

# The SEMINOLE TRIBUNE

"Voice of the Unconquered"

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Stephen Galla

A maintenance worker bolts in the neck of the Hard Rock guitar, the final stage of work needed to complete the recognizable hotel chain's emblem.

## Giant Hard Rock Guitar Installed

By Michael Kelly  
**HOLLYWOOD** — How can you tell the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino is nearing completion? Just take a look at the massive 56-foot standing guitar. On Tuesday April 13, the signature Hard Rock guitar was installed in front of the entrance of the soon-to-

be-completed Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

Dave Moore, Project Manager for Total Identity Group, a New York-based company specializing in sign making, said "This is the largest of all the Hard Rock gui-

✦ See GUITAR, page 16

**Seminole Hard Rock  
Hotel & Casino Hollywood  
Grand Opening May 11  
see page 18**



Iretta Tiger

(L-R) Max Osceola Jr., Hollywood Representative, Moses Osceola, President, Richard Henry, Tampa Liasion, Priscilla Sayen, Tribal Secretary, Roger Smith, Brighton Representative and William Osceola, Trail Liasion commemorate the completion of renovations that were made to State Road 7 to accomodate the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

## State Road 7 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

By Iretta Tiger

**HOLLYWOOD** — Windy and dusty, but very exciting would best describe the conditions for the April 19 ribbon cutting ceremony for the renovation of Highway 441 (State Road 7). Susie Kippenberger, Director of Utilities, hosted the historic event.

"We are here today to celebrate the completion of a milestone project," said Kippenberger. "We have accomplished the enormous task of completing the widening of this section of US 441 in six months."

"The foundations that we laid along the way were not simply on this road, but also between the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Florida Department of

Transportation, who had the vision to understand what this project would bring to the community," added Kippenberger.

The improvements for 441 include the widening of lanes between Sheridan Street and Griffin Road, and adding a turning lane on the north and south side of Stirling Road and Griffin Road. Also, new traffic lights were installed, creating two new roads named Seminole Way and Lucky Street as the entrances for the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. The new highway now includes a bicycle lane, a sidewalk and irrigation improvements. The medians were also revamped with patchwork painted onto them.

✦ See SR 7, page 16



Cheryl Bolton

Moses Osceola (right), President of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. looks on as the first customer of the day, Frank Montgomery, pumps gas at the new Brighton Trading Post convenience store.

## Business Venture at Brighton Brings Added Convenience

By Susan Etxebarria

**BRIGHTON** — The flashing "Open" sign was signaling drivers passing by on Highway 721 that the new gas station at the Brighton Trading Post was ready for business. Moses Osceola, President of Seminole Tribe, Inc., arrived from Hollywood to observe the first day of operation. Brighton's tribal Representative, Johnny Jones, administrative staff and the gas station and convenience store workers were all very pleased to see vehicles pulling in one after another.

It was 10 a.m. Thursday April 1. The pumps had been turned on since 6 a.m. That day, a new Seminole business was born.

A Brighton worker, Rennie Berry, drove up to one of the eight pumps and declared his excitement about the new Brighton convenience store.

"It's about time," he said. "Now we don't have to go all the way to Lakeport to get gas."

Tribal citizen Charlene Baker echoed Berry's sentiment.

"I am glad we have a gas station

now," said Baker. "It is much more convenient for us; we've been waiting a while."

The new gas station at Brighton increased the economic independence of the residents who, up to now, have had to drive to nearby Lakeport or farther to Okeechobee to fill up their tanks. Instead of putting the profits in other's pockets the money will go back to the tribe.

Gas prices will stay competitive with Okeechobee and the Circle K in Lakeport. The savings in buying gas for those who need only to fill their tank can be significant. If your vehicle averages 20-miles per gallon and you drive from Brighton to Okeechobee, a 60-mile round-trip, it will take three gallons of gas. At \$1.79 a gallon that is \$5.37 just to go and return.

"The price of gas is very important to most people," said Don Waiknsnis who had noticed \$1.85 gas prices in Clewiston on his way to Brighton from Hollywood.

Waiknsnis came to observe the operation of the completed gas station at Brighton since he will be managing the new

✦ See TRADING POST, page 3

## A Birthday Bash for the Chairman



Iretta Tiger

(L-R) Immokalee Liasion Elaine Aguilar, Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Council Representative David Cypress, and Cypress's mother Mary Frances Cypress.

By Shelley Marmor

**BIG CYPRESS** — On Wednesday April 7, Chairman Mitchell Cypress, along with about 150 of his friends and co-workers, celebrated his birthday. Cypress and his guests gathered at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress on his special day.

Upon entering the gym, many guests wrote a birthday wish to Cypress on a large banner. Roy Cantu, Building Manager in Big Cypress (BC), along with tribal citizens Breanna Robbins and Virginia Tommie found their way to the banner to wish the chairman a happy birthday.

After everyone had settled into seats at one of the tables, tribal citizen Paul Bowers took over the microphone and said a few words. He expressed how sad it was for the tribe to lose Henry John Billie, a tribal elder and BC resident, the day before Cypress's birthday.

Bowers acknowledged the Tribal

Council and Board members who were present; including, Roger Smith, David Cypress, David Dehass and Johnny Jones. Next, Bowers asked Reverend Hummingbird to say invocation and bless the food and the people who traveled to BC to celebrate Cypress's birthday.

"Today is a good day to come together," Hummingbird said. "God set this day aside for us to come together."

After Reverend Hummingbird's prayer, Tina Turner, Tom Jones and Garth Brooks took the stage to entertain the crowd. While the real entertainers could not make it out to BC that day, the impersonators they sent in their place would have made the real singers proud.

Each impersonator sang some of the hit songs everyone knew them for. Tina Turner sang "What's Love Got to Do With It," Garth Brooks sang "If Tomorrow Never

✦ See MITCHELL, page 4



# Never to be Forgotten: Henry John Billie, Billy Cypress

Today my heart is heavy and burdened with the sorrow of losing two very prominent historical figures within our tribe. They were not only my relatives, but were very good friends. My memories of Henry John Billie will always be of a quiet man whose son, Reuben, and I grew up playing together on the Hollywood reservation.

I also have vivid memories of Henry's family staying at Henry Jumper's camp in Big Cypress and our family would be across the road at my grandfather and grandmother, Morgan and Katie Smith's camp. Many hours of fun were had playing around the old red barn down the road from our camps. Henry John Billie's sons and I would enjoy those times we had on our visits to Big Cypress.

Billy Cypress was an individual I came to respect and love when as a young man he would take time to ride his bike to our camp on the Hollywood reservation, (or Dania reservation as it was called back then), to pick up a young boy whose world existed only of the woods surrounding Moses Jumper Sr. and Betty Mae Jumper's home on Stirling Road, and peddle him to the only grocery store in the area and purchase me a moon pie and R.C. Cola.

Billy was the only person my mother would let me out of the yard with. Billy was that type of person, Godly, honest and kind. In later years I came to respect Billy even more as he pursued an education and later became one of the tribe's authorities on tribal history and culture.

The passing of these two men marked the end of an era, yet perhaps the

beginning of knowledge and wisdom these two men left behind

**Legacy**  
*Sometimes in the midst of life we lose significance of the passing of time  
We take for granted the wisdom and knowledge possessed by a certain mind.  
We look to things that are worldly, feeling if relevant to our time of day,  
Yet unnoticed in our midst was an education from two men who had something to say  
Much of this knowledge can not be found in some video or book  
This keen insight and perception was gift that must be never overlooked  
In life, the breath giver has given men gifts to which they must return,  
Never belonging to them this gift, is something we all must remember and learn  
Respect and reverence to the creator was what they showed us how to be  
To their friends and relatives they stood for the gift of humility  
To those of us left behind we must continue to walk this earth that others might see,  
In remembrance of the gifts they left we must pass on to others their legacy*

These two men were elders, and all elders are grandfathers. This poem is dedicated to all grandfathers and written when my grandfather, Josie Jumper, passed away years ago. These two men were very active in their early years at the First Seminole Baptist Church.

**Grandfather**  
*Grandfather, today we have come to bid you farewell  
Knowing we'll meet again for which time will tell*

*There is an emptiness in our lives today,  
Through which God's strength we must seek the way  
Memories will haunt us as days go by,  
But knowing your faith,  
We will be comforted as days draw night  
The smile, the laugh,  
the days we stood side-by-side  
The joys, the gifts, the times you cried  
Only now grandfather will you know the tears we shed,  
As we saw you lying on that hospital bed  
I wondered why God let you suffer so much,  
When all it would have taken was his touch  
Yet, it was only God and God alone,  
Who knew it was time to take you home  
In it all I can understand today,  
That it strengthened our faith in every way  
Still the sadness lingers on,  
Yet through it all, God will lead us on  
Yes, there are many here, who feel they have lost a true friend,  
But believe me, this is not the end  
For today Grandfather sits on his porch at his mansion on high  
Praising God as he gave a joyous sigh  
Grandfather no longer has sickness or pain does he worry of riches or fame  
He now was at home where the lame walk and the blind see  
Because through Jesus,  
Grandfather won the Victory*

—Moses Jumper Jr.

Please see our special tribute to Henry John Billie on page 6; and our special tribute to Billy Cypress on page 20.



Billy Cypress (front) as a young boy.



(L-R) Billy Cypress and Tom Gallahee with an early-20th century canoe, donated by Robert Osceola, that they picked up at Florida's panhandle, April 1994.



Billy Cypress with classmates.

## Billy Cypress Remembered: by Friends, Family and Co-workers

**The following are thoughts and letters written by friends, family, and co-workers on behalf of Billy Cypress.**

"Billy was such a great guy to work for. He never seemed to let anything bother him; he really took things in stride. He read so much, it was great talking to him about history or politics or whatever, and he seemed to be interested in everything. He was so well-liked by everyone, there are so many people across the country that have called with their condolences, some of them crying. He told me a few years ago that if he left this earth before I did, to tell everyone that he really enjoyed his life. I sure will miss him."

**Tom Gallahee**  
**Development and Promotions Coordinator**  
**Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum**

"As our museum's Executive Director, Billy L. Cypress deeply understood his museum's responsibility to future generations. Naturally that responsibility includes the collection and preservation of culturally-relevant artifacts and archives. But Billy also saw the pressing need to record the life stories and wisdom of Tribal elders while we still can, and he rededicated Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki to its Oral History Program. His wife, Carol, shares this dedication and has always been our primary oral history interviewer.

When Billy instructed us to make this program our highest priority, he instilled in us a sense of duty with an air of emergency. He said to me: "If we fail to buy an artifact today, the worst that could happen is that we might pay more for it tomorrow. But if we fail to record the ways and wisdom of the elders, the worst that could happen is that we lose it forever."

So we got right to work on this directive, and we will remain dedicated to it, in Billy's honor.

**Tom Andrew**  
**Curator of Collection and Exhibits**  
**Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum**

Cypress as our Executive Director. Our prayers and love go to Carol Cypress and her children at this time. It has been an honor and privilege to work for a man with great stamina. Billy L. Cypress knew no stranger and always greeted everyone with a warm smile. He had a great sense of humor yet he was also a hard working person, dedicated to his work. Billy was compassionate, knew everyone employee by first name and he took the time to talk with the employees on a one-on-one basis when the employees needed to talk with him. He not only cared about the employees as workers, but he also cared about the people in general.

**BILLY L. CYPRESS WILL BE SORELY MISSED!!!!**

**Mornin Osceola**  
**Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum**

"I feel very fortunate to have met and worked with Billy Cypress although it was too short. I started here in late November 2002. He treated me and my family as if we were a part of his family rather than just "another employee." The Kissimmee Slough Shootout and Rendezvous is a very exciting time for all of us here at the museum, but I think that Billy especially enjoyed this time of year. My four children (ages 13-15) and I attended our first Battle Reenactment last year, and couldn't wait until February rolled around again this year. It's a joy to see them become excited about history.



Billy Cypress at Tribal Fair 1994.

Micosukee, "Billy, I hope you and Arthur Bain know what ya'll are doing!"

As I grew I watched him cultivate his knowledge and love for our culture, I am so very proud and filled with such a deep satisfaction. It has been an honor for me to have had the distinct pleasure of addressing him as Uncle and hearing him introduce me as his niece. Just as his youngest daughter has said, "He lived two to three lifetimes all in one," and with that being said:

In tears we saw you sinking  
and watched you fade away  
Our hearts were almost broken because  
we wanted you to stay  
But when we saw you sleeping peacefully,  
free from pain  
How could we wish you back with us  
to suffer that again  
It broke our hearts to lose you  
But you did not go alone  
For part of us went with you  
when God called you home

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Rhonda Bain**

Cypress' wife, Carol, shared, "He loved his kids and his grandkids. Everything he did he wanted to do with them."

To Carol and her family and to his friends and co-workers we send our condolences. He was a good man, we will miss him.

**Dear Friends:**

The Museum of Florida History staff is deeply sorry to hear of the loss of Billy Cypress, Executive Director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and a great preserver of Seminole and Miccosukee history and culture. Mr. Cypress was loved, admired, and trusted by all who knew him in Tallahassee. He always proved to be a wise and trusted advisor on many projects involving the Seminole and Miccosukee people. His service as member of many boards and advisory groups, including the Friends of Florida Historic Sites and Properties was greatly appreciated and valued.

**Bob Neil**  
**Senior Curator**  
**Museum of Florida History**

Billy was a teacher and loved to tell the children stories of the battles. I remember one of them asking him this past year why so many of the Seminole men in the old black and white photos were holding a rifle. He told them that the warriors were proud to own a rifle and wanted to "show it off". He said, "when the photographers would come around, I remember different men saying, "Wait I've got to go get my gun." Then Billy said, "If we didn't like the photographer, hmm... maybe he wouldn't be seen taking any pictures anymore." And Billy smiled and gave a soft laugh.

Billy was a gentle spirit, wise beyond his years, the fairest employer I've ever worked for, a kind friend, a father to us all, a humble intellectual individual, and my family and I will think of him often for the rest of our lives. **BILLY L. CYPRESS WE WILL MISS YOU GREATLY!!!!**

**Shawna Trnka**  
**Administrative Assistant**  
**Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum**

Seeing as how things are so different now, I thought I'd share my thoughts and feelings with family and friends about my Uncle Billy Cypress.

A kind face, with a quick wit and sharp mind; yes that is him. He is a warrior, an educator, a father, a brother, and someone who married one of my most beloved Aunts.

My childhood memories are peppered with his presence, especially loading up the family for one of the many trips to Disney World. I see him smiling at me and telling me, "Find all the eggs that you can Rhonda, the Easter Bunny hid them well today!"

I see him at my house skinning a deer with my Dad. My god parents Betty Mae and Moses were there. Grandpa Joe Doctor would have his bottle of white port wine laughing and saying in

"What will forever stick in my mind about Billy Cypress is his quiet, yet exuberant enthusiasm for both his work and his world. Working with him was a privilege and a joy. He made it a point to gain insight about everything around him.

This was perhaps most clear in his travels where he acquainted himself with both the history of the location and where was the best place to enjoy a meal. Billy took great delight in sharing his knowledge and appreciation with the people around him whether they were family or associates.

I'll never forget one time in a restaurant where conversation turned to the United States Civil War and Billy drew a map on a napkin outlining the military movements involved in the First and Second Battles of Bull Run! His involvement in the museum world brought him in contact with many influential people, and he was completely at home in that milieu.

Although he was at ease with people of high standing, Billy was equally content to share his time and his thoughts with everyday folks as well. Quite simply, he was courteous to all people. At work, Billy was always kind and even tempered, but he could also be steadfast and resolute in his decisions concerning work. Having had the pleasure of working with Billy Cypress for over a decade I look upon his passing with enormous sadness and extreme loss.

**David Blackard**  
**Museum Director**  
**Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum**

"The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum staff will grieve the loss of Billy L.

## The Seminole Tribune

If you need a reporter or you would like to submit an article, birthday or poem to the *Seminole Tribune*, please contact the Editor Michael Kelly at (800) 683-7800 ext. 1267. E-mail: [mkelly@semtribe.com](mailto:mkelly@semtribe.com), fax (954) 967-3482, or mail to: The Seminole Tribune, 6300 Stirling Road, Hollywood, Florida 33024. (800) 683-7800.

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Deadline: July 9, 2004

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Deadline: July 30, 2004

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# Wiley Peterson Visits Seminole Youth

By Alexandra Frank

**HOLLYWOOD** — Guest speaker Wiley Peterson, professional bull rider, spoke to Seminole youth about making the right decisions in one's life.

The first to speak to youth was Shelby Osceola, Junior Seminole Rodeo Queen, and all-

these dreams come true, one has to stick with it. They need to be consistent in seeing that dream through. If they give up they are guaranteed to lose," said Peterson.

Peterson added that saying bull riding is a sport that does not offer a second chance. He used the example that if you fall off a bull, the bull will not let you get back on it and let you position yourself. Instead, it will buck you off and stomp on you.

He mentioned that any time in a person's life if they give up for the first time, they learn how to give up. If they let this happen, the road ahead will be rough and that person will easily quit every time the road ahead gets rough.

Peterson offered some tips on staying on top of your dreams. A person should surround themselves with positive people. They should practice at being the best and should avoid being lax in putting effort into the dreams they want to accomplish.

