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Seminole Leader Micanopy Comes to Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

Full Story ♦ Page 22

Naples Hosts Education Incentive Awards Dinner at Sea World

By Tina Marie Osceola
ORLANDO, FL — The storm clouds looked ominous, the humidity was suffocating and the temperatures were soaring. However, nothing deterred the Naples community from celebrating another successful academic year at Orlando's Sea World. Community elders and parents gathered up their children and descended upon Sea World late in the afternoon on July 31 for an awards banquet. The banquet was actually held in a private dining area that overlooked the shark tank.

The Naples PAC President and Human Resources Director Lee Zepeda, and his wife, Cara Zepeda, organized a memorable evening. The banquet was actually held in a private dining area that overlooked the shark tank.

Lee Zepeda kicked off the evening of adventure by welcoming the community to Sea World and by thanking everyone for being good students, parents and community members. Lee invited Tina Marie Osceola,

executive director of the Museum department and Naples community member, to present a more serious topic to the students.

She spoke about pride, accountability and responsibility. She reminded those present that to be a Tribal citizen is more than dividends.

"Being a Tribal member is about being a citizen, rather than constantly asking our Tribal leaders, 'What have you done for us lately?'" We need to ask our leaders and elders what we can do for them," Osceola said. "It's about being a good and responsible human."

Osceola reminded the students, "As you go through life there will be people telling you why you don't belong and why you can't do something... you will either be too short, too tall, too white, too dark, or your hair will be too curly or too



Wanda Math

Education Director Louise Gopher (left) with the Naples award recipients, Liaison O.B. Osceola (back row, center) and Lee Zepeda (back row, right).

♦ See NAPLES, page 13

Graduates Take a Bahamas Trip to Paradise



The grads with Tribal officials and Education department staff members at the Queen's Staircase in Nassau.

By Shelley Marmor
NASSAU, BAHAMAS — Eight of the 20 Seminole high school graduates arrived at the Atlantis resort on Paradise Island on July 23. The class of 2006 in attendance, Ruben "Sonny" Billie, Kaylin Henry, Kevin Frank, Niki Josh, Audrey Snow, Celeste Stockton and Kelie Tigetel, celebrated the milestone of graduation during a week-long trip to the islands.

Upon arrival to the world famous Atlantis resort, the graduates dined at a luncheon in the Providence Room. During the meal representatives from the Education department, including Director Louise Gopher, and Family Services welcomed the grads and congratulated them.

Gopher made a presentation with a DVD of Jim Shore, general counsel for the Tribe, receiving his honorary doctorate degree from Florida State University. She told the group of eight that "if Jim Shore can do it, you can do it," in hopes of encouraging them to pursue higher education.

Intervention Specialist Julie Bennett, Higher Education Advisor Erlinda Iley and Family Services' Adult Education Advisor Jasmine Porter also attended. This group was available all week to assist the graduates with any questions or concerns they might have had about their next phase of education.

♦ See GRADUATES, page 34

Shelby Osceola, 2006 Breakaway Roping Champion



Photo courtesy of State Journal-Register. Reprinted with permission. Shelby Osceola after roping her first 2.6 seconds.

By Tabitha Osceola
SPRINGFIELD, IL — National High School Rodeo Association Finals were held in Springfield, Ill., July 24-30 and Shelby Osceola was there to represent Florida in breakaway roping. Many states across the country, Canada and Australia was represented by their top four cowgirls in breakaway roping at the national finals; Shelby was Florida's fourth place breakaway roper and about to face 180 of the top breakaway ropers.

The cowboys and cowgirls competing at the finals arrived a couple days before the rodeo started in order to get their horses settled and get rested up for a full week of rodeo and tough competition. The contestants each got two go-rounds and then only the top 20 came back for the final third round. The final round would decide who the best roper in the nation was.

In the first go, Shelby had her game set and looked relaxed, she patiently waited on the side with her horse Yeller until it was her turn to compete. When her name was announced that it was her turn she entered the arena, backed her horse in the box, gave a nod to release the calf and came out with her rope swinging. But it only took Shelby two swings of her rope, stopping her horse and seeing that flag at the end of rope go flying.

Then it was waiting to hear her time for the first round. "Two-point-six seconds..." said the announcer. Shelby walked away with a smile on her face. Shelby commented on her state and nervousness after this.

"I just told myself I was going to have fun and that was fun," she said.

♦ See OSCEOLA, page 27

Trail Camp Community to Receive Upgrades

By Chris Jenkins
OCHOPEE, FL — It was a meeting of the minds on Aug. 1. Trail Liaison William Osceola, along with employees of the Seminole Tribe's Housing and Emergency Services departments met to discuss fire safety, evacuation procedures and improvements to housing within the camp community.

Administrative Assistant for the Trail Seminole office Shanna DeBolt said one of the main reasons for the gathering and walk through was to offer an up close and personal view.

"William [Osceola] wanted them to come out and visually see what things looked like at these camps and how they operate," DeBolt said.

Six camps will receive renovations and upgrades under the current plan and six more are pending. The new Trail office will be the main location for citizen and Tribal Council meetings, deliveries and other business.

♦ See TRAIL, page 3



Chris Jenkins

Workers get underway at the new Trail offices.

Photo Quiz



Can you guess who we're?

Previous Photo Quiz



(Back Row L-R) Linda Mico Smith, Lucy John Billie, (Front Row L - R) Sharon Osceola, Linda Smith Tommie, Wanda Billie, Mary Gopher, Ethel Gopher.

The Seminole Tribune

If you need a reporter or you would like to submit an article, birthday wish or poem to *The Seminole Tribune*, please contact the Editor-in-Chief Virginia Mitchell at (800) 683-

7800, Ext. 1260. E-mail: vmitchell@semintribe.com, fax (954) 967-3482, or mail to: The Seminole Tribune, 6300 Stirling Road, Hollywood, Florida 33024.

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

Issue: September 21, 2006
Deadline: September 7, 2006

Issue: October 13, 2006
Deadline: September 28, 2006

Issue: November 3, 2006
Deadline: October 19, 2006

Issue: November 22, 2006
Deadline: November 8, 2006

Please note: Late submissions will be posted in the following issue.

Advertising:

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Hollywood, FL 33024

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The Seminole Tribune

is a member of the Native American Journalists Association. Letters/e-mails to the editor must be signed and may be edited for publication. Subscription rate is \$30 per year by mail. Make checks payable to *The Seminole Tribune*, 6300 Stirling Road, Hollywood, FL 33024. Phone: (954) 967-3416. Fax: (954) 967-3482. Or subscribe on the Internet at www.seminoltribe.com
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Message to Young Male Warriors from Peltier

Greeting my relatives,

And again I must say "my relatives" because we are all related in one way or another by natural design of the Creator or our common concerns for the Earth and freedom. I want to acknowledge another year gone by since my last statement was read to you and I want to again thank all of you supporters for your continued efforts to right the wrongs that have befallen both my people and me.

Being here in prison on this very best day is not good. The reason I say this is because I want to acknowledge that there is always someone in a more difficult situation than your own. An example which I will share is one day on entering the visiting room here, I saw a paraplegic in a wheelchair who had dropped the wand type instrument that he holds in his mouth and uses to maneuver the controls on his electric wheelchair.

He asked me to pick it up for him, which I did. It also happened to be a day when I was feeling kind of down myself. After seeing this man, I felt somewhat ashamed and counted my blessings. I guess what I'm trying to say is that if you are free and can choose your destination from one place to another, whether it be physical, mental, spiritual or emotional, count your blessings.

I was looking through some of my stuff the other day and I came across a card that I had not finished writing in and had misplaced. It was a card to a friend in which I had written "always remember the Creator is with you even though you may not have noticed." And I would like to impart that to you my relatives.

I truly believe the Creator loves us and continues to provide for us, but we must also take responsibility upon ourselves to be part of that providing for ourselves, our children, our children's children, and all future generations.

One of the things I would like to



address, that I've read a lot about recently is the high incidence of drugs on the reservation these days. Alcohol itself is a drug even though it is legal. But some of the new drugs combined with the alcohol, which is already bad, are becoming a major threat to the future of our people.

I want to speak to the young men out there, or any of the men, reminding them that in order to be a warrior, or to have the connotation of a warrior, is not just about being a male, but being willing to take action against whatever

enemy threatens our people. That action may be ceremonial, it may be fasting on some level, praying on some level, it may be a physical endeavor on some level. But it is our responsibility on every level. In the 70s, when I was free of this prison, there were in reality, only about 20-30 dedicated warriors throughout the U.S., who were full time and committed. Our principle statement to our people was sovereignty, unity, and brotherhood. Those were the seeds of concern that were sown. And today you see all across the world, native people standing up in some way for smoke shops, casinos, programs, and so forth as a result of a few dedicated people.

So I have no doubt that the progress that was made by those people in the 70's can be made again by the young people of today. Our personal reference points in life aren't necessarily the same but our cultural, historical, and spiritual reference is.

I want to say again: We are of this part of Mother Earth. We are the First People. Let us not let them put us First. That brings me to a statement that I once heard Buffy Saint Marie make. She said, "If you go to a restaurant and what you want isn't on the menu, go to another restaurant. And if what you want isn't on that menu, mix up a batch of your own and prepare to serve." In quoting her, I would like to say, that as warriors, if we assess the situation correctly, and with a good heart, using the values the Great Spirit has given us, chose a path, others will follow.

Aho Mitakuye oyasin.

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse,
Leonard Peltier
June, 2006

Survey of the Seminoles Indians of Florida

By Roy Nash

Editor's Note: This is a re-print of a survey of the Seminole Indians by Roy Nash conducted on behalf of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1930. This is Part 9 of a series The Seminole Tribune will re-print in its entirety. Please see the Sept. 21 issue of The Tribune for Part 10.

SEMINOLE SURVEY OF 1930

By Roy Nash

A TYPICAL CAMP OF 1930 CHAPTER III SECTION 5: Health

Excerpt 26, Part I: The Florida Seminoles

The first health and sanitary survey of the Florida Seminoles made by Dr. O.S. Phillips, special physician in the Indian Service, in 1919. The Reverend Mr. Spencer, in his report in 1920, quotes Doctor Phillips as follows:

The Seminole Indians suffer less from the ravages of disease and probably enjoy better health than any tribe of Indians I have ever visited.

The only disease of any consequence found among them is hookworm. The excellent health enjoyed by these people I believe to be due to the fact that they live in the open air all of the time, day and night, making their living by hunting, which requires a maximum amount of physical exercise. And that of all of them are more or less isolated.

As a rule the Seminole Indians are fully and healthily as the white people living in the same localities. The percent dying of

flu was no greater than among white people.

Dr. Robert E.L. Newberne, chief medical supervisor of the Indian Service, wrote a report on the Seminoles in 1921 which apparently represents no original work. It has the Seminoles to say on health conditions is this:

The Seminoles of Florida is the most healthy tribe in the United States.

It is said that the Florida Seminoles are free from tuberculosis. I hope they are, but the assertion is too good to accept without question. It is also said that venereal disease is unknown among them. I can accept that as a fact.

Since the time of these two reports a large body of data has accumulated through the record of cases treated by local physicians in Miami, Everglades, Fort Myers, Okeechobee, and Hollywood, services paid by the Indian Service on a case basis. In 1920 an Indian woman for the first time accepted the services of a physician at the time of confinement. From then on the break from the tribal medicine men is manifest.

Excerpt 27, Part I: The Florida Seminoles

In the nature of things an arrangement by whereby the Indian can go to the nearest local doctor and receive free medical service results in the doctors doing everything in their power to cultivate the Indian's confidence and habituate him to bringing all his physical ailments to them. I am not sure that in some cases Indians have not been encouraged to bring in wholly imaginary ills. In any case, the tabulation which follows constitutes a more

inclusive picture of the ills afflicting this population group than has been obtained for any other group of 500 in the rural population of Florida.

In addition to the above evidence, we have an excellent report on conditions observed among the Seminole Indians of South Florida during an inspection trip to some of the camps in August, 1930, by Dr. W.A. Claxton, of the Florida State Board of Health. So we speak of health conditions with fair knowledge.

Excerpt 28, Part I: The Florida Seminoles

Exclusive of the Five Civilized Tribes, 1 Indian to 10 on the western reservation has tuberculosis; in Arizona the death rate from this cause alone is 15 per thousand. At it once will be evident that this, the greatest scourge of the western Indians, is no problem in Florida. Three cases in 19 years!

The second great Indian scourge, trachoma, has never made its appearance among the Seminoles; it has this case has yet to be reported. Doctor Claxton says:

Granular conjunctivitis was common in most camps among the children. This will arouse in some minds the question of trachoma, but examination of the eyes of young adults did not show any conjunctival lesions and there are no blind Indians in Florida (there is one), so, since it cures itself spontaneously it can not be trachoma.

The only case of Typhoid fever reported was in 1925, which seems proof enough that the lack of the ditches and holes of these South Florida swamps is potable.

Letters & E-mail

Please send all letters to 6300 Stirling Road, Hollywood, FL 33024

♦tribune@semintribe.com♦

Dear Editor,

I have never written before today but have always wanted to tell you my a very deep-hearted and profound thank you for allowing FSU to use the name of the greatest Native American Tribe. I have loved being a Seminole by virtue of my being a graduate of FSU, but more so, because the Seminoles represent the pride, the spirit and virtue of humanity.

I have also always bragged to my students - I am a teacher of the fact that the Seminoles are the Unconquered! Please know that I am one woman proud to be associated with the name Seminole and I thank you for allowing my great university to continue to wear that name proudly as well.

Thank you again and Go

Sarah Hammock

Dear Editor,

Recently, we viewed a news article about the buffalo soldiers and the Seminole Indian Tribes. We loosely use the word "news" referring to the *African American News and Issue* online news site, Vol. 11, Issue 26, "The Hidden History of The Buffalo Soldiers." It left us with a few questions in regards to the Seminole Nation, or as author Mario Marcel Salas states, the "Black" Seminole Nation. According to Salas: "The history of the Black Seminole 'Indians'... The story begins in Georgia and South Carolina where the Red Seminoles lived and rebelled against the Creeks or 'White Sticks,' as they were known. Many of whom had accepted 'white ways,' and were considered 'traitors' by the 'Red Sticks' later to be called Seminoles. These Native Americans, after an internal civil war, fled to Florida, where they intermingled with free black Spaniards..."

Our questions are: Are these terms red stick, white stick, or some of your heritage or are they concocted terms used only by Salas? Who or what is John Horse A.K.A. Juan Cavallo in relation to the Seminole or "Black" Seminole history? Their political movement was based on the Seminole or "Black" Seminoles in Mexico before the Mexican Revolution?

Last question but most important question to us would be: What is the history between Black Americans of African decent and Seminole Indians in North America?

Thank you for your time.

Continued success in all your endeavors,

Two Very Curious House Wives

Dear Two Very Curious House Wives,

The term Red Sticks is fairly familiar to us all in the more common French-Baton Rouge. It refers to the "red stick" or war symbol placed in certain towns that were at war against the U.S. Army under General Andrew Jackson. Their political movement was based on "nativist" or fundamentalist tribal views that were intended to preserve and protect the culture.

There was a war that was variously referred to as the Creek war, the Creek Civil War and the War of 1812, which led to a migration into Florida of these Red Sticks after 1813. I have never heard of the term "white sticks". Juan Cavallo AKA John Horse was a major Black Seminole war leader. He was a friend of Wildcat, the Seminole leader. Wildcat went to Mexico and became an officer in the Mexican army. John Horse went with him. They had an arrangement with the Mexican authorities to fight the Comancheros.

Life in Mexico was found to be

preferable to life on the reservations in Oklahoma. After the Civil War some of these people migrated into Texas. Three Black Seminoles who had come back to Texas won the Congressional Medal of Honor during actions against the Indians while serving in the U.S. Army.

I don't know what relationship any of this has with the Mexican Revolution.

As for a history of the Black Seminoles I would refer you to the works of Daniel Littlefield; particularly "Africans and Seminoles" or "Africans and Creeks."

Sincerely,
Willard Steele
Tribal Historic Preservation
Officer

Correction

This photo, from the 2006 Native American Indigenous Games photo book, was mis-cropped. The photo credit went to freelancer Rhonda Roff, but was actually taken by Virginia Billie.





Trail Liaison William Osceola (orange shirt) with employees of the Seminole Tribe of Florida Housing department.

❖ Trail

Continued from page 1

Amy Howard is the planner for Emergency Services and Management. She says her job is coming up with a plan for hurricane evacuations.



Construction on a future board and meeting room at the Trail office location.



A community kitchen in Trail.



One of several camp houses in the community.

"The biggest challenge is going to be getting people to evacuate in the wake of a hurricane," Howard said. "They have their culture and they do not want to leave, so it's just a matter of education."

Captain Michael Mirabile deals with structural operations and maintenance in case of a fire. "We're here basically to educate the people on fire prevention, what to do in case of a fire," Mirabile said. "We're going to get [community citizens] some extinguishers and smoke detectors and try to help give them some warning and a way out of any kind of dangerous situation. They have a definite issue of concern with the way they're currently set up."

"Hopefully as a department we can get everyone together and educate them on how to handle themselves in case of an emergency," he continued.

According to Housing Director Troy Clay, an in-depth plan is needed and currently being developed to improve and upgrade many of the homes.

"Our plan is to come back in after we get this plan together tying in all the safety, home, and community upgrades and then implement that plan," Clay said.



An outside community kitchen.



Captain Mike Mirabile and William Osceola discuss procedures and plans at one of the camps.

Happy Birthday David Cypress

By Nery Mejicano

BIG CYPRESS — Big Cypress, it seems, is becoming a tourist Mecca, with its great Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, its wild Swamp Safari and the wonderful wildlife. No one should be surprised at finding music and sports celebrities in this environment.

And so it seems that on Aug. 2, Cher, of Sonny and Cher fame, along with Hank Williams Sr., joined their legendary musical and acting talents to celebrate the birthday of Big Cypress Councilman David Cypress.

The Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium was filled to capacity with folks who drove from all directions to enjoy the singing, the dancing and



David "Sonny" Cypress and Cher.

the great food. Paul Buster served as emcee, back-up band and sound expert.

Cher's performance was absolutely outstanding, but without Sonny Bono, she felt lost. Luckily David Cypress came to the rescue.

Cypress, who, after a few cosmetic enhancements, played the role of Sonny to perfection. Very few of his guests could have guessed it was Cypress and not Bono himself. Cher also engaged the performance of some fanciful back-up dancers such as Kelsey Kimble and Raymond Garza, whose gyrations and smooth rhythms complemented the great songs and impressed the audience.



Cypress and Mabel Frank.



David Cypress, Mitchell Cypress and friends.



Many community members came to wish Cypress well.



Cher with Liaison Raymond Garza.



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Iretta Tiger

Apache artist Doug Miles creates fine art skateboard decks, which are now on display at PEM.

