



The SEMINOLE TRIBUNE

"Voice of the Unconquered"

50¢

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Hawaiian Senator, Tribal Leaders Attend Economic Conference

Tribe also honors Senator Daniel K. Inouye at evening reception

By Shelley Marmor
HOLLYWOOD — Leaders from Indian nations including Seminole, Miccosukee and Choctaw, attended the Tribal Leaders Economic Forum on Transforming Tribal Economic Success into Long-Term Economic Safety conference at the Hard Rock. The two-day gathering took place March 21–22.

On the first day of the conference Senator Daniel K. Inouye (D-HI) also attended. Event emcee and Executive Director of the American Indian Resources Institute Richard Trudell told the crowd that they are lucky to have Inouye attend. Trudell explained that the senator can't usually attend conferences since he is so busy with senatorial duties all year. The

senate is however, currently in recess, making Inouye's visit possible. Inouye began his speech commending the Seminole Tribe, saying Seminoles have "a story of persistence... a story of success." He also mentioned that the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. is the most visited of all Smithsonian museums on the Mall. Then the tone of his speech turned serious. Inouye said though many Tribes are enjoying gaming revenue from casinos he argued that it is not enough.

Inouye said he estimates only about 10 percent of Tribes that own and operate casinos are actually profiting; some of the factors for this include previous debt and corrupt business practices from outside sources. "Even with all these stories of success we still find in Indian Country the highest rate of suicide, the highest rate of dropout among our youth," Inouye said. "We should not stop at the casinos and feel that we have succeeded."



❖ See INOUE, page 3 (L-R) Senator Inouye and the Chairman. Shelley Marmor

Naples Youngster Shows Her Competitive Side



Kaitlin Billy David Billy

Submitted by David Billy
PORT CHARLOTTE, FL — On March 13, Tribal citizen Kaitlin Billy competed in the third annual gymnastics qualifier at the Horizon Gymnastics & Dance Studio. A Level 5 elite gymnast, Billy competed against 19 other Level 5 gymnasts from throughout Florida to qualify for the state championships. On the balance beam, her first event, she scored a 9.2. This placed her in fourth. On the floor exercises she scored an 8.45, an 8.85 on the uneven bars and a 9.05 on vault. Her finish on the vault also qualified her for a fourth place finish. Billy's all-around score was 35.55, which put her in fifth place overall out of the other 19 Level 5 competitors.

March Council Meeting

By Iretta Tiger
HOLLYWOOD — On March 28, the Tribal Council held a regular meeting in the Hollywood tribal auditorium. Representatives from the Stranahan House were allowed a five minute presentation before items on the agendas were discussed. The Stranahan House is a historic site in Ft. Lauderdale that, in the early parts of the 20th Century, served as a trading post, bank, town hall and post office. Today it is a museum. Jim Blosser from the Stranahan House talked about the relationship between the Seminole Tribe and Stranahan House. Blosser highlighted the Tribe's commitment in preserving Stranahan House and of the Tribe's promised contribution towards a park adjacent to Stranahan House. Before anything could be done to create the park, the city of Ft. Lauderdale will allow the construction of a 38-story condominium. Stranahan House is seeking any support the Tribe can offer in the effort to stop the construction and preserve

❖ See COUNCIL, page 5



Annie Cypress Joe helps keep the BC community nice and clean. Adelsa Williams

PAC II Committee Hosts Community Clean Up

By Adelsa Williams
BIG CYPRESS — In the early morning hours of March 26, Big Cypress community residents met for a community clean up project. The event was coordinated by the Big Cypress Parent Advisory Committee II (PAC). The clean up route started at the baseball field on Josie Billie

Highway and ran through the reservation along Horse Shoe Road and Eloise Drive and ended back at the starting point. Committee members, parents, and children of all ages geared up with rubber gloves and walked through the

❖ See CLEAN UP, page 12

Brighton's Miss Seminole is a Positive Peer

BRIGHTON — On Feb. 17, the Brighton reservation was honored to crown Stephanie Smith as their new Princess for 2005–2006. She is the daughter of Camellia Osceola and Charlie Tiger. Smith is in the ninth grade at Okeechobee Freshman Campus. After school, Stephanie enjoys playing basketball, volleyball and writing poems. Smith said she would like to attend college on a sports scholarship and adds that she is a good team meat and loves the thrill of a good game. She would like to encourage Seminole youth, "to take school serious because you only do it once. Do something you and your family can be proud of. Don't let anyone or anything get in the way of you or your goals and encourage other to do the same." Smith stayed true to



Smith (left) gets crowned by Jennifer Chalfant. Emma Brown



Stephanie Smith Emma Brown

her advice by earning the title of Miss Brighton. It took a great deal of commitment and courage to go on stage and conquer her fears and ultimately take home the title. Smith is a lovely young lady who will be someone for her peers to look up to, and Brighton is lucky to have her representing them. She said her inspiration has been her big brother, Jarrid Smith, because he completed high school without drugs getting in the way, and is now playing college football for Florida Atlantic University and following through with what he loves. Smith said she hopes to follow in her brother's footsteps and stay on a positive path. Congratulations Stephanie Smith on winning the title of Brighton Miss and for being a leader in your community.

Seniors Congregate for Easter Celebration

By Nery Mejicano
BIG CYPRESS — The sun shone over hundreds of colorful eggs spread across the Big Cypress ball field. When the time for the seniors to hunt eggs came, the field was stripped clean of eggs faster than the staff could hide them. Some records were broken as Annie Osceola picked up more than 90 eggs. After the egg hunt, the seniors congregated at the Senior Center, where they counted their loot and got some prizes for the most eggs gathered. A contest was held to determine who the cutest Easter bunny in the group was. Several bunnies hopped to the chance and their fluffy ears perked up at the opportunity to be number one. Several female elder bunnies participated and danced and hopped, attempting to get the audience applause. First place went to Violet Jim, with Louise Billie a close second. Third place went to Mabel Frank and a fourth was given to Esther Buster. The male senior bunnies failed to bring their bunny ears and outfits and after encouragement from the audience, ears were borrowed and several contestants entered. Again, the bunnies showed their stuff and had the house laughing. First place senior bunny went to George Billie, second place went to Tommy Billie with a third being given to Pilot Billie. As always, the Senior Center staff provided a wonderful meal and the seniors had a really good time.



The Big Cypress seniors (L-R) Esther Buster, Louise Billie, Peter Cottontail, Louise Osceola and Mabel Frank put on their finest bunny wear to celebrate the Easter holiday. Nery Mejicano



I'm from the Otter Clan, who am I? See the next issue of the *Tribune* to find out.

2005 Seminole Tribal Calendar

The new 2005 Seminole tribal calendar is almost here! This year's theme is "Honoring Our Preschool Graduates" and showcases the 2003-2004 tribal preschool graduates. In past calendars, Seminole elders, both men and women, were prominently featured.

The calendar is free to all tribal members and can be picked up at the communications department located on the second floor at the main tribal office. Those interested in purchasing the calendar for \$10 should call *The Seminole Tribune* at (954) 967-3416, or visit the Seminole Tribe of Florida's website at www.seminoletribe.com and click on Marketplace.

Have suggestions for the 2006 tribal calendar? We would love to hear everyone's input for next year's calendar.

Please e-mail suggestions to Assistant Editor Shelley Marmor at SMarmor@semtribe.com or call (954) 966-6300, Ext. 1265 or Editor-In-Chief Virginia Mitchell at VMitchell@semtribe.com or call her at (954) 966-6300, Ext. 1260.



Tribal citizens can obtain a complimentary calendar at the chairman's office on their respective reservation.

Third 'Protecting Our Future' March

By Eric Bricker, Family Services Department

HOLLYWOOD — For the third month in a row, the "Protecting Our Future" march sends a strong message of prevention to the Hollywood Tribal community. This is due in large part to the collaboration and commitment of the event organizers including Tribal citizens Yvonne Courtney, Vivian Delgado and Donna Turtle, along with the Family Services department, Recreation department, Culture Department and Hollywood Council Representative Max B. Osceola Jr.

As had been the case in February, dark and ominous storm clouds loomed in the distance, but the threat of rain did nothing to dampen the spirits of the participants. The marchers gathered by the entrance of the Hollywood reservation baseball field and waited as the Seminole Police Department blocked off the rush hour traffic on 64th Ave.

The crowd was filled with smiling faces as the marchers joked and kidded with each other about one thing or another. It was evident that a certain bond had been built among this group. Perhaps it was their unified desire for a sober and better way of life for the younger Tribal citizens for whom everyone marched. Recently, this movement has appeared to catch fire as

prevention related programs are coming to life throughout the Tribe. Some examples include the recently opened Boys & Girls Club on the Hollywood reservation, or the "Spring Youth Block Party" in Immokalee. In Brighton, Family Services and 4-H will be hosting a prevention skateboard workshop in early-April. The Allied Health department consistently offers and promotes health education on all reservations. The Seminole Police Department also offers various classes on topics including preventing sexual assault, a statewide victim notification program and many others.