He encouraged the youth to stay away from alcohol and drugs and to keep their mind and body healthy by staying away from those pitfalls. Peterson also wanted to let the youth realize that they may never be a professional athlete, but that shouldn't discourage them from being the best that they can be.

Peterson asked that education be a priority, because it is beneficial in the long run for those to put an effort into education. He thanked the tribe for supporting him in his efforts at becoming number one in the Professional Bull Rider association. The tribe is



Alexandra Frank

**Bull rider Wiley Peterson (right) signs an autograph for Leoma Poore.**

around rodeo participant. Osceola spoke about how she has participated in rodeos for as long as she can remember.

She placed third in the world in barrel racing last year. She thanked the tribe, her family and keeps busy with school and in obtaining her goals.

Shelby remarked that a person needs to have confidence in what they put effort into such as sports, and education. Her goals are to finish school and to make it to a national rodeo competition.

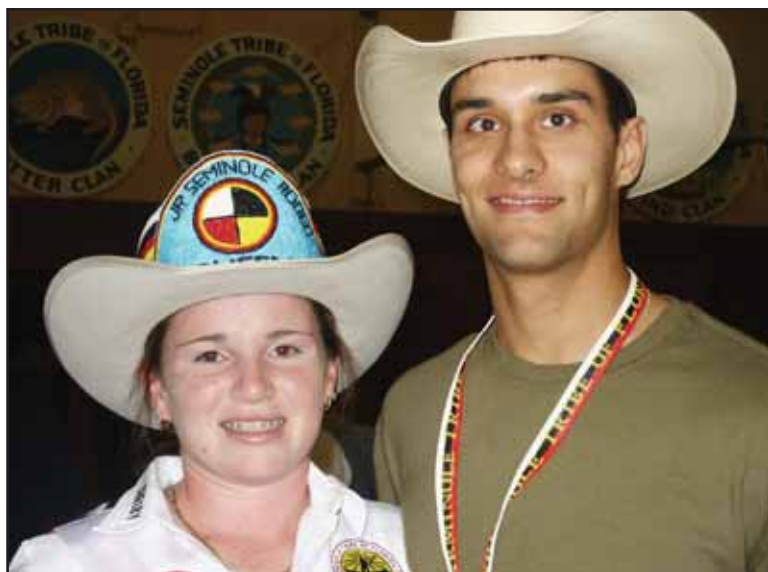
Wiley Peterson, the guest of honor, followed Osceola. He talked about how his first time riding steers he hit the ground a lot and wasn't even really good at riding. Peterson still continued to compete in steer riding however.

He faced his fear of not knowing what would happen to him once the gate to the chute opened up. He is thankful that in the sport of bull riding he has overcome that fear. He has learned how not to be afraid because everyone has a fear of something.

Even though he was afraid at that time, he learned how to get through it and was determined to finish what it was he set out to do.

"This is what it's going to take to for each and everyone in the room to do if they want to accomplish a dream," said Peterson. "In order to see

thankful for having such a talented person as Peterson supporting them in their effort to speak to the youth, about making the right decisions towards their dreams, education, and in life.



Alexandra Frank

**Junior Seminole Rodeo Queen Shelby Osceola (left) and professional bull rider Wiley Peterson.**



Susan Etzbarria

**(L-R) Johnny Jones, Don Waiksnis, Bill Jacobs, Cheryl Bolton, Libby Kinduall, Kevin Osceola, Sandy Osceola, and President Moses Osceola.**

## Trading Post

Continued from page 1

gas station set to open soon in Big Cypress.

A feasibility study to determine if a gas station would be profitable was conducted in December of 2002 by President Osceola.

"The tribe authorized me to do a feasibility study," he said. "At that time I was a representative for the tribe and in charge of Employment and Training. I completed the study- but [the plan] was not developed."

The study derived customer-based projections utilizing a Florida Department of Transportation traffic analysis for Highway 721, the U.S. Census Bureau statistics for Glades County, as well as statistics from the tribe. The population count is approximately 540 residents in Brighton, and approximately 500 employees.

"Once I became president on May 12 last year I saw it through," Osceola said. "It has to make money and it has to make profits."

"In the early days we were just in agriculture; in citrus, cattle and catfish farming. And it was hard to make profits. The key to our success is to diversify into different business ventures. This is a necessary service for the community. If our people support this, they are investing in their own project. They are keeping the money within the community," Osceola continued.

This is the first major project that Board Representative Johnny Jones has been involved with since being elected to the board. He said he heard people say the gas station can't make money, but he is confident it will be a success.

"We will find out," he said. "We have had a campground here for many years but if we can get people to come here to buy gas they will also come into the convenience store and buy sodas and chips and other things."

He said the store was once very small and had little to offer but now they have expanded and will continue to expand even more as the building is refurbished.

"This is tribal-owned and our tribal funds are coming through here," Jones said. "The money will be coming back to us."

The Trading Post and Campground employs five full-time employees and is open Monday-Thursday from 6 a.m.-10 a.m. and

Friday-Sunday from 6 a.m.-12 p.m. It will sometimes stay open later for the nights when Brighton hosts basketball tournaments.

Seminole-owned Trading Posts are expected to become a chain in the future, according to President Osceola.

"We plan to open a chain of convenience stores and gas stations all named Trading Post at Big Cypress, Immokalee, Ft Pierce, and they are looking for a site in Hollywood," Osceola said. "At some point we hope to become a fuel distributor."



Cheryl Bolton

**Kevin Osceola, campground and maintenance manager, greets one of the new customers.**

## New Home for Family Services Staff

By Michael Kelly

**HOLLYWOOD** — A new sizeable trailer will be the future home for employees of the Family Services Department, for at least the next few years. The small building-on-wheels will house four to five employees, and includes a conference room.

Those making the move to their new home are Crissie Carter, Director of Family Services, Marla Dale, Assistant Director, Ted Nelson, Foster Care Systems Administrator, and Eric Bricker, Addictions Program Administrator.

While not a permanent home for the staff members, it should make a comfortable substitute for the time being.



Michael Kelly

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## Iretta Tiger

## Iretta Tiger

Not long after, many attendees started making their way back to either home or work. However, no one, including Cypress himself, left without enjoying themselves.

These get-togethers have been not only educational, but



**(L-R) Virginia Billie instructs Jade Tapia and Alexis Martin while Nancy Garza observes.**

fun! Refreshments are also served. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Nancy Garza through the Immokalee Field Office at (239) 657-6567.

## Hollywood Cultural Program Staff

**Randy Osceola practices his bead work.**

Turtle recognized Randy Osceola and Jessica Osceola on their accomplishments. Jessica has made a vest and a shirt and also makes her own patchwork; while Randy has made a towel and pillow



**Jessica Osceola is dedicated in learning her Seminole culture.**

The Cultural Program is available Monday–Friday from 8 a.m.–5 p.m.; extended hours are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m.–9 p.m.







Adelsa Williams

Hollywood preschoolers admire bunny rabbit during their visit from the petting zoo.

## Petting Zoo Makes Guest Appearance at Hollywood Preschool

By Michael Kelly

**HOLLYWOOD** — Some waddled, some oinked, some grazed, and some just wanted to be held. An assortment of small animals paid a visit to the Hollywood Preschool, including goats, ducks, rabbits, chickens, and little piglets.

"Bringing the animals here to the Hollywood Reservation is part of having the children experience them up close," said Thommy Doud, Disability Services Coordinator for the Hollywood Preschool Department.

The young students came out in groups, first the two-year-olds and then eventually the five-year-olds. Many enjoyed carrying around the bunnies and piglets, which were wrapped nice and snug in small blankets. The baby goats preferred standing on chairs, while the larger ones nibbled on grass.

Hollywood Center Manager Carol Crenshaw stated that March is animal month for the preschoolers.

"The children get to see, hear, and touch the little animals," said Crenshaw. "It's a lot fun for them."

The preschoolers have also experienced seeing larger farm animals, and even taken trips to the Miami Metrozoo and the Miami Seaquarium.



Adelsa Williams

Alani Frank meets her new animal friends.

## Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hosts Eastern/Woodlands Regional Summit

By Adelsa Williams

**TAMPA, FL** — Catching the Dream, "Expanding Options for affordable Housing: Local Issues, Local Solutions," was the theme of the Eastern/Woodlands Regional Summit that was held at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Tampa, Fla from April 6-8.

A number of participants from tribes around the nation came out to learn through different workshops, how to manage certain issues within their tribe.

On the first day of the summit, participants attended an opening ceremony. Joel Frank Sr., from the Seminole Tribe of Florida Grants Formulations and Inter-Government Relations Department, took charge of the introductions.

Tribal citizen, Bobby Henry, offered a word of prayer. Greetings by Mitchell Cypress, Chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, followed.

After the chairman's greeting, welcoming remarks followed from Rodger Boyd, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)/ONAP and Kevin Fitzgibbons, HUD Administrator. "All this could not happen without you guys, the professionals," said Boyd.

Workshops were broken down to four categories: The Big Picture Strategy, Financing and Funding, Land and Property Management, and Legal/Ethical Questions in Housing.

The Big Picture Strategy touched upon the Housing role in sustainable communities, economic development, education, and acquisition. Financing and funding allows the participants to learn more about home ownership, Title VI and Section 184 Financing, as well as new approaches in leveraging. Land and Property Management bring to light the finer aspects of realty, land use conflicts and how to apply for permit for sites. The Legal and Ethical Questions in Housing allows the participant to stay in compliance with regulatory structures, tenant relationships, and the criminal justice system.

On the last day of the conference was a forum on the Section 184 Loan Guarantee Program, which is a special mortgage loan program for Native Americans. The Featured speaker was Michael Liu, Assistant Secretary of the Office of Public and Indian Housing in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Liu emphasized how the Section 184 Program needs to dramatically increase the volume of loans to head off potential cuts in the budget for the Program. Other speakers discussed making the Section 184 Program work effectively from the viewpoint of tribes, lenders, and banks.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida was approved for the Section 184 Program more than five years ago, but has been unable to utilize it because the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has failed to provide realty services for leases on tribal land. However, Ken Goosens of the Seminole Loan Department announced at the conference a new breakthrough pilot program worked out by the Seminole Tribe.

The BIA has agreed to record home site leases recorded and produce certified title status reports on an expedited basis for mortgage loans.

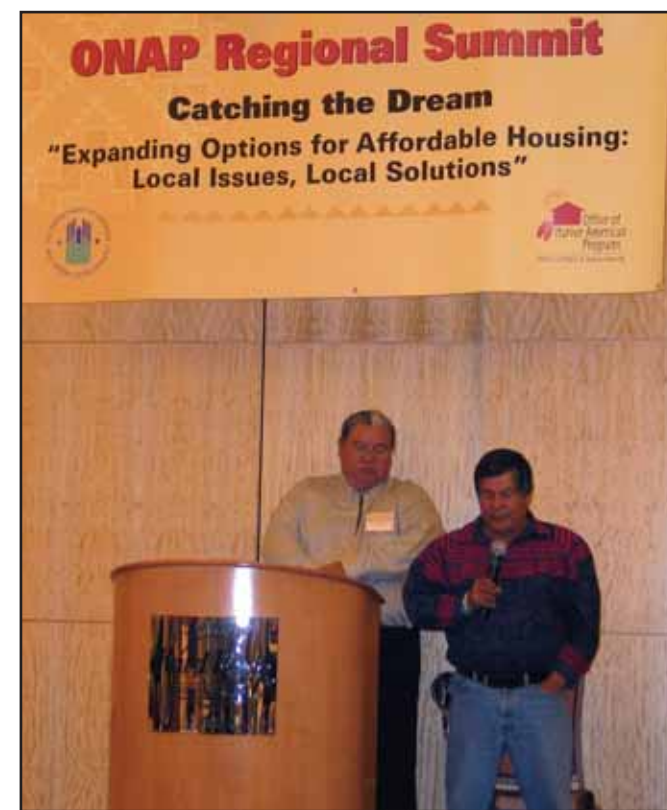


Adelsa Williams

(L-R) Joel Frank Sr., Kevin Fitzgibbons, Michelle Thomas, Mitchell Cypress, and Rodger Boyd at the Eastern/Woodlands Regional Summit.

"We successfully recorded the first three home site leases for the Seminole Tribe and according to BIA," said Goosens. "We should have certified title reports by the end of April."

Goosens also provided details on how other Eastern Woodland tribes may work with the BIA to set up similar service so they can finally utilize mortgage programs on trust land.



Adelsa Williams

Bobby Henry (right) opens the summit with a prayer.

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***\* Inclusion on this list does not guarantee the awarding of any bid.***

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# The Canoe Maker: Henry John Billie (1925-2004)

By Nery Mejicano  
**BIG CYPRESS** — Under a chickee, a long, thick and lonely cypress log lays cradled between two smaller logs. There, among the wood chips, a Seminole canoe is awaiting its birth. The wait may be long, but eventually it will free itself and become a thing of beauty, practicality and a symbol of the Seminole Tribe's ability to survive, grow and prosper.

They called Henry John Billie "the last of the canoe makers," and he himself shared his sadness and frustration at not being able to pass his craft on to a younger person. He may have been the last of his generation to build these beautiful canoes. The history of the Seminole people is tied to the land of the Everglades, and it was canoes which made it possible to travel, trade and survive in this river of grass.

Henry John Billie was born October 13, 1925 in the Cape Sable region of the Florida Everglades. He was the son of Johnny and Margaret Billie and grew up with his siblings, Alice, Watts, Frank, Nigel, Johnson and Elizabeth. In addition, there were half-siblings, Ali and Richard Tiger, making up this large family in their camp in Southwestern Florida.

His father and grandfather, like Henry John, were considered master canoe makers, and ever since he could remember, he watched his father carve the long cypress logs by hand, chip by chip and with the sweat of his brow, slowly freeing a canoe from its wooden cypress womb. Henry John's eyes would sparkle with pride at describing the process of creating a traditional Seminole canoe out of a long cypress log.

As a child, he would accompany his father and uncles on the day-long canoe trips to Chokoloskee. The trip through the sawgrass, reeds and big cypress swamps was witnessed by bright eyed egrets and alligators lazily sunning on the wake of this sleek and quite craft being pushed from the stern by a long pole. This process, known as poling, propelled the canoe forward with its load of alligator, otter, deer and bear hides which they traded for canned food, ammunition and other items not otherwise available in the camp. After his father died in about 1940, Henry John would pole his canoe to make the same long trip to trade at the Smallwood Store in Chokoloskee.

It was not too long that the first roads began to crush the sawgrass and large and noisy equipment began to make muddy roads and dry the land to feed the hunger for land of a fast growing non-Indian population in



South Florida. It was about this time that Henry John believing that travel by canoe would become a thing

of the past, decided to move close to the old Dania Reservation, now the Hollywood Reservation, where he traded his traditional Seminole lifestyle for a series of jobs in a fast and expanding South Florida economy. John Henry worked as a front end loader for Port Everglades, worked for BIA building Snake Road and at a concrete company. For several years, Henry John was responsible for laying out Seminole graves at the old Seminole Indian Reservation cemetery in Hollywood.

When Henry John retired, he moved to the Big Cypress reservation, where he started carving small canoe replicas to sell at arts and craft shows. After a few years, he was approached by the then-chairman, James Billie,

who asked Henry John if he could make a real canoe. Henry John agreed and remembering the old days, began carving canoes that would bring between \$5,000 and \$8,000 dollars. He was determined to carve them the traditional way, and stayed away from the use of modern tools. It took between five and six months to finish a canoe, and soon after completion, he began to carve another one.

We can admire the fruit of his labors at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki museum in Big Cypress. All who admire his canoes stand in awe at the size, practicality and smooth lines of these beautiful water craft. For generations, canoes have been used by Florida Indians. Examples of canoes dating back 2,500 to 5,000 years have been found at Newman's Lake, eight miles east of Gainesville, Fla.

Henry John continued his craft through the first years of the 21st century, and only a stroke he suffered in 2000 prevented him from continuing to create his canoes, but did not disable his gentle nature, his intellect, his wonderful sense of humor and his ability to share his wisdom with others. Up until his death, Henry John would make his daily trip to the Swamp Water Café in Big Cypress, where he was known by most regular customers and employees, and would sit and speak to whoever

was willing to listen to his stories and his wisdom.

I had the honor and privilege of spending some time with him. On a trip to Tampa, he described in detail and with excitement, the adventures of poling a canoe to Chokoloskee and invited me to share a trip with him. There is really no question in my mind that in spite of his age, Henry John would have completed this trip, but it was not to be since his health deteriorated soon after that.

Henry John was recognized and honored in 1998 when he received the Florida Heritage Award from Florida Secretary of State, Sandra B. Mortham, who praised Henry John as "an artist who works to preserve the heritage of the Seminole Tribe."

For many years, Henry John lived with his beloved companion Juanita Fewell, who passed away in 2002. Together they had six children, Rubin, Wayne, Marlon, Edmund, Scott and Evelyn.

The Seminole Tribe, and indeed the world, has lost a great artistic and compassionate human being, who always will be an inspiration to others who follow the path of maintaining the traditions of the Seminole people. I believe the greatest tribute to Henry John Billie will be for another Seminole to complete the work that he started, and finish his last canoe, which patiently waits in the shadow of a chickee, and under the watchful and protective eyes of the Big Cypress swamp.





