

Team Hollywood/Fort Pierce/Trail Wins 11th Annual Rez Rally

Team Immokalee/Naples Captures Highest Percentage of Tribal Participants Trophy

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

IMMOKALEE — A relatively foggy morning at the Immokalee Seminole Ranch gave way to clear skies and a clear-cut win for Team Hollywood/Fort Pierce/Trail at the 11th annual Rez Rally on Feb. 5.

The team won its second Rez Rally in three years and earned its traveling trophy by having the most overall participants in the Tribalwide walk/run competition.

The winning collective was followed by Team Immokalee/Naples, which hosted the Seminole Tribe's Rez Rally for the first time and placed runner-up.

Team Big Cypress, which will be hosting next year's Rez Rally, finished third, while the defending Rez Rally champion Team Brighton/Tampa came in fourth overall.

"The Rez Rally is a good thing for everybody to participate in," Chairman Mitchell Cypress said to the scores of Rez Rally participants prior to the races. "It's not just a contest; it's about your health. We're not just fighting against diabetes; we're fighting against all other diseases that's affecting us in the Tribe and worldwide. It's up to us to control ourselves and take care of our bodies."

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The 11th annual Rez Rally in Immokalee starts out with foggy conditions, with scores of participants ready to run the 5K course down Seminole Crossing Trail.

Tribal Fair Showcases Traditions, Culture and Inspires Natives from Across All Indian Country



Members of the Tribal Color Guard lead the way during Grand Entry ceremonies that kicked off the 40th annual Seminole Tribal Fair held in the Hard Rock Live, Feb. 11-13. The free event featured live Native performances, music, authentic food, a wildlife show and custom Native crafts.

Tribal Pioneer, Innovator and Leader Betty Mae Tiger-Jumper Laid to Rest on MLK Day

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Hundreds of family, friends and supporters said their goodbyes to Tribal pioneer, innovator and leader Betty Mae Tiger-Jumper, fittingly on the same day we celebrate the life and legacy of another great leader, icon Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The deeply devoted Christian mother of five (three children still alive) passed away Jan. 14 of natural causes at the age of 88. Her funeral service and nine-gun salute by the Seminole Police Department was held at the House of Prayer (formerly the Miccosukee Baptist Church) on the Hollywood Reservation on Jan. 17.

Accomplishing a who's who of firsts among her people, Tiger-Jumper was the last living member of the first Tribal Council/Board and matriarch of the Snake Clan. She can also be credited with having an influence in improving every major area of development within modern Tribal operations, including healthcare, education, government and business ventures.

"Many people talked about doing things. She always went out there and did it," son Moses Jumper Jr. said.

Born on April 27, 1923 in a chickee camp near Indiantown, Fla., she had two brothers and a sister. Her trail blazing legacy can be traced back to the establishment of the Tribe in the late 1950s when she helped as an interpreter for Tribal leaders in meetings around and under the famed Council Oak tree in Hollywood. Graduating high school in 1945, she was also part of the first generation of literate Seminoles to speak and write English, Miccosukee and Creek languages. All were significant feats at the time due to her biracial status.

"She could have been bitter about some of the treatment she got, but instead she was still compassionate toward progress and able to do a lot in spite of being endangered at that time," former longtime Seminole Tribune Editor in Chief Virginia Mitchell said of her mentor.

In 1946 Tiger-Jumper married Moses Jumper Sr. and remained committed to the World War II veteran until his death in 1993.

For many in the public, the grandmother of nine and great-grandmother of 36, was best known as the strong, hard-nosed former Chairwoman of the Tribe. In 1967, she became the first and only woman to hold such a position.

"You can not find a better component to serve as a Tribal leader than her. She was a modern day warrior," said Joe Dan Osceola, former Tribal Board President and colleague serving on the Board with Tiger-Jumper from 1967-1971. "By believing in God and the Tribe, she done well by everything she was involved in."

"It was meant for us to fight together for change," Osceola added.

The former nurse can also be credited with co-founding the powerful Native lobbyist organization United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) with Osceola.

Other noteworthy firsts include serving as the Tribe's health director and developing what would become the Seminole Tribune (formerly the Alligator Times and Seminole News).

"She was a role model and as an elder to me, I respected her and loved to sit around and just listen to her. She got involved with her job and the community. She was a role model in every sense of the word," Mitchell said.

Mitchell began her stint with the paper as a proofreader and typesetter after being hired by Tiger-Jumper in the mid-1980s.

The 1994 Florida Women's Hall of Famer and author of two books also had another side to her personality not often discussed. Family and friends describe her as a warmhearted, giving, spiritual, disciplined person and lover of sports.



BETTY MAE TIGER-JUMPER

♦ Please see PIONEER on page 2A

Ambassador Joe Dan Osceola Is Inducted into Alma Mater Georgetown College Hall of Fame

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter



Osceola, right, with Georgetown College President William Crouch, beside a custom plaque created to celebrate the Hall of Fame induction at his alma mater Georgetown College.

GEORGETOWN, Ky. — Former Tribal Board President and Seminole Tribe World Ambassador Joe Dan Osceola is now a Hall of Fame inductee joining the brightest and most influential leaders at his alma mater Georgetown College.

Along with his wife Virginia and former classmates in support, a packed John L. Hill Chapel saw Osceola be recognized in front of former and current students and faculty as part of annual Founder's Day Convocation ceremonies.

The Jan. 25 event brought back great memories for the 1961 business/physical education graduate and track and field star.

"I had a great time here at this college and received a great education over the years. I am so glad to be honored," Osceola said while addressing the college president, staff and guests during a special luncheon after the ceremony.

Osceola is the first Native and minority to be inducted into the college's Hall of Fame. He also received an honorary doctorate from the liberal arts institution in 2001.

"By bringing back someone like Joe Dan with all he has been through, we wanted to bring that message to our students," said Georgetown College President William Crouch. "We are very, very proud of Joe Dan and glad to have him associated with this college. This also helps bring more diversity to our school."

Osceola made strides as a groundbreaker in the Tribe in the

♦ Please see HALL OF FAME on page 2A

Big Cypress Preschoolers Exchange Gifts for Valentine's



♦ See Valentine's section on page 10A

Big Cypress preschoolers Amirani Brooks, left, and Rylin Osceola, right, give hugs and kisses to Janice Osceola at the preschoolers' Valentine's Day gift exchange party on Feb. 14.



Osceola, second from left, is joined by members of his Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity.

HALL OF FAME

From page 1A

early 1960s becoming the first Tribal citizen to graduate from college. Tribal Virginia said this feat was spurred on more with the loss of his parents early in his life.

“Back in the late ‘50s and ‘60s when it was hard for the Tribe, he made a commitment to go to college, and I do not think he realized how big of an impact it would have today,” she said. “But people have to realize that when Joe Dan does something, he always does it in the best interest of the Tribe.”

Georgetown College Hall of Fame Committee Chairman Robin Oldham said the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity member was on a very short list of candidates to receive the honor.

“His name came up at the top of the list [in selections] and he is a special and gifted man,” Oldham said. “He has brought a lot to this campus and has been very faithful to this community.”

The life and legacy of the fifth generation descendant of Seminole Nation legend Chief Osceola has been one of perseverance and dedication toward both Seminole and Native causes. In the combative, racially hostile segregated areas of 1950s Florida, he was the first Seminole in the state to attend a public school. His feats of accomplishment have since grown even further.

In the mid-1960s he became the youngest person on the Tribal Board as its president at the age of 30 while serving beside the legendary Tribal pioneer Betty Mae Tiger-Jumper. Both also helped to found the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET).

He was introduced to Georgetown College by a missionary family while on the Hollywood Reservation (formerly Dania) and also considered attending Florida State University to play football.

The father of 10 has almost 30 grandchildren and great-grand children. Osceola said he hopes daughter



Chris C. Jenkins

Georgetown College Assistant to the President Board Secretary Robin Oldham, center, shares old yearbook photos with Osceola, left, and wife Virginia.



Chris C. Jenkins

Osceola stands beside a custom plaque created to celebrate the Hall of Fame induction.

Courtney, senior basketball star at the University School in Davie, will also attend Georgetown.

Former Georgetown College Trustee, Board Chairman and Southern Baptist Pastor Verlin Kruschwitz was

also inducted into the Hall of Fame with Osceola.

Georgetown College is a small, residential, co-educational Christian-based college chartered in 1829 with a student population of more than 1,300.

OUR SEMINOLE VOICE

Dear Readers:

I hope you enjoyed my first column with the *Seminole Tribune*. I trust that it struck a chord. It is not my expectation to talk you into agreeing with what is arguably my opinion. It is my intent to ignite conversation. Since I last wrote, I attended USET (United South and Eastern Tribes) Impact Week in Washington, D.C. This year was extremely interesting and gave me a lot to write to you about.

USET President Brian Patterson, announced that we were proudly adding our 26th member Tribe, the Shinnecock Nation. Shinnecock is the nation’s 565th Federally Recognized (Acknowledged) Tribe. It was the fourth Tribe to file its paperwork for federal recognition and has fought for more than 30 years to regain its federal tribal identity.

This was fitting given the fact that our opening speaker, Kevin Gover, the museum director for the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, spoke about “Defining and Shaping Indian Country for Future Generations.” I found his discussion of federal recognition, trust land and sovereignty incredibly profound. So much so in fact, that it inspired me to write to you about some of my thoughts on the topic.

For the American Indian, everything is about sovereignty. It is about self-definition. It is about empowerment. It is about telling our own story our own way. Therefore, as an employee of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, my job is to protect and promote those interests, those goals, that mission. In a time of economic downsizing, we often forget about focusing on something out in the distance because we are distracted by the immediate problem and the human desire for instant gratification. The quest for overnight success prevents us from strategically moving forward with measured successes along the way. We become reactionary and forget to plan. We also begin to determine success or failure and the road to both only in terms of dollar signs. I am not suggesting that fiscal responsibility is overrated, in fact, I believe that with clear purpose, vision and a common goal, fiscal responsibility is in fact a by-product.

While representing the Tribe at various conferences and events throughout the year, I have discovered that there appears to be a matrix of issues that affect Indian Country. This matrix allows for the nice and neat compartmentalization of issues and problems that ultimately allow the federal government and the executive branch of government to control the dialogue. To control the dialogue and limit Tribes to a pre-determined set of problems is not true government to government relations and is certainly not reinforcing Tribal sovereignty.

Look, the U.S. State Department recognizes less than 200 nations in the world. There are 565 federally recognized Tribes! We differ by language, culture, history, geography, religion, economy and each identify ourselves in our own way. To tell our own story our own way, we have to control the dialogue. The matrix of pre-determined issues should be kept in perspective as “their” management tool, and we need to exercise our voice and clearly articulate our own issues tribe by tribe.

Let’s face it: Seminole has been on the front lines of defending tribal sovereignty. Through the Historic Resources Office we have been helping tribes like the Houmas in South Louisiana fight for their rights with BP and with state and federal bureaucracies who still place priorities on dollars over the needs of a people, a culture, a civilization. We have an obligation to be present in those fights for tribes.

We must not let a process such as federal recognition stand between us and the right thing to do. Federal Recognition is a process imposed upon Native People and it is not a process that we developed ourselves. If we let this process stand in

the way of helping other native peoples such as the Houma, we should be ashamed. Remember, blood quantum was a measurement used to hopefully terminate all native people thus finally solving the Indian Problem. Once we begin to self-impose stricter blood quantum regulations on our own people, we are solving their Indian problem by self-terminating.

Where tribal sovereignty, definition, culture, civilization, heritage, and way of life are at risk, Seminole needs to have a presence. For without our authenticity and our sovereignty, there will be no gaming, there will be no tourism, there will be no economic development, there will be no profile-raising, there will be no Indian Country. If we do not manage our own public reputations, then we will forever be defined by those who do not represent our best interests.

And, while we fight for the reputation of all Indian Country, we must also respect the rights and choices of our fellow tribes. We must recognize that fighting for the sovereignty of some tribes supports the sovereign rights of every tribe, whether we have those natural resources or not. We must recognize that defending the sovereign rights of tribes with gaming businesses represents a defense of all of our sovereign rights, whether we choose to have gaming businesses or not.

Don’t be confused, sovereignty is our business. It is what has made us unique and interesting for centuries. It is what continues to make us unique and interesting today. We must promote it. We must protect it.

Now for an update on something a bit more local... Many Tribal leaders have been demanding that the Bureau of Indian Affairs improve if not re-engineer its land into trust process. It is important to note that many Tribes are not like the Seminole Tribe of Florida with thousands of acres being held in trust by the United States. Tribal leaders are being kept from providing homes, health care, schools, and many other tribal services from their people because they have no land. In fact, the Narragansett were challenged all the way to the Supreme Court by the Governor of Rhode Island, Carcieri, because of the State’s desire to keep the Narragansett from adding trust land for elder housing. The State blocked the efforts and an anti-Indian ruling from the Supreme Court has launched a nationwide effort for a clean fix to the Carcieri ruling because of precedent.

With that being said, I addressed Assistant Secretary Larry Echolaw and Eastern Area Regional Director, Franklin Keel, during the USET Board Meeting and reminded tribal leaders to be careful what they wished for with trust land because unless they have millions of dollars hidden away in a mattress somewhere, that the BIA was not equipped, funded, or staffed to perform their responsibilities under federal historic preservation and environmental laws to effectively and efficiently process land use permits, leases, etc... Members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida are being kept from burning pastures, building houses, installing fence lines, transferring lease owners, and pursuing economic development because the staff at the BIA Nashville Office are obstructionists.

I contend that no one expected Indian people to live past the turn of the century. No one expected us to become educated without assimilating and no one expected us to survive without compromise. The federal system was built with the full intent to obstruct tribal sovereignty. This is why it is important that as an employee of the Tribe, we must consider ourselves Sovereignty Protectors. I hope all of you feel the same way. Until next issue...

Note: The opinions and comments in the above-printed column belong to its author, and do not reflect the opinions and convictions of the Seminole Tribune.



TINA OSCEOLA

The Start Of The Seminole Tribune

The following column was written by Betty Mae Jumper and printed out in the July 9, 1999 issue of the Seminole Tribune.

I have been asked many times: how did the Seminole Tribune get started. The Tribune has a long history. It actually started back in 1956 before the Seminole Tribe was even organized.

At that time the late Alice Osceola and I began writing the Seminole News. We ran the paper out of my home. I supplied news about in the Hollywood Reservation and Alice brought in news from the Trail.

We charged 10 cents a copy and we usually sold just enough to afford to put out the next paper. It was pretty simple by today’s standards, but we kept it going.

The paper went on for three months. Then, I got sick and Alice didn’t think she could do the paper by herself, so we stopped.

But, some other people thought they would put the paper out, and they took over. They changed the name to the Smoke Signal. They tried to run it, but dropped the project after a few times. Then, some other people picked it up and they put out more issues and they dropped it, too.

Then one day in 1979, Chairman James Billie called me into his office and asked me if I could run the newspaper again. At first I told him I didn’t want to, but I thought it was important to have the paper for Tribal news and to let people know what was going on.

I talked to two ladies about what James had asked. The two ladies – Barbara Doc-

tor and Twila Perkins – got excited about the idea of a newspaper and they said, “Betty, do it! We’ll help you. We’re both good typists. We’ll work hard.”

After thinking about it some more, I decided to give it a try. So, I went back to the Chairman and told him I thought it over and I will try to make the newspaper go for the Tribe.

So, we started – the three of us ladies – and in two weeks the Alligator Times came out for the first time, replacing the old Seminole News. I handed over the first issue to James Billie and told him this was our first.

I think he was surprised to see it and that we produced the newspaper in two weeks. This was our beginning, and we promised to get the paper out on time. We did the paper for a long time. For some time, my son Moses Jumper Jr. was the editor.

By 1982, the newspaper was changed again. The Chairman changed the name to The Seminole Tribune and I came back to be the editor. Around this time we added Virginia Mitchell and later Marlin Billie. Later, we added Pete Gallagher.

Today, we have many new people and faces. Virginia, Pete and I are still here, but we also got Dan McDonald, Melissa Sherman, Ernie Tiger, Elrod Bowers, Libby Blake and Valerie Frank on staff, and a bunch of free lance writers and contributors. Now we have people covering events from other reservations and wherever news pops up. We are also responsible for the Tribal Internet content.

Sometimes I think of the old days, and I get sad because some things aren’t as good as they once were. But, I’m glad to see the changes in The Seminole Tribune. This newspaper has come a long way and I’m happy to say it’s a lot better now than it ever was in the old days.

One of the reasons I think the paper is still around and still will be around is the

spirit of my grandmother, Mary Tiger. She always told me that once you start something, make sure you finish it. She didn’t like me going off to school in Cherokee, N.C., to learn the white man’s language. She was against it.

But, when I finally graduated and came home, she was proud of me for sticking with it and finishing. She was one of the first to

give me a hug and to tell me she was proud of what I had done.

That’s the way I feel about The Seminole Tribune. I feel it won’t stop now. It has been started and it’s on its way and it won’t stop. I’m proud that I’ve had a part in helping to keep this Tribal newspaper going and trust it will be going for a long time to come.

A Mother’s Love

By Moses Jumper Jr.

*I wish there was something, perhaps a gift, a deed, or something I could say,
To express why I feel this way...
You have kept the family together, throughout the years,
Brought us through our laughter, trials and fears
No! there is no word, gift or deed for the answer is known
only from the Great Spirit above!
Of why He gave to you to give to me...
A Mother’s Love!*

PIONEER

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“She was the person that pushed me through in sports and schooling,” Jumper Jr. reminisced. “She never thought of herself, but always thought of others first,” Mitchell said of the Titan, recalling her playful nickname of “the arm” throughout the community. The affectionate name stuck because of her habit of hanging her left arm outside of the vehicle while driving.

Nephew and Tribal Council Treasurer Mike Tiger lived next door to her more than a half century.

“I am going to miss her loving demeanor. She was not the kissy/lovey type though,” he said. “She used to teach us Christian songs in English and Miccosukee like ‘Jesus Loves Me.’

“She was thoughtful of others and willing to help everyone. I actually took some of her habits in dealing with people. She loved her people and was willing to do anything for them,” Mitchell said.

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Community

A



Tribal members, community members and members of the press gather for the celebration of the Brighton Casino's 30th anniversary. Photo above, Tribal Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr., left, and Tribal Chairman Mitchell Cypress stand for the presentation of the colors.

Rachel Buxton

Brighton Casino Continues to Shine as it Celebrates 30 Years

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Thirty years ago the Seminole Tribe of Florida took a gamble and opened a Bingo hall in the middle of nowhere. On Jan. 18 their gamble paid off as the Brighton community and guests celebrated the Brighton Casino's 30th anniversary with a buffet lunch and dignitary speeches.

The celebration was held in the Bingo hall at the Brighton Casino with Tribal Council, Tribal members and numerous members of the press from surrounding counties in attendance.

General Manager of the Brighton Casino and Tribal member Marty Johns welcomed everyone and talked briefly about the history of the casino and how it started off as a dream and ongoing project of his late father, Josiah Johns.

"He was the one that started the second Native American Bingo high stakes in the country," Marty Johns said. "In '83 he passed away and then I kind of, without no knowledge or experience with gaming, had to learn very fast."

Beginning as a Bingo hall in a 50-by-38-foot steel barn where individuals actually played on the hood of their vehicles because there wasn't enough room, the now 27,000-square-foot building has turned into a first class casino. It stands out from all other Tribal casinos as it encompasses the Seminole heritage with cowboy and rodeo murals covering the interior and exterior of the building.

"The way that [Marty Johns] designed this place — it's a rodeo building," President Richard Bowers Jr. said. "I appreciate Marty for doing that and not forgetting about where we actually come from, our cattle heritage."

Throughout the years, the Brighton casino has gone through many renovations. Even within the past year, the lounge named after the late Josiah Johns was moved into the center of the casino to make room for 30 more slot machines.

No matter what time of day you pass by the casino, there are always cars in the parking lot and people at the tables and slot machines.

Brighton Casino employee Kimberly Johns gives credit to the superb staff and de-

scribes the casino employees as a big family who gives off the family atmosphere that keeps bringing people back.

"Staff, pat yourselves on the back or have your neighbor pat you on the back, great job," Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr. said.

Marty Johns announced that on New Year's Eve, the casino was at full capacity for seven hours straight with every seat taken and individuals standing behind people ready to grab the next available machine.

Percentage wise the Brighton Casino has seen the biggest increase in revenue over all other Tribal casinos, according to the latest Tribe gaming report.

Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. agreed with Rep. Bowers and said it takes all of the employees and the entire team to make something successful.

"I want to applaud you," Rep. Osceola said. "It is because of your efforts that we have this success. The first 30 years was a good ride and the next 30 years will be a fun ride."

Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa Adds Star Power to Gasparilla

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

TAMPA — The Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa kept the city partying Jan. 29 as the title sponsor for the annual Gasparilla Pirate Fest.

Gasparilla is a legendary tradition that has been held since 1904 to reenact the historic pirate invasion into Tampa by pirate Jose Gaspar.

After several years of being a presenting sponsor and even a Gasparilla Stage Sponsor, in 2010 Tampa's Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino expanded their sponsorship to title sponsor for three years, 2010 through 2012.

EventFest Inc., Gasparilla Pirate Fest organizers mentioned in a press release that the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa, with their multiyear commitment to title sponsorship of Tampa's Gasparilla Pirate Fest is elevating the festival and parade to new heights as they continue to add a touch of their celebrity culture to Gasparilla festivities.

In the early morning, the Gasparilla Flotilla made its way up the Seddon Channel and docked at the Tampa Bay Convention Center where Mayor Pam Iorio surrendered the key to the City of Tampa into the hands of the Captain of Ye Mystic Krewe of Gasparilla.

Following the invasion, the boisterous buccaneers took to the streets of downtown Tampa in celebration of their victory.

The victory was celebrated in Hard Rock style with a 3.8-mile parade led by actor, comedian and musician Jim Belushi as the grand marshal.

In the event's 107-year history, a prominent public figure has only been named as the parade's grand marshal six times.

"As the title sponsor, Seminole Hard Rock is committed to bringing star power to the Gasparilla event," said John Fontana, president of Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa. "And Jim Belushi is perfect for the grand marshal role. He's a tremendous celebrity talent in music, movies and television."

Following behind Belushi were more than 90 elaborate floats with music and costumes, 14 marching bands, more than 50 district Krewes and, of course, Gasparilla's pirates throwing out their beads and treasures.

Adding to the festivities, a street festival was held throughout the day with vendors set up along Ashley Drive in downtown Tampa. The Gasparilla Pirate Fest Street Festival featured stages with live entertainment and food.



Courtesy of Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa

Photo above, Tampa Hard Rock Hotel and Casino crew show off their float for the 2011 Gasparilla parade. Photo below, Pirate Fest Grand Marshal, Jim Belushi throws beads to the crowds of people lined up along the parade route.



Tribal Officials Meet and Greet Representatives from the National Indian Gaming Commission



Adina Loockhart

Tribal officials welcomed on Feb. 3 at the Tribal headquarters representatives from the National Indian Gaming Commission, including Chairwoman Tracie Stevens and Associate Commissioner Daniel J. Little. From left, Truman Bowers, with the Seminole Gaming Commission, Fort Pierce Liaison Sally Tommie, Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Mondo Tiger, Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Stevens, Little, Hollywood/Fort Pierce Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. and Vice-chairman of the Seminole Gaming Commission Gordon Wareham. A graduate of University of Washington in Seattle, Stevens is the first Native American woman to chair the commission. She is a member of the Tulalip Tribes in Washington and started working for her Tribe in 1995, in the casino operations. "It's an honor to be selected [as chairwoman of the NIGC] and a responsibility that has to be honored," she said. Also present at the meet and greet were Joel Frank Sr., STOF Grants Department Director, Paxton Myers, chief of staff for NIGC, Larry Roberts, NIGC general counsel and Lael Echo-Hawk, Counsel to the Chair.