There has been a great deal of collaboration between departments, and participation from Tribal citizens, which has really been the cornerstone of these successes. This is reflected in the willingness of the many people who are getting involved. It is both refreshing and inspiring.

On April 11, at the Old Hot Meals building on the Hollywood Reservation, the Family Services and Allied Health department will be sponsoring their monthly Healing Class. This month's class will be about awareness of street drugs. Dinner will be served.

Also, look for our fliers for April's Protecting Our Future march. Rain or shine, we're going to be out there again, and we are looking forward to your participation.



Mark Lichtenberg

Marchers (L-R) Wanda Bowers, Basil Phillips, Yvonne Courtney and Christine McCall represent their reservation proudly.

Citizens Host Culture Class at DSO

By Virginia Mitchell

HOLLYWOOD — On March 31 several Tribal citizens gathered to get a one-on-one demonstration on traditional women's cape preparation.

A special thank you goes to Ms. Betty Osceola of the Hollywood community for taking time out from her schedule to spend most of the morning with us. She also assisted with were the traditional men's casual short sleeve shirt demonstration.

Alex Tommie proudly showed off her first time making a short skirt for her daughter. For her next project she made a matching short sleeve shirt for her son with the same material and patchwork as skirt.

Virginia Osceola spent the day at the class assisting daughter Mercedes Osceola with making her cape.

Thank you to Donna Turtle for the lunch she prepared for us all.



Virginia Mitchell

(L-R) Virginia and Mercedes Osceola.



Virginia Mitchell

Betty Osceola (left) demonstrates sewing.

Letters & E-mail

Please send all letters to 6300 Stirling Road, Hollywood, FL 33024 ♦ tribune@semtribe.com

Attention Tribal Citizens

All **tribal citizens** of **The Seminole Tribe of Florida** who live **out of state** are eligible to receive a **free** subscription of *The Seminole Tribune*. Please fill out the information below and mail to:

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6300 Stirling Road, Room 235 - Hollywood, FL 33024

Name _____

Tribal Roll Number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Additional Info _____

As soon as we receive this information, your subscription will be mailed to you. Thank you very much.

The Seminole Tribune

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

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Editor-In-Chief: Virginia Mitchell
Assistant Editor: Shelley Marmor
Proofreader: Iretta Tiger, Elrod Bowers
Business Manager: Darline Buster
Graphic Designer: Melissa Sherman

Graphic Design Assistant: Stephen Galla
Reporters: Iretta Tiger, Adelsa Williams
Photo Archivist: Felix DoBosz
Receptionist: Sherry Maraj

Contributors: Jaime Restrepo, Emma Brown, Judy Weeks, Kenny Bayon, Gary Bitner, Nery Mejicano, Susan Etxebarria, Janice Billie

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An open letter to all my elders and all my people,

I am writing this letter to express my gratitude and appreciation for the blessings that the Seminoles have given me.

I am not known to many and until recently I was unaware myself that I am Seminole. The acceptance shown to me is something I have never experienced before.

Having spent my entire life being taught Western values, knowledge and morals I was a man stuck between what I did not want and what I would never be. Please do not think I am attempting to shift blame or responsibility for my actions. Simply put I did not care so I lived for the moment because I knew no better and wanted nothing more.

I am not looking for sympathy or anything at all for that matter. I just want everyone who cares to know that I am not anything more or less than I am.

In closing I would like to use the only Seminole word I know, but what I think says it all: Sho-Na-Bish. Thank you for your love and for my life, both of which I give to all Seminoles.

With much regard, respect and love,

I remain,
Arthur Rory Thompson

Dear Editor,

I have recently relocated here to your beautiful state of Florida from the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. I am in desperate need of health services and am currently trying to contact the I.H.S. there on your reservation.

It would be of great help if you could send me a phone number or e-mail address as to where I may contact someone to check on these services. And an address as to where your health clinic is located would be wonderful. I tried to find other medical services today and could not find a provider because of the lack of finances. Any assistance you could provide in this manner would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,
Conrad Eagle Feather

Mr. Eagle Feather,
Thank you for your recent inquiry. The Seminole Tribe of Florida operates Health Clinics at the Hollywood, Big Cypress, and Brighton Reservations. If you will contact me at (954) 962-2009, Ext. 142, I will be happy to discuss with you the health services that we offer and the eligibility requirements.

Sincerely,
Kathy Wilson
Eligibility and Utilization
Services Program Manager
Computer Site Manager

Dear Editor,

Hello, my name is Lynne Dodge

and I am a Girl Scout leader in Palm Harbor, Fla. Our neighborhood district in Girl Scouts is having an encampment for 120 young girl scouts and the theme is Native American. We would be interested in having a dance demonstration on Friday March 4 at the Girl Scout camp in Palm Harbor around 7:30-8 p.m.

If this is something you can help us with, I would appreciate if you can call me and we can discuss this event further.

Thank you for reading this e-mail,

Lynne Dodge

Dear Ms. Dodge,

Sorry, but we do not have the resources to help your troop, especially with the short notice. The fee for stomp dancers is quite expensive and it takes some planning on our part to budget for it.

Sorry,
Tina Osceola
Executive Director
Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Dear Editor,

You don't have information about your religion on your website. Can you tell me why? I am a student from South America studying religion. Please, can you inform me about yours?

Thanks a lot,
Vilma Puente

Dear Ms. Puente,

We do not discuss or represent our religion to the non-tribal public. A small representation of our culture and heritage can be viewed at our museum on the Big Cypress Indian reservation.

Sincerely,
Tina Osceola
Executive Director
Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Dear Editor,

I am a member of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. I am planning a wedding for May and wanting to know what is the traditional dress of a Seminole Wedding and ceremony. Any information you have or where I could find the information would be appreciated.

Thank you for your time,
Patricia Buckley
Seminole/Creek
Deer Clan

Dear Ms. Buckley,

The Seminole culture does not provide for special dress for marriage ceremonies.

Thank you for your interest,
Tina M. Osceola
Executive Director
Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Dear Editor,

Hi, my name is David Tucker. I am a graduate of the Savannah College of

Art and Design. I am researching for a story that I am writing. I have been working on this project for years now and I am dedicated to see it through.

My problem is I need to speak with someone who is serious about helping me research. I have tried to gather information in history books and I have also been researching Native American myths and legends. History books don't give very much detail in the way the Indians lived or interacted. I need help. I have tried to gather information from sources in Native American Chat rooms.

I am very serious about this story. I have even contacted a Native American actor Wes Studi's production company. They are interested in seeing my story when I am finished, but I have a lot of work to do.

I would love to meet with anyone who can help me. I want to get to know some Native American people here locally. I have met wanderers here and there but I need reliable sources. I am gathering details for my story.

I will share more of my personal thoughts as soon as someone contacts me. Here are two of my e-mail addresses: dtucker@lsijax.com and mtjds@hotmail.com. I want to sit with wisdom; I don't just want to chat. This is very serious to me. I thank you for your time.

Respectfully,
David Tucker

Dear Mr. Tucker,

Unfortunately, we do not have the staff to dedicate to your project. We have a library and an extensive archive, so if you would like to make an appointment to do your own research you may call (239) 902-1113.

We do not make it a practice to do research for film companies or screenwriters. Good luck in your search.

Sincerely,
Tina Osceola
Executive Director
Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Photo Quiz Answer



Joe Bowers

Annual Cattle Drive Stops Traffic



Trail boss Esther Buster (right) and the Chuck Wagon operator.

This year's event honored past female cattle owners

By Iretta Tiger
BIG CYPRESS — On a beautiful, cool Saturday morning the swamp came alive to smell and sounds of cattle. Why were there cattle in the swamp? On March 19, the Cattlemen's Association held its Ninth Annual Junior Cypress Rodeo and Cattle Drive. This year the cattle drive was a "Tribute to three generations of women cattle owners."

Ester Buster, granddaughter of Junior Cypress, was the honorary trail boss.
The cattle drive started three miles south of Billie Swamp Safari on West Boundary Road and began at 10 a.m. At noon, the cattle drive took a break for lunch.
Several tribal officials joined the cattle drive, including Chairman Mitchell Cypress and President Moses Osceola. Many other Seminole Tribal citizens also participated.

"We do this to remind ourselves where we come from," said co-organizer Richard Bowers Jr.
Bowers then introduced two of the four women for whom the cattle drive is dedicated to. The first was Ester Buster, honorary trail boss.
Bowers then asked Moses Jumper to introduce his mother Betty Mae Jumper. She shared her memories of growing up around cattle. Moses Jumper Jr. next read a poem he wrote in honor of the cattlemen past and present.
Chairman Cypress expressed his appreciation of Jumper and told of a time when she helped him to find clarity.

