moses Osceola - President of the Seminole Tribe - Irish Cream & Dark Chocolate
17. Roger Smith - Brighton Representative - Council - Dark Chocolate & Vanilla
18. Paul Bowers - Big Cypress Representative - Board - Caramel & Hazelnut
19. Johnny Jones - Brighton Representative - Board - Dark Chocolate & Praline
20. Howard Tommie - 2 Term Elected Chairman, Introduced Seminole Bingo - Dark Chocolate & Honey
21. Mike Tiger - Former Director of Indian Health Svc & current Treasurer - Half and Half, Sugar and whipped cream
22. Winifred Tiger - Helped Seminole Youth stay in School, graduate and go to college. - English Toffee & Vanilla



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## Community News

# Mothers Attend Festive Luau Dinner

BY FELIX DOBOSZ  
Staff Reporter



The entertainers put on an impressive Polynesian dinner show for the moms.

**HOLLYWOOD** — Seminole moms from the Hollywood community celebrated Mother's Day early with a Polynesian-style dinner Luau at the Seminole Gym May 8.

Famous Fort Lauderdale landmark and Polynesian restaurant Mai-Kai provided the entertainment with live, South Pacific-style music and a floorshow that featured fire breathers and more.

The gym was transformed into an exotic Polynesian destination complete with giant tiki heads and tropical foliage. There were colorful tablecloths and two carved coconuts adorning each table to complete the island transformation.

Hollywood Board Rep. Gloria Wilson and Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. co-hosted the wonderful event and welcomed everyone to the buffet-style Mother's Day dinner.

"Give mom a break," Rep. Wilson said. "Let her sit back and do what you need to do for her, but not just on Mother's Day, but everyday."

During the stage show, dancers in traditional Polynesian garb moved about the floor dancing fast and heavy drum beats playing over the loud speakers. The dancers selected about a dozen people from the audience to learn the famous Hula dance. Joe Dan Osceola was one of the fearless few who joined in for a dance lesson.



(L-R) Moms Jo M. North, Bonnie Motlow and Leoma Poore enjoy the Luau.

Felix Dobosz



A Polynesian dancer shows Joe Dan Osceola how to Hula.



The dancers entertained the Mother's Day crowd.



The fire dancer was a big hit at the Luau.

Felix Dobosz



Jimmy Osceola signs well wishes on a card for the Tampa moms.

Chris Jenkins

## Moms Honored in Tampa

BY CHRIS JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**TAMPA** — Tribal and community members, along with Tampa Liaison Richard Henry, gathered to celebrate their community's mothers at Henry's brother, Jerry's home on May 11.

"We were honoring the mothers, and of



Nancy Frank takes her turn in the horse-shoe competition.

Chris Jenkins



Colleen Henry (C) with Daughters (L-R) Kaylin and Linda Jane.

Chris Jenkins

course, dedicating the day to them," Rep. Henry said. "[My siblings and I] just try to take care of [our mom] and give her what she wants. She deserves it."

The day's activities included Bingo, horseshoes, door prizes and lunch, all sponsored by the Tampa Recreation Dept.

Tribal senior and mother of six, Nancy Frank, said the day was very special to her and is each year.

"I enjoyed myself as always," Frank said. "It was fun to be honored and we enjoyed each other."

## Mother's Day Celebration in Big Cypress

BY CHRIS JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Mothers in the community were honored at a gathering, held in the Big Cypress Gym May 7, in recognition of the time, energy and sacrifices they endured to have and raise children.

Music, photos and lunch highlighted the day as Tribal Council and Board of Directors members, including Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Council Rep. David Cypress and Board Rep. Cicero

Osceola, made an appearance and offered thanks and praise to all the moms.

"Mothers are one of the most precious things on earth," Chairman Cypress said. "It all means a lot because for me and my brothers my mother is still here."

As a mother of five, with 22 grandchildren, Big Cypress resident Mary Tigertail said the day holds a lot of meaning for her. She said she is grateful to be a mother.

"It is a joy to be a mom," Tigertail said.

"I thank God for being a mom."

"It is fortunate for me that I had a good mom," she added.



(L-R) Jonah Cypress plays guitar while Carol Cypress sings for those in attendance.

Chris Jenkins



Alice Billie and son, Ronnie

Chris Jenkins



Pastor Salaw Hummingbird blesses the Mother's Day lunch.

Chris Jenkins



Sisters Violet and Mabel Jim at the Mother's Day event.

Chris Jenkins



Chairman Mitchell Cypress (C) and BC Council Rep. David Cypress (R) enjoy the day with mother, Mary Frances.

Chris Jenkins



## Community News

## Mother's Day Festivities Abound at Brighton

BY SUSAN ETXEBARRIA  
Freelance Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers from the Brighton community were honored during several celebrations to commemorate Mother's Day, celebrated this year on May 11.

#### *Snowley Holata Mother's Day Remembrance*

The Snowley Holata Mother's Day Remembrance party was the first Mother's Day event held in the Brighton Community, taking place at the gym on May 6.

The event kicked off with a Bingo night. Bingo is a fitting tribute to this mother of three, who passed away in 2002 at the age of 50. Holata was born in 1952 and is the daughter of Alice Snow. Snow explained why her daughter's party kicked off with a Bingo game, saying "Snowley loved to go to Bingo!" Each player received a commemorative T-shirt with Holata's name on it.

Holata's younger sister, Salina Dorgan, organized the annual event that has been held at the Brighton Gym for the past five years.

"My sister was active in our community events and every year she was a major participant in the Brighton Youth Conference," said Dorgan. "She worked for the Tribe for a long time and had lots of friends. It seemed like she always knew what was going on and if I wanted to know what was happening at Brighton she could tell me."

Snowley Snow was born at Brighton. She moved away and married Seminole Eli Holata of Oklahoma, the state where

she gave birth to her first two children, Kevin and Valerie. Then, she and her husband moved to Brighton, where she gave birth to the youngest, Andrea. All of Snowley Holata's family was present at the remembrance and so were many of her brothers and sisters, cousins and friends who knew her and loved her.

Mary Jo Micco catered the event.

#### *Mother's Day Breakfast*

On May 8, community members and Tribal officials recognized Brighton's moms at the Community Mother's Day Breakfast. Council Rep. Roger Smith offered a heartfelt thanks to all mothers, and also presented them with a gift on behalf of the entire Tribal Council.

"We decided to have a breakfast for you so you would not have to cook for one day," he said. "We really want to thank all the ladies of the community who do so much good for our families, their husbands and their children."

Board Rep. Johnnie Jones Sr. also gave each lady a present on behalf of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.

"I want to say thank you to all the moms," he said. "Moms are the ones we learn everything from. Dads provide but always thank your mom because she is that one that teaches us all our ways."



Board Rep. Johnnie Jones Sr. presents a Mother's Day gift to Nancy Shore.



(L-R) Mary Jo Ben of New Mexico visits brother-in-law and sister, Joe Lester and Julia Johns of Brighton.

There were special gifts for the three eldest moms in attendance, Jennie Snow, Lottie Baxley and Shule Jones, who each received a doll.

#### *Seniors Celebrate at Senior Center*

The Brighton Senior Center hosted a Mother's Day celebration on May 8. Along with Brighton's senior moms, visiting guests from Tampa and New Mexico also attended the gathering.

The center was decorated with flowers adorning each table, where the moms enjoyed the lunch that was served following a few games of Bingo. Attendees also received door prizes during the well-attended party.



Three generations of moms help Josephine Villa (sitting) celebrate her birthday during the Snowley Holata remembrance party. They are her two daughters, Micky Burton and Grace Koonitz, granddaughter Suraiya Smith, and great-grandchild, Yani Smith.



Jennie Snow (C), surrounded by family members, receives one of the special gift dolls given to the three moms in attendance.



(Front Row, L-R) Tampa's Maggie Garcia, Linda Osceola, Peggy Cubis, (Back Row, L-R) Shirley Sampson, Nancy Frank and Susie Doctor attended the Brighton festivities.

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Patty Waldron plays Bingo at Senior Center party.



Laverne Thomas enjoys the breakfast.



Lottie Baxley opens her gift.



Snowley Holata's family members, including grandchildren (Front Row, L-R) Silas Madrigal and Talena Smith, (Second Row, L-R) Valerie Holata, Jeanne Eagle, Salina Dorgan, Andrea Holata, Alice Snow (Back Row, L-R) Kevin Holata and Eli Holata, attended the event.



## Community News

### Immokalee Celebrates Mother's Day

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**IMMOKALEE** — Immokalee Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar offered words of wisdom at the opening of her community's Mother's Days celebration, held in the gym on May 9.

"In our culture we don't say Mother's Day, we say 'Worship the Mother,'" she said. "We are a matriarchal society and derive our bloodline and clan from our mothers. They have passed the knowledge and strength of survival down from generation to generation. It is because of our mothers that we are here today."

Aguilar added: "It is important that you remember and spend time with your mothers all year long, not just today. The day will come when they will no longer be there and you will find their loss very hard to accept."

Following a buffet, gift bags were distributed as raffle tickets were announced. The bags were filled with a variety of items such as jewelry, watches, crystal picture frames, digital frames, candy apples and handbags.

A special gold charm had been hand crafted for each of the senior women depicting an intricately designed Seminole doll. Presented on gold necklaces, they brought tears of emotion to the eyes of many.

A small portrait studio was set up in the corner to provide an opportunity for families to document the event and create a loving memory to cherish throughout the year.



Judy Weeks

Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar (C) with (L-R) Tracy DeLaRosa, Susan Davis and Maria Bille from her administrative staff.



Judy Weeks

Immokalee Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar gives a cultural background of Mother's Day.



Judy Weeks

Louise Motlow admires her gold Seminole doll charm.

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## Community News



Marisol Gonzalez  
Dorothy Tommie works her upper body during one of the many exercises arranged for the seniors.



Marisol Gonzalez  
Judyhill Osceola concentrates while tossing the fuzzy ball into the bucket.

## Seniors Get Fit During Field Day

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The first-ever Senior Get Fit Field Day took place in the Hollywood Gym on May 7. Many of the seniors decided to come out and exercise for a while; however, little did they know they would have lots of fun while doing it.

Activities included fitness exercises to help stretch and strengthen their muscles. They started out in a circle to stretch and warm up to get the blood pumping. Then they were split up into two teams and rotated on four different obstacle courses. The seniors used elements such as beanbags, eggs, soccer balls, fuzzy yarn balls with baskets to throw them in and plenty of cones.

In attendance were: Dorothy Tommie, Judyhill Osceola, Cornelia Osceola, Maydell Osceola, Coleman Josh, Annie Jumper, Dorothy Tucker and the staff of the Fitness Department.

"It wasn't really hard, but good," said Judyhill Osceola of her day.

As they alternated from one activity to another the competition got fierce. They ended the day with a cool down exercise and lots of juice and water to keep them hydrated. Each participant walked away with a visor and a medal for their participation. Maggie Osceola was presented with an honorary medal for coming out to watch her fellow seniors get fit. Fitness Department staff members were

pleased with the turnout and said they are planning more of these Get Fit Field Days for each reservation. Senior Dorothy Tommie agreed, encouraging others to attend fitness-related events.

"To all the seniors, come on out and exercise with us, you might just have fun," Tommie said.



Marisol Gonzalez  
Kenny Bayon, a contract employee with the Fitness Dept., presents Maggie Osceola with a medal for coming out to watch her fellow seniors get fit.

## Appreciation Day Held for Tribal Employees

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**IMMOKALEE** — Employees from all Immokalee's administrative departments took advantage of Employee Appreciation Day to kick up their heels and have some fun on April 18.

Gathering at the gym at 8 a.m., the participants received a T-shirt commemorating the day, water bottle and tote bag embroidered with the Tribal Council logo

surrounded by a heart and the slogan, "Take This Job and Love It."

The whistle blew and the activities got underway with a brisk walk to the ball field, where staff members were divided into two teams, representing the Ranch and Recreation Departments. Kenny Joe Davis and Johnnie Boone coached, while the players competed. The Ranch players triumphed at softball and volleyball, while Recreation took everyone down during the Tug-of-War.



Judy Weeks

Competitors in the Tug-of-War event gave it their all in hopes of a victory.

## Seniors Attend Fire Extinguisher Training

BY FELIX DOBOSZ  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — On May 12 members of the Seminole Tribe's Fire Prevention Division hosted a fire extinguisher training class for interested Tribal seniors at the Hollywood Senior Center.

Department of Emergency Services Battalion Chief and Fire Marshal David Logan, Lt. Robert Brown, Lt. Robert Levy and Fire Inspector Bruce Britton all participated in the educational seminar.

Levy and Britton then showed a PowerPoint® presentation outlining the dos and don'ts of fire prevention. The presentation also pointed out how to handle a fire extinguisher properly, as the two explained proper aiming and firing techniques, telling the seniors to aim for the base of the fire when putting it out.

After getting the basics down, the class moved to the outdoors for a live, controlled demonstration. The class leaders ignited an elec-



Felix Dobosz

Elsie Bowers gets ready to put out the fire after learning valuable tips at the seminar.



Felix Dobosz

(L-R) Fire Inspectors Bruce Britton and Lt. Robert Levy display an Automated External Defibrillator, or AED machine, at the Fire Extinguisher Class.

tronically-controlled fire so each student could operate the fire extinguisher and put out the flames.