Tribal Council Convenes for Monthly Meeting in Immokalee

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

IMMOKALEE — The Tribal Council held its monthly meeting in Immokalee on Jan. 24. The Tribal leaders passed all of the resolutions on the agenda, including the following:

- Approval of Tribal revocable permit between Seminole Tribe of Florida (permittor) and Triangle Auto Center, Inc. D/B/A Toyota of Hollywood (permittee) Hollywood Seminole Indian Reservation.

- Grant of easement for right of way for BIA Road 1285 (aka Flowing Well Road) Bureau of Indian Affairs (grantor) Bureau of Indian Affairs Branch of Roads (grantee) — Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation.

- First Amendment to Ravenswood Office Center lease between Ravenswood Office Center (landlord) and Seminole Tribe of Florida (tenant).

- Approval of term sheet with Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association for the title sponsorship of 2011 PRCA Xtreme Bulls Tour.

- Limousine and transportation service agreement with Casino Limo Corp. D/B/A Corporate Coaches.

- U.S. Foodservice, Inc. - first amendment to master distribution agreement.

Elder Tahama Osceola Is an Inspiration for Younger Generations

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

NAPLES — Tahama Osceola's memories light up her senior years as she recalls the positive changes that have carried her people into the 21st century.

Panther clan Tahama was the first of seven children belonging to Cory Robert Osceola and his wife, Juanita Cypress Osceola. While they were living at the Musa Isle Indian Village in Miami, their daughter had the distinction of being the first Seminole baby to be delivered in a Miami hospital, according to a July 12, 1925 article in the Miami Daily News.

During the early years, the Osceolas divided their time between the Miami tourist attraction and their village in the Everglades in an effort to earn a living. They eventually made their permanent home in camps that they established in Collier County along the Tamiami Trail, where they sold crafts and organized Seminole crews to participate in the seasonal planting and picking of agricultural crops.

Times were changing and the Osceolas were frequently challenged by the necessity to adapt between a traditional and contemporary lifestyle. Tahama and her brothers, Curtis and Pete, were raised along traditional lines similar to the previous generation.

At an early age Tahama was assigned small tasks around the camp and introduced to the traditional arts and crafts. It was her responsibility to learn how to cook, plant a garden, care for small livestock, clean fish and wild game, make clothing and help tend to her younger siblings. As she grew older, she joined the adults working in the produce fields and driving a truck.

The Seminole environment was rapidly changing and by the time that siblings O.B. Sr., Mary, Guy and Marie arrived, the family recognized the advantages of an education and enrolled them in school. Tahama was already a young woman and did not receive the benefits of going to school to learn to read, write or work with figures.

The lack of education did not prevent her from dedicating her life to preserving the traditional crafts of her culture and assuming the important role of caring for her family. Adhering to tradition, Osceola became an important part of the social structure of her parents' village and cared for her mother and father throughout their senior years. She remains a strong advocate of education.

Holding out her hand to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Tahama said, "This is our culture, but you must learn the ways of others and balance what you know to make a future for all of us."

In addition to her own three children, she continues to be influential in the lives of the many young people, nieces and nephews who called her parents' camp their home.

"My mother and father believed that it takes a village to raise a child, and their camp was open to everyone," Tahama recalled.

Wanda Zepeda, Tahama's daughter, remembers the sacrifices her mother made in caring for her extended family.

"As a young woman, my mom worked hard in the fields, drove a farm truck by day and did her share of the cooking at the evening fire," Wanda said. "The long hours she spent at the sewing machine produced a remarkable skill for making meticulous Seminole patchwork creations and dolls. I can never thank her enough for babysitting and teaching our children. Now it is our turn to take care of her."

Tahama's son Douglas and his wife Sandy acknowledge the strength of Tahama's character, which has been passed on to their children.

"Karie Jo, Jessica and Marissa have inherited her strong will and determination," Sandy said. "These are the characteristics that will serve them throughout their lives. All of her grandchildren have excelled in school and sought higher education."

Jessica Osceola said her grandmother began teaching her about our culture at an early age.

"It wasn't long before I wanted to know more about our origins and the history of our rich heritage," she said. "She was a driving force behind my earning a degree in fine arts from Florida Gulf Coast University and accepting a position as traditional arts specialist at the Juanita Osceola Center, which is dedicated to the memory of her mother."

Grandsons Lee, Brian, Doug and Pedro Zepeda are pursuing careers in education, management and preservation of their culture. They have found their grandmother to be an inspiration and willing source of information and encouragement.

"Our Seminole culture is a matriarchal society," Barbara Osceola-Butera said. "The women accept a large responsibility for preparing the next generations for the role they must play in preserving the future of our people."

"My Aunt Tahama has taken these responsibilities to heart and devoted her life to striving to fulfill her destiny," Osceola-Butera said. "In her quiet, gentle, but firm demeanor, she has instilled in us our heritage and the strength of our ancestors, for which we will always be grateful."

Tahama said there is one thing that makes her very sad.

"Our young people are not learning their language and if this is lost, it will not be long before our people are gone," she said. "It is important that we teach them so that they can pass this on to their children."



Judy Weeks

Holidays and family events bring a smile to the face of Tahama Osceola.



Naji Tobias

Seminole Fire Rescue Inspector Bruce Britton conducts a 45-minute session with the Big Cypress seniors on child abduction and human trafficking over lunch on Feb. 1. Inspector Britton touched on the importance of children not talking to strangers and always being in a public place with someone they know and trust. The Big Cypress seniors were given a slew of tips on how to avoid being abducted by a stranger. A 90-second clip from the 2008 movie "Taken" briefly featured the story of a girl who was abducted by a stranger after receiving permission from her parents to go on a weekend trip.

Seminole Fire Rescue Teaches Big Cypress Seniors How to Prevent Abduction



Naji Tobias

The Feb. 1 abduction prevention session at the Big Cypress Senior Center was attended by several Tribal seniors, who received a lesson on the topic from Seminole Fire Rescue Inspector Bruce Britton. The 14 seniors – not all pictured here – in attendance were as follows: Pete Aguilar, George Billie, Pilot Billie, Sally Buster, Daisy Jumper, Theresa Jumper, Virginia Mitchell, Louise Osceola, Ruby Osceola, Rudy Osceola, Harley Roberts, Alice Tigertail, Betty Tigertail and Minnie Tigertail.

Seminole Moments Presentation Honors Contemporary Seminole Athletics

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Writer

HOLLYWOOD — Everett Osceola, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Tribal community outreach specialist, gave some much-deserved attention to the topic of Contemporary Seminole Athletics as part of the first Seminole Moments series of the new year.

Tribal employees gathered in the Tribal Headquarters Auditorium to celebrate the varied athletic contributions of several Seminole men and women over the decades.

"Even though we were having wars against us, we still knew how to have a good time," Osceola said at the Jan. 20 presentation.

He said Seminole participation in sports dates back centuries to the days of one traditional game called stickball. The game was played for amusement among Seminoles during the three Seminole Wars in Florida from 1817 to 1858.

Known today as a street game related to baseball, the game is usually formed as a pick-up game with a rubber ball and broomstick handle. Modern day lacrosse is known to be a descendant of the game and was played between both the men and women in many of the Native communities. During carnivals and other special occasions, canoe races and aquatic sports were also featured.

Osceola also discussed some of the more recent Seminole athletes to excel in the sports world.

Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., avid University of Miami alumnus and fan, played football in his late teens. His team won a national championship on the junior college level in Oklahoma.

Moses Jumper, longtime director of recreation for the Hollywood Reservation known as "Big Shot" in the community, played catcher for the semi-professional Dania Redbirds baseball organization.

Steven Bowers, military advocate and current Governor's Council Liaison on Indian Affairs for the Tribe, also excelled on the gridiron for the Dania Blue Devils as a part of three straight undefeated Pop Warner 115-pound level teams in the 1960s.

"In those times I learned to get along with people away from my own Tribe, as well as sportsmanship, discipline and competition," Bowers said.

Harry Billie and David Jumper shined on the baseball diamond and in track and field.

Billie was a star baseball player and went on to play professionally with major league baseball's Pittsburgh Pirates.

Jumper was a wiz in cross-country running and was often referred to by the nickname "Barefoot Seminole."

"David [Jumper] was a great long distance runner and his stamina was far superior to anyone else out there in his time," said Mike Tiger, Tribal Council treasurer and former pigskin standout of Jumper.



Chris C. Jenkins

Everett Osceola, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Tribal community outreach specialist, gives a special presentation on Seminole athletes during the most recent Seminole Moments series for Tribal employees in the Tribal Headquarters Auditorium Jan. 20.

Tiger was known as an all-state, all-city and all-county punter/free safety and team captain for McArthur High School in Hollywood.

David Cypress, former Big Cypress Tribal Council Representative and grappler, held a 30-year record until recently for the fastest pin in a match.

Jarrod Smith, recent master's degree graduate of Florida Atlantic University, was a three-year starter on the offensive line, offensive team MVP and co-captain for the Owls taking them to an 8-5 school record, Sun Belt Conference championship and New Orleans Bowl victory in 2008.

Tribal women Yvonne Courtney and Mary Huff have also made significant sports contributions. Courtney was a triple threat letterman in basketball, volleyball and softball, while pitcher Huff was featured in the Jan. 28 edition of the Seminole Tribune after accepting a scholarship to play at the University of Central Florida.

Treasurer Tiger said the entire presentation brought back a lot of fond memories.

"Sports made me more effective as a human being and opened many doors for us [as Seminoles]," he said. "We were talented in what we did, and people like winners."

Tiger said, "Whenever knowledge, skill and ability come together you can accomplish a lot of things."

For more information, visit www.seminolerec.com.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal Council Treasurer and former football player Mike Tiger reminisces on his playing days and other Tribal athletes.

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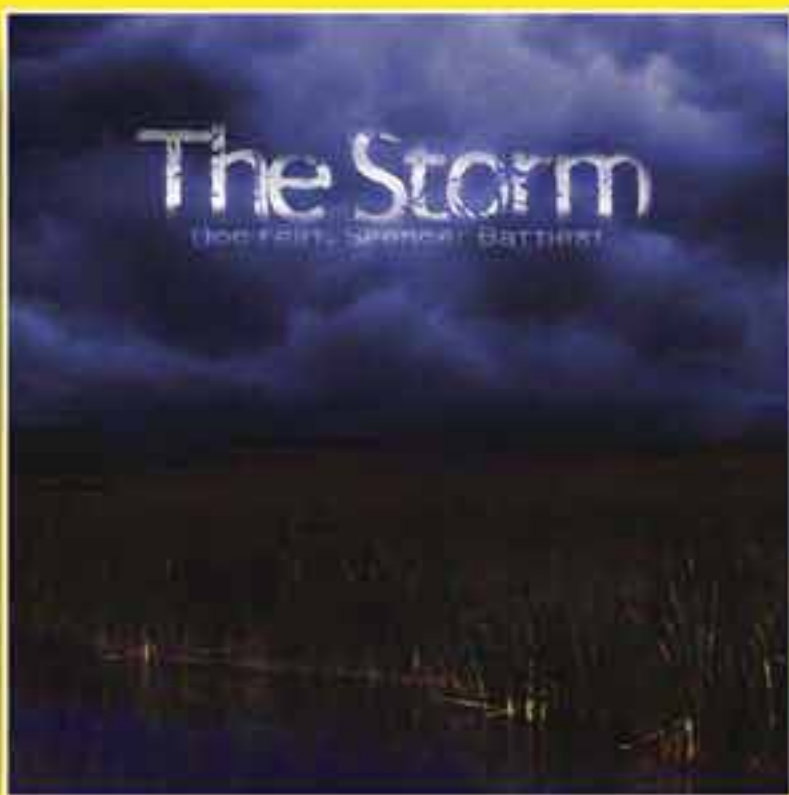
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Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's Pedro Zepeda Receives Job Promotion

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Writer

BIG CYPRESS – For Tribal citizen Pedro Zepeda, the preservation of the Seminole Tribe's history is an art form and a significant part of who he is.

Recently, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum recognized Zepeda for his knowledge and experience in sharing the Seminole culture with the Tribal citizens and the outside world. The Tribal department recently promoted him to traditional arts and outreach coordinator.

Zepeda, who has been with the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress since February 2007, started as the department's oral history coordinator. Following a stint in that position, he later moved up to be the museum's traditional arts coordinator.

In both of Zepeda's previous positions, his

to expand their outreach operations to Tribal entities such as the Tribe's Boys & Girls Club, the Ahfachkee School and Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School.

These expansive operations are geared toward having a series of outside speaking engagements, which primarily center on promoting the museum's Seminole art and culture to general public arenas that have yet to be tapped into.

"Looking at the bigger picture, it's important for me to pass on the knowledge I've gained to our Tribal citizens and to the general public," Zepeda said. "It's such a good thing to let people know who we are and what our history means to us."

Growing up in the Naples community, Zepeda was heavily involved in the traditional arts. He said much of that came from learning the art of sewing, beadwork and wood carving from his ancestors.

"My grandmother and grandfather [Tahama Osceola and Ingram Billie Jr.] have definitely had a huge impact on my interest in our traditional culture," Zepeda said. "They, along with my great-grandmother, Juanita Osceola, planted that seed for the Naples community. For the Seminole people, it's important for us to just come together and stay connected."

Zepeda, a 2001 Lely High School graduate, earned a bachelor's degree in art from Stetson University in 2005.

Shortly after graduating from college, Zepeda took a job with the Ahfachkee School, where he served as an art teacher for two years.

But when Zepeda saw an opportunity to move his career forward, particularly in the museum field, he took it upon himself to share his knowledge of art

with the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

Paul Perry, the museum's program coordinator, saw Zepeda as a worthy person to represent the Tribe as the outreach coordinator, citing his interpersonal skills and his vast knowledge of the Seminole culture and traditions.

"It was a fairly easy decision to make," Perry said of Zepeda's promotion to outreach coordinator. "Pedro comes from a very well-known family and he's very well connected with the community. It's such a critical position within the museum. With that being said, I believe Pedro has the ability to reach out to both the Tribal and non-Tribal audience."

Perry and Zepeda said the recent move will play a major role in continuing the efforts to preserve the Seminole history.

"We're a small Tribe, so it's up to each of us to preserve our culture and our traditions," Zepeda said. "If we don't do that, no one will do it for us. The Tribe, the government and our departments should work together to keep the traditions alive. We're all working hard to make sure that happens."



Naji Tobias

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's Pedro Zepeda was recently promoted to traditional arts and outreach coordinator.

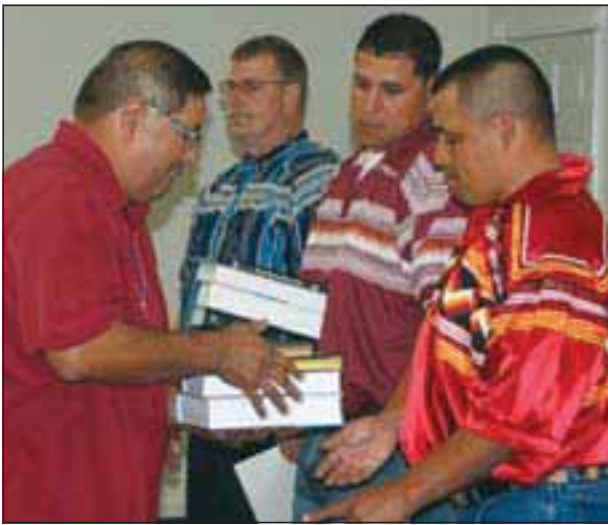
primary role has focused on conducting presentations for the Tribal citizens and the general public. Much of Zepeda's work throughout his time at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum has been showcased through the Seminole Moments series.

Seminole Moments, a series of presentations that focuses on topics such as traditional foods, traditional clothing and traditional art, has made monthly appearances in Big Cypress, Brighton, Fort Pierce, Hollywood, Immokalee and Tampa for the past couple of years.

The well-received series has now begun an expansion to the Naples community, with possible plans to make an appearance in the Trail community.

"Seminole Moments has been one of our most successful programs," Zepeda said. "We get all positive feedback from the surveys we take after each of our presentations. People always come up to us and say they enjoy them."

While Zepeda will continue to conduct Seminole Moments presentations with his outreach team – Willie Johns, Vandall Samuels and Everett Osceola – he and his team are set



Judy Weeks

From left, Pastor Bruce Pratt presents Fred Phillips, Josh Jumper and Alphonso Tigertail with the literary tools that will assist them in spreading the Gospel.



Judy Weeks

Mr. Pringle offers a closing prayer for Alphonso Tigertail, Josh Jumper and Fred Phillips and their families.

Big Cypress First Baptist Church Presents Licensing Service

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Big Cypress First Baptist Church was filled to capacity Jan. 30, when visitors joined members of the congregation to witness a licensing service for three devoted Christians, who had received the call of their Lord to serve their fellow man.



Judy Weeks

Alphonso Tigertail is animated by the telling of his personal story of commitment.

During welcoming remarks, Moses Jumper Jr. provided a brief historical background of the acceptance of Christianity by the Seminole people.

"Native American missionaries from Oklahoma initially brought their faith to our ancestors," Jumper said. "Revivals by men like Stanley Smith and Billy Osceola spread the gospel during the 1920s to 1950s. Many of our leaders were blessed by their commitment to Christianity."

Following the invocation, Pastor Bruce Pratt said, "A licensing service is designed to pass the authority of the

church to fellow Christians who are called to administer to their community and spread the gospel. A required standard for a preacher is set by God to His church. We believe these men have met these standards. May God bless this service, these three men and their families."

Van Samuels led the congregation in the singing of hymns and then returned the service to Pratt.

"Alphonso Tigertail, Josh Jumper and Fred Phillips have heard the call of the Lord and will give testimony of their salvation and call to the ministry," Pratt said. "They have received a vote of approval from our church members."

One at a time, the three men came forward and reviewed their lives prior to accepting the Lord. They related their experiences upon receiving the call to Christianity and service to others. Frequently referring to the Bible, they sought the wisdom of its words to express their feelings and share their faith.

Calling Alphonso Tigertail, Josh Jumper and Fred Phillips before the congregation, Pratt said, "These men have exercised their religious beliefs and are led by the Lord to preach the Gospel. The call of the Lord is upon them."

He presented each of the men with a Certificate of License and the tools of their service, which included Bible study materials.

Junior Billie consecrated the moment with a Prayer of Blessing. A longtime member of the Church and Sunday school teacher, Mr. Pringle spoke to each of the men regarding



Judy Weeks

Raised as a Christian, Josh Jumper said he felt a personal call to serve his fellow man through the Church after he became an adult.

the magnitude of their commitment.

Joined by their families, the new lay pastors received a Handshake Blessing from the members of the congregation at the end of the service. A celebratory luncheon buffet was served at the Billie Swamp Safari's Swamp Water Cafe.



Judy Weeks

From left, Moses Jumper Jr. congratulates Fred Phillips, Josh Jumper and Alphonso Tigertail for having accepted the call of the Lord to serve their fellow man.

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Seminole Casino Coconut Creek Offers a Tribute to Heroes

BY ADINA LOOCHKARTT
Senior Editor

The Seminole Casino Coconut Creek welcomed international, national and local heroes Feb. 4, who were recognized for their achievements and acknowledged for the miracles they made happen.

The honored guests at A Tribute to Heroes and Miracles were 13 of the 33 rescued



Adina Loochkartt
Panama City School Board shooting Mike Jones and Ginger Littleton were honored for their courage.

Chilean miners; hero and heroine of the Panama City School Board shooting Mike Jones and Ginger Littleton; “All My Children” actor and war veteran J.R. Martinez; Paralympian Bradley Johnson and cancer survivor Ana Gospodinoff, accompanied by her caregiver and husband, Victor.

One by one, the heroes shared their stor-

ies with the audience and sent a message of love and unity.

In their only visit to South Florida and fresh from a family vacation at Disney World in Orlando, the 13 present miners thanked the audience and the world for their support and love, while they were trapped 2,300 feet underground last year in a collapsed mine.

Florencio Avalos, 31, was the first miner to be rescued after 69 days of waiting in the mine.

“I thought of my sons and wife,” Avalos said of his moments trapped underneath.

“I feel different; to be a normal miner and now to travel everywhere,” he said.

Avalos said the symbol of the 33 is that we all need peace, unity and to understand each other.

Daniel Herrera, 28, was the 16th miner to get out.

When coming out of the mine he said he felt happiness and anxiety at the same time. He said he was happy to be out but restless for leaving the others behind.

“At all times I thought the worst could happen,” Herrera said.

Speaking of his experience, he said, “I am the same, maybe a little more lucky. God gave me the opportunity to do something good.”

The good he is talking about is that their story will raise awareness to the tough life miners lead everywhere.

“I hope that this will never happen to anyone else,” he said.

The other miners honored at the Seminole Casino Coconut Creek were Mario Sepulveda, Dario Segovia, Pablo Rojas, Jose Ojeda, Carlos Bugueno, Renan Avalos,

Claudio Acuña, Samuel Avalos, Esteban Rojas, Carlos Mamani and Victor Segovia.

A local hero, retired detective on duty Jones, saved the lives of Bay County school board members on Dec. 15 when he stopped gunman Clay Duke, who opened gunfire at a public meeting. School Board member Littleton became famous for her brave gesture, trying to knock the pistol from the attacker’s hand with her purse.

Jones came with his wife, Colleen, to the event. “I’m extremely proud,” she said. “He is modest – always.”

Martinez was severely burned and almost killed when a land mine exploded under his military Humvee while serving in Iraq in 2003. His injuries required more than 30 surgeries. Martinez became a motivational speaker and an actor, playing combat veteran Broton Monroe in the ABC-TV soap “All My Children.” He is also a spokesman for Operation Finally Home and for the Iraq War Hero Foundation.

“All I’ve heard from all these stories here is that I’m not a hero,” Martinez said. “But everyone experiences their own kind of war, battle.”

“Mike [Jones], Ginger [Littleton], you’re absolutely heroes. Start to embrace that,” he added.

Pompano Beach attorney Johnson partially lost his legs in a car accident, after attending the University of Florida and taking his law school entrance exams.

“I’ve done things that I couldn’t have done before,” Johnson said of his changed life after the accident.

Upon graduation, he got involved in disabled sports, and eventually participated in competitive sailing and sitting volleyball for the U.S. team. He also competed in the 2000 Paralympic Games in Sydney, Australia,

the 2004 Paralympic in Athens, Greece in 2007, the Parapan American Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and in the 2010 Sitting Volleyball World Championships.

A quote from Johnson’s video presentation said, “I realize I am more than the parts I have lost.”

Today Johnson works on changing public attitudes and perceptions toward disability through The Hartford, founding sponsor of U.S. Paralympics.

Ana Gospodinoff, from Miami, survived brain and breast cancer and miraculously recovered after the doctors gave her a 3 percent chance of survival. Her husband Victor didn’t accept that prognosis and Ana agreed to undergo four aggressive treatments simultaneously. “She was down to 74 pounds at some point,” Victor said.