"Betty Mae is a legend within the Seminole Tribe," said Cypress. "She's a very special person."
The two other women who were honored were Agnes Cypress and Mabel Frank. Both were not present at the cattle drive.
The second half of the cattle drive went through the main street of the reservation and down Josie Billie Highway. The drive ended at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena, where everyone enjoyed a barbecue dinner followed by a rodeo that everyone enjoyed well into the evening.
If you wish to participate in next year's cattle drive, contact Big Cypress Cattle and Range at (863) 983-4141.



Trail boss Esther Buster (left) leads the cowboys.



Cattle Drive participants make their way past the Ahfachkee School.

❖ Inouye

Continued from page 1

Though it is a tough undertaking to come up with a solution to a problem, such as the one Inouye says faces Indian Country, he did offer a starting off point. He suggested placing a heavy amount of emphasis on tomorrow's leaders—the youth of today. Inouye suggested forming a committee or think tank of Indian youth that will solely discuss going beyond casinos for Tribal revenue.
"It's a big challenge ahead of us," he said. "I don't know what's ahead of us, but I'd rather try and fail than not try."
Inouye, however, assured the Tribal leaders at the conference that "I'm ready to join; you just tell me when." Trudell expressed confidence in Inouye's commitment to Tribal economic development and said the senator has "always been there for us."
Following his speech, the senator left quickly to get some rest before he had to attend a reception in his honor hosted by the Tribe. He said he toured various Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. business ventures and encouraged all conference

attendees to do the same. The Tribe offered an optional tour to interested persons on March 23, the day after the conference.
The evening reception that took place in the Hard Rock ballroom was attended by the members of the Tribal Council and Board and Miccosukee Chairman Billy Cypress. Chairman Mitchell Cypress and President Moses B. Osceola presented Inouye with a Seminole jacket and Hollywood Council Representative Max B. Osceola Jr. and Hollywood Board Representative David DeHass presented him with a Hard Rock Hotel & Casino guitar. Miss Indian Nations Bobbi Rae Sage also sung a traditional song in the senator's honor.
"I am deeply honored by your demonstrations of friendship," Inouye said. "'Aloha' means 'I love you all.' To all of you, I love you."
Himself a WWII veteran, Inouye also took the time to recognize Native American war veterans. Inouye said of all demographic groups in the U.S. at the time more Indians per capita "put on a uniform" in WWII than any other group.
"As long as I have breath in my life," Inouye said. "I will stand with you."



The Arts and Crafts Store, better known as Mrs. Saide's Store, falls to the ground.

Mrs. Sadie's Store Demolished

The end of an era, but new store will open

By Nery Mejicano
BIG CYPRESS — On March 30, the Big Cypress Arts and Crafts Store, known by most residents as Mrs. Sadie's Store, fell beneath the weight of a bright yellow Caterpillar to give way to a new store, to open in April of this year. Mrs. Sadie's store was a historical fixture at the Big Cypress reservation, and for many years one of the only two stores in the community.
Tommy Billie, Mrs. Sadie Billie and their daughters, Janice and Caroline Billie stood by as the tractor pushed the old familiar wooden building into a pile of rubble that will now become part of the large parking lot of their new store.
It was a symbolic and historic moment seeing the familiar building which for many years was the first business encountered by the community and tourists coming from Interstate I-75 into the Big Cypress reservation. The small store sold an array of convenient foods from early morning Spam® sandwiches to hot dogs, sodas and an array of handmade Seminole crafts.



The Billies, (L-R) Tommy, Janice, Caroline and Sadie watch the old store being demolished.

Recently, Mrs. Sadie had a chicken built next to the store to give the workers and visitors a place in the shade where they could enjoy the morsels and refreshing drinks bought at her store. In contrast to the small wooden building, the new store, a beautiful concrete building with a shiny blue metal roof, stands ready to open for business in the next few weeks.
The new store best illustrates the progress of the Big Cypress reservation, which during the last few years has been at the vanguard of change and development while, at the same time, maintaining the integrity of the Seminole culture and its traditions.

McCall Represents Tribe at Denver Pow-Wow

Submitted by Wanda Bowers
DENVER, CO — Tribal citizen Christine McCall had the honor of representing the Seminole Tribe of Florida as Miss Florida Seminole at the 31st Annual Denver March Pow-Wow. She was very

well received at the Pow-Wow; when they announced her as being from Hollywood, Fla. she received loud applause.
While dancing during the Pow-Wow, Christine made new friends and got to say "hello again" to old friends from

across Pow-Wow country. Christine was one of 104 princesses from across the country who were there representing their respective Tribe proudly.
The royalties were announced daily at all Grand Entries throughout the weekend. The Pow-Wow started on Friday morning at 11 a.m. and did not finish until 11 p.m. that evening; this continued the same throughout the weekend. With the two hour time change, you can imagine what a long day it was for her.
On top of the long day, Christine had the added responsibility of two jobs that weekend. The first one was representing her Tribe and the second was to brush up on her dance category, which is dancing Southern Cloth. Southern Cloth is one of the categories that she will be judged on during the Miss Indian World Pageant being held in Albuquerque, N.M., April 28-30.

She was even selling her raffle tickets to dancers and vendors in-between her dancing. The people there were more than happy to buy a raffle ticket to support her in the Miss Indian World Pageant.
Christine got to dance one last Southern Cloth and line up, before rushing out, with her regalia still on, to the airport to make her flight—which she made by the skin of her teeth.



Christine McCall (center) with other Tribal royalty at the Denver Pow-Wow.

Battiest Reaches for the Stars

By Iretta Tiger
HOLLYWOOD — One of the greatest things in life to witness is someone striving for their dreams and watching it come true; and it's especially great when it happens to a young person. Spencer Battiest, 14, was one of several students chosen to represent his Miami school, the John Robert Powers School System.

More than 600 students auditioned and Battiest placed in the top 25 of those invited to participate in Ipop. Ipop is a talent search which will take place in New York City in July 2005 and will be televised nationwide.
Before you think American Idol, remember this: auditions are a part of the school's curriculum and these auditions are for major heavyweight talent agents.
On March 13, friends and family dined at the Council Oak in celebration of Battiest's accomplishment. It's an accomplishment he's been working towards for more than a year.

Battiest first got involved with acting at the Chickee Church, but became serious when he heard an ad for Disney Channel auditions and reserved a spot. He thought the audition was for the Disney Channel, but it turned out that the audition was for the John Robert Powers School System.
Out of 200 kids that auditioned, nine were picked and Battiest was among them. This was only the beginning; before Battiest could attend there were three more

meetings with the school, one of which was another audition.
Battiest has been at the school for a year now and has been training in acting

want them to become successful."
If you've ever heard Battiest perform, one would think that the last thing he needs is training. No one could forget his incredible performance at a Florida Panthers game when he sang the National Anthem.
"I tell Spencer he has to be authentic, be real," said Junior Battiest, Spencer's father.
Battiest has such a natural acting and singing ability, an agent in Los Angeles, Calif. is ready to move him there today.
His last audition was for renowned casting director Joey Paul Jensen. Jensen usually casts for Disney and Nickelodeon and was the casting director for teen star Hillary Duff's movie "Raise Your Voice."
Battiest did extremely well and received a huge star on his critique from Jensen.
The March 13 dinner was also a thank you to those who have supported Battiest; both Spencer and Junior thanked Trail Liaison William Osceola. Osceola sponsored a photo shoot with celebrity photographer John Beckett.
The photos have helped Battiest in his auditions; he said he always receives compliments for them.
Though Battiest's family fully supports him they took no credit for what Battiest has accomplished.
"He did it all on his own," said June Battiest, Spencer's mother. "He found the school, auditioned, and auditioned for Ipop."



Spencer Battiest

Iretta Tiger

Moving Water with BC's Conservation Plan

By Vida Volkert
BIG CYPRESS — The first phase of the Water Conservation Plan, a part of the ambitious \$7.8 billion Everglades restoration project, is complete and operating on the Seminole Tribe's Big Cypress reservation.

The overall plan is to re-hydrate of the wetlands and help restore the Everglades' natural sheet flow-flood pat-

tern. This is enough to meet much of the entire reservation's needs, according to Tepper.

According to the terms of the plan, the Tribe has been entitled to this amount of water since 1996, but the lack of structures and a system to channel it where it was needed made it impossible for the SFWMD to deliver it. Some of the most affected by the lack of consistent

of water in the main canal built that runs through the reservation rose up two to three feet in only three hours. Water reached the further end of the reservation very quickly, but the system showed some flaws.

"They have to flood everybody else to get the water to the far ends of the reservation," Bowers said.

When the system is turned on, about 225,000 gallons of water are pumped in per minute.