Native American Exhibit Opens in Witch City

By Iretta Tiger

SALEM, MA — Salem is home not only to the famous Witch Trials, but also to the acclaimed Peabody Essex Museum (PEM). PEM is recognized internationally for its collection of Native American art and cultural pieces, a collection that is one of the oldest in the Western Hemisphere.

PEM's native collection contains more than 20,000 pieces and continues to grow, acquiring works from contemporary native artists.

On June 24 PEM opened their exhibition titled "Intersections, Native American Art in a New Light."

"Intersections focuses on connections, between the traditional and the personal, the present and the past, the Native and the non-Native, and Indigenous and Western media. It emphasizes the creative possibilities and the dynamic tensions that arise from aesthetic, cultural and political influences," said Laurie Beth Kalb, PEM guest curator.

In August 2006 PEM's exhibit "All of My Life, Contemporary Works by Native American Artists" opened. The exhibit features sculptures and painting by nine Native artists. Their creations use traditional mediums to express contemporary views.

"Although visitors may have expectations about what constitutes Native American art, this installation will provide opportunities to expand our understanding and knowledge about how contemporary Native artists are reinterpreting traditions and challenging conventions," according to a PEM press release.

To celebrate the opening of these two exhibits PEM organized a weekend full of educational, eclectic and extraordinary events.

The museum events were hosted by native artists. Yvette Vasquez led the hip hop dance workshop and Stephen Blanchett, Yup'ik (Alaska), performed the traditional dances of his Tribe.

Throughout the celebration San Carlos Apache artist Doug Miles created an original painting for PEM. In addition to the painting PEM has acquired four works by Miles which are now a part of the Intersections exhibit.

Surprisingly, the works created by Miles are fine art skateboard decks. Fine art skateboard decks? Yes, it's true.

It all started when Miles and his son tried to find a skateboard with a native design. When they didn't find it Miles decided to design the decks himself. These beautiful designs include warriors, youth and traditional dancers to reflect Miles' Apache culture.

Why go through so much for a skateboard? Miles is also the supervisor of the Apache Skateboards Team, a group of Apache youth who not only compete they also travel the country to teach skateboarding to other native youths.

Skateboarding has inspired Miles to also film his skateboard team, of which he has created several short films. Two of these short films, "Walk like a Warrior" and "Just Getting Started," were screened throughout the celebration.

All of the films screened at the celebration were very impressive and a testament of PEM's dedication in representing all aspects of Native Americans. Though they were few, two of the five screened films focused on contemporary figures, who all bring philanthropic Native America to the forefront of today's culture.

"Thunderbird

Woman: Winona LaDuke," directed by Bertram Verhaag and Claus Diegert, is a documentary on the life of this remarkable woman. The film touches briefly on LaDuke's childhood until her college years. The real focus of this documentary is LaDuke's journeys from Native land rights and anti-nuclear activism to being a vice-presidential candidate to helping her Tribe, the Anishinabe, achieve economic independence through traditional resources. There is so much more to learn about LaDuke from this documentary and should not be missed.

"A Thousand Roads," directed by Chris Eyre, is a collection of four fictional stories of contemporary Native Americans. The film takes us into the lives of a young Inupiat girl who is sent to live with her grand-

mother in Alaska, a young Navajo man who re-evaluates his gangster lifestyle, a Mohawk stockbroker fighting her way in New York and a Peruvian Quechua healer trying to save a sick child.

John Trudell is the storyteller who takes us through this journey. "A Thousand Roads" is the signature film of Smithsonian's Native Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) and is screened several times a day. For more information surf to www.nmai.si.edu/thousandroads/thousandroads.htm.



Iretta Tiger

Miles hard at work on another masterpiece.

"Trudell," directed by Heather Rae, is a documentary of Native American philanthropist John Trudell. Naturally, the film tells of Trudell's days as an activist to his poetry and music but more importantly Trudell shows him as a human being. Trudell is available on DVD at www.johntrudell.com.

The climax and ending to PEM's celebration was a lecture with John Trudell. Although agreeing with his point of view was not mandatory—he actually prefers not everyone did—Trudell said his wish is for everyone to think as a human being.

It would be easy to attempt to summarize Trudell's lecture but if that was done it would deprive you of exquisite sustenance. To understand Trudell's meaning one has to listen to everything he is saying and unfortunately one hour barely begins to cover him. He did cover a lot of topics in the hour but one can imagine how much more can be learned if more

time was spent with him.

Look for *The Seminole Tribune's* interview with John Trudell in the next issue. Trudell's lecture will be included in the article.

For more information on the Peabody Essex Museum, surf to www.pem.org.



Felix Dobosz

(L-R) BIA Representative Anna Tonwens, Seminole Police Department Interim Chief Charlie Tiger, Hollywood Council Representative Max B. Osceola Jr., President Moses Osceola, Utilities Director Susie Kippenberger and Tribal Inspector William McHattan at the ceremonial groundbreaking.

Groundbreaking Ceremony Held at New Water Treatment Facility

By Felix Dobosz

HOLLYWOOD — It was a sunny hot summer day at the Hollywood reservation on Aug. 15 when the Utilities Public Works department held a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the start of new construction of a Water Treatment facility.

Moses B. Osceola, president of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc., Hollywood Council Representative Max B. Osceola Jr. and Director of Utilities/Public Works Susie Kippenberger and her

staff brought out the ceremonial shovels for digging up the dirt to commence this planned project. After a quick ceremony and photo on the festivities were moved to the Hollywood Gym for speeches and a catered buffet luncheon.

The Tribal Council member's message was that soon the Hollywood reservations residents will enjoy their own excellent independent water resources and at an affordable price. This project is slated to be completed in about February 2008.

Attention Tribal Painting Contractors



The Buildings and Grounds department is taking bids for the painting of the Hollywood Tribal Headquarters building. For more information please contact Building Manager Ken Bonawitz at (954) 966-6300, Ext. 1296.



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(L-R) Yvette Vasquez, John Trudell, Stephen Blanchett and Doug Miles.

Iretta Tiger

Seniors Celebrate August Birthdays

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — The seniors' dining room in the new Immokalee Administration Building was beautifully decorated on Aug. 16 for the birthday celebration for those born in the month of August.

The room quickly filled with seniors, family members and staff in anticipation of the festivities. The Recreation department had organized a bingo extravaganza. Gift cards were awarded to the winners of each game. Starting off with regular bingo, Rachel Billie was holding the winning card. Pete Aguilar won double bingo on the same card and Mary Sanchez aced a game of small picture frame.

By the fourth game, things began to get very tricky with four corners and one wild number going to Rachel Billie. Mary Sanchez experienced a comeback during wild numbers and Delores Jumper triumphed with three wild numbers and a full card. At intervals, raffle tickets were drawn for additional gift cards.

The only senior celebrating a birthday in August was Elaine Aguilar, who received a beautiful bouquet of roses and a framed family photo.

Throughout the party a steady stream of people dropped by to congratulate the birthday girl. Chairman Mitchell Cypress arrived just in time for lunch and join in the singing of "Happy Birthday." Louise Motlow offered a prayer before the department of Elder Affairs' staff served a wonderful ham dinner.

The birthday cake was a beautiful shade of green to represent the August birthstone, which is the light green colored peridot. Hidden beneath the frosting was a chocolate and vanilla marble cake with strawberry filling.

Aguilar succeeded in blowing out all the candles on her cake; therefore, if there is any truth to the old superstition, she should have her wish come true. Of course, there are those who questioned that 12 candles accurately represented her birth years!



Judy Weeks

Elaine Aguilar stands ready to blow out the candles.



Sherry Maraj

Darline Buster selling arts and crafts for the marketplace.

Okalee Village Family Fun Day



Sherry Maraj

Face painting at Family Fun Day.

By Sherry Maraj

HOLLYWOOD — Gators and bubbles sound like a strange combination, but for many South Floridians that meant a fun time at Okalee Village. All weekend long on Aug. 5-6, kids bounced, played hopscotch, played with bubbles and had coloring at the activities table from 11 a.m. until darkness crept in about 9 p.m.

Tribal citizens Linda Jim and Irene Jimmie were making fry bread. Janine Cypress was sewing, and Betsy Franco-Bowers cooking and making snow cones.

It was such an exciting weekend for the vendors as well selling arts and crafts out front of Okalee Village. The Seminole Tribune was there along with Minnie Doctor and Jane Doctor. Most of the items that were offered were: jewelry, bead work, basketry, patchwork clothing, and wood carvings.

The animal and gator shows had kids and adults fascinated to learn about how Seminoles used to wrestle gators. As they sat and watched and listened they were all amazed. By the end of the show the kids and adults had a chance to hold a baby gator and sit on a big gator and have their pictures taken.

As kids walked around with painted faces, smiles and animal shapes balloons it was another great Seminole Marketplace Family Fun Day at Okalee Village.



Sherry Maraj

Kids were happy to hold a baby alligator.



Sherry Maraj

Janine Cypress sewing at Okalee Village.



Sherry Maraj

Linda Jim cooking at Family Fun Day.



Sherry Maraj

Sea Otter showing off for the kids.



Sherry Maraj

Kids enjoying snowcones at Okalee Village.



Judy Weeks

Bingo! Raymond Yzaguirre III (left) assists his grandmother, Louise Motlow, with her game.

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

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Blue Horses Rush In by Luci Talahonso

By Ramona Kiyoshk

[Editor's Note: Ramona Kiyoshk is a freelance writer living in Jupiter, Florida. She is a member of the Ojibway First Nation of Walpole Island, Ontario. The opinions she expresses are her own. She can be reached at ramona2kiyoshk@yahoo.ca]

The title of this book, "Blue Horses Rush In," is also the name of a poem in which the author likens the heartbeat of her new granddaughter to the thunder of horses galloping across the desert. "Blue Horses Rush In" was the winner of the Mountains & Plains Booksellers Association's 1998 Regional Book Award for Adult Nonfiction. In this collection of poems and stories, Navajo poet Luci Talahonso speaks to the Dine (Navajo) alone in the streets in faraway cities and to all aboriginal people whose traditions have become lost in the modern rat race. We were once a nation of family people with strong ties to community and home. Today the songs, stories and ceremonies that bound us together are rarely practiced and barely remembered.

This book, with its imagery, emotions, music and textures, reminds us that no matter where we are, if we want to keep from drowning, we must remember where we came from. "These mountains and the land keep us strong. From them and because of them, we prosper." We can go home again, if only in spirit.

Talahonso is a Navajo storyteller and teacher who lives in two worlds: Navajo and white. She teaches at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, but finds true happiness each time she journeys home to Shiprock, New Mexico, in the heart of Navajo country.

English and Navajo are woven effortlessly throughout the pages as Talahonso writes from locales in Phoenix, Tucson, Texas, Kansas and other destinations. She writes from her experiences as a daughter, mother, sister, teacher, speaker and finally as a grandmother whose strength derives from the stories and prayers of her people.

"Our lives are set by precise prayers and stories to ensure balance." Navajo spirituality resonates strongly, giving Talahonso's words power and impact. Images of the Southwest deserts and mountains come to life with poignancy, humor, and affection.

As a young girl, Talahonso remembers the closely knit Navajo clans of sheep herders who gathered under the stars at night to listen to their grandparents talk about the ancestors, creation and family. Huddled under blankets and snuggled up against siblings, the children listened, knowing they were loved and safe, storing away the things that would sustain them in life.

In that world, time was nebulous. One slept when one was tired, one ate when one was hungry and

there was no rushing off in the morning to a stress-filled day. The children were treasured and essential to the order of the world, included in all events and outings.

Talahonso writes about a trip to the city to deliver a reading with the car filled with squirming youngsters. "...it feels lonely to go anywhere without two or three little ones in the back seat." Someone once said: "Don't tell a Navajo not to bring their kids," when responding to an adult's only invitation.

The word Hozho comes up often. Hozho means balance or order. It is the Navajo version of the Circle that was the model of well-being for other First Nations people. If the Circle is bent, twisted or broken, the person is ill and his/her world is in disarray. One must always work on keeping the Circle whole. Hozho is disrupted when Talahonso's teenage daughter runs away from home. The whole family grieves as if mourning a death, but it is Talahonso herself who feels the universal anguish of a bereft mother.

Hozho is restored when the girl is returned home and the celebration is like that of a new birth. Hozho is disrupted another time when Talahonso's sister loses her singing voice after an abusive relationship. Hozho is restored when she finds it again with a new love.

Sheep and horses, necessities of the Navajo lifestyle are respected and cared for. A young child receives a lamb and eventually a colt, that she must care for, demonstrating her responsibility by the way she disciplines and nurtures the animals. Dogs and puppies abound, their barking in the distance a part of the desert night.

There is an excerpt on the origin of luminaries, a beautiful Southwest Christmas tradition; there is an explanation why Navajo women wear the long billowing skirts, and why the men wear turquoise. We are given the legend of Spider Woman, shape-shifter and seductress, who teaches Navajo women to weave.

In another passage, the fragrance of bread baking in an outdoor oven and mutton stew simmering in the evening air make the mouth water. Sheep bells and laughter peel out across the arroyos. Talahonso weaves a magical, but very believable world.

I recommend this book, especially for women, as Talahonso writes about the things dear to their hearts. Men should read it also, especially if they want to better understand the women they love. The book is valuable for its beauty, but it is also portrays the strong spirituality that kept a nation together and which, when practiced, can still keep the family strong and happy today.



Blue Horses Rush In
Poems and Stories
Luci Talahonso
105 pp. / 6.0 x 8.25 / 1997
Cloth (0816517274)
Paper (0816517282)
University of Arizona Press

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Hollywood/Ft. Pierce/Trail Incentive Awards

By Chris Jenkins

HOLLYWOOD—On August 15th the best from the academic world among the Seminole tribe community were recognized for their hard work and accomplishments at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in the 2006 Incentive Awards.

Those areas recognized included: Hollywood, non-resident Hollywood, Trail and Fort Pierce.

The evening began with a prayer from Education Director Louise Gopher, followed by dinner. Next, members of the Tribal Council including Chairman Mitchell Cypress, President/Vice Chairman Moses Osceola, Hollywood Council Representative Max B Osceola Jr., Trial Liaison William Osceola and Brighton Board Representative Johnnie Jones welcomed the students and parents.

Gopher then introduced guest speaker Robert Smith. Smith is a former eight year player and all-pro from National Football League. To conclude the night award presentations were given out. There were also gifts presented. An embroidered Seminole Tribe of Florida Jean jacket, certificates of achievement, and money were all given by the Seminole Tribe.

One of the success stories was Florida State University senior and political science major Kyle Doney. The native of Avon Park, Fla. has participated in the incentive awards ceremonies for more than 10 years. He says just being recognized has always been icing on the cake for him.

"You always want to do well in school, but it was nice to get that extra incentive," Doney said. "I don't know what the educational numbers are, but I'm a person that wants to change things, there's nothing more that I want then to change things for the Tribe



Stephen Galla

Brighton Board representative Johnny Jones offers a few words of encouragement and advice to the students and parents.

Academy, David Anderson, Jr. of American Heritage Academy, Clairese Avila of Hollywood Christian, Kyle Baker of Hollywood Christian, Leisset Baker of Silver Shores Elementary, Jaden Bankston of Chesterbrook Academy, Turquoise Battiest of Hollywood Christian, Amya Baxley of Chesterbrook Academy, Luke Baxley Jr. of Chesterbrook Academy, Kiana Bell of Beacon Hill, Pernell Bert of Beacon Hill, Kristen Billie of American Heritage Academy, Shelli Billie of Sheridan Hills Christian, Summer Billie of Sagemont, Rayel Billie of Sagemont, Nelson Billie of American Heritage Academy, Maurice Billie of Paladim Academy-Pembroke Pines, Laura Billie of Florida Atlantic University, Fairuza Billie of Driftwood Elementary, Dotoyio Billie of Paladim Academy-Pembroke Pines, Demetric Billie of Chesterbrook Academy, Darryl Billie of American Heritage Academy, Charles Billie Jr. of Chesterbrook Academy, Alisia Billie of Zion Lutheran Christian, Gabrielle Billie of Hollywood Hills Elementary, Peter Billie Jr. of University School-Nova SE, Briana Bilodeau of University School-Nova SE, Tyler Bilodeau of Rainbow Montessori, Braudie Blais-Billie of University School-Nova SE, Brianna Blais-Billie of University School-Nova SE, Tia Blais-Billie of University School-Nova SE, Mariah Bowers of Chesterbrook Academy, Trinity Bowers of American Heritage Academy, Cecen Bowers of Chesterbrook Academy, Jackson Buster of Suvannavee Primary School, Talena Castillo of Hollywood Christian, Kahelote Cornelius of Seymour Public School, Yoklot Cornelius of Oneida Nation High School, Bilge Cypress of Alafachee, Darion Cypress of Hollywood Christian, Ethan Cypress of Hollywood Christian, Gail Cypress of Barry University, Janay Cypress of Hollywood Christian, Kasera Cypress of Hollywood Christian, Tai



Stephen Galla

Hollywood Board representative Gloria Wilson speaks during dinner.

Cypress of American Heritage-Boca, Taylor Cypress of Hollywood Christian, Darion Cypress-Osceola of Highpoint Academy, Kanavys Cypress-William of Abfackee, Joseph Diaz of Hollywood Christian, Howie Drake of Hollywood Christian, Jennie Eagle of Boca Raton Prep, Raylon Eagle of Boca Raton Prep, Alexander Escobar of Hollywood Christian, Sunshine Frank of Johnson and Wales, Brent Frank of Chesterbrook Academy, Damian Frank of Beacon Hill, Elizabeth Frank of Chesterbrook, Kendra Frank of Paladim Academy-Hollywood, Raevin Frank of Crenshaw School, Darryl Fuentes of Paladim Academy-Hollywood, Betty Goosens of Nova Southeastern University, Kaitlyn Gorney of Stephen Foster Elementary, Delta Harjo of Hollywood Christian, Briana Harjochee of Paladim Academy-Hollywood, Chassidy Harjochee of Paladim Academy-Hollywood, Joseph Hiers of Sequoyah High School, Taylor Holata of Sheridan Hills Christian, Valentino Huggins of American Heritage Academy, Joseph Hughes of Mel Blount Youth Home, Phelicia Hughes of Annie Wright School, Jonathan Idle of Miami Montessori, Maleah Isaac of Beacon Hill, Courtney Jim of Micoosukee Indian School, Elena Jim of Heritage School, Katherine Jim of Heritage School, Lauren Jim of Heritage School, Joseph John of University School-Nova SE, Cecil Johns of

Chesterbrook Academy, Kristy Johns of Hollywood Christian, Shantia Johns of Chesterbrook Academy, Heather Josh of Anadarko High School, Kyrell Josh of Chesterbrook Academy, Dakota Josh of Fort Cobb-Broxton School, Coleman Josh of Fort Cobb-Broxton School, Shandin Josh of Kayenta Intermediate School, Cameron Jumper of Flamingo Road Christian, Catherine Jumper of Jones Academy, Eden Jumper of Chesterbrook Academy, Franklin Jumper of Chesterbrook Academy, Nicholas Jumper of Flamingo Road Christian, Phoenix Sun Jumper of Flamingo Road Christian, Falon Keyser of Johnson county High School, Kaitlyn Kippenberger of American Heritage Academy, Cheyenne Kippenberger of American Heritage Academy, Heather Kippenberger of Driftwood Middle School, Kurya Kippenberger of American Heritage Academy, Carson Knaby of University School-Nova SE, Victoria Lacey of Lakeview Academy, Zechariah Lacey of Lakeview Academy, Malcolm Lacey Jr. of Lakeview Academy, Bradley Latchford of Hollywood Christian, Brad Latchford of Hollywood Christian, Casey McCall of Sheridan Hills Christian, KC McDonald of Cooper Elementary, Randee McDonald of Cooper High School, Baylee Mico of Stirling Elementary, Jaide Mico of Hollywood Christian, Jesse Mitchell of American Heritage Academy, Dominique Motlow of Paladim Academy-Hollywood, Kenzie Motlow of Hollywood Academy, Chelsea Mountain of American Heritage Academy, Kira Mowatt of Sheridan Hills Christian, Robert Nelson of First Assembly Christian School, Randee Osceola of Wicomico Day School, Kianiti Osceola of Heritage School, Kendrick Osceola



Stephen Galla

Guest speaker Robert Smith explains the value of education to the students and parents in attendance.