# National Women’s Health Week

**By Shannon McKeown**  
**HOLLYWOOD** — The Hollywood Seminole Health Department will celebrate National Women’s Health Week, May 10–15, by raising the awareness of women’s health issues and preventative healthcare.

A representative from the Memorial Healthcare Systems Esther Grossman Center will be on the Hollywood reservation to provide bone screening tests along with promotional and educational materials on women’s health issues.

Shannon McKeown, Hollywood Health Educator, will be supporting the bone screening with educational materials and samples focusing on Osteoporosis and how exercise can be the single most significant lifestyle habit to make in order to avoid bone loss.

When: Monday May 10  
Where: Hollywood Tribal Office (Front Lobby)  
Time: 9 a.m.–1 p.m.  
Note: On Friday May14, these services will be available at the Hollywood Medical Center lobby area from 8:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

The Medical Center at the Seminole Health Department will provide breast education to all women who visit the clinic from May 10–14. The mobile “mammo van” will be onsite in Hollywood Thursday, May 27 from 9 a.m.–2 p.m. In order to have your mammograms done, all women must pre-register no later than May 20, by 5 p.m.

You may contact Shannon McKeown at the clinic at (954) 962-2009, Ext. 113.

# Gaming Administration HR Department Welcomes New Employee

**Submitted by Jeanne Faccadio, Senior VP, Human Resources, Seminole Health Department**  
**HOLLYWOOD** — Please join me in welcoming Betty Jones Goosens to the Gaming Administration’s Human Resources Team. Goosens is the Director, Tribal Development Program.

This program has been implemented to assist Seminole tribal citizens and their descendants to participate in on-the-job and classroom training so that they acquire an in-depth knowledge about the gaming industry. The program’s main goal is to prepare the participants for future leadership roles in the most

lucrative of its business holdings—gaming.

Goosens comes to us from the Seminole Department of Education where she was a key staff member as the Director, Employment and Training Program. She has 15-plus years working with the Seminole Government in varied positions, but all of her roles have demonstrated a commitment to the betterment of her tribe. We know that her skills will contribute to the future success of the tribal program.

We look forward to working with Goosens, and developing a cultural as well as a professional partnership.

# Health Department Welcomes New Employee

**By Patrick Peck**  
**HOLLYWOOD** — New employee Trisha “Trish” Ready has joined the Environmental Health Department, working with Patrick Peck, Environmental Health Manager. She received her education at Florida International University and attained her master’s degree in public health, with a concentration on environmental health.

Ready began working with the Seminole Tribe in February 2004, and is based out of the Environmental Health Program with the Hollywood



Michael Kelly

Trisha “Trish” Ready

Health Department. Her primary responsibilities include: infection control, conducting health and safety inspections for all facilities on the Seminole reservations, and the implementation of safety policies and procedures.

Ready hopes to work effectively with all Seminole Health Centers and establish good inter-departmental relations with the Seminole Police Department, Utilities Department, Housing Department and Family Services Department, which she views as essential for protecting the safety and health of the community. In the near future, she looks forward to becoming a registered sanitarian.

# Pull-Out Program Celebration to be Held

**BRIGHTON** — The Pull-Out Program is having an “End of the Year” celebration on May 21 at the Brighton Education Building from 12 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. A tasty lunch will be served.

Our students will be presented with some of the things that they have learned this year.

We will also be having a graduation ceremony for the fifth grade students who will graduate out of our program at the end of this academic year.

Thank you for supporting our program, and we look forward to celebrating this event with the Brighton community.

# Small Business Administrative Workshop Held in Hollywood

**By Michael Kelly**  
**HOLLYWOOD** — On March 25, the Seminole Tribe of Florida Water Resource Management Department held a Small Business Workshop, intended for tribal businesses to become certified. Improving water quality, water management, flood protection, and wetland restoration are just a few of the high-priority projects available in the Big Cypress area.

Craig D. Tepper, Director of Water Resource Management for the Seminole Tribe, explained that these projects will be a joint effort with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers®. Both have worked on projects before, such as the reservoir and pump station in Big Cypress.

Most of the people attending the workshop were in the construction business, with one in landscaping. Anthony Maus, who is Seminole, and his business partner James Johnson, Jr., own Panther Enterprises, Inc. Although they are certified, they are greatly interested in bidding on many of the government projects available. They are currently working on the Hollywood Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

Cherise Maples, Grant/Contract Specialist with the Seminole Tribe, organized the workshop.

“The purpose of the workshop is to get Seminole businesses certified so they can work on the many projects available out in Big Cypress,” said

Maples.

The main certification is the 8(A) or HubZone certification. Once you have this, you can bid on the many government projects that are available.

You do not necessarily need to be certified to work for the federal government, but you must register with the Central Contractor Registration (CCR). This meeting was strictly federal.

For a business to apply, you only need to have one or two employees, or you can have dozens. Also, if your business is seeking to bid on government contracts, there are literally hundreds of helpful government websites to choose from, including [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov) and [www.evergladesplan.org](http://www.evergladesplan.org).

At the end of each month, general project information is available for companies to view. The bidding process comes later. For any government project, a business must meet many specifications, which is why registering with the CCR is a must.

There are many tribal businesses right here in South Florida that provides vital services to the Seminole Tribe, but the main goal is to compete in government contracts outside of the tribe.

To register for CCR, visit their website at [www.ccr.gov](http://www.ccr.gov).

## The Seminole Allied Health Department Presents:

### The First Annual Employee Health Fair for National Employee Health/Fitness Week

**When:** Wednesday May 18  
**Where:** Tribal Office Auditorium lobby  
**Time:** 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Lunch provided

For more information, call Jennifer Keefe (954) 966-6300, Ext. 1139 or Shannon McKeown (954) 962-2009, Ext. 113.

**Screenings:** Blood sugars, blood pressure, body fat percentage, body mass index, cholesterol, hematocrit, lung capacity, resting pulse, target heart rate zone, waist to hip ratio, and dental health check.

Massage therapists and mobile blood van

Health Information provided by: Memorial Hospital, Seminole Medical Clinic, Health Education, Nutrition, Dental, and Environmental Services.

**Raffle:** Gift basket and heart rate monitor  
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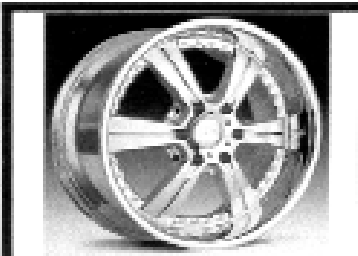


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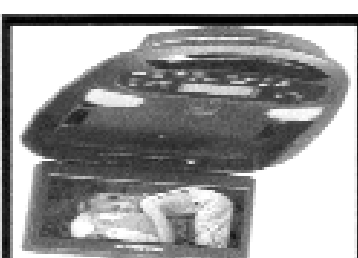
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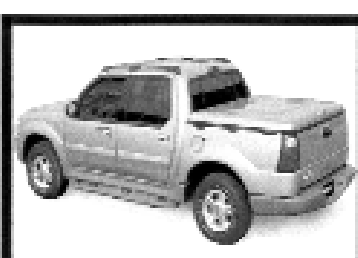
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# Attention Students: College Horizons 2004 Application Instructions

**Submitted by Dora Bell, Higher Education Advisor**

College Horizons 2004 is a pre-college workshop for Native American Students. Dates are June 12–16 at St. John’s College in Santa Fe, NM; June 19–23 at Whitman College in Walla Walla, WA; and June 26–30 at Carleton College in Northfield, MN. The workshops are sponsored by the American Indian Graduate Center (AIGC), St. John’s College/Daniels Fund, Whitman College, Carleton College and 34 of the nation’s finest colleges.

To be considered, students must be an enrolled Native American, Hawaiian or Alaskan, sophomore or junior, with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 in college prep/academic courses.

To pick up an application, please contact Dora Bell, Higher Education Advisor, at (954) 233-

9541, or visit the website at [www.whitneylaughlin.com](http://www.whitneylaughlin.com) and click on “College Horizons.” Enrollment is going fast, so please sign up as soon as possible.

The receipt deadline for first priority round is February 13, notification will be mailed February 20; Second round deadline is March 1, notification will be mailed March 7 (applications received after March 1 will be accepted on a space available basis until June 1). No faxes are accepted.

A full program schedule will be sent if you are accepted (also see website for schedule). All air travel is to be arranged through the program’s travel agent because she will have the cheapest fares. Travel information will be sent with acceptance packets. All students flying will be provided transportation from and to the Albuquerque, MN, Pasco or Walla Walla, WA and Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN airports.



Recruiters speaks to Seminole students in the bleachers at the University of Florida.

Iretta Tiger

## Seminole Students Tour UF and FSU

**By Iretta Tiger**

**BRIGHTON** — On March 23, Seminole students gathered at the Brighton library, on their way to visit the University of Florida and Florida State University. The trip is organized every year by Louise Gopher, Director of Education, and Dora Bell, Higher Education Advisor.

The first stop was the University of Florida (UF) in Gainesville. The students were greeted by Dr. Sheila Dickison, Associate Provost, and Eugene Zdziarski, Dean of Students.

“We want to be a high quality institution. We believe in a diverse student body and faculty,” explained Dr. Dickison. “At UF, we celebrate diversity and encourage it. UF is truly a place of wonderful opportunities.”

After the orientation, the students were given a VIP tour of the campus. Our cicerones, or tour guides were Vanessa Reis, Stacey Colon and Melissa Jaber, two UF students.

The University of Florida is a huge campus,

also used.

The UF visit ended with a tour of the southwest recreation center, which had very nice workout facilities that are open to all students.

The next day it was a visit to the Florida State University in Tallahassee. Our guide, FSU student Nick, conducted the tour from our bus. Nick informed us of the history of FSU and pointed out each area for the different majors. The most recent addition to the campus is the FSU Medical Center which will be completed in the fall of 2005.

After the tour, the students posed for pictures in front of the Unconquered Statue and then went on a shopping spree in the FSU Sports Shop. The shop is a must for any FSU fan; they had so many items to choose from including items for the family pet. Students stocked up on items for the next part of the tour, but we would have to wait.

While we waited Tom Block, anchor/reporter, for FSU-FM interviewed Tasha Osceola and Louise Gopher.

“He asked if I would consider going here [FSU],” said Osceola “And what are my expectations about the school.”

Next on the agenda was to be the highlight of the day, meeting with FSU coach Bobby Bowden. Bowden posed for pictures with the students and took time autograph items purchased at the sports shop. Jackie Osceola presented Bowden with a Seminole man doll. Bowden was truly appreciative and amiable.

“We try to uphold the name of Seminoles. We’re proud of the name,” expressed Bowden. “You’ve got pride and heritage. Don’t let anyone take that from you.”

After meeting with Bowden, the students then toured the team’s lounge and locker room. The students were permitted to walk around and look at the player’s lockers. In the center of the locker room was the Seminole logo which everyone, including the players, at FSU, refuse to walk on out of respect.

We also toured the newly remodeled recreation facilities, which is open to student athletes. The facilities include hydrotherapy, even an underwater treadmill, a hot and cold spa and an area for taping-up. The staff stressed the importance of preparation for sports for injury prevention.

Several administrators joined the students for lunch. Afterwards, they spoke with the students at Club Downunder, an on-campus nightclub. Club Downunder has had a few well-known bands play there.

After the meeting, FSU’s President T.K. Wetherell posed for pictures with the students at the university entrance.

The final event of the trip was the FSU Flying Circus. The circus consists of FSU students, who gave our students an impromptu mini show.

Both universities gave our students excellent insight to the schools; thank you to everyone. Louise Gopher and Dora Bell, you did an exceptional job in organizing the tours. Hopefully the students will realize what amazing opportunities are out there.

To check out the universities go to [www.ufl.edu](http://www.ufl.edu), for The University of Florida, and [www.flu.edu](http://www.flu.edu), for Florida State University.



FSU President T.K. Wetherell (back row, left) poses with Seminole students.

Iretta Tiger

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yet the feeling of it is inviting. It felt as if everywhere you went you were welcome to sit and relax, or study. The emphasis is on quality education and all areas of academic are given equal attention.

One of the highlights of the tour included a friendship circle where space can be purchased to leave a message in stone. One stone was bought by a boyfriend to propose in Latin to his girlfriend. Also, UF libraries have the largest informational resources in Florida. It is accessible on-line and students can talk to a librarian on-line.

The cicerones proudly informed us that when Bobby Bowden, FSU’s head football coach, needed back surgery, he came to the UF Student Health Care Center.

At lunch, UF students joined the Seminole students to talk about the university and to ask them about Seminole culture.

Next was a VIP tour of The Florida Museum of Natural History, guided by Darcie MacMahon, Coordinator of Museum Operations. The museum is the largest in the southeast and one of the top ten in the nation.

The highlight of the tour seemed to be the “South Florida: People and Environments” exhibit. This tells about the history of the natives of Florida, from the Callusa to the present day Seminole tribe. In the exhibit, the students saw aunts, uncles and grandparents. Exhibit mannequins were modeled after real tribal citizens and current photos were



Students enjoyed their tour of the Museum of Natural History.

Iretta Tiger



# Family Services: Cherish the Child—Child Abuse Awareness

**By Tina Mennella**  
*"If it weren't for kids have you ever thought there wouldn't be no Santa Claus or look what the stork just brought, Thank God for kids...and we'd all live in a quiet house without Big Bird or a Mickey Mouse, and Kool Aid on the couch, Thank God for kids..."*  
So go the words to the Oak Ridge Boys song titled "Thank God For Kids." These may seem like silly lyrics, but if we stop to think about it—amid all of the difficulty and hard work that it takes to raise children, do that get us upset or aggravated, but for each thing that may upset us, it can be good to take a few moments to stop and think of the positive things that we see in our children.  
The most valuable thing we can instill in our children is the fact that they are loved and valued as people—they deserve our love as well as our direction and guidance. Children are very perceptive and can sense many things that we may have become numb to. It is important to be aware of how our words can impact

them—things such as criticism, even when it might not seem like a big deal, such as saying "let me do that, you don't know how" or "see, I told you that would happen," these are ways that children can feel invalidated. They need to be supported to try things for themselves, and to know that if they don't succeed all of the time, it is OK. They also need to know that they are loved—even if it may be hard for us to say these words—children do need to hear that they are loved and safe.  
No parent is perfect, and as adults we all have our own experiences having been raised by our own parents/guardians. It is important to recognize when our own memories and experiences from childhood affect our current ability to parent. This is something that happens a lot—and it's not a bad thing; but, sometimes it's good to talk to someone else if we feel that our own issues or emotions are interfering with our ability to parent. This can be a trusted friend, a close family member, or a counselor.  
Family Services has counselors on all reservations that are available if you just want to talk and have someone listen to and share in your experiences.  
*"When you look down in those trusting eyes, that look to you, you realize, there's love that you can't buy, Thank God for Kids."*

## Cherishing My Child

**By Eric Bricker**  
I remember the day that little Sammy was born; February 16, 2002. I was alone for the first time that day, standing outside the nursery, looking at my boy through the glass partition.  
A lot of things run through the minds of new parents.  
I was wondering "Am I really ready to be a parent? And if so, was I capable of being a good parent?"  
More than anything, I was scared but really proud at the same time. So while I'm standing there, an old man steps up beside me. He was

so quiet that I didn't even notice him there until he finally spoke. "That one's yours?" he asks. I told him yes.  
"He looks like a good one" the old man told me.  
"Thank you" I said.  
He was there for the birth of a grandchild, his sixth, and the old man spoke with the confidence of someone who had seen his share of births, and raised his share of children.  
He smiled at me and he said very simply, "You be nice to him, and he'll be nice to you."  
Some people have a way of making complicated things seem very

simple. Perhaps that just comes with experience. I've been told along the way that children are our gift from God, and I believe this. As I make my way in the world, at times, I imagine what it would be like to have to explain my actions to my two year old son.  
That thought makes me want to do what is right. And so it occurred to me that perhaps this is how God teaches us right from wrong. He watches us through the eyes of our children.

## Family Services Counselor participates with Recreation Department Activities

**By Tony Roberts**  
During the week of Spring Break, I had the opportunity to participate in many activities that were sponsored by the Recreation Department for the youth on the reservation. There were various activities scheduled throughout the week. These activities included, skating, laser tag, ATV riding, Boomers Arcade, and the movies.  
One day, we took a small group of youth to the Galaxy Skating Rink in Davie. We brought a small group to the rink, which was very crowded with other children from various youth centers in the area. A few of our youth participated in skating, and the remaining ones really enjoyed listening to the music and interacting with other youth.  
On the following day, our youth group was a bit larger. I would attribute this to the activity that was sched-

uled for the day . . . Boomers Arcade! This has become one of the more popular activities for the youth on the reservation.  
On this day, the youth enjoyed playing video games, miniature golf, the roller coaster, and of course, riding the go- carts. Although this was a time for fun and games, as a Family Services Counselor, it was an excellent opportunity for the both myself and the youth to get to know each other better.  
I feel that the more time that I spend with our youth in different settings; they will become more comfortable speaking to me about any problems that they may be experiencing in their lives. I certainly hope the youth enjoyed spending as much time with me, as I did with them.