The teachers also showed the class an Automated External Defibrillator, or AED machine, a portable electronic device that, through the application of electrical shock therapy, re-starts the heart after an arrest. The seniors received instruction on how to properly handle these life-saving machines as well.

"It was good training for seniors, and will be very helpful," said senior Mary Gay Osceola.

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## Community News

## Public Invited to First Annual Safety Fair

BY SHELLEY MARMOR  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Tribal Office of Emergency Management held the first-ever Public Safety Fair on May 2 at the Hollywood Hard Rock. The event, which ran from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., featured several informative seminars and demonstrations including how to operate a fire extinguisher and a seminar on emergency planning.

Several booths were set up inside the

Hard Rock Ballroom with representatives from various Tribal departments, the American Red Cross, the Broward Sheriff's Office and more on hand. Representatives at the booths distributed a wealth of safety-related information. The Office of Emergency Management's booth featured information on hurricane preparedness. Tips offered at their booth included making a family disaster plan so each family will be prepared in the event of a disaster, and keeping a disaster supply kit, which should

include items such as non-perishable foods, water, a flashlight and a first aid kit, to name a few.

In addition, there was a Kid's Zone for Safety Awareness where the students from the Hollywood Preschool were able to learn safety tips and even don firefighter hats and climb aboard one of the Tribe's fire trucks.

They also attended a Smoke House Demonstration in which a member of the Tribal Emergency Management Service taught the children how to properly get out of a house on fire. This demonstration took place inside a small trailer that releases smoke to simulate a fire.

Two more public safety fairs are slated to take place; the first on June 11 at the Brighton Gym and the second on June 19 at the Big Cypress Gym. For more information, please contact Lisa Mullenix from the Office of Emergency Management at (954) 894-1070, Ext. 10916.



A representative of Carrier Generators distributed information about hurricane preparedness at their booth.



McGruff the Crime Dog made a special visit to the Seminole Police Department's booth.



Julia Doctor, from the 4 year old class, is instructed to get low when smoke fills the air during the Smoke House demonstration.



John Anderson, information technology director, demonstrates how to communicate with another Emergency Communications Trailer by radio in one of two, referred to as SEMCOMM 1 and SEMCOMM 2.



Joel Simmons of the Seminole Tribe's Fire Rescue Department allows the little ones to push the red button to sound the alarm.



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## Community News

## Grand Opening Held for Drug-Free Program

BY SUSAN ETXEBARRIA  
Freelance Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — The Brighton Family Services and Recreation Departments welcomed community youngsters to the grand opening of the S.W.A.M.P. May 1.

The acronym stands for "Seminole Without Addictions Make Progress" and is a program that takes place in its own room at the Brighton Gym on Thursday evenings from 7-9 p.m. All family members, adults and seniors are encouraged to take part.

At S.W.A.M.P. the youngsters can enjoy a variety of drug-free activities and games, and also take part in the planning. At the ribbon cutting ceremony those in attendance enjoyed several activities including demonstrations from the Brighton Warriors Cheerleaders and Seminole Police Dept. K-9 Officer Carlin Coleman, who showed his drug dog's ability to sniff out illegal substances.

Valerie Marone, community outreach coordinator for Family Services, and Richard Osceola, Brighton Recreation Department director — whose departments jointly sponsor and staff S.W.A.M.P. — explained the need for this program and its benefits.

"At the S.W.A.M.P. kids will receive positive reinforcement in making healthy choices about not using alcohol and drugs,"

Marone said. "Every week during the refreshment time there will be information about the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol that will be given in a non-threatening and fun way with puppet shows and games."

Osceola also added: "We at Recreation and Family Services have been doing a lot of things with the kids to prevent drug use and we want to continue."

The 2008-2009 Brighton Princess Jaryaca Baker performed the ribbon-cutting ceremony. She first spoke to her peers, saying she is really supportive of S.W.A.M.P. and a drug-free lifestyle.

"I have a lot going for me right now in my life and I don't want to ruin it," Baker said. "Drugs and alcohol will affect your life. It will affect not just you but everybody in your family."

After the ribbon cutting, which dedicated one of the youth center rooms at the gym to S.W.A.M.P. activities, the kids flooded in, excited to



Susan Etzbarria

The 2008-2009 Brighton Seminole Princess Jaryaca Baker cuts the ribbon at the S.W.A.M.P.'s grand opening.



Susan Etzbarria

(L-R) Alexis Gore, Alani Gore and Trewston Pearce enjoy youth games inside the S.W.A.M.P.

play the many games set up for them.

Family Services Director Helene Buster was also in attendance. She reiterated the importance of having programs such as S.W.A.M.P., which she said will provide "a safe place... that is drug-free." Buster added that she is pleased that the Family Services staff is reaching out to the community.

"We have to go out where the people are so they will feel comfortable," she said. "This makes it possible for people and the youth to be in a place where they are not feeling intimidated, not under a microscope, and this is another way we can accomplish our mission of prevention and education about drug and alcohol abuse."

Brighton's Family Services and Recreation Departments are planning many more drug-free activities for the youth and community such as a trip to see the Blue Man Group at Universal Studios in Orlando and a just-for-fun community softball game and cookout in May.

For more information about S.W.A.M.P.'s monthly activities, please call Valerie Marone at (863) 763-7700.



Chris Jenkins

Joe Billie Jr. looks for the winning combination in a game of Bingo.



Chris Jenkins

(L-R) Claudia Doctor and Lydia Cypress paint their art work before the games.

## Senior Center Birthday Luncheon

BY CHRIS JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Senior Center made special acknowledgment of some of its own during a birthday celebration on April 30.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Mary L. Johns and Josiah Allen Jumper were all

honored at the luncheon. The gathering was treated to traditional birthday fare including a cake, as well as arts and crafts and games to enjoy.

Senior Center assistant manager Melissa Guzman said the day allows the seniors to be celebrated in a fun way.

"It all went well we actually had a pretty good crowd," Guzman said.



Chris Jenkins

Senior Center Assistant Manager Melissa Guzman calls out the numbers during the seniors' Bingo competition.

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## Community News

# Hollywood Board Rep Hosts 'Count the Florida Votes' Rally

## Community Participates in Democratic Rally at Hollywood Tribal Headquarters

BY FELIX DOBOSZ  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Hollywood Board Rep. Gloria Wilson hosted the "Count the Florida Votes" rally at the Tribal Headquarters April 26.

Wilson invited Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (D-FL), who represents Florida's 20th District, where the Hollywood Reservations is located, to also address the gathering. Together, the two, and those in attendance, hoped to urge the Democratic Party to count the votes from Florida's primary election, held Jan. 29.

Rep. Wilson welcomed and thanked everyone for coming out to Seminole County and being part of the democratic process. "I initiated this event primarily for the Hollywood community because of the various candidates who approached me regarding making presentations to the Tribal members," Rep. Wilson explained. "I have been involved in the Hillary Clinton campaign since last fall, and have established contacts within the Broward Democratic Party."

In addition to the rally, this also was an opportunity for voters to meet and greet some of the candidates running for local elected office in the next primary, to be held

Aug. 26. Candidates only had a few minutes each to explain their platforms, addressing interested guests seated in the auditorium lobby and dining on barbecued chicken and fixings while listening to candidates' qualifications.

A number of candidates campaigned, including Shahrukh "Shak" Dhanji and Wiley Thompson, both running for Broward County Sheriff, Freda Sherman Stevens, the Democratic candidate for District 100 state representative, Tim Ryan, the Democratic candidate for District 31 state senator and Adriane Reese, seeking the Broward County supervisor of elections position.

At the outdoor rally, held under a chickee, Rep. Wilson made her message clear.

"We're proud to host this event today because we believe just like every other Democrat in the state of Florida that our votes count, and it's our right to cast the vote the way we want them, and right now we want them counted," she stated. "So we'd like to ask everyone especially the Democratic Party to consider what we're asking for. We have petitions that have gone out and gathered to the Democratic Party and today is just another way to re-enforce that request."



Hollywood Board Representative Gloria Wilson urges the Democratic Party to count the Florida votes at the rally.



Some of the candidates running in the Democratic Primary for local office make their presentations to gathered voters at the "Count the Florida Votes" rally, held at the Tribe's Hollywood Headquarters on April 26.



Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (C) spoke at the "Count the Florida Votes" rally.



By Ramona Kiyoshk

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

It was hard to decide which part of this book to use as the lead for a review. Every chapter, indeed every paragraph, offers a valuable teaching.

Book Designer/Editor/Photographer Cecilia Kayano's creative team took Suzanne Davis' concept and turned out a very readable treasure that is captivating in its visual presentation. You pick up the book because it catches your eye. However you are soon caught up in the story of a charismatic man discussing his personal wellness journey, from boyhood to maturity. The man takes his time — good teachers understand patience. The conversational style pulls you in and before long you are paying attention; very close attention.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress tells you that his well-being depends on the wisdom of his elders and on the spirituality of the Seminole people. He insists that Native people learn from each other. They respond to being shown how, not being ordered, to do something. I think Chairman Cypress not only learned to walk the honorable path recommended by the Seminole elders, but also he picked up their narrative skills, those oral traditions that make storytelling a significant part of Native culture, spirituality, education and entertainment.

Chairman Cypress grew up in the Everglades. He was born when the Seminoles were impoverished and desperate, still recovering from a forty-year war for freedom against the United States. Three years away at an Indian boarding school and a stint in Europe with the Army made him aware of how remote and trapped in time his people were. Every trip back home made him see that things had not progressed.

When Chairman Cypress returned to Florida for good, he joined the bored young locals in a lifestyle of drinking, menial work and just getting by. The years in the fields, the monotony, the hard drinking and the self-absorption took their tolls, spiritually and physically.

There were several wake-up calls that Chairman Cypress chose to ignore. His wayward father made him a caring son, but a less than attentive husband. He tells of working, as a teenager, for a pittance in the fields to help his mother feed his siblings and others in their camp.

He married for love, but was not able to express it inside his marriage. His long-suffering wife, Mary Ann, bore him children and cared for him and the family. Only when she became ill and passed away, did he realize he could have loved her better.

Still, the spark that is unique to those born to excel was never squelched. One could attribute it to naivety, but it runs deeper. It is Chief Osceola, a century earlier, defying a U.S. Army that outnumbered and out-armed his ragged guerrillas. Chairman Cypress, although raised in poverty, often going to bed hungry, never once thought of himself as a victim.

Every setback — losing his wife, a crippling car accident, a motorcycle mishap and developing diabetes — were just obstacles that needed to be addressed in a sensible way. The elders, the Tribal wisdom keepers, became the roadmap of Chairman Cypress' journey back from alcoholism, obesity, smoking two packs a day and losing his beloved Mary Ann. They also helped him find a calling that challenged his abilities: he would lead his people.

A sense of humor is innate in Native peoples. Chairman Cypress' humor is evident as he talks about managing his diabetes, and rearranging his life to ensure that his feet, kidneys, heart and eyes remain healthy. Keeping his errant hemoglobin A1c under control has become a personal mission.

He tells about a time when he would sneak Ramen Noodles into his bedroom for a midnight snack. He now knows you can't lie to your body. He agonizes over getting out of bed up at 5 a.m. to go for a walk when he would rather sleep in and passing up the tasty items at the luncheon buffet is hard, but he knows he is being watched and is determined to set a positive example.

In the last chapter, Chairman Cypress tells us that this book is not a self-aggrandizing gimmick. He says he needs to share what he has learned so that others may benefit from his lessons and despair. He cites the incident of a brother who died in an alcohol-related car wreck. Chairman Cypress had secretly stopped drinking a couple of months before and was experiencing the benefits of sobriety. He feels if he had shared this with his brother, the accident may not have happened.

The obsession to care for others and to practice what one preaches have been driving force with Chairman Cypress all his life. His practicality in looking a problem in the eye and then designing a plan of action on how to fix it have not only helped him become a physically healthy individual, but also work for him in his job as the Chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, one of the most progressive and high profile Indian Tribes on the continent.

I believe this book should be made available to all participants in Indian Health Services diabetes programs, and to those ravenous consumers of self-help books who frequent book stores. Please call (800) 683-7800 for information on how to obtain a copy.



**Having Diabetes & Acting in an Honorable Way**  
By Mitchell Cypress, Chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida

Published by the Seminole Tribe of Florida, 2007  
Produced by the Seminole Health Department Diabetes Program  
Cecilia Kayano, Designer, Editor, Photographer  
Paula Barr, Layout and Graphics  
Project Manager, Suzanne Davis, PA, CDE, MPH  
More creative credits on last page

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## Sports • Ham-pa-leesh-ke • Vkkopynvk

## Seminole Warriors Boxing Vies For Another Championship

BY CHRIS JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

TAMPA — Seminole Warriors Boxing was hoping to make Glen "The Road Warrior" Johnson their next major champion on April 12.

In what many critics consider the last

chapter of Johnson's career (47-12-2, 37 KOs), the former International Boxing Federation (IBF) light heavyweight champ looked as durable as ever making another push toward glory facing champion Chad "Bad" Dawson (26-0, 17 KOs) for the World Boxing Council title.