The American Cancer Society chose her as their honorary female cancer survivor at a Relay for Life event in her hometown of Miami. Shortly after the event, doctors were unable to find any cancer in her liver, lungs or bones.

“I thank him for being with me every step of the way, and for being such a good caregiver,” Ana said of her husband. “He is my hero.”

“I always believed that unity is strength; attitude is everything,” she said. “Whatever you do, never give up, keep on fighting, ‘cause miracles do happen.”

All proceeds from the event benefited



Adina Loochkartt
Actor and war veteran J.R. Martinez talks about the battles people have to face in life, and how these battles turn them into heroes.

the United Mine Workers of America Miners Aid Fund, the American Cancer Society and Disabled American Veterans.

Call the Pavilion at Seminole Casino Coconut Creek, 5550 NW 40th Street, Coconut Creek, Fla., at 954-977-6700, or visit www.seminolecoconutcreekcasino.com.



Adina Loochkartt
Pompano Beach attorney and Paralympian Bradley Johnson lost parts of both of his legs in a car accident, but found the way to accomplish his life goals.



Adina Loochkartt

Thirteen of the 33 rescued Chilean miners were invited to the Seminole Casino Coconut Creek on Feb. 4 and honored during the A Tribute to Heroes event.

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Janice Osceola

From left, Big Cypress senior men's archery participants Ingram Billie Jr., Tommie Billie, Rudy Osceola, Joe B. Osceola, Allen Jumper and Joe Junior Billie are all reveling in the moment at the Jan. 26 Big Cypress Senior Culture Day festivities with Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Mondo Tiger, right.

Big Cypress Seniors Come Together For Culture Day



Janice Osceola

Big Cypress Tribal Elder Louise Billie places second in the women's archery competition.



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Tribal citizen/Culture employee Judy Jim cooks catfish for lunch under the Family Investment Center's chickee.

BIG CYPRESS SENIORS CULTURE DAY - RESULTS		
Bingo 1. Juanita Billie 2. Violet Jim 3. Minnie Tigertail, 4. Louise Billie	Pan Toss Women 1. Minnie Tigertail 2. Louise Billie 3. Lucille Jumper; Men 1. Joe B. Osceola 2. Joe Junior Billie 3. Tommie W. Billie	Knife Throw Women 1. Janice Osceola 2. Louise Osceola 3. Louise Billie; Men 1. Joe B. Osceola 2. Rudy Osceola 3. Tommie W. Billie
Hatchet Throw Women 1. Louise Billie 2. Ruby Osceola 3. Louise Osceola; Men 1. Joe B. Osceola	Archery Women 1. Janice Osceola	

Brighton Reservation Launches Boys & Girls Club Chapter

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Brighton youth got a sample of what's in store as they kicked off the Brighton chapter of the Boys & Girls Club Feb. 1 with an exciting game of Fear Factor held at the Charter School.

"It's a soft roll out, we're coming out here two times a week until we can fill the fulltime positions and then be out here every day," said Thomas Doud, the unit manager of the Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club.

Twelve Brighton youth showed up for the newly established chapter geared up for anything and everything.

Before the fun began, the students had a homework hour where staff assisted the students in completing their homework for the day.

"We strive to help the youth be successful in their academics, as well as their social skills," Doud said.

The Seminole Fire Rescue joined in the afternoon activities by grilling hamburgers and hotdogs for everyone to enjoy.

With full stomachs, the students headed outdoors for a messy game of Fear Factor, ready to explore healthy risks and challenge their fears.

Kids tossed eggs, searched for pacifiers in slop without using their hands and attempted a new challenge, the slingshot slope, where they had to catch slop-soaked sponges in a flowerpot attached to a helmet worn on their heads.

"We just try to put something different out there, different from the actual or regu-

lar kickball games or dodgeball that we do," Doud said. "And really what it's all about is having fun in a safe environment."

Tribal Council insisted that Brighton get its own Boys & Girls Club since chapters already exist on the Hollywood and Big Cypress Reservations.

In weeks to come, the Brighton Boys & Girls Club hopes to have all positions filled and to turn the Charter School cafeteria into a meeting place for the club every day after



Rachel Buxton

Shyla Gopher spits the pacifier out after finding it in the slop.

school.

"Having a Boys & Girls Club brings the community together," Doud said. "I think the youth here in Brighton can expect just to have a good time."



Rachel Buxton

Valerie Marone from Family Services helps LaShae King with her homework during the Boys & Girls Club homework hour.



Rachel Buxton

LaShae King attempts to catch the slop-soaked sponge in her helmet.

Youth Enjoy New Music Room at Juanita Osceola Center

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

NAPLES — The new music room at the Juanita Osceola Center opened on Feb. 7 with the Music Beat Jam Session. An eager crowd of youngsters hurried to complete their homework and tutoring sessions to participate in the fun-filled activities from 3 to 6 p.m.

Local musician and teacher George Colyer, accompanied by musician Gabriel "Gabe the Babe" Mejia, welcomed the group of budding artists and encouraged them to try out the variety of instruments at their disposal. Within a few minutes, the room was filled with a medley of notes and cheerful voices.

Circulating around the room, the item that drew the most attention was a didgeridoo.

Marissa Osceola, who plays clarinet and acoustic guitar, had recently acquired the wind instrument carved from the agave plant by Australian aborigines. She offered to let everyone

attempt to blow into the horn and develop their own style of harmony.

During the previous year, the Center sponsored a series of music workshops and jam sessions, which have developed a keen interest in the younger generation of the Naples Community.

Many of the school students are currently participating in band and chorus. The very young are just beginning to have exposure to musical appreciation and look forward to having an opportunity to try out various instruments and sing as a group.

Music camp with Casper and the 602 Band proved to be an overwhelming success, and with the conclusion of the project, there were numerous requests for a continuing program and a place for the children to take music lessons.

In order to accommodate the increase of participants, the Center has established a larger music room with drums, keyboards, guitars and percussion instruments.



Judy Weeks

Logan Walden and Dominic Osceola-Lugo attempt to duplicate the music being played on the keyboards by Marissa Osceola.



Judy Weeks

From left, Marissa Osceola listens as George Colyer picks out a melody on his guitar to accompany Gabriel 'Gabe the Babe' Mejia on the didgeridoo in the Juanita Osceola Center's new music room.



Judy Weeks

Marissa Osceola helps Joseph Osceola-Lugo to get familiar with the didgeridoo.

Community Members Explore Traditional Seminole Culture at Hollywood Workshop



Aimee Hoyt

Cassandra Osceola works on completing a hat at the sewing station at the Cultural Workshop in the Seminole Recreation Gym Jan. 27-28. The two-day event offered beading, carving, and basket weaving stations for all ages to learn and practice traditional Seminole culture.



Aimee Hoyt

Morgan DeVito, left, and Victoria Lacey string beads to make long four-strand necklaces.

Brighton S.W.A.M.P. Parties at Fourth Annual Valentine's Day Dinner Dance

The Brighton Recreation Department and the Family Services Department teamed up to sponsor the S.W.A.M.P.'s (Seminoles Without Addictions Make Progress!) Fourth Annual Valentine's Day Dinner Dance on Thursday, Feb. 10 at the Brighton Gymnasium. The dinner featured a delicious buffet table and chocolate fountains while the dance provided great music, limbo, and hula hoop competitions!

The Valentine's Dance Royalty was: Queen of Hearts - Crysten Smith, King of Hearts -Richard Harris, Princess of Hearts -Chloe Chalfant, and Prince of Hearts - Andrew Fish.

The S.W.A.M.P. is an Alcohol/Drug Prevention program for Brighton Youth & Teens between the ages of 7 to 18 years and the Valentine's Day Dinner Dance is one way that Drug-Free Fun Alternatives are encouraged!



VALENTINE DANCE OFF WINNER!: BRIDGET KOONTZ



VALENTINE CANDY TESTERS!: SUNNI BEARDEN, ODESSA KING, AND CHLOE CHALFANT



PRINCE & PRINCESS OF HEARTS! – ANDREW FISH AND CHLOE CHALFANT



KING & QUEEN OF HEARTS! – RICHARD HARRIS AND CRYSTEN SMITH

VALENTINE'S DAY BRINGS JOY AND LOVE

Love Is Strong after 20 Years for Reese and Angie Bert

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Twenty years together and Reese and Angie Bert still look at each other and giggle.

It was more than 23 years ago that Angie's late father, Andrew Fish, pastor for the First Indian Baptist Church in Brighton at the time, first introduced the two.

"I remember that day," Reese said smiling.

Reese became involved with the church while home from college. During his breaks from Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan., Reese and Angie dated.

On Feb. 23, 1991, Reese and Angie were married by Angie's uncle, J.B. Fish, in the church where their romance sparked.

Their wedding day not only brought the couple together, but it also helped reunite Reese with his biological father. The two claim that their marriage brought the entire family together and gave Reese the opportunity to know another side of his family, a value that Reese and Angie hold close.

"Family means everything," Angie said. "You always have to put your family first."

When speaking about their relationship, Reese and Angie always include family.

With six children of their own, the couple took in Angie's sister's six children. With two of the children out of the house, Reese and Angie have knocked their count down to 10 kids in the house. They are blessed with the younger children, Emma, living with them to help with the housework.

"Can you imagine what our food bill is?" Reese jokes. "Donations are accepted."

Even with everyone having different schedules and with the hustle and bustle of day-to-day life, the Bert family still sits down to dinner as a family. They have not only one dining room table, but three.

"It's how we were taught," Angie said.

Reese continued, "We all come together at the table and when Grandma says, 'We eat. If you don't sit at the table, you're liable to get left out. Those kids can eat.'"

Both agree that marriage has been a life lesson for them. They admit to having their fallouts just like any couple. They said when things aren't working they talk through the issues, and if either is in the wrong they apologize.

"I was told once that apologies are like tissues," Reese said. "You use them and then get another."

Angie said that marriage has truly helped her grow up and learn a lot of patience.

Both said that marriage is about making sacrifices and learning to compromise.

Over the past years their view on marriage hasn't really changed. They said that going into it they didn't look at it as absolute bliss and living on clouds.

"I looked at it as a partnership," Reese said.

The two advised young couples to be prepared for the responsibilities of raising a family. They advise not to start a family until they are absolutely committed to putting their children first.

While Reese and Angie don't get much alone time having 10 kids in the house, they started a tradition last year that they hope to carry on. They traveled to Las Vegas without the

children.

"It was nice, just the two of us and we were able to relax and be by ourselves," Angie said.

Reese said jokingly, "After two days of Angie crying from missing the kids we had a great time."

When asked what their favorite memory has been together, neither one hesitated. "Vegas," they said.

Reese and Angie stick to their belief that family is everything and that is truly what has made their relationship so strong and able to last through all of the trials and tribulations.



REESE AND ANGIE BERT

Jimmie Hank and Marie Osceola Are a Shining Example of Valentine Spirit

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — For half a century, Jimmie Hank and Marie Osceola have celebrated their lives together as one of the Tribe's longest standing married couples.

Both have remained steadfast in their commitment to one another for half a century with their 51 anniversary fast approaching in June.

"Everyday is special because after over 50 years we still love each other and do things together," Jimmie Hank said. "Over 50 years later I still see that pretty girl, nothing much has changed."

Both are a living testament to the true spirit of the annual celebration of love known as Valentine's Day, although Jimmie Hank said the day has never really held great meaning for the two.

"We never really thought too much about Valentine's Day. It has never been anything big to us, we may go out and eat each year, but I never got into the flowers and candies and all that stuff," he said.

He said the couple did enjoy the Seniors' Valentine's Day party held at the Hollywood Senior Center on Valentine's Day.

Their courtship and journey began through mutual friends and family introducing the two, with Jimmie Hank officially showing his interest at Marie's sweet 16 birthday party. In spite of a seven-year age difference, a year later they were wed.

"I was just having fun at the time, going out to the movies and other stuff. I had never been out before," Marie explained at their 50th anniversary

party last year. "The first time I had even been to a restaurant before was with him [husband Jimmie Hank]."

"We have enjoyed a good life and time together, and even through the hard times we have stuck together," Jimmie Hank said.

Marie said her admiration for Jimmie Hank as her one and only love still endures.

"I never knew we would last as long as we have," Marie said. "I am very happy and [the marriage] gets better every year. He is my best friend."

"He is the right man for me. He has been patient and loving, and we have a lot in common so that has helped also. But most of all God has been involved, too," she continued.

The history of Valentine's Day (Feb. 14) is a day known to celebrate and symbolize love and affection. The day is named after Christian martyrs Valentine of Rome and Valentine of Terni and was established by Pope Gelasius I in 500 A.D.

In the Middle Ages the day was associated with romantic love in the circle of Geoffrey Chaucer. Modern symbols of the day mainly consist of hearts, doves, and the figure of the winged Cupid.

Cupid is known historically as the Roman God of Love and has always played a role in the celebration of romance. As the son of Venus (Goddess of love) and Mars (God of war), he is known as a mischievous, winged child with arrows that are piercing to the hearts of his victims, causing them to fall in love. The name is derived from the Latin word cupidus, which means "desire."



JIMMIE HANK AND MARIE OSCEOLA



Naji Tobias

The Big Cypress Preschool's 2-year-old class shows some Valentine's Day love at the Big Cypress Preschool's Valentine's Day gift exchange party on Feb. 14.

Big Cypress Preschoolers Exchange Gifts for Valentine's Day



Naji Tobias

The 3-year-olds share a Valentine's Day moment after their gift exchange session concludes.

Couple Betty and Keeno King Share Valuable Love Nuggets

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — It's all about communication, love, peace and happiness.

Those attributes can apply to the marriage of Big Cypress Tribal senior Betty King and her husband, Keeno King.

Just minutes before the couple left their home in Big Cypress to share some quality time on the night of Valentine's Day, they candidly talked about tips on how to maintain a healthy and lasting relationship.

They have been married for 28 years and said that open communication and honesty are two important keys to keeping a long-term relationship intact.

"You have to give in a little sometimes," Betty said. "It's also a good idea to not take things seriously all the time. You want to keep that spark in your relationship."

Keeno, a native of Oklahoma, said that having faith in a higher authority is perhaps the most important thing for a couple. He said it keeps a relationship grounded and allows for a chance to overcome down moments.

"Sometimes you'll have differences in a marriage, but it will all work itself out in the end," Keeno said. "The main thing is to have faith in God. In our marriage, we live by the principle. We want to be an example to others. We want people to know that they can get married and enjoy it for the rest of their lives."

The Kings met at New Testament Church in the 1970s when Keeno, then a resident of Oklahoma, came to Big Cypress with a gospel singing group, hailing from Cold Springs Baptist Church in Konawa, Okla.

The fateful meeting between the Kings came as a result of the Oklahoma-based Gospel



BETTY AND KEENO KING

group serving on a missionary trip to Florida. They said it's important to cherish relationships that have a "special" bond in it — particularly in a marriage.

"You have to take your marriage vows seriously," Betty said. "When you walk down that aisle, you tell your significant other that you'll be there for better or worse, through sickness and health and until death does you part. That's what it's all about."

A prime example of keeping such a sacred vow is that fact that Betty is willing to drive her husband, Keeno, around anywhere and anytime he wants to, after Keeno suffered a stroke recently.

Betty said it's important to back up what was spoken at the marriage altar, thus making for a lasting marriage experience.

"We have to make a commitment to each other," Betty said. "It's the way God wants us to be."

When asked about the significance of family values, Betty said there's one thing that should be placed above all else.

"Family is important, but it can't be above God," Betty said.

Keeno is steadily recovering from his stroke.

"You're going to have problems; everybody does," he said. "Having faith in God will allow you to overcome all things in life. I've been sick, but I've had three people that come to visit me and lift me up everyday. When I see God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, I know that everything will be all right because they cover me and take care of me."

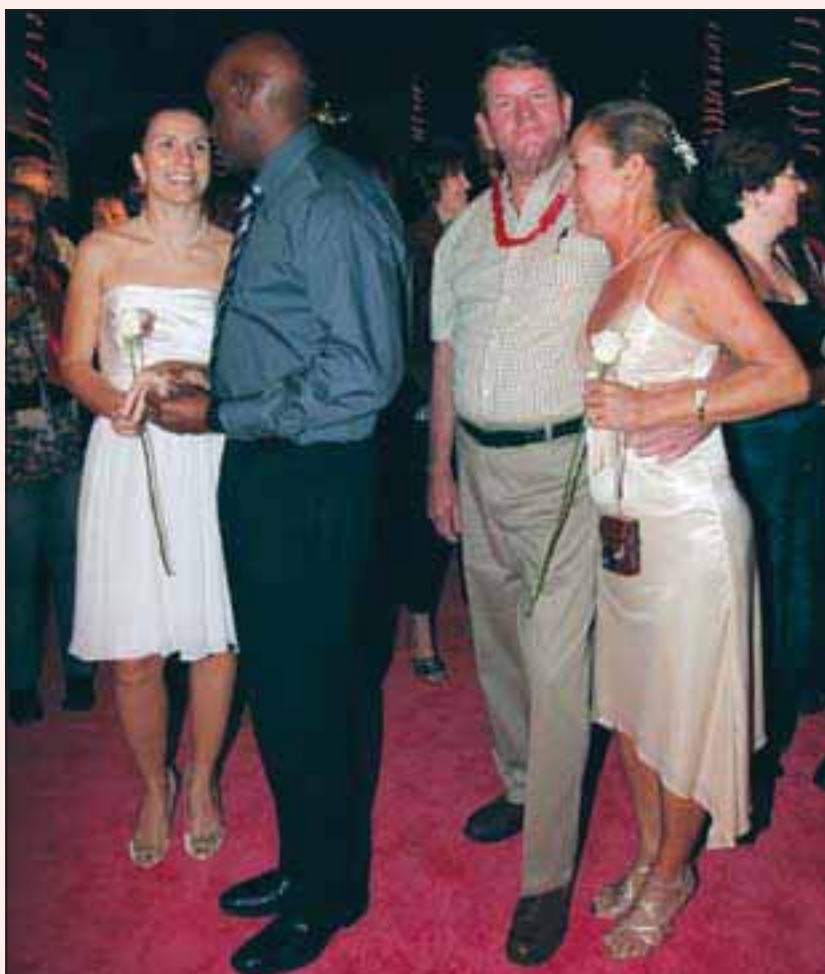
Betty offered some parting thoughts: "You really love someone when you accept and embrace that person's quirks and idiosyncrasies," she said. "I have some and he has some, but we love each other for that. We try to apply love in our marriage everyday. Our lives have been blessed because of it."

Hard Rock Seminole Paradise Hosts Wedding/Vow Renewal Ceremony



Chris C. Jenkins

Several couples stand in anticipation of a massive wedding/vow renewal ceremony as part of Valentine's Day festivities at the Hard Rock Seminole Paradise Live on Feb. 13. The event was presided by members of the clergy and special guest performer and Elvis Presley tribute artist Chris MacDonald.



Immokalee Seniors Celebrate Valentine's Day with Bingo and Lunch



Judy Weeks

From left, Immokalee Seniors Agnes Cypress, Joseph Billie, Linda Frank, Elaine Aguilar, Elizabeth Tiger and Sylvia Marrero play several rounds of Bingo before sharing a Valentine's Day lunch on Feb. 9.

VALENTINE'S DAY BRINGS JOY AND LOVE

Big Cypress Seniors Celebrate and Dance Away at Valentine's Day Luncheon Party



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Tribal seniors Mary Tigertail and Tommy Watts Billie are all smiles as they share in their excitement after winning door prizes.



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Senior Center Director Cecilia Guzman, left, congratulates Tribal Elder Ruby Osceola on winning a door prize.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal senior Steven Bowers kisses wife Elizabeth to celebrate Valentine's Day and their second-year anniversary.



Chris C. Jenkins

President Richard Bowers Jr. gives Tribal senior Maggie Osceola a fruit gift basket.

Hollywood Seniors Welcome Valentine's Day with Dinner, Dancing and Bingo



Chris C. Jenkins

Hollywood Tribal Board Rep. Marcellus Osceola Jr., middle, shares Valentine's Day wishes with Tribal seniors Cornelia Osceola, left, and Judy-Bill Osceola at the annual Hollywood Seniors Valentine's Day party at the Hollywood Senior Center Feb. 14.



Chris C. Jenkins

Dora Tiger enjoys the carnation she was offered for Valentine's Day.

Big Cypress Council Hosts Sweetheart Golf Tournament



Naji Tobias

Participants at the Feb. 12 Seminole Sweetheart Golf Tournament share a special moment at the Clewiston Golf Course.



Naji Tobias

Allen Huff, of Brighton, hits a tee shot on the Clewiston Golf Course's No. 17 hole.



Naji Tobias

Michelle Osceola, of Hollywood, hits a par shot at the 18th hole.



Naji Tobias

Cornelia Osceola, of Hollywood, hits her second shot on the third hole.



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Mondo Tiger makes par on the tournament's 18th hole.

Tampa Seniors Enjoy Valentine's Day at the New Hard Rock Cafe



Ryan Watson

Tampa Seniors visited the new Hard Rock Café at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Tampa for the Valentine's Day Lunch on Feb. 14.

Sweetheart Ball Entertains Tribal Youth



Aimee Hoyt

Photo left, from left, Gracie Martinez, 7, Justin Rodriguez, 10 months old, Cassandra Jones, top center, and Talia Rodriguez, 9, spend quality time at the Feb. 10 Valentine's Day Sweetheart Ball sponsored by the Youth Center. After the youngsters expended some energy in the bounce house and on the slide in the Seminole Recreation Gym, they were treated to an Italian dinner. Photo right, near the end of the Sweetheart Ball, Tribal youth eagerly jump for balloons in the balloon drop before quickly popping them.



Big Cypress Library Throws Bingo Party

Photo left, from left, Big Cypress Tribal youngsters Willie Smith, 7, Issiah Alvarado, 10, Chelsey Alvarado, 13, Blaze Cypress, 3, Leauna Billie, 13, and Adam MacElroy, 4, are all in jubilation as they receive an assortment of Valentine's Day gifts, at the Big Cypress Library's Feb. 14 Valentine's Day Party. Photo below left, tutor Amy Diaz decorates cupcakes with Thomlynn Billie, 10. Photo below right, Tribal youngster Blaze Cypress, 3, and his Tribal mother Talisha Leach share a bonding moment. - Naji Tobias



SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA
AH-TAH-THI-KI
M U S E U M
 A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

ATTENTION ALL TRIBAL MEMBERS

The **Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum** is pleased to announce it is forming a **Museum Advisory Council (MAC)**. We would like to invite interested Tribal members to become actively involved in the Museum by becoming members of the **MAC**.

We are looking for Tribal members, 18 years and older, who would be willing to join Museum staff in the planning of exhibits, events and the future of the Museum collections acquisitions.

The Museum relies closely on Tribal member input for cultural, historical relevance and accuracy and we are excited to invite you to join the **MAC**.

If you have any questions about the **MAC** or are interested in joining, please contact Anne McCudden at (863) 902-1113 or amccudden@semtribe.com.



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Pemayetv Emahakv Teacher of the Year Represents School and District

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — At only 29, third grade teacher Sarah Williams is helping to put Brighton's Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School on the map.

Williams was announced teacher of the year for Pemayetv Emahakv, and teacher of the year for the Glades County school district. She already took the next step to participate in the running for state teacher of the year.

"It was just a great honor," Williams said. "One, you know you're making an impact when you're in the classroom, then to know that you're accepted among your peers too as a professional. That was a great honor."