## Tribal Member Courtney Doctor Completes GED

**By Mary Olitzky**  
Congratulations to Courtney "Michelle" Doctor from Hollywood who recently earned her GED. Michelle celebrated with family and friends at Family Services last week at their Easter celebration party for the children.  
Michelle studied for more than one year to get ready to take the GED test. We salute you for your hard work, Michelle. You are a great role model to the younger children who were here at the Easter celebration.  
Michelle says she plans to go to college next semester to continue her studies. Way to go, Michelle.



### Pregnant and Addicted?

Please contact  
Family Services Immediately.

Let us help you  
before the baby is born!

Thank you!

Hollywood: 954-964-6338  
Big Cypress: 863-902-3206  
Brighton: 863-763-7700

## Hollywood Booth

**By Tony Roberts**  
For the month of April, the Family Services Department's booth theme was "Cherish the Child" and child abuse awareness. The department provided handouts on "How to Really Love a Child," as well as "10 Tips on Disciplining Your Child with Love."  
There was also other information on what child abuse is and procedures for reporting child abuse and neglect.  
Family Services offered muffins, fruit, and drinks to go along with a raffle. The prize for the raffle was a beautiful basket of various gifts for children. There were also assorted educational books for anyone who wanted to take them.  
Twenty tribal citizens participated in the raffle and J.D. Bowers won. Family Services will have another booth next month.



Hanna Marchel and Eric Bricker.

Next month's theme will be titled Foster Parent Month.  
Remember, the children of today are our future!

## Brighton Booth Combines Cherish the Child and NASD Screening

The Brighton Family Services office conducted National Aging Safety Disc (NASD) mental health screening on April 8.



Joyce Johnson, this month's winner.

the table with twenty-nine completing screenings for alcohol and substance abuse. Family Services and the Health Clinic combined efforts to make the day a success.  
The names of those who completed NASD screenings were placed into a drawing for a gift certificate to Lightsey's Restaurant in Okeechobee, Fla. The winner this month was Joyce Johnson of the Brighton Health Clinic. She had served on the team providing blood pressure and blood sugar checks for residents.  
The table was filled with hand outs and the usual array of health snacks, fruit juices, cold drinks and water. During the lunch, the staff served up free hot dogs to residents and employees from other offices. Approximately one hundred hot dogs provided lunch on the go for those who visited the table.  
One of the highlights of the day came when Howard Micco rode up on his motorcycle. The seventy-year-old Micco brought joy with his ever-present smile and laughter from one of his many jokes. He left saying that he had to get on one of his tractors and get some work before dark.  
The day was busy, but successful with many people being screened for health and life controlling problems. Truly a good time was had by all.

The theme for this month was Cherish the Child, and approximately fifty people visited

## Immokalee Booth

**By Billie S. Napper**  
The Immokalee Family Services staff prepared a booth for March with the theme, "The Month of the Child."  
We were set up directly outside the field office and had flyers on parenting, discipline, and dealing effectively with children. Laura Heritier had made a large collage with pictures of the children from this reservation. Several people stopped to look at the collage. It was fun to see how the children have grown and to speculate who they favor.  
We also had snacks, which we shared with residents who stopped by and chatted with us. The gift basket for the day included a DVD of Disney's "Brother Bear," popcorn and TV trays to complete a fun evening of watching television with family and friends. The basket was won by Nellie Bain, who was looking forward to watching Brother Bear since she had seen the ads on TV.



Nellie Bain, gift basket winner.

## Big Cypress Booth

**By Tina Mennella**  
April is a month full of spring flowers and Easter celebrations. It is also Child Abuse Prevention Month, which focuses on the theme of "Cherish the Child."  
On April 1, the Big Cypress Family Services Department hosted a colorful booth with a fun contest. In a new twist on the monthly raffle, there was a "guess how many jelly beans are in the jar" contest, in which 36 people tried to guess in order to win two Easter baskets, one for an adult and one for a child. The magic number was 235 and the lucky winner was Jeannette Cypress, who guessed 228. Thanks to all who took a chance; it was fun watching everyone try to estimate just how many jelly beans fit in that little jar.  
There were also fun activity books for children of various ages, Easter pencils, little Frisbee™, magnets on ways to praise children, pins, blue ribbons, and a healthy snack of Kellogg's Nutri-grain bars. Family Services also had a flyer detailing the various programs and services that we offer, such as parenting classes on Wednesday's at 1 p.m. There were little books called "Respecting our Children" and "Emotional Abuse: Words Can Hurt," and cards about disciplining your child with love. These various handouts are all still available in the Family Services office.  
Another important handout concerned safety tips for children. This sparked some conversations from parents who agree

that you can never tell your children enough about protecting themselves. Some of the tips included: not going with a stranger, having a code word, not giving directions to strangers, knowing how to dial 911, yelling help or fire



Students collecting useful handouts.

instead of just screaming if they are in danger, the right to say no to an inappropriate touch, and internet safety, such as not giving your name or address to anyone online.  
Thank you to all who stopped by the table and we hope to see you all next month, if not sooner. Have a Happy Easter!







# NAYO's Opening Games at Hollywood Christian School

**By Shelley HORMOR**  
**HOLLYWOOD** — The Native American Youth Organization (NAYO) kicked off their basketball conference with two back-to-back games at the Hollywood Christian School.

In the first game of the tournament, the Seminole team, N.A.Y.O., took on the Blue Devils. Near the end of the second quarter, the Blue Devils took a 19-7 lead. N.A.Y.O. made attempts at catching up, however, the Blue Devils refused to let go of the lead. Halfway through the third quarter, the Blue Devils held a commanding lead, 48-9.

In the final seconds of the third quarter, N.A.Y.O. did manage to score some points. However, they trailed the Blue Devils 56-18, and the referees ended the game with the mercy rule.

This meant that since the Blue Devils led by 38-points, the two referees made the decision that N.A.Y.O. would not be able to catch up, and declared the Blue Devils the winners. According to the mercy rule, one team only has to lead the other by a minimum of 30-points, for the referees to be able to end the game at the end of the third quarter.

In the game that immediately followed the N.A.Y.O./Blue Devils game, the females from Native Ballerz,

a mix of Florida and Okalahoma Seminole, and Lady Natives took to the court.

Native Ballerz jumped out to 10-0 lead after midway through the



**Lady Natives versus Native Ballerz at Hollywood Christian School.**

Iretta Tiger

first quarter. They increased their lead to 21-7 by the end of the first quarter. The Lady Natives were unsuccessful at closing the gap, and by the end of the second quarter, the Native Ballerz's lead 40-18.

This game continued the same way into the third quarter, as the Lady Natives were facing a 34-point deficit with four minutes and seven seconds left in the third quarter. By the end of the quarter, they trailed the Native Ballerz by 40-points.

The referees also employed the mercy rule in this game. The final score was Native Ballerz, 67, Lady Natives, 27.



Adelsa Williams

**Bo Young (right) polishes his skills in a practice round.**

# All Indian Tour Championship VI

**By Adelsa Williams**

**LAS VEGAS, NV**—The First Nation's Golf Association coordinated the All Indian Golf Tour Championship from April 2-4, which was held at the Paiute Golf Resort in Las Vegas, Nev.

During the first days, devoted golfers headed out to the golf course despite a steady drizzle, coupled with low, 60 degree weather. However, on the last day of the competition, the weather improved. Golfers enjoyed a beautiful fun-filled sunny day.

"We still cruised to it and had a good time," Committee member Jayson Ray said. "It usually doesn't rain in Vegas."

Ray reported that the tour championship first started with 144 players six years ago and throughout the years, the number of golfers has increased to 220-enough players to take over an entire golf course. This year, members from 96 different tribes participated in the competition.

"We had tribes from Canada included in the 96,"said Ray.

Ray said that Mitch Osceola was one of the top golfers from the Seminole

Tribe of Florida.

Max Osceola Jr. and Marcellus Osceola Jr. also showed strong efforts in the second flight.

Overall, Jay Julius from California captured first place, breaking his tie to defending champion, Jeremy Harrison, from New Mexico.

The First

Flight portion of play culminated with Marcellus Osceola Jr., flying in first place. In the second flight round, Elliot Huff won second place net, while Allen Huff won third place gross and Curtis Osceola landed with a third place finish, net. The Seminoles were not as fortunate in the senior's flight with no one showing the top three spots, net or gross



Adelsa Williams

**Linda Tommie makes her last stroke at the 18th hole.**

play.

In the ladies flight, Terry Hahn placed third.

Linda Tommie, Marcellus Osceola Jr., and Bo Young put the Seminoles on the charts with outstanding blind draw ball gross results.



Michael Kelly

**The Brighton girls basketball team plans their strategy while on the bench.**

# NAYO Basketball Tournament Kicks Off in Hollywood

## Brighton Girl's Team Hangs Tough in Loss

**By Michael Kelly**

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Brighton girl's basketball team opened the Native American Youth Organization (NAYO) Basketball Tournament with a narrow defeat from Rez Express, the Choctaw team from Mississippi. The game was held at the Sheridan Hills Christian School, one of three locations hosting the tournament.

Held from April 9-10, teams from various tribes participated. Other tournament games were held at the Hollywood reservation gym and at the Hollywood Christian School.

An energetic crowd cheered on the Brighton girl's team as they jumped out to a 5-0 lead. Rez Express rallied to take the lead after one quarter, 9-7. At the start of the second quarter, Rez Express won on a 5-0 run, but Brighton fought back, scoring the next five points. The teams were tied 17-17

at the half.

Coach Tim Thomas encouraged his team to play smart and take good shots. But as the third quarter got under way, the Rez Express regained momentum from the first half and built a seven point lead, 24-17. Thomas quickly called a time-out, hoping the Brighton girls could regroup.

The time-out worked as spark plug player Melanie Jones and Megan Jones brought the team back, and after three quarters, were only behind, 33-28. Melanie displayed her quickness and great point guard skills, while Megan drained a three pointer and was fouled. She converted the four-point play to keep the Brighton girls team close.

The Rez Express capitalized on turnovers, converting those points on the stretch to win the game, 52-41. The highly competitive game was a good way to begin the tournament. Look for the Brighton girls to keep improving. The team has some solid players and will no doubt gain experience from this popular tournament.



Adelsa Williams

**Middleweight champion Daniel Santos (center).**

# Warrior's Boxing Comes To Tampa

**By Adelsa Williams**

**TAMPA** — Warrior's Boxing Promotions, Inc., in Association with Sound Event and The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, presented World Championship boxing at the Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa, Fla., on April 17.

There were six bouts, which included four championships and one International Boxing Federation title eliminator.

The main event featured Warrior's newly signed middleweight champion Daniel Santos of Bayamon, Puerto Rico. Santos (28-2-1, 20 KOs) defended his title against Michael Lerma (29-9-1, 20 KOs) of Waco, Tex.

Both fighters had their moments. Santos showed much dominance with his accurate punches, cutting Lerma over the left eye as early as the third round. Lerma came back in the middle of the fourth round, attacking Santos by punching him repeatedly against the ropes. Santos barely had a chance to strike back, however, during the end of that round, Santos made a come back, beating Lerma in that round.

After a thrilling match, Santos beats Lerma by unanimous decision, winning all twelve rounds.

In the co-main event of the evening, Heavyweight DaVaryl Williamson (19-2-0, 17 KOs), from Washington, DC beat Miami's Elieser Castillo (26-3-2, 14 KOs) by majority decision in a competitive twelve round match, snatching the Namibia Amateur Boxing Federation crown.

In the International Boxing Title Eliminator bout, IBF #7 Syd Vanderpool (34-2-0, 23 KOs) from Canada defeated the International Boxing Federation's (IBF) ninth-ranked fighter, Tito "El Misil" Mendoza (31-4-0, 24 KOs) from Panama, by unanimous decision.

During the intense fight, Mendoza's performance was a fierce one, but not good enough to beat his opponent. With the victory, Vanderpool is now ranked first by the IBF.

In other bouts, Light Heavyweights Daniel Judah from Brooklyn, N.Y. and Julian Letterlough

from Reading, Penn. battled to a 12-round draw. Judah had one point deducted for holding in the seventh round. The judges scored the fight 113-113 twice and 114-112 for Letterlough.

Letterlough seemed upset about the tie and commented that he was not looking for a rematch.

"I want to fight right now," he said.

In the other hand, Judah was pleased with the decision, but did admit that Letterlough was one of his toughest opponents.

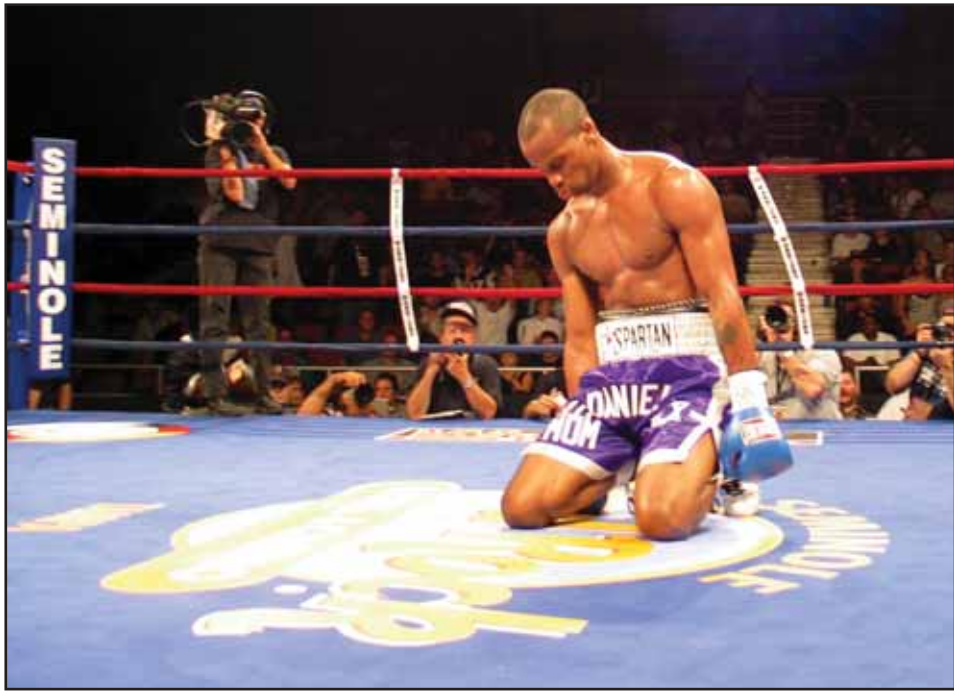
Warrior's Lance Whitaker (26-3-2, 14 KOs) from Van Nyus, Calif. retained his North American Boxing Association heavyweight belt, defeating Friday Ahunanya from Las Vegas, Nev. Whitaker whacked Ahunanya in the fifth round, forcing the opponent's corner to call it a night, making Whitaker the winner by TKO.

In the opening match, Warrior's boxer Michael "Gold" Rush (25-7-1, 13 KOs) and local favorite from Tampa, defeated Manu Ntoh (15-6-1, 9 KOs) from Cameroon, by unanimous decision in a light heavyweight six-round bout.

According to Peter Kahn, Director of Marketing and Public Relations for Warrior's Boxing Promotions Inc., "The event in Tampa is the first one on the west coast of Florida. It's also the first one to take place outside of Coconut Creek," said Kahn.

Jessie Robinson, Executive Director of Warrior's Boxing, estimated more than 3,000 fans attended. He commented that they need to bring more of these successful events to Tampa.

"Tampa locals came out because of Santos," said Robinson, "If you give fans what they want, they will want more."