Vida Volkert

Construction efforts for the Water Conservation Plan is underway in Big Cypress.

tern—an effort that is the largest restoration project of its type in the world—while the local effort is to help control and regulate the flow of water over reservation lands. Water can now be routed through the reservation, helping replenish the natural water table while providing irrigation for cow pastures and citrus groves on its way west.

"The ability to transfer a set quantity of water every month across the reservation was the main focus," said Director of Water Resource Management Craig Tepper. "Now we are able to move water through structures that previously had no formal ability to distribute water."

The Big Cypress Reservation is 52,000 acres, with a population of about 592, according to the Secretary's Office in Hollywood.

Under the Water Conservation Plan, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) will be delivering as much as 47,000 acre-feet, or the quantity of water required to cover one acre to a depth of one foot, of water per year to the

water flow have been the cattle and citrus grove operations.

"During the dry period, we did not have any water in the past," said cattle owner Richard Bowers. "The cattle suffered and the grass suffered, and that's probably why we were interested in any kind of solution."

The dry season in Florida historically starts around Oct. 17. It typically ends sometime between June and July, when the onset of the rainy season begins. During the rainy season, the main problem of water control is drainage. Last season it rained about 100 inches at Big Cypress, and as hundreds of acres got flooded, the grass drowned and cattle stood in soaking water, hungry and cold for several weeks, according to Bowers.

"Eventually you loose your cattle because then comes the winter and the grass still won't grow," he said.

The canal system was tested in February, and for the first time, large quantities of water were delivered to the cow pastures during the dry periods. The level

of water in the main canal built that runs through the reservation rose up two to three feet in only three hours. Water reached the further end of the reservation very quickly, but the system showed some flaws.

"They have to flood everybody else to get the water to the far ends of the reservation," Bowers said.

When the system is turned on, about 225,000 gallons of water are pumped in per minute.

"That's a big pump and a lot of pressure in the sides of the bank of the canal," Bowers said.

The water pressure has caused some flooding, as the pressure forces water to leaching out in certain weak parts of the dyke. Flooding has occurred on about 1,000 acres of pastures in the low lands. At the same time that some parts are receiving too much water, other pastures are still not getting all the water needed.

"This is the first year we ever had this [commodity]," Tepper said. "And we have been trying to adjust the water control structures to prevent any excess flooding and also to deliver the water to the west where the fields are a little higher [about a foot, which in the relative flatness of the Everglades water-shed makes a big difference]."

"We had to overcome these elevation differences by lifting the water out of the edge of the main canal to some of the dryer fields, and we did that on a temporary basis," Tepper added.

During this dry season Tepper made arrangements to provide cattle owners who are still lacking water with temporary individual pumps help regulate water flow to their lands.

"That's a short term fix," Tepper said. "We are beginning to work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to build permanent individual pumps that will do a better job of managing this flow."

The second phase of this massive project is underway. It includes the construction of different reservoirs to stockpile water when there is an excess in a citrus grove or a cow pasture, and a pumping and irrigation systems to move the water to other areas where the water is needed. Some of these reservoirs will also be used for water treatment to allow the Tribe to meet water quality standards required by the federal government to discharged water flowing into the Everglades.

In 1991 the federal government sued the state of Florida over water quality standards, and the Miccosukee Tribe has been one of the most proactive state holder interest groups trying to press forward to clean up the water before it enters the Everglades. The deadline to meet the standard is Dec. 31, 2006.

"Some judge in the year 2006 would ask the [Seminole] Tribe, 'What did you do since 1991 to try and meet the

standard?,' " said Tepper. "We would be able to prove that we have been very proactive in trying to meet the standard."

Part of the plan calls for controlling runoff and eliminating phosphorous, a major pollutant in the South Florida waterways. By controlling this runoff, the Tribe will also be improving and generating supplemental irrigation water resources for agriculture within the reservation.

The Big Cypress reservation used to be part of a large wetland ecosystem, rich in natural water reservoirs, fauna and flora. When it rained, the wetlands stored the water, animals and plants used it later during the dry season. Wetlands are transitional zones between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems where plants, like Florida's historical cypress, live in periodically or permanently wet soil.

During years of intense development in South Florida, these wetlands were drained for farming, industry and other activities. Many roads, canals, walls and dikes were built in the Everglades.

The canal systems drained water off the land, cutting the surface water flow and making the land inhabitable. The roads became dams, impeding water flow. Because of these activities, today less than 50 percent of the historical Everglades remain. Another problem caused by the change in water levels was that exotic

tat. Prior to all the drainage and land clearing, cypress trees would grow forming a ring around an area where the water is a little shallow, and then outside of the cypress ring live oak trees would grow.

"If you look at the aerial photography right now, what you'll see is that the cypress that used to be on the edge with shallow waters has moved to the center and displaced all of the plants and animal species that used to survive and live in the deeper water in the middle," Tepper said.

Some of those species include willows, pond cypress shrubs, and lizard's tail or water dragon. Lizard's tail is rich in alkaloids and the plant was used by the Seminoles for medicinal purposes.

"There is a direct tie from drainage to plant, to the Tribe's cultural use," Tepper said. "Part of our project is to dehydrate or rewet those lands as we go in and try to kill the exotics... and revert from these denuded and infested areas into natural vegetation."

In the long run, the Tribe will be able to treat water quality issues to the best of their ability before the water is discharged into the environment around the reservation, according to Tepper.

"We're trying to improve this whole area, help the habitat, and leave it better for future generations," he said.

While the Tribe has already



Vida Volkert

Richard Bowers points out the detrimental flooding that sometimes occurs.

plants invaded the land and crowded out natural plants.

At the Big Cypress reservation, the land has dried up, and many natural species have been displaced of their habi-

invested \$8 million in the first part of the project, funds will be matched by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to work on the second phase.



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Board, Council Discuss Upcoming Elections

By Iretta Tiger
HOLLYWOOD — On March 23, the Seminole Tribe's Board and Council met in the Hollywood auditorium for a meeting regarding the May 2005 election of officials. The election committee was also present for the meeting.
Tribal Secretary Priscilla D. Sayen read off

the list of eligible voters for each reservation. The Board, Council and election committee discussed the status of numerous voters. It was decided that the committee would investigate the status of several of the voters.
No other issues were discussed and this is to be the only meeting between the three groups.

2005 Tribal Elections Announcement

By Priscilla D. Sayen, Office of the Secretary
The Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc., is announcing their Regular Election for the position of Tribal Council and Board of Directors Reservation Representative for the Big Cypress, Brighton and Hollywood Reservations. By our Tribal Constitution and Corporate Charter we are publicly announcing our Seminole Tribe of Florida Regular Election to be held on May 9, 2005.

NOTICE SEMINOLE TRIBAL REGULAR ELECTION MAY 9, 2005

For Tribal Council Representatives and Board of Directors Representatives in accordance with the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, and the Amended Corporate Charter of The Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc., a Regular Election is called for the following offices, Monday, May 9, 2005

- SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA
TRIBAL COUNCIL:
*BIG CYPRESS RESERVATION
REPRESENTATIVE (1)
*BRIGHTON RESERVATION
REPRESENTATIVE (1)
*HOLLYWOOD RESERVATION
REPRESENTATIVE (1)

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- *BIG CYPRESS RESERVATION
REPRESENTATIVE (1)
*BRIGHTON RESERVATION
REPRESENTATIVE (1)
*HOLLYWOOD RESERVATION
REPRESENTATIVE (1)

Enrolled members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida who have reached their 18th birthday on or before April 9, 2005, and who have lived on any combination of the reservations ten (10) month out of each year for the past four years, are eligible to vote for the positions mentioned above.

The representatives for Tribal Council and Board of Directors are voted for by residents of their respective reservations.

Eligible members who wish to become candidates may obtain a petition form from one of the Tribal Offices at Brighton, Big Cypress, and Hollywood reservations, beginning April 8, 2005 or can obtain information from the Secretary of the Tribal Council and Board of Directors. The completed petitions from candidates must be in the hands of the Secretary no later than 5:00 p.m. on or before April 18, 2005 so that the announcement of candidates can be announced April 20, 2005.

**ALL ELIGIBLE TRIBAL MEMBERS
ARE URGED TO VOTE!**

—PRISCILLA D. SAYEN, SECRETARY

❖ Council

Continued from page 1

the park.

Council agreed and asked Tribal attorney Jim Shore to assist them.

On the meeting's regular agenda, one remarkable item was the creation of a credit card account for the Tribe's seniors.

This card is more like a debit card and would be used for meals at participating local restaurants. There is a limit of dollar amount per meal. The card will be controlled so if someone attempts to purchase something other than food or meals, the card cannot be used.

There will be a use-it-or-lose it policy; meaning that if a person does not use the money towards one meal, they lose it. Therefore, not using the money

for lunch does not allow any seniors to purchase dinner with it. Remember this card is for Seminole seniors only and it will be controlled.

The final resolution on the regular agenda was for the 2005 budget.