Williams, a lifetime resident of Glades County, said she fell into teaching.

"Growing up I did not want to be a teacher; it was the furthest thing from my mind," she said. "It was absolutely not what I wanted to do."

Coming from a long line of educators, Williams attended night classes at Nova Southeastern University to earn her degree in elementary education.

Williams started teaching before she was 20.

When she entered the classroom she realized she was meant to be a teacher.

"Once I got into the classroom and got my feet wet, I really became alive," Williams said. "Now I realize it is a part of me and I'm thankful every day that I didn't necessarily make the choice to become a teacher, but it was just something I fell into because it ended up being the greatest gift."

Prior to coming to Pemayetv Emahakv, Williams taught at Moore Haven Elementary. She said that while teaching at Moore Haven she began to get burned out due to class size and budget concerns.

She began teaching fourth grade at Pemayetv Emahakv and after two years switched to teaching third grade, where she is now in her second year as a third grade teacher. She said coming to work at the Charter School is like going to work in Heaven every day where the community and school are one big family that she has been accepted into.

"Pemayetv gave me a fresh chance and a fresh start and a new look at education and the way I feel about children," Williams said. "It brought me back to the basics of why I'm here and why I'm teaching. I want every single day to be the best day ever in my kids' lives."



Rachel Buxton

Sarah Williams surrounded by her third grade students, says she wants her students to know they are amazing and have a lot to offer the world.

Ahfachkee Students Participate in Glass Blowing Presentation



Naji Tobias

The Ahfachkee School's third and fourth graders gathers around a chickee hut on Feb. 1 for a glass blowing presentation by glass artist Ken Curtiss. During the 30-minute session, Curtiss created a host of animal fixtures out of a glass bubble, including an Elvis fish and a pig. Ahfachkee students had the opportunity to see more than 500 glass blowing fixtures. Students from third through fourth grade, fifth through eighth and ninth through 12th were treated to the scientific outdoor presentation.

♦ See more photos
on page 4B

Shelley Brantley Is Honored with PECS Non-Instructional Employee of the Year

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Shelley Brantley was recently awarded the title Non-Instructional Employee of the Year for Pemayetv Emahakv for the 2010-2011 school year.

Brantley has been with the Charter School since its beginning in 2007, as the media tech, in charge of all media- and audiovisual-related issues and tasks.

"I love my job," Brantley said. "It is something different all the time, and I never have to sit down, always on the go."

Brantley's responsibilities also include student data entry that is required and sent to the state.

Brantley said her career in media "just kind of happened" after graduating from Okeechobee High School.

A lifetime resident of Okeechobee, Brantley worked for the Okeechobee School District from 1985-2000 as a secretary for vocational and adult education.

After leaving the Okeechobee School District she went to work at what was formerly known as Eckerd Youth in Okeechobee, which was part of the Washington County School District.

She left Eckerd Youth to begin at Pemayetv Emahakv in 2007 in order to get into the more technical aspect of her career.

Working at a school completely Mac-based, Pemayetv Emahakv was a learning curve for Brantley however.

"I had to learn from the ground up," said Brantley. "A lot of hands-on and attending workshops."

Brantley said she is honored to have been selected by her peers to receive the title Non-Instructional Employee of the Year and said she absolutely loves everything about Pemayetv Emahakv.



SHELLEY BRANTLEY

Elgin Jumper Teaches Youth the Beauty of Art at Painting Class at Diane Yzaguirre Memorial Library

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — The Diane Yzaguirre Memorial Library was filled with creative activity as 16 Immokalee youth participated in an art class on Feb. 9 following an early release from school.

Tribal member, artist and poet, Elgin Jumper conducted the class, sponsored by the library, which supplied all of the materials.

Jumper explained that since the beginning of time people have used various forms of art to express their feelings and observations, as well as creating a record of events.

"Art is a personal concept that requires your own interpretation," Jumper said. "Sharing in the art of others can be an enriching experience, and I encourage all of you to visit museums, art galleries and shows whenever possible."

Jumper said for a while he was walking the wrong path and felt compelled to make changes in his life.

"I have been drawing and writing since I was very young, but I didn't begin to paint seriously until six years ago," he said. "Since then I have enjoyed painting workshops and exercises, as well as the privilege of learning from Jimmie Osceola and Guy LeBree."

Each of the budding young artists took their place in front of easels with a canvas that had been prepared with a primer coat of paint for the workshop.

He described the appropriate use for the array of brush styles, introduced the color wheel and gave instruction in washing and loading the brushes. Jumper also taught about blending and mixing of colors and the use of pressure and brush angle for desired effects.

Holding up an Everglades sunset painting for an



Judy Weeks

Nine-year-old Raymond James Mora mixes paint colors on his pallet before applying them to his canvas.

example, Jumper used a step-by-step approach in assisting the group in duplicating the landscape. Within two hours time, 16 versions of the original sunset took form.

"You have all done a great job," Jumper said. "Now you must continue to paint because improvement will come with practice and you will build your own technique."

"Working with you has been a pleasure because I enjoy sharing what I have learned," he said. "Painting is an emotional release for me and my reward is being creative with other artists."



Left photo, from left, Rosa Torres of the Diane Yzaguirre Memorial Library staff admires the paintings created by Alcyia Mora, Destinee Jimmie and Amber Alvarado. Center photo, artist Elgin Jumper explains the use of a color wheel in mixing and blending colors. Photo below, the Immokalee youth created their interpretation of an Everglades sunset on canvas at a painting workshop on Feb. 9 following an early release from school.

Judy Weeks





Naji Tobias

During the Jan. 26 awards ceremony, the Ahfachkee School recognized several students from seventh to 12th grade for their academic accomplishments as they made the President's Honor Roll with at least a 3.5 grade point average for the second quarter of the 2010-2011 school year.



Naji Tobias

Several students from third through sixth grade earned specially made Ahfachkee Warriors sweaters as a commemorative reward for achieving President's Honor Roll status for the first semester of the 2010-2011 academic year.

Ahfachkee School Recognizes Students at End-of-Second-Nine-Weeks Awards Ceremony

Ahfachkee School's End-of-Second-Nine-Weeks Awards Recipients

Note: Students in each award category are listed in alphabetical order

FIRST SEMESTER HONORS

3.5 GPA or higher:

1. Jonah Alvarado
2. Nicholas Andrews
3. Athena Bert
4. Dayne Billie
5. Ezekiel Billie
6. GraySun Billie
7. Leana Billie
8. Sabre' Billie
9. Sontino Billie
10. Leviticus Buster
11. Alisa Brooks
12. Elise Brown
13. Elijah Cook
14. Destiny Cypress
15. Harmony Cypress
16. Jaylee Cypress
17. Channon Frye
18. Nashoba Gonzalez
19. Ko'Oshee Henry
20. Dayra Koenes
21. Alyssa Osceola
22. Brandi Osceola
23. Charlie Osceola
24. Daylon Osceola
25. Kaitlin Osceola
26. Evanne Pratt
27. Ryanne Pratt
28. Grace Robbins
29. Sarah Robbins
30. Andrea Ryland

31. Amaya Solano
32. Tequesta Tiger
33. AnnaBelle WhiteShield
34. Jalee Wilcox

Citizenship:

1. Nicholus Andrews
2. Ethan Balentine
3. Tyrus Billie
4. Alisa Brooks
5. Elise Brown
6. Destiny Cypress
7. Nashoba Gonzalez
8. K'ahna Jumper
9. Dare'Rick McInturf
10. Kaitlin Osceola
11. Leo Osceola-Onco
12. Evanne Pratt
13. Taylor Pratt
14. Sarah Robbins
15. Kassim Stockton
16. Micah Stockton
17. Tequesta Tiger
18. Anthony Wells

SECOND QUARTER HONORS

Chairman's Award (4.0 GPA):

1. Athena Bert
2. Leviticus Buster

President's Award (3.5-3.99 GPA):

1. Chelsey Alvarado
2. Jonah Alvarado
3. Nicholus Andrews
4. Terri Baker
5. Dillon Ball
6. Carlee Billie
7. GraySun Billie
8. Leana Billie

9. Sabre' Billie
10. Sontino Billie
11. Jalycia Billie-Valdez
12. Elise Brown
13. Elijah Cook
14. Dasani Cypress
15. Destiny Cypress
16. Harmony Cypress
17. Charli Frye
18. Nashoba Gonzalez
19. Ko'Oshee Henry
20. Craig Huckabee
21. K'ahna Jumper
22. Kylan Jumper
23. Dayra Koenes
24. Alyssa Osceola
25. Brandi Osceola
26. Cale Osceola
27. Charlie Osceola
28. Daylon Osceola
29. Kaitlin Osceola
30. Evanne Pratt
31. Ryanne Pratt
32. Liberty Robbins
33. Amaya Solano
34. Tequesta Tiger
35. Chyler Villarreal
36. AnnaBelle WhiteShield

Councilman's Award (3.0-3.49 GPA):

1. RickyJoe Alumbaugh
2. Ethan Balentine
3. Roderick Bert
4. Elisah Billie
5. Eyanna Billie
6. Richard Billie
7. Stevie Billie
8. Talia Billie
9. Thomlynn Billie
10. Hermione Calderon
11. Troy Cantu

12. Ryan Cypress
13. Taylor Fulton
14. Geneva Garcia
15. Leilani Gopher
16. Les Gopher
17. Janessa Jones
18. Reggie Ling
19. Rosalinda "Mika" Lopez
20. Janet Mata
21. Tia Osborne
22. Daleen Osceola
23. Sarah Osceola
24. Leo Osceola-Onco
25. Gregorio Reynosa
26. Edie Robbins
27. John Robbins
28. Thoya Robins
29. Willie Smith
30. Alena Stockton
31. Savannah Tiger
32. Danni Vae Tommie
33. Chynna Villarreal
34. Reagan Whitecloud

Perfect Attendance:

1. Ethan Balentine
2. Dillon Ball
3. Troy Cantu
4. Evanne Pratt

Noteworthy Attendance:

1. Roderick Bert
2. Elisah Billie
3. Caitlin Cypress
4. Bradley Osceola
5. Kaitlin Osceola
6. Taylor Pratt
7. Amaya Solano
8. Xzavier Solano



Left photo, Troy Cantu, bottom left, Evanne Pratt, bottom center, and Ethan Balentine, bottom right, were awarded special backpacks after notching perfect attendance for the second nine-week grading period, as Ahfachkee Dean of Students Grant Richardson, top left, and Principal Walter Swan, top right, stand with them.

Photo below, Ahfachkee's students from third through sixth grade were honored by Principal Swan, top left, and Dean Richardson, top right, for making the second quarter's President's Honor Roll during the ceremony.

Naji Tobias



Left photo, courtesy of Mary Jene Koenes, left, and the Ahfachkee School's Culture Department, a group of fifth grade students were awarded Culture Awards for their work in the culture class for the second quarter of the 2010-2011 academic year. Ahfachkee Principal Walter Swan, second from left, revels in the moment with the fifth graders.

Right photo, students from seventh to 12th grade at the Ahfachkee School earned Citizenship Award honors for the second nine-week grading period at the awards ceremony in the Ahfachkee School's cafeteria, with Mr. Antonio Wright, top left, and Principal Walter Swan, top right, standing by their academic feat.

Naji Tobias



Cayuga Community College Interns Visit Ahfachkee School for Second Consecutive Year



Naji Tobias

Ahfachkee School senior Janet Mata, center, works on her one-year economic budget plan with help of her social studies teacher Antonio Wright, left, and Cayuga Community College intern Ashley Shaw during Mata's sixth-period economics class on Jan. 12. Shaw, along with seven other Cayuga Community College interns, visited the Ahfachkee School Jan. 10-14 to gain culture exchange experience from the Tribal students. The week-long stay keyed in on the Cayuga interns assisting the Ahfachkee students with their work in the classroom and in a variety of after-school activities.



Naji Tobias

Ahfachkee School kindergarten teacher Vicki Rudolph, left, and Cayuga Community College intern Jade Hotchkiss, center, assist Ahfachkee Tribal kindergarten student Illiana Robbins with some math work as she counts up dots on dominoes in order to make addition computations. Hotchkiss, an early childhood education major at Cayuga Community College, said the cultural exchange experience was an eye-opener for both the Cayuga intern group and the Ahfachkee School students. Dr. Pat Gridley, early childhood coordinator at Cayuga CC, said it was necessary to offer her students an opportunity to experience another culture. "From all of the Tribal leaders to the preschool students, they have shown a lot of hospitality to us when we came here to visit," Dr. Gridley said. "It's been quite an emotional experience working with everyone."



Naji Tobias

During Klayton Sanders's sixth-period economics class, the Ahfachkee School junior writes an essay on the importance of using a yearly budget. In the Jan. 12 class, Cayuga Community College (Auburn, N.Y.) Service Learning Coordinator Ashley Shaw, left, discusses with Sanders the merits of having such a plan.

Pemayetv Emahakv Students Excel in Second Nine Weeks

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School Awards Recipients – Second nine weeks

Kindergarten Effort

Dylan Johns
Iann Jimmie
Ysla Meras
Caitlyn Olivarez
Dwayne Billie
David King
Derrick Smith
Pearcetin Trammell
Mariana Mora-Lara
Shylynn Testerman
Gabe Williams
Giselle Micco

First Grade Effort

Jahcole Arnold
Elle Thomas
Diego Meras
Kobe Jimmie
Aujua Williams
Jaime Smith
Mason Beaver
Tehya Howard
Jayton Baker
Kyra Toneges
LaShae King

First Grade Citizenship

Karlyne Urbina
Ryanna Osceola
Alice Osceola

Second Semester (3.0-3.4 GPA)

Jahcole Arnold
Kobe Jimmie
Corey Jumper
Alice Osceola
Pherian Baker
Kalyn Hammil

Silver Award – First and Second Semester (3.5-3.9 GPA)

Leilani Burton
Diego Meras
Elle Thomas
Tayla Burns
Lija Gore
Tehya Howard
Tammy Martinez
Joss Youngblood
Jayton Baker
Jason Webber
Madison Fish

Gold Award – First and Second Semester (Straight A's)

Kayven Emley
Alanis Baker
Ta-fv Harris
LaShae King
Kyra Toneges

Second Grade Effort

Mariah Billie
Davin Carrillo
Ruby Osceola
Melinda Gentry
Alyssa Gonzalez
Todd Pierce
Aleah Turtle
Destiny Elliott
Ramone Baker
Hunter Howard
John Beck
Caylie Huff

Second Grade Citizenship

Melinda Gentry
Todd Pierce
Billy Bailey
Ruby Osceola
Ramone Baker
Caylie Huff
John Beck
Hunter Howard
Laila Bennett
Destiny Elliott
Aubee Billie
Tanner Shore
Haylie Huff
Morgan Yates

Second Grade Improvement

Laila Bennett
Hunter Howard
Dalence Carrillo
Norman Osceola
Jaylen Baker
Hyatt Pearce
Jessie Webber
Heith Lawrence

Bronze Award – First and Second Semester (3.0-3.4 GPA)

Todd Pierce
Melinda Gentry
Jagger Gaucin
Davin Carrillo
Billy Bailey
Ramone Baker
Hyatt Pearce

Silver Award – First and Second Semester (3.5-3.9 GPA)

Ruby Osceola
John Beck
Destiny Elliott
Caylie Huff
Aubee Billie
Daven Buck
Heith Lawrence
Tanner Shore
Jessie Webber

Third Grade Effort

Anthony Gentry
Dante Thomas
Aubrey Pearce
Justina Martinez
Kaleb Doctor
Sheldon Garcia
Echo Billie
Nyah Davidson
Jenna Brown
Brienna Brockman
Silas Madrigal
Kamani Smith
Myron Billie
John Gore
Sage Motlow
Luzana Venzor

Third Grade Citizenship

Waylynn Bennett
Donovan Harris
Jacee Jumper
Kai Osceola
Caillou Smith
Mallorie Thomas
Jarrett Bert
Lance Howard
Tucker Johns
Araya Youngblood
Jathan Tommie
Burgundy Pierce
Tavis Jumper
Robert Harris
Drake Lawrence
Madisyn Osceola
Alex Valdes

Third Grade Bronze Award (3.0-3.4 GPA)

Kaleb Doctor
Jacee Jumper
Justina Martinez
Mallorie Thomas
Araya Youngblood
Burgundy Pierce
Tucker Johns
Lance Howard
Myron Billie
Malcolm Jones
Ozzy Osceola

Third Grade Silver Award (3.5-3.9 GPA)

Eecho Billie
Kamani Smith
Brienna Brockman
Nyah Davidson
Katie Beck
Edward Gaucin

Third Grade Gold Award (4.0 GPA)

Aubrey Pearce
Dante Thomas
Jenna Brown
Silas Madrigal
Shyla Gopher

Fourth Grade Effort

Aleina Micco
Krysta Burton
Billy Yates
Vivianna Gore-Martinez
Deven Tedders
Aidan Tommie

Fourth Grade Citizenship

Kano Puente
Aleina Micco
Billy Yates
Krysta Burton
Danyelle Boromei
Raeley Matthews
Aidan Tommie

Fourth Grade Bronze Award (3.0-3.4 GPA)

Conner Thomas
Aidan Tommie
Billy Yates
Danyelle Boromei

Fourth Grade Silver Award (3.5-3.9 GPA)

Aleina Micco
Kano Puente
Deven Tedders

Fourth Grade Gold Award (Straight A's – 4.0 GPA)

Raeley Matthews

Fifth Grade Effort

Brian Bishop
Chloe Chalfant
Bly Davidson
Cheyenne Fish
Marquis Fudge
Morgan King
Chandler Pearce
Layne Thomas
Brooke Thornton
Aiyana Tommie
Sunni Bearden
Richard Harris
Jalynn Jones
Rudy Juarez

Fifth Grade Citizenship



Rachel Buxton

First graders receive awards for their effort, citizenship and improvement.

Bly Davidson
Morgan King
Chandler Pearce
Cyrus Smedley
Layne Thomas
Brooke Thornton
Logan Ortiz
Jalynn Jones
Rudy Juarez
Dyami Nelson
Josph Osceola
Camryn Thomas

Middle School Citizenship

Crysten Smith
Sydney Cypress
Zachary Hudson
Michael Garcia

Middle School Bronze Award (3.0-3.4 GPA)

Raylon Eagle
Odessa King
Shae Pierce
Ruben Burgess
Crysten Smith
Kaylen Buster
Chastity Harmon
Keyana Nelson

Fifth Grade Bronze Award (3.0-3.4 GPA)

Brian Bishop
Bly Davidson



Rachel Buxton

Pemayetv Emahakv students were recognized for their academic achievements Jan. 24 during an awards ceremony held in the school's breezeway. Students received awards for effort, citizenship, improvement, achievement in their Creek classes and grade point average.

Morgan King
Isaac Osceola
Brady Rhodes
Ivess Baker
Sunni Bearden
Pernell Bert
Jalynn Jones
Krystal Toneges

Lahna Sedatol
Jaron Johns
Michael Garcia
Diamond Shore
Zeke Matthews
Darlah Cypress
Bracton King

Fifth Grade Silver Award (3.5-3.9 GPA)

Chloe Chalfant
Layne Thomas
Dyami Nelson
Joseph Osceola
Camryn Thomas

Middle School Silver Award (3.5-3.9 GPA)

Erik Garcia
Sean Osceola
Jaden Puente
Boyd Brown
Elijah Finney
Rumor Juarez



Rachel Buxton

Students receive certificates for their hard work during the second nine weeks.

Fifth Grade Gold Award (Straight A's)

Chandler Pearce
Aiyana Tommie
Rudy Juarez

Melany Williams
Tatiana Herrera
Layton Thomas

Middle School Effort

Samuel Osceola
Dylan Sheffield
Tatiana Herrera
Deliah Carrillo

Middle School Gold Award (Straight A's)

Andrew Dobbs
Dylan Sheffield
Trevor Thomas
Kailin Brown
Zachary Hudson



Rachel Buxton

Fifth grade gold award recipients, Rudy Juarez, Aiyana Tommie and Chandler Pearce.

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

Warrior Lunch Bunch Series Continues for High School Students

The series of college and career presentations take place every third Thursday of the month

BY GINA WALTERS
Guidance Counselor

Purpose:

To provide an enlightened series of college and career presentations to high school students during both their lunch and study skills periods. The college representatives will set up on the stage in the cafeteria at 11:42 a.m., during the upper grades lunch hour, and remain there until 3:15 p.m. when the study skills period is over. They will also be encouraged to stay after school to meet with students who request further information. They will have available multimedia presentations, brochures, posters, etc. for the students. They will talk to the students individually when they approach the table. We will also invite military recruiters.

An additional part of the Warrior Lunch Bunch Series will be to invite guest speakers to come in to talk about specific careers. They will have handouts and will be available to answer questions. They may also have a PowerPoint presentation available. We will particularly like to invite Tribal members to participate in these presentations. In the interest of planning time, we would like to begin these presentations at the beginning of the New Year. This gives us time to start sending out invitations and getting firm commitments from colleges and guest speakers.

College Representative:

We would like to ask Florida State University to come to the school on a regular basis. The Education Department said that the Tribe has a contract with them and they utilize our Seminole name and logo. We would like to see if the Principal could ask for funds from the Tribe to get regular speakers to come into the

Ahfachkee School, as well as current and former students of Florida State University.

Vocational Technical Centers:

We would like to kick off the Warrior Lunch Bunch series with an invite to the Broward Technical Center, commencing with the McFatter Technical Center. These technical centers offer automotive service technology, culinary arts and game design, which are of particular interest to our students based on their Choices Program interest inventories.

Guest Speakers from the Tribe:

The Principal will extend a request to the Council to bring in speakers from the Tribe to talk about their careers. We know that students will eventually be seeking career opportunities from the Tribe and they would like to receive firsthand knowledge about the duties and responsibilities of employees working in all of the various agencies under the purview of the Tribe.

Outside Guest Speakers:

We would like to invite speakers to come in to talk about unique careers that students may be interested in. These speakers would come from outside of the Tribe.

Community Service Hours:

We would like to engage the various agencies on Big Cypress to allow students to perform community service hours at their agencies. In particular, we would like to target the Recreation Center, Fitness Center and the museum. We would also like students to earn community service hours by helping out at the Boys & Girls Club.

◆ More photos from Ahfachkee’s Glass Blowing Presentation



Naji Tobias

Glass artist Ken Curtiss explains to the Ahfachkee School's third and fourth grade students the glass blowing process used to create the glass tree with a hibernating bear.



Naji Tobias

From left, Thomlynn Billie, holds a glass dinosaur, Les Gopher has a glass scorpion, Issiah Alvarado a glass dog and Chaska Osceola admires a glass tree with a hibernating bear.

Warrior lunch bunch series

Every third Thursday of the month
(started Jan. 20)

Grades: 7-12
Time: 11:42 –12:32
(Modified school schedule, which includes regular lunch time plus study hall time)
Where: Cafeteria

Guest speakers will be College Representatives and Tribal Members who will talking about their careers.

Tribal Member Presenters are Lee Zepeda (Chief Human Resource Executive of The Seminole Tribe of Florida) and R.C. North (graduate of Full Sail University film program and a Special Events Coordinator)

Don't forget to wear your college T-shirt/sweatshirt that day

Warrior lunch bunch series

Cayuga Community College
Auburn, NY (started Jan. 13)

Grades: 7-12
Time: 2:44 – 3:15
During study hall
Where: Cafeteria

Presentation by
Dr. Patricia Gridley, Mrs. Teresa Hoercher,
And college students.
PowerPoint about available programs at the college—Majors and student life.
There will be a Q&A session with college students.