Adelsa Williams

**Daniel Judah gets dropped on the 5th Round.**

# Lady Seminoles Take Third In NAYO Tournament

**By Adelsa Williams**

**HOLLYWOOD** — The winners for the Native American Youth Organization (NAYO) Basketball

Tournament are as follow:

**Girls**

1. Rez Raised, Choctaw, Mississippi; 2. Stunners, Choctaw, Mississippi; 3. Lady Seminoles, Hollywood.

**Boys**

1. Bearcat, Choctaw, Mississippi; 2. Lights Out, Choctaw, Mississippi; 3. Dynasty Boyz, Choctaw, Mississippi

**Sportsmanship Awards**  
Girls: Cherokee Girls, Cherokee, North Carolina; Boys: I.A.C., Iroquois, New York.



Adelsa Williams

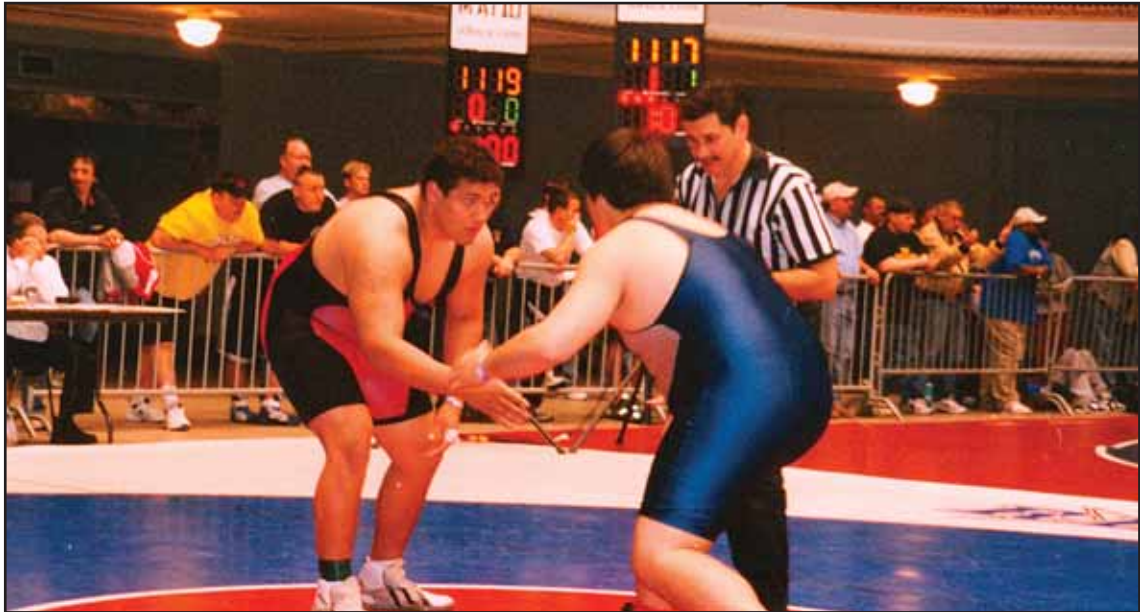
**Lady Seminoles placed third at NAYO game in Hollywood Gym.**



# National High School Seniors Wrestling Championships

**By Kenny Bayon, C.Ft**  
**CLEVELAND, OH — Match 1:** Simmons's first match was against James Causey from Wyoming. The first period was a position battle. The period ended in a 0-0 tie. The second period began with Simmons on the top position. After a spiral ride to break down his opponent, he immediately turned it to an inside cradle. The rest was history as he recorded his first pin of the tournament with a time of two minutes and 29 seconds for the fall.  
**Match 2:** His next opponent was Jordan Bedore of Kansas. Bedore placed fifth in the country. The first period was a fight for positioning as they both were trying to gain hand and arm control. The period emend in a 0-0 tie.  
Simmons began the second period in the down position. He made the first score of the match as he escaped with a forceful sit out, to a turnaround, to a stand up position. Bedore then threw a quick double leg to a singles leg trip to gain the 2-1 lead. Within seconds, Simmons ties the score with a quick stand up. The period ended in a 2-2 score.  
The third period started with Jordan in the bottom position. After Simmons tried to turn him a couple of times, Jordan then got an escape to take the 3-2 lead. Simmons misjudged his grip as he tried a double under hook throw, which resulted in an arm

as Simmons won his first two matches.  
**Match 3:** Against Charlie Alexander of Oregon. Simmons took control of the match early as took Alexander down with a duck-under and scored quickly with a gut wrench to take a 3-0 lead 15 seconds into the match. Simmons then got Alexander's arm behind his back and put in a reverse half for the quick 44 second pin and three in a row.  
**Match 4:** Simmons verses Brady Wilson of Minnesota. This was a very tough match as Wilson was undefeated on the day as well going into this match. After toggling for a minute, Wilson tried a head arm but Simmons just rolled with it and Brady is given two points to take a 2-0 lead. Then seconds after Wilson was put in the bottom position, Simmons puts on the reverse head and arm from the top move and with much force, turns Wilson to make it a 2-2 bout. Wilson escapes in the last second to end the period with a 3-2 lead.  
The second was a complete turnaround as Simmons is given top position and he applied a powerful under-hook and head turn which gave him the 4-3 lead and within seconds lets his opponent up only to drop him on his back for another 3 points and a 7-3 lead.  
After wrestling around for a minute and the match dwindling down, Simmons puts on the Seminole Bear Hug for a powerful slam and the match as he wins his forth in a row with a 9-3 victory.  
**Match 5:** Simmons verses Alex Kanellis of Iowa. Simmons scored first on a duck-under for a 1-0 lead. Ten seconds later, misfortune would be his demise as he takes a gut wrench to score, the move slips and he is caught under Kanellis and is almost pinned. Quickly he reversed it and turns Kanellis to tie the score at 3 as the period ends.  
The second started as Simmons again does an under-hook and scores to take the lead 4-3 and again he slips and Kanellis took advantage to put Simmons on his back to regain the lead 7-4. Another takedown by Simmons helps cut the deficit to 7-5. Kanellis ran from Simmons the rest of the match to hold on for the 7-5 victory.  
**Match 6:** Against Dustin Fox of Ohio. Simmons was about to face his toughest opponent ever as he was going against last years defending Greco-Roman Jr. National Champion, Dustin Fox, a wrestler who took forth at the HS Nationals the week before.  
The first period was a battle between two determined athletes showing their strength. A minute into the match, Fox threw Simmons in a head and arm to his back to take a 5-0 lead. Fox then applied a quick gut wrench and then second later a reverse head and arm turn to take a 9-0 lead. After the moves, Simmons strained his lower back but did not give up. Fox finished the match with another gut wrench and a majority decision win 11-0.  
**Match 7:** Simmons verses Stradiy Levitin from Brooklyn, N.Y. Simmons had strained his back during his last bout; Coach Kenny Bayon kept him out of the match, even though it was for fifth and sixth place and Simmons was revving to go. Considering only the top three places get to go to nationals this summer in Fargo, N.D.



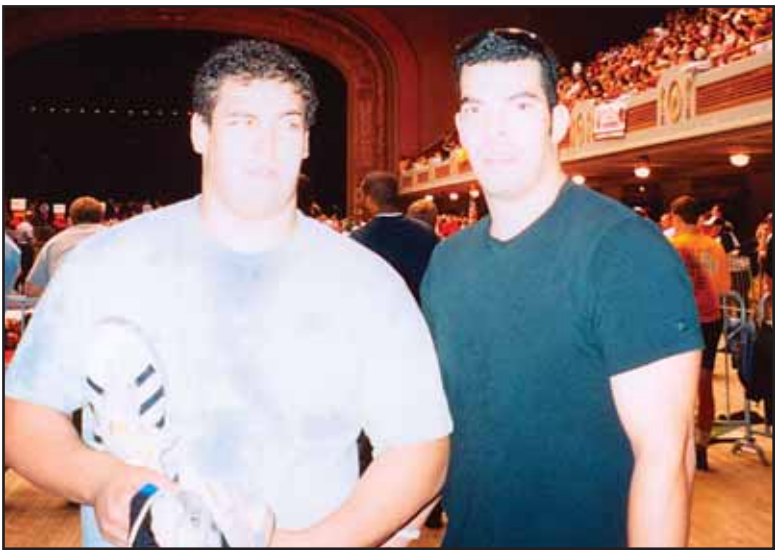
Keith Mitchell Simmons sizes up his opponent.

Kenny Bayon

## Keith Mitchell Simmons Qualifies for National Wrestling Tournaments

**By Kenny Bayon, C.Ft**  
**CLEVELAND, OH —** In February, Seminole tribal citizen Keith Mitchell Simmons showed he was one of the best high school wrestlers in Florida. Earlier this month, he proved that he could hold his own on the national level as well.  
Simmons, an 18-year-old senior and heavyweight state champion from Brandon, went 2-2 with two pins—and two very close losses—in the prestigious 15th Annual Senior National Wrestling Championships in Cleveland, Ohio on April 2-4. Then he flew to Las Vegas, Nev. for the Junior Western Regional Qualifier on April 7-10, where he placed sixth in Greco-Roman.

sometimes. It was a great experience for me and I wanted to make my family, my coaches and my tribe proud.”  
The national high school tournament, held at the Cleveland Convention Center's Public Hall, was a gathering of the best prep wrestlers in the U.S. All competitors, 804 representing 48 states, were seniors who had to have placed either first or second in their respective states at least once in their careers. This style of wrestling is called folk style or high school wrestling.  
The Junior Western was a qualifier for the Junior National Tournament that will be held later this year in Fargo, N.D. Both styles, Greco-Roman and freestyle, are featured in the Olympics.



(L-R) Keith Mitchell Simmons with trainer Kenny Bayon.

“I thought I did real well considering this is the toughest region in the country,” said Simmons. “If a few calls go my way, it would have been a different story, but that’s the way it goes

at the North American Indigenous Games in Winnipeg, Manitoba in Canada in 2002, and in Las Vegas, Nev. where he went 4-3 and a sixth place finish.

## Immokalee to Celebrate Cinco de Mayo

**Submitted By Judy Weeks**  
Cinco de Mayo is considered by many to be a Mexican holiday, but history tells a different story. Mexico declared her independence from Spain in 1810, and then fought for ten years to drive out the Spanish. In 1862, a Mexican Indian, Benito Juarez, became the democratic president of this young new country. At the time, France was under the rule of Emperor Napoleon III. The French had seized much of Europe to expand their territory and were now looking for conquests in North America.  
The U.S. was involved in a bitter civil war and France, believing the South could not win, offered them assistance. They hoped this would further weaken the North and leave the whole U.S. territory open for eventual conquest.  
Napoleon sent an army of seasoned soldiers with Prince Maximilian to take over Mexico and be prepared to enter the U.S. from the South when the time was right. They under estimated the power and courage of the Mexican Indian Army and the civilians who were willing to die for freedom.  
On May 5, 1862, the French Army attacked at Puebla (100 miles east of Mexico City) and was met by the Mexican Militia under the command of Texas born General Taragosa. A mul-

titude of angry Indian men armed with machetes stampeded hundreds of head of cattle into the French Army. These 4,000 men defeated 8,000 professional, well-armed French soldiers. This defensive action was instrumental in preventing the French take-over of Mexico.  
Following the U.S. Civil War, General Phil Sheridan took a portion of the U.S. Army to help the Mexicans drive the remaining French out of their country. Together, they fought to preserve freedom and liberty in North America.  
This should be considered a U.S. holiday. The Seminole Tribe of Florida acknowledges this fact and joins with our neighbors and freedom-loving Mexican-Americans everywhere in celebrating Cinco de Mayo.  
On Saturday May 1, 2004, the John Jimmie Memorial Arena in Immokalee will host the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association. Everyone is invited to attend the “Admission Free” rodeo, which will begin at 5 p.m. with the juniors. Senior Rodeo will follow at 7 p.m. and continue throughout the evening. Mutton bustin’, bronc riding, bull riding and much, much more will make the event a great time for all participants and spectators.  
For additional information, call Curtis Weeks at (239) 455-7229, or contact the Seminole Tribe Offices at (239) 657-6567.

The match was to see which wrestler was going to be eliminated from the tournament. The first period saw Simmons apply pressure from the beginning so much so that McMurray was called for stalling the match and given a warning. The first period ended in a scoreless tie.  
Simmons was on the top to start the second. He gave up a tough standup to give up the first points of the match to be down 0-1. As he kept applying the pressure and all McMurray was doing was avoiding Simmons forward aggressiveness and back peddling to stall the match. He didn't even attempt a single move in the second.  
Simmons chose the down position to start the third. He quickly scores on a powerful stand up for a 1-1 tie. He kept applying the same pressure as the first, trying for numerous takedowns but his opponent would make a sprint to any boundary on site so the he would avoid the takedown and go out of bounds.  
The referee then made the most controversial of the entire tournament. McMurray tried for a single leg sweep and Simmons blocked it with force. He then applied a reverse head and arm, but McMurray went though the other side to get on the side of Simmons at the same time Simmons got up on his feet already facing McMurray.  
For this, the referee made a very blind call for a takedown by McMurray and an escape by Simmons in a matter of milliseconds, and Simmons was down 3-2. After another stalling call on McMurray, Simmons made a perfect inside trip to McMurray's back for a potential five point move and the referee calls it out of bounds. McMurray took Simmons down with seconds left as Simmons in desperation tries to tie the match. So it ends in Cleveland, as Simmons's posts a 2-2 record in the National Seniors Wrestling Championship 2004.  
**The Greco-Roman Western Junior Regional Championships in Las Vegas, Nevada**  
In Greco and Freestyle wrestling, there are only two periods unlike folk style, or high school style wrestling in which there are three periods.  
**Match 1:** The first match was against Michael Sander of California. The first period was a show of how strong Simmons is by throwing Sander in a double over hook throw maneuver to his back and Simmons comes a way with a quick one minute and 33-second pin.  
**Match 2:** Simmons verses Jorge Lujano from Oregon. The first period was a feeling out period as both wrestlers tried for takedowns, but the other never gave in.  
In these competitions, when the score of the match ends scoreless in the first, the second period is started when both wrestlers are put in the clinched position. This is when both wrestlers are put at the middle of the mat with both putting on an over and under hook clutch. When the whistle blows, the first to score with a move is given points.  
Simmons and Lujano were put in this and Simmons wins this battle as he slammed Lujano to the mat for a three point move and lead. A minute later, both wrestlers are both in the standing position, Simmons threw Lujano in a pancake (over and under-hook throw) to the mat for a 5-0 lead and the match

included Eric Osceola and Jackie Thompson. Miguel Cantu, from Miccosukee, organized the event. He made the weekend's competition a family affair, bowling in the team event with his wife, Mary Jane Cantu.  
Events at this tournament included: team event, men's doubles, women's doubles, mixed doubles, men's singles and women's singles.  
Though there were less teams and people overall, Cantu said he was happy with the turnout and will organize a tournament next year. He said the low turnout was likely because there were other events going on that weekend, including the 29th Annual Miccosukee Everglades Music & Crafts Festival.  
“We planned it and didn't know other things were going on,” Cantu said.  
He said he would like to have the Fourth Annual Seminole & Miccosukee Bowling Tournament the first weekend in March 2005.  
“I started it and I'm still trying to keep it going,” Cantu said.  
Cantu thank the event's sponsors, Big Cypress Council Representative David Cypress, President Moses Osceola, Trail Liaison William Osceola, both the Hollywood and Big Cypress Recreation Department and the Seminole Indian Casino of Immokalee.

## Third Annual Seminole & Miccosukee Bowling Tournament

**By Shelley Marmor**  
**MIAMI, FL —** On Saturday and Sunday, April 17-18, Seminole and Miccosukees met at Don Carter's Kendall Lanes bowling alley for a friendly competition. The Third Annual Seminole & Miccosukee Bowling Tournament brought in about 100 participants wanting to show off their skill and talent.  
Participants from the Hollywood reservation



Shelly Marmor

Jackie Thompson from the Hollywood Reservation participates in the tournament.

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# Rodeo ♦ Ko-waa-ye Esh-ham-pa-léèsh-ke ♦ Curakko Ohapoketv



Ahnjie Jumper at an EIRA rodeo event.

Judy Weeks

## Ahnjie Jumper Shines at Rodeo

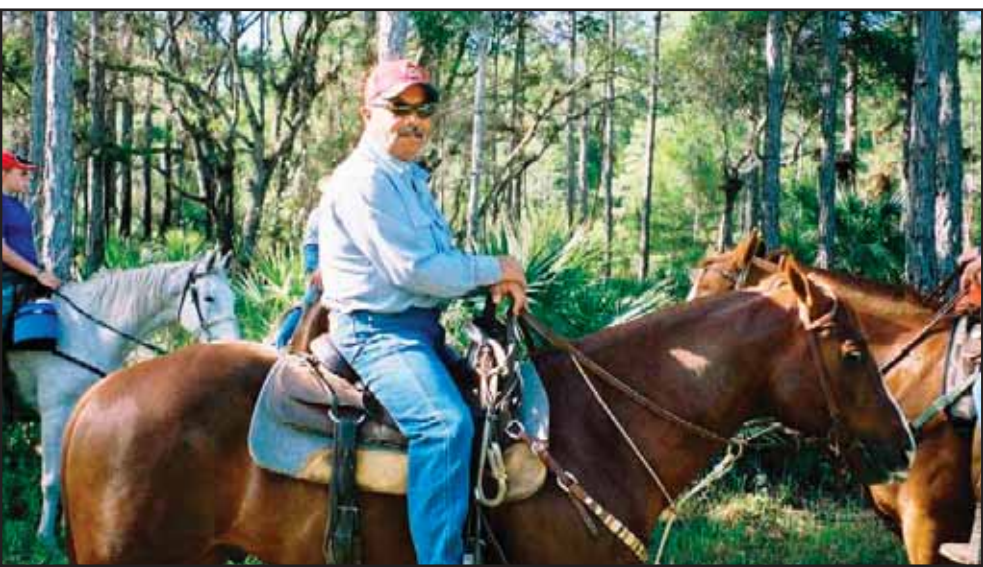
By Judy Weeks  
**BIG CYPRESS** — Ahnjie Jumper was the darling of the rodeo. This very serious-minded and composed four-year-old, whose cowboy hat slipped down over her eyes as she slowly rounded the first, second, and third barrel, very slowly plodded her

horse across the entire length of the arena back to the opening gate to the delight of the crowd.  
Never mind the need for speed. Jumper was determined not to tip over a barrel and she accomplished that feat very competently. Her time was 85 seconds. Great job Ahnjie!



Rudy Osceola works his rope.

Judy Weeks



Benny Hernandez gets back in the saddle again.