Coming in, Johnson was on a roll, tak-

ing out his last three opponents by KO; in his last bout, finishing Hugo Pinelda in eight rounds. Dawson defended his title for the third time since winning it in February 2007. In his last outing, he registered an impressive fourth-round TKO over Epifanio Mendoza in September of last year.

In what was a clear-cut Johnson crowd, the scheduled 12 rounder left most in attendance disappointed. Dawson showed a good chin throughout, using his speed and quickness, but took some powerful shots by the ready and wise Johnson. Dawson would outpoint Johnson in a very controversial unanimous decision, 116-112, by all three judges.

Many in attendance thought the bout would go the distance but expected a

closer score in Johnson's favor. Warriors Boxing Executive Director Leon Margules was of course expecting a different result.

"I thought he won; I don't know what else you have to do to win a fight," Margules said. "I am very disappointed and hope the networks and others out there give [Johnson] another shot."

Other action included hometown favorite Antonio Tarver taking home the IBF and International Boxing Organization light heavyweight titles over Clinton Woods by unanimous decision in the co-main 12 rounder.

In cruiserweight action, Akiyemi Laleye won by a unanimous decision over Willie Chisolm in six.

Among junior middleweights and middleweights, Chris Gray scored the upset over a previously undefeated Brian Mihar by a unanimous decision in six rounds. Raymond Biggs Jr. remained undefeated over Jean Baptiste in six by a unanimous decision and Brian Meadows and Laquel Fleming squared off with a draw in four rounds.

In the super middleweight division, Jonathan Nelson picked up his first professional win over Devin Laney by a unanimous decision in four rounds and in women's action Laura Ramsey got her ninth win over Alexandra Maloy by a unanimous decision in four rounds.

In bantamweight action, Yan Bartheleme remained perfect, defeating veteran Jose Garcia Berna in six rounds by a unanimous decision.

In the two heavyweight bouts, Bowie



Chris Jenkins

An exhausted Glen Johnson salutes the crowd after his bout with Chad Dawson.

Tupou moved to 14-0 against Ramon Hayes going the full six and won by unanimous decision, while Danny Williams also won by unanimous decision in six rounds against Marcus McGee.

All the action was part of a world championship doubleheader billed as "TNT:

Title Night in Tampa," held at the St. Pete Times Forum arena. The twin bill was broadcast live on Showtime Boxing.

Several Tribal representatives also made an appearance, with Big Cypress Rep. David Cypress and Fort Pierce Liaison S.R. Tommie in attendance.



Chris Jenkins

Legendary boxing trainer and author Angelo Dundee (L) talks to the media before the fight.



Redline Media Group

(L-R) Rodney Wallace takes a powerful shot from Warriors' Wilmer Vazquez.

## Knockout Kings at Hard Rock

BY CHRIS JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Seminole Warriors Boxing's latest event — the Knockout Kings — lived up to its name. The event, held April 23 at the Hard Rock Live, and sponsored by Warriors, featured six bouts with the action broadcast live on ESPN2's Wednesday Night Fights.

The evening also sponsored a good cause as Warriors teamed up with the U.S. Army for the donation of used cell phones for soldiers in the war with the Cell Phones for Soldiers program.

In the co-main and main events, the undefeated "Mean" Joe Greene (19-0, 15 KOs) faced Ghana's Joshua Okine (18-4-1, 12 KOs). In the main tilt, former International Boxing Federation (IBF) light welterweight champion Juan "Iron Twin" Urango (20-1-1, 16 KOs) faced veteran Carlos "El Loco" Vilches (53-8-2, 31 KOs).

Urango was coming off two straight KO wins and was looking to continue clawing his way back into the welterweight championship picture as he faced battle-tested vet Carlos Wilfredo Vilches, who

sported twice the ring experience, in addition to his wins. He was also a winner of 10 straight.

The two squared off in a title eliminator fight, with the winner in the driver's seat for a world title shot.

The power and strategy of Urango made the difference as Vilches was the victim of one of the best power shots of 2008, going down in the fourth round by KO. Prior to that, he showed signs of struggle, going down briefly in the first. On the second knockdown he would stay down as physicians and medics attended to him for several minutes afterwards. Urango used a quick rock-solid right cross to stun the seasoned Vilches sending him crumbling to the mat with those on hand gasping and impressed.

Warriors Boxing Executive Director Leon Margules said he was impressed with Urango's performance.

"I thought it was the best he has ever looked," Margules said.

The win places Urango near the top of the rankings in his division and Margules said it puts him in view of a hopeful IBF title bout with current champion Paul Malignaggi by year's end.

Other action included: the southpaw Greene continuing to impress in the middleweight division with a ninth round TKO against Okine; Wilford Scypion was victorious against Williams Ganes by TKO in the fourth in junior middleweight action; Kenny Galza beat out Amaury Torres in three by TKO among junior welterweights; Warriors' Wilmer Vazquez moved to 6-0 over Rodney Wallace with a third round TKO among heavyweights; and finally, David Estrada picked up his 22nd win over Alexander Pacheco Quiroz with a second round KO.

Members of the Tribal Council also made an appearance with Fort Pierce Liaison S.R. Tommie and Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress on hand for the action.

The next scheduled action for Seminole Warriors Boxing and the Hard Rock is June 21.



Redline Media Group

(L-R) "Mean" Joe Greene unleashes a powerful straight left jab on Joshua Okine.

## Little Seminoles Play Pre-T T-Ball Season Opener

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ  
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Little Seminoles played their first Pre-T T-Ball game of the season at the Seminole Ball Field April 17.

The team includes a mix of more than a dozen Tribal and non-Tribal youngsters, ranging from age 4 to 7.

Their first game was played against a Driftwood area team.



Marisol Gonzalez

Kristian Gonzalez makes his way to first base.



Marisol Gonzalez

Jeanette Varela concentrates on hitting the ball.

In the game of Pre-T T-Ball, there are only three innings, and no outs. This means each player is able to bat at the T, and the last player of the team brings them all home.

The children had a blast while they hit and ran and even tried to catch a few balls that would scatter on the field. Some of them were even so excited they ran the wrong way around the bases, forcing parents to become temporary coaches while they guided their child in the right direction.

Just before the third inning, the rain came down, followed by thunder and lightning, and finally the sirens sounded alerting everyone to leave the ball field.



Marisol Gonzalez

Amaya Shenandoah rounds the bases for home.

Although the game was cut short, The Little Seminoles team was pleased with the result of so much practice.

"I am thrilled to see them play," said Coach Maggie Puente. "We play like a family and it makes me happy seeing them happy."

## Annual Howard Tiger Memorial Tourney Wraps Up

BY CHRIS JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The three-stage, eighth annual Howard Tiger Memorial Pro-Bass Fishing tournament wrapped up on May 2. The tournament offers Tribal citizens a chance to get out on the lake as they soak up the sun and engage in some healthy competition.

In the third-stage standings, Justin Gopher and Naha Jumper took home first place and Big Bass Award honors. Both had a prize catch of 19 pounds, 73 ounces. The first place overall series winners were Kassim Stockton and Leon Wilcox Jr., who also earned second place honors in Stage 3 of the tournament.

First time tourney participants, Raul Escobar and partner Frank DeLarosa, said they enjoyed the experience. They received the top prize in Stage 2 with their catches that totaled almost 23 pounds.

"We had a great time and were really excited about it all," DeLarosa said.



Chris Jenkins

Stage 3's winners and participants.



Chris Jenkins

Stage 3's overall series winners (L-R) Leon Wilcox Jr. and Kassim Stockton.



Chris Jenkins

First place Stage 2 winners (L-R) Frank Delarosa and Raul Escobar display their trophy.



# Sports • Ham-pa-leesh-ke • Vkkopvkv

## Ahfachkee Students Participate in Olympic-Style Games

Please see story on Page 1



Dacia Osceola throws the discus.



Derrick Tiger aims for the bucket at station 2.



Syndee Cypress kicks the ball at the soccer station.



Chris Jenkins

Joey Keel, 12, who took first place in the competition, clears a major hill during his run.

## Motocross Hosts Loretta Lynn Area Qualifier

BY CHRIS JENKINS

Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Seminole Tribe Motocross Park hosted one of motocross's premier events on April 19. As one of only eight qualifier racing sites in the Southeastern U.S., and one of only two races in Florida, some of the best amateur motocross riders in America were in action in the Loretta Lynn Area Qualifier.

This annual event is a competition, which began in March and runs through June, with the eight best racers in their divisions making the cut and moving on to regional competition. From regionals, the final rider roster is determined for the Amateur Nationals, which

will be held in Hurricane Mills, Tenn. at the home ranch of legendary country singer and Country Music Hall of Famer Loretta Lynn.

Joey Keel, 12, is just one of the riders sponsored by the Seminole Tribe with a two year stint thus far. He came in No. 1 in his age and stock division, qualifying for the June regional finals event. He said the event is one step closer to championship glory.

"It was a pretty big event for me," Keel said. "It was tough because all the kids from other states were very fast too."

The event brought in riders from all across Florida as well as Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and more.

## Emerging Sport of Disc Golf Comes to BC

BY JUDY WEEKS

Freelance Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Stan Frischman of the Big Cypress Recreation Department introduced a new sport to his community on May 3 on the grassy fairways of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. Although new to Big Cypress, disc golf has been slowly catching on across the U.S. for the past few years and has become quite the rage in Europe and Asia.

The game is played with a series of plastic disks or Frisbees®. Players maneuver the length of the fairway and attempt to score in the chain basket with the least number of throws — much like in golf. Indicating their use, the discs are appropriately labeled enforcers, drivers, mid-range and putters, to name a few.



Judy Weeks

Disc Golf Pro Dale Schwegel (third from left) instructs the Big Cypress players in their first game on the fairway of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.



Judy Weeks


Rashawn Jim sinks his putter during the game of disc golf.

Big Cypress' first disc golf clinic was conducted by Dale F. Schwegel, founder of the Ultimate Disc Golf Show and a member of the sport's touring pro circuit. He provided a comprehensive background of the game, its physical merits and likened its pros to golf professional Tiger Woods. He noted that there are several high dollar tournaments that take place each year in Florida, which currently has four permanent courses.

Coaching the players as they made their way around the course, Schwegel demonstrated the basic techniques of the game and the skills needed to manipulate the discs. The players were in awe as they watched him propel his disc straight down the fairway for over 100 yards and then at the last minute, it would make a sharp hook and land next to the basket hidden behind a clump of bushes.

By the conclusion of the game the players were making considerable progress. Some members of the group also indicated they looked forward to a rematch in the future.



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

## Seminole Recreation Dept. Hosts Co-Ed Volleyball Game Poolside

BY FELIX DOBOSZ  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Seminole Recreation Dept. hosted an informal, poolside, co-ed volleyball game for Tribal citizens and employees at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino on April 19.

A couple dozen people participated in this fun-filled, yet competitive family event. The teams played the relaxed version beach volleyball on a sand-filled court with no markings for foul lines, though team members seemed to intuitively know what was in play.

Event host Richard Osceola of Seminole Recreation kept everything organized and the games moving along, taking time outs for people to cool off in the lagoon-style Hard Rock pool.



The competitors smack the Wilson around.

Felix Dobosz



Felix Dobosz

Joel Puento, 10, and brother, Jose Puento Jr., 3, spend the day in the pool while parents Maggie and Jose Sr. played volleyball.



The participants enjoy their volleyball game.

Felix Dobosz



Marisol Gonzalez

Below the Rim displays their championship trophy and medals. (Back Row, L-R) Sarah Kelton, Yahjaira Vasquez, Rebecca Lyttle, Whitney Osceola, Ariah Osceola and Kaley Howard, (Front Row, L-R) Hali Garcia and Tara Whitaker.

## Below the Rim Team Takes First at AAU

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ  
Staff Reporter

**ORLANDO** — The Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) held its 2008 Super Regional Spring Fling II Girl's Basketball Tournament the weekend of May 9-11 at Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex. There were 130 teams competing from places including Florida, Georgia, and as far away as Canada and Missouri, in age divisions ranging from 10-19.

With the same goal in mind, all the teams were yearning to be one of the top two teams in their age division to secure their chance to go on and play at the AAU National Championship. Although two Seminole teams went on to compete at the AAU Spring Fling II, only one of the teams made it all the way and secured a spot in the AAU National Championship, the 14 and

younger girls team Below the Rim.

The Lady Seminoles and Below the Rim attended and played against various teams in this three-day competition. While the Lady Seminoles were able to play a few of the early games they were unable to make it to the finals.

The Below the Rim team, coached by Marl Osceola and Carlos Adamson, played a total of five games. The first game was against the Brevard Lady Lakers. The game was scheduled late in evening of the May 9 line-up, but that did not stop them from succeeding, winning the game, 48-7.

The second game was against the Albany HotShots, which Below the Rim won 54-50. With two wins under their belts, they were well on their way to capturing the title as they began day 3 of competition with three games scheduled.

They won their first morning game against the Florida Wildcats, 44-26, and assured themselves a place in the finals. The next game, against Green Wave, was very close. However, Below the Rim emerged victorious, 43-40. At the beginning of the last game, fatigue started to set in. Friends and family in the stands shouted encouraging words for the girls to finish what they came to do.

The won the last and final game, held in the early afternoon hours of May 11, against FGB Blue, 68-48. Each player walked away with a medal and the team received a trophy. They also secured themselves a spot to compete in the AAU National Championships.