Don't forget to wear your college T-shirt/sweatshirt that day
www.cayuge-cc.edu

Legal Notice

Important information about the \$3.4 billion Indian Trust Settlement

For current or former IIM account holders, Owners of land held in trust or restricted status, or their heirs

There is a proposed Settlement in *Cobell v. Salazar*, a class action lawsuit about individual Indian land held in trust by the federal government. This notice is just a summary. For details, call the toll-free number or visit the website listed below.

The lawsuit claims that the federal government violated its duties by (a) mismanaging trust funds/assets, (b) improperly accounting for those funds, and (c) mismanaging trust land/assets. The trust funds include money collected from farming and grazing leases, timber sales, mining, and oil and gas production from land owned by American Indians/Alaska Natives.

If you are included in the Settlement, your rights will be affected. To object to the Settlement, to comment on it, or to exclude yourself, you should get a detailed notice at www.IndianTrust.com or by calling 1-800-961-6109.

Can I get money?

There are two groups or “Classes” in the Settlement eligible for payment. Each Class includes individual IIM account holders or owners of land held in trust or restricted status who were alive on September 30, 2009.

Historical Accounting Class Members

- Had an open individual Indian Money account (“IIM”) anytime between October 25, 1994 and September 30, 2009, **and**
- The account had at least one cash transaction.
- Includes estates of account holders who died as of September 30, 2009, if the IIM account was still open on that date.

Trust Administration Class Members

- Had an IIM account recorded in currently available data in federal government systems any time from approximately 1985 to September 30, 2009, **or**
- Owned trust land or land in restricted status as of September 30, 2009.
- Includes estates of landowners who died as of September 30, 2009 where the trust interests were in probate as of that date. This means you have asked a court to transfer ownership of the deceased landowner’s property.

An individual may be included in one or both Classes.

What does the Settlement provide?

- A \$1.5 billion fund to pay those included in the Classes.
- A \$1.9 billion fund to buy small interests in trust or restricted land owned by many people.
- Up to \$60 million to fund scholarships to improve access to higher education for Indian youth.
- A government commitment to reform the Indian trust management and accounting system.

How much can I get?

- Historical Accounting Class Members will each get \$1,000.
- Trust Administration Class Members will get at least \$500.
- If you own a small parcel of land with many other people, the federal government may ask you to sell it. You will be offered fair market value. If you sell your land it will be returned to tribal control.

If you believe you are a member of either Class and are not receiving IIM account statements, you will need to call the toll-free number or visit the website to register.

What are my other rights?

- If you wish to keep your right to sue the federal government about the claims in this Settlement, you must exclude yourself by **April 20, 2011**.
- If you stay in the Settlement you can object to or comment on it by **April 20, 2011**. The detailed notice explains how to exclude yourself or object/comment.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia will hold a hearing on June 20, 2011, to consider whether to approve the Settlement. It will also consider a request for attorneys’ fees, costs, and expenses in the amount of \$99.9 million. However, Class Counsel has fee agreements that would pay them 14.75% of the funds created for the Classes, which could result in an award of \$223 million. The Court may award more or less than these amounts based on controlling law. If approved, these payments and related costs will come out of the Settlement funds available for payment to Class Members.

If you wish, you or your own lawyer may ask to appear and speak at the hearing at your own cost. For more information, call or go to the website shown below or write to Indian Trust Settlement, P.O. Box 9577, Dublin, OH 43017-4877.

For more Information:

1-800-961-6109

www.IndianTrust.com

Health



Naji Tobias

As Allied Health's Lance Vaz, center, measures how much a bowl of Toasted Oats cereal amounts to, Big Cypress Tribal citizen Katherine Billie, left, asks fellow Allied Health Educator Jillian Guralski, second from left, about the significance of portion size watching. Big Cypress Tribal citizens Wanda Billie, second from right, and Tara Robbins, right, find out that a bowl of cereal is the equivalent to about three cups.

Seminole Pathways Program Goes Into Home Stretch with Weight Loss Challenge

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS – As the second iteration of the Tribe's Seminole Pathways inches toward its conclusion, Tribal citizens have been afforded the opportunity to participate in a weight loss challenge.

The eight-week program, which began on Jan. 26, features weekly lessons geared toward showing Tribal participants a variety of ways to live a healthy lifestyle.

In a Feb. 9 class held by Allied Health educators Jillian Guralski and Lance Vaz, Tribal citizens learned about the importance of keeping food serving sizes to a minimum in efforts to control their weight.

The PowerPoint presentation showed the Tribal participants that eating large food servings can mean a possibility of weight gain and obesity.

According to Vaz, one way to help control portion size is by measuring how much food a person is going to eat for any given meal. For example, a large scoop of ice cream in a large bowl can yield up to six servings of the snack – the equivalent to about three cups of ice cream.

As for cereal consumption, a large bowl filled with Fruit Loops cereal equates to a total of three cups.

And two tablespoons of salad dressing measures at about two capfuls, an example that was shown during the 30-minute

PowerPoint Presentation.

"A good rule of thumb here would be to use a shaker to spread the dressing out on your salad plate," Guralski said to the Tribal participants. "It gets the dressing all around your plate without putting too much on."

Guralski and Vaz advised that a small plateful of anything that contains fats, oils or sweets is sufficient enough to keep a person's weight under control.

Also, to help the Tribal citizens at the class lose weight, the health educators provided tips on how to downsize their eating at restaurants, which include the following: ordering the smallest size, ordering appetizer sizes, skipping the bread basket and sharing an entrée with another person.

These examples, among many others, were used to give the Tribal participants an opportunity to lose 10 pounds throughout the eight-week challenge.

"We feel optimistic that our participants are committed to the program," Vaz said. "We're very happy about the level of motivation they're showing here. It's a realistic goal for them to reach."

The classes have been held at the Big Cypress Wellness Trailer each Wednesday from 1-1:45 p.m., with the sessions to last until March 16.

For more information on the Weight Loss Challenge, call the Big Cypress Wellness Center at 863-983-5798.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal senior Bonnie Motlow, right, has her waist measured by Hollywood Health Department nutritionist Lucy Barrios, to track her progress in the Seminole Just 10 weight loss program, which was held Jan. 28 at the Hollywood Health Center. More than a dozen participants were on hand for the eight-week plan targeting Tribal citizens as part of the Seminole Pathways initiative, with an emphasis on healthy eating and nutrition habits and the goal of losing one pound per week. For more information, call 954-962-2009.



From left, Big Cypress Tribal citizens Tara Robbins, Wanda Billie, Natasha Billie (holding her 1-year-old son, Joshua Billie), Almira Billie and Katherine Billie hold up diagrams teaching them how to control their food portions at home. The Tribal members all participated in the Feb. 9 weight loss challenge class at the Big Cypress Wellness Trailer.

Naji Tobias



Photo above, Hollywood Health Department Nutritionist Lucy Barrios explains the benefits of a balanced meal to those in attendance for the Seminole Just 10 program. Left photo, Tribal senior Elsie Bowers, left, weighs in with the assistance of Lucy Barrios.

Chris C. Jenkins

Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club's Youth Get Engaged in Junk Food Blues Clinic



Naji Tobias

Allied Health Instructor Lance Vaz holds up a bag of large fries. According to Vaz, eating a serving of large fries everyday for a month is the equivalent to consuming 17,500 calories and five pounds of fat.



Naji Tobias

Allied Health Instructor Amy Kimberlain, right, tells the 15 Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club members about the importance of cutting down on eating unhealthy foods, during the Jan. 31 Junk Food Blues Clinic, hosted and co-sponsored by the Big Cypress Wellness and Library Tribal departments. Junk food visuals were shown, such as fat, sugar, chocolate, Arizona Iced Tea and soda. Kimberlain told the youngsters that consequences of eating junk food include high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, gout, kidney stones, diabetes and cancer, among many others. Boys & Girls Club's Unit Manager Thommy Doud, not pictured, weighed in on how the health-conscious function turned out. "I think it's a wonderful opportunity for the youth to experience classes and programs in a variety of different venues," Doud said. "The message is the same wherever you go around the reservation. Eating healthy is important and staying fit allows you to grow strong and reach your potential in life."



Naji Tobias

Tribal youngster Carlee Billie, 9, left, looks on as Allied Health's Amy Kimberlain holds up a soda bottle and a bag of sugar. According to Kimberlain, drinking a bottle of soda per day for an entire month is the equivalent of consuming five pounds of sugar per month. "A lot of times we don't think about our drinks because we're so focused on what we eat," Kimberlain said. "But we need to watch for whatever we eat or drink on a daily basis."



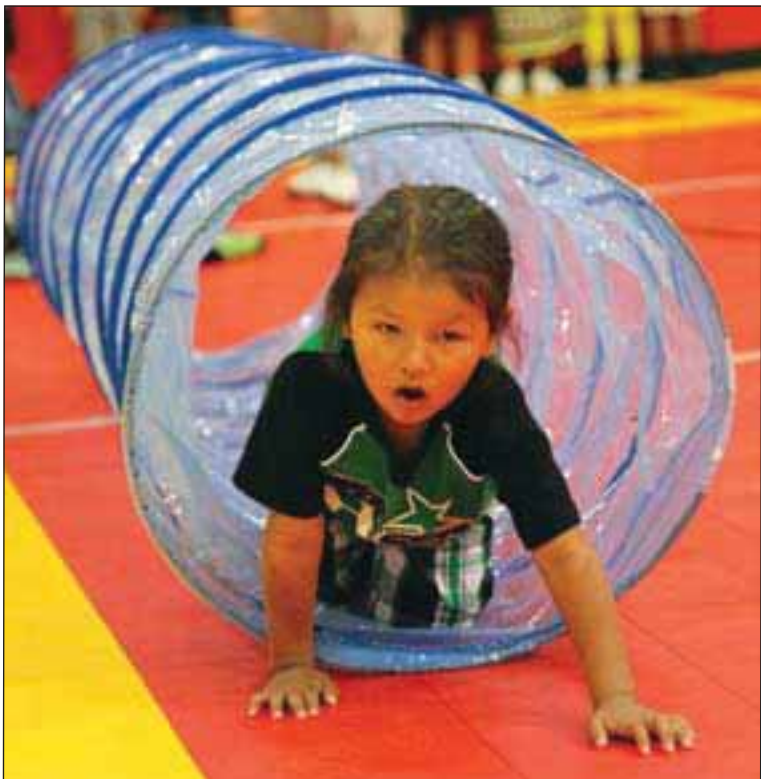
Chris C. Jenkins
Big Cypress preschoolers grab on to the handles of a colorful parachute Jan. 21 as part of the monthly Get Fit Day held on each reservation to instill healthy fitness and exercise habits. The day featured six play stations for 1- to 4-year-olds.

Big Cypress Preschoolers Attend Latest Get Fit Day



David Joe completes the hoop run.

Chris C. Jenkins



Solomon Cypress finishes the tunnel crawl portion of the obstacle course.

Chris C. Jenkins



Chris C. Jenkins
Tribal Fitness Department Specialist Gina Allardyce, center, playfully works on stretching techniques with the Big Cypress Preschool youth.

Know the Dangers of MDMA – Ecstasy

FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine) is a synthetic, psychoactive drug that is chemically similar to the stimulant methamphetamine and the hallucinogen mescaline. MDMA produces feelings of increased energy, euphoria, emotional warmth and distortions in time, perception, and tactile experiences. MDMA is taken orally, usually as a capsule or tablet. It was initially popular among Caucasian adolescents and young adults in the nightclub scene or at weekend-long dance parties known as raves. More recently, the profile of the typical MDMA user has changed, with the drug now affecting a broader range of ethnic groups.

MDMA can produce confusion, depression, sleep problems, drug craving and severe anxiety. These problems can occur soon after taking the drug or, sometimes, even days or weeks after taking MDMA. In addition, chronic users of MDMA perform more poorly than nonusers on certain types of cognitive or memory tasks, although some of these effects may be due to the use of other drugs in combination with MDMA. Research in animals indicates that MDMA can be harmful to the brain. One study in nonhuman primates showed that exposure to MDMA for only four days caused damage to serotonin nerve terminals that was still evident six to seven years later. Although similar neurotoxicity has not been shown definitively in humans, the wealth of animal research indicating MDMA's damaging properties strongly suggests that MDMA is not a safe drug for human consumption.

For some people, MDMA can be addictive. A survey of young adult and adolescent MDMA users

found that 43 percent of those who reported ecstasy use met the accepted diagnostic criteria for dependence, as evidenced by continued use despite knowledge of physical or psychological harm, withdrawal effects and tolerance (or diminished response). These results are consistent with those from similar studies in other countries that suggest a high rate of MDMA dependence among users. MDMA abstinence-associated withdrawal symptoms include fatigue, loss of appetite, depressed feelings and trouble concentrating. MDMA can also be dangerous to overall health and, on rare occasions, lethal. MDMA can have many of the same physical effects as other stimulants, such as cocaine and amphetamines. These include increases in heart rate and blood pressure—which increase risks of particular concern for people with circulatory problems or heart disease—and other symptoms such as muscle tension, involuntary teeth clenching, nausea, blurred vision, faintness and chills or sweating.

In high doses, MDMA can interfere with the body's ability to regulate temperature. On rare but unpredictable occasions, this can lead to a sharp increase in body temperature (hyperthermia), which can result in liver, kidney, cardiovascular system failure or death. MDMA can interfere with its own metabolism (breakdown within the body); therefore, potentially harmful levels can be reached by repeated MDMA administration within short periods of time.

Should you wish to learn more about MDMA (Ecstasy) abuse, please feel free to schedule a confidential meeting with a Family Services Counselor on your respective reservation.

—Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse (2010)

Practice Food Safety at Temporary Events

BY NICHOLAS PERSAUD
Environmental Health Program

February is an active month in terms of temporary food vending events including Pow Wows, Big Cypress Shootout, and Brighton Field Day on the reservations. The Seminole Tribe of Florida Health Department performs inspections and food safety classes to prevent food-borne illness outbreaks. Planning ahead and properly setting up of your temporary food booth can also reduce potential risk of food-borne illnesses.

Cross-contamination - The classic example of cross-contamination is preparing raw chicken on a cutting board and then, without washing and sanitizing, using the same board and knife to prepare salads. Cross contamination can also occur when foods including condiments are exposed to open air or left uncovered.

Mixing raw foods with cooked foods - A good example of this practice would be adding raw eggs to already prepared eggs on a steam table. Also, do not add freshly made potato salad to a container of potato salad that is in use. Separate utensils for cooked versus raw food, keep them marked and train your employees.

Inadequate cooking are foods not cooked to the proper internal food temperature. Ensure your cooks are checking cooking temperatures with a thermometer. It's important!

Improper thawing are foods that are not thawed using the following methods: 1. In a refrigerator/cooler. 2. Under running water. 3. As part of the cooking process. Foods should never be thawing out in the open.

Failing to cool foods properly - Hot foods must be cooled down as quickly as possible, i.e. by placing hot food in shallow pans or use an ice bath.

Over prepping - Preparing more food than necessary. It creates a proper storage problem that can lead to contamination. It also does not allow foods to be consumed in a timely manner.

Food storage - No food should be stored directly on the floor or in such a manner that the food can be contaminated.

Improper Hot Holding and Reheating - Once cooked, hot foods must be kept at 140 degrees or above. (Cold foods must be kept at 40 degrees or below.) Leftovers must be reheated rapidly to at least 165 degrees. Note: Stem tables and burners are not designed for reheating leftovers.

Personnel - Proper hand washing is the single most important means to prevent the spread of infection. Hand sanitizers are not a substitute for hand washing. Have enough people assigned to separate food related tasks.

Improper Cleaning - Food equipment including coolers and utensils must be washed, rinsed and sanitized prior to the event. Remember, sanitizing is the removal of harmful microorganisms with a sanitizing agent (e.g. bleach).

Food from unapproved sources - All foods must be obtained from permitted sources that comply with all applicable state/county or local food service laws.

Please call the Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Health Office at 954-985-2330 should you need more information about this subject.





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The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should be based solely upon advertisement. Guy J. Seligman worked as a Certified Legal Intern in both the State Attorney and Public Defenders offices in Dade and Broward County; he has been in private practice for 16 years. He graduated from Nova Southeastern University Law School in 1987, and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1988.



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PLAYHARD

Player's Club members that have been trespassed or banned by the Seminole Tribe of Florida or opted into the self-exclusion program are not eligible. You must be 21 years of age or older to play slots and games. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, please call 1.888.ADMIT.IT.

Team Captains are Heart of Tribe’s Rez Rally



Cecilia Pequeño, Immokalee Lead Team Captain (second from left) is quick to give credit to Mary Lou Alvarado (from far left), Lorraine Posado and Michelle Ford. “My Co-Captains help a lot,” said Cecilia.

■ Their Motivation for this Huge Job is More Than Health – It’s About Gathering, Helping, and Feeling Good

By The Seminole Health Department

Since its beginning in 2001, the Rez Rally has depended on Team Captains, community volunteers from Hollywood, Brighton, Big Cypress, Fort Pierce, Tampa and Trail, to make sure their community members attend the event. Back in 2001, that was an easier task. The Rez Rally was small, about 300 people. Last year, there were over 1,000 participants. This year, 20 Team Captains had an exceptional challenge: The day before the Rez Rally was scheduled to take place, the event was postponed for three weeks. The Team Captains handled the change by reflecting on the origins of the walk, how it has evolved, and why they take on the challenge of being Team Captains.



Began with Small Numbers and a Big Idea

Ten years ago, the Rez Rally started as a way to motivate tribal members to stay active during the holidays. The idea of relying

Jo Motlow North, Hollywood Lead Team Captain

on volunteer Team Captains came from the knowledge that community members know each other. They know what inspires people to join a walk. Moreover, each person knows what they need to achieve balanced health. Said Connie Whidden, Health Department Director, “The community knows the health issues, the obstacles and incentives to good health. The community knows the answers.”

Jo Motlow North, Hollywood Lead Team Captain, walked in the first Rally held in Big Cypress. No one knew what to expect. It was a simple event, focused on walking. She remembers the tribe gave everyone a meal and a gift card for shoes. “We didn’t have trophies. We didn’t get big prizes. All we got was a pat on the back as we crossed the finish line,” said Jo.

Over the next several years, the Rally rotated to the Hollywood, then Brighton Reservations, after the Big Cypress event. Other walks during the year were added as part of the Pathways Program, coordinated by Edna McDuffie. There are now about 14 year-round walks that tribal members participate in. But, as Jo Motlow North states, the Rez Rally continues to be known as, “The Big One.”

As the event grew, the job of the Team

Captains became even more critical. “Team captains are the pulse of the event,” explained Connie Whidden. “They are recruitment, marketing, promotion, logistics and registration. Everything they do is built on doing the previous task well. It is because of the hard work and exceptional skills of Team Captains that the Rez Rally has grown to be such a showcase event.”

Good Things (Like the Rally) Take Time

Preparation for “The Big One” starts months in advance. Team Captains start talking about the

Rez Rally. They remind people that it is fast approaching. They distribute fliers, design T-shirts, go to senior distribute and tribal meetings, and start registering participants.

Each Team Captain has to learn to articulate the benefits of participation. Carlene Dicarlo, a BC Team Captain, recruits people by saying, “It’s good for your health. It will help you fight heart disease and diabetes.”

Togetherness and Health Top Reasons

By the time the Rez Rally arrives, Team Captains have already clocked in many hours of hard work. As the event gets closer, they have to be even more focused, plus deal with pre-Rally stress. Why do they accept jobs as Team Captains,

sometimes for several years?

Almost unanimously, Team Captains say they enjoy their Rez Rally jobs because they know the event brings people from all reservations together. April Simmons, Tampa Team Captain, said that the Rally is a time that the entire tribe can come together, and get caught up on family members. “It’s like a big party for tribal members,” she said.

Suraiya Smith, Brighton Lead Team Captain, said, “It’s an event when we get to see people who we don’t see often. It’s a socializing event.”

Suraiya thought about her first run, how she signed up to help Brighton beat Hollywood and BC. She said that, over the years, her reasons for walking have changed. “Now, it’s more of a health thing.” When Suraiya first walked, she didn’t have children, but now she has two children and is pregnant with a third. She said her health is more important to her now.

As a mother, April Simmons said that the Rally helps her lead her entire family on a healthy path. “It has helped me realize I need to be healthy for my children, to show them it’s good to eat healthily and exercise. I’m diabetic and don’t want my children to walk in my shoes.”

The Rally offers a way for families to spend quality time together, said April. “Being committed to the walk and committed to my family is important.” She said she is being a positive role model to her children by showing them walking is a good thing. She will look back and think, “We did this together. We were committed to health as a family.”

Some of the Team Captains said that the Rez Rally was a launching event for serious fitness. Cecilia Pequeño runs half marathons, including one in Alaska three years ago. Cathy Cypress, BC Lead Team Captain, credits the Rez Rally as being one of the reasons she started joining competitive runs. Now, the Rally is the only 5K she runs, choosing instead to run half-marathons.

Learning to Talk and Motivate

Team Captains said the Rally also provides opportunities for them to learn professional skills, a major one being sales skills. Cathy Cypress has learned to entice people to join the Rally by saying, “It will be fun! You’ll get to see people you haven’t seen and help your community.”

Cecilia Pequeño’s sales pitch is, “You will have a good time. You will meet new people, improve your health and avoid diabetes.”

This may sound easy, but for many people, talking to people you don’t know, and trying

Big Cypress Co-Captains Carlene Dicarlo and Alice Billie



to inspire them, is difficult. Cecilia said she learned to be more confident as a Team Captain. “I was not good at communicating with people I didn’t know. Being a Team Captain has helped me to communicate with new people, speak out, and share ideas.”

She said she has learned to work with other tribal departments, ones with offices a distance away from her Rec Department office. To organize the event, she worked with staff from the utilities, recreation, and building and grounds departments. “Working on the Rez Rally helps us come together. To bring other departments together is good.”

Rally’s Impact Goes On

When the Rez Rally is over, most Team Captains are happy and relieved. But just like the Rally takes months of pre-planning, the benefits last well after the event, both for the Team Captains, and for other community members.

Cecilia Pequeño stays active all year by training one hour a day, and doing 45 minutes of cardio. Suraiya Smith has become more physically active in the past two years. She exercises five days a week for an hour, and works out with a trainer at the Brighton gym. Carlene Dicarlo walks regularly, on her own and with the Pathways Program.

Many Team Captains said that they notice more people walking on their own after the Rally. Jo Motlow North said she has noticed more youth walking. She thinks the Rally, along with other tribal health events, have improved the quality of life for tribal members. “It has raised our awareness of diabetes and how to fight it.” She is slow to take credit as a Team Captain for people’s successes, and said, “The initiative and credit goes out to the people.”

Helping Others Help Themselves

That’s another skill the Team Captains learn -- to give credit to others. Even their greatest reason for taking on this huge job is more about others than themselves. Jo Motlow North said her Team Captain job is “a job in the background.”

April Simmons said, “I help others help themselves.”

Cathy Cypress agreed. “Being a Team Captain makes me feel like I am helping people see that walking is good for their health. I help them see that they can take a small step and then go bigger.” She mirrored other Teams Captains’ feelings when she said she knows she is helping people who are struggling with diabetes. Being a Team Captain, “makes me feel better as a person,” she said.