Judy Weeks

## Team Roping at Big Cypress

By Judy Weeks  
**BIG CYPRESS** — Saturday March 20, was a full day of Team Roping at the Junior Cypress Arena. The Numbers Roping included 5's, 7's, 9's and 11's. It was sponsored by Tribal Chairman, Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Board Representative, Paul Bowers Sr. and Big Cypress Council Representative, David Cypress.  
Everyone was glad to see Benny Hernandez back on the job. A few months ago he suffered injuries in an accident on his horse and spent time in the hospital and then at home recovering. He is glad to be able to return to the work he loves and we hope he'll take it easy for a while.

Winners received cash awards and the high point team in each division also won belt buckles. Numbers five and seven had the most entries, with 115 and 95 teams, respectively. Based on these entries, awards were presented to the eighth place for a total of 16 winners in each category. Number nine paid four places and Number 11 went to three.  
The roping began at 11a.m. and continued into the evening. The first place winning team in each division is listed as follows:  
Number 5: Ralph Pigott – Header; Timothy Spiller – Heeler  
Number 7: Benny Hernandez – Header; Cody Gerato – Heeler  
Number 9: Timothy Spiller – Header; Lewis Rimes – Heeler  
Number 11: Chester Rimes – Header; Derrick Davis – Heeler

## All-Indian Rodeo in Brighton

By Susan Etxebarria  
**BRIGHTON** — The All-Indian Rodeo at Brighton brought out a lot of families to cheer for the courageous children, who took part in this tough sport on Saturday April 10. Whether it was mutton-busting, calf riding or barrels, the riders in the Junior Rodeo were both amusing and amazing. It is obvious the children get stronger as they get older so watching a four-year-old attempting to overcome the bucking of a wild animal is ...well, inspiring.  
The winners in the Sanctioned Events., where you can see the best getting better, showed the zeal of upcoming rodeo champs.

Sponsored by the Brighton Chapter of the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA), the sanctioned events provide the opportunity for the riders, ropers, and steer wrestlers from all reservations to earn the points they need to become eligible for the Indian National Finals Rodeo in October. Persons with the highest points in each category are sent to the finals. To qualify, all competitors must compete in all the six EIRA rodeos held at different reservations.  
The next EIRA rodeo will be the Cinco De Mayo Rodeo in Immokalee on May 1.

## EIRA at Brighton: Winners and Their Scores / Time

### JR. Rodeo Events

**Mutton Busting**  
1. Kalgary Johns, 7.15; 2. Sean Osceola, 5.05.  
**Pony Riding**  
1. William Bearden, 50 points; 2. Jacoby Johns, 42 points.  
**Calf Riding**  
1. Josh Johns and Andre Jumper (tied), 51 points each; 3. Blevins Jumper, NA  
**Junior Bareback**  
1. Seth Randolph, 4.16; 2. Julian Aldridge, 2.5.  
**4-8 Years Barrels**  
1. Acealyn Youngblood, 17.242; 2. Raegan Whitecloud, 18.424; 3. Andre Jumper, 21.236; 4. Blevins Jumper, 27.243.

### 9-12 Years Barrels

1. Zane Ducheneau 17.561; 2. Nauthkee Henry, 17.53; 3. Janae Braswell 20.450.  
**13-18 Years Barrels**  
1. LeAnna Billie 16.738; 2. Jade Braswell 17.407.  
**Junior Bull Riding**  
1. Ethan Gopher, 4.53; 2. Justin Aldridge, 4.31.

### Sanctioned Events

**Bareback**  
1. Shawn Best Sr.; 2. Adam Turtle.  
**Steer Wrestling**  
1. Alex Johns, 6.565; 2. Jeff Johns 11.55; 3. Rodney Osceola, 2.535.  
**Calf Roping**  
1. Naha Jumper, 12.955; 2. Happy

Jumper, 52.24.  
**Women's Breakaway**  
1. Tess Ducheneaux, 4.375; 2. LeAnna Billie, 13.905.  
**50 and Older Breakaway**  
1. Rudy Osceola, 5.25; 2. Jonah Cypress, NA  
**Team Roping**  
1. Josh Jumper/Naha Jumper, 8.035; 2. Marvin Bowers/Trina Bowers, 13.26; Moses Jumper/Happy Jumper, 21.75; 4. Randel Osceola/Gene Edmo, 24.98; 5. Billy Tiger/Renee Smith, 32.86.  
**Women's Barrels**  
1. Tess Ducheneaux, 16.439; 2. Sheyanna Osceola, 16.71; 3. Trina Bowers 16.974.

# Immokalee Participates in 4-H Show and Sale

By Judy Weeks  
**BIG CYPRESS** — Immokalee's 4-H Club was very well represented at this year's 4-H Show and Sale. Out of the many entries, 26 of the 55 pigs and seven of the 25 steers were from Immokalee.  
As is always the case with livestock production, there were some last minute disappointments. Some of the swine did not make the weigh-in for the

without spelling his water?" Jade replied, "Silly! You don't bring him in his tank. You have to put him in a container with a little of his water. We put fresh water in his tank here."

Then I made the mistake of saying, "And then you dumped Nemo in his tank?" Jade put her hands on her hips and said, "No! That would kill him! You float his water bag in the new water until they feel the same and then mix the water together."

It was obvious this seven-year-old had paid attention and learned a great deal from her project. She also took the opportunity to fill me in on feeding and cleaning techniques.  
Moving into the swine barn, I found youngsters everywhere. They were washing, scrubbing and brushing their pigs in last minute preparation for the show. The pens were spotless.

As I talked with the participants they all echoed the same responses, "The importance of good food, fresh water and clean pens."

Pig washing seemed to be the highlight of the whole experience and pen cleaning was definitely at the bottom of the ladder. With the show only one hour away excitement was in the air!

Upon checking on the steers they were also getting a last minute grooming. Brother and sister, Tommy and Christian Benson, were putting the finishing touches on their animals before competing in



Mark Arriaga exhibiting the Immokalee 4-H Club steer.

Judy Weeks

two different classes. Lazara Marrero had worked long and hard to gentle her steer, which had started the project with a lot of attitude. The work was paying off because he was standing quietly allowing her to wipe his face.

I had spent time with Jessica Lopez a few weeks ago and she stated she had enjoyed raising Daddy, but she didn't think she would do it again.

"He's not just messy, but I have to spend so much time with him that I can't go anywhere," she said. "He needs food and water everyday." Now with the show about to take place she was nervous and talked about how much she was going to miss him. She reached under his belly and rubbed while he leaned toward her as if to say, "Ohhh ... that's the spot!"

I think I can speak for everyone when I say how proud we are of all the exhibitors that night. We had the pleasure of watching a group of fine young people displaying what hard work and responsibility can provide.

To make things even better, Immokalee's Jessica Lopez had the Grand Champion winning steer, Daddy Needless to say, she is now singing a different tune. The girl who didn't think she would ever do another steer is talking about next year already.  
Two days after the



Jessica Lopez and her grand champion cow Daddy with Chairman Mitchell Cypress (right).

Judy Weeks



Judy Weeks

This year's livestock projects patiently awaiting the show and sale.

show, but were eventually sold at the auction. A few other unfortunate circumstances made it impossible to show one of the steers and two of the pigs. Anyone involved in agriculture knows that you do all the right things and still have to deal with the unexpected.

Mark Arriaga, one of Immokalee's steer participants found this out the hard way and couldn't compete with his project. Nevertheless he came forward and showed the 4-H Club steer with a smile and did a fine job. If there were an award for sportsmanship Mark would be a winner for sure.

While attending the show, I visited the small animal exhibits and interviewed one of the entrants. Jade Tapia was there with her fish, Nemo. She had prepared a delightful little book about her project and I asked her several questions and learned a great deal.

"How did you bring Nemo from Immokalee to Big Cypress



Jade Tapia and her pet fish Nemo.

Judy Weeks



HOLLYWOOD

Position: Environmental Health Specialist/Administrative Assistant  
Department: Health  
Position Opens: 3-22-04  
Position Closes: When filled  
Salary: Negotiable with benefits

Position: Fixed Asset Accountant  
Department: Accounting  
Position Opens: 12-22-03  
Position Closes: When filled  
Salary: \$30,000–\$37,000 annually with benefits

Position: Budget Analyst  
Department: Accounting  
Position: Still available  
Salary: Negotiable with experience, with benefits

Position: Accountant  
Department: Accounting  
Position Opens: 4-5-04  
Position Closes: When filled  
Salary: Negotiable with benefits

Position: A/P Billing Clerk  
Department: Utilities  
Position Opens: 3-15-04  
Position Closes: When filled  
Salary: \$22,880 annually with benefits

Position: Outreach Worker  
Department: CAA  
Position Opens: 9-2-03  
Position Closes: When filled  
Salary: \$8.00/hour with benefits

Position: Administrative Assistant  
Department: Eligibility and Utilization, Health  
Position Opens: 3-22-04  
Position Closes: When filled  
Salary: Negotiable with benefits

Position: Secretary II  
Department: Family Services  
Position Opens: 3-15-04  
Position Closes: When filled  
Salary: Negotiable with benefits

Position: Buyer  
Department: Purchasing  
Position Opens: 3-22-04  
Position Closes: When filled  
Salary: Negotiable with benefits

Position: Payroll Clerk I  
Department: Payroll, Human Resources  
Position Opens: 3-22-04  
Position Closes: When filled  
Salary: Negotiable with benefits

Position: Database Admin II  
Department: Information Systems  
Position Opens: 3-8-04  
Position Closes: When filled  
Salary: Negotiable with benefits

Position: Nutritionist  
Department: Health  
Position Opens: 1-12-04  
Position Closes: 1-26-04  
Salary: Negotiable with benefits

Position: Network Administrator  
Department: Information Systems  
Position Opens: 11-24-03  
Position Closes: When filled  
Salary: Negotiable with experience

Position: Counselor II (3)  
Department: Family Services  
Position Opens: 3-22-04  
Position Closes: When filled  
Salary: Negotiable with benefits

Position: Maintenance Worker  
Department: Building and Grounds  
Position Opens: 3-1-04  
Position Closes: When filled  
Salary: \$16,640 annually with benefits

Position: Vehicle and Equipment Coordinator  
Department: Fixed Asset, Accounting  
Position Opens: 12-22-03  
Position Closes: 1-12-04  
Salary: \$20,800–\$24,960 annually with benefits

Position: Transfer Station Operator Trainee (2)  
Department: Utilities  
Position Opens: 2-23-04  
Position Closes: When filled  
Salary: \$18,720 annually with benefits

Position: Operator Maintenance Trainee  
Department: Utilities  
Position Opens: 3-15-04  
Position Closes: When filled  
Salary: \$18,700 annually with benefits

BIG CYPRESS

Position: Tour Guide  
Department: Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum  
Position Opens: 10-13-03  
Position Closes: 10-27-03  
Salary: \$7.50/hour with benefits

Position: Sales Associate, F/T & P/T  
Department: Corp. Board, Gas  
Position Opens: 10-21-03  
Position Closes: 11-3-03  
Salary: Negotiable with experience, with benefits

Position: Environmental Health Facilities Management Representative  
Department: Environmental Health  
Position Opens: 3-22-04  
Position Closes: When filled  
Salary: Negotiable with benefits

Position: Instructional Aide  
Department: Ahfachkee School  
Position: Still available  
Salary: Negotiable with experience, with benefits.

Position: Building and Grounds Maintenance  
Department: Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum  
Position Opens: 3-8-04  
Position Closes: When filled  
Salary: \$16,640 annually with benefits

Position: Elementary Music Teacher  
Department: Ahfachkee School  
Position: Still available  
Salary: Negotiable with benefits

Position: Counselor II

Department: Family Services  
Position Opens: 3-22-04  
Position Closes: When filled  
Salary: Negotiable with benefits

Position: Maintenance Worker  
Department: Building and Grounds  
Position Opens: 2-9-04  
Position Closes: When filled  
Salary: \$16,640 annually with benefits

Position: Fuel Truck Driver/Line Person  
Department: Aviation  
Position Opens: 1-5-04  
Position Closes: 1-19-04  
Salary: \$18,720 annually with benefits

Position: Medical Assistant/Phlebotomist  
Department: Health  
Position Opens: 3-8-04  
Position Closes: When filled  
Salary: \$ 19,032–\$22,734 annually with benefits

Position: Assistant to Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Department: Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum  
Position Opens: 2-23-04  
Position Closes: When filled  
Salary: \$20,800 annually with benefits

Position: Elementary Education Teacher  
Department: Ahfachkee School  
Position: Still available  
Salary: Negotiable with benefits

Position: Food Preparation and Service Associate  
Department: Corp. Board, Gas  
Position Opens: 10-27-03  
Position Closes: 11-10-03  
Salary: Negotiable with benefits

Position: Maintenance Worker  
Department: Corp. Board, Gas  
Position Opens: 11-3-03  
Position Closes: 11-17-03  
Salary: Negotiable with benefits

Position: Assistant Store Manager  
Department: Corp. Board, Gas  
Position Opens: 10-21-03  
Position Closes: 11-3-03  
Salary: Negotiable with experience, with benefits

Position: Operator Maintenance Trainee  
Department: Utilities  
Position Opens: 3-15-04  
Position Closes: When filled  
Salary: \$18,700 annually with benefits

Position: Sales Associate F/T & P/T  
Department: Corp. Board, Gas  
Position Opens: 10-21-03  
Position Closes: 11-3-03  
Salary: Negotiable with experience, with benefits

BRIGHTON

Position: Assistant Store Manager  
Department: Corp. Board, Gas  
Position Opens: 10-21-03  
Position Closes: 11-3-03  
Salary: Negotiable with experience, with benefits

Position: Counselor II (1)  
Department: Family Services  
Position Opens: 1-5-04  
Position Closes: 1-19-04  
Salary: Negotiable with benefits

Position: Teacher Aide  
Department: Preschool  
Position Opens: 8-18-03  
Position Closes: 9-2-03  
Salary: Negotiable with benefits and education

Position: Dental Assistant  
Department: Health  
Position Opens: 1-26-04  
Position Closes: When filled  
Salary: \$19,968–\$26,291

Position: Water Resources Management Coordinator  
Department: Water Resources  
Position: Still available  
Salary: \$30,000 annually with benefits

Position: Kindergarten Teacher; P/T, Temporary  
Department: Education  
Position Opens: 2-23-04  
Position Closes: When filled  
Salary: \$18/hour; Monday–Friday 8 a.m.–1 p.m.

Position: Tribal Outreach Worker II  
Department: Family Services, Health  
Position: Still available  
Salary: Negotiable with benefits

IMMOKALEE

Position: Counselor II (2)  
Department: Family Services  
Position Opens: 3-22-04  
Position Closes: When filled  
Salary: Negotiable with benefits

Position: Operator Maintenance Trainee  
Department: Utilities  
Position Opens: 3-15-04  
Position Closes: When filled  
Salary: \$18,700 annually with benefits

Position: Transfer Station Operator Trainee (2)  
Department: Utilities  
Position Opens: 2-23-04  
Position Closes: When filled  
Salary: \$18,720 annually with benefits

Position: Cultural/Language Instructor  
Department: Culture Education  
Position: Still available  
Salary: Negotiable with benefits

Position: Maintenance Worker  
Department: Recreation  
Position: Still available  
Salary: Negotiable with benefits

Position: Teacher I  
Department: Preschool  
Position Opens: 11-24-03  
Position Closes: 12-08-03  
Salary: Negotiable with experience, with benefits

Position: Nutritionist/Health Educator  
Department: Health  
Position: Still available  
Salary: Negotiable with benefits

Police Jobs

Position: Police Officer  
Starting Salary: \$39,591  
Locations: Big Cypress, Hollywood, Immokalee  
Police Officer position available. Must already have/his/her certification. Needs to be a citizen or have alien resident card, 19 years or older, with a high school diploma or GED. Shift work. Benefits include PPO Health Insurance, Life Insurance, 401K, Take Home Car Program, Clothing Allowance. If you are interested, please call (954) 967-8900.

The Seminole Police Department is looking for police dispatchers in Big Cypress. Applicants need to be a U.S. citizen, or have an alien resident card, be 19 years or older, and have a high school diploma or GED. This position is shift work. Tribal citizens are preferred, but not required. Starting salary is \$29,693. For an application, please call (954) 967-8900.

Emergency Services


Position: Fire Inspector/Public Education Specialist  
Location: Big Cypress and other reservations  
Salary: \$38,000 (negotiable), with benefits

Responsibilities include: Fire safety inspections of fire suppression and notification systems, new construction, existing occupancies and hazardous material sites. Manage Hazardous Material Program. Provide presentations on fire safety to educate the public and employees of the tribe. Accept other duties as required. Essential for satisfactory performance are: good communication skills (verbal and written), the ability to work with the public in a courteous manner, the ability to work in a “self directed” environment, a working knowledge of the National Fire Protection Agency’s Life Safety Code, State Building Codes including the rules and regulations of the State Fire Marshal’s Office and the ability to research and comprehend technical material. Ability to travel between all reservations (statewide) is mandatory.

Minimum Qualifications: Current State of Florida Fire Inspector Certification, experience conducting Fire Inspections and working with the public.

Preference will be given to candidates possessing State of Florida Firefighter Certification, relevant college degrees and certifications plus extensive Fire inspection/public education experience. Other Requirements: high school diploma, valid Florida Driver’s License, Ability to pass an extensive background investigation and drug screen.