The girls on the Below the Rim team win nearly every tournament they attend. They recently attended the 2008 Texas Spring Showcase and walked away as champions, as well as the Youth Basketball of America tournament held in Altamonte Springs, Fla.



Marisol Gonzalez

Meaghan Osceola, of the Lady Seminoles, looks for open team members to pass the ball to.



Judy Weeks

With his shirt tail flying in the wind, covered in clay and the lining in his hat askew, Josh Johns shouts "I'm okay! What a ride!" to his mother and the rodeo fans.



Judy Weeks

Josh Johns fights a winning battle to free his hand in the Junior Bareback event.

## EIRA Celebrates Cinco de Mayo

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**IMMOKALEE** — Rodeo fans enjoyed an action packed evening when the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) visited Immokalee for a Cinco de Mayo celebration on May 2.

The Junior Rodeo got underway at 5 p.m. with a roster of approximately 25 young cowboys and cowgirls competing in the nine scheduled events.

The Sanctioned Events followed as Josh Johns brought the fans jumping out of their seats in the Junior Bareback Bronc Riding.

Exiting the chute in perfect form for this first event of the evening, Johns was off to a fantastic start. But within a matter of seconds the tables turned and he was in some trouble. While the bronc bucked, twisted and turned, his hand entangled in the rigging and he slid under the mount. Pickup riders and comrades rushed to his aid just as he broke free.

Staggering from the arena with a grin, he shouted to his mother, "I'm okay! What a ride!"

The night continued with competitor Robbie Chalfant making a 4.4 second run in Sier Wrestling, and Leanna Billie's 3.8 second catch in Breakaway Roping.



Judy Weeks

Happy Jumper flips his calf onto the clay.

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## Sports • Ham-pa-leesh-ke • Vkkopynvkv



Zoe Puento (C), of the Lil Hustlers, drives the ball down the court.

## Howard Tiger Memorial Tourney Celebrates 39 Years

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The 39th Annual Howard Tiger Memorial Basketball Tournament took place at the Hollywood Gym, May 1-3. The tournament included divisions for participants of all ages and the three-day event brought out Tribal citizens from near and far.



The Wildcats and Big Cypress Recreation team begin their game.

The tournament kicked off with a three-part competition on the evening of May 1 for the Legends Division. It included a free-throw competition, three-point contest and a skills challenge with winners in each category taking home a commemorative jacket. Leslie Osceola and Jeremiah Hall won the free-throw competition, and also won in the skills challenge, along with Donna Turtle and Travis Osceola. Leslie Osceola, Donna Turtle, Esther Gopher, Travis Osceola, Jeremiah Hall and Nathan Doctor took top honors in the three-point contest.

On day 2 of the tournament, the 17 and younger Brighton boy's team made the two hour trip to Hollywood to compete against the home team. The Brighton team went on to win best out of three games against Hollywood.

The co-ed 9 and younger team from Big Cypress took on the Hollywood team. The Lil Hustlers from Hollywood stood up to their name and won the game with a score of 16-4. Each player on the team received a medal to commemorate their win.

The Adult Division men's and women's games took place on the afternoon of May 3. The two men's teams played best out of three games with the Wildcats triumphing against Big Cypress Recreation. The three women's teams placed as follows: 1. Hollywood, 2. Outlaw Women, 3. Lady Swoosh. Members of the winning teams received jackets, sweatshirts, T-shirts and trophies.

## Seniors Compete in 7th Annual Pool Tourney

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Big Cypress Department of Elder Affairs sponsored the 7th Annual Big Cypress Seniors Pool Tournament on April 17 at the Senior Center.

Beginning promptly at 11 a.m., the competition was strenuous throughout the morning and afternoon with players breaking only briefly for lunch.

ESPN Rodeo, Eastern Indian Rodeo and country music kept the participants entertained on the large screen television as they waited their turns at the tables. A surprise *a capella* performance by Ishmeal Seymour, who serenaded the ladies in the nearby ceramic studio, drifted into the main hall and added to the high spirits of the contenders.

Dropping by during the lunch break, Big Cypress Council Rep. David Cypress said: "You know how much I love this game and I am just itching to get a cue in my hands. Unfortunately, I have places to go and people to see. Besides, I wouldn't want any of you pros to show me up in front of my fans."

Seven teams competed in the Men's Singles and the winners were first through fourth, respectively: Rudy Osceola, Joe B. Osceola, Keeno King and David Jumper. Annie Jumper, Louise Billie, Ruby Osceola



The 7th Annual BC Seniors Pool Tournament top players (L-R) Annie Jumper, Louise Billie, Betty Osceola, Joe Benjamin Osceola, Teresa Jumper, Rudy Osceola, Ruby Osceola and Jonah Cypress.

and Louise Osceola, respectively, won the laurels in the nine teams that competed in the Women's Singles.

The Scotch Doubles championship went to Teresa Jumper/Jonah Cypress and Betty Osceola/Joe B. Osceola.



Louise Billie contemplates her next move at the billiards table.



First place winner in the Men's Singles, Rudy Osceola, points to the pocket before taking his winning shot.

## Tribal Citizens Play In Annual Cindy Osceola Bowling Tournament

BY FELIX DOBOSZ  
Staff Reporter

**DAVIE, Fla.** — For the fourth year in a row, Tribal citizens played in the annual Cindy Osceola Memorial Bowling Tournament, held April 10-11 at Sparez bowling alley. Tournament play included a Regular, 3-6-9 and No Tap games, and a most strikes contest, which Mary Jo Micco, Kyle Doney and Joe Billie won.

Score keeper Robin Osceola stayed busy gathering results from all the competitors, including Virginia Billie, Raymond Garza Jr., Eugene Bowers, Jimmy Osceola and Donna Turtle. Turtle herself kept busy between her turns as she kept a watchful eye on grandson Anthony "Chum Chum" Osceola, 8 months.

The tournament was a fun-filled family affair in remembrance of Cindy Osceola.

Results were: Adult Division: Regular: 1. Patricia Wilcox and Big Leon Wilcox, 392, 2. Margaret Wilcox and Remus Griffin, 379, 3. Ashley Wilcox and Antillis Stockton, 376, 4. Marilyn and Kyle Doney, 352, Renee and Little Leon Wilcox, 340; 3-6-9: 1. Patricia Wilcox and Remus Griffin, 486, 2. Monica Cypress and Keny, 459, 3. Margaret Wilcox and Kyle Doney, 415, Leslie Osceola and Rufus Tiger, 413, 4. Ashley Wilcox and Jerome Davis, 408; Not Tap: 1. Mary Jo Micco and Remus Griffin, 498, 2. Ashley Wilcox and Little Leon Wilcox, 490, 3. Monica Cypress and Rufus Tiger, 479, 4. Leslie Osceola and Danny, 425, 5. Margaret Wilcox and Big Leon Wilcox, 407.

Senior Division: Women: 1. Cornelia Osceola, 508, 2. Mary Gay Osceola, 474, 3. Maydell Osceola, 430, 4. Bobbie Billie, 426, 5. Louise Billie, 338, 6. Ruby Osceola, 380; Men: 1. Eugene Bowers, 572, Moses Osceola, 558, 3. Don Osceola, 442, 4. Joe Billie, 434.



Virginia Billie and Raymond Garza Jr. await the start of 4th Annual Cindy Osceola Memorial Tournament.



Jimmy Osceola Sr. waits to take his turn.



Donna Turtle holds grandson Anthony "Chum Chum" Osceola, 8 months.



Eugene Bowers sizes up the pins.

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

# Seminole Ladies Recognized for Basketball Excellence

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Ariah Osceola, Whitney Osceola and Demetria Tigertail practice everyday and sometimes twice a day. And it shows. Competing with their Hollywood Christian Varsity Basketball teammates, they win nearly all the games they play.

These three Seminole ladies are dedicated to their sport, and along the way, have become recognized for their commitments and hard work. Ariah Osceola was recently recognized as a part of the All-Broward District Girls, and Demetria Tigertail received an honorable mention, among other accomplishments.

Despite all of these accolades, the young athletes remain humble.

"If I am recognized then I am, but if not, I play to make my game better," Whitney Osceola said.

Ariah Osceola said her brothers and sisters look up to her and come to her for advice and that makes her play harder and never give up. She gets inspiration from her parents as they are her support system and are always behind her every step of the way.

With goals to play college ball, and eventually go on to play professionally, Ariah Osceola said she wants to be involved with basketball for many years to come. She said she would like to make a name for herself on her own merit, instead of attending a school that already has a strong basketball reputation.

"I am unsure of where I will go to college, but if I choose a school that is close to here then maybe I can make it good," Ariah Osceola said.

Whitney Osceola echoed her teammate's sentiments saying she wants to shine in her own light instead of someone else's. She said she knows the importance of staying in school and receiving an education, something she stresses to her peers, so that she can continue on her path to succeed in basketball.

"I want to be the best and that inspires me to go far and work hard," she said. "If someone is ahead of me in the game I will work 110 percent harder to get ahead of them."

Demetria Tigertail said she loves the competition and being on the court. She would love to play college ball, if given the opportunity, but admits she will play regardless. Tigertail, however, said she is an advocate of staying in school and getting an education.

"Today, you need an education to do anything," she said. "We need an education in order to come back and run the Tribe."



Marisol Gonzalez

Demetria Tigertail goes for the shot.



Marisol Gonzalez

Whitney Osceola (C) dribbles the ball up and down the court.



Marisol Gonzalez

Ariah Osceola practices on the court.

## Basketball Showdown Pits Board Staff Against School Staff

### Board Emerges Victorious Over Ahfachkee, 42-39

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — The staff of the Ahfachkee School took on Big Cypress Board Rep. Cicero Osceola's office staff in the U-Can — or United Community Acts Now — Basketball Showdown. The game coincided with Alcohol Awareness Month, and took place in the BC Gym on April 17.

The stands were filled to capacity as the entire student body from the Ahfachkee School and many local citizens crowded into the gym.

The first half proved to be uneventful with the Ahfachkee Team leading on their home court most of the way until the last few minutes, when the Board pulled ahead. Leaving the court at half time, the Board led Ahfachkee, 19-17.

During half time Big Cypress Board Rep. Cicero Osceola talked with the youngsters about the significance of Alcohol Awareness Week and congratulated them on the amazing job they had done on their posters for the week's poster contest.

President Richard Bowers Jr. thanked the group for giving him a chance to play with the future of the Seminole Tribe.

"Sports like we are playing today promote a healthy lifestyle and I want you to know that we are behind you all the way and you have a bright future ahead of you," he said. "I want to congratulate the teachers on the fine job they are doing as they help to shape that future."

Following half time, the game heated up immediately. Within the first two minutes Ahfachkee took back the court with the Board trailing by one point. From then on it was tough and go with the teams scoring point for point. President Bowers intercepted a pass from Dean Trosadeo to D.J. Tille, only to have it taken away in a flying leap by Bello Solano.

By the end of the third quarter, Ahfachkee was ahead by one as the score continued to see-saw back and forth on the board.

With only a minute left, Wilson Bowers handed off to Lenny Jim who shot and scored. Danielle Frye passed to Coach Cleveler, who evened up the score. A free throw by Wilson Bowers gave the advantage to the Board. Ahfachkee took back the ball, but Tia Osborne made a decisive defense putting the ball back into the Board's hands to help deliver the final score of 42-39, favoring the Board.



Judy Weeks

The Board Team shows off their trophy after winning the U-Can Basketball Showdown, 42-39.



Felix DoBosz

NBA legend Scotty Pippen and Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. (C) enjoy talking with the kids at the Seminole Gym.

## NBA Champ Hosts Basketball Clinic at Gym

BY FELIX DOBOSZ  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — On May 12 the Seminole Gym hosted six-time NBA world champion Scotty Pippen, former teammate of Michael Jordan, who played with the Chicago Bulls in the 1990s. Pippen ran a three hour basketball clinic for about a dozen lucky Tribal youngsters.

Pippen addressed the gathering, saying "it's an honor and privilege to be here on the Hollywood Reservation."

"We are going to teach the kids some drills to do, ball handling, shooting the basketball off-course, being able to get around the basketball court, learning some techniques and having fun doing it," he added.

Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr.'s daughter and three of Pippen's children all attend Pine Crest School, and during one of the school's fundraisers, Osceola saw an opportunity to help both Pine Crest and the Tribe's up-and-coming basketball players. One of the items up for bid was a three-hour basketball clinic with Pippen, which Osceola bid on, and won; something he said was worth every penny.

"He is a legend, a six-time world champion and two-time Olympic gold medal winner," said Rep. Osceola. "What better person to teach our kids some great skills about the game of basketball and also how to live a substance abuse free life [than Pippen]."

Pippen is still involved with basketball, but to a

limited capacity, saying he's been enjoying his time with his young family and hopes to get back to the game by next year.

"I've had a great career," he said. "I've enjoyed it, but it's over, and whatever happens after that I'll enjoy just as much."



Felix DoBosz

Scotty Pippen shares his knowledge of the game with several lucky Tribal youngsters.



## Teen Center

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## Pemayetv Emahakv Students Bring Home Ribbons from Track Meet

BY SUSAN ETXEBARRIA  
Freelance Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — On April 23 Brighton's recreation field was packed with Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students, their teachers and parents. Youngsters were eager to compete in the school's first round of the Hershey's Track and Field Games after weeks of practice in physical education classes.