And for all these reasons, on the Sunday after the Rez Rally, Team Captains give a huge sigh of relief, but know in another several months, they will be gearing up again for “The Big One.” When Jo Motlow North thought about it, she explained, “It’s a chore, but I like it.” Now we know why.



Cathy Cypress, BC Lead Team Captain, started running 5Ks and now runs half marathons. The Rez Rally inspires many tribal members to run for fitness, fun, and competition, all year round.

Postponement Lets Immokalee Show Its True Colors

Two nights before the Rez Rally scheduled for January 15 in Immokalee, about 15 people drove and walked the course -- it was the community clean up drive. There were staff from the recreation, building, public works and social services department, along with volunteer community members.

Adrenaline had been flowing for days. The reservation, which started with fewer than two acres and grew to 600, had never hosted a Rally. “We were like kids in a candy store,” said Ralph Sanchez, Recreation Staff.

Immokalee Team Captain Cecilia Pequeño said everyone was thrilled to host the Rez Rally. She said they wanted to see how many people would show up. Then she honestly added that Rally staff were looking forward to Sunday, January 16, because the event would be over.

But it was not to be. The morning before the event, Cecilia’s phone rang about 10:30. It was going to be rescheduled. She immediately began calling people, making fliers and posting them. She started looking on the positive side. “We will still have it. We just have longer to get ready.”

Ralph shared her positive view. They would have more time to finish painting the water troughs with medicine colors.

When Immokalee Team Captain Michelle Ford found out that morning, she immediately started thinking of all the people planning to put on and attend the event. “I thought about the catering people and people coming from different directions.”

Like Ralph, she switched her thinking to positive. She realized that, by choosing another date, some people who couldn’t attend the January 15 Rez Rally might be able to attend a re-scheduled event.

When the Rally was held three weeks later on February 5, the water troughs were all painted red, yellow, black, and white. The streets glistened from a sweeping the night before. And although participant numbers were a bit down, enthusiasm was up. Many Team Captains and participants felt the Rally had a different feeling, one with less competition. Many said, “That was fun!”

The little reservation did it, and under unusual circumstances. Edna McDuffie complemented everyone. “Everyone knows why it was postponed. It was good for the tribe as a whole.”

After the Rally there were smiles everywhere. Immokalee showed their true colors by being the perfect host under difficult circumstances. “Everyone had good attitudes,” said Cecilia.



“The Immokalee motto is ‘We’re small, but proud,’” said Cecilia Pequeño, taking a walk with Ralph Sanchez.

REZ RALLY

◆ REZ RALLY

From page 1A

As far as the highest percentage of Tribal participants is concerned, Team Immokalee/Naples represented its home well by capturing its first traveling Seminole basket trophy.

The Rally host fielded 46.7 percent of its Tribal citizens participating in this year's event. Big Cypress was represented by 13.9 percent of its Tribal citizens.

Team Brighton/Tampa came in third at 13 percent, while Team Hollywood/Fort Pierce/Trail brought up the rear at a 9 percent Tribal participant rate.

"The true strength of the Seminole Tribe is in our unity," Hollywood/Fort Pierce Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. said. "Let's all think about being healthy and having a glide in our stride. Rock on!"

Meanwhile, Team Brighton/Tampa finished with the most individual winners at 28, with Team Immokalee/Naples coming in second at 23 total winners. Team Big Cypress and Team Hollywood/Fort Pierce/Trail – the 2013 Rez Rally host – tied for third with 19

individual winners apiece.

"Everybody is a winner," Chairman Cypress said. "It doesn't matter where you placed. The main thing is just crossing the finish line, so that's how we have to look at it."

This year's Rez Rally, with its 3.1-mile racecourse, started and finished on Immokalee's Seminole Crossing Trail. The Rez Rally competition was led by the runners, followed closely by the walkers, the strollers and the wheelchair participants.

Following the Rez Rally races and words of encouragement from the Tribal dignitaries were performance sets from Tribal singer Natomah Robbins, the Seminole Fitness Cheer Dancers and the Big Cypress Martial Arts team.

Team captains from all four reservations – Hollywood, Big Cypress, Brighton and Immokalee – received special gifts in appreciation of their efforts in getting the Tribal citizens, community members and employees to participate in this year's Rez Rally.

The Rez Rally results segment concluded all of the action.

"It does my heart good to see the young and old getting involved," Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar said. "It's like a reunion with your fellow people from all the reservations. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves here in Immokalee."



Team Hollywood/Fort Pierce/Trail wins the 11th annual Rez Rally's top overall trophy for having the most registered participants in the Tribalwide competition.



Team Hollywood/Fort Pierce/Trail runner Mario Silva of the Information Technology Department is the first overall participant to cross the finish line.

PAST REZ RALLY TEAM WINNERS – MOST OVERALL PARTICIPANTS

- 2001: Big Cypress Reservation
- 2002: Brighton Reservation
- 2003: Big Cypress Reservation
- 2004: Brighton Reservation
- 2005: Big Cypress Reservation
- 2006: Hollywood Reservation
- 2007: Brighton Reservation
- 2008: Big Cypress Reservation
- 2009: Hollywood Reservation
- 2010: Brighton Reservation

NOTE: In the Rez Rally's 11-year history, Big Cypress and Brighton have tied for the most team wins with four, while Hollywood has won three Rez Rally competitions. Immokalee has yet to win one.

PAST REZ RALLY TRIBAL PARTICIPATION AWARD WINNERS – HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

- 2009: Brighton Reservation/Tampa Reservation
- 2010: Brighton Reservation/Tampa Reservation

NOTE: Since the 2009 inception of the Rez Rally's Highest Tribal Percentage Award, Brighton/Tampa has won this special honor two out of three years, with Immokalee/Naples capturing the Traveling Seminole Basket trophy for the first time this year (2011).



11th ANNUAL REZ RALLY TEAM RESULTS	
Most Overall Participants	
1. Team Hollywood/Fort Pierce/Trail	
2. Team Immokalee/Naples	
3. Team Big Cypress	
4. Team Brighton/Tampa	
Team With Highest Percentage of Tribal Citizens	
1. Team Immokalee/Naples – 46.7 percent	
2. Team Big Cypress – 13.9 percent	
3. Team Brighton/Tampa – 13 percent	
4. Team Hollywood/Fort Pierce/Trail – 9 percent	
Reservation with Most Individual Winners	
1. Brighton Reservation/Tampa Reservation – 28	
2. Immokalee Reservation/Naples – 23	
T-3. Big Cypress Reservation – 19	
T-3. Hollywood Reservation/Fort Pierce Reservation/Trail – 19	
Most Tribal Clan Participants	
1. Panther Clan – 316	



Photo above, Team Brighton/Tampa's Emma Johns is in jubilation after she completes the Rez Rally walk.

Right photo, Team Big Cypress couple Dale and George Grasshopper warm up at the Immokalee Seminole Ranch a few minutes before the Rez Rally walk competition began on Feb. 5.



The Rez Rally stroller competition gets under way as the participants position themselves at the start line on Seminole Crossing Trail in Immokalee.

Left photo, Immokalee's Kyle Alvarado, 13, runs hard at the Rez Rally representing his hometown in the Tribal Youth and Descendants 13-17 Youth Runner category. Right photo, Immokalee's Jack Aguilar, 9, and Rudy Martinez, 7, race to the finish line. They competed in the Tribal Youth and Descendants 6-12 Youth Runner category of the Rez Rally.



Team Hollywood/Fort Pierce/Trail's Donna and Keith Condon work on some stretching exercises on their own just moments before the competition begins.



Big Cypress Tribal youngster Harmony Cypress, 8, gets on top of Big Cypress Martial Arts Instructor Luis Gutierrez as she spars with him in a performance sequence at the Rez Rally.



Immokalee's Kenny Joe Davis shares a moment with his wife, Jennifer Ramos, and their two children, Kenny Joe Davis Jr., 13, and K.J. Davis, 8, just minutes before the Feb. 5 Rez Rally races begin at the Immokalee Seminole Ranch.

Immokalee's Kenny Joe Davis Represents His Hometown at the Rez Rally

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

IMMOKALEE – About two months before the Immokalee Reservation hosted its first-ever Rez Rally, working out became a top priority for Kenny Joe Davis.

A product of Immokalee, Davis, 40, participated in the Feb. 5 Rez Rally walk competition for the first time and is all about taking pride in his hometown.

He said that all he has been thinking about up to that point – other than his family and job at the Immokalee Seminole Ranch – was how he could help Team Immokalee/Naples come out on top for the first time in the Rez Rally's 11-year history. His primary goal for this year's Rez Rally was simply to win.

"I've been doing a lot of walking, running and lifting weights for this Rez Rally," Davis said. "It's all about each of us here in Immokalee supporting each other. We're a team, so we have been walking a lot and cleaning up the area so everyone could be safe for the Rez Rally. It's safety first in Immokalee."

With Davis working a regular daytime shift at the Immokalee Seminole Ranch, the best time for him to walk down Immokalee's Seminole Crossing Trail was during lunchtime. Davis said he took the walk every day.

"If I'm not in a meeting in Big Cypress or in Immokalee during lunch, I'm walking it out on the trail," Davis said. "I don't want to get sick, so I just try to do it when it's not raining. You don't want to go too fast when you're walking. You want to pace yourself because that's the key to winning in the Rez Rally walk."

Rain or shine, however, Davis made it his mission to hit up the Immokalee Recreation's gymnasium, where he regularly lifted weights and worked on cardiovascular exercises with the Immokalee Reservation's fitness team, led by Joey Garcia.

Davis ate healthy foods, such as assortments of fruits and vegetables. He said he has been doing his best to limit his daily carbohydrate, caloric and fat intake.

"I just try to stay away from the Mexican restaurants," Davis said with a laugh.

After finishing his workday at the Immokalee Seminole Ranch, Davis made it a routine to work on pushups and sit-ups at his home in LaBelle. He also started walking and running for 3.5 miles on his home street.

Jennifer Ramos, the wife of Davis, briefly spoke on her husband's chances of winning this year's Rez Rally walk.

"He's got a good opportunity to get it done," Ramos said less than an hour before the Rez Rally began. "His legs are about to go to work on this course."

Davis was stretching his arms and legs for a few moments before conducting a practice walk down the Seminole Crossing Trail, 45 minutes before the big race began.

Sporting a titanium necklace, an Immokalee Seminole Ranch hat, sunglasses and a bracelet made by Power Balance, he talked about the importance of using these items for the Rez Rally walk.

"The necklace keeps me hydrated and the bracelet is supposed to give you power and keep you balanced," Davis said. "The hat and sunglasses, I have those on so the sun doesn't beat down on me. I trust the guys who made them, so I'll wear it."

Davis said if he hadn't ran on part of the Rez Rally walk due to his shin cramping up, he most likely would have won the race in his category. Davis competed in the Tribal Adult II 37- to 54-year-old male walker category and was disqualified from the race. According to Rez Rally rules, if a walker runs at any time on the racecourse, then that person is disqualified from the competition.

Davis tried to explain what happened at the Rez Rally walk.

"I started walking out pretty good in the front, but my shin started tightening up a half-mile down the race course," he said. "I had to run a little bit, so I couldn't win it anymore. It didn't count, but I finished."

Davis said he will compete in a different category at the 12th annual Rez Rally, which will be held in Big Cypress. He has one goal in mind: to come out on top in the Rez Rally run category.

"Next year at the Rez Rally, I'm gunning for Norman 'Skeeter' Bowers," Davis said with a laugh. "He's the man to beat in the Rez Rally, so I'm going to beat him at the run and win. Norman, I hope you enjoyed the run this year because next year, I'm taking over."



Photo above, Kenny Joe Davis, of Immokalee, stretches out his legs prior to the Feb. 5 Rez Rally walk race, held at the Immokalee Seminole Ranch.

Right photo, Davis takes a practice walk down Immokalee's Seminole Crossing Trail – the primary road course for this year's Rez Rally.



The Seminole Tribal Council congratulates Team Immokalee/Naples for taking home a year's worth of bragging rights after capturing the Rez Rally's team award for highest percentage of Tribal participants.



Naji Tobias
Team Hollywood/Fort Pierce/Trail's Shirley Clay places second in the Tribal seniors 55- to 68-year-old run category of the Rez Rally.



Naji Tobias
Bernard Robbins and his daughter, Redfeather Robbins, of Team Big Cypress, compete in the Rez Rally's stroller category.



Naji Tobias
The Seminole Fitness Cheer Dancers take center stage as one of the Rez Rally's three performing acts at the Immokalee Seminole Ranch, with the dancers hailing from the Brighton, Immokalee and Hollywood Reservations.



Photo above, Team Brighton/Tampa's Connie Whidden comes out on top in the Tribal seniors 55- to 68-year-old walk category of the Rez Rally.
Left photo, Team Immokalee/Naples Tribal senior walker Mary Sanchez gets an ovation after being the final finisher of the Feb. 5 Rez Rally.

Naji Tobias

11th ANNUAL REZ RALLY INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

TRIBAL SENIOR CATEGORIES – WOMEN

Tribal Senior Runners – 55-68 years old: 1. Helene Buster – Brighton, 2. Shirley Clay – Hollywood, 3. Nancy Motlow – Immokalee; Tribal Senior Walkers – 55-68 years old: 1. Connie Whidden – Brighton, 2. Louise Gopher – Brighton, 3. Dora Tiger – Hollywood; Tribal Golden Senior Walkers – 69 years old and up: 1. Edna McDuffie – Big Cypress, 2. Mabel Haight – Brighton, 3. Louise Billie – Big Cypress.

TRIBAL SENIOR CATEGORIES – MEN

Tribal Senior Runners – 55-68 years old: 1. Andrew Bowers – Brighton, 2. Daniel Gopher – Big Cypress; Tribal Senior Walkers – 55-68 years old: 1. Mitchell Cypress – Big Cypress, 2. Jonah Cypress – Big Cypress, 3. Stephen Bowers – Hollywood; Tribal Golden Senior Walkers – 69 years old and up: 1. Stanlo Johns – Brighton.

TRIBAL ADULT CATEGORIES – WOMEN

Tribal Adult I Runners – 18-36 years old: 1. Chawndra Billie – Hollywood, 2. Lorraine Posada – Immokalee, 3. Lenora Roberts – Immokalee; Tribal Adult II Runners – 37-54 years old: 1. Cathy Cypress – Big Cypress, 2. Jennifer Osceola – Hollywood, 3. Candy Cypress – Big Cypress; Tribal Adult I Walkers – 18-36 years old: 1. Francine Osceola – Hollywood, 2. Jessica Osceola – Immokalee, 3. Brittany Yescas – Hollywood; Tribal Adult II Walkers – 37-54 years old: 1. Rhonda Nunez – Immokalee, 2. Kay Braswell – Brighton, 3. Virginia Billie – Immokalee.

TRIBAL ADULT CATEGORIES – MEN

Tribal Adult I Runners – 18-36 years old: 1. Elliot Alvarado – Immokalee, 2. Howard Jimmie – Brighton, 3. Elton Shore – Brighton; Tribal Adult II Runners – 37-54 years old: 1. Norman Bowers – Brighton, 2. Daniel Tommie – Big Cypress, 3. Sam Tommie – Big Cypress; Tribal Adult I Walkers – 18-36 years old: 1. Keith Condon – Hollywood, 2. Spencer Jock – Immokalee; Tribal Adult II Walkers – 37-54 years old: 1. Todd Johns – Brighton, 2. Mondo Tiger – Big Cypress, 3. John Huff Jr. – Brighton.

TRIBAL ADULT CATEGORIES – STROLLERS AND WHEELCHAIRS

Tribal and Tribal Spouse Strollers – Female: 1. Rita McCabe – Brighton, 2. Desiree Jumper – Big Cypress, 3. Jennifer Heaton – Hollywood; Tribal and Tribal Spouse Strollers – Male: 1. Johnnie Lee Jimmie – Immokalee, 2. Michael Alvarado – Immokalee, 3. Larry Howard – Brighton; Wheelchairs: 1. Efrain Marrero – Immokalee/Motorized Wheelchair – No pusher, 2. Paul 'Chunky' Buster – Big Cypress/Edward DeLeon – pusher, 3. Rita Micco – Hollywood/Vincent Micco – pusher, 4. Joann Osceola – Hollywood/Rogina Chancey – pusher, 5. Sandy Friday – Big Cypress/Crystal Harjo – pusher, 6. Agnes Bert – Brighton/Eric Puente – pusher.

TRIBAL SPOUSE AND DESCENDANT CATEGORIES – WOMEN

Tribal Spouse/Adult Descendant Runners – 18-54 years old: 1. Felicia Garza – Immokalee, 2. Marilyn Jumper – Big Cypress, 3. Cindy Aguilar – Immokalee; Tribal Spouse/Adult Descendant Walkers – 18-54 years old: 1. Nancy Jimmie – Brighton, 2. Janae Braswell – Brighton, 3. Celesta Osceola – Big Cypress; Tribal Spouse/Adult Descendant Senior Walkers – 55 years old and up: 1. Elizabeth Bates Bowers – Hollywood, 2. Julia Johns – Brighton.

TRIBAL SPOUSE AND DESCENDANT CATEGORIES – MEN

Tribal Spouse/Adult Descendant Runners – 18-54 years old: 1. Isael Villa – Immokalee, 2. Terrance Simmons – Tampa; Tribal Spouse/Adult Descendant Walkers – 18-54 years old: 1. Rob Landin – Big Cypress, 2. Randall Byrd – Immokalee, 3. Mario Posada – Immokalee; Tribal Spouse/Adult Descendant Senior Runners – 55 years old and up: 1. Terry Tichnor; Tribal Spouse/Adult Descendant Senior Walkers – 55 years old and up: 1. Harley Roberts – Big Cypress, 2. Pedro Aguilar – Immokalee.

TRIBAL YOUTH AND DESCENDANT CATEGORIES – GIRLS

Tribal Youth and Descendant Runners – 6-12 years old: 1. Skyla Osceola – Hollywood, 2. Jillian Rodriguez – Immokalee, 3. Lauren Posada – Immokalee; Tribal Youth and Descendant Runners – 13-17 years old: 1. Ariah Osceola – Hollywood, 2. Ashley Faz – Immokalee, 3. Kayla Nelson – Brighton; Tribal Youth and Descendant Walkers – 13-17 years old: 1. Keyana Nelson – Brighton, 2. Marissa Osceola – Immokalee, 3. Tristina Osceola – Hollywood.

TRIBAL YOUTH AND DESCENDANT CATEGORIES – BOYS

Tribal Youth and Descendant Runners – 6-12 years old: 1. Troy Cantu – Immokalee, 2. Dyami Nelson – Brighton, 3. Lance Howard – Brighton; Tribal Youth and Descendant Runners – 13-17 years old: 1. Hunter Osceola – Hollywood, 2. Timothy Bearden – Brighton, 3. Christopher Bearden – Immokalee; Tribal Youth and Descendant Walkers – 13-17 years old: 1. Randy Shore – Brighton, 2. Justin Frank – Hollywood, 3. Ty Huff – Brighton.

GENERAL WALKER AND RUNNER CATEGORIES

General Runners – Female: 1. Kristi Hill – Hollywood, 2. Bianca Higgins – Trail, 3. Dominique Brown – Brighton; General Runners – Male: 1. Mario Silva – Hollywood, 2. Michael Herrera – Immokalee, 3. Tavares Smith – Brighton; General Walkers – Female: 1. Angella Dixon – Immokalee, 2. Rachel Smith – Brighton, 3. Marisol Perez – Big Cypress; General Walkers – Male: 1. Justin Roff – Big Cypress, 2. Darius Friday – Big Cypress, 3. Delwin McGowan – Big Cypress.



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Announcements

MESSAGE FROM YOUR POLICE CHIEF

Message From Your Police Chief Reconfirming Seminole Police Department's Commitment

From: Office of Your Police Chief, William R. Latchford

The Seminole Police Department remains committed to our core mission to work with our communities to reduce crime, reduce the fear of crime, and improve the quality of life in our reservations. Only together can we make all of the Seminole Tribe of Florida's reservations the safest communities in the nation.

I am confident that this department will remain on the path of excellence as we continue to build partnerships that build respect, trust, reduce crime, and create a safe environment to all the communities of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. As always, I appreciate the continued support of the Tribal Council and all the members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. It is a privilege to lead your police department and it is only with our strong community partnership that we are able to perform our duties effectively.

BIRTHDAY WISHES



Harmony Cypress celebrated her 7th Birthday with Great Grandma in BC.

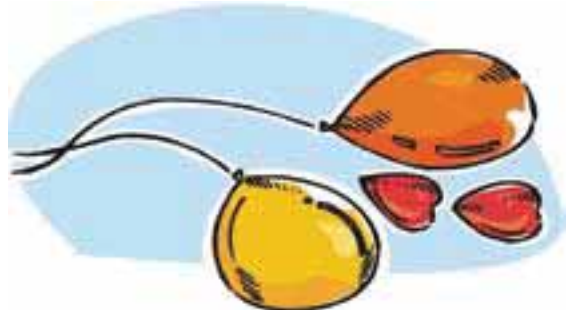
BEST WISHES

Tuesday, February 22, 2011, Walter Swan will be leaving Ahfachkee School and moving to Nashville, Tennessee where he has been asked to serve in the capacity of the Education Line Officer for the South and Eastern States region of the Bureau of Indian Education. In this position, Mr. Swan will become responsible for serving the needs of all the Indian students enrolled at any of the BIE schools along the east coast of the United States. We wish him well in this upcoming position.



Arissa Cypress, 8, Harmony Cypress, 7, cousins celebrated birthdays together.
We love you girls so much,
Love
Your family

POEMS



To my late Best Friend,

You may be gone but not forgotten cause you will always be
my Best Friend
Your spirit still lives on, in your kids and mine, that'll never
end

We miss you everyday since you went away
But I know you're watching over us as the sky shines every-
day

The memories I have of you, I shall cherish forever
The friendship we had, no one can ever replace...EVER!

WE LOVE AND MISS YOU!

HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY STEPHANIE LEE BIL-
LIE!!

LOVE ALWAYS,

EDNA CARTAYA CYPRESS
ADAM FRANK CYPRESS (NEPHEW)
SORAIYAH JAYNE CYPRESS (NIECE)
SYANDRIA KAEDYNCE CYPRESS (NIECE)
LANDON JAMES CYPRESS (NEPHEW)

100% Unconquered Seminole Woman

100% unconquered Seminole woman from the Panther Clan, pure love & pure strength is seen through the eyes of this man.

Waache everyday I am thankful & grateful for all that you do, but what's more important to me is you continue to take care of you.

Relax, enjoy yourself the best you can & stay stress free, no need to worry about us that are grown; this warrior stands strong, that's how you & Big Sis raised me.

Just as our ancestors you have withstood the tests of time, that unconquered Pechekche we descend from runs through yours to mine.

Waache you have every reason to hold your head high & show that pride. Not only are you the greatest Waache, you are one of the many respected elders in our Tribe.

I have been blessed beginning 11-23-1971, that's the day you gave birth to your youngest warrior son.

True, we didn't have the white man's wealth that's enjoyed today, but Waache though it was a struggle, you always provided each & everyday.

You would even take me to swap shop or the movies when you had just enough, shonaabisha Waache for bringing me smiles when times were rough.

I'll always remember those times because they were great. I refuse to forget where I come from, no matter how much white man's wealth accumulates.

True that wealth is good for you elders & our youth that go to school. Waache it feels great to give back to you, in front of my eyes are no wool.