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# Announcements ❖ Ahaaheeke ❖ Nak-ohkērkēcetv

## Happy Birthday



Seminole citizen **Dalmericka Zaianne King** (AKA Pooh) won a Choctaw Princess Pageant on March 20. We wish her a **happy 5th birthday** on April 17.

Dalmericka is the granddaughter of Mollie Tommie Jolly of Brighton, Great granddaughter of Juanita Tommie, also of Brighton, and the daughter of Dalmon King Jr. of Conehatta, Miss.

Congratulations and Happy Birthday. We love you.

**Dad, Mom, Tigger, Siah, big sister Mia, and big brother Josh**



Happy birthday wishes to **Eden Billie!**  
With lots of love,  
**Uncle Julian**



Happy birthday to **Jaden and Kalani Bankston.**  
Love,  
**Mom (Jana Rae Billie)**



**Happy belated birthday** to **Crystal and Geneva.** Have fun and stay safe.

From,  
**Janine and family, and everyone who loves you in Hollywood**



**Happy 6th birthday** to **Luke Baxley Jr. (Chooge).** We love you very much and hope your birthday is as special as you are.

Love,  
**Mom (Janine), Dad (Luke), Daija, Amya, Aden, Veronica, Papa, Nana, Weezee, Fat Boy, and Buddy**



Happy belated birthday to our "Little Princess," **Alani.** You bring us joy every day!

Lots of hugs and kisses,  
**Mommy (Marissa), Daddy (Andrew), Malachi and Trevon**



**Happy 2nd birthday** to **Aden** on **April 29.** You are growing up so fast. We are very happy to be part of your life. We love you more than words can say!

With lots of hugs and kisses,  
**Mom (Janine) Dad (Luke), Daija, Chooge, Amya, the dogs, and everyone at Preschool**



**Happy birthday** to my beautiful daughter, **Julia Christina Smith,** whom I love very much. It's hard to believe that you're already two-years-old. It seems like yesterday we were bringing you home from the hospital.

You bring so much joy and happiness into our lives. I thank God for the blessing he has given me, putting you in my life. Just don't grow up so fast!

Daddy's working on that horse you want. I love you with all my heart. Happy birthday from all your family.

**Mommy, Daddy, Bobby, Oneva, Tracey, Nelda, Jason, Lil Jason, Grandma, Grandpa, Rosie and Jimmy, Grandma's Alice, Jenny and Helene, Andy, Uncle Joel, Jamie, Shane, and all your cousins**

I would like to say **happy belated birthday** to my children **Julian** four-years-old, **Chasyn** three-years-old, **Chasyn** two-years-old, and happy birthday to my princess **Kaylee Brook** who turns one on April 4. I love you so much babies and I miss you all a lot.

Love,  
**Momma (Gail Yescas)**

## Congratulations



Congratulations to **Malari Baker** on your Student of the Month award. Keep up the good work. You make us proud.

Love,  
**Mommy, Dad (Billy), Malachi, Trevon and Alani**

*You probably don't remember being carried by your mom. She never would bat an eye to hold you and transport you everywhere.*



*In loving memory of Mary Frances Johns.*

## New Kids



**Allie Milee Williams**  
March 24, 2004  
9 pounds, 5 ounces; 21 inches  
Allie was born in Mississippi at 8:19 a.m. Parents are **Gavin and Brandi Williams.** Maternal grandparents are Mingo and Linda Jones, who live on the Hollywood Reservation. Paternal grandparents are **Annie Mae** and the late-**Johnson Williams** from the Choctaw tribe. Great-grandparents are **Arthur and Augustina Gore** and **Shula** and the late-**Olie Jones,** whom all reside on the Brighton reservation. Congratulations on your new baby girl. We love and miss y'all. (Bran, you moved my g-kids too far). Love always, **Mom and Dad, Konrad and Lorenzo, Cassandra and kids.**

Also, happy birthday to my little man, **Lorenzo Jones,** on May 7.

Love,  
**Mom**



**Mary Jane Y. Osceola**  
Born: February, 24 2004  
Weight: 7 pounds; 4 ounces  
Parents: **Evertt and Sarabelia Osceola**  
Sibling: (big sister) **Xiora**



Welcome new kid **Diamond Jean Osceola,** March 31, 2004 at 5:24 p.m., weighing 8 pounds and 12 ounces and 20 inches long. Proud parents are **Lila Osceola and Jose Rodriquez.**



To my precious daughter **Valerie Mae Frank** and her daughter **Jewel Alice,** who was born Saturday, April 10, 2004.

I wanted to share this with you, the evening Val was to be born and I was driving you Val to the hospital. I being the worrier, scared that something might go wrong. But of course I continued to tell myself everything would be just fine.

A bumper sticker on a vehicle in front of me caught my eye and I felt a sigh of relief, it read "**Relax, God is in control!**" and then I knew the message was sent for me. He truly blessed me with you Valerie, and our new Jewel.

Love you always,  
**Mom (Virginia Mitchell)**



On March 29, 2004, **Jay and Felicia Holata** became the proud parents of a baby girl, **Shyla Whitney Holata.** Born in Hollywood, she tipped the scale at 7 pounds, 6 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. Big sister **Taylor Elizabeth** is happy too; now she has a little sister to play with!

## Poems

### Only Time Will Tell

Only time will tell what the future may bring  
You could become president of the United States of just another dope fiend.  
When life is treating you great, many friends are all around  
When life is not so good, only a few can be found.  
Those few are the true meaning of the word friends  
Because whether you've been good or bad, they will be there till the end.  
Those that turned their back are the true meaning of the word parasite  
They are only there for the parties, not on the capers day or night  
Way before this scribe was written and places in the paper, I've been peeped who's real and who's not  
I've seen the fear in your eyes at the simple sight of a glock.  
Whether you're a law abiding citizen or the opposite, it's all good  
Because it really doesn't matter if you live in a gated community or the hood.  
We were all created equal, so get your mind right  
The table can easily be turned in a single night.  
The Great Spirit doesn't like ugly; be real to what you're down for  
Also, don't forget where you came from anymore.  
If you feel these words, I guess you know they are intended for you  
It's all about keepin it real with those that are true.  
Only time will tell who will be there till the end  
Peace out with this scribe is in the wind.

—Ike T. Harjo, Panther Clan

### Keep it Coming

Upon this day of awakening  
I rise and glance out my window  
To my surprise, it is beautiful this morning  
The birds are singing and the sun is shining  
The music is so loud, yet I am the only recipient of sound  
After years of silence, my joy has been found  
And now as she dances through my thoughts  
A smile appears upon my face  
And my new found smile takes me back  
To the essence of being a child  
Nothing can ruin what God has sent me  
Except self, but self won't bail  
Hear me testify as I solidly yell  
I offer my heart in return for your companionship  
Let us drink from this full cup of happiness  
And forever be intoxicated my love  
Lord please, just keep it coming

— Markell Billie

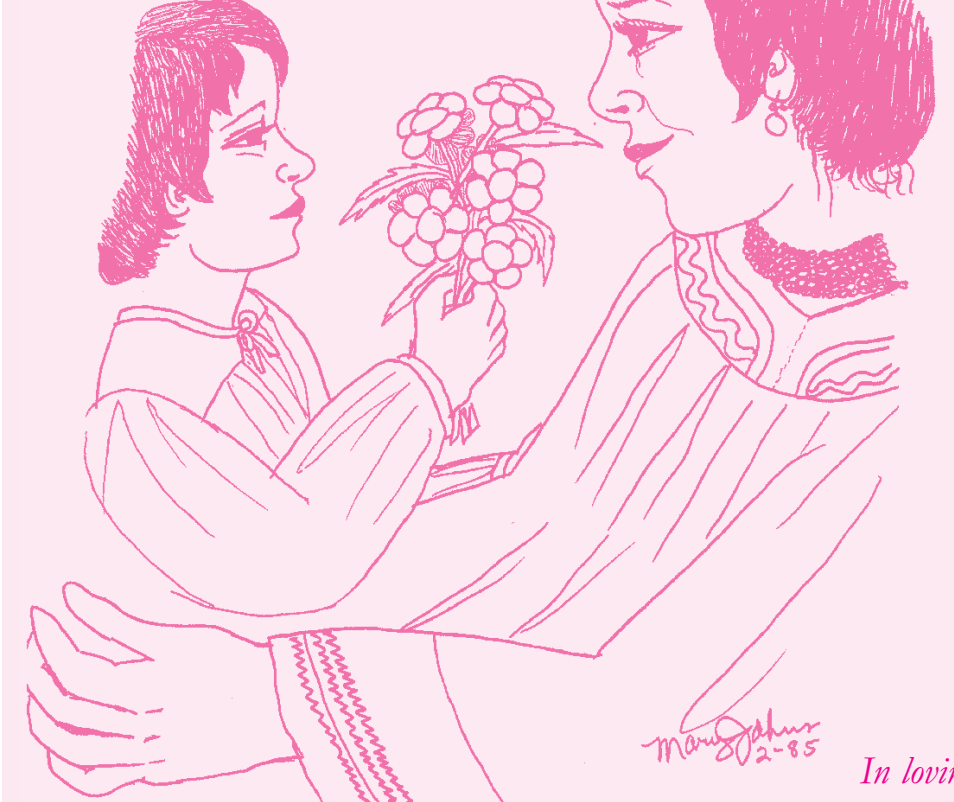
In a world of backstabbing vultures  
I will claim the guilt  
I agree to you that I am not normal  
And my vision isn't the same  
'Cause my ways have been blurred  
Still, I remain in the purist form  
Love me or hate me, it don't really matter  
Just as long as you acknowledge me  
Brother, family, whoever  
You are not as innocent as you think  
But the truth shall set you free

— Markell Billie

Dedicated to Blue Jay Jumper and Miss Lisa Bowers



*Moms appreciate every little thing you bring her.  
Chen wache eloshtemacha!  
Mother's Day is Sunday May 9.*



*Mary Johns  
2-85*





Photos by Stephen Galla

## ❖ Guitar

Continued from page 1

tars; most are between 30 to 35 feet in length."

The guitar is not only the largest, but also the heaviest, weighting in at a hefty seven tons.

Moore, who oversees almost all of the installations of the giant guitars, said that it generally takes six weeks to complete a Hard Rock guitar. They are constructed in Rochester, NY, and then shipped by truck. Because of its size, this one in particular was shipped on a flat bed truck.

The guitars come in four sections, including the neck of the guitar. A heavy duty

crane was used to lift the 20-plus foot guitar neck to the installer. Media crews, including NBC, FOX, and *The Miami Herald* were on hand to view the process.

"One aspect that many people don't know about is that each Hard Rock guitar is different," said Moore.

The guitar at the Tampa Hard Rock Hotel & Casino is no slouch, standing 42 feet tall, it is larger than an average Hard Rock guitar.

For those guitar enthusiasts, this guitar in particular follows the blueprint of the stylish Fender Stratocaster, made famous by guitarists, including Jimi Hendrix and Eric Clapton.



## ❖ SR 7

Continued from page 1

Kippenberger introduced tribal officials who spoke in turn about the project. Representing the tribe were President/Vice Chairman Moses Osceola, Hollywood Council Representative Max Osceola Jr., Brighton Council Representative Roger Smith, Tampa Liaison Richard Henry and Trail Liaison William Osceola. Also attending were General Council Jim Shore and Tribal Secretary Priscilla Sayen, as well as several tribal citizens.

Next was the ribbon cutting, which took place at the east end of Seminole Way and 441. The tribal officials, along with Hollywood Mayor Mara Giuliani, cut the ribbon.

Mayor Guilianti and Davie's Vice-Mayor Judy Paul expressed their gratitude in working with the tribe and offered their felicitations.

After lunch, all attendees were welcomed to take an impromptu tour of the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

To Susie Kippenberger and those who worked on this project you did an excellent job. If this is how the outside looks, one can only imagine how the inside will look!

**Left photo: Seminole Tribe of Florida President Moses Osceola (center) holds the commemorative scissors from the ribbon cutting ceremony on SR 7.**

**Right photo: Median separating two sides of newly-widened State Road 7.**

Photos by Stephen Galla







Youngsters line up for the Easter egg hunt.

Susan Etxebarría

## Easter Egg Hunt at Brighton Day Care Center

By Susan Etxebarría

**BRIGHTON** — Seeing a very large Easter Bunny with long floppy ears make its entrance to the playground at the Brighton Day Care Center sent dozens of little tykes into a tizzy.

They hugged and kissed its fat, furry cheek. “I love you, Easter bunny!” gushed one little girl and another asked “Can you hop?” and hop the bunny did. The Easter bunny (secretly Thommy Doud who works at the Hollywood preschool) would hop and hop all over the place and the children lined up behind him hopped, too. What a day for the excited children.

More than 600 eggs were hidden on the playground on Tuesday April 6, and 56 children, along with the helping hands and hints from parents, found nearly all of them.

Winners of the egg hunts received Wal-Mart gift certificates, \$25 for first place and \$15 for second place.

The winners were:  
Infants: 1. Cobie Jimmie; 2. Hyatt Brough  
One-year-olds: 1. Myron Billie; 2. Jacee

Jumper

Two-year-olds: 1. Aidan Tommie; 2. Malcolm Jones  
Three-and four-year-olds: 1. Trevor Thomas; 2. Rylle Smith and Janessa Smith



Susan Etxebarría

Easter bunny Thommy Doud at the Brighton Day Care Center entertained the children at the Easter egg hunt.



Susan Etxebarría

Brighton Day Care Center tykes chased the Easter bunny.

## Family Services Holds Easter Celebration

By Michael Kelly

**HOLLYWOOD** — On Wednesday April 7, the Family Services Department held an Easter celebration in front of the Health Department building, complete with an Easter egg hunt.

Staff Counselors Tony Roberts, Mark Lichtenberg, Jack Vancott, and Amber Giebtbrock were on hand to make sure the children enjoyed all the activities. There were games, art, lots of pizza and drinks, and of course, an Easter egg hunt.

Tony Roberts was especially pleased to see teenagers enjoying the festivities as well.

“It was good to see them here,” said

Roberts. “Sometimes it’s a challenge to get them to show up at these events, but as you can see, they’re having fun.”

One of the reasons Family Services offers events like this is to interact with the community they serve.

“It’s important for all of us to reach out to the community and be seen,” said Roberts.

As for the Easter egg hunt, Clarissa Jumper out-hustled the other children, winning the contest by collecting the most brightly colored eggs. Afterwards, each child received a fun bag of treats.

hugs. After each of the kids tried their hand, unsuccessfully, at the piñata, Mr. Cottontail hopped to the rescue. He dealt the final blow so all the kid-dies could scramble for the fallen candy.

Justin Davis, Marlo Garcia and Louise Billie were the attending parents and assisted with the Easter egg hunt. A game of pin-the-tail on the rabbit completed the festivities. Thank you to the parents for their party donations.

## Hollywood Preschool’s Easter Celebration

By Shelley Marmor

**HOLLYWOOD** — On Friday April 2, all classes from the Hollywood Preschool participated in an Easter party. The children ate pizza, Cheetos® and even egg-shaped cookies decorated with yellow icing and multi-colored sprinkles.

The preschool staff assisted the children and ensured that no one spilled any of their fruit punch. However, their assistance really came in handy when a life-sized Easter bunny hopped through the doors.

Most of the children were happy to see the white bunny, however, some of the younger ones were a little scared; a few even cried. Police Service Aide Jerome Williams from the Seminole Police Department wasted no time and picked some of the children up, working his magic to calm them down.

At about 3 p.m., however, the party was winding down. The Easter Bunny said goodbye to all the children and wished everyone a very Happy Easter.



Iretta Tiger

Easter bunny Thommy Doud entertains the Hollywood preschool-ers.

## Seniors Enjoy Easter Party

By Susan Etxebarría

**BRIGHTON** — Wearing an Easter bonnet with all the frills upon it is not the fashion fad it used to be, except at the Brighton Senior Center’s annual Easter Party hosted this year on Tuesday April 6.

Participants in the hat contest used their imagination to adorn a plain hat with all kinds of flowers, ribbons, and elaborate Easter decorations. Some hats were even perked up with bunny ears. Three impartial judges, Brenda Palmer, Tina Freeman and Barbara Vivrette of Lakeport decided which hats were the best with winners receiving cash prizes.

The winners in the women’s category were:

1. Happy Jones; 2. Agnes Bent; 3. Lottie Baxter; 4. Marty L. Johns; 5. Josephine Villa; 6. Rosie Billie.

The winners in the men’s category were:

1. Wonder Johns; 2. Billy Micco.

The hearty lunch consisted of excellent roast beef, flat green beans, and potatoes. After the meal, the seniors all gathered at the recreation center park where the Easter egg hunt took place. About 200 plastic eggs were hidden on the grass, in trees, on benches and even under a box.

The fun began as the seniors quickly moved out to find as many eggs as they could, especially looking for the numbered eggs that earned the finder prize money. The great part was every plastic egg was swapped back at the Senior Center for real colored hard boiled eggs the staff had prepared in advance for everyone to take home and enjoy.

The winners of cash prizes in the egg hunt were Billy Micco, Marty L. Johns, Dan Bowers, Wonder Johns, Jack Micco, Sammy Gopher and Josephine Villa.