Osceola of Chesterbrook Academy, Courtney Osceola of University School-Nova SE, Davena Osceola of Heritage School, Denise Osceola of Beacon Hill, Elden Osceola of Paladim Academy-Hollywood, Chahechom Osceola of Driftwood, Telya Philpott of Briggs Elementary School, Raymond Philpott Jr. of Briggs Elementary School, Kiara Pichardo of Hollywood Christian, Leosona Pichardo of Hollywood Christian, Richard Primeaux of Hollywood Christian, Terrell Primeaux of Driftwood, River Randall of Lowell Elementary School, Natomah Robbins of American Heritage Academy, Tuomah Robbins of American Heritage Academy, Michael Rosato of Sheridan Hills Christian, Samuel Sanchez of Hollywood Christian, Jesse Sanchez of Hollywood Christian, Clifford Sanchez of Hollywood Christian, Clayton Sanders of American Heritage Boca, Adahma Sirota of Chesterbrook Academy, Anahna

Sirota of Chesterbrook Academy, Chloe Smith of Hollywood Christian, Garbith Smith of Driftwood, Elijah Snell of Hollywood Christian, Donovan Spiva of Beacon Hill, Renee Stivers of Woodside Middle School, Victoria Stivers of Woodland Presbyterian School, Tyler Storm of Park Avenue Christian Academy, Thomas Storm Jr. of Brevard C.C. Bookstore, Isiah Thomas of University School-Nova SE, Marissa Tiger of American Heritage Academy, Summer



Stephen Galla

High School graduate John Anderson Jr. is congratulated onstage by Chairman Mitchell and Councilman Max Osceola.

of Paladim Academy-Hollywood, Kananochet Osceola of Driftwood Elementary, Marsha Osceola of Coconut Palm Elementary, Meghan Osceola of Pinecrest, Neko Osceola of Hollywood Middle School, Neyum Osceola of Driftwood Elementary, Robert Osceola of American Heritage Academy, Royce Osceola of Paladim Academy-Pembroke Pines, Shelby Osceola of Hollywood Christian, Sheyanna Osceola of Hollywood Christian, Skyla Osceola of Hollywood Christian, Trevor Osceola of Pinecrest, John Osceola of Gloria Del, Victor Osceola of American Heritage Academy, Rylee Osceola of University School-Nova SE, Tristina Osceola of Hollywood Christian, Audrey Osceola of Paladim Academy-Hollywood, John Osceola of Beacon Hill, Aaron Osceola of Paladim Academy-Pembroke Pines, Annisa Osceola of Paladim Academy-Pembroke Pines, Ariah Osceola of Hollywood Christian, Shelli Osceola of American Heritage Academy, Audrey Osceola of Loxahatchee Groves Elementary, Brooke Osceola of University School-Nova SE, Cameron Osceola of American Heritage Academy, Cameron Osceola of Hollywood Christian, Geraldine Osceola of WOR-WIC Community College, Gheri Osceola of Wicomico Day School, Charlie Osceola of Wicomico Day School, Christian Osceola of Chaminade Madonna Prep School, Ashley



Stephen Galla

Kindergartener Trinity Bowers is congratulated by Chairman Mitchell Cypress.

Tiger of University of Miami, Calvin Tiger Jr. of North Broward Prep, Tommie Lorelei of Summit Questa Montessori, Jessica Turle of Paladim Academy-Hollywood, Rebecca Vasquez of Paladim Academy-Pembroke Pines, Tameron Wilcox of Loxahatchee Groves Elementary, Tristen Wilcox of Loxahatchee Groves Elementary, Jackie Willie of Hollywood Christian, Troy Yecass of Chesterbrook Academy, Jade Young of Sheridan Hills Christian, Katelyn Young of American Heritage Academy, Krystle Young of American Heritage Academy, Tarina Young of American Heritage Academy, Tianna Young of American Heritage Academy and Tous Young Jr. of American Heritage Academy.

Trail: Cassidy Bert of Micoosukee Indian School, Morgan Bert of Micoosukee Indian School, Noel Jim of Micoosukee Indian School, Richard Keyser of Johnson County High School, John Osceola Jr. of Micoosukee Indian School, and Kaylene Osceola of Micoosukee Indian School.



Stephen Galla

Sheyanna Osceola gets a handshake and congratulations from Chairman Cypress.

and bring success to the Tribe."

"I try to encourage everyone to finish their education," Doney continued.

He said his future plans are to work for the Seminole Tribe of Florida in a management capacity upon graduation.

Gopher says the event has made a lot of strides over the 10-plus years she has been involved. "At one time it meant money, now it's a pride thing. They want to be recognized for their academic accomplishments," Gopher said.

The motivation behind the awards works according to Gopher.

"I've seen kids that didn't get anything say I'm going to be up there next year. If they didn't make the list they're telling themselves I want to be a part of that."

As a former athlete, and now author, motivational speaker and television analyst Smith says an education is sometimes ignored.

"The education you receive and lessons you learn from your parents can't be taken away," Smith said. "It's important to realize that it all starts in the classroom."

Smith summed up his speech to the audience by saying, "Nothing worthwhile is easy; you have to work at it."

Important behind the scenes for the event was Cindy Hughes, as the Assistant Education Director for the Seminole tribe. She says the growth of the awards continues every year. "Parents have become more aware of the importance of education and are pushing their kids to do better," Hughes said.

These students receiving academic and attendance awards were as follows:

Hollywood: Cindi Adair of Chesterbrook



Stephen Galla

Carson Knaby receives a proud and deserved congratulations from Councilman Max Osceola.



Stephen Galla

Student Casey McCall poses with Chairman Cypress and Councilman Max Osceola.

2006 Brighton Incentive Awards

By Emma Brown

ORLANDO, FL — The Brighton Education department hosted their year end Incentive Awards program this year on July 31 during the Brighton Youth Conference at the Hard Rock Hotel in Orlando.

Higher Education Advisor Erlinda Iley was also at the program to present higher education students with awards for grades or for receiving their degree. All award recipients also received a certificate, denim jacket with Tribal logo and monetary award.

The evening was full of smiling faces as the students made their way to center stage to receive their award and the challenge has been made to have even more students receiving awards next year.

The Higher Education department also wishes to send their apologies to Wendy Juarez for leaving her out. Wendy received her associate's Degree from Indian River Community College.

Awards: K-12

Baker, Ivess Baker, Jaryaca Baker, Kiylier Baker, Ashton Baxley, Ashton Beer, Jermaine Bennett, Dalton Bert, Reese Bert,

Bethany Billie, Breanna Billie, Drayton Billie, Leanna Billie, Lois Billie, Terence Billie, Troy Billie, Brian Bishop, Joshua Boromel, Clint Bowers, Janae Braswell, Stevie Brantley, Kailin Brown, Alexander Buck, Ruben Burgess, Skyler Burke, Kaylen Buster, Tristan Buster, Deliah Carrillo, Chloe Chalfant, Justin Cortez, Larissa Cortez, Blaine Courson, Jara Courson, Kirsten Doney, Alissa Dorgan, Britney Dorgan, Austin Fisher, Erik Garcia, Michael Garcia, Joshua Girtman, Alexis Gopher, Ashlee Gopher, Lewis Gopher, Maude Gopher, Duelle Gore, Sabree Hall,

Chastity Harmon, Dax Haight, Kelley Haight, Brett Huff, Frank Huff, Mary Huff, Ty Huff, Pierson Hunsinger, Garrett Huston, Tommiy Jackson, Alexus James, Anthony Johns, Elizabeth Johns, Harley Johns, Steven Johns-Ashley, Kaligary Johns, Dewell Johns, Jobe Johns, Marilee Jhns, Jalynn, Jones, Taylor Johns, Phillip Jones, Rudy Juarez, Ramon Juarez, Tavis Jumper, Dalmericka King, Brydgett Kountz, Farrah Lytle, Garrett Madrigal, James McDuffie, Bakari Micco, Mason Micco, Mason Nelson, Keyana Nelson, Airianna Nunez, Alicia Nunez, Amelia Nunez, Apolonia Nunez, Brianna Nunez, Cheyenne Nunez, Daniel Nunez, Destiny Nunez, Brittany Oakes, Christopher Olivarez,



(L-R) Zena Simmons (AA), Pete Hahn (BA), Carla Gopher (MBA).

Emma Brown

Brighton's perfect attendance students.

Jason Thomas, PAC member and parent, served as the emcee for this year's program and as always he did a fantastic job. The program began with the introductions of attending dignitaries. In attendance at the program were Brighton Council Representative Andrew Bowers, Brighton Board Representative Johnnie Jones and President/Vice Chairman Moses Osceola.

Following a few words from each of them, Jason introduced the PAC officers: President John Madrigal, Vice-President Diane Smith and Secretary Michele Thomas. They were thanked for a job well done during the 2005-2006 school year.

Next, Education Director Louise Gopher spoke to the audience about the new campaign the Education department has launched to abolish absenteeism and tardies. Following Gopher's words of wisdom, the audience was shown a DVD of Jim Shore receiving his honorary doctorate from Florida State University. The DVD was very moving and inspirational and left no room for excuses for students to be unsuccessful no matter what may try to hold them back.

Next Brighton Intervention Specialist Tony Bullington shared that Brighton has gone from four students receiving perfect attendance in 2005 to 26 in 2006 making that a 550 percent increase. Brighton also had approximately 90 percent of their students receive an award at this year's program which is a pretty substantial number. Each student that received straight A's for the year, perfect attendance or high school diploma was presented with a trophy.



Students with three or less days absent.

Deandre Osceola, Delaney Osceola, Donovan Osceola, Imilakiyo Osceola, Isaac Osceola, Jessi Osceola, Joseph Osceola, Kristina Osceola, Lauren Osceola, Mila Osceola, Nicki Osceola, River Osceola, Ryan Osceola, Samuel Osceola, Sean Osceola, Trent Osceola, Trista Osceola, Tyler Osceola, Yopalakiyo Osceola, Heather Peterson, Ritchie Pewo, Brugundya Pierce, Shae Pierce Tweston Pierce, Ty Pierce, Eric Puente, Myrick Puente, Hayden Roberts, Nicholas Rodriguez, Dylan Sampson, Lahna Sedatol, Lanie Sedatol, Randy Shore, Brittany Smith, Crysten Smith, Janet Smith, Jayce Smith, Jerry Smith, J.T. Smith, Mariah Smith, Rayven Smith, Richard Smith, Rylee Smith, Stephanie Smith, Desiree Snow, Audrey Snow, Joseph Snow, McKayla Snow, Ryan Snow, Hunter Strickland, Camryn Thomas, Layne Thomas, Layton Thomas, Trevor Thomas, Cody Tiger, Joshua Tiger, Quinton Tiger, Aiyana Tommie, Jennifer Tommie, Marshall Tommie, Erin Willie, Zachary Willie, Cameron Youngblood, Daylon Youngblood, Talon Youngman, Wyatt Youngman

Higher Education Awards: Carla Gopher, master's degree, Peter Hahn, bachelor of art's degree, Zena Simmons, associate of art's degree, Wendy Juarez, associate of art's degree, Howard Madrigal, 3.0-3.75 GPA, Jarrod Smith, 3.0-3.75 GPA.

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Trisha Yearwood

Cheetah Girls

Miami Dolphins

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Big Cypress Incentive Awards Ceremony

By Tony Heard

BIG CYPRESS — Education is a very important aspect in life today. On Aug. 1 at the Hernan Osceola Gymnasium in BC, the education department and others honored the youth who excelled in school the past year. Categories that were being noticed were, perfect attendance, straight A's, Absent three days or less, and a few more special awards.

Councilman David Cypress and Board Representative Paul Bowers Sr. blessed the crowd with a few words of encouragement and knowledge. Both mentioned how great it was to see all the kids who are taking their schooling so serious. The night began with a short invocation from Pastor Salaw Hummingbird and the food was ready for everyone to enjoy.

While all in attendance enjoyed the Italian cuisine, there was a few raffles that took place. A few of the items that were raffled off were; talking dictionaries, gift baskets with educational toys inside and a portable DVD player.

The special recognition awards began with



Candy Cypress and Jennifer Chadwick were honored for receiving their associates degrees.

not one missed day. These committed youngsters are: Sierra Bowers, Deforest Carter, Symphony Osceola, Savannah Tiger, Tequesta Tiger, Demetria Tigertail and Ethan Balentine.

Not missing one day is a hard thing to do, but there a few of the youth who missed no more than three days of school the entire year. Those students were: Akira Billie, Alfred Billie, Asiana Billie, Damnee Billie, Eyanna Billie, Sabre Billie, Abiaka Bowers, Alyssa Bowers, Blige Cypress, Caitlin Cypress, Ryan Cypress, Stanley Cypress, Kanavis Cypress-Williams, Rashaun Jim, Anthony Joe, Mika Lopez, Bradley Osceola, Kaitlin Osceola, Klaressa Osceola and Cooper Rivers.

Getting good grades is something all parents stress to their children. Many kids don't understand why education is such an emphasis in society today. These 13 students who were honored next understand the importance of getting good grades. They all take their book work very serious and it shows through the high marks they receive on their report cards.

These students received all A's throughout last school year: Roderick Bert, Leana Billie, Sierra Bowers, Channey Curry, Blige Cypress, Darlah Cypress, Sydnee Cypress, Danni Frye, Ethan Hummingbird, Almie Landin, Trevon Marks, John Robbins Jr. and



Students who missed three days or less received medals.

honoring all of the graduates who have finished high school and went on to earn higher education degrees.

These graduates were recognized for their achievements were Jennifer Chadwick and Candy Cypress who both received associate's degrees. Lindsey King was also recognized but was unable to make it to the event. Danny Tommie, who was also unable to be in attendance, was being honored for receiving his bachelor's degree.

There were five high school graduates who were receiving awards. These young people have fought through the adversity of peer pressure, parents on their case, and teachers nagging at them. But they stayed focused and accomplished a goal that many youngsters in today's society do not, they received their high school diplomas. Therefore, a congratulations in is order for, Kellie Tigertail, Jonathan Harjo, Reuben "Sonny" Billie Jr., Juanita "Jolo" Osceola and Raul Alvarez Jr. for a job well done.

Continuing the special recognition awards those students who were at school everyday no matter what. These seven students were being honored for having an attendance record that was perfect, meaning



No smiles, but happiness within for these youngsters.

Ignacia Rodriguez. These children achieved a great goal by receiving a straight A's, keeping that focus and dedication will be expected of them in the future.

There was another special group of children who take great pride in their school work. These students worked hard all year, but ended up bringing home all A's and a few B's too. These kids must do homework all the time to bring home grades like these.

The kids who got all A's and a few B's were: Christopher Alexander, Ricky Joe Alumbaugh, Malari Baker, Katie Bert, Graysun Billie, Jon Ross Billie, Gloria Brooks, Kegan Cypress, Micheala Cypress, Hali Garcia, Michelle Jimmie, K'ahna Jumper, Kellee Jumper, Rodni Mercer, Kaitlin Osceola, Justin Roff, Demetria Tigertail and Trisha Walker.

The students who were honored in Big Cypress on this lovely evening range from pre-kindergarten through higher education. A special congratulations comes from the Tribal Board and Council representatives to all those who were honored for striving to be the best in their studies.



Seminole youth who earned all A's and B's.

Open House Fiesta at the Preschool

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — On the evening of Aug. 10 the Immokalee preschool staff, under the management of Michelle Ford, welcomed the fall students and their parents for open house.

The school had been transformed into a Mexican fiesta for the occasion.

The front room had been decorated with a piñata, fiesta streamers, cutouts, sombreros, maracas and Mexican flags. The staff had skillfully assisted the children in making their own sombreros using newspaper and ball fringe, resulting in some very attractive party hats. Paper bags and various art supplies had been used to fashion maracas to complete their ensemble.

Parents were introduced to Preschool Director Leona Tommie Williams, Education Coordinator Amber Hyatt, Social Services Coordinator Yvonne Courtney, Parent Involvement Coordinator Dawna Bell



Carlos Bermudez shows off the Mexican sombrero and maracas that he helped make.



Mercedes and Miah Davis pose with the burro during the Fiesta Party.

and Disabilities Coordinator Hillary Denerstein. The type of services they can provide when needed was discussed in detail and the parents were given an opportunity to ask questions.

Parent handbooks were distributed and their contents discussed during a slide presentation. Immediately following, the parent committee was selected for the 2006-2007 school year: President Vanessa Aguilar, Vice President Raymond Mora, Secretary Toni Martinez and Treasurer Kenny Davis Sr. The parents then visited their child's classroom and became acquainted with the teacher.

Continuing in the fiesta theme, a Mexican dinner was served which included enchiladas, Mexican rice, salad, corn chips and salsa, tea and desserts.

Education Awards Given Out

By Judy Weeks

LABELLE, FL — Members of the Immokalee community were recognized at the 2005-2006 Awards Ceremony being held by the Community Christian School of LaBelle. The auditorium at the LaBelle Civic Center had been appropriately decorated for this most auspicious occasion.

At 7 p.m. on May 25, students, parents and friends filled the seats as the school's administration department acknowledged the participants accomplishments during the previous school term.

Chelsey Ford, daughter of Michelle Aguilar Ford, had successfully completed the second grade and had an average that placed her on the A Honor Roll. In addition, she received an A Bible Award and Perfect Attendance Certificate.