Before voting on the budget, Big Cypress Councilman David Cypress explained to those present that the budget on the agenda is to maintain the normal operations of the Seminole Tribe. If this budget is not approved, no one gets paid and no one receives a dividend.

The reason why this budget is essential is because it meets the time frame allotted towards the budget recall issue.

The Council said they were taking into consideration the suggestions from Tribal citizens for the budget and the budget is also amendable. So as the issue is further discussed with Tribal citizens, changes can be made.

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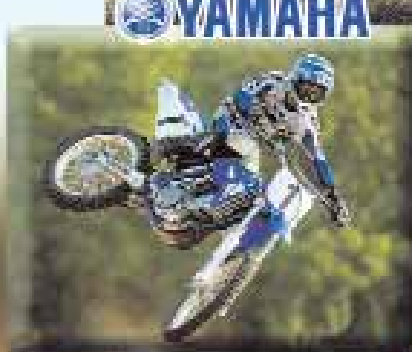
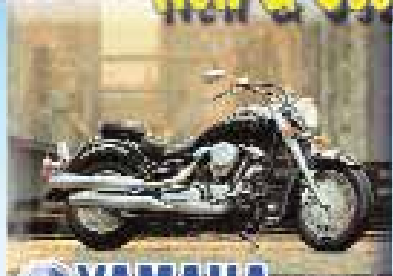
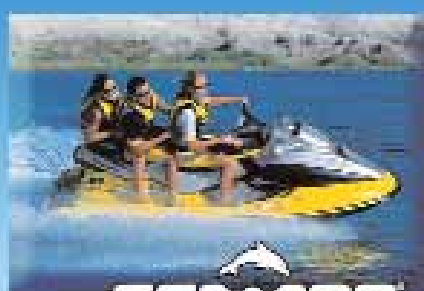
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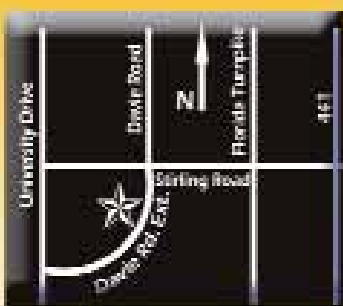
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(L-R) Matt Ward, UM Native American Recruiter Miss Seminole JoJo Osceola, UM mascot Sebastian, Hollywood Council Representative Max Osceola, Headmaster of University School Dr. Chermack.

Miss Seminole Hosts UM Presentation

By Iretta Tiger

HOLLYWOOD — "As a college bound Seminole student, I think it's very important to encourage others to continue their education," said Miss Seminole JoJo Osceola.

On March 14, Osceola, who was recently admitted into the University of Miami, organized a UM presentation for her Seminole peers. Although she is set to begin classes in August 2005, she wants to start sooner and take summer courses.

The evening began with a dinner sponsored by Hollywood Council Representative Max B. Osceola, Jr., a UM alumni. JoJo's mother, Virginia Osceola, helped out by making fry bread and sofkee.

The evening came about through the encouragement of Matt Ward, the Native American recruiter for UM.

"Matt [Ward] heard about the high school drop out rate among the Seminole youth," said Osceola. "And said I should do something."

Osceola was so determined to help her peers that she oversaw every detail, from creating and passing out fliers to contacting Seminole Broadcasting and *The Seminole Tribune*. The students were first shown a 20 minute film about UM, which emphasized the hands-on experience each student receives from the beginning of their education.

After the film, a special guest joined in the presentation. Sebastian, UM's mascot, had Miss Seminole and Max Osceola join him in doing the UM cheer. The UM representatives spoke in turn about their experience and what to expect should any of them decide to attend the college.

Miss Seminole presented the representatives with a gift bag of Seminole culture. One item in the gift bag was the Seminole flag and she explained the meaning of the colors.

Councilman Osceola encouraged the students to consider continuing their education.

"You need to look beyond 12th grade," said Osceola. "The Seminole Tribe depends on you. The key is education, especially for your future."

Miss Seminole closed the presentation

by saying, "I encourage you guys to go out and get an education and come back to the Tribe so that we all can benefit from your education."

The evening ended with the students posing for pictures with Sebastian and gathering information on UM. For more information on UM, please visit www.miami.edu.



Miss Seminole JoJo Osceola and Hollywood Councilman Max Osceola.

Haskell's 2005 Alumni of the Year

Each year the National Haskell Alumni Association from Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan., honors alumni for outstanding contributions to Haskell, their Indian community, and to Alumni activities.

This year, the Honor goes to Dempsey Micco, and Barney Old Coyote. Dempsey is

Seminole/Creek from Weleetka, Okla. and Barney is Crow from Montana.

The Honor Dinner for these two will be May 13 at the Holidone in Lawrence, Kan. at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$25.00 per person. For more information, please Louis Taylor at (505) 831-6522 or e-mail LJT50@aol.com.



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5. All children must submit a paragraph or two toward the end of the trip.
6. Parents must accompany children at all times.
7. Must return completed application by Tuesday, June 21, 2005 at 5:00pm.
8. Substance free activity

During this year's 2005, the Hollywood Youth Conference participants will be traveling to Castillo De San Marco in St. Augustine, Florida. They will also travel to Charleston, South Carolina to visit Fort Moultrie. This trip is to give our youth a brief history into our past and we encourage the youth who meet the requirements to apply. There are limited spaces available, so this will be on a first come first serve policy. Youth are to be accompanied by an adult, and maximum of two adults per family will be allowed to attend. Lodging and food will be paid for, but families must cover all other expenses.

If you are interested, pick up your application
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Student Takes Top Prize in Science Fair

By Emma Brown
BRIGHTON— Britney Smith is in the ninth grade at Okeechobee Freshman Campus. She participated in this year’s science fair and won first place in Okeechobee County. The science fair project was a demonstration on the absorbency of liquids.

After winning first place at the county science fair, Britney’s project was then entered in the regional science fair where she took second place. Smith is a very outgoing student who time and effort really shows in her accomplishments.

Smith’s parents, Roger and Diane Smith and sisters wish to let her know how proud they are of her and all of her achievements.



Britney Smith displays her first and second place awards.

Meet the Brighton Students

By Emma Brown
BRIGHTON— Reba Osceola is the ninth grade daughter of Lisa and Rodney Osceola. She attends school at the Okeechobee Freshman Campus. Osceola enjoys being a member of Seminole 4-H, riding horses, riding four-wheelers, and being with friends and family. Her current goal is to work very hard on her GPA, and earn one good enough to carry her to a good college.

Once in college, she said she would like to study horticulture because she enjoys being outdoors. Her piece of encouragement to young Seminoles is, “Stay in school and try to do well, and stay away from drugs!” There is not any one person that Osceola claims as her inspirations, because she looks up to many different people for different reasons.

Shyla Jones is the daughter of Jonnie and Oneva Jones. She is the ninth grade at Okeechobee Freshman Campus. Jones is very athletic and enjoys playing volleyball, softball,



Reba Osceola



Shyla Jones

soccer, basketball, and barrel racing. In the future, she said she would like for her hard work to pay off in barrel racing and basketball and hopes someday to become a pro at these events.

Jones would like to attend college and become part of a sports team. Jones’ advice to young Seminoles is, “Stay in school and get good grades and graduate, then go to college. Don’t ever do drugs! Don’t ever let someone tell you that you can’t succeed and always follow your dreams.”

Jones’ parents are her biggest inspiration because they always support her in what she does, they are there for her, they never let her quit, and they always make her work hard so she can be her best.

Michaela Fish is the daughter of Mike Fish and Michelle Grindler. She is in the ninth grade at Okeechobee Freshman Campus. Fish enjoys the game of basketball and hanging out with her friends.

Fish’s biggest goal is to finish school and make her father proud.

She plans on attending college to study medicine and someday become a pediatrician because she loves to be around children and loves to help them. She said her inspiration has been her father because he always inspires her to do and be the best that she can and keeps her going and motivated to stay in school.