The Vicki Center Director Vicki Huff, and the staff consisting of Leah Minnick, Patty Yates, Linda Beard and Carolyn Johns, should be congratulated for organizing a splendid party and fantastic luncheon.



Susan Etxebarría

Happy Johns proudly wears her Easter bonnet.



Susan Etxebarría

(L-R) Agnes Bowers and Jack Smith Jr. search for Easter eggs at Brighton Senior Center.

## Immokalee Preschool’s Easter Party

By Judy Weeks

**IMMOKALEE** — On Friday April 2, the Immokalee Preschool held an Easter egg hunt and party for the students. The center manager, Michelle Ford was assisted by Ms. Bay, Ms. Tracy, Ms. Ruby and Ms. Juanita.

Many thanks to Thommy Doud, from the Hollywood Preschool, for bringing Mr. Peter Cottontail for a visit. He hopped around with the children, posed for pictures and gave numerous

hugs. After each of the kids tried their hand, unsuccessfully, at the piñata, Mr. Cottontail hopped to the rescue. He dealt the final blow so all the kid-dies could scramble for the fallen candy.

Justin Davis, Marlo Garcia and Louise Billie were the attending parents and assisted with the Easter egg hunt. A game of pin-the-tail on the rabbit completed the festivities. Thank you to the parents for their party donations.

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# Moses ‘Bigg Shot’ Jumper: Thirty Years of Commitment

**By Kenny Bayon, C.Ft**

Moses Jumper Jr. remembers the challenges of his job when he first started working as Hollywood Seminole Recreation Director back in 1974. He had no office, no personal phone extension, no gym, and almost no budget.

But what Jumper did have was a sports background that included playing high, high school, college and semi-pro levels; a degree in physical education that included courses in recreation, health, and physical education, a love for kids, and perhaps most importantly, a desire to serve the Seminole Tribe as best he could.

That combination of jumper, knowledge, values and passion has guided Jumper, AKA ‘Bigg Shot,’ through 30-plus years as recreation director, helping lead the department from its struggling infancy into one of the most successful and cherished cornerstones of tribal life today.

Jumper, 54, has no thoughts of retiring anytime soon. And who can blame him for wanting to continue to guide the ship that he helped start? Nowadays, instead of worrying about one-time issues such as affording new toys or building adequate practice and workout areas, he steers a steady and robust stream of funds into an assortment of sports programs and facilities.

“The program has been blessed to have the support of so many people: community members, council and board members, area coaches, and Tribal chairmen,” Jumper said. “Over the years, the recreation department has grown into a first-rate program that involves a budget that is the envy of Native American programs throughout America.”

Wow, how times have changed for the better since Bigg Shot took charge!

But one of the reasons for the program’s success is that Jumper hasn’t forgotten the struggles—financial and other, he witnessed in the recent past.

Jumper grew up on the Hollywood reservation in the late 1950s and 1960s, playing and excelling in an assortment of sports, despite no organized tribal athletic program. Much of his exposure to athletics before attending MacArthur High School came from Bureau of Indians Affairs employees, who would travel to the reservation to demonstrate and coach different sports during the summer.

The tribe’s first recreation-only building was built sometime during his youth, and appropriately enough, it was simply called the Rec Hall—or “Wreck Hall,” said Jumper, “because that’s what it literally was.”

Sadly, Jumper recalls, at the end of each summer the original Rec Hall and other similar structures were often broken into and vandalized, while the equipment inside was either stolen or destroyed.

“This would happen every year, and every year the buildings would be rebuilt or re-furnished, and new equipment would be purchased,” Jumper said. “The Rec Hall would sometimes be turned into a snack bar until new equipment was bought and the hall would open again for a while.”

After graduating from Haskell Indian Nations University, in Lawrence, Kan., where he majored in physical education and played varsity football, Jumper wanted to work with cattle, but didn’t land a coveted job. Perhaps fate was on his side, because soon thereafter, Tribal Chairman Howard Tommie, Tribal Human Resource Director Mike Tiger, and Tribal Coordinator Bert Jones—all yearning for a permanent and respected recreation program in Hollywood, approached him about creating and heading it.

“Sports and recreation were my passion,” Jumper said. “Sports kept me in school and helped me get to college. I knew I had to keep my grades up so that I could compete.”

Upon taking the helm, Jumper immersed himself in his job: organizing tournaments, introducing new sports and activities (which now includes such diverse events as rodeo and ATV riding), planning new facilities, coaching an assortment of teams and hiring his assistant directors. His passion and dedication, especially for working with kids, soon made him one of the most recognizable and respected Hollywood tribal figures, and after just a few years his program expanded to the Big Cypress and Brighton reservations as well.

Now the nickname “Bigg Shot” is synonymous with tribal recreation throughout South Florida.

“He is very knowledgeable in all aspects of life, which makes it easy to communicate with him,” said Hollywood Field Supervisor Kenny Descheene, who has worked with Jumper for 24 years. “He has values in life and will lead you in the right direction whether you like it or not. He’s very persistent in all that he does. He learned his leadership through athletics and family. An example is that he enforces the youth to wear protective gear when they are in a rodeo, when back in the day no one really worried about it.”

“He has been here through the good and bad, and has a relentless drive to keep the recreation department moving forward and bettering itself,” Descheene continued.

Mike Tiger, Seminole Tribal Treasurer, has been equally impressed with Jumper’s leadership abilities.

“He has the will to excel and win, pushing and getting the best out of everyone,” Tiger said. “He has a keen ability to find and hire good quality workers.”

As he surrounds himself with a great staff in the event that he does decide to retire, he should feel comfortable knowing that the program will continue to strive in a manner of excellence it which it was created.

“Thirty years is a long time, some would say,” Jumper said. “Maybe so, but then again, if you love what you do and love the young people you work with, the challenge will always be there. This is my calling, and I’ll leave it in the hands of the creator.”

I sat down with Moses “Bigg Shot” Jumper one day to get some answers everyone wants to know.

**Kenny Bayon: Firstly, how’d you get your nickname?**

Moses “Bigg Shot” Jumper Jr.: My mother said I was born a 9-pound, 10-ounce baby (on Jan. 4, 1950, in Ft. Lauderdale.) The doctor said I was a “big shot” of a baby.

**KB: What was your involvement with the tribe while growing up?**

MJ: I started to play baseball when I was about 8 years old, when my uncle, Howard Tiger, had a little league team. I started football at 10-years-old; encouraged by another sports mentor, Henry Nelson. I was also very active when the reservations had track and field days. We would travel to the other rezes to compete, and I enjoyed that.

**KB: Which family members influenced you the most while you were growing up?**

MJ: My biggest influence was my uncle, Howard



Moses ‘Bigg Shot’ Jumper: “The young are our greatest asset. They are the future. They are the leaders of tomorrow.”

Tiger. He was the first tribal member that influenced the youth and organized sports though the tribe. Also, my grandma and mother were always there to support me any possible way, from driving my cousins and me to the ballgames to helping raise money for uniforms.

**KB: What are the most rewarding aspects of your job?**

MJ: Some of the most fulfilling experiences are watching kids grow, seeing them hanging out at the gym as gym rats and watching them grow to be productive human beings. To watch how our program has grown; to see people succeed though athletics. Successful people such as Max Osceola Jr., Mike Tiger, David Cypress, Paul Bowers, Roger and Johnnie Jones to name a few. They were all great athletes as well as great leaders. The young are our greatest asset. They are the future. They are the leaders of tomorrow.

**KB: Describe how your job duties have changed during the last 30 years.**

MJ: We now have a much larger budget to work with than when I first started, so I’m really able to expand and improve the program.

**KB: Describe the positive changes you’ve seen within the Seminole Tribe during the last 30 years, especially from a recreational standpoint.**

MJ: We’re very fortunate to have more to offer than ever before in all areas of activities. But everyone is not using what’s available to its fullest extent and taking advantage of it. Also, the tribe is starting to produce some top-tier prep athletes such as Keith Mitchell, a state wrestling champion from Brandon. As well as National Champions in other sports throughout the Native country.

**KB: Talk about some of the challenges that the recreation department is facing.**

MJ: Drugs and alcohol are a problem that our youth is facing and that we as a tribe are dealing with. The gym, ball fields and rec area are places where our young people spend a large portion of their young lives. So, I guess the low points of my work is watching the few who get caught up in the whirlwind of drugs and alcohol, and lose their lives so early. It’s a challenge to keep them doing other things, such as sports.

**KB: Describe your proudest moment on the job?**

MJ: To see our young men and women who have grown up in our program taking their place as responsible citizens and crazies within the tribe

**KB: Share a funny, crazy or just plain entertaining on-the-job stories or memories.**

MJ: Many years ago, the tribe’s basketball team was playing in the championship game against an all-black church team in a church league. It was the final seconds, and I was driving toward the basket for a lay-up. The opponent fouled me from behind and threw me into the padded wall. When I turned around, I went right after him. As he and I exchanged words, I got hit from behind. As I turned to see who it was, it ended up being the guy’s mother hitting me with her purse. I could only turn around and laugh. After the fact, there was a full-scale brawl.

Hollywood gym director Kenny Descheene had his own amusing story to tell about Jumper: We went fishing years ago in a tournament game in Big Cypress. While he was working his top water lure, an owl flew down and grabbed it, and the next thing you know he was fighting an owl with a fishing pole in the air. He finally got the owl to the ground long enough to pull it from his claws. Afterward, he was all marked up from the battle with the owl.

**KB: What do you do with your spare time?**

MJ: I do speaking engagements. I relax, meditate, and read. I do reenactments of Seminole war history throughout the state; to show young people what life was like before. I go to work on my pasture. I still work on my cattle and horses. I still play basketball and softball, and compete nationally in rodeo roping.

(He teamed up with his son, Happy, to take third place in a team roping competition at the Labelle Rodeo.)

**KB: What positive changes or trends or challenges do you foresee for tribal recreation in the future?**

MJ: I foresee recreation setting on a solid ground-work. The interest in the kids is getting positive in our own programs. The availability of programs is at its height; it’s there to utilize. We have the staff that does a great job.

**KB: Anything you’d especially like to accomplish in the recreation department before you eventually retire?**

MJ: Somehow, to build a full-scale state-of-the-art facility here in Hollywood; to have one of the best gyms in the country and to continue to influence our young to take up sports activity for health and character, for they to will someday be the leaders of tomorrow.

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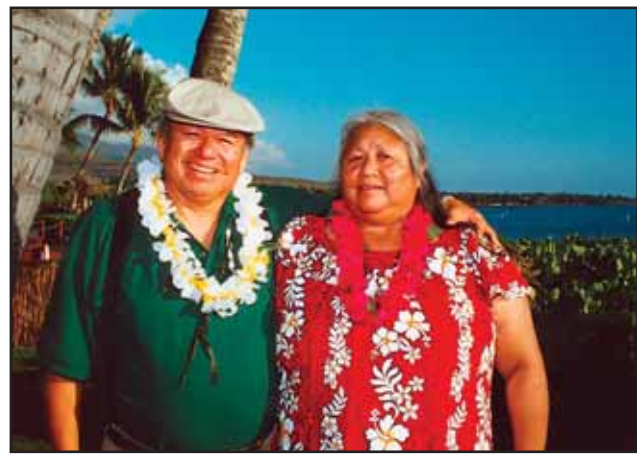
(L-R) Billy Cypress and Jimmy O'Toole Osceola.



Carol and Billy Cypress.



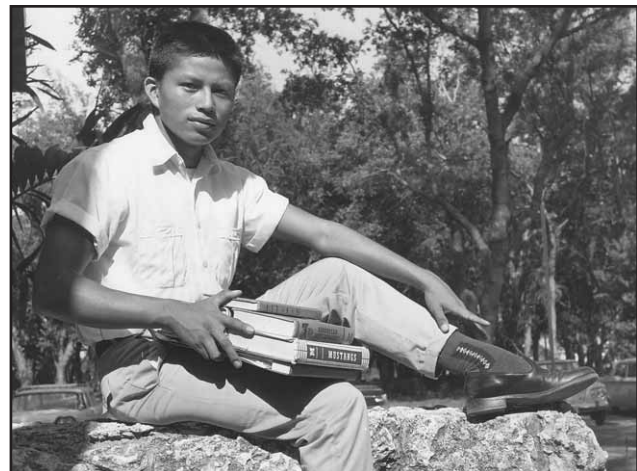
Billy the Viking.



Billy and Carol enjoying Hawaii.



Billy and his daughter Sonya Ruby Cypress.



Billy Cypress as a school boy.



Okeechobee Battlefield Re-enactment 2004.



(L-R) Billy Cypress, Auston Mott and Lee Tiger at London World Travel Market in 1997.



# Billy Cypress Remembered

By Iretta Tiger  
**HOLLYWOOD** — On Monday April 12, the Seminole Tribe of Florida lost a beloved citizen, Billy L. Cypress, Bear clan. He was born in Tamiami Trail and lived on the Hollywood reservation for many years. His life was dedicated to education; he started working for the tribe teaching at Head Start in Big Cypress.

Cypress served two years in the U.S. Army as a combat platoon leader. He then returned to teaching in Florida public schools for three years. In 1971, he began working for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) as an education specialist. After 18 years, he retired from the BIA and came back to the tribe.

In 1989, Cypress became the Executive Director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. The museum is a reflection of his dedication to preserving and promoting Seminole culture.

In the Commemorative Issue of *The Seminole Tribune* for the grand opening of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, Cypress expressed his diligence for the museum.

“One of the reasons why we have a museum is that people have done a lot of history about us, museums all over Florida and elsewhere,” Cypress said. “They’ve done shows on us; they’ve had some really great exhibits. But this museum here is our own and we’re doing it. Of course, it’s not all Seminoles. We do have some non-Indian professionals to help us. But we try to do it from our perspective, telling our story. We don’t always succeed, but that’s always our intent—to show that we the Seminoles, this is our story. This is what we were, and this is how we are, and this is why we are here today and what we’re doing.”

His love for the tribe did not go unnoticed. The following two articles detail awards he received.



## Cypress Wins Distinguished Alumnus Award

*Editor’s note This article is a re-print. It first eared in the April 14, 2000 issue.*  
**WINTER PARK, FL** — William ‘Billy’ Lawrence Cypress, Executive Director of the Seminole Tribe’s Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum was recently honored with the distinguished Alumnus Award from Stetson University (SU).

Cypress was born in the Florida everglades in 1943, lived most of his pre-teens youth in a Seminole village and did not speak English until he was five. He attended a reservation school in Dania and graduated from McArthur High School, where he was voted most likely to succeed.

Billy entered Stetson University in 1961. He won a full, four-year scholarship to SU. As an undergraduate, he excelled in athletics as a runner, and also as a Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) cadet leader. An English major, his leadership abilities were recognized as a Stetson student when he was tapped for membership in the Omicron Delta Kappa leadership fraternity and the Scabbard and Blade ROTC leadership society. Billy also became the first Florida Seminole Indian in history to graduate from college and to receive a commission as a U.S. Army officer.

Following his undergraduate degree, Billy served two years of active duty in the U.S. Army and earned a master’s degree at Arizona State University. He then became an education specialist with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. During his 18 year career with the BIA, he spent five years in Washington DC, as an education specialist with the bureau.

Billy and his family are now back in their beloved Florida, where Billy is currently serving as the Chief Administrator for the Seminole Tribal Museum Authority. The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is a shining example of William L. Cypress’ ability to lead and to serve, and he is a great source of pride for the Seminole people and for Stetson University.

Cypress also hosted the television program *Seminole Adventures*. The show focused on Seminole culture and included interviews with various tribal citizens.

His love for education and preservation extended beyond the Seminole tribe. He was also on the board of directors for the “Keepers of the Treasures”, an organization committed to preserving Native American culture and heritage.

## Billy Cypress Receives Honor from Smithsonian American Indian Museum

*Editor’s note This article is a re-print. It first eared in the June 24, 1994 issue.*  
When the \$106 million National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) is built in Washington DC, the Seminole Tribe of Florida will have a direct connection with this important project.

Last month, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum director Billy Cypress was notified of the appointment to the Board of Trustees of the museum, which will be a part of the Smithsonian Institution on the National Mall.

Billy received official notice of his appointment in a letter from Norbert Hill, Jr.,

Chairman of the NMAI Board of Trustees. In part the letter stated:

“Your experience, knowledge—and dedication to American Indian people were key factors in your selection. I am confident that you will make an important contribution to help achieve our goal of creating a museum to celebrate and honor Indians of the Americas.”

In addition to the comprehensive museum in Washington, a smaller exhibition facility will open this fall at the Alexander Hamilton Custom House in Manhattan, along with a collections research center in Suidand, Maryland.

Congratulations Billy!!!



Billy and Carol on their wedding day.



(L-R) Billy, Colton, Aaron, Rebecca and Carol.



Billy and Carol with their children and grandchildren.



At the Tallahassee Civic Center, Ah-tha-thi-ki Museum director Billy Cypress and administrative assistant Charles Hires manned a colorful “Broward Days” booth.

The Seminole Tribune, March 27, 1991 issue.



It was a gala night of posing and posturing at USET’s reception. L-r-Miss NCIA, Billy Cypress, Jimmy Bert (Miccosukee), Miss Indian USA and Mitchell Cypress.

The Seminole Tribune, March 13, 1991 issue.