You are appreciated & I show this everyday,
Blood's thicker than water, I uphold that & live that way.

Waache you & Amposhe are second to none,
Big Sis too stands tall with you great women of the unconquered ones.

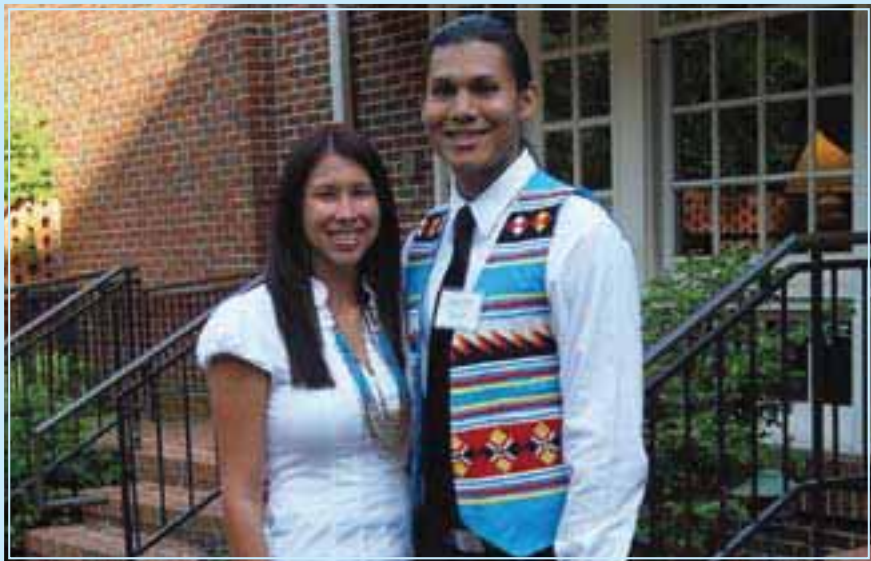
Big Sis is one of the many blessings you given me throughout my lifetime. It's a great privilege to have been raised by her in my prime.

Waache until I breathe my last I will bless you back for all you have done & continue to do. Happy birthday!!! With many, many, many more to come. We love you!!!

100% unconquered Seminole woman stay strong with your head held high. Waache, you're my pride & joy. Continue to represent the unconquered Seminole Tribe.

Warrior 4 life,
Ike T. Harjo
Sholooapathi Bolchunchagha
Koowaathi

CONGRATULATIONS



Desiree Jumper and Jarriid Smith

*A fairytale has just begun in the most perfect way,
Down on one knee a ring was given, "YES" did
the lady say,
But this is not a dream you're in, this is love that's true,
Now all await with eagerness the day you'll say "I do!"
We love you both very much. Congratulations!*

Love Always,

Your Best Friend & Maid of Honor

*Shammes
Family & Friends*

THANK YOU



"A heartfelt THANK YOU to all who helped to make
Rez Rally 2011 a success.
It would have not been the same without you!"

-Connie Whidden

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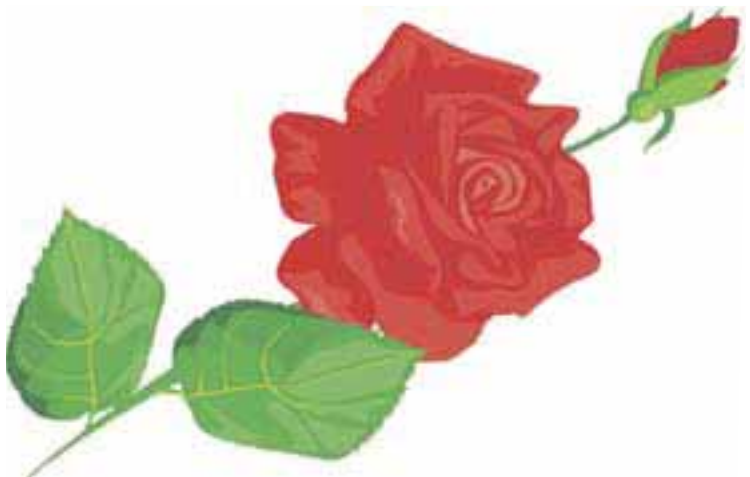
IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of Tiffany, Paige, Pam

Broken Chain

"We little knew those mornings that God was going to call your names.
In life we loved you dearly, in death we do the same. It broke our hearts
to lose you; you did not go alone; for part of us went with you the day
God called you home. You left us Lots of peaceful memories, your love
is still our guide, and though we cannot see you, you are always by our
side.
Our family chain is broken and nothing seems the same,
But as God calls us one by one,
The chain will link again."

We Dearly miss you..
Always love Aunt Pam & Family



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Sports

C

Youngsters Gain Experience, Have Fun at Bill Osceola Memorial Junior Rodeo in Big Cypress



Judy Weeks

Caleb Billie started his rodeo career on the back of a sheep and now he is competing in the Barrel Racing.

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Born out of the cattle industry, rodeo became a part of Seminole history a long time ago. A long list of contenders filled the Bill Osceola Memorial Junior Rodeo docket on Feb. 5 at the Junior Cypress Entertainment Complex and Rodeo Arena in Big Cypress.

While President of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Bill Osceola was instrumental in establishing the first Pow-Wow Rodeo and organizing a rodeo circuit for local competition.

“A strong advocate of education and sports, Bill Osceola recognized the need to include the younger generation in the rodeo program,” Moses Jumper Jr. said, “Today’s Junior Eastern Indian Rodeo works as a feeder system for the adult competition. Many of the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association contestants currently qualifying for the Indian National Finals Rodeo got their beginning in the Junior Rodeo.”

The INFR recently added some Junior Rodeo events to their lineup and several of the EIRA youth are working hard to acquire the necessary qualifying points. Kel-

ton Smedley of Brighton took third place in the Steer Riding in Las Vegas in 2010.

The youngest members of the elite group of rough stock riders on the Junior Rodeo circuit are the 4- to 6-year-old Mutton Busters. Twenty brave little cowboys and cowgirls grabbed a handful of wool and exited the chutes hoping for the longest ride on the back of a sheep.

Following in his Bull Riding father’s footsteps, Justin Gopher Jr. took first place with a 19.4-second ride. He was closely followed by Jayko Billie, who hung onto his sheep’s side for 17.9 seconds.

INFR steer riding qualifier Andre Jumper has started chalking up points for 2011 by earning first place in the opening event.

With red chaps flapping in the air, Jobe Johns took first place in the 9- to 12-year-old Pony Riding, Steer Riding, Junior Breakaway and Steer Undecorating. He came in a fast second to Ahnie Jumper in the 9- to 12-year-old Barrel Race.

Thirteen- to 15-year-old Pony Rider Kelton Smedley’s 53 points carried him into the first slot and he returned to the arena for an awesome 71-point ride in the Junior Bulls division and another first in the Chute Dogging.



Judy Weeks

Bullfighters laugh as Mutton Buster Bryce Baker dusts off his hands saying, “I did it!”

◆ See more photos on page 4C

Ahfachkee Warriors Golfers Commemorate Inaugural Season with Awards Banquet

Taylor Pratt earns team MVP honors; Ryan Cypress wins Warrior Spirit Award

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — A few landmarks made in Seminole Tribal sports history highlighted the Ahfachkee Warriors Golf Banquet, a sports awards ceremony organized for the first time ever on Jan. 24 at the Jimmie Cypress Public Safety Complex Building.

Ahfachkee School Principal Walter Swan described what the Warriors golf program meant for the Tribal athletic program.

“To have a Warrior spirit means you’re not afraid to step out into a new arena,” Swan said to the Warriors golf team. “If you go out knowing that you’re going to face adversity in light of the fact you’re doing this for the first time, then you’re a true Warrior.”

Swan commended Ahfachkee Warriors golf coach Bruce Pratt and his golfers – Stevie Billie, Quenton Cypress, Ryan Cypress and Taylor Pratt – for giving their best efforts on the golf course throughout the program’s inaugural season.

“This was a hard game to learn, but I want to thank you all for having the courage to step out and participate,” Swan said. “Do you know who is going to benefit from this down the line? It’s your prekindergarten, kindergarten, first, second and third graders who are looking up to you as golfers. They all have your shoulders to now stand on.”

Swan continued his talk with the four Tribal golfers on how they impacted their younger peers.

“You’ve got a little bit of history with you, so take that with you and carry it with pride,” Swan said. “You were the first and you can always say that. It means a lot. It really does.”

Not long after Swan’s words, the Tribal honorees viewed a special 15-minute video presentation that highlighted scenes from the program’s first golf season, courtesy of Seminole Media Productions.

“You may not see it now, but in years to come, you’ll see the impact that you’ve made on your community,” Ahfachkee Student Activities Coordinator Randall Cleckler said to the golfers. “When you think back on 2010, the time you played this school’s first sport, you’ll always remember that you were a part of history. Know that you’ve laid the foundation for the future of this golf program. For that, I’m very proud of you for what you’ve done.”

During the awards presentation that followed, Ahfachkee junior Tribal golfer Taylor Pratt was named the team’s Most Valuable Player. Fellow Tribal junior Ryan Cypress received the team’s Warrior Spirit award.

“I’m proud of our golf program and my teammates,” Taylor Pratt said. “We’ve lowered our scores quite a bit. I’d like to thank my dad/coach, along with Cicero Osceola and Charlie Cypress, for helping us improve our golf games throughout the season. It was great to have them as our support.”

Ahfachkee Warriors Tribal junior Stevie Billie and Tribal freshman Quenton Cypress were recognized with Most Improved honors.

“Serving as the golf coach was a wonderful experience,” Ahfachkee Warriors golf coach Bruce Pratt said. “Watching [the Tribal golfers] grow in the game and as young men was truly a blessing for me to witness. They learned a lot of different rules they didn’t know. I’m happy to say that each golfer showed a marked improvement in their games from the beginning to the end.”

In addition, all four golfers received the Tribal athletic program’s first-ever letters and commemorative Ahfachkee Warriors letterman jackets.

A group moment concluded the golf banquet. “Congratulations, golfers,” Swan said. “Thank you for a great season.”



Naji Tobias

Ahfachkee Warriors Golf Coach Bruce Pratt, left, names his son and Ahfachkee Warriors junior Tribal golfer Taylor Pratt as the team’s first MVP at the banquet.

◆ See more photos on page 4C

Hollywood Christian Lady Eagles Win District Championships, Prepare for Regionals



Chris C. Jenkins

Members of the Hollywood Christian Lady Eagles basketball team are all smiles after claiming another district championship in Class 1A District 14 in a dominating 69-25 home win versus Florida Bible Christian School on Feb. 5.

◆ See more photos on page 2C

Ahfachkee Warriors and Lady Warriors, First Seminole Tribal Basketball Programs Conclude First Season

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Regardless of how the Ahfachkee Warriors boys’ and girls’ basketball season turned out, one thing is certain. They made sports history by becoming the first Seminole Tribal basketball program to complete a full season sanctioned by the Florida High School Athletic Association.

The final two weeks of the Ahfachkee Warriors basketball season featured the following games:

The girls played their last two games against the Moore Haven Lady Terriers and the LaBelle Lady Cowboys on Jan. 18 and 20, respectively. Meanwhile, the boys competed in their three final contests against Moore Haven, American Prep and LaBelle on Jan. 18, 19 and 25, respectively.

The Lady Warriors won their final two home matchups, while the Warriors dropped their last three. The Lady Warriors finished their first season with a 6-2 record, and the Warriors ended the 2010-2011 basketball season 0-9.

Lady Warriors Make Furious Push for Strong Season Finish

Going into the Lady Warriors Jan. 18 home game against the Moore Haven Terriers, they had one thing going against them: a 1-point home loss, 32-31, to the St. John Neumann Celtics that dropped the girls to 4-2 as of Jan. 7.

Lady Warriors head coach Kristin Stoots said after the game that it would be a learning experience for the girls – a motivational tool for how to win close games, should it get to that point.

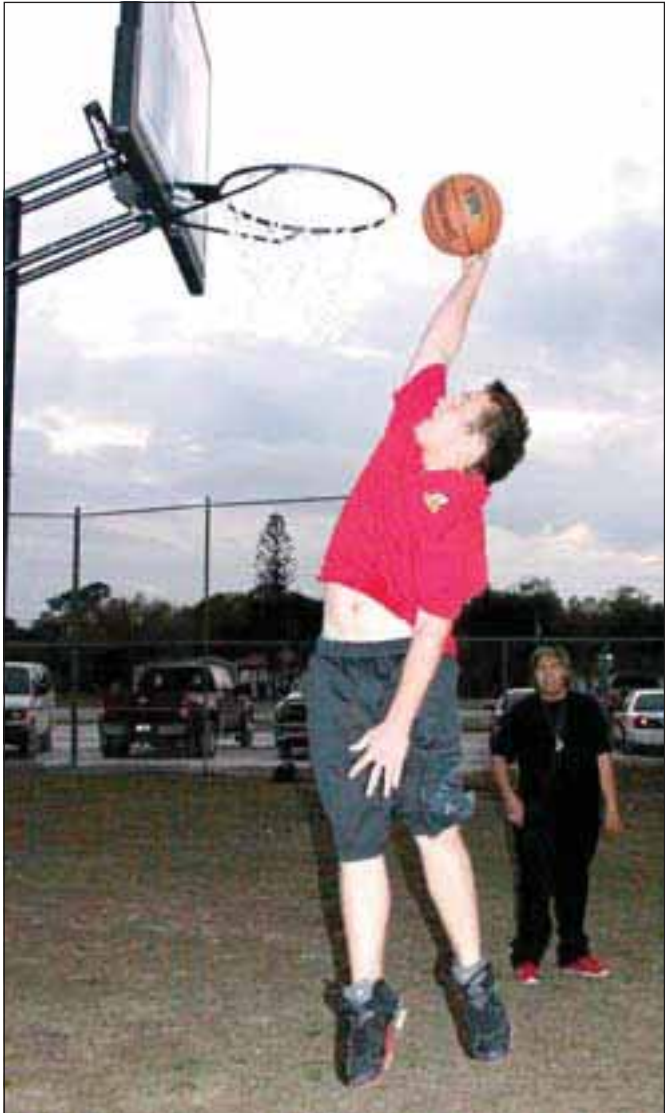
The Lady Warriors bounced back rather gracefully, as they found themselves in a close game with Moore Haven throughout the Jan. 18 contest at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.

Attempting to avenge an early-season 43-41 road loss to the Lady Terriers, it was a back-and-forth affair, with Moore Haven actually leading most of the way.

Down 41-40 with just 10.1 seconds left in the game – Ahfachkee’s last timeout – the Lady Warriors had to make their final shot attempt if they were to score a comeback victory.

With 1.2 seconds left, Lady Warriors forward Terri Baker (12 fourth-quarter points; team-high 28 points overall) took a pass from teammate Tia Osborne, finding her way to the 3-point line to hit nothing but net over a Moore Haven defender. The shot sent the Ahfachkee Warriors home crowd into a frenzy after the game-winner – a 43-41 score and victory for the Lady Warriors.

“When it comes down to the last shot, you want your best player to have the ball in her hands,” Stoots said. “The plan was to break the press and get the ball to Terri. I didn’t think Terri would take a 3-point shot from the corner. I could have never drawn up a play like that, but she’s an athlete and she’s truly a star.” Baker talked briefly about how that game-winning shot happened for her.



Naji Tobias

During the Ahfachkee Warriors bonfire pep rally event at the Big Cypress Softball Field on Jan. 24, Ryan Cypress entertains his fellow peers and Tribal citizens with a one-handed dunk.

◆ Please see WARRIORS on page 2C



President Richard Jr. Bowers takes first place in the Senior Breakaway with a 5.3-second catch.

Bill Osceola Memorial INFR Tour Rodeo Brings Champions from All States

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Hosted by the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association, the 2011 Bill Osceola Memorial Indian National Finals Tour Rodeo attracted Native American rodeo champions from all across North America. This annual Pow-Wow rodeo originated 40 years ago in Hollywood and is held in conjunction with the Tribal Fair.

A founding father of the Constitution of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Bill Osceola served as its president for 15 years. He was instrumental in the organization of the first Pow-Wow Rodeo as a fund-raiser to send representatives to Tallahassee and Washington, D.C. Under his leadership, it became a tradition.

The rodeo was dedicated to the memory of Bill Osceola in recognition of his efforts to build a road to the future for the members of the Seminole Tribe. The two-day event took place Feb. 4 and 5 at the Junior Cypress Entertainment Complex and Rodeo Arena at the Big Cypress Reservation.

With the Seminole Tribe of Florida sponsoring two INFR Tour Rodeos back to back, Native American contenders traveled to Florida to participate in these first two rodeos of the 2011 season. The competition worked hard to accumulate winning points toward qualification for the INFR to be held next fall at the South Point Casino and Arena in Las Vegas.

The Bill Osceola Memorial Rodeo roster contained the names of champions and qualifiers from the INFR and EIRA in all of its events.

The lineup included prominent Seminole family names that were instrumental in the development of the Tribal cattle industry over the past 75 years. Their descendants carry on the legacy.

The Friday night performance included a maximum of 10 contenders in each category with a vast number of entries running in slack. The Long Go scores determined who would return for the second night's performance and the order of their lineup.

Dakota Lewis, the current reigning INFR Bull Riding Champion from Montana, took first place in the tour, riding against such notables as Casey McDonald, Greg Lewis, Dusten Coleman, Koty Brugh, Tuck Johnson, Jay Garza and Shawn Best Sr.

A champion bareback, saddle bronc and bull rider, Shawn Best Sr. has spent most of his life on the rodeo circuit and is listed in the United States and Canadian Rodeo Halls of Fame. A member of the Colville Tribe, he lives in Washington state and has qualified for 26 INFR rodeos.

High School Rodeo Champion Jacoby Johns of Brighton took first place two nights in a row to become the Bareback Riding Champion of the rodeo. TO Yazzie and Duffy Ducheneaux had first place wins in the Saddle Broncs, but Ducheneaux triumphed in the Tour Average.

Casey Stone won the Calf Roping Average after two firsts that placed him just seconds ahead of Britt Givens. Meanwhile, Theresa Bowers turned a first and third place into a Tour Championship win in the Breakaway Roping. Team ropers Britt Givens and Clay Gunshows won the Average with a first and fourth place. President Richard Bowers Jr. took first place in the Senior Breakaway with a 5.3 second catch.

Ivan BruisedHead and Givens earned a first and fourth place in the Steer Wrestling over the two-day period, but Givens beat the clock in the Average for the Championship. The Barrel Racers ran some fierce competition with only thousandths of a second to separate their scores. Yolanda Nez and Shelley Vocu both garnered first places but were beat out in the Average by Boogie Jumper.

BILL OSCEOLA MEMORIAL TOUR RODEO LONG GO WINNERS

Bareback Riding: Jacoby Johns
Steer Wrestling: Britt Givens
Saddle Bronc: Duffy Ducheneaux
Calf Roping: Casey Stone
Breakaway Roping: Shelby Osceola
Team Roping: Greg Louis & Dakota Louis
Barrel Racing: Yolanda Nez
Bull Riding: Dusten Coleman.

BILL OSCEOLA MEMORIAL TOUR RODEO SHORT GO WINNERS

Bareback Riding: Jacoby Johns,
Steer Wrestling: Britt Givens
Saddle Bronc: Duffy Ducheneaux
Calf Roping: Casey Stone

Breakaway Roping: Trina Bowers
Senior Breakaway: Richard Bowers
Team Roping: Britt Givens and Clay Gunshows
Senior Team Roping: Allen Fisher and Alton Matchel
Barrel Racing: Shelley Vocu
Bull Riding: Dakota Louis.

BILL OSCEOLA MEMORIAL TOUR RODEO AVERAGE WINNERS

Bareback Riding: Jacoby Johns
Steer Wrestling: Britt Givens
Saddle Bronc: Duffy Ducheneaux
Calf Roping: Casey Stone
Breakaway Roping: Theresa Bowers
Team Roping: Britt Givens & Clay Gunshows
Barrel Racing: Boogie Jumper
Bull Riding: Dakota Louis.



Naji Tobias

The Big Cypress Community celebrates a special milestone with the Ahfachkee Warriors boys' basketball team on Jan. 25 after they completed their first-ever season in the home finale against the LaBelle Cowboys. It will hold a significant place in the Seminole Tribe's history books as the Warriors became the first Tribal school in FHSAA history to have a boys' basketball team.

WARRIORS

From page 1C

"I thought I was going to miss it, but somehow it went in," Baker said. "Tia [Osborne] passed me the ball and told me to get to the arch, so I got to the 3-point line and just threw it up. I'm happy we were able to get that win."

It proved to be a gut-check win for the Lady Warriors, especially considering the fact they battled back from a 32-25 deficit going into the fourth quarter. The Lady Warriors, who moved to 5-2 at the point, were down by as many as nine points and overcame a 20-13 halftime deficit.

The Lady Warriors finished their inaugural season playing a very different game in the Jan. 20 home finale against LaBelle.

The Lady Warriors raced to a 16-6 end-of-first-quarter lead, with Reagan Whitecloud having much to do with the early scoring surge. Perhaps the biggest highlight of the first quarter came from Whitecloud (five first-quarter points), as she nailed a 3-pointer at the top of the key with 2:11 left in the first — a 14-6 Ahfachkee lead at that point.

From there, the game blew wide open for the Lady Warriors, as a 16-6 first-quarter lead turned into a 28-10 halftime margin that LaBelle wouldn't come close to recovering from.

LaBelle's final shot conversion came at the 2:15 mark in the second quarter — an Ahfachkee 24-10 lead that only grew wider.

The Lady Warriors finished the game on a 24-0 scoring run — all in the second half for a resounding 52-10 season-ending win.

"It felt good to end the season on a winning note, especially since our first game against LaBelle was a close one," Stoots said. "We stressed a lot on our defense. Our team was very defensively sound and our offense just fed off of that. They played with a lot of heart out there. All that gave us such a large margin of victory against LaBelle."

Stoots reflected on what the Lady Warriors 6-2 final record meant for the Tribal sports program.

"These girls made history," Stoots said. "They came into this season not knowing what to expect and not knowing whether or not they could trust me. To see the kids dedicated and determined

on the court, it means a lot not only to me, but to our school and to the Tribe. They put their sweat and tears into this basketball team every day and I think it means a lot to the Tribe. They are such an inspiration to their fellow Tribal members and they have a very bright future ahead."

Warriors Boys Reach the Season's Finish Line

It was a challenging season for the Ahfachkee Warriors boys' basketball team, as they learned what it takes to play together as an organized unit.

They did lose their final three games of the season — a 50-40 loss to Moore Haven on Jan. 18, followed by an 86-20 drubbing at the hands of the American Prep (Davie) Knights on Jan. 19 and a season-ending 61-22 loss to LaBelle on Jan. 25.

Through it all, however, the Ahfachkee Warriors gained a learning experience, something the boys can take with them as they potentially play in future seasons with the Tribal basketball team.

"As I said throughout the season, we are in the beginning stages with this program and basketball is a game of fun," Ahfachkee Warriors boys' basketball head coach Antonio Wright said. "We live in a society where winning is everything and winning is very important, but we just pretty much went out there and had fun."

Wright said though the 0-9 season was not easy to accept, he wasn't too surprised with how it all turned out for the boys' team.

"At times it was kind of tough," Wright said. "We had a lot of youth and inexperience on our team, with our boys playing no other team sports and having very little coordination. It was tough but expected."