Michaela Fish

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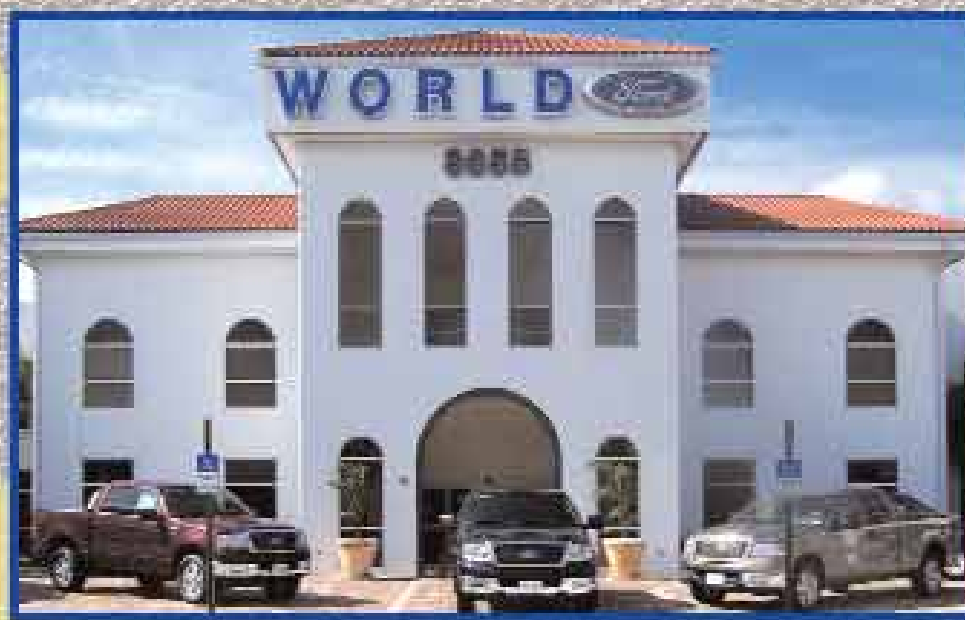
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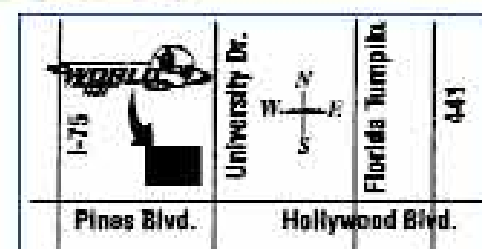
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Upcoming Tampa Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Events

Submitted by Chris Jaramillo, Special Events Coordinator
April 8
Morgan Stone, 3 p.m.–7 p.m., Lobby Bar, No cover.
Sunset Nights: Poolside Happy Hour, \$4 top shelf liquor, \$4 specialty martinis, complimentary hors d'oeuvres, weekly drawings for prizes, 5 p.m.–10 p.m., at the pool, no cover.
Floyd's seafood dinner buffet entertainment with Theo Valentin, 6 p.m.–9 p.m., Floyd's, \$19.99 for Player's Club and \$24.99 for non-members.
Whiskey Chicks, 8 p.m.–1 a.m., Lobby Bar, no cover.
Celebrity DJ Series, 10 p.m.–6 a.m., Floyd's. \$15 cover charge from 10 p.m.–12 a.m., \$20 after. Ages 21 and up only. \$4 U-Call-It drinks for the ladies; \$2 Heinekens for everyone.
DJ Maestro, 1 a.m.–4 a.m., Lobby Bar. No cover.
April 9
London Que, 3 p.m.–7 p.m., Lobby Bar. No cover.
Theo Valentine, 6 p.m.–9 p.m., Floyd's. No cover.
Acquiesce, 8 p.m.–1 a.m., Lobby Bar. No cover.
Floyd's Late Night: Exclusive video hits of the past, present and future, 11 p.m.–2 a.m. Sexy Vocal Breaks and Bass Heavy Tracks with DJ Jason Perez and Craze, 2 a.m.–5:30 a.m., \$10 Cover before 2 a.m., \$15 cover after 2 a.m. Ages 21 and older.
DJ Maestro, 1 a.m.–4 a.m., Lobby Bar. No cover.
April 10
Green Room Brunch with act TBA, 11 a.m.–3 p.m., Green Room, \$19.99 for Player's Club and \$24.99 for non-members.
April 11–14
Morgan Stone, 3 p.m.–7 p.m., Lobby Bar, No cover.
April 15
Sunset Nights: Poolside Happy Hour, \$4 top shelf liquor, \$4 specialty martinis, complimentary hors d'oeuvres, weekly drawings for prizes, 5 p.m.–10 p.m., at the pool, no cover.
Floyd's seafood dinner buffet entertainment with Theo Valentin, 6 p.m.–9 p.m., Floyd's, \$19.99 for Player's Club and \$24.99 for non-members.
Ted Wray, Lobby Bar, 8 p.m.–1 a.m. No cover.
Celebrity DJ Series, 10 p.m.–6 a.m., Floyd's. \$15 cover charge from 10 p.m.–12 a.m., \$20 after. Ages 21 and up only. \$4 U-Call-It drinks for the ladies; \$2 Heinekens for everyone.
DJ Maestro, 1 a.m.–4 a.m., Lobby Bar. No cover.
April 16
Basic Rock Outfit, 3 p.m.–7 p.m., Lobby Bar. No cover.
Bacardi Boys, 8p.m.–1 a.m., Lobby Bar. No cover.
Floyd's Late Night: Exclusive video hits of the past, present and future, 11 p.m.–2 a.m. Sexy Vocal Breaks and Bass Heavy Tracks with DJ Jason Perez and Craze, 2 a.m.–5:30 a.m., \$10 Cover before 2 a.m., \$15 cover after 2 a.m. Ages 21 and older.
April 17
Green Room Brunch with act TBA, 11 a.m.–3 p.m., Green Room, \$19.99 for Player's Club and \$24.99 for non-members.
April 18–20
Morgan Stone, 3 p.m.–7 p.m., Lobby Bar, No cover.
April 21
Morgan Stone, 3 p.m.–7 p.m., Lobby Bar, No

cover.
DJ Maestro, 1 a.m.–4 a.m., Lobby Bar, No cover.
April 22
Morgan Stone, 3 p.m.–7 p.m., Lobby Bar, No cover.
Floyd's seafood dinner buffet entertainment with Theo Valentin, 6 p.m.–9 p.m., Floyd's, \$19.99 for Player's Club and \$24.99 for non-members.
Whiskey Chicks, 8 p.m.–1 a.m., Lobby Bar, no cover.
Celebrity DJ Series, 10 p.m.–6 a.m., Floyd's. \$15 cover charge from 10 p.m.–12 a.m., \$20 after. Ages 21 and up only. \$4 U-Call-It drinks for the ladies; \$2 Heinekens for everyone.
DJ Maestro, 1 a.m.–4 a.m., Lobby Bar. No cover.
April 23
Bacardi Boys, 8p.m.–1 a.m., Lobby Bar. No cover.
Theo Valentine, 6 p.m.–9 p.m., Floyd's. No cover.
Acquiesce, 8 p.m.–1 a.m., Lobby Bar. No cover.
Floyd's Late Night: Exclusive video hits of the past, present and future, 11 p.m.–2 a.m. Sexy Vocal Breaks and Bass Heavy Tracks with DJ Jason Perez and Craze, 2 a.m.–5:30 a.m., \$10 Cover before 2 a.m., \$15 cover after 2 a.m. Ages 21 and older.
DJ Maestro, 1 a.m.–4 a.m., Lobby Bar. No cover.
April 24
Green Room Brunch with act TBA, 11 a.m.–3 p.m., Green Room, \$19.99 for Player's Club and \$24.99 for non-members.
April 25–27
Morgan Stone, 3 p.m.–7 p.m., Lobby Bar, No cover.
April 28
Morgan Stone, 3 p.m.–7 p.m., Lobby Bar, No cover.
DJ Maestro, 1 a.m.–4 a.m., Lobby Bar, No cover.
April 29
Morgan Stone, 3 p.m.–7 p.m., Lobby Bar, No cover.
Sunset Nights: Poolside Happy Hour, \$4 top shelf liquor, \$4 specialty martinis, complimentary hors d'oeuvres, weekly drawings for prizes, 5 p.m.–10 p.m., at the pool, no cover.
Floyd's seafood dinner buffet entertainment with Theo Valentin, 6 p.m.–9 p.m., Floyd's, \$19.99 for Player's Club and \$24.99 for non-members.
Basic Rock Outfit, 8 p.m.–1 a.m., Lobby Bar, no cover.
Celebrity DJ Series, 10 p.m.–6 a.m., Floyd's. \$15 cover charge from 10 p.m.–12 a.m., \$20 after. Ages 21 and up only. \$4 U-Call-It drinks for the ladies; \$2 Heinekens for everyone.
DJ Maestro, 1 a.m.–4 a.m., Lobby Bar, No cover.
April 30
Groove Theory, 3 p.m.–7 p.m., Lobby Bar. No cover.
Theo Valentine, 6 p.m.–9 p.m., Floyd's. No cover.
Ted Wray, 6 p.m.–9 p.m., Lobby Bar. No cover.
Floyd's Late Night: Exclusive video hits of the past, present and future, 11 p.m.–2 a.m. Sexy Vocal Breaks and Bass Heavy Tracks with DJ Jason Perez and Craze, 2 a.m.–5:30 a.m., \$10 Cover before 2 a.m., \$15 cover after 2 a.m. Ages 21 and older.
DJ Maestro, 1 a.m.–4 a.m., Lobby Bar. No cover.