Trystan Yzaguirre, son of Cleofas and Donna Yzaguirre, had also excelled while attending second grade and received awards for the A Honor Roll and A Bible Award. Ashley Faz, daughter of Juanita Pequeno Martinez, had completed the third grade curriculum and received an A in Bible class.

All of these students have made a special effort in applying themselves and continue to show above-average participation in educational activities.



Michelle Aguilar Ford congratulating her daughter, Chelsey Ford, following the awards.



Proudly displaying their awards earned this past school year (L-R): Chelsey Ford, Trystan Yzaguirre and Ashley Faz.

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Felix DeBoer

Hollywood Education department staff and kids holding up the banner with a positive message.

Back to School Awareness at Kid's Carnival

By Felix DeBoer

HOLLYWOOD — On a hot sunny Aug. 4 afternoon at the softball field, kids and their parents gathered for an afternoon treat of fun and games. Circling overhead in the blue sky was an airplane dragging a huge sign for all to see from the field. The slogan read, "School Can't Wait. Be There Early. Don't Be Late."

The friendly reminder was part of back to school awareness campaign, reminding students it's time to get ready for the new school year that began on Aug. 14. It was sponsored and promoted by Hollywood Council Representative Max Osceola Jr. and the Tribe's Education department.

Julie Bennett, intervention specialist at Hollywood Education department said, "We are here this afternoon to celebrate a back to school event, we're letting everybody know when school starts and we are promoting a campaign, no absences, no tardies for the year, so we are giving out camouflage T-shirts, hats, alarm clocks, rulers... so it's a good afternoon to kick off a back to school year."

Kids were happy to ride and play in some fun wet activities that made the afternoon sun less dangerous. The kids were lined up to get a chance to try out "Surf Sensation," where a kid jumps up on a simulated surfboard and tries to keep balance and not fall off while the operator presses buttons on an electronic box to manipulate the surfboard to buck and



Felix DeBoer

Hollywood Board Representative Gloria Wilson stresses the importance of education.

to be like a dummy, so you start acting up and then you have discipline problems. So that's why we want to address it now with this new awareness.

Hollywood Board Representative Gloria Wilson talked about this worthwhile program when she addressed the attendees. "I was totally appalled when I received a report from Julie Bennett of our Education department showing all the grades and who wasn't going to school," she said. "Some of these kids, and I know what families they're from, I was really disappointed that they're not totally supportive as I thought they were in pursuing education."

"Education is important to anybody and everybody because if you don't know what's going on around you even today at my age, I'm still learning. I'm always learning, you always keep learning as you grow older, because if you think you know it all you're missing out on a lot, because you don't. I think it's important that we continue to stress education in all areas of life because that's the only way you're going to get through."

Everyone in attendance appreciated the message being broadcast and enjoyed the rest of the event fun activities as kids ran around the field freely playing and laughing with each other for the last few days before the new school year finally starts.



Felix DeBoer

Charissa Jumper hangs ten on the Surf Sensation ride.



Felix DeBoer

Kids enjoy a giant airball race.

FIBA Launches New Drug Awareness Program

By Susan Etchebarria

BRIGHTON — First Indian Baptist Academy (FIBA) opened its doors this new 2006-2007 school year with a 25 percent enrollment increase from this time last year.

Parents are looking for schools where children learn morals and ethics, where teaching the 10 Commandments is an important part of the curriculum, said Pastor Wonder Johns. He said Proverbs 22:6 in the Bible instructs parents to "Train up the child in the right way and he will not depart from it."

One new addition to the curriculum this year is a science-based drug abuse education program offered by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Materials to be used include books, CDs, pamphlets, posters and magazines. For example, the "Mind Over Matter Series" has been purchased for fifth through ninth grades. This series influences children to reject drug use by helping them understand the effects of drugs on the brain.

The 10-12 grade students will watch a CD and video that provides current research-based neurobiology, behavioral components, and treatment.

In addition, the school will be partnering this year with Seminole Police Department (SPD) in developing a drug prevention program similar to a



Susan Etchebarria

The kindergarten class at FIBA with teacher Cheryl Fish (center) and students.

Dare Resource Officer-type program. In FIBA's program, an SPD officer will teach a class on drug awareness and work with the children in the Brighton community.

Another advantage of private education, said Johns, is individual attention. Children's educational needs don't fall through the cracks like they can in public schools. The class sizes are small and a teacher has time to work with a student.

"That is one of the most important things about this school," said Johns. "In public schools some of the students feel left out, especially if the child is too shy to speak up, and the teachers leave them out."

School Principal Darlene Holmes added that FIBA fosters a caring atmosphere where all the teachers and administrators know all the students.

It is true that FIBA has had a difficult start but each year they add new staff, keep their best and most talented teachers, expand the curriculum and keep improving the administration. Most of the teachers are fully committed to their students and teach because they want to, not for a fat paycheck.

Pastor Johns said he hopes they will be able to invite the accreditation team to the school this year for inspection.

"We will be more prepared," Johns said. "There was more than could be done and we aren't perfect but we can get as close as we can."



Susan Etchebarria

Physical fitness class at FIBA.

If I Can Do It, So Can You!

By Geraldine Osceola, Higher Education Student, Hollywood

Do you wish you could go back to school but you feel you can't or it's too late? Well, listen to my story!

Hi! My name is Geraldine Lee Osceola. I was invited to attend the Hollywood Incentive Awards Ceremony on Aug. 15 to receive an award for making it to the dean's list. My higher education advisor asked me to be a guest speaker and I accepted. Unfortunately, I was unable to make it. However, I promised that I would put an article in *The Seminole Tribune* regarding my accomplishments.

I have six children, attend college full time, and run a household. You are probably wondering: How does she do it? First, my strength comes from within me: I know what I want to do with my life. I want to help my people so I went back to school. My goal is to become a chemical dependency counselor. Once I achieve this goal, I plan to make a difference in my tribe.

To run a household while in school can be difficult. The most helpful technique is to have a schedule and follow it. My day starts at 6 a.m. to get everyone to school on time, and then get myself to school. When I am through with my classes, I do my other personal activities. Throughout the week, I have chores that need to be done along with making sure the bills are paid on time.

A commitment has to

be made to accomplish goals. You have to make time for yourself too, and this is very important; it helps keep your own peace of mind. Once a week, I do something just for me. It may be a movie, pedicure, get my hair colored, read a book, hang out with a friend or just go for a walk. For the kids, every Friday is movie night. Once in a while we go somewhere for the weekend.

If I can do it and be serene, so can you. If you want to go back to school to get your GED or go back to college, don't let anything stand in your way. You can do it... just want it.



Linda Hey

Geraldine Osceola and her daughter Randee stands with Assistant Education Director Cindy Hughes after receiving her award.

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Education ♦ Emahaayeeke ♦ Kerretv

Education Hosts 3rd Annual Staff Retreat

By Emma Brown
HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Tribe's Education department held their Third Annual Staff Retreat from Aug. 9-11 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. The Education department consists of education staff, higher education, library and culture and language. The retreat is designed to offer employees of the Education department with enrichment classes in different areas of the educational field.

The retreat began with dinner on the evening of Aug. 9. Chairman Mitchell Cypress, President Moses Osceola and Brighton Council Representative Andrew Bowers joined the department for dinner and commended the staff on doing such a great job in their communities. Cypress and Ft. Pierce Liaison Sally Tommie also presented staff with 10 or more years of service with flowers and a gift. These gifts were presented on behalf of Sally's mother, the late Minnie Tommie Howard.

Education Director Louise Gopher ended the staff presentations by thanking all of her staff for doing such an outstanding job. Comedian Don Burnstick ended up the first evening with a little "Indian Humor" and set the retreat off to a good start. Ryan Wilson, National Indian Education Association (NIEA) president, was invited to the retreat to bring the staff up to speed on different educational issues that are currently impacting Indian Country. In summation, Wilson said that the main goal of NIEA is to effectively influence congress on needs in Indian Country and as Indian people we must expect excellence out of our leaders and our schools.

"We are forcing some of the most powerful people in America to think about Native Americans in a way they never have," Wilson added.

It is comforting to know that there is an organization such as NIEA that fights the battle daily on behalf of Indian children and education. There were also sessions on conflict in the work place, dealing with children with ADD or ADHD, and Runninghorse Livingston presented on different strategies of teaching math to children that have proven to be more effective.

This year's retreat was a success and was meant to offer staff with some time out of the office to get together with staff members from other reservations, to team build, and to be educationally enriched by offering presentations on how to effectively work with children.



Staff enjoys team building exercise.

Emma Brown



Runninghorse Livingston speaks about new innovative ways to teach math to students.

Emma Brown



Employees participate in hands on math experiment.

Emma Brown

♦ Naples

Continued from page 1

blonde. I offer you one piece of advice. Keep your head up and remember that we have all been passed a torch. Those people who stand by to criticize, based on how God created you, are basically attempting to stop you from succeeding or prevent you from surviving."

Osceola played a small game of Trivia to close her presentation by asking what great philosopher wrote the words, "Until the philosopher holds one race superior, and another inferior, is finally and permanently discredited and abandoned, there will be war...and until the day that the color of a man's skin is no more significant than the color of his eyes, there will be war."

That philosopher would be the legendary Bob Marley.

Naples Liaison O.B. Osceola Jr. welcomed the community members and thanked them for attending. In addition, he gave his gratitude to PAC for all their work throughout the year. The PAC consists of: Lee Zepeda, Cory Billie and Tina Osceola. O.B. Osceola also commented on the many hours Cara Zepeda had volunteered on behalf of the community and the students.



Students from Naples community pet one of the Budweiser® Clydesdales.

Wende Malk

"The next time you see Chairman Mitchell Cypress and President Moses Osceola, you should shake their hands and thank them for helping to sponsor this weekend's events," he said.

In conclusion, he acknowledged the hard work of Diana Rocha, Cindy Hughes and Louise Gopher for helping the Naples community organize it's PAC and providing their valuable guidance.

As the night progressed and dinner was served, the students grew anxious for their rewards. The Naples community was proud to have Louise Gopher, director of Education, Diana Rocha, Norita Yzaguirre and other members of the staff present at the awards dinner.

The day before, Gopher had returned to Brighton from the senior awards trip to the Bahamas and immediately drove up to Orlando to attend this event. Although she was a world traveler the past week, she did not wish to miss the opportunity to present the awards to the Naples community students.

In addition, each of the students received a blue denim jacket with the Education Incentive

Awards logo embroidered on the front.

The Seminole Tribe is very proud of Jessica Osceola, who after graduating from high school chose to further her education. She is currently attending Florida Gulf Coast University where she is studying art history and fine arts. With a year-and-a-half to go, she is already making plans to go for her master's degree upon graduation.



Brody Hagen receives his award certificates from Louise Gopher and Diana Rocha.

Wende Malk

Those in attendance were very proud of the students' accomplishments and excitedly looked forward to the weekend ahead. Staying at the Gaylord Palms Resort, the Naples community spent the weekend visiting Discovery Cove and Sea World.

Some of the highlights for the group included a behind the scenes tour of Sea World, swimming with the dolphins, riding on the dolphin's backs, feeding the stingrays, petting penguins and of course, watching the whale show. Some of the rides had a few of the participants fitting into the landscape... they were a bit green around the gills!

As this edition of *The Seminole Tribune* goes to print, the students in the Naples community have once again begun the next school year. And although the Incentive Awards were generous, it's important to be successful in school and in life because it's their thing to do.

Ross Magnus Zepeda, Lake Park Elementary, Kindergarten, Incentive Award, Attendance Award

Nicole Billie Slavik, Grace Community School, Kindergarten, Incentive Award

Nicholas Osceola Zepeda, Seacrest Country Day School, 1st Grade, B Honor Roll

Broden Osceola Hagen, St. Elizabeth Seaton, 1st Grade, B Honor Roll

Mathew Ryan Billie, First Baptist Academy, 1st Grade, A Honor Roll, Attendance Award

Corinne Elizabeth Zepeda, Lake Park Elementary, 2nd Grade, A Honor Roll

Marissa Marie Osceola, Corkscrew Elementary, 4th Grade, A Honor Roll

Bryce Monroe Osceola, Vineyards Elementary, 5th Grade, A Honor Roll

Kaitlin Michelle Billie, Osceola Elementary, 5th Grade, A Honor Roll, Attendance Award

Dakota Desiree Wheeler, St. Elizabeth Seaton, 6th Grade, B Honor Roll

Jessica Ann Osceola, Florida Gulf Coast University, 3rd Year, B Honor Roll

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The Healthy Senior

By Fred Cietti

[Editor's Note: Fred Cietti is a syndicated columnist who writes about issues concerning senior citizens' health. The opinions he expressed are his own. If you would like to ask a question, please write fredcietti@gmail.com. All Rights Reserved © 2006 by Fred Cietti.]

Q. Glaucoma runs in my family. Is there a cure for it yet?

Glaucoma is defined as a group of diseases that can damage the eye's optic nerve, which carries images from the eye to the brain. Unfortunately, there is no cure for glaucoma, a leading cause of blindness in the U.S.

Any vision that glaucoma destroys cannot be restored. Early diagnosis of glaucoma is extremely important, because there are treatments that may save remaining vision.

Almost three million people in the U.S. have glaucoma. Those at highest risk are African-Americans, everyone older than age 60 and people with a family history of glaucoma.

Here's how glaucoma works: A clear fluid flows through a small space at the front of the eye called the "anterior chamber." If you have glaucoma, the fluid drains too slowly out of the eye and pressure builds up. This pressure may damage the optic nerve.

However, increased eye pressure doesn't necessarily mean you have glaucoma. It means you are at risk for glaucoma. A person has glaucoma only if the optic nerve is damaged.

Glaucoma can develop in one or both eyes. The most common type of glaucoma starts out with no symptoms. Without treatment, people with glau-

coma will slowly lose their peripheral vision.

Eventually, the middle of your vision field may decrease until you are blind.

Glaucoma is just one reason seniors should make regular visits to an eye doctor. Glaucoma is detected through a comprehensive eye exam that includes a visual acuity test, visual field test, dilated eye exam, tonometry, and pachymetry.

A visual acuity test measures vision at various distances. A visual field test measures peripheral vision. In a dilated eye exam, a special magnifying lens is used to examine the inside of the eye. In tonometry, an instrument measures the pressure inside the eye. With pachymetry, an instrument is used to measure the thickness of your cornea, the transparent part of the front of the eye.

The most common treatments for glaucoma are medication and surgery. Medications will control the increased fluid pressure.

Laser surgery is another treatment for glaucoma. The laser is focused on the part of the anterior chamber where the fluid leaves the eye. This makes it easier for fluid to exit the eye. Over time, the effect of this surgery may wear off. Patients who have laser surgery may need to keep taking glaucoma drugs.

Studies have shown that the early detection and treatment of glaucoma is the best way to control the disease. So, have your eyes examined thoroughly and regularly if you are in a high-risk category. And that includes all of us seniors.

Ask The Counselor

Dear Counselor,

I am a Seminole mother who is very concerned about my 19-year-old son, who is involved with a drug queen. She is manipulative, mean spirited and controlling. The girl is from hell. She verbally abuses him when he won't spend every free moment with her and do what she wants.

My son, at times, shows some backbone and stand up to her verbal and physical abuse. But, she knows exactly what to do; she apologizes and acts nice again. As long as they do what she wants, they are fine together. Otherwise they fight and the fits of anger and verbal abuse begin.

Unfortunately, my son begins in to keep her happy and to avoid the emotional and physical turmoil of her outbursts. My son comes over my house and complains about the nightmare and emotional ups and downs he has dealing with his girlfriend. She lives on her own in an apartment off the reservation and is pressuring our son to move in with her.

My husband and I fear she will even go so far as becoming pregnant to cement a long term relationship with him. She rates us because we get in the way. This relationship has isolated my son from his friend and family. This woman claims to be religious and God fearing and she attends church service every Sunday. Counselor, please help us. How do we help our son understand that he is in an abusive, destructive relationship that must end-without alienating him?

Signed,
Worried Mom

Dear Worried Mom,

I understand and agree with your concern. You should be alarmed. Your son is a victim of abuse, and even though society is conditioned to see men as aggressors, men can be victims of domestic abuser as well. People just don't talk about it as much.



Basil Phillips
M.S. Mental Health Counseling

Letters of interest from the community

All letters should be sent to
ASK THE COUNSELOR
Family Services Department
3006 Jessie Riffe Avenue
Hollywood, FL 33021
basilphilips@seminoletribe.com

You and your husband should encourage your son to sit down with both of you and a counselor from the Family Services department. Don't insist that he leave this relationship, but express your worries. With the help of a counselor from the Family Services department, the more he learns about emotional and physical abuse, the more strength he will have to end this relationship.

Dear Worried Mom, share this with your son. A measure of a person is not what they do on Sunday, but rather who they are Monday through Saturday.

Signed,
Counselor

Q. What are the leading causes of child mortality around the world, and what can be done about it?

Shari Hale
Ozawaka, Ill.

A: The statistics are staggering. In the world's poorest countries, over 30,000 children under the age of five die each day from preventable causes related to conditions of extreme poverty. Rock Star Bono and others tried to call attention to this fact last year in television ads showing well-known celebrities snapping their fingers every three seconds, each snap representing another tragic child death.

A baby girl born in Sub-Saharan Africa today faces a 22 percent risk of death by age 15, and more than a third of casualties are babies who don't survive their first month. They suffer from low birth weight due to their mothers' poor nutrition, and then lack access to adequate nutrition themselves. The World Health Organization says that poverty-related malnutrition is the key factor in over half of all childhood deaths.

Many children suffer from debilitating infections virtually right out of the womb, and analysts say that often casualties could be prevented if just basic sanitation were available. Drinking-water pollution is a leading culprit. In areas that lack proper sanitation and that may have just one water source, supplies can easily become contaminated from bacteria in human waste and garbage.

Concern from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has spurred renewed efforts to increase education and distribute low-cost but needed tools such as antibiotics and sterile medical implements. "Some global health problems, like AIDS, have no easy solution-but this isn't one of them," said Bill Gates. "The world has an opportunity to stop millions of newborn deaths each year."

Debt and population issues are also among

the underlying causes of this global tragedy. Some poor nations must pay more in service of international loans than on the health and education of their people. Yielding to pressure from "Make Poverty History" advocates, leaders of the world's top industrialized nations last year agreed to cancel \$40 billion in debt owed by the world's 18 poorest countries. However, experts point out that this only covers about a sixth of the debt owed, for example, by African nations.

And birth rates continue to soar well above the replacement level of two children per couple, and population is growing well beyond the "carrying capacity" of these poor countries. This has a profound effect on the environment as well as on human misery.

According to Population Action International (PAI), "More than 200 million women in the developing world today wish to delay or end child-bearing but do not have access to modern and effective contraceptives."

In spite of this, the Bush administration has steadily cut family planning aid to developing countries in the name of preventing abortions, though on June 9 of this year the House overwhelmingly adopted a bill to restore aid that had been previously cut.