The games were created more than 30 years ago with the goal of promoting "youth physical fitness and providing fun learning experiences for children 9- to 14-years-old," according to the Hershey's Track and Field Games website, [www.hersheystrackandfield.com](http://www.hersheystrackandfield.com).



Susan Etxebarria

Daniel Nunez makes a final push for the finish line during the race.



Susan Etxebarria

Conner Thomas (R) performs a broad jump.



Susan Etxebarria

(L-R) Redheart Billie, Tucker Johns, Robert Harris, Blake Baker and Tyler Howard line up for the race.

Physical Education teacher Chris Goodwin was on hand to assist during the games, as well as coordinate the track and field games with the assistance of fellow Physical Education Teacher Pam Matthews.

"This was the first year our school entered this national competition and the kids were really excited about it," Goodwin said. "That enthusiasm filtered over to the teachers and the parents so it was a great day."

Local track meets take place in each state as well as each Canadian province. After winning the local and state competitions, approximately 550 youth, ages 9-14, go on to compete at the North American Finals, held in Hershey, Penn. July 31-Aug. 3.

Brighton's younger students were allowed to participate in the meet, though only those in the 9-14 year age range were allowed to advance to the Okeechobee District Games, held on May 9.

The races during the meet included: a 50 meter, 100 meter, 200 meter, and four rounds of 100-meter relay races. There are also broad jump and softball throw competitions. PE Teacher Pam Matthews said the students practiced in each event for three weeks in preparation for the meet, and then signed up to compete in their favorite one.

"I like that the youth had a goal and before the official race day they worked hard to better themselves and improve their own individual times and distance," she said.

After the day's races, an awards ceremony took place at 2:30 p.m. Of the 149 students participating in the games, 40 of the youth, ages 9-14, received first and second place ribbons entitling them to continue to the next level of competition in Okeechobee.

On May 9, the first and second place winners competed in Okeechobee. They brought home 13 first place ribbons and four second place ribbons. These winners will now proceed to the regional games, held in West Palm Beach on June 7. Winners of this track meet then proceed to the State Finals in Miami on June 21.

"I am very proud of our students for their efforts and their sportsmanship," said school Principal Russ Brown. "These children competed very well, had lots of fun, and were very impressive with their performances. Students and families were encouraging each other, as well as sharing in each other's celebrations."

The following are the winners of the Okeechobee District Race who will be competing in the West Palm Beach regional games: Ages 9-10: Boys 4 x 100 relay: Trevor Thomas, Zeke Matthews, Demetrius Clark, Zach Hudson; Girls 4 x 100 relay: Tamea Allen, Lahna Sedatol, Lanie Sedatol, Odessa King; Boys softball throw: Thomas Bearden, first place, Josh Madrigal, second place; Girls softball throw: Chastity Harmon; Girls 50 meter: Tamea Allen; Girls 100 meter: Lahna Sedatol; Girls 200 meter: Odessa King; Boys 400 meter: Trevor Thomas; Ages 11-12: Boys 400 meter: Kelton Smedley; Girls softball throw: Korvette Billie.



Susan Etxebarria

Alyke Baker puts his whole body into making a softball throw.



Susan Etxebarria

Breanna Billie throws the softball.



Susan Etxebarria

Delaney Osceola's first place softball throw.



Susan Etxebarria

Korvette Billie throws the softball and comes in second place. She, however, went on to compete in Okeechobee, where she won first place in the district competition.



Susan Etxebarria

The students display the ribbons they won in the softball throw.

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# Sports • Ham-pa-leesh-ke • Vkkopvnyk



Felix Dobosz



Felix Dobosz

Matthew Osceola Jr. performs his routine.

Tyson Osceola's routine included the use of a staff.

## Seminole Students Compete in Kung Fu Tournament

BY FELIX DOBOSZ  
Staff Reporter

PEMBROKE PINES, Fla. — More than 20 Tribal citizens competed in Nee's Kung-Fu School tournament, held at the school on April 12.

The Tribal youngsters demonstrated some martial arts techniques for their parents and invited guests in the audience as well as Master Sifu Nee, who runs the school. He said the Seminole kids are eager to learn and love to exhibit their skills.

During the tournament, the youngsters sparred with protective gear as they showcased action-packed routines complete with a staff and other weaponry. Matthew Osceola Jr., son of Tasha Osceola, earned a gold medal for his sparring performance.

Other Tribal youth, ages 6 and younger, interested in learning martial arts can take Little Dragon classes on the Hollywood Reservation in the trailer next to the Boys & Girls Club. There are also Level 1 Leadership classes for the older children. Adult self-defense courses are also provided to Tribal citizens, free of charge, five days a week.



Felix Dobosz

Matthew Osceola Jr. (R) won first place in the tournament's sparring competition.

Tasha Osceola has taken the class for the past year. She said they have helped her in many ways. "It's a great way to get in shape, learn self-discipline, and prepare yourself mentally," she said. "But you have to really push yourself."



Felix Dobosz

Tournament competitors (Front Row, L-R) Chandler DeMayo, Clarice DeMayo, Theron Osceola, Kylie Drake, Kaiya Drake, Matthew Osceola Jr., Sheldon Osceola, Brendan Latchford, (Back Row, L-R) Tyson Osceola, Cameron Osceola, Bradley Latchford and Brady Latchford



Felix Dobosz

Cameron Osceola performs her staff routine.



Felix Dobosz

(L-R) Sheldon Osceola and Brendan Latchford compete in the sparring event.

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# Health · Chah-nee-ken chāo-ke · Evfekknetv onakv

## Youth Observe Alcohol Awareness Month

SUBMITTED BY VALERIE MARONE  
Contributing Writer

**BRIGHTON** — The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence started Alcohol Awareness Month in 1987. It began as a means to teach the public about the deadly disease of alcoholism, a message today's youth need in order to help them make positive, healthy choices for their lives.

The theme of this year's Alcohol Awareness Month was "Saving Lives: Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking!" To commemorate this, the Brighton Family Services/Prevention Dept. and Recreation Departments partnered to sponsor two events, a talent show and poster contest, during the month of April.

The talent show took place on April 17 at the Brighton Field Office Auditorium. The 2008 Brighton Seminole Princess Jaryaca Baker and Valerie Marone of the Brighton Family Services/Prevention Dept. co-emceed the event. At the show, 2008 Brighton Jr. Miss Rumor Juarez joined Baker in sharing why they choose to be alcohol and drug-free.

Richard Harris, Andrew Fish, Robert Harris, Cheyenne Fish, Crysten Smith,



The talent show contestants entertained friends and family members with their performances.



Rumor Juarez, 2008 Brighton Jr. Miss, sings a hymn in Creek.

Jayce Smith, Caillou Smith, Chastity Harmon, Tyra Baker, Harley Johns, Treston Pierce, Royce Osceola all took top honors in the talent show.

A Say No to Alcohol/Drugs poster contest rounded out the Alcohol Awareness Month activities. The contest took place on April 30, with the winners announced at the grand opening of the S.W.A.M.P. on May 8. S.W.A.M.P. stands for "Seminole Without Addictions Make Progress" and is a new program that will take place at the Brighton Gym on Thursday evenings from 7-9 p.m. The program will focus on promoting a drug-free message to Tribal youth and community members.

Winners of the poster contest were: Sunni Bearden, Rayven Smith, Madysin Osceola, Tienna Michelle Osceola, Rocky Garcia, Tyra Baker, Crysten Smith, Jayce Smith, Jaryaca Baker, Drayton Billie, Timothy Beardon, Jayce Jumper and Burgundy Pierce. They will have their artwork printed in a calendar that will be distributed to the Brighton community in the coming months.

## Community Attends Health, Wellness Fair

BY CHRIS JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Tribal citizens, students, and faculty were on hand for the annual Health and Wellness Fair, held at the Big Cypress Gymnasium on May 13. This year's theme was "A Celebration of Health."

Representatives from about 20 Tribal and local organizations set up booths to distribute health-related information to attendees.

Tribal Assistant Environmental Health Manager Carter Elbon said staying closely tied to the residents and community members continues to be a major part of his program's goals.

"We are always available and will be there to help them improve their lives and lifestyles," Elbon said.

Antonio Rafalsky, of the Hendry County Health Department, said educating those students in attendance about Sexually Transmitted Diseases, HIV and AIDS, was very beneficial. Rafalsky said Hendry County ranks second in the state of Florida in teen pregnancy.

Tribal citizen and BC resident Eileen Waggener said she learned a lot about sexual education and nutrition and was glad she attended the event.

"I definitely benefited from it because I have two teens," Waggener said. "I've learned how to communicate better with my children from this event."



Eagle Billie gets his hearing tested at the HEARx healthcare booth.



Jon Billie gets a demonstration of the Seminole Fire Rescue Department's equipment.



By Fred Cicetti

[Editor's Note: Fred Cicetti is a syndicated columnist who writes about issues concerning senior citizens' health. The opinions he expresses are his own. If you would like to ask a question, please write fred@healthyseer.com. All Rights Reserved ©2008 by Fred Cicetti.]

Q: Aneurysms are pretty scary things. Do they have any symptoms?

A: Aneurysms are artery bulges. And, yes, they are scary because, if they burst, they are lethal. Many victims of a ruptured aneurysm die before they get to a hospital.

The type and location of the aneurysm will determine the symptoms.

Chest aortic aneurysms, which occur in the large blood vessel (aorta) that carries blood from the heart to other parts of the body, may cause shortness of breath, a raspy voice, backache, or shoulder pain.

Abdominal aortic aneurysms may cause pain or tenderness below your stomach, make you less hungry, or give you an upset stomach.

Cerebral aneurysms may produce headaches, pain in your neck and face, or trouble seeing and talking.

Ventricular aneurysms in the heart's main pumping chamber (the left ventricle) may cause shortness of breath, chest pain, or an irregular heart beat.

Fortunately, aneurysms can be detected by a physical examination, x-ray, ultrasound and modern imaging systems such as a CAT scan or an MRI.

The size and location of the aneurysm determines the treatment method. For example, aneurysms in the upper chest are usually operated on immediately. Aneurysms in the lower chest and the area below your stomach are watched at first. If they grow too large or

cause symptoms, surgery may be required.

The standard treatment for aneurysm once it meets the indications for surgery is replacement of that weakened portion of the aorta with an artificial graft. Usually, a graft made from Dacron, a material that will not wear out, is used.

In recent years, a treatment has been developed to repair an aneurysm using less-invasive surgery. In the procedure, a stent-graft made of a polyester tube inside a metal cylinder is inserted into the bloodstream at the end of a catheter. The stent-graft is positioned to carry the blood flow instead of the aneurysm.

The following increase the risk of getting an aneurysm: being older than 60, plaque in the arteries (atherosclerosis), high blood pressure, smoking, injuries or infections of the blood vessels, a congenital abnormality, and inherited diseases.

Most aneurysms are caused by a breakdown in the proteins that provide the structural strength to the wall of the aorta. These proteins can gradually deteriorate with age. But inflammation that is associated with atherosclerosis can accelerate this process. There are also naturally occurring enzymes that cause the breakdown of the proteins. An excess of these enzymes or other conditions that activate these enzymes may also contribute to the formation of an aneurysm, or its sudden growth. In rare cases an aneurysm may be caused by infection.

The combination of early diagnosis with safer, simpler, and ever more successful treatments can prevent needless deaths due to ruptured aneurysms. If you think you or one of your family members might have an aortic aneurysm, see a doctor without delay.



Dear Health Educator,

I am a 60-year-old senior living on a reservation. On a recent trip to the Clinic, the doctor told me that since I had chicken pox as a child I needed to be aware of a skin rash called shingles. I always thought shingles were what they put on the roof.

Can you please tell me more about shingles and what I can do to take care of it?

Sincerely,

One Scratchy Senior

Dear One Scratchy Senior,

Shingles is a skin rash caused by the varicella zoster virus, or VZV, the same virus that causes chicken pox. Shingles is sometimes also called herpes zoster, but is not caused by the same virus that causes genital herpes.

The rash caused by shingles usually starts on one side of the body in the form of blisters that will scab within a few days. Symptoms that a rash may be developing include: pain, itching, tingling, fever, headache, chills and upset stomach.

Anyone who has had chicken pox is at risk for shingles, including children. Shingles is common, with an estimated one million cases reported each year. However, it is most commonly seen in people older than 50. People with weakened immune systems are also at a greater risk for getting shingles.

The column is submitted to *The Seminole Tribune* by members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Allied Health Department staff of nutritionist and health educators. We welcome all questions and provide one on one counseling as well as group lessons on a variety of health topics.

To schedule a consult with your reservation's health educator, contact: Health Education Coordinator Brenda Bordogna, Barbara Boling, Brighton Clinic, Marjorie Meredith, Big Cypress Clinic, Tina Mennella, Hollywood Clinic and Charlotte Porcario, Immokalee Clinic.

## More Environmentally Friendly: Hand-Wash or Dishwasher?

SUBMITTED BY PATRICK PECK  
REHS/RS, Environmental Health Program Manager

[Editor's Note: This is a re-print of a column from *The Environmental Magazine* edited by Patrick Peck of the Tribal Environmental Health Program. To see the complete column, please see [www.emagazine.com/view/73881&src](http://www.emagazine.com/view/73881&src).]