Upcoming Seminole Police Department Events

Submitted by Sergeant Al Signore, SPD
Date: April 9
Time: 11 a.m.
Topic: Hooked on Fishing—water safety and angling skills
Guest Speaker: Officer Chalfant and Officer Clay
Sponsored By: Seminole Police Department
Location: Cattle & Range Parking lot
Comments: Please pre register for this event at the Seminole Police Department in Brighton. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Fishing gear is not required, however, if you have any please bring it
For further information please contact Officer Clay at (863) 783-5731.
Date: April 12
Time: 4:30 p.m.
Community Appreciation Day
Miami Dolphins junior training camp
Sponsored By: Seminole Police Department
Location: Immokalee Reservation Ball field
Comments: All youths between the ages of 6-16 are encouraged to attend. A barbecue will follow.
Date: April 18
Time: Approximately 11 a.m.
Topic: Rollover Simulation Program

Guest Speaker: Lieutenant Doug Dodson, Florida Highway Patrol
Sponsored By: Seminole Police Department
Location: Brighton Seminole Casino Parking Lot
Date: April 19
Time: 12 p.m.
Topic: Florida Statewide Victim Notification Program (VINE)
Guest Speaker: Officer Mike Parkerson
Sponsored By: Seminole Police Department
Location: Brighton Senior Center (Hot meals)
Date: April 30
Time: 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
Big Cypress Community appreciation day
Sponsored By: Seminole Police and Fire Department
Location: Big Cypress softball field
Schedule: 10 a.m.–12 p.m. softball game, Seminole Police and Fire Department vs. Community, 12 p.m.–1 p.m. lunch, 1 p.m.–3 p.m. Fire rescue and Police Expo with K-9 demonstration and all day fun for the kids with the bounce house.
For softball information, please contact Moses Jumper Jr. or the Seminole Police Department at (863) 983-2285.

Safety Tips for Joggers

Submitted by Sergeant Al Signore, SPD
There are frequently persons who enjoy jogging or running. These persons can be susceptible to criminal attack. One of the problems with joggers and runners they can become so preoccupied in their physical activity that they fail to be alert and pay attention to their surroundings. They sometimes become too busy concentrating on how much further they have to go and on putting one foot in front of the next they don't realize what is happening around them. The following are a series of personal safety tips for joggers and runners:
*jog or run with a companion
*jog or run in a familiar area
*do not jog or run in a heavily wooded, poorly lighted or secluded area, particularly if jogging or running alone
*don't wear a radio or recorder earphones
*do not jog or run after dark
*do not jog or run near bushes which can provide concealment
*wear bright colored clothing to improve your visibility
*vary your route and pattern of jogging or running
*carry a whistle or high decibel battery powered personal alarm device when you jog or run

*if followed, go to the nearest residence, open business or group of people
*carry your motor vehicle and/or home keys with you
Joggers or runners often encounter what either may be or appear to be an unfriendly dog. If such an encounter does occur, the following measures are encouraged: when encountered by a threatening dog, the impulse is to often turn and run—this can be the worst response. Since such movement can trigger the chase instinct in dogs, stand very still and attempt to be calm. Don't scream at the dog and run, be aware of where the dog is, look in its general direction, but don't look into its eyes as this can be considered an aggressive challenge to a dog. Let the dog sniff you, and in a low voice say, "No! Go home." Stay still until the dog leaves, and back away slowly until it is out of sight. If the dog does attack, try to "feed" it your workout jacket or other items of clothing, if you are knocked down or fall, curl into a ball and keep your hands over your ears and face and try not to scream or roll around. For more information on jogging safety tips, call Sergeant Al Signore with Seminole Police Department Crime Prevention Unit at (813) 623-5748.



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Health Corner ❖ Chah-nee-ken chà-ke ❖ Cvfeknetv onakv



Tribal employees from last month's American Heart Walk: Front row L-R: Ervina Capricien, Judy Jim, Rodni Mercer, Jeannie Capricien, Helene Buster, Donelda Mercer; Back row, L-R: Edna McDuffie, Elsie Bowers, Jim Martin, Connie Whidden and Suzanne Davis. Not pictured: Cherelee Hall, Candy Cypress, and Vera Herrera.

Team Seminole Participates in Walk America at Flagler Park

By Barbara Boling, Brighton Health Educator OKEECHOBEE, FL — On March 19, 65 Seminole Tribe of Florida members, families and employees arrived at Flagler Park to support the nationwide effort to raise money for the March of Dimes.

The March of Dimes organization was founded in 1938 by President Franklin Roosevelt to help fight the polio virus. Since that time, the organization has evolved to help fight birth defects and infant mortality. The Seminole Tribe has a long history of helping to support this very worthy organization.

At 8:30 a.m. sharp, the walk began. Walkers lined the streets of Okeechobee for the four mile event. Many families of the Seminole Tribe came out to show their support. Parents, grandparents and children enjoyed the activities and the creative spirit stations along the route.

Team Seminole was recognized as the largest walking group registered for this event, as well as the largest group on walk day. The team also took home second place for fundraising efforts. A luncheon for Team Seminole followed the awards ceremony.



Team Seminole participants gather for a moment before the March of Dimes four mile walk.

Dear Counselor,

I am 13-year-old boy and I attend Driftwood Middle School. I am presently in the eighth grade. Most of my friends smoke cigarettes, get high or participate in gang activities. The reason I am writing you to tell you how proud I am of my mom and dad. They are great parents. As a counselor I know you hear about people with problems, so I thought I would write because my mother told me if anyone asks me to join a gang I should tell them, I am already in a gang, it's called family. And if they ask me to get high it is based on the problem and my dad told me I can always call a family meeting to discuss any problems I might have. I would like your opinion on my mom and dad?

Signed,
Bobby Jr.

Dear Bobby Jr.,

Thank you for writing to me and asking me what I think of your parents. Your letter is a great example, that the only thing we have in life of any real value is our time with our children, family and others. Your parents seem to be positive role models in your life. I believe the biggest disease for a child is not cancer, tuberculosis but rather the feeling of being unwanted or neglected. Family influence forms the corner stone of any successful child rearing concept. In effect, the family is the first line of defense against substance

abuse and gang violence.

As a counselor, I have never met a child who gave up on life, who gives up on their hopes and dreams, who first did not give up on their parents. Bobby Jr. let me tell you about another young man named Robert who is in the fifth grade. His mother is in prison and his dad is in a treatment center. He is well behaved and is doing great in school. The other students gave him hurtful nicknames, constantly teased him and call him parentless, homeless and hugless. When he came to see me I asked him, how he deals with the teasing and put down, he said, my mother may be no good, my daddy maybe a drunk, but I know I'm somebody because God don't make no junk. They may call me a loser, the worst they have ever met, but it's God himself who made me and he's not finish with me yet; so they can tease me all they want.

Bobby Jr. some young people turn to violence and or drugs because they don't see other

ways to endure what their feeling at home. Your parents are willing to listen to what their child is feeling and saying and willing to talk about any subject. They really care about you. Bobby Jr. you are truly a mighty warrior and your history demands only the best and your ancestors provided a great road map in never giving up, you have the same spirit in you to never give up.

Signed,
Counselor

Ask The Counselor



Basil Phillips
M.S. Mental Health Counseling

Letters of interest from the community

All letters should be sent to
ASK THE COUNSELOR
Family Services Department
3006 Josie Billie Avenue
Hollywood, FL 33024
basilphillips@seminoletribe.com

Winter Weight Loss Contest Winners

By Beth Skinner, RD, LD

BRIGHTON — The results are in and congratulations are in order for our Winter 2005 Weight Loss Contest winners! The Brighton weight loss contest began with weigh in on Dec. 20, 2004 and lasted through March 18.

The contest included a total of 64 participants, including Tribal citizens and community members, and employees. Our winners lost a combined total of 90 pounds. The contest



was sponsored by the Brighton Recreation department and weights were collected by the Allied Health staff at the clinic.

Our winners are as follows:
Male Seniors: 1. (tie) Billie Micco and Martin Gopher. Female Seniors: 1. Connie Whidden, 2. Holly Billie. Male Adults: 1. Milo Osceola, 2. Albert Snow. Female Adults: 1. Arica Buck, 2. Grace Koontz, 3. Brande' Clay. Male Employees: 1. John Fertitta. Female Employees: 1. Ursula Carpenter, 2. Laurie Snow, 3. Tina Porter.

Family Services Offers Healing Classes

By Adelsa Williams

HOLLYWOOD — The Family Services department coordinated and conducted the first of many healing classes. The group met at the old hot meals building in the Hollywood reservation on March 15.

There were two two-hour sessions that ran from mid morning to early afternoon. The class was open for everyone not just people in recovery. During the session, attendees participated in a series of discussion regarding goals, priorities; how to achieve them and the many ways an individual may derail themselves from that race.

Even though the community's attendance was not as big as expected, the department plans to meet once a month on the second Monday of every

month starting April 11 from 5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m. in the same location. The next event will be on awareness on street drugs. The department encourages the community to take part on this beneficial class. Parents and children are all invited.