"U.S. leadership and investments in international family planning assistance are critical in order to ensure healthy mothers, healthy pregnancies, and ultimately, healthy families," said PAI.

Contacts: Make Poverty History Campaign, www.makepoverty.org; Gates Foundation Child Health Program, www.gfi.org/GlobalHealth/Pri_Diseases/ChildHealth/default.htm; Population Action International, www.populationaction.org.

Got an environmental question? Send it to: EarthTalk, c/o E/The Environmental Magazine, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881, submit it at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/thistweek/, or e-mail: earthtalk@emagazine.com. Read past columns at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/archives.php.

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11th Annual Brighton Youth Conference

By Emma Brown
ORLANDO, FL — The families of the Brighton community recently returned from a fun filled week at the Universal Orlando Hard Rock Hotel, where they enjoyed participating in this year's Youth Conference. The conference committee spent several weeks carefully planning and sorting out details to bring this conference together successfully.

It takes the efforts and dedication of many people to cover all of the details that go into such a large conference. The committee is to be commended on doing such an outstanding job hosting this year's conference.

Families began arriving at the luxurious hotel on July 30. That same evening everyone shared a nice dinner and enjoyed the opening of the week's events hosted by comedian and motivational speaker Chance Rush, who won the crowd over.

Each day began with a 6 a.m. fitness hour before breakfast to get everyone's blood flowing before the day's events unfolded. After breakfast break out sessions were offered for everyone from kindergarten to adults.

Different motivational speakers, including Chance Rush and Louise Louise Klebe, a Native American employed as an electrical engineer with

NASA, were brought in to speak to the groups throughout the entire week. Children enjoyed classes offered by various tribal departments such as Fire Rescue, Health Department, Culture and library, while the adults received education in money management, Tribal gaming and politics and much more.

Each presenter provided something different to the conference participants, leaving strong messages for everyone to take back to their community. One of the most delightful aspects of Brighton's Youth Conference is that most of the classes for both students and adults are presented by Tribal departments and employees. The departments teaching at this year's conference were: Health, Education, Culture and Language, Library, Treasury, Recreation, SPD, 4-H, Family Services and Fire Rescue.

It is absolutely amazing to witness the resources that Tribal citizens have among them and that these departments can host almost an entire conference, without having to seek speakers from the outside.

This year the committee decided to break the monotony of attending daily classes by dedicating one entire day to take a family field trip. The trip took the group a few hours north to St. Augustine, Fla., which is a city full of Florida and Seminole history. The groups visited the Old Florida Museum, Castillo de San Marcos Fort and enjoyed time on their own to shop and take in the historical streets of the city.

Each day, once classes and trips had ended, conference participants had the afternoon free to enjoy the amenities at the Universal Hard Rock Resort, especially the swimming pool.

On July 31 evening the Education department hosted their yearly Incentive Awards program and on the final evening of the conference ventriloquist Buddy Bigmountain entertained the audience with his show and



Emma Brown

Students stop for a photo with one of the guards at the old fort.

set the mood for the annual talent show to follow. Conference participants look forward to the talent show each year and this year's was the biggest ever. This evening always offers a great deal of fun and laughter and was a time to show support to the aspiring actors, singers and dancers of the Brighton community.

On the final morning the conference committee handed out their conference evaluations and the Health Department presented awards to those who attended fitness hour each day. The conference committee also distributed year passes to the Universal Studios theme parks and wished everyone a fun and safe time.

It has been more than 11 years since Brighton first began their youth conferences, and each year the conference grows bigger and better. Planning meetings for the next conference have already begun and the committee looks forward to the upcoming conference, wherever it takes them.



Emma Brown

Allice Sweat and sidekicks perform dance at the talent show.



Emma Brown

Youth conference fitness participants receive an award for daily attendance.



Emma Brown

A tour guide speaks to group about the history of St. Augustine streets and city.



Emma Brown

Students watch carefully from the top of the old fort for dolphins swimming in the bay.



Emma Brown

Fathers enjoy wood carving with Vince Osceola.

Diabetes and Your Emotions

Submitted by the Seminole Health Department

Managing diabetes can sometimes be very stressful. Perhaps you may feel overwhelmed, as though it is an ongoing struggle that you cannot win. While it is normal to sometimes feel this way, it is important to notice if this feeling is just a temporary "down time" or a more lingering problem. If you feel as though you may be depressed, it is important to seek professional help.

Some symptoms of depression can include: feelings of sadness, emptiness, or guilt, loss of interest in things you enjoy, eating too much or not enough, sleeping too much or not being able to sleep, lack of energy/feeling tired all the time, problems concentrating or making decisions and/or repeated thoughts of physically harming yourself, death, or suicide.

In addition to seeking help, there are many things you can do to help yourself to feel better. Exercise, such as taking a walk or riding a bike, can help you feel more energized. Relaxation techniques, such as meditation, prayer, listening to music, deep breathing and getting a massage can do wonders for your body and mind.

Another way to cope, especially when managing diabetes, is to seek support from others.



ers. Teaming up with a friend or relative who also has diabetes can be beneficial. You could make plans to exercise together and cook a healthy meal.

Being prepared to take care of yourself can also help cut down on stress. Make sure to have a healthy snack with you, or glucose tabs in case your sugar gets too low. Keeping a record of your blood sugars—both fasting and non-fasting—can help you to better understand what you need to increase or avoid.

Days such as Diabetic Day at each reservation's clinic every month are a perfect example of the kinds of support that helps many people deal with the emotional issues that can accompany having diabetes. Diabetic Day is a great opportunity to learn about different and relevant diabetes topics, enjoy a healthy breakfast, see your neighbors and most importantly, continue to monitor the progress of your health with your health care staff.

Remember, you have the power to be healthy and happy. Finding healthy ways to feel good and get the support you need in managing your diabetes is the key to a happier and healthier life. And always remember...laughter is the best medicine!

For more information on Diabetic Day activities, please contact your reservation's nutritionist or health educator for days and times.

From the Desk of Connie Whidden, Health Director

Ever Wondered If Your Medical Or Dental Bills Have Been Paid?

Submitted by the Seminole Health Department
 The Seminole Tribe of Florida Health Administration Office, in coordination with the Health Plan Office, will soon be mailing an Explanation of Benefits Statement to each Tribal citizen. The statements will contain a summary of all medical and dental bills processed for payment through the Health Plan Office for a six month period.

The Explanation of Benefits Statement is for informational purposes only. We hope that these statements will help Tribal citizen to better track payment of their medical and dental care by being aware of which bills have been paid and which bills are outstanding and need attention.

Your feedback will be appreciated; if you find the statements useful and informative, please let

us know. We anticipate mailing statements twice per year providing information on bills processed from Jan. 1 through June 30 and July 1 through Dec. 31, of each year.

A cover letter will accompany the Explanation of Benefits Statement and will explain how to read the statement. Questions may be directed to the Health Plan Office at (954) 981-7410 or (866) 505-6789. They will be happy to assist you.

To assure delivery of your Explanation of Benefits Statement, please notify the Health Plan if you have recently moved. The Health Plan will update your address accordingly.

The statements will be arriving in your mail box soon, so please be on the lookout.

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SEMINOLE TRIBE MOTORCROSS

BIG CYPRESS INDIAN RESERVATION

360-983-1894

Come out and enjoy the new Seminole Tribe MX Park on the beautiful Big Cypress Indian Reservation. Big National Track is under construction now! All bike sizes and skill levels welcome!

NOW OPEN FOR PRACTICE!

Special PEE WEB Track!
 Special Beginner Track!
 3/4 mile Amateur Track!

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Sports ♦ I-lam-pa-leesh-ke ♦ Vkkopvnyk



William Bearden is all smiles after taking first place in the pony riding event.



Seth Randolph leads his little sister **Aleah Turtle** through the barrels pattern.



Getting hung up in the calf riding didn't dim the smile on **Ryilee Smith's** face.

EIRA Visits Immokalee

Story by **Judy Weeks**

IMMOKALEE — Members of the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) gathered together in Immokalee on the evening of Aug. 12, to compete in a summer rodeo. Although it is usually hot and rainy by late afternoon at this time of the year, this particular day was an exception. The sky was clear and the humidity was down making a perfect night for fun filled activities.

EIRA JUNIOR RODEO

The junior rodeo got underway at 5:30PM, beginning with the ever popular Mutton bustin'. Among the entries were some first timers who weren't sure about these big woolly beasts now that they could see them up close and personal. However, donning their helmets and vests, they were lowered into the starting chute, where they were given a run for their money. First place winner **Ahnie Jumper** had an awesome 15.94 ride and as

Announcer **Bruce Austin** said, "That young lady just rode into another zip code."

Second place went to **Kirkland Boney** and **Dayna Koenes** followed in third.

There were seven brave young men who sacrificed themselves in the pony riding event. **Austin Holmes** was the first rider to get a six second qualified run and achieved a score of 56 points, which eventually put him in second place. **Andre Jumper** on **Copenhagen Long** just missed qualifying with a 5.50 run and **Josh Jumper** was hot on his heels with a 5.43.

Fractions of a second seem like minutes when you are on the back of bucking animal determined to dispose of its rider.

Thomas Bearden drew **Skool** and managed to stick on his back for 5.6 seconds. Not enough for a qualified run, but it put him in third place. The chute opened and a wild little paint came flying out with **William Bearden** clinging to his back. With one hand in the air, he steadily spurred to get the most out of his ride and it paid off giving him 59 points for first place.

There were a few anxious moments in the calf riding in more than one instance. **Blevins Jumper** had drawn a real bad steer who acted up in the chutes, but this didn't stop this veteran contestant. When the door opened, he stuck with that bad boy for three big jumps before hitting the ground.

With his red and black chaps flapping in the air, **Rylee Smith** got hung up, but managed to get free in time to take first place and **Jobe Johns** ran a close second. **Kenny Joe Davis** drew the **Minnesota Flash** and just missed placing.

The announcer remarked, "If you can ride the **Flash**, you can make the cash."

Unfortunately, it wasn't **Davis' night** and the **Flash** added another rider to his list.

There was a tie for third place in the steer riding going to **William Bearden** and **Andre Jumper** with 54 points each. **Josh Johns** on a black and white steer beat them out of second place by only two points and **Cody Motlow** took first on **Bad to the Bone**.

Dayne Johns drew **Shake 'n Bake** in the junior bulls and achieved a qualified run for 58 points putting him in first place. **Seth Randolph** and **Adam Phillips** put on a good show but didn't make it to the pay window, while **Billy Foley** garnered a 52 point second place win.

The 4-5 year old barrel racing category had 13 eager contestants. **Ahnie Jumper** took first place by being thousands of a second ahead of **Kalgarly Johns**. **Jobe Johns** put his experience to work and took the third position.

Big brother **Seth Randolph** pulled his heart out leading **Aleah Turtle** through the pattern



Cody Motlow adjusts his rigging before giving the nod to open the chute in the steer riding.



Rayven King is ready to compete in **Mutton Bustin'** and barrels.

while she smiled at the crowd. At that age the clock is not a factor and the youngsters just don't worry about it; just being there makes them all winners.

Sunni Bearden and **Rayven King** competed all by themselves on an awesome horse. Although very young, both riders were able to complete a perfect pattern without assistance and the horse gauged it's speed to the rider's capabilities. Most people spend years looking for a baby sitter like that without success. And success is what it was for **Sunni Bearden** as she came in fourth.

Korvette Billie had a tough break in the 9-12 barrels when her mount broke the pattern, but she "cowgirl'd" up and made the horse correct the problem and complete the run. **Nauthkee Henry** came in second after **Acealyn Youngblood** squeaked past her to take the first position. The competition was over when **Jaron Johns** came in third.

Despite some equipment failure before entering the arena, **Rebecca Osceola** was able to change a setback into a first place win in the 13-18 year old category. **Janae Braswell** was hot on her heels and took second place with barely room to spare.

The final event was the junior breakaway in which the steers proved to be very evasive. However, that didn't stop **Andre Jumper** who had a very impressive 5.3 second catch right out of the box, which many adults would love to claim. His cousin, **Blevins Jumper** was the only other successful roper and grabbed the second position.

EASTERN INDIAN RODEO EVENTS

Promptly at 8 p.m., Old Glory entered the arena to kick off an evening of Eastern Indian Rodeo.

Contestants and fans showed their patriotism as they stood for the presentation of the flag and the "National Anthem." Opening ceremonies were complete when the Seminole flag made its journey around the arena.

The "Singing Cowboy," **Bruce Austin**, from **Okeechobee, Fla.** was on deck as announcer for the evening.

Austin, who has been involved in rodeo for many years has picked up quite a reputation for his singing skills. Currently, he has his hat in the ring to perform at the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association finals. It is obvious from his announcing skills that singing isn't his only virtue.

Beginning the night's performance with junior bareback, **Jacoby Johns** rode to glory for a 66 point win as he showed off his riding skills on one of the meanest brones in the lineup.

The steers took a toll on the contestants in the steer wrestling competition with

Naha Jumper being the only one to successfully complete the event. **Jeff Johns** flipped over in a somersault as he took his steer to the ground. For a few seconds it looked as though he had been injured, however, he quickly recovered and was up and running to safety.

The steers took first place in the calf roping and break away events leaving the participants with a "No Time." Tough luck for those cowboys and cowgirls, but that's rodeo and they went home with the appreciation of the crowd.

The legends in the 50 years old and over breakaway fared much better with **Amos Tiger** grabbing a score of 7.64 in the first position and **Billie Joe Johns** bringing in a close second with 8.53.

Announcer **Bruce Austin** gave a little history as he introduced the team roping events.

"You could call these cowboys the pasture paramedics," **Austin** said. "This sport was started as a routine job on the ranch. The cowboys had to work together in teams to bring down the stock for doctoring, branding and medicating because there is no heading chute on the range and problems can't wait to be solved when conditions are right. Team is the important word in this event. The header and heeler aren't the only ones with a job to do; both of their horses have to be in the right position at the right time in order to make things work."

Josh and **Naha Jumper** took first place with a score of 14.60. **Billie** and **Amos Tiger** were just a hair behind them with 14.81, but suffered a five point penalty for a one leg catch that put them in the second slot. A couple of young men showed everyone how it's done, when **Randel Osceola** and **Dayne Johns** picked up third place after a 15.06 plus five run.

There definitely was no shortage of contestants in the women's barrels. With 12 riders vying for the top slots, it was a tough competition. Despite a few knocked over barrels and one broken pattern, the scores were terrific. The riders placed as follows: first, **Carrera Gopher**, second, **Boogie Jumper**, third, **Shelby Osceola** and **Mailee Johns** in fourth.

Bull riding, as always, was the perfect climax to the evening. Unfortunately, **Justin Aldridge** took a shot to the head bringing a gasp from the crowd and the paramedics rushed to his rescue. Before it was over, he walked out of the arena under his own steam but had to be treated for a head laceration.

The final ride of the night was something wonderful to behold. **Justin Gopher** had what some people might call a perfect ride. Scores are tallied by both the rider and the bull's performance.

Number 92 bucked the full length of the arena, while **Justin** with his hand in the air, raked him on the shoulders and made a beautiful eighth second ride before dismounting. When the score of 85 points was announced he let out a war whoop and threw his hat in the air to cheers from the audience.

As always the **Marki Rodeo Company** did an exceptional job with the night's entertainment. Its skilled employees provided the best protection possible for the participants and an opportunity for each contestant to score. Rodeo fans need to mark October 20 and 21 on their calendars so as not to miss the **PCA Rodeo** in **Indiantown, Fla.**



Hair and clay fly as **Ahnie Jumper** competes in the barrel races.

Judy Weeks

New Sport Fishing Boat Hits the Waves

Capt. Wilcox Debuts 'Native Premonitions'



Submitted by Leon Wilcox



Felix Dolbow



Felix Dolbow

By Felix DoBosz

HOLLYWOOD — Fishing tournaments can be very competitive and challenging yet very rewarding if done well by an experienced professional fishing master. Tribal citizen Leon Wilcox, Bird clan, has received Tribal Council sponsorship for a new 34 foot sport fishing vessel. It is appropriately named "Native Premonitions."

The brightly painted boat, complete with Tribal logos, has three Verados Mercury engines that can each generate up to 275 horsepower. On Aug. 24 Native Premonitions will be competing in a three day professional fishing tournament in Savannah, Ga.

"We'll be trying to catch some 40 to 50 pound king fish each day to win the \$40,000 grand prize," Wilcox said. "There are other smaller prizes being awarded as well for the more than 250 boats that have entered this professional fishing challenge. This is the very first time that this boat will be competing."

Wilcox also wanted to thank the Tribe and especially the Tribal Council for their continued support in allowing him to pursue these fishing tournaments on this professional level.

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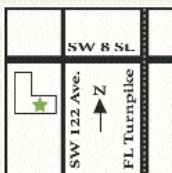
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- * Brighton Community
- * Brighton Employees

Go Dragon Corner



Submitted by Irena Loleski

BIG CYPRESS — The Go

Dragon Martial Arts School is located out of Ft. Lauderdale, but has also incorporated a traveling school to Big Cypress. The staff and instructors bring all their equipment in the community center directly to the BC residents.

Classes started on June 1. Ever since then, they have grown to about 80 participants, all being Tribal citizens.

Practices are separated by age group: The Lil' Warriors, ages 4-6 from 4-4:40 p.m., Team Dragon, ages 7-13, from 4:45-5:25 p.m., Adult, 14 & Up, from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Go Dragon's instructor, Master Rob McCarthy, has 25 years worth of experience in martial arts. He said he grew up doing martial arts, practicing since he was able to walk.

The primary goal of the Go

Dragon school is to allow each student to establish their own goals, to learn responsibility, respect, courtesy, integrity, and for each kid to become goal oriented. It is such a pleasure to see all the kids want to be together.

According to McCarthy, Go Dragon will eventually set up tournaments for each reservation to compete in martial arts competitions against other schools!

Go Dragon Martial Arts School is coming soon to a reservation near you.

Please call Assistant Director of Fitness Irena Loleski at (954) 931-0515 with any questions.



Students listen closely while Master Rob teaches techniques. Irena Loleski

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5. Randi Williams, #9, Natives-MS
6. Robin Isaac, #23, Natives-MS
7. Jennifer Martin, #1, Poarch-AL
8. Kim McGhee, #6, Poarch-AL
9. Christy Hickman, #2, Players-MS
10. Lucutia Willis, #7, Players-MS



Hollywood Hosts NASA Softball Tournament

By Kristin Duda

HOLLYWOOD AND DAVIE, FL — On Aug. 11–12, the Seminole Recreation department hosted the annual NASA softball tournament at Osceola Park in Hollywood and Bamford Park in Davie. There were 13 women's and 11 men's teams.

The tournament began at 9 a.m. on the morning of Aug. 11 on four different softball fields. The weather was very hot and we were lucky we did not have any rain. There were teams representing: Mississippi, North Carolina, Alabama, Louisiana and Florida.