Q: Is it more environmentally friendly to hand-wash dishes or use a dishwasher?

A: As we become more and more aware of the importance of proper dishwashing in curtailing the spread of diseases as well as the importance of water and energy conservation, we ask the important question: which is more effective for cleaning the dishes and which is cleaner for the environment — manual or automated dishwashing?

Dishwashers are the way to go if for those who comply with two simple criteria. "Run a dishwasher only when it's full, and don't rinse your dishes before putting them in the dishwasher," advises John Morril of the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, who also advises not using the dry cycle. The water used in most dishwashers is hot enough, he says, to evaporate quickly if the door is left open after the wash and rinse cycles are complete.

Scientists at the University of Bonn in Germany who studied the issue found that the dishwasher uses only half the energy, one-sixth of the water, and less soap than hand-washing an identical set of dirty dishes. Even the most sparing and careful washers could not beat the modern dishwasher. The study also found dishwashers excelled in cleanliness when hand washing.

Most dishwashers manufactured since 1994 use seven to 10 gallons of water per cycle, while older machines use eight to 15 gallons. Newer designs have also improved dishwasher efficiency immensely. Hot water can now be heated in the dishwasher itself, not in the household hot water heater, where heat gets lost in transit. Dishwashers also heat only as much water as needed. A standard 24-inch-wide household dishwasher is designed to hold eight place settings, but some newer models will wash the same amount of dishes inside an 18-inch frame, using less water in the process.

For those with an older, less-efficient machine, the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy recommends hand washing for the smaller jobs and saving the dishwasher for the dinner party's aftermath.

New dishwashers that meet strict energy and water-saving efficiency standards can qualify for an Energy Star label from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Besides being more efficient and getting the dishes cleaner, qualifying newer models will save the average household about \$25 per year in energy costs.

Like Morril, the EPA recommends always running the dishwasher with a full load and avoiding the inefficient heat-dry, rinse-hold and pre-rinse features found on many recent models. Most of the appliance's energy used goes to heat the water, and most models use just as much water for smaller loads as for larger ones. And propping the door open after the final rinse is quite adequate for drying the dishes when the washing is done.

For further questions, please contact the Seminole Health Department's Environmental Health Program at (954) 962-2009, Ext. 10326.

Sincerely,  
Your Health Educator

The Seminole Health Department nutritionists offer a variety of programs and services. Community education (at Senior Centers, schools, reservation events and other programs) and patient counseling at the clinics are the primary focuses.

If you have questions and would like to visit a nutritionist, call them at the following locations:

**Hollywood, Torma Hunter**  
(954) 965-1300, Ext. 10311  
**Brighton, Beth Morlang**  
(863) 983-0271, Ext. 15344  
**Immokalee, Charlotte Porcario**  
(239) 867-3408  
**Big Cypress, Suzanne Fundingsland**  
(863) 983-5798, Ext. 12318



# Education • Emahaayeeke • Kerretv

## Charter School Teacher Nominated for Golden Apple Education Award

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**MOORE HAVEN, Fla.** — Second grade Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School teacher Pamela Hudson was nominated for the prestigious Golden Apple award after being named the school's Teacher of the Year.

Principal Russell Brown accompanied Hudson to the Awards Banquet, held April 17 at the J.J. Wiggins Youth Center. He said he and the staff are proud of Hudson, and endorsed her classroom techniques.

"The Charter School uses an innovative blend of academics, technology, Seminole studies and Creek language as its curriculum and Pam Hudson does an excellent job of combining these goals in her classroom," said Brown.

One of Hudson's students, Dyami Nelson appeared on her behalf at the Golden Apple Banquet and gave a presentation on why he felt she should be considered for this high honor. Although, Hudson was not selected, Nelson's testimonial of his teacher exhibited how she touches her students.

In recognition of her achievements, Dyami's parents, Larry and Danielle Howard, presented Hudson with a Seminole skirt, which she wore to the banquet.

Hudson is an accomplished educator, having taught in the public school system for 11 years before joining the Charter School staff. She has also won numerous awards including the Sallie Mae Beginning Teacher of the Year Award in 1996. She was also a Who's Who Among American Teachers for three years.



Photo Submitted by Pemayetv Emahakv Staff

**Glades County Superintendent of Schools Wayne Aldrich (L) congratulates Pamela Hudson, the Pemayetv Emahakv Teacher of the Year, and Golden Apple Award nominee.**



Photo Submitted by Pemayetv Emahakv Staff

(L-R) Michele Thomas, Pam Hudson, Dyami Nelson, Danielle Howard, Kayla Nelson and Larry Howard. The Howard family presented Pam Hudson with a Seminole skirt in recognition of her teaching accomplishments and Dyami made a presentation on her behalf at the Golden Apple Awards Banquet.

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## Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School Students of the Week Honored

### Student Recognized for the Week of March 24-27

Kindergarten:  
Miss Robinson - Dalence Carrillo  
Mrs. Webber - Katie Beck

First Grade:  
Mrs. Davis - Keely Billie  
Mrs. Ringstaff - Aidan Tommie

Second Grade:  
Mrs. Hudson - Cheyenne Fish

Third Grade:  
Mrs. Clements - Ruben Burgess  
Mrs. Pryor - Sean Osceola

Fourth Grade:  
Mrs. Tedders - Trista Osceola  
Mrs. Williams - Rayven Smith



### Students Recognized for the Week of April 21-25

Kindergarten  
Miss Robinson - Laila Bennett  
Mrs. Webber - Jason Sampson

First Grade  
Mrs. Davis - Alyke Baker  
Mrs. Ringstaff - Blake Baker

Second Grade  
Mrs. Ball - Jalynn Jones  
Mrs. Hudson - Logan Ortiz

Third Grade  
Mrs. Clements - Courtney Gore  
Mrs. Pryor - Crysten Smith

Fourth Grade  
Mrs. Tedders - Cheyenne Nun ez  
Mrs. Williams - Keyana Nelson

Fifth Grade  
Mrs. Finney - Joshua Boromei



### Students Recognized for the Week of April 7-11

Kindergarten:  
Miss Robinson - Mallorie Thomas  
Mrs. Webber - Echo Billie

First Grade:  
Mrs. Davis - Caroline Micco  
Mrs. Ringstaff - Lance Howard  
Mrs. Hawthorne - Oscar Yates

Second Grade:  
Mrs. Ball - Marquis Fudge  
Mrs. Hudson - Morgan King

Third Grade:  
Mrs. Clements - Bethany Billie  
Mrs. Pryor - Jaden Puente

Fourth Grade:  
Mrs. Tedders - Jaron Johns  
Mrs. Williams - Zach Hudson

Fifth Grade:  
Mrs. Finney - Lindsey Sampson



### Students Recognized for the Week of April 28-May 2

Kindergarten  
Miss Robinson - Tucker Johns  
Mrs. Webber - Jacee Jumper

First Grade  
Mrs. Davis - Raclely Matthews  
Mrs. Ringstaff - Jarrett Bert

Second Grade  
Mrs. Ball - Joseph Osceola  
Mrs. Hudson - Dyami Nelson

Third Grade  
Mrs. Clements - Lanie Sedatol  
Mrs. Pryor - Bailey Tedders

Fourth Grade  
Mrs. Tedders - Brydgett Koonitz  
Mrs. Williams - Richard Smith

Fifth Grade  
Mrs. Finney - Jennifer Tommie



## Broadcasting Dept. Hosts 2nd Annual Youth Video Production Workshop

**Classes to be Held June 22-28 in Hollywood**

Seminole Broadcasting has developed a video production workshop program to introduce Tribal youth to the video and television production industry. This seven day workshop, scheduled June 22-28 at the Broadcasting Offices in Hollywood, will introduce participants to the various aspects of video production. The classes will be taught by Seminole Broadcasting staff and industry professionals.

For further information, please contact Seminole Broadcasting's Dennis Pellarin at (954) 985-5701, Ext. 10707.





## Education • Emahaayeeke • Kerretv

## Spencer Jock Gives Native American Presentation

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**IMMOKALEE** — High school student and member of the Immokalee community, Spencer Jock, gave a special presentation on Native American culture to Mr. Ted Roebuck's American History Class at Immokalee High School on April 17.

A member of the Panther Clan, Spencer gave a very comprehensive background on the early history of his people and explained the matriarchal system of his culture and their closeness to the earth and all of its living creatures.

Using his patchwork shirt as an example, Spencer talked about the traditional designs and passed around a sweet grass basket, beadwork, wood carving and a rattle as samples of the craftsmanship for which his people are known.

Having a Seminole mother and Mohawk father, he had invited his dad, Mark Jock, to join him and together they demonstrated the Friendship Dance and invited the class to participate.

The response was so overwhelming that the Jocks were asked to appear before two other classrooms before the conclusion of the day.



(L-R) Spencer Jock gave a Native American presentation to Mr. Ted Roebuck's history class at Immokalee High School, assisted by his father, Mark.



The students on their tour of the University of Central Florida's Orlando campus.

## ❖ Tour

Continued from page 1

of the buildings was a lot of fun," Billie stated.

Next, the group traveled north to FSU, home of the Seminoles. Their first stop was to meet Assistant Vice President of University Relations Donna McHugh, who facilitated the campus tour. The group saw campus housing, the athletic center and the Seminole Statue, to name only a few stops.

Bonnie Davis, a junior at LaBelle High School, said she has been looking at a few schools, including Florida State. She received information about different majors and programs offered at the schools, including what kind of grades potential students need to be accepted into college.

"I took a course in high school about criminal justice, so I may take that up in school," Davis said.

Erinda Iley, higher education

advisor, helped organize this year's college tour, which is in its third year. Iley said her department is committed to assisting each Tribal citizen as they pursue their higher education goals.



(Front Row, L-R) Students Farrah Lytle and Emily Cortez got the chance to see FSU's Doak Campbell Stadium as only the players and coaches see it.

## Culture Celebrated at Ahfachkee Spring Fest

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Ahfachkee Culture Department held its Spring Festival on May 1 in the Culture Village. Dividing the students into two age groups, this year's presentations allowed for a more diversified, age-specific curriculum.

Culture Director Jeannette Cypress offered opening presentations during both sessions and then a select group of students came forward to say the Pledge of Allegiance in Mikasuki.

The Culture Program led the children in a genealogy activity that included research-

tion of Dannie Tommie. Even the youngest boys tried their hand at using the rackets and the girls proved to be as aggressive on the playing field as their male counterparts.

The youngsters also enjoyed playing a new twist on an old classic, Pin the Tail on the Ee-chaa-te (Deer). A dart game with a Clan Wheel provided an opportunity for the children to display their skills in identifying the clans and properly pronouncing their names in Mikasuki.

The boys and girls in the lower grades participated in a corn shelling contest while they talked about the spiritual aspects, growing and use of this valuable mainstay of Seminole heritage.

The young ladies were deadly in the skillet throwing contest, while the gentlemen challenged each other in the pole peeling event. Big Cypress Board Rep. Cicero Osceola put his hand to the draw knife and held his own among the young champions.

The young men at the school have been working on a long-term project to create a documentary film about the construction of a chickee for entry in a national film contest. Beginning by traveling to the woods for materials, they have carefully prepared and built the structure in the culture village. Currently, it lacks only the finishing touches along the ridge pole, which will be completed under the watchful eye of the camera.

Rep. Osceola congratulated the young craftsman on the excellent job they have done



The boys reach for an opportunity to catch the leather ball and score during a vigorous game of stickball.

and asked for a group photo to be placed in his office.

Throughout the morning Agnes Cypress, Wanda Billie, Jeannette Cypress, Danielle Frye and Evelyn Gilkes prepared lunch for the assembly over the fire in the cook chickee. The youngsters enjoyed the mountains of frybread and other traditional Seminole foods.



The Ahfachkee High School boys pose with their Culture Teacher Dannie Tommie under the chickee they have constructed for their documentary film.



Sabre Billie shells corn by hand.

ing a family tree before assisting them in writing an essay about their findings. Danielle Cypress Frye asked those who wrote the best essay to come forward and read their work.

During the course of the day, 12 authors read their work to applause from the staff as well as their peers. These essays were selected because of their attention to detail and the essay's content which dealt with recognizing the sacrifices their ancestors made for them.

The children of all ages enjoyed some vigorous stick ball games under the direc-

## Preschoolers Participate in Field Day Activities at the Gym

Event Coincides with Week of the Young Child

BY CHRIS JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — In conjunction with the Week of the Young Child, observed April 14-18, the Big Cypress Preschoolers attended Field Day at the gym on April 18.

The Tribal Fitness Department sponsored the event, which featured several exercise and fitness-related stations set up for the youngsters to enjoy. Field Day offered hula hooping, soccer drills and an obstacle course, among other activities.



Tauni Cypress focuses on balancing the golf balls during the event.



Alice Billie and daughter, Tahina, look on.

## BC Commemorates National Week of the Young Child

BY CHRIS JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Parents, teachers and staff celebrated the spirit, energy and innocence of children during the annual Week of the Young Child, held April 14-18. The Week of the Young Child is a program sponsored by the National Association

for the Education of Young Children in an effort "to celebrate children and raise awareness of their needs," according to the organization's website, [www.naeyc.org/about/WOYC](http://www.naeyc.org/about/WOYC). This year's theme was "Bring Communities Together for Children - Children Bring Communities Together."