"Knowledge is power and knowing how to use it is wisdom," said Yvonne Courtney, Tribal Outreach Worker. "We will be educating or enhancing the community in knowing how to cope with different life situations. Awareness in prevention is the best skill you can obtain before the problem arises."

If there are any topics you would like us to address, you may contact Yvonne Courtney at (954) 964-6338.

WANTED: All of Your Unpaid Medical Bills

Submitted by Health Director Connie Whidden

Attention Seminole tribal citizens, we want your unpaid medical bills. It is your responsibility to make sure that your medical bills get paid. If your medical bills remain unpaid, they will often be referred to collection agencies and this can damage your credit rating.

To prevent this from happening, when you see your doctor, always show them your Seminole Tribe of Florida Health Plan identification card. This will indicate to your doctor that you have medical insurance and your doctor will bill the Health Plan directly rather than you, for the services provided.

So, if you receive an invoice in the mail for an unpaid medical bill, this is what you need to do: Please bring the bill to the patient services coordinator at one of the following health clinics.
Hollywood Health Clinic, Karen Lee, (954) 962-2009
Brighton Health Clinic, Gail McClenithan, (863) 763-0271
Big Cypress Health Clinic, Wendy Powers, (863) 983-5151
Immokalee, Ana Puente, (239) 657-6567
Tampa, Sue Harjo, (813) 246-3100



The patient services coordinator will in turn forward the bill to your Health Plan for review. Covered bills will be processed per Health Plan benefits and limitations.

Or send the bill directly to your Health Plan office so that your bill can be processed. Following is the address of your Health Plan and the telephone number should you want to contact the staff directly:

Seminole Tribe of Florida Health Plan
5201 Ravenswood Road, Suite 107
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312

Telephone: (866) 505-6789 or (954) 981-7410

Note: The telephone number and address of the Health Plan is also noted on the back of your Health Plan ID Card.

If you receive a collection notice in the mail or a telephone call from a collection agency, don't wait! Please contact Debi DeHass directly at (954) 965-1300, Ext. 123 for assistance. She will need a copy of the collection notice, or if you received a call you will need to obtain the following information from the caller:

Name of the person calling
Telephone number

Name of the medical provider or collection agency
Your account number
Date the medical service was rendered
Amount of the bill

In addition, please inform the caller that Debi DeHass may be calling them for information about your bill.

Please remember the staff at the health clinics as well as the staff at the Health Plan is there to assist you. Working together, we can assure that you obtain all of the health care benefits due to you.

ARE YOU A SEMINOLE TRIBAL MEMBER INTERESTED IN A MANAGEMENT CAREER IN THE HOTEL & CASINO INDUSTRY?

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O'Hara Tommie

Adelsa Williams

Seminole Pathways Program Gets Underway

Submitted by Heather Tanksley

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Tribal government recently launched a new Tribal Career Development and Internship Program called Seminole Pathways. Seminole Pathways is an internship program open to Tribal members and their direct descendants.

through a series of objective-driven, on-the-job-training rotations through Education, Elder Services, Family Services, Health, Housing, and Recreation, as well as other departments and Government Administration.

Today, we invite you to join us in welcoming Seminole Pathways' first two interns, Tribal members O'Hara Tommie and Billie Jo Porter, as they embark on an educational and experiential journey intended to inspire and develop them as future leaders.

O'Hara Tommie has begun his internship rotation within Housing and is serving as a Housing Coordinator for the Fort Pierce reservation. Tommie will remain in Housing for four-five months before continuing to his next rotation assignment.

Intern Billie Jo Porter has begun her first rotation with Healthcare Services, where she will be rotating through the Ambulatory Health, Dental, Environmental Health, Allied Health, Eligibility and Utilization, Medical Records, and Healthcare Administration service areas. She will remain in Healthcare for approximately five months.

Both Tommie and Porter are highly motivated and dedicated to continuous improvement of services for the Tribal community. We hope they will serve as positive role models for today's youth. Please join us in celebrating the start of their internship experience as they further develop through Seminole Pathways!

For additional information about the Seminole Pathways program, please contact the Tribal Human Resources department at (954) 966-6300, Ext. 1138.



Billie Jo Porter

Adelsa Williams

The Program enables participants to gain applied knowledge, skills, and work experience

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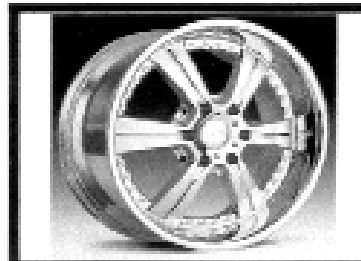
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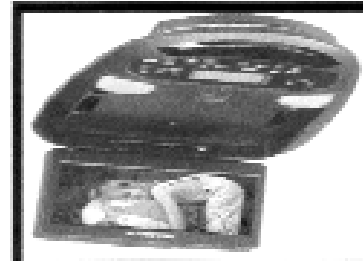


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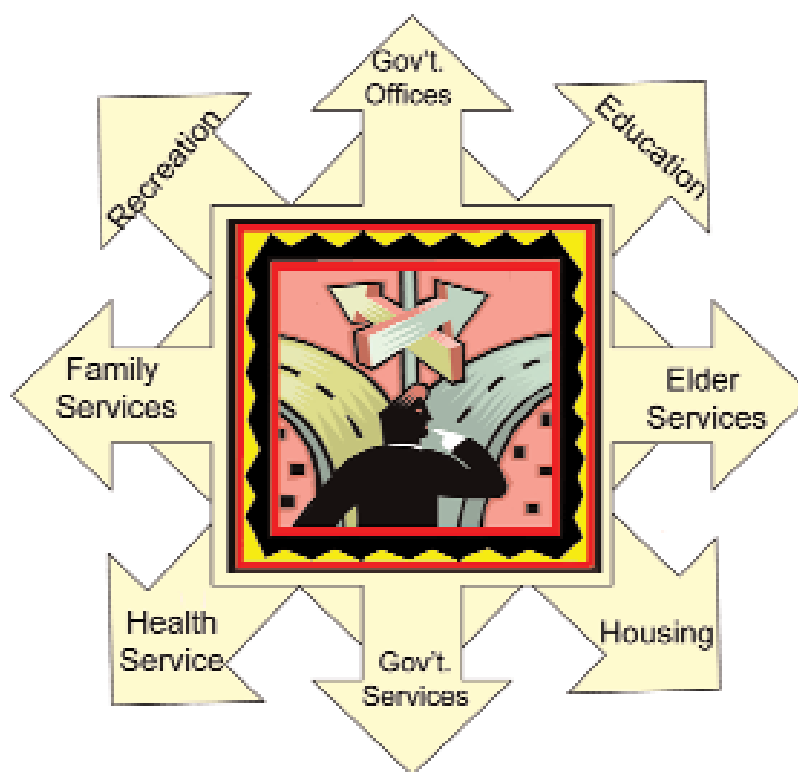
Today, we invite you to explore

Seminole Pathways!

An exciting new Tribal Career Development and Internship Program packed with learning and personal growth opportunities and choices, designed to develop tomorrow's Tribal workforce and business leaders!

To become an Intern, YOU . .

- ❖ Are self-motivated and willing to work to become all you can be
- ❖ Have a post-secondary degree (AA, AS, or higher)
- ❖ Are able to work full time
- ❖ Are a Tribal member or direct descendant
- ❖ Want to be an active Tribal business team player



As an Intern, YOU CAN . . .

- ❖ Build valuable knowledge and skills within a variety of departments
- ❖ Achieve meaningful, well-defined goals
- ❖ Serve the Tribe and its members
- ❖ Work, learn, and earn
- ❖ Help shape your future

To learn more about this and other Seminole Tribe of Florida training and job opportunities, please contact:

Anthony Frank, Professional Development and Relationships Liaison
Tribal Human Resources Department, 954-966-6300 x1137.

❖ Clean Up

Continued from page 1

designated areas picking up any visible trash along the roads, sidewalks and residential yards.

The adults dragged huge trash bags for everyone to fill with debris. Tribal citizen Chris Joe assisted others by tossing all full trash bags into the back of his truck and taken to the waste facility down the road on Josie Billie Highway.

Besides participating in the actual trash collection on foot, Tribal citizen Candy Cypress drove around a van-courtesy of the Recreation department-filled with coolers full of refreshments to help

participants cool off or assist anyone who needed a break. PAC President Vera Herrera even carried around hair ties for those who broke a sweat on the steamy morning.

The children were excited about the project and screamed from time to time, "I got one, I got one," as they found something to fill the trash bags with. At the end of the trail, surprisingly, there were no complaints from the children about the strenuous project, just cheers, "We made it," they hollered.

Tribal citizen and PAC Treasurer Jacob Osceola