The men's teams were: Dirty Birds (NC), Challengers (MS), 2-Xtreme (MS), Shockers (MS), Choctaws (MS), Indians (MS), Seminole Heat (FL), Hollywood Seminoles (FL), Coushatta Warriors (LA), Poarch Men (AL) and Seminole (FL).

There were some tough games. The Seminole Heat took fourth place. The Poarch Men took third place. The Indians and Seminoles took it to a double elimination championship. The Indians took second and the Seminoles won the tournament.

The women's teams were: Natives (MS), Lady Indians (MS), Chahtha Ladies (MS), Lady Gunners (MS), Killer B's (FL), Sparks (MS), Players (MS), Knockers (NC), Lady Seminoles-Hollywood (FL), Poarch Women (AL), Lady Seminoles-Brighton (FL), Lady MVP's (FL) and Lady Legends (FL).

There was a lot of competition with the women. The Lady MVP's placed fourth. The Poarch Creek women took third place. There was a double elimination championship battle for the women, too. The Natives took second place and the Players won the tournament.

The all tournament teams were made up of the athletes from the top teams that stood out based on their performances. They were presented with individual trophies by Moses Juniper Jr.

The women's all tournament team was made up of: Jeri Cully (Lady MVP), Lacyntia Dixon (Lady Gunners), Lindsey Gibson (Natives), Angela Hundley (Players), Randi Williams (Natives), Robin Isaac (Natives), Jennifer Martin (Poarch Creek), Kim McGhee (Poarch Creek), Christy Hickman (Players), and Lucutia Willis (Players).

The men's all tournament team was made up of: Adam Lewis (Indians), Jason Grisham (Indians), Melvin Rolin (Poarch), Mike Rolin (Poarch), Jamie Smith (Seminole Heat), Kevin Bert (Seminoles), Richard Osceola (Seminoles), Anselum Henry (Indians), Matt Cochran (Seminoles) and Roy Garza (Seminoles).

The next NASA softball tournament will be held in New York the second weekend of August in 2007.



NASA Women's Winners

- 1st Players
Mississippi, Choctaw
- 2nd Natives
Mississippi, Choctaw
- 3rd Poarch
Alabama, Poarch Creek
- 4th Lady MVP
Florida, Seminoles





NASA Men's Winners

- 1st Seminole
Florida, Seminole
- 2nd Indians
Mississippi, Choctaw
- 3rd Poarch
Alabama, Poarch Creek
- 4th Seminole Heat
Florida, Seminole



Seminole Leader Micanopy Comes to Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

By Judy Weeks

BIG CYPRESS — The excitement of anticipation was in the air at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on the afternoon of Aug. 17. It was 3 p.m. and within a few short minutes the 175-year-old Henry Inman portrait of Seminole leader Micanopy was going to make the short journey from the museum vault to the display case in the Curatorial Building.

Painted in 1832, the painting had been recently acquired by the Seminole Tribe of Florida from a private collector. The premier showing was scheduled to take place from 3-6 p.m. as a sneak preview for a limited number of dignitaries and Tribal citizens.

Public display began for the first time on Aug. 18, and will continue through the month of November.

Tina Marie Osceola, executive director of the Museum department for the Seminole Tribe of Florida, kept a watchful eye on the priceless masterpiece as it was gently carried to its resting place. There was a reverent silence as she took her position beside the portrait and welcomed the roomful of visitors.

Addressing the audience, Osceola explained, "What you see before you is the 175 year old oil on canvas portrait of Seminole Leader Micanopy. Having been very carefully protected for nearly two centuries, it has not been restored and remains in its original frame. In order to insure its preservation, special steps have been taken to control temperature, humidity and insects. A stabilized position has been established for Micanopy in our vault. Daily, for the next three months, the painting will be placed on display in this room and returned evening to the vault. Following the conclusion of the display, the portrait will be stabilized and placed in seclusion for the next five years. It is the museum's mission to preserve."

Providing a short history of the painting, Osceola related its origin to the gathering. In 1826, Commissioner of Indian Affairs Thomas L. McKenney invited all the prominent Indian dignitaries within the continental U.S. and its territories to visit the president in Washington and negotiate terms on behalf of their people. Indian Agent Gad Humphreys was successful in getting together a group of eight influential Tribal leaders from Florida.

Traveling by ship, they made the journey to Washington, where every effort was made to persuade them to peacefully cede their homeland and relocate west of the Mississippi River. Thomas McKenney realized that the government's policy of "Manifest Destiny" and the Indian relocation program were taking their toll on the Native Americans.

Convinced that they were becoming a vanishing race, he commissioned Charles Bird King to paint portraits of as many famous Indians as possible. King succeeded in capturing the images of 143 members in oil on canvas.

Because of his pro-Indian attitude, McKenney was replaced four years later by Secretary of War John C. Calhoun and the entire "Indian Problem" was to be handled forthwith by the Department of War. Florida Indian Agent Gad Humphreys suffered a similar fate in 1830. James Gadsden succeeded in influencing President Jackson to replace Humphreys with John Phagan. President Andrew Jackson dedicated himself to removing the American Indian from the eastern portion of the country.

With the passage of the Indian Removal Act in May of 1830 and removal of pro-Indian government representatives, the future of eastern Native Americans had become very bleak. James Gadsden was selected to conduct the

negotiations for the trade of land and subsequent removal of the Seminoles.

Famed American portrait artist Henry Inman was born in Utica, N.Y. in 1801. He had apprenticed with the noted portraitist John Wesley Jarvis. In 1827, Inman established his own studio in New York City, where he worked in partnership with his student, Thomas Cummings. Here they created portraits for many of America's wealthiest and most powerful families.

Upon his dismissal, Thomas McKenney moved from Washington to Philadelphia. In 1831, the former Indian commissioner hired Inman to paint oil copies of the original Charles Bird King portraits of famous Indians. How he managed to stealthily borrow



Tina Osceola poses beside the historical display which accompanies the portrait of Micanopy.

the originals for copying is unknown.

However, his foresight is something many are now thankful for. A fire in 1865 at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., destroyed nearly all 143 King portraits, including the image of Micanopy.

Bringing her audience back into the present, Tina Osceola said, "In the late 1990's the Seminole Tribe was approached by a broker for a private individual who wished to sell Inman's portrait of Micanopy. Despite considerable dialogue the transaction was never consummated. A few years ago the acquisition was revisited and following two years of paperwork, all criteria had been met and ownership of this priceless artwork was transferred to the Seminole Tribe of Florida to be housed in our accredited museum."

Osceola continued, "Finally the day came for us to bring Micanopy home. What an incredible feeling of responsibility as we moved this priceless artwork from the Santa Fe Gallery to the airport. Not wishing to take our chances with public transportation, we caught a ride on the tribal jet. All we breathed a sigh of relief when he had been safely deposited in our vault."

With a gesture toward the portrait, Osceola said, "There are no words to describe my feelings when I first laid eyes on Micanopy in the gallery in Santa Fe. His image is so lifelike and his eyes look directly back at you. As you stare into his eyes you feel as though you can read the expression on his face as he was being painted. His features emit strength and resolve. I can only imagine how he must have felt in a strange place, far from home, in the midst of his aggressors; not knowing whether he would ever be permitted to return to his family and followers."

Pointing to her right, she indicated a glass enclosed display case.

"The contents of this display further authentic the history of Micanopy's likeness," she said. "It contains a handwritten letter and an engraving of Henry Inman. He was not only a very talented artist, but only thirty years old when McKenney commissioned his services."



Jessica Osceola was just one of the attendees at the Micanopy portrait unveiling.

worn by Micanopy in his portrait it is a facsimile and gives the observer some sense of the actual ornament."

"Last, but not least, is a journal which substantiates the Seminole Delegation of eight individuals with Micanopy specifically listed. Dated June 30, 1826, it is a statement of expenditures submitted by



Tina Osceola addresses the attendees at the unveiling of Micanopy.

Gad Humphreys for the return of the Delegation from Washington to Florida. Among the items listed are food, travel passage and interestingly enough, a medical fee for Micanopy who had become ill during the trip," concluded Osceola.

On the table to the left of the painting are reference books which include the Micanopy portraits: Indian Legacy of Charles Bird King, McKenney-Hall Portrait Gallery of American Indians by Horan and McKenney-Hall History of the Indian Tribes of North America.

A History of Micanopy

Micanopy's roots run deep in the soil of the Florida peninsula. His family tree can be traced back to the founder of the Seminole Tribe known as the Cowkeeper. According to William Bartram, this Hitchiti-speaking Oconee chief lived with his band along the Oconee River in Georgia during the very early 1700's.

Because of the proximity of the white frontier settlements, they migrated south to the lake at Alachua Prairie and built a town known as Alachua or Latchaway. This was not totally unknown territory for the Oconee, who had used the area for a seasonal hunting ground for perhaps several generations. After a short time they abandon this site because of swarms of mosquitoes and the smell of decaying fish.

The Cowkeeper and his people moved to Cuscowilla, located several miles away from the present-day town of Micanopy. Founded sometime before 1730, the town of Cuscowilla was deep into Spanish territory. However, the Seminoles and Spanish had no apparent grievances and the Seminole Tribe prospered.

By the 1760's the town consisted of several wood frame buildings constructed around an open square, had a population of several hundred persons, corn fields, gardens, herds of cattle and horses and a considerable number of slaves. Members of this community had become proficient in the skills of blacksmithing and weaving, in addition to several other civilized enterprises.

The Cowkeeper's nephew Payne, after whom Payne's Prairie is named, succeeded him in authority. Referred to as King Payne, he held this position until his death in 1812 from an injury sustained during an attack upon his holdings by the Georgia militia. His sister's oldest son became the leader for a short time and upon the death of his nephew, his sister's youngest son, Micanopy, rose to power.

Micanopy was one of the most influential Seminoles of his time, and his was the fourth of thirty-two tribal signatures on the Moultrie Creek Treaty of 1824. In 1826 he accompanied Florida Indian Agent Gad Humphreys to Washington with seven other Florida tribal leaders to present their views to Secretary of War Barbour. During this time, Charles Bird King was commissioned to paint his portrait along with 143 other famous Indian leaders.

Micanopy was present for the Treaty of Payne's Landing in 1832, which called for the removal of the Seminoles to the Indian Territories west of the Mississippi, but always contended that he did not touch his pen to the treaty despite white claims that he had participated.

By 1835 he was referred to by the army as "the legitimate head of the Seminole nation, and the acknowledged chief of the Indians in Florida." According to Lieutenant George McCall, he was present for an election in 1826 at which time Tuckashash (John Hicks) had been elected as supreme chief of the Seminoles, Tallahassee and Mikanusi, to be united under the name of the Seminole Nation. However, McCall also states that attending conferences between the Indians and the government officials from 1826-32, John Hicks may have been listed chief, but Micanopy and his Minister of State, Jumper, did all the talking.

Due to white encroachment on their towns, loss of livestock, raids on their homes, destruction of their crops and the capture and removal of their slaves, it had now become necessary for many of the towns to be abandoned and the Indian population was slowly moving southward and toward the interior of the state. The federal government had set up reservation areas and attempted to contain the Indians within these boundaries until they could be successfully relocated to the West.

Micanopy was a peaceable leader, but with his back to the wall and the best interests of his peo-

The renowned artist and long-time friend of the Seminole Tribe, Guy LaBree attended the unveiling of Micanopy. With a look of awe, he said that he was definitely not going to critique the artist or the painting. This was not his field and it would require very close examination, however, he was very impressed. To be 175 years old and un-restored, it appeared to be in excellent condition, he said.

Observing Micanopy from arm's length, LaBree made note of the fact that the artist had been very attentive to detail.

"Look closely at the red cloth in his turban," he said. "At a quick glance you see a piece of twisted cloth. Upon closer examination, you can observe a pattern on the cloth, which is nearly obscure. It is entirely possible that Inman used gold or copper in the detail of the red cloth and that it may have tarnished with age."

(It should be noted that during Inman's time, artists didn't simply go out and purchase their paints at the corner art supply.

Although some pigments could be purchased, many were manufactured by the artist and contained minerals, dyes and metals suspended in a turpentine and linseed oil base. For instance, a true bright white such as appears in Micanopy's clothing probably contained titanium which generally does not yellow with age.)

Tribal Historian Preservation Officer Willard Steele gave a brief resume of the historical facts surrounding Micanopy and willingly answered questions posed by members of the audience. He was a very valuable source of information while compiling the following historical data from the life of Micanopy.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Registrar Robin Kilgo, Okalee Museum Director Barbara Butera and Tribal citizen Jessica Osceola were on hand to participate in this historic event and assist with the viewing. They skillfully answered questions and reviewed material with the group who had attended the unveiling.

Returning to the main entrance of the museum, everyone was delighted to partake of a generous buffet of fresh fruits, vegetable trays, desserts and refreshments.

At heart, he became known as the Chief of the Seminoles during the Second Seminole War. All efforts to negotiate an amiable settlement to their problems and prevent their relocation had failed and he was forced to move aggressively to defend the territory of his people.

Although Micanopy was present at the Dade Massacre and several other conflicts, he realized that problems with slave hunters, trespass of reservations, repeated destruction of their camps, loss of their possessions and slow starvation were taking a serious toll on his followers. He surrendered with his people and prepared for western relocation.

Drawing the wrath of the anti-removal faction, Sam Jones and Osceola captured Micanopy and his band and returned them to the Osceola killed Chief Emathla for surrendering at Fort King and agreeing to removal. His undisturbed body and the money he had received from the sale of his cattle lay on the ground for nearly two years as a warning to any other Tribal members who attempted to accept the terms of the removal.

Several years of bloody war ensued, ending in the capture of Osceola under a flag of truce and his imprisonment. Brevet Major General Thomas Jesup instructed Chief Zachary Taylor to destroy any Seminole force he encountered. This resulted in the Battle of Okeechobee. After numerous skirmishes, all peace making attempts failed and Jesup began capturing Seminoles near Fort Jupiter, who were under the impression that there was peace in effect. More than 500 Indians were taken.

Micanopy agreed to attend a meeting under a white flag to negotiate the removal of his people and Jesup acted as he had in the case of Osceola and placed Micanopy and his 31 followers in a peace fire in effect. More than 500 Indians were taken.

Micanopy continued to be a powerful peaceable leader and was instrumental in helping his people survive the first few harsh winters in the new land. He negotiated settlement lands and worked as a liaison with the government on behalf of his displaced Seminole people in an effort to help them adapt to their new environment.

In 1845 Micanopy signed a document in Oklahoma that led to the separation of the Seminole Nation from the Creeks and re-established them as a sovereign people. He died in Oklahoma in January of 1849.

Unfortunately, problems continued to accelerate for the Seminoles remaining in Florida.

Micanopy's nephew, Billy Bowlegs had become an important power to reckon with during the Second Seminole War and was the leader during the Third Seminole War, often referred to as the Billy Bowlegs War.

Many Florida Seminoles can proudly trace their ancestry to Micanopy. By the end of the Third Seminole War, government records indicate between 250 and 400 Seminoles remained in Florida. What pride he would have taken to see how these descendants persevered and evolved into the strong Seminole Tribe of Florida.

The abandon Indian town of Cuscowilla in Alachua County became Winton's Trading Post prior to 1821. A white settler named Winton founded a white site destined to become the capital of the new State of Florida. However plans were altered, establishing the seat of state government at Tallahassee. The historical town of Micanopy founded in 1821, now occupies this site.

The historical facts for this article were obtained from Tina M. Osceola, executive director of the Museums department, Tribal Historian Preservation Officer Willard Steele, Artist Guy LaBree, "The Seminole Landmark" by James Covington, "Creeks and Seminoles" by J. Leitch Wright Jr., "Florida Indians" by Jerald T. Milanich and "Journey Into The Wilderness" by J.R. Motte.



(L-R) Robin Kilgo, Museum Registrar, Barbara Butera, Okalee Museum Director, Tina Osceola, Executive Director of the Museum Department and Anne McCudden, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Director.

Cattle Shipping Ends 2005-2006 Season

By Susan Etchebarria

BRIGHTON — The 2005-2006 Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.'s cattle season was brought to a close after three weeks of shipping in late July and early August.

"We did a little better this year than last year in the numbers of cattle sold," said Director of Natural Resources, Don Robertson. "It was a good year; the prices are still good."

At a meeting on Aug. 12 with the highly-honored cattlemen it seemed he was glad the annual round-up was completed and the cycle for next year is starting again.

In 2005 Robertson was awarded the Cattlemen of the Year Award by the Florida Cattlemen's Association. He has also been the mastermind behind the changing genetics of the Seminole Tribe's herds.

He said this year approximately 5,800 calves were loaded onto 56 semi-trailers and shipped to buyers who purchased Seminole cattle



Emma Urbina managing cattle at the BC cowpens.

The Tribe's cattle owners have sold their cattle through Superior Video Sales for many years, said Simmons. You can watch Superior cattle auctions on RFD-TV on Dish Network or DirecTV.

"The video sales are an excellent tool," said Simmons. "We have been able to lock in the price in advance."

Robertson said the cattle prices are looking good for another couple of years through 2009.

"With the Japanese market now open, the export market to Japan will help a lot," he said. "South Korea will probably follow next."

After the Mad Cow Disease incident in Washington State, Japan closed its doors to the import of American beef in December, 2003, according to information posted on the USDA website. Japan had bought about \$1.4 billion worth of U.S. beef annually so the loss of that



Cowboys line up for lunch.

at the Superior Livestock Auction Video Sale on May 5. The highest priced lot was 120 small steers raised at Big Cypress with a base weight of 400 pounds. They sold for \$1.31 a pound.

The shipping breakdown was 28 trucks loaded at Brighton cow pens and nine trucks at Big Cypress. Among the board's cattle there were 11 trucks loaded at the Miccosukee pastures, six trucks at Parker Island and two at St. Thomas.

This year's health documents for the Tribe's cattle were signed off by veterinarian Dr. John Yellington of Lake Placid, Fla. Yellington has replaced Doc Keen who passed away this summer. Yellington had worked along side Doc Keen at times and has some familiarity with the Tribal herds.

Administrative Assistant Leoma Simmons worked throughout the three week long process keeping records. She said the heat was



Tracking weights are Leoma Simmons and Richard Bowers.

extremely humid this year but despite the weather there was a good turnout of cattle families.

"It is always good to see the women working together to provide food for the cowboys," Simmons said.

Simmons was especially impressed with the quality of the herds.

"The calves looked very good this year, they were shiny and sleek," she said. "It seems they are getting better each year."

The introduction of the Brangus breed started about 10 years ago. Robertson said the genetic improvement is making the difference.

"You can really see that in the calves," he said.



Approximately 5,800 calves were loaded and shipped to buyers after the May 5 cattle sale.



(L-R) Dallas Nunez, Todd Johns, Adam Turtle, Raymond Garza and Tommy Mann.

market was significant for the cattle industry.

Japan lifted the ban in late 2005 and then re-imposed the ban in January, 2006. Just last month a new agreement was struck after Japanese inspectors toured 35 U.S. meat processing plants and approved exports after being satisfied that their standards of safety are being met.

Seminole beef is one of the major beef producers who have installed electronic identification that can identify the exact pasture from which a cow was raised and sold.

"Japan will want our beef," said Simmons.

Seminole beef wear a radio frequency device, a yellow trace in their left ear that records their history. Traceable source of beef in case of a major mad cow outbreak among the human population is what most progressive countries require for consumer safety.



Norman Johns and Wendy Fish at BC cowpens.



The 4-H Steer Club: (L-R) Front Row: Randall Osceola, Reba Osceola, Justin Aldridge. Back Row: Ashton Baxley, Kerwin Miller, Dayne Johns and Clint Bowers.

4-H Steer Club Elects 2006-2007 Officers

By Susan Etchebarria

BRIGHTON — The Brighton 4-H Steer Club held its first meeting of the 2006-2007 year on Aug. 8, at the Cattle and Land Headquarters. The 4-H youth arrived with their parents to receive registration forms, pick up their record books and contracts, and elect new officers. They were greeted by Seminole Tribe 4-H Coordinator Polly Hayes and Brighton 4-H Assistant Dionne Smedley.

Smedley distributed this year's record books saying they are simpler than in the past and have only seven pages compared to last year's 20 page books. The record book contains the "Project Agreement" that each 4-H member must sign to participate. The conditions are strict.

The official 4-H mandatory rule states that no matter where the animal is housed, it is the 4-H members' responsibility to feed, water his animal, and clean his animal's pens. If the rule is violated the member only gets two warnings. If there is a third violation the 4-H member's project can be taken and he or she will not be allowed to show.

In signing the agreement, the 4-H member also agrees that he or she understands that the 4-H project is an educational tool teaching them how to be successful in the livestock industry. They also agree to keep accurate and timely record books. The records kept include animal weights, expenses sheets, a profit and loss statement, a project story and project pictures.

Smedley told the 4-H members that they have to bear in mind that there are some important guidelines when electing officers. She said that an officer must attend every meeting and arrive early to prepare for the meeting. They also must attend 4-H Club

Officer's Training. Then she asked for nominations.

The newly elected officers are: Randall Osceola, president, Reba Osceola, vice president, Ashton Baxley, secretary, Justin Aldridge, treasurer, Dayne Johns, reporter and Curvin Miller and Clint Bowers, sergeants-at-arms. As soon as these youth were elected they assumed their leadership roles and conducted the meeting following the prepared agenda drafted by Smedley, the club's official 4-H leader.

The new president, Randall Osceola, polled the Steer Club members and they voted to meet monthly at 6 p.m. and to hold monthly weigh-ins for their steers one Sunday each month from 3-5 p.m. The members set the date of Sept. 17 for the first weigh in at the 4-H barns.

Justin Aldridge suggested that Brighton 4-H have another bake sale this year to raise money for field trips. Both the bake sale and the 50/50 raised a good amount of money last year, he said.

Before adjourning, each new member was asked to tell everyone present the name of their steer, how much it weighs and whose pasture the steer came from. Some chose names like T-Bone, Shish Kabob, Black Beauty and Naha.

Smedley asked each member to send a story about their steer to the cattle owners after each weigh-in. She said the cattle owners want to know how they are doing. The cattle owner whose steer wins grand champion and grand reserve receives a special cash prize so they all have an interest in the outcome. All cattle owners have pride in claiming the winning steer comes from their herd and so most are also willing to advise the 4-H member if they ask.

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◆ Osceola

Continued from page 1

By the end of the first go-round and after 180 ropers, Shelby was holding the second place spot in the nation.

Shelby had a whole day until she had to compete again. She spent her time shopping at the trade show and watching the other competitors from the Florida state. By two hours before it was competition time her work was starting.

Her typical routine before competing was finding out what calf she drew for the round, watching a tape of how the calf ran so she could gather a game plan together in her head. Then it was off to get her horse Yeller groomed, saddled and ready for the competition. Shelby always made sure she had plenty of time to get Yeller warmed up and then go to the arena, find a quiet spot where she and Yeller could mentally prepare for what needed to be done.

The second round started and Shelby was one of the first to rope; but the pressure certainly didn't show on her.

Shelby's second round was like watching the first round all over again—two swings and calf caught. Shelby waited patiently for her time to be announced.

"Two-point-six seconds," said the announcer.

Shelby gave a proud pat to Yeller and walked away again with that same smile on her face. Shelby commented on how she felt to have a two-point-six second time again.

"It was great," she said. "I told Yeller before we went in, 'Let's do it again girl' and we did."

By the end of the two rounds, Shelby was still holding on to the third and final round with a chance to be the national breakaway champion.

The final go-round wasn't until Sunday afternoon which gave Shelby two days just to sit back relax and prepare for the toughest competition... the other top 19 ropers who also made it to the final round. During the two day rest Shelby stayed relaxed by doing more shopping, hanging out with her friends and taking a lot of naps.

July 30 finally came around, the final round, and with temperatures at 100-plus degrees didn't help any of the competitors. By the heat didn't stop Shelby from doing her usual routine before competition. When the competition started all the competitors were competing hard and going for it all—they were holding nothing back.

Shelby was second to last to go in the final round and a 3.8 second run was leading the round and holding the first place spot in the average. When it came to Shelby's turn she looked relaxed and ready to rope; she backed up in the roping box, gave a nod and came out swinging. After two swings Shelby had thrown her rope but her rope sat on the calf's nose; she had to ride Yeller up a couple steps to get the rope to fall over the nose; when it finally did she stopped her horse.

Shelby had to rope a 3.8 seconds or quicker to take that number one spot and be the national champion. The announcer yells out Shelby's time, four-point-four seconds. The disappointment on



Shelby and her grandfather, Lawrence Moore.

Tabitha Osceola

Shelby's face was obvious; knowing that all she needed was 3.8 seconds or quicker and she had trouble with the calf and roped a 4.4 second was heart-breaking.

But after all the disappointment of not claiming the number one spot Shelby realized that she just won second place. She came out in second place against the best high school ropers in the nation, Canada and Australia.

At the awards ceremony that followed the rodeo that evening they announced the 2006 National High School Rodeo Association reserve champion breakaway roper was Shelby Osceola from Hollywood, Fla. Shelby claimed her buckle, scholarship money and other prizes with pride. She said she was happy with her second place finish.

"My goal was to just get here and I did that," she said. "I never really expected to get as far as I did but now I am only thinking about next year and bringing home the championship and being number one."

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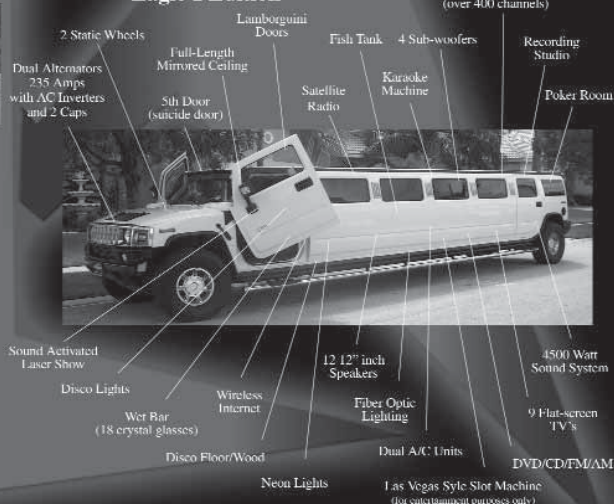
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Announcements ❖ Ahaaheekē ❖ Nak-ohkērkēcēlv

Birthdays



Happy birthday to **Lorri**, who will be 13 on Aug. 15.
From,
Your family



Happy belated first birthday to **Jaila Rae Yzaguirre** on July 19. We want to wish you a happy birthday. You put the sparkle back in our eyes.

Love,
Grandma Norita and Grandpa Ray



Happy 23rd birthday to **Stephen C. Billie**, Otter clan. I was looking for a picture of you when I came across this one. Instead of just you, I'll embarrass the whole group.
Love,
Your dad, **Steve Osceola**
Can anyone name all these people? Call me.



Happy birthday to my husband and son, **Bustin** on Aug. 12 and **Sam** on Aug. 19. I hope you two get what you think you want
Love always,
Your wife and your mom, your daughters/sister, sons/brother and papa/uncle

Congratulations



Congratulations go out to **Sonny and Kellie**. We watched you graduate from head start, which seems like it was only yesterday. But here we are at a high school graduation. We hope you two continue your education and follow your dreams and make them come true. Be proud of your accomplishments and proud in who you are. Your whole family is very proud of you two. Congratulations on your graduation!

We love you,
Tigertail Family



Poems

Ambivalence My Friend, Ambivalence My Enemy

Ambivalence where did you come from? Why are you here?
You are the reason I don't care.
When I am trapped, and in trouble you save me from worry.
In that you are my friend.
For if I am trapped, and in trouble what does it matter if I don't care?
How many times must you save me?
Must I really be saved?
Decisions must be made, but how can they, if I don't care?
You have led me to harsh consequences, and yet I still follow you. I am an intelligent person.

I know right for wrong I know fall well the consequences of my actions
But what good is this knowledge, if I don't care?
All my intelligence, ambitions, and potential are rendered useless...
Because of you
In this you are my enemy
Thank you for being my friend
But I have out grown you I no longer care where you came from of why you are here
And I have you to thank for this too
A parting gift I suppose... thank you, and good bye
Ambivalence my friend,
Ambivalence my enemy
—**William Osceola Jr.**

I Got A New Hustle

I got a new hustle
I'm trying to do s— right now
I was trapped in the darkness
But everything looks bright now
The old me wasn't right
I was running the street
Starving for a savior
While steadily starting beef
I look back now weighing 230 lbs
Thinking, "Damn how did I survive?"
And dreading another round
I get another run in me I know
But no chance of sobriety
I know I'll die if I get high
I know death won't come silently
Every rez knows my name and face
Every crack dealer knows
I had a hunger, taste for base
But luckily I made it out
I am not trying to save face
I'm here to tell it live, raw, and uncut
That road is full of demons
Those demons don't give a f—
It took my pride and my health
I took that as a sign
Like, isn't there more to life than this?

Running wild like a savage
Smelling like old garbage and piss
Thinking about my children
And how much of there lives I missed
Now-a-days I pray
To a man I call God
And thank to him
Things are not always easy
But they are not always hard
Today I'm great full to be above ground
I enjoy life as a survivor
And not a casualty
I often wonder if anyone
Would've cared if I died while smoking
Then I think
"I would've" and proceed with doing me
With eyes wide open
I'm just a sheep
In search of a green pasture
Living up to my potential
I am my own fates master
True words from Markell
To the whole Indian Nation, One love

—**Markell Billie Sr.**



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News From Indian Country

National Indian Law Library Receives 2006 Public Access to Government Information Award

Submitted by the Native American Rights Fund

BOULDER, CO—The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) recently awarded Monica Martens and David Selden at the National Indian Law Library (NILL) the Public Access to Government Information Award (PAGI). The award honors their work in making Tribal law available to the public.

No other library devotes itself as completely as NILL does to the laws of sovereign Indian nations and Alaska Native villages. There are more than 560 nations and villages which have laws on the books that are rarely found in libraries across the nation.

"A principle tenet of the American Association of Law Libraries is the right of equal access to information for all to ensure an informed citizenry and to promote a just and democratic society," said Johanna C. Biziub, AALL awards committee chair.

The library's work in providing access has

focused on collecting hundreds of tribal codes and constitutions and on a variety of user-friendly tools to access this difficult-to-find information, including full-text online copies, a "gateway" on the library's web site, and unique and thorough keyword searching capability through the library's Internet catalog.

"It is hard to overstate how important NILL's work in improving access to tribal and federal Indian law materials has been and continues to be. NILL is undoubtedly the most valuable national resource available for the research and study of tribal law. It is through their efforts that tribal governmental information is being made available — often for the very first time," said Jill E. Tompkins, Clinical Professor of Law and Director of the University of Colorado American Indian Law Clinic.

For more information about the library's tribal law project visit <http://www.narf.org/nill/index.htm>.

Millions Awarded to Improve Education for Indian Students

Submitted by Tom Beaver, U.S. Department of Education

WASHINGTON

DC—Education programs in seven states: Arizona, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, North Carolina, Oregon and Wisconsin have been selected to receive \$3,793,537. This money will provide training programs to recruit and graduate new American Indian teachers and school administrators. U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings announced on Aug. 3.

"These professional development grants will help us find, train and retain the very best teachers and administrators within American Indian communities," said Secretary Spellings. "Reaching our goal under No Child Left Behind of every child reading and doing math at grade level by 2014 depends on the dedicated efforts of our teachers. We will continue to make sure teachers have the support and tools they need to best serve their students."

The grant award is part of the Office of

Part of Efforts Under No Child Left Behind

Indian Education's Professional Development program, which trains qualified individuals to become teachers and administrators in Indian communities. More information about Indian education is available from the Office of Indian Education at <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oeo/ieo/index.htm>.

Indian Education Professional Development Fiscal Year 2006 Grant Awards: Tohono O'odham Community College, \$935,092; Tuba City Unified School District, \$324,998; Lewis-Clark State College, \$323,541; College of St. Scholastica, \$324,520; White Earth Tribal and Community College, \$324,806; Montana State University-Billings, \$293,290; Montana State University-Bozeman, \$318,520; University of North Carolina-Pembroke, \$299,399; University of Oregon, \$324,847; University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee \$324,524.

Indigenous Peoples Win Historic Vote on Rights

Submitted by Miriam Ross, Survival-International

On UN Indigenous People's Day, Aug. 9, the UN Human Rights Council's voted in favor of the declaration on indigenous peoples' rights.

Canada and Russia were the only two countries on the council to vote against the declaration. Several African countries including South Africa voted in favor of the declaration, breaking with African governments on traditional reluctance to recognize indigenous peoples.

Canada, which refused to back the declaration, has faced a long campaign by Survival-International over its treatment of the Innu people of Labrador and Quebec. During the last 40 years, the Innu have been moved from their land and made to live in settled communities. The new communities are marked by extremely high levels of alcoholism, infant abuse amongst children, violence and record levels of suicides.

Survival's director Stephen Corry said, "A UN declaration of indigenous peoples' rights is long

overdue and it's encouraging that many of the former colonial powers, together with South Africa, finally supported this very progressive move. What is really dismaying is that Canada decided to join with Russia in opposing the draft declaration. Canada's treatment of many of its indigenous peoples is very shabby indeed and they will feel further discriminated against by their government's actions at the UN."

The declaration was first discussed more than 20 years ago. It will now move to the UN General Assembly, where member countries are expected to vote on it later this year. The Council recommended that the General Assembly approve the declaration.

If approved, the declaration would set a benchmark against which countries' treatment of tribal peoples can be judged; it is not legally binding. The declaration recognizes the rights of indigenous peoples to their land and to live as they wish. It also affirms that, for example, they should not be moved from their lands without their free and informed consent.

Fifth Annual Sun Mountain Gathering Returns

Submitted by Museum of Indian Arts and Culture

SANTA FE, NM

—Sun Mountain Gathering, a unique cultural celebration for all ages, returns to the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture on Oct. 7. Geared to families and free to the public, this annual favorite is filled with activities, featuring such popular events as Indian games, exhibitions, arrow making, spear throwing, and pottery making. Events will be held at Milner Plaza on Museum Hill in Santa Fe from 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

Held annually since 2002, Sun Mountain Gathering is an exploration of Southwestern archaeology and celebrates more than 12,000 years of cultural heritage in the area.

A highlight of this year's festival is the grand opening of the Avanyu Heritage Trail. Developed over several years, this outdoor exhibit and interpretive trail is located behind the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture. Stations along the quarter mile trail feature reconstructions of traditional gardens, Pueblo Field Houses, and a Navajo Sheep Camp.

The Wild Plant Foraging portion of the trail includes examples of native plants and their uses by the people of the Southwestern U.S. Guides will be

Event Features Spear Throwing, Pottery Making and Grand Opening of Avanyu Heritage Trail

stationed along the trail during the festival to answer questions and provide additional information.

With activities for every age and interest, the festival provides visitors many opportunities to learn about archaeology and the ancient technology and traditional arts of Native peoples in the southwest. Activities include exhibits on native foods and Indian music and dancing on spectacular Milner Plaza.

Demonstrations of Native crafts are also scheduled to take place, which include flint-knapping, arrow making, stone axe use, sandal making, hot rock cooking, fireloom gardening, and a mock archaeology dig, to name just a few. Visitors will also have an opportunity to learn about traditional arts by trying their hand at forming a coiled pot or making a replica of a stamped silver bracelet.

Another main attraction is the Atlatl Range. The atlatl and dart were the first true and natural weapons system of the human race, invented thousands of years before the bow and arrow and used longer by humans than any other weapon system yet developed. Spear throwing using replicas of prehistoric atlatls will go on continuously throughout the day.

31st Annual Indian Progress in Business Awards Banquet

Submitted by NCAIED

LOS ANGELES, CA—The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED) and Northern Grumman Corporation are pleased to present the 31st Annual American Indian Progress in Business Awards Banquet (INPRO 2006). INPRO is a national fundraising event presented annually by the National Center and is sponsored by corporations, tribes and Indian business.

Awards are presented in various categories to individuals that have helped facilitate Indian entrepreneurship and leadership. INPRO attendees will witness both the beauty and culture of live American Indian entertainment and the inspiring words of the 2006 INPRO award winners. INPRO will be held at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in downtown Los Angeles on Sept. 21.

The INPRO 2006 Awards event benefits The American Indian Fellowship in Business Scholarship

Program and The National Center. Each year during INPRO, the National Center awards scholarships to American Indian college students majoring in business who represent America's future entrepreneurs. The theme of INPRO 2006 is "Building Futures, Honoring Diversity & Achievements."

Elaine Miles, actress and motivational speaker, member of the Umatilla Tribe, will serve as the emcee for INPRO 2006. Miles is best known for her portrayal of Marilyn Whirlwind on the television series Northern Exposure. Brought up traditionally with her parent's Indian Heritage, Cayuse and Nez Perce, Miles learned her Native American culture through ancestral storytelling. She is an award-winning traditional dancer and has appeared in numerous movies, talk shows, and magazines.

For more information on INPRO 2006 sponsorship opportunities, or The National Center, please call (800) 462-2433 ext 243, or visit www.ncaied.org.

Native Men's Calendar Due for Second Release

Submitted by Shaunya Manusm, View Finder Photographs

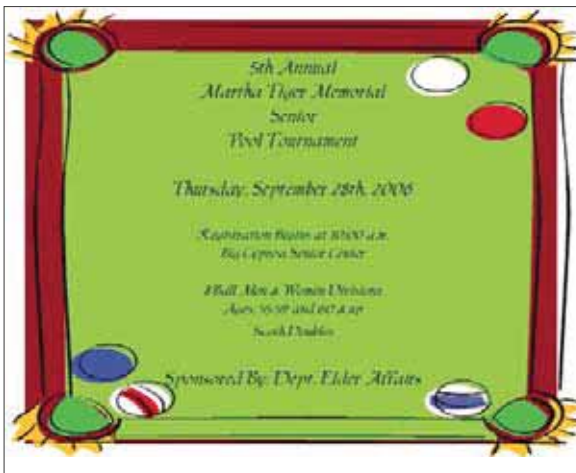
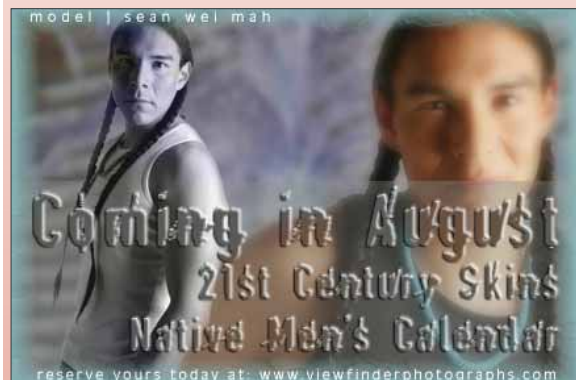
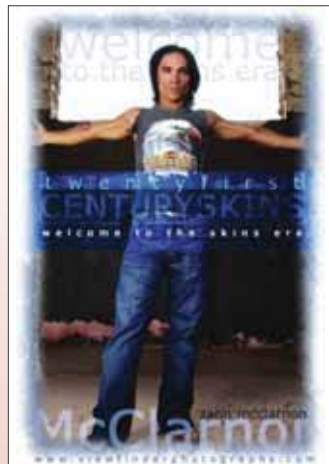
CHANDLER, AZ—The 21st Century Skins all Native American Men's calendar came out on Aug. 31. The calendar brings together some of the most prominent talent from Indian Country. With the success of the 2006 calendar, Viewfinder Photographs has decided to continue this unique project.

The 21st Century Skins Calendar project tries to recruit Native men from all different Tribes. Last year the calendar featured men from the Lakota, Navajo, Wichita, and Tohono O'odham Tribes. This year the men range from Cree, Standing Rock, Navajo, and Apache.

Some of the well-known actors include Zahn McClarnon who can be seen in this fall in a new mini-series called Conanche Moon. Another actor is Sean Wei Mah, who's most noted role was playing Heavy Shield in "Into the West."

The photos are done by photographer Mihio Manus. Mihio Manus has a photography degree from Northern Arizona University and has been taking pictures for more than 10 years. More of his work can be seen at: www.mihioanus.com.

The calendar can be pre-ordered online at: www.ViewfinderPhotographs.com. For more information please contact:



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The 90 minute show included some big country hits he made famous with his raw energy "Family Tradition" and "Born to Boogie," "That's How They do it in Dixie" and "There's a Tear in my Beer," just to name a few. This country legend superstar did not disappoint his legion of fans who were thrilled to listen and watch a grand old southern rock show that delivered the goods as advertised.

Are you ready for some football?: Hank “Bocephus” Williams Jr. pleases the crowd.

Michael McDonald, Steely Dan Perform at Hard Rock

Ironically, McDonald was first a member of

inspired a great deal of musicians and fans alike over the years. They have carved out a niche in the music world that they still enjoy today, even four decades after they made their first initial musical impact on our pop culture scene with their album "Can't Buy a Thrill."



Reelin' in the years: Walter Becker (right) of Steely Dan plays a sold-out show.



Setting hearts ablaze: South Florida Firefighters strike a pose for charity.

South Florida Firefighters Unveil 2007 Calendar at Seminole Paradise

Newest Men to Set Hearts Ablaze with Autographs and Sales to Benefit Charities Neighbors 4 Neighbors and Here's Help

South Florida Firefighters Calendar will be unveiled at a special event at Seminole Paradise to raise awareness and funds for local charities. South Florida's sexiest heroes will greet fans, take pictures and sign calendars around the state.

The South Florida Firefighters Calendar retails for \$15 and directly benefits Neighbors 4 Neighbors and Here's Help. Here's Help is an acclaimed drug treatment and rehabilitation program created and run by "Footy," South Florida's former famous Y-100 radio personality. For more information about the 2007 South Florida Firefighters, please visit the web site at www.FirefightersCalendar.com.



'70s R'n'B Acts the O'Jays & Commodores Perform at Hard Rock

Tickets go on sale Aug. 11 at noon

About the O'Jays
The O'Jays have numerous international hits spanning 40-plus years in the music biz. These

About the Commodores

For three decades, the Commodores have been recognized as "The Legends of Motown" in the 70s and 80s, cranking out hit after hit like: "Brickhouse," "Machine Gun," and "Sail On," "Oh No" and "To Hot Ta Trot." They sold more than 60 million records for Motown. Lionel Richie left the band in 1983, won their first Grammy™ award for their multi-platinum smash single and LP "Night Shift" in 1986. Currently, they have their own record label and six new albums.

Hard Rock Receives “Henry” Flagler Award From VISIT FLORIDA

A single winner was announced in each of 16 categories during the 2006 Florida Governor's Conference on Tourism at The Omni Orlando Resort at Champions Gate in Orlando, Fla.

The annual awards are open to all individuals, private businesses and not-for-profit organizations offering a tourism product or service that promote tourism to or within Florida.

Fontana Named President of Tampa Hard Rock

Fontana was first named general manager of the original Seminole Casino Tampa in 1988. Since then, he headed the development team that conceived and produced the first Class II electronic gaming devices used in Indian gaming, as well as the team that developed the tournament game structures for poker at the four



John Fontana

Fontana serves on the Board of Directors of the Florida Council for Compulsive Gambling, based in Orlando. He is also on the board of the Brandon Foundation and the Tampa Bay Visitor and Convention Bureau.

Hand Made by Authentic Seminoles in Orlando, Florida



Skyla Osceola



Kirsten Doney



Cindi Adair



Alexis Gopher



Colton Vasquez



Katie Young



Quincey Sampson



Harmon

Cultural Retreat Held at the Contemporary Resort

By Melissa Sherman
ORLANDO, FL. — For some, the smell of Irish Spring and wood chips filling the air in a convention hall-room might be strange. However, to the non-residents who gathered together Aug. 4-6 for the cultural retreat at the Walt Disney's Contemporary Resort, it was just like home.

With the help of Holly Tiger, non-resident liaison, Tribal citizens from all across the country participated in the retreat. Attendees participated in classes to strengthen their culture by wood carving, beading, basket weaving, sewing and learning the Mikasuki and Creek languages.

"Everyone was having end of year trips, I wanted to combine a culture trip and a fun end of year trip," Tiger said. "This trip gave the non-residents the



Jodi Osceola using a beading loom.

chance to get more familiar with the arts and crafts and be around the culture they sometimes do not have the opportunity to be around, being so far from the reservations and to get reacquainted with each other."

In just a few short weeks the entire trip was put together by the small Tribal Clerk's office staff. This meant gathering teachers and supplies, contacting Tribal citizens, coordinating sleeping arrangements, food and one "magical" location.

The cultural retreat was setup in four groups, with hourly areas of study according to age group. On Saturday morning, before breakfast was even finished, everyone was eager to get started.

In the center of the room the wood carvers sat upon a large plastic mat about 20 feet wide. Wood and soap shavings quickly covered the plastic and sticks were transformed into knives, canoes and softice spoons. Boys who were too young for sharp knives were given butter knives and Irish Spring. The bars of soap also morphed into interesting shaped like arrowheads,



Franklin Jumper makes patchwork.

canoes and cars. The sewing machines framed the room all around, except for the craft table for the young ones in the back, where they colored then cut and pasted paper to make patchwork.

In the front folded piles of material and baskets of thread were being picked through for patchwork designs that were about to be created. After a small speed bump was fixed with the missing extension cords, the rumble of sewing machines filled the



Reed and his father Sampson Gopher carve soap.

room.

In the distance, Virginia Osceola was ripping material as she showed onlookers a quick shortcut.

Soon colorful strips of material were sewn into shapes making patchwork, then sewn into strips. Before long, skirts, shirts, pillows and purses appeared everywhere.

In the next ballroom Tribal citizens also filled the room, sitting, learning, watching, creating baskets, bracelets and necklaces. At the beading table teachers Bonnie Motlow Frank, Cornelia Osceola and Francine Osceola were beading looms as people of different age and skill levels created jewelry. Some made one strand of sports themed necklaces and some had a six strand bracelet with their name beaded through it, each one unique.

If you were to walk by the language classes you would see Carol Cypress or Josephine North standing in front of their class rooms and see everybody listening intently.

"The class had a hunger for knowledge and were eager to learn,"



Ruth, Charlie and Devon Osceola make masks.

Cypress said. "Some students were afraid or embarrassed to speak the language even though they understood it. I asked them to try to speak whenever they could to help and to sing the songs, and they did a good job."

In the language class they gave out one dictionary per family and it was very well received.

Even in the daycare kids had a great time, they watched movies, danced and had nap time too. Some played, while others hung out on the

hips of the babysitters Amy Latchford, Natasha Osceola, Maria (Cookie) Pereyra.

At lunch time all of the attendees were surprised with a special visitor besides President Moses Osceola, Donald Duck, Goofy, Mickey Mouse and Minnie showed up for special photo ops. All of the kids rushed around while parent took the opportunity to get a bite to eat and after they left kids ate a bit more off their plate. Once lunch was over everyone eagerly went back to culture class to pick up where they left off.

For the rest of the day everyone went on creating and working on their projects, and time flew by. When classes came to an end most of the participants hung around still engulfed in their work not wanting to stop knowing day two was just a night away.

On the morning of day two, everyone took their places working on their projects from the day

before. It seemed as if this day went by even faster as everyone worked on their projects with better skill and produced amazing crafts. The ladies who worked with teacher Donna Frank making sweetgrass baskets endured hours of hard labor on their hands had an actual basket to bring home.



Colby Cypress makes a sports bracelet.

The non-residents, who were reunited after many years, could look back at each one of their creations and have memories to reflect on.

"I was making introductions all weekend, some of them haven't seen each other in twenty-years they would either remember them from along time ago or have just met for the first time," Tiger said.

For this retreat non-residents traveled from all over the country to participate, the Harmon's traveled from Arizona, the Osceola family from Howey in the Hills in Florida even the famous Tennessee T-Cake lady, Gladys Bowers Bratcher, was there.

At the end of the day when the retreat was over everyone finished their projects, nobody wanted to leave, amazing creations in hand made their way out of the doors as everyone said goodbye to new friends and long lost acquaintances. Tiger hopes to arrange another event before next year but for a longer period of time, allowing the tribal members a better chance to develop their skills to their newly learned crafts or polish up some rusty ones.

Holly Tiger would also like to



Donna Harmon cuts her patchwork into strips.

give her gratitude to Chairman Mitchell Cypress and to the Tribal Clerk staff for all of their hard work putting together this event and thank you to all of the teachers; Alex Tommie, Virginia Osceola, Mary Moore, Jimmy Hank Osceola Jr., Marie Osceola, Donna Frank, Francine Osceola, Cornelia Osceola, Carol Cypress, Josephine North, Bonnie Motlow Frank, Amy Latchford, Natasha Osceola and Maria Pereyra for all of their hard work.



Kids made patchwork out of construction paper.

Made with 100% Patience and Talent



Darion Cypress



Camille Coppedge



Allison Gopher



Maude Gopher



Natamah Robbins



Shannon Gopher



Salina Dorgan



Graduation Trip to Bahamas 2006



❖ Graduates

Continued from page 1

Chairman Mitchell Cypress also addressed the graduates at this time. He congratulated them all for graduating high school and also acknowledged the five present liaisons. The chairman also recognized the 12 graduates who were unable to attend the Bahamian trip: David Anderson, Leanna Billie, Angelo Colon, Rollie Gilliam, Brett Huff, Richard Keyser, Kurya Kippenberger, Casey McCall, Clifford Sanchez, Joshua Smith, Kristicia Tommie and Maricruz Yzaguirre.

Following the chairman, Liaisons Raymond Garza, Immokalee, Richard Henry, Tampa, O.B. Osceola Jr., Naples, William Osceola, Trail, and Sally Tommie, Fort Pierce, all briefly addressed the grads. Tommie, and all the other liaisons, offered messages of congratulations and she also advised everyone to be safe. She reiterated that although the Bahamas is only a 35 minute flight from the U.S., that it was a different country, with different laws that must be followed.

Tommie and the chairman then presented the grads with beach bags containing useful items for any trip to the Bahamas. The bags contained a beach towel with the Tribal logo, sunscreen, a mini fan and a digital camera.

On day two of the trip, the group of grads, parents, staff and Tribal officials embarked on a city tour of Nassau. The first stop was Fort Fincastle, a 200-plus year old fort constructed in 1793 by then Royal Governor Lord Dunmore. Fort Fincastle is located at the top of the Queen's Staircase, the second stop on the tour.

The picturesque Queen's Staircase is the island's most visited tourist attraction. It features 65 limestone steps, all carved out by slaves in the 18th Century. Each of the steps is said to honor one year of Queen Victoria's 65 year reign. Every member of the group made their way down the very steep steps to the bottom to the grotto.

Other sites on the tour were: Bahaman Prime

Minister Perry Gladstone Christie's house, Fort Charlotte, Cable Beach, Parliament House and more. The tour ended at another one of Nassau's famous landmarks, Graycliff Restaurant. Graycliff Restaurant is the first ever five star restaurant in the Caribbean. It was even featured on the 1980s TV show *Lifestyles of the Rich & Famous*; host Robin Leach named it one of the world's top 10 restaurants.

Following lunch the group walked about one block to downtown Nassau for a little shopping and sightseeing. This area of town is home to many designer shops, souvenir shops and museums. The historic Straw Market, a flea market type shopping area, was also a popular spot for the grads.

On day three, the group met in the Atlantis lobby at 8:30 a.m. for one of the most exciting day trip offered in the Bahamas—the Exuma islands adventure. The Exumas are a remote Bahamian island chain located about one hour by boat from the hotel on Paradise Island. Before reaching Ship Channel Cay, where the group spent the day, the boat made a stop at Allen's Cay.

On Allen's Cay, several brave souls got off the boat to feed grapes to the natives—the Allen's Cay rock iguana. Chairman Mitchell Cypress joined Trail Liaison William Osceola and Tampa Liaison Richard Henry on the beach, while many of the not-so-brave grads like Juanita Osceola and Sonny Billie cooled off in the crystal blue waters surrounding the island.

After leaving Allen's Cay, the grads and the rest of the group headed to Ship Channel Cay for a day of snorkeling, sun tanning and whatever else they could want to do. One of the day's highlights was the sting ray feeding. The Exuma crew had everyone line up single file and lay a piece of fish in their hand; the sting rays would swim directly over everyone's hands and take the food.

The Exuma crew also did a shark feeding. Species including lemon sharks and nurse sharks made their way to the shoreline as the crew members threw out pieces of grouper for them to eat. When they called for volunteers to help bring the sharks near the shore, brave Kellie Tigertail stepped up to the challenge. She showed no fear as she helped wrangle the sharks.

On day four the grads, Tribal officials, parents and staff were treated to a sunset cruise followed by dinner at Luciano's of Chicago. The dinner banquet coincided with the five course gourmet Italian dinner. Sally Tommie opened the banquet program with encouraging and congratulatory remarks.

"You've made a grand step in completing high school," she said. "You're all definitely setting an example and paving the way."

Tommie introduced, first Chairman Mitchell Cypress, and then the Tribal liaisons. Each person acknowledged all the hard work the grads invested in their schooling. The chairman opened by saying he had a good time with the graduates, especially the previous day on Exuma. He recalled his feelings when seeing a shark close up.

"I don't know if you can sweat under water, but I think I did," he said.

He also encouraged each person to continue their education as far as they want to, saying the Tribe will support them in that endeavor. Cypress commended the hard work of the Education

department for helping facilitate the needs of all Seminole in school.

Following the chairman, Naples Liaison O.B. Osceola Jr.

addressed the graduates and attendees. He told the grads they were "off to a good start." Next, Trial Liaison William Osceola welcomed the grads to "the adult world" and told them to start thinking about higher education as soon as possible.

"Don't lay back too long; time moves fast," he said. "Keep doing what you're doing and we'll come to your college graduation."

After his speech, Osceola shook hands with each graduate. Tampa Liaison Richard Henry followed. He was not only there as a Tribal representative, but the proud parent of grad Kaylin Henry. Henry talked about the importance of a positive attitude in all aspects of life.

"You can have all the skills," he said. "But if you don't have the right attitude you won't make it."

Immokalee Liaison Ralph Sanchez followed Henry. He congratulated the class of 2006 and said he knew they just completed "a long haul." Sanchez said the grads should pursue higher education because they are the future of the Tribe.

"Set your goals high," he said. "We'd like to see you come back and run the Tribal Council."

Following speeches from all the Tribal officials, parents and grandparents of the grads in attendance offered congratulatory remarks. As the banquet came to a close the chairman handed out certificates of appreciation to each graduate.

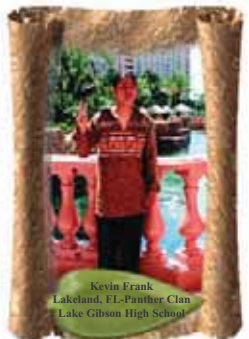


Shelly Marmor

L-R: Celeste Stockton, Niki Josh, Kaylin Henry, Audrey Snow, Kevin Frank, Ruben "Sonny" Billie, Juanita "Jo Jo" Osceola, and Kellie Tigertail.



Kaylin Henry
Tampa, FL-Otter Clan
Arnwood High School



Kevin Frank
Lakeland, FL-Panther Clan
Lake Gibson High School



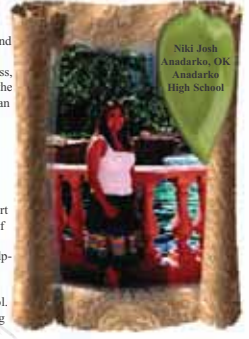
Audrey Snow
Brighton, FL-Bird Clan
Okcechokee High School



Kellie Tigertail
Big Cypress, FL
Otter Clan
Clewiston High School



Ruben "Sonny" Billie
Big Cypress, FL
Otter Clan
Clewiston High School



Niki Josh
Anadarko, OK
Anadarko High School



Celeste
Stockton
FL Pierce, FL
Bird Clan
Westwood High School



Juanita "Jo Jo" Osceola
Hollywood, FL
Panther Clan
Ahfachkee School



Historic City Tour of Nassau



Graycliff Restaurant



Fort Fincastle



Leap of Faith
Slide at Atlantis



Parliament House





Dinner Cruise & Banquet