The event helps to focus on daily toddler and youth activities and began with a balloon release to kick the week off, followed by several other activities. The remainder of the week included a parent-child breakfast, ceramic painting, T-shirt decorating and Field Day. Big Cypress Council Rep. David Cypress also supported the event making an appearance during the festivities.

Parent Involvement Aide Claudia Esparza said the week was a success.

"It all worked out pretty good. We did it to get the parents involved with their children," Esparza said.



Evan Cypress snaps some shots during the breakfast.

Mother Janie Valdez has three children who participated in the events and says she appreciated the extra time they spent together.

"I enjoyed it and thought it was a good idea to get all the parents involved," Valdez said. "I think they should do more activities and events like it."



Zechariah Stockton enjoys his breakfast.



The students display their Field Day awards.



## Education • Emahaayeeke • Kerretv

## Joseph John Inducted into NJHS

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ  
Staff Reporter

DAVIE, Fla. — Joseph John, 13, known to many as simply "JJ," was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) on May 1 at a ceremony held at Nova Southeastern University's University School Auditorium. His parents, grandpar-

ents, siblings and his aunt all attended in support of JJ's achievement.

All middle school students, in their second semester of grades 6-9, who have a 3.0 or higher grade point average, may apply for the NJHS. Applications are then evaluated on five criteria: citizenship, service, leadership, scholarship and character.

Mom Joletta John-Carney said that JJ

was unsure he would be accepted. But it all worked out for the best. JJ's whole family was thrilled to find out that he was to be inducted into the 28th Class of the NJHS, an opportunity only given to about 50 students per year.

"I plan to do my part in the NJHS and work harder to make it an even more special experience," JJ said.

JJ is a hard working University School student, where he also participates in various extra curricular activities such as football, rodeo and chorus, and is also in the Fellowship Christian Club at his church.

For more information on the NJHS, please see www.njhs.us.



Joseph John (L) at the induction ceremony.

## Students Present Seminole Culture at Heritage Day

BY TONY BULLINGTON  
Contributing Writer

OKEECHOBEE, Fla. — On May 1 Brighton's Okeechobee Freshman Campus students hosted a presentation about Seminole cultures in front of the entire student body and staff during a Heritage Day celebration at the school.

The presentation was originally scheduled in April, with students representing various ethnic groups also sharing a part of their culture with their classmates. When the time came, a community member from Brighton passed away, forcing the students to withdraw from the program. School Principal Andy Brewer said he was so moved by their compassion and cultural integrity, he offered them a second chance to make their presentation on May 1.

In the school's auditorium, the Seminole students set up four stations, allowing students and staff to experience several different aspects of the culture. Marcus Robinson and Farrah Lytle were in the school auditorium where Willie Johns gave a presentation on Seminole history. Elizabeth Johns, a fourth grader at the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School, and sister of Mary Johns, sang "Jesus Loves Me" in Creek.

When the presentation and song concluded, the group of students would rotate out to the athletic field and another group would come into the auditorium.



(L-R) Janae Braswell and Ty Huff at the clothing and crafts table.

On the field, the students listened to Ashton Baxley, Eric Robinson and Kristina Osceola's cultural presentation. The Seminole students opened their presentation with the Creek Pledge of Allegiance. Baxley followed doing a presentation of some of the Seminole culture's unique features.

The students then made their way to the next station where Courtney Cypress, Brandon Billie and Mary Johns passed out samples of frybread and pumpkin bread. The students asked questions about how the breads were made and Cypress, Billie and Johns were able to answer them all.

The third station was a presentation of Seminole clothing and crafts by Ty Huff and Janae Braswell. The students visiting this station were amazed by the beauty of the clothing and the intricate details of the crafts on display. Huff and Braswell explained how the items were made and answered other questions.

The Tribal students planned and coordinated the entire program on their own, with only the assistance of Willie Johns and the parents who contributed the food.



Courtney Cypress (C) and Mary Johns (R) offer their fellow students frybread samples as part of their presentation.

## Michele Thomas, Employee of the Year



Pemayetv Emahakv Principal Russell Brown (L) and School CEO Sandra Barker (R) present Michele Thomas (C) with a floral arrangement in recognition of her designation as Employee of the Year for 2007-2008.



Photo Submitted by Pemayetv Emahakv Staff

Among the activities on their action-packed agenda, the students held a mock trial at the Florida Supreme Court.

## Charter School Fifth Graders Tour State Capital

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

TALLAHASSEE — Seventeen fifth graders from the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School embarked on a special field trip on April 13 bound for Florida's capital city. The four-day trip itinerary had the youngsters traveling to numerous destinations and learning about diverse subjects.

Their first stop upon reaching Tallahassee found the children at the Mary Brogan Museum of Art and Science. On the morning of day 2, they toured both the old and the new State Capitol buildings and also the Governor's Mansion.

In the afternoon, they took a tour of Florida State University, including the Atrium, the Unconquered statue and Seminole Family statues, located outside the Doak Campbell Stadium. They then had the chance to actually go on the field of the 80,000-plus capacity venue usually only seen by athletes and coaches.

The "Seminole People of Florida, Survival & Success" exhibit is currently on display at the Florida State Museum and offered an opportunity to observe the

impact that the youngsters and their ancestors have had on Florida.

Tribal General Counsel Jim Shore made arrangements for the group to spend the day observing how the legal and political systems of the state of Florida operate. After participating in a mock trial at the Florida Supreme Court on the morning of April 15, the youngsters were divided into three groups for appointments with Senators JD Alexander and Dave Aronberg, and Representative Denise Grimly.

The group then donned their finest in Seminole attire for a VIP reception, also arranged by Shore, at the Governor's Club.

After a quick trip through the Tallahassee Museum on the morning of April 16, it was back on the bus for the ride home to Brighton.



Photo Submitted by Pemayetv Emahakv Staff

(L-R) Students Jennifer Tommie, Breanna Billie, Myrick Puente, Cameron Youngblood and Devon Jones visited State Representative Denise Grimly (C) in her Tallahassee office.

## Pemayetv Emahakv Students Attend Culture Exchange With Miccosukee Tribe

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

MICCOSUKEE — After accepting an invitation from the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students and staff enjoyed a day of cultural exchange. Nearly 150 students made the trip by charter bus on April 28 to the Miccosukee Cultural Village on the Tamiami Trail.

Upon their arrival they were greeted by William Osceola, the Seminole Tribe's Tamiami Trail Liaison, who provided a background of Seminole, Miccosukee and Creek Heritage. He then introduced the tour guides for the day, Jennie Osceola Billie, Miccosukee School head start teacher, Betty Osceola, Houston Cypress and Miccosukee student, Evan Osceola.

The visitors received a warm welcome from Jennie Billie and daughter, Betty.

"As William [Osceola] explained, we are all Native American cousins living in separate areas throughout Florida and separated by Tribal government affiliation," Billie said. "You are closely related to us through our clans and marriage, and many of us share the same relatives. The things you see and hear today will be very familiar to you because our ancestors shared a common lifestyle."

Following a brief presentation on language, medicine colors and directions, the group was divided in half for a more comprehensive discussion and question and answer period. The younger grades were the first to board several airboats which transported them through the sawgrass of the Everglades to an old village.

Returning to the Miccosukee village, they spent the afternoon learning about the significance of patchwork



Betty Osceola (R) explains patchwork design.

designs and the history of their creation using hand crank sewing machines. A lengthy discussion ensued about the evolution of different clothing and hair styles over the last two centuries.

Mary R. Billie offered a sweetgrass basket construction demonstration and the youngsters observed many different styles of beadwork and wood carving as well as palmetto doll construction.

Betty Osceola discussed the spiritual aspects of the living structure of the chickee, fire building and food prepara-

tion. Using the baby cradle hanging in one of the chickees as an example, Osceola described the hard work of the Indian culture and the ingenuity of their ancestors, who carved out a living under the harshest of conditions during their quest for survival.

Observing a number of large old dugout canoes, the youngsters learned about the dying art of the tedious job of constructing these vessels, once the main method of transportation through the swampland.

Following an alligator wrestling demonstration, the group ate a lunch prepared by the Miccosukee women over the open fire. After thanking their hosts for a wonderful visit, the students boarded the busses for the long ride back to Brighton. "I had the bestest, funnest time ever," said Ozzy Osceola, 5.



The students examine a dugout canoe, the primary mode of transportation their ancestors used to travel throughout the Everglades.

## Charter School Adopts 'Seminole Warrior' Mascot

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

BRIGHTON — Students, staff and parents gathered in the courtyard of the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School on the afternoon of April 23 for a very special event.

Members of the student council carefully guided an easel to the center of the staging area, and to a round of applause, removed the sheet covering the new school mascot.

The unveiling produced a large canvas with the portrait of Osceola to represent Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School, home of the Unconquered Warriors.

Photo by Judy Weeks

Members of the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School student council unveil their new mascot, Osceola, the Unconquered Seminole Warrior.







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Maribel Gonzalez

Latin pop artist Chayanne unveils his shirt worn during his 2004 Sincero Tour, which he donated to the Hard Rock's world famous collection just before winning Latin Pop Airplay Song of the Year. To celebrate this donation, Hard Rock International made their own donation to The National Association of Latino Arts and Culture's "Fund for the Arts Heineken Green Ribbon Grant," which celebrates the talent, drive and commitment it takes to achieve success as a Hispanic musician in the U.S.

## Latin Billboard Awards Ceremony Held at Hard Rock

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Billboard Latin Music Conference & Awards Ceremony was held at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino for the second consecutive year. The Latin Billboard Awards, now in its 19th year, brought together a star-studded line up, which included Enrique Iglesias, Marco Antonio Solis, Chayanne, Alejandro Fernandez, Fanny Lu, Aventura,

Camila, Alexis y Fido, Belanova, Wisin y Yandel and Juanes, among others.

The press conference was held from April 6-10, with the awards ceremony taking place on the night of April 10 in the Hard Rock Live. The Latin Billboard Awards broadcasted live on Telemundo, with an estimated 110 million viewers in 24 countries tuning in.

This event is known as the single most important Latin music industry event in the world. It brings more than 1,000 Latin

artists, managers, executives, sponsors and media together for the chance to showcase the latest in Latin music and network with other industry insiders.

Trail Liaison William Osceola was also in attendance for the event.

"I thought it was a great production," he said. "I could tell that a lot of effort had been put into it and I thought the stage was very beautiful. Overall, I really enjoyed the show."

## Hard Rock Lives Hosts Former Russian President, Rock Legends



Chris Jenkins

Former Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev (L) with Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. and family members. Gorbachev was in town for a speaking engagement held at the Hard Rock Live on April 16.



Felix DeBoer

Eric Clapton at his May 5 concert.



Felix DeBoer

Carlos Santana in concert on April 30.

## Housing News

## Chairman Looks Over Daughter's New Home

BY CHRIS JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Rebecca Billie, daughter of Chairman Mitchell Cypress, is one of the latest Tribal citizens to realize her dream of home ownership, as house-building continues to be the norm on reservations.

On April 15, Chairman Cypress, along with guides Santana Vasquez, Housing Project Manager, and Contractor Chuck Rogalski, toured the six bedroom, four bath Big Cypress home as Phase 1 of construction neared its completion.

"We spend a lot of time doing multiple walk-throughs, so it was cool for us to see him take the time to come check things out," Rogalski said. "It's an honor to build for the Seminoles, especially since they are such a close knit family."

Phase 2 of the building process will include dry-walling and insulation.

Photos by Chris Jenkins

At right, Chairman Mitchell Cypress (C) looks over floor plans for his daughter Rebecca Billie's Big Cypress home with Housing Project Manager Santana Vasquez (L) and house contractor Chuck Rogalski. The house has six bedrooms and four bathrooms, and is in Phase 1 of construction.



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Opening an account  
Balancing a checkbook
- Understanding Credit Score:  
What credit means  
Fraud Alert
- Preparing for Homeownership:  
Budgeting Finances  
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Time  
10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Wednesday, February 20  
**BIG CYPRESS**

Wednesday, March 19  
**HOLLYWOOD**

Wednesday, April 23  
**FT PIERCE**

Wednesday, May 21  
**BRIGHTON**

Wednesday, June 18  
**IMMOKALEE**

Wednesday, July 23  
**TAMPA**

Any tribal member that attends will receive a certificate of completion. This certificate is needed to proceed with your Housing Project.



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Fire-Rescue Department  
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# ATTENTION:

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# Around The Campfire: Still Not Over Vietnam

BY DR. DEAN CHAVERS  
Around The Campfire

[Editor's Note: Dr. Dean Chavers is director of Catching the Dream, a national scholarship and school improvement organization in Albuquerque, N.M. He welcomes your comments on this column, inquiries about scholarships, and inquiries about Catching the Dream grants. His e-mail address is CTD4DeanChavers@aol.com. The opinions he expresses are his own. ©Copyright 2008 Around The Campfire.]

Nobody welcomed me home from Vietnam in the 1960s. I went in 1966, again in 1967, a third time in 1967, and the fourth and last time in 1968.