Wright was grateful for how the Big Cypress community lifted the team up throughout the season, despite all the losses they endured.

"The administration was great throughout the season," Wright said. "A lot of our teachers showed up, and we had a lot of fan support and community support. I also recall hearing a lot of good praise from the fans, as well. When we got down, they really kept us motivated and tried to help us out emotionally."

— Seminole Tribune Staff Writer Chris C. Jenkins contributed to this story.



Naji Tobias

Ahfachkee's Corbin Billie makes a drive down the court in his team's Jan. 19 home game against the American Prep (Davie) Knights.



Naji Tobias

The Ahfachkee Warriors boys' basketball team was amped up for their final game of the season — played Jan. 25 against the LaBelle Cowboys — at the Jan. 24 bonfire pep rally on the Big Cypress Softball Field.



Photo right, Ahfachkee's Caitlin Cypress, No. 13, hits a mid-range jumper over a Moore Haven Lady Terriers defender in the second half of a 43-41 comeback win for the home team on Jan. 18. Photo left, Ahfachkee Lady Warriors freshman forward Terri Baker, No. 24, connects on a well-defended 3-point attempt as she leads the Tribal home team to their win.

Naji Tobias



More photos from Hollywood Christian Ladies' District Championships



Chris C. Jenkins

Hollywood Christian Head Coach Carlos Adamson, left, instructs Skyla Osceola during a time out.



Chris C. Jenkins

Star guard Aria Osceola looks to start the first half action versus Florida Bible Christian.

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Big Cypress Promotes Comradery With 4-on-4 Fun Day Hoops Tourney



Chris C. Jenkins

Co-ed championship team Just Havin Fun show off their championship trophy and medals after the Big Cypress Tribal Council-sponsored Fun Day 4-on-4 double-elimination basketball tournament at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium Jan. 28. From left, Mike Onco, Wilson Bowers, Jo-Jo Osceola, Byron Billie and Nauthkee Henry. The group was among six Tribal and employee teams to participate in the event organized to promote departmental unity and create better working relationships.



Chris C. Jenkins

Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Mondo Tiger encourages all the teams participating in the tournament.



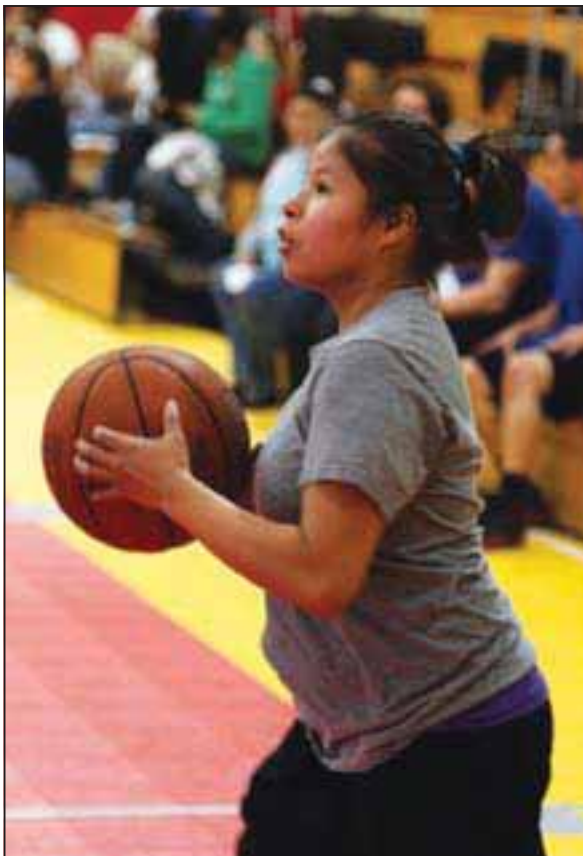
Chris C. Jenkins

Aura Revorevo, second from the left, of the Big Cypress Community Care for the Elderly Department, shows some spirit for her team cheering during game action.



Chris C. Jenkins

Mike Onco, right, looks for a teammate to pass to in first half play of the championship game versus the Council Warriors.




Chris C. Jenkins

Tiffany Billie sets up for a jump shot in her game.

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Native professional golfer Steve McDonald, far right, and Elliot Young demonstrate the proper way to hold a club for Seminole youth at Bonaventure Golf Course in Weston. The Jan. 25 clinic was held a third time for Seminoles and continues to travel across Indian Country and teach Native youth. McDonald, a 25-year member of the Professional Golfers' Association of America, along with local Seminole golfers, taught the youngsters some fundamentals of golf.

Aimee Hoyt

Native Professional Golfer Teaches Seminole Youth at Golf Clinic



Aimee Hoyt

Mitch Osceola, right, helps Journey Young, 11, line up her putter during one of the stations.



Aimee Hoyt

EanJay Young, 4, begins putting at the circle drill during the golf clinic.



Aimee Hoyt

Seven-year-old Conchade Osceola shifts his weight after practicing his swing on a hitting mat.



Aimee Hoyt

The Tribal golfers gather as the clinic concludes after completing swinging and putting drills and listening to a quick session on fundamentals from the instructors.



Chris C. Jenkins

Osceola dribbles the ball up court in first half action.

Tribal Hoopster Courtney Osceola Has Final Home Regular Season Game



Chris C. Jenkins

Courtney Osceola looks over the defense before making her move versus Sebastian River High School.



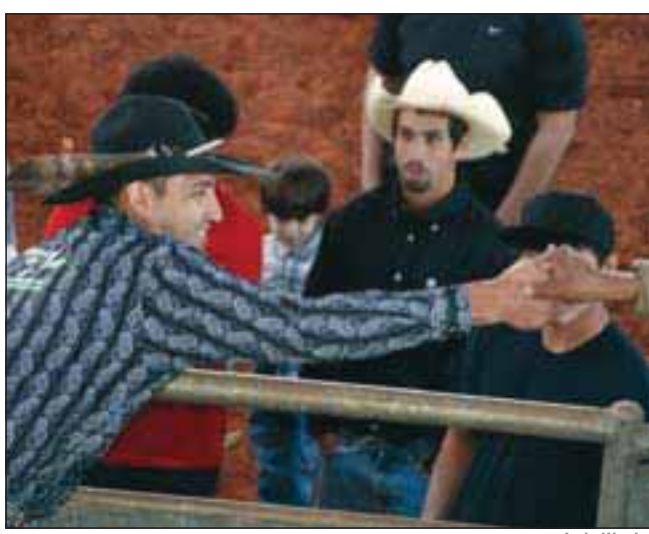
University School senior basketball forward/guard Courtney Osceola, center, with family and supporters during senior night festivities in Davie, Jan. 28. Osceola was celebrated with three other senior teammates. The team lost the game 45-33, ending their regular season with a 17-5 record.

Chris C. Jenkins



Judy Weeks

The bullfighter intervenes as Mark Holmes makes his way out of range of the calf's sharp hooves following his ride at the EIRA Bull Riding and Steer Wrestling Clinic on Jan. 29 at Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena in Big Cypress.



Judy Weeks

Rough stock riding champion Koty Brugh shared his years of experience and expertise with the young people attending the clinic.

EIRA Bull Riding and Steer Wrestling Clinic Trains, Prepares Youth for Rodeo Competitions

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — With the opening of the 2011 rodeo season just around the corner, the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association teamed up with the Hollywood Recreation Department and the Hollywood Horse Club to offer a bull riding and steer wrestling clinic to all the prospective contestants for the junior rodeo circuit.

EIRA President Paul Bowers Sr. welcomed the group of young people to the clinic and said that he hopes someday to see them compete in the Indian National Finals Rodeo.

The group gathered at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena in Big Cypress on Jan. 29, and met with Steer Wrestling Director Jeff Johns and Fred Gomez to work out on the practice dummy. Learning proper stance, grip, leverage and technique, they manipulated the dummy to develop their skills.

During the second phase, a four-wheeler pulled the dummy around the arena simulating a live steer for the benefit of the students. Johns followed closely offering advice and critiquing their procedure.

The final phase took the group to the rough stock chutes where they put their lessons to good use on real steers. One after another the young chute doggers were tested by the livestock and learned how to anticipate the action of the steers and counteract for a successful exhibition.

The Bull Riding Clinic included the riding of sheep, calves, steers and junior bulls. Each of these events are age appropriate and allow the young riders to slowly develop their skills and graduate to the next level before accepting the ultimate challenge of bull riding at the age of 18.

Moses Jumper Jr. opened the clinic with a background intro-

duction of the instructor and led the group in prayer.

Indian National Finals Rodeo rough stock competitor Koty Brugh shared his years of experience and skills with the next generation as the instructor of the clinic.

He began with an introduction of proper equipment that included rigging, gloves, helmets and vests.

Using a barrel to simulate a steer or bull, the group learned about hand grip, posture and balance. Novice riders quickly realized that there is a lot more to the sport than climbing on the back of an animal.

Brugh had the misfortune of being seriously injured a few years ago while competing on a bucking bronc at a Brighton Rodeo. He became tangled in the rigging and was dragged beneath the horse's hooves for the length of the arena. He returned to the rodeo circuit following his convalescence; however, safety is a major issue that he does not take lightly.

Throughout the entire clinic, Brugh emphasized the need for safety precautions and proper equipment in good working condition. He stressed the fact that there is always an inherent risk to dealing with rough livestock. Paramedics from the Seminole Emergency Service Department were on hand to oversee the entire operation.

About 30 boys and girls, ages 4 to 6, entered the arena with their parents for an opportunity to ride the sheep in preparation for the Mutton Busting event. They were followed by the calf, steer and junior bull athletes. After the students learned how the judges rate and score the individuals and their mounts, some of the riders made more than one practice attempt.

Rounding out the clinic was an exhibition by EIRA Bull Riders, who looked forward to practice rides prior to competing in the upcoming rodeo season.

♦ More photos from Ahfachkee's golf banquet



Naji Tobias

For one last time, the Ahfachkee Warriors golf team, along with Ahfachkee School Dean of Students Grant Richardson, left, Ahfachkee Principal Walter Swan, second from left, and Ahfachkee Student Activities Coordinator Randall Cleckler, right, takes a moment to reflect on how they made Seminole Tribal sports history as the first Tribal high school golf program at the Jan. 24 banquet.



Photo above, Ahfachkee Warriors freshman Tribal golfer Quenton Cypress shows off his Most Improved plaque and an Ahfachkee letter during the awards banquet in Big Cypress. Right photo, Ahfachkee School Principal Walter Swan unveils the Tribal athletic program's letterman's jacket, which the Tribal golfers earned as a result of their participation in the school's inaugural season.

Naji Tobias



Tribal Teammates Celebrate Senior Night at American-Heritage in Plantation



Chris C. Jenkins

American Heritage (Plantation) senior hoopster Kristen Billie stands center court with proud parents John Billie Jr., left, and Esther Gopher, before game time.



Chris C. Jenkins

American Heritage senior point guard Whitney Osceola, fourth from the left, is escorted and supported by teammates during senior night ceremonies.



Chris C. Jenkins

Whitney Osceola looks to fake her defender during first half action versus Community School. She would finish the game with three points and two assists. Osceola and teammate Billie were honored along with four other seniors as part of senior night festivities versus Community School Jan. 29. The Patriots finished their regular season with a record of 14-10.

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♦ More photos from Bill Osceola Memorial Junior Rodeo



Judy Weeks

Mark Holmes somersaults out from under his steer.



Judy Weeks

Four- to 8-year old Barrel Racer Abigail Tigertail turns a mean barrel.

BILL OSCEOLA MEMORIAL JUNIOR RODEO WINNERS

INFR Steer Riding: Andre Jumper
Mutton Bustin: Justin Gopher, Jr.
Pony Riding 9-12: Jobe Johns.
Pony Riding 13 to 15: Kelton Smedley
Calf Riding: Jaylen Baker
Steer Riding: Jobe Johns

Jr. Bulls: Kelton Smedley
Chute Dogging: Kelton Smedley
4-8 Barrel Racing: Carson Weekly
9-12 Barrel Racing: Ahnie Jumper
13 - 17 Barrel Racing: Ashley Parks
Jr. Breakaway Roping: Jobe Johns
Steer Undecorating: Jobe Johns.

Tribal Fair

D

Tribal Fair Welcomes Native Americans, Visitors to Witness Diversity and Traditions



Chris C. Jenkins
Vendor Dorothy Tucker, center, and work associates await the decision of the patron to purchase one of the vast selection of necklaces on display.



Chris C. Jenkins
Chairman Mitchell Cypress welcomes the guests in attendance during the Tribal Fair Grand Entry.



Chris C. Jenkins
Photo far left, Paul 'Cowbone' Buster performs at the fair. Photo left, members of the Tribal Color Guard lead the way during Grand Entry ceremonies, which kicked off the 40th annual Seminole Tribal Fair.



Chris C. Jenkins
The Tribal preschoolers recite the Pledge of Allegiance in the Miccosukee language on stage.



Chris C. Jenkins
Flutist Sonny Nevaquaya plays a traditional song for audience and guests.



Chris C. Jenkins
Hollywood/Fort Pierce Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. talks about the traditional customs of the Tribal Fair.

Clothing Contest Features Displays of Colors and Style



Chris C. Jenkins
Team participants show off some of the traditional varieties in patchwork for their category in the clothing contest.



Chris C. Jenkins
From left, Modern Day contestants ages 46-54 on stage for the clothing contest Linda Chang, Virginia Osceola, Wanda Billie and Sandy Billie Jr.



Chris C. Jenkins
Tribal youth on stage present custom skirts and apparel, while being judged in the 6- to 11-year age category.

Native Tribes Enchant with Dance Performances



Chris C. Jenkins
A hoop dancer in full regalia performs on stage during the closing ceremonies.



Chris C. Jenkins
Daniel Tramper Eastern Band of Cherokee member and world champion hoop dancer.



Chris C. Jenkins
Deer Clan Dancer Osceola Redshirt discusses the traditions of Pow-Wows on stage before his performance while dressed in traditional regalia.

Visitors Learn About Wildlife at Okalee Village Presentations



Chris C. Jenkins
Junior Miss Florida Seminole Lorelei Tommie, left, enjoys the wildlife with a friend in Okalee during the fair.



Chris C. Jenkins
John Jones Okalee Village Wildlife Manager talks about the beauty and danger of the venomous flat-head Cobra during the wildlife show to Tribal Fair guests.



Chris C. Jenkins

Miss and Junior Miss Seminole Princess Royalty and judges are on stage with all the first-place and runner-up contestants.



Chris C. Jenkins

Princess pageant judges say hello to the audience.



Chris C. Jenkins

Outgoing Little Mr. Lance Burton, right, thanks his supporters throughout his year-long reign.



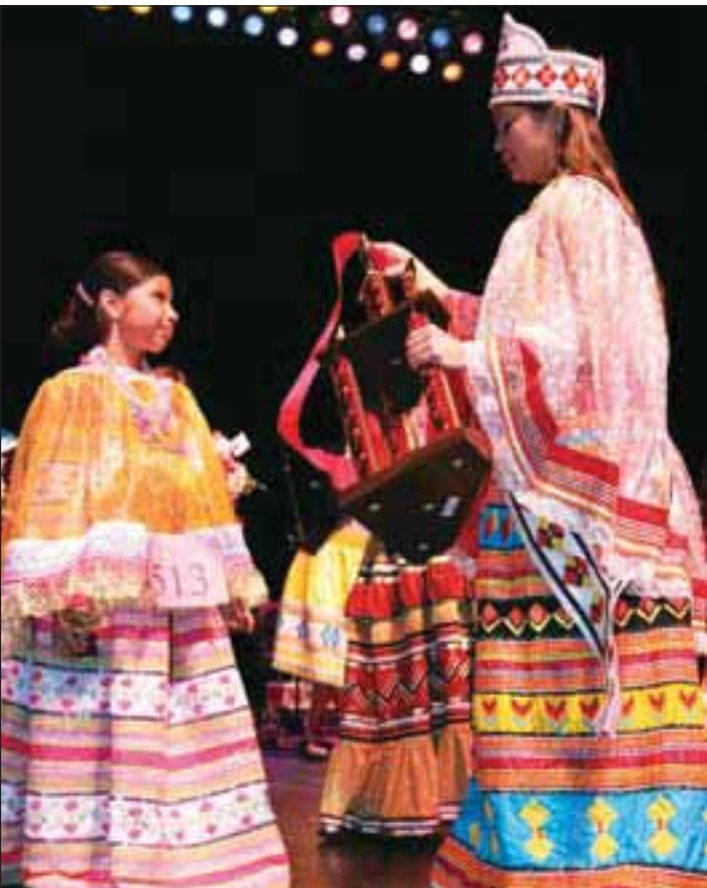
Chris C. Jenkins

Reigning Miss Florida Seminole Cassandra Jimmie, right, crowns the new Little Miss Florida Seminole Brooke Yescas.



Chris C. Jenkins

Reigning Miss and Junior Miss Florida Seminole Princesses Cassandra Jimmie and Lorelei Tommie introduce the contestants.



Chris C. Jenkins

Miss Florida Seminole Cassandra Jimmie, right, prepares to crown a surprised Brooke Yescas.



Chris C. Jenkins

Junior Miss Florida Seminole 2010-11 Lorelei Tommie helps adjust the head-piece of new Little Mr. Seminole Caleb Burton.



Chris C. Jenkins

Contestant Lenne Diaz is on stage during judging.



Chris C. Jenkins

Third runner-up Clarice De Mayo is on stage.



Chris C. Jenkins

Junior Miss Florida Seminole 2010-11 Lorelei Tommie interviews a contestant.



Chris C. Jenkins

Contest judges and current Miss and Junior Miss Florida Seminoles together with the new Little Mr. and Miss Seminole 2011 Caleb Burton, 6, and Brooke Yescas, 7. All were together on stage as part of the annual Little Mr. and Miss Florida Seminole contest at the Hard Rock Live Feb. 11. The event was held in conjunction with the 40th Seminole Tribal Fair festivities.

Tribal Fair 2-on-2 Basketball Tourney



Chris C. Jenkins
2-on-2 men's champion, from left, Neal Sanders, Greg Thomas and Kevin Hanks.



Chris C. Jenkins
Left photo, 2-on-2 women's champion, from left, Stephanie Huggins and Mercedes Osceola are all smiles together after winning the women's division of the Tribal Fair 2-on-2 basketball tournament held on Feb. 12 at the Seminole Recreation Gym. The event featured five men and four women teams with participation open to all ages and divisions. Winners received medals. Photo above, Middle School Boys 2-on-2 champs Trevor Osceola, left, and Charlie Osceola.



Photo far left, first place senior men's 8-Ball winner David Cypress. Photo left, Larry LittleGeorge of the Ho-Chunk Tribe of Wisconsin practices before the men's 8-Ball tournament.

Chris C. Jenkins

Action Is the Game at Tribal Fair Pool Tournament



Photo above, Laura Clay during scotch-doubles play. Right photo, first and second place Women's 9-Ball winners Phalyn Osceola and Angela Harjo participated in the fifth annual Tribal Fair Pool Tournament at the Hard Rock Feb. 11-13 with divisions in the youth, adult and seniors in races of two to five. Winners received trophies and cash prizes.

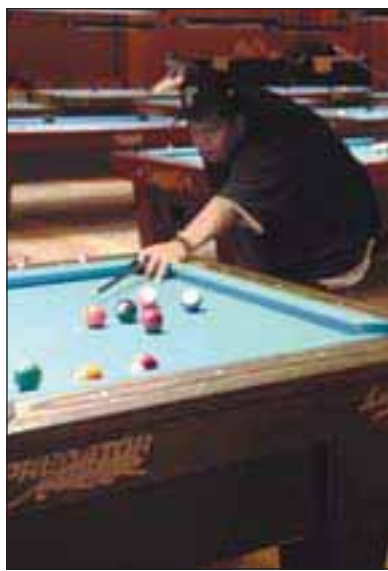
Chris C. Jenkins



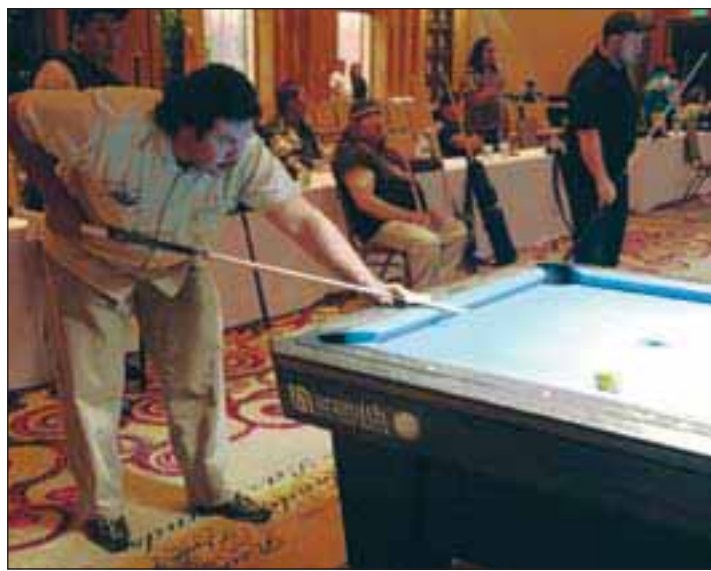
All Native Pool Tournament Attracts Participants from Across Indian Country



Aimee Hoyt
Elrod Bowers, left, takes his turn against opponent Rob Lanain during the All Native Pool Tournament at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino ballrooms Feb. 11-13. The three-day tournament, which attracted Tribal participants from across Indian Country, featured Warm-Up Mini Tournaments, 8-Ball and Scotch Doubles followed by 9-Ball.



Aimee Hoyt
Lance Tommie takes a shot during 8-Ball tournament play.



Aimee Hoyt
Larry Tiger begins the second game of 8-Ball play after winning his first game against opponent Lance Tommie.

5th Annual Tribal Fair Pool Tournament Results:

Men's 8-Ball: 1. Tony Bert, 2. Daniel Gopher, 3. Anthony Leo Cypress
Women's 8-Ball: 1. Phalyn Osceola, 2. Connie Williams, 3. Laura Clay
Senior Women's 8-Ball: 1. Juanita Osceola, 2. Dale Grasshopper, 3. Esther Buster
Senior Men's 8-Ball: 1. David Cypress, 2. Lonnie Billie, 3. Robin Buster
Scotch Doubles: 1. David Cypress and Laura Clay, 2. Daniel Gopher and Phalyn Osceola, 3. Charley Osceola and Marcia Osceola
Youth Boys 8-12: 1. Arek Jumper, 2. Colby Cypress, 3. Daniel Rodriguez
Youth Girls 8-12: 1. Lindsey Posada, 2. Elizabeth Frank, 3. Talia Rodriguez
Youth 13-17: 1. Justin Frank, 2. Jonathan Frank, 3. Rebecca Vazquez

All Native Pool Tournament Results:

Men's 8-Ball: 1. Tony Billie, 2. Phillip Davis, 3. George Grasshopper
Women's 8-Ball: 1. Phalyn Osceola, 2. Jane Doctor, 3. Angela Harjo
Men's 9-Ball: 1. George Grasshopper, 2. Daniel Gopher, 3. Tony Bert
Women's 9-Ball: 1. Phalyn Osceola, 2. Angela Harjo, 3. Tonya Jumper
Scotch Doubles: 1. David Cypress and Laura Clay, 2. Leo Cypress and Amy Cypress, 3. Tony Billie and Jane Doctor

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