I finally got welcomed home four years ago. I had gone to the National Indian Gaming Association meeting in San Diego, and on the second day we finished early. The California Indian Education Association was having a meeting across town. I dropped by at 4 pm to see some old friends from my 10 years in California, 1968-78.

They were having meetings, so I went downstairs to see the exhibits. One of the local Indian reservations with a VFW post had a booth. I went walking by casually when one of the guys asked, "Were you in the military, sir?"

"Yes, I was," I said.

"When?" he asked.

"Vietnam," I said. He came around from behind the booth and hugged me and said, "Welcome home, brother." By this time I was blubbering.

"It's okay," he said. "We understand."

The reason I was crying was that no one welcomed me home from Vietnam in 1968. It was an unpopular war.

I flew 138 missions in Vietnam. We lost four airplanes in two mid-air collisions. One of my friends, Toki Endo, broke his right elbow when he ejected. He hit it on the superstructure on the way out.

Gen. Crumm, our division commander, was on the plane that day as a third pilot. He went down with the plane. His wife and daughter were back on the base waiting on him so they could go back to the States. They were all packed; they had finished their two-year tour.

We lost another crew when they landed at Da Nang. They had lost hydraulic power, and made an emergency landing. The loss of hydraulic power meant they had no brakes, so they could not stop on the runway. When they went off at the end, the

plane blew up. Someone had forgotten to tell them the end of the runway was a minefield.

I joined the Air Force so I would not have to be a dogface. I did not want to be an infantryman, which is what I would have been if I had been drafted. I was 22 years old, and looking the draft in the face. The two years of college I had completed made me eligible to enter the Aviation Cadet corps, go to flying school, and get my wings as a navigator.

After I finished Basic and Bombardier school, the Air Force sent me to fly the B-52. It is one of the greatest planes ever made. We should order another 500 of them. Sadly, they are all in mothballs now. At one time there were 650 of them in the Air Force inventory.

I was at Mather Air Force Base in February 1965 when the first B-52s took off for Guam. It scared the bejesus out of us. We were having breakfast that morning when we heard a huge roar, then another one, and then another one. We went running outside. All the airplanes on the base, B-52s and KC-135s, were lined up on the runway. They were taking off at 60-second intervals. We thought the end of the world was near.

"They are going to bomb Russia," someone said, echoing the thoughts of all of us.

Before the end of the day we learned that they had gotten orders the day before. The crews were on the alert pad. They were told to go home, pack enough clothes for 30 days, and be back in the briefing room early the next morning. When they got there they learned they were going to Guam for 179 days.

By the end of 1965 we had gotten our orders to go. I was then stationed at Turner Air Force Base in Georgia. We went for six months, and got back home in late summer. Before the end of the year I had gotten orders to go back again, this time by myself. I finished out the tour of a guy from Glasgow Air Force Base in Montana who had gotten sick. I got back home again just before Christmas.

In a couple of months we got orders to leave Turner. The Air Force closed it, and moved half of us to Columbus Air Force Base in Mississippi. We were there for three months when we got orders to go for six months again.

It was really hard on families for the husband to be gone six months. It was especially hard on those with small children,

which was almost everyone. Mom and the kids had to get by on their own for six months. There was a lot of crying.

Years later I learned we could have avoided this war altogether. Ho Chi Minh, the leader of North Vietnam, had come to the U.S. begging for help in the 1940s. No one in the U.S. government would even talk to him. So he went to Russia and China, where he got plenty of help. What Ho wanted to do was to get rid of the French colonialists who had been exploiting his people for a couple of hundred years.

At one point I had five family members over there at one time. My brother Mike, my brother-in-law Jack Sublett, my aunt's husband Edward Rakeman, and my stepfather Joe Byrd, were all there the same time I was in 1967.

Easter Sunday 1966 was the worst day of my life. We bombed the Mu Gia Pass just north of the corner of North and South Vietnam and Cambodia. It was a stupid move.

The Air Force and Lyndon Johnson thought the B-52 carried so much armament that it would knock the boulders down off the mountain and jam up the pass so the movement of men and supplies to the South would be stopped. The Viet Cong had the pass open and were moving supplies south again in a couple of days.

After the bomb run, we had a fighter on our tail. It was 3 o'clock in the morning, as dark as pitch outside, and this jet fighter was about 75 yards behind us. To this day we do not know why he didn't shoot us down—if he was an enemy. I thought all along he could have been one of our F-105s, just playing with us.

When we got back, no one paid any attention to us. No one in my family welcomed me home. There were no parades, no welcome home parties, no dances, and no receptions. We just came home and went back to work. The worst of us got spit on instead of getting a welcome. I never got spit on, which saved me from going to prison. But I saw grunts coming back home after a year of getting shot at and getting spit on.

I still have insomnia, which I think is caused by that war. I hope we don't keep making the same mistake in Iraq that we made there. Nixon finally just brought the troops home and said we won. The Viet Cong promptly took over. I wish I could apologize to the Vietnamese people for what we did. I am truly sorry.



All Tribal Officials, Department Heads, Tribal Members and Employees:

On behalf of the athletes and coaches of Team Florida, I invite you to support us in our goal of competing at the Cowichan 2008 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) this August.

The Cowichan 2008 NAIG will take place in the Cowichan Valley, British Columbia, Canada, from August 3 – 10, 2008. Team Florida will compete against teams from each Province and Territory of Canada, as well as, twenty (20) teams from the United States.

The financial support from our friends, neighbors and co-workers will make it possible for Team Florida to gather together with many Indigenous Nations for this important celebration of culture, pride and excellence in athletics. Team Florida has approximately 50 team members who are preparing to compete in archery, track and field, golf, rifle shooting, basketball, Tae Kwon Do, swimming and wrestling.

Your contribution to assist our Team Florida athletes and coaches would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be dropped off at my office or mailed directly to:

Seminole Tribe of Florida  
Team Florida  
c/o Joel M. Frank, Sr.  
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If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at 800.683.7800, Ext. 11290, or by e-mail at [jfrank@seminoletribe.com](mailto:jfrank@seminoletribe.com). For a complete description of the 2008 NAIG event, you can check out their website at [www.cowichan2008.com](http://www.cowichan2008.com).

Thank you for your consideration of this request and I look forward to your sharing this adventure with the athletes of Team Florida.

Sincerely,

Joel M. Frank, Sr.  
Chef de Mission  
Team Florida

## Photo Challenge



Who are these Seminole Tribal citizens?



Ada Smith Bowers and Lena Gopher

## Recovery Meetings

Monday	Noon Discussion Meeting	Big Cypress Sober House
Tuesday	7:30 PM Recovery Meeting	Brighton Sober House
Wednesday	Noon 12 Step Meeting Noon Support Meeting 8:30 PM AA Meeting	Big Cypress Sober House Brighton Hollywood Administration
Thursday	Noon Lunch AA Meeting 7 PM NA Meeting 7:30 PM Seminoles In Recovery	Brighton Brighton Big Cypress Sober House
Friday	Noon 12 Step Meeting	Immokalee Family Services

Broward Attractions & Museums AH-TAH-THI-KI  
Month events at the ...

Be our Guest!

Join us for these FREE programs in June at Okalee:

- Tuesday, June 3, 2008 - SPAM (Stage, Poetry, And Music) Night, featuring Seminole Artists & performers and coordinated by Diana Stone, Education Coordinator
- Thursday, June 12, 2008 - "Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Behind the Scenes" Lecture with Museum Registrar Robin Bauer Kilgo and Museum Conservator Corey Smith
- Tuesday, June 17, 2008 - "Seminole Art Appreciation" featuring Brian Zepeda, Seminole Tribal Member and Museum Employee
- Tuesday, June 24, 2008 - "A Glimpse into Tribal Historic Preservation" presented by Willard Steele, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO)

All presentations begin at 6pm, beverages and light snacks will be served. Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki at Okalee is located in the Seminole Paradise at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

Questions? Email [marybirch-hanson@seminoletribe.com](mailto:marybirch-hanson@seminoletribe.com) or call Mary Birch-Hanson at 954-364-5205



# Announcements • Ahaaheke • Nak-ohkerkēctv

## Poem

### 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 for always 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



## Wedding



Felix DeBoer

Melinda and Markell Billie (Front Row, Center)  
exchanged wedding vows in front of loved ones at a  
ceremony held April 18 in the Henry Gopher Memorial  
Park at the Hollywood Headquarters.

## Birthday

Happy 2nd birthday to my handsome son,  
Wesley Clinton!  
Love,  
Mommy (Valerie Frank)

Happy birthday to my little Brother, Wesley!  
Love,  
Your Sister, Jewel Alice



## New Kids

Proud parents Cassandra  
Jones and Daniel  
Rodriguez wel-  
come the newest "A-  
Rod" to the  
world. Baby  
Alex  
Rodriguez,  
Panther Clan,  
was born on  
Feb. 6. Siblings  
are: Daniel Jr.,  
Francisco and  
Talia.



We are proud to announce the birth of Lily  
Elizabeth Yethoche Metcalf, born Feb. 5, and  
weighing 7 pounds, 6 ounces. Her parents are Melis-  
sa and Jesse Metcalf and her sisters are Kirsten and  
JoLee.

## Classified

**Francoise's Barbershop:**  
6782 Stirling Road, Hollywood,  
Fla. 33024, (954) 987-1309, (954)  
471-2469.

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town! European facial, waxing, \$25  
spa pedicure and manicure combo.



The parents  
of new baby boy  
Kyngston Dou-  
glas, Virginia  
Garcia-Sanders  
and Eric  
Sanders, wel-  
comed him into  
the world on  
April 23 at 12:35  
a.m. Kyngston  
weighed 7  
pounds, 4 ounces  
and measured  
19.5 inches.

## Seminole Artist Needs Kidney Transplant

Native American artist, Sam Frank, currently  
resides on the Hollywood Reservation. His passion is  
making blankets and clothing with traditional patch-  
work, which can be seen on display at the Ah-Tah-Thi-  
Ki Museum.

After five years on dialysis, he seeks a new kid-  
ney. Who can donate? Potential donors would include  
the following: anyone age 18-35; a person with type O  
blood; someone in general good health and donor  
needs to have normal kidney function and anatomy.

The donor's primary care physician should first be  
contacted as well as discussion of intent to donate.  
Frank can be contacted by phone at (954) 989-  
1805 for further information.



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My name is **Trisha Lola Walker**. I am Panther Clan. My mom is Tisha Lee Garza and my stepdad is Robert Garza. My grand-



mother is Frances Jumper Teele. I have two sisters, Lariah and Ignacia, and one step-sister, Krystal Garza; she's the only child from my stepdad. I have three brothers, J Buck, Anthony and Pretty Rick. I have many cousins, aunts and uncles. I like reading and beadwork. My favorite subjects are art and culture. After I graduate, I plan on working part-time at Ahfachkee and at the Preschool. I enjoy the little kids. In my spare time, I like talking on the phone and shopping (can't forget about Wal-Mart). I like going to V.I.P. in Immokalee and spending time with my mom and sisters. I also love going to the Mud-hole with my Stepdad Robert. Thank you to my family for helping me grow and being there with me through my struggles and my good times. Thank you to my teachers at Ahfachkee, to my mom and to my stepdad Robert for being there for me as a father.

— **Trisha Lola Walker**  
2008



Congratulations to **Trisha Lola Walker** ... I remember the first time I told you I love you to your little face. You had just been born and we thought you were not going to make it through the night. It was scary, painful and sad. But through it all, God gave us a chance to watch you grow so beautifully without ever growing away from those you love.

We just wanted to tell you that we're all very proud of you. You did it – 12 years of school. So dream big and I know that there are many people around like me who think the world of you and hope everything goes your way. Sometimes life can be messy and confusing, and there's a lot of negativity out there. But life can also be full of surprises. Just remember, be yourself and be happy! When you don't have what you want, want what you have.

Congratulations! We love you! We'll always be here for you. Feel free to look around the corner, we'll be right there. Oh, by the way, no, you can't leave home!

From,  
**Your Mom Tisha, your Stepdad Robert, and the rest of your people here in the swamps**



We just want to thank everyone who helped make our wedding so beautiful. A special thanks to Sherri Jumper and Erin Buster for being the wedding planners and having a lot of patience with you know who. Thanks to: J.B. (Jennifer Chadwick) and Alexandra (Sandy) Frank for the Seminole food, it was the bomb; Yvonne for being my maid of honor and for actually being on time (ha ha); William Lee Jumper for walking me down the aisle and being by my side; at least we learned some dance moves; Marcus Osceola for being best man; the rest of the wedding party, it wouldn't have been complete without y'all; the Jumper and Garza families; J.B. and Glenn Osceola for showing us your dance skills; and anyone else I might have forgot. We had a great time, thanks to all!

Sorry I took so long. I just want y'all to know I didn't forget about y'all!  
Love,  
**Robert & Tisha Garza**  
November 2007



Happy birthday to **Keith Kelly Jumper**. We hope you are doing well. We miss you.  
From,  
**Your Cousins Trisha and Ignacia**



We want to wish **Trisha Lola Walker** a happy birthday on April 16. We hope you had a blast and we love you!  
From,  
**Your family in BC (Panther Clan)**



Happy birthday to **Julian Billie** on March 2. We love you.  
From,  
**Your people in BC**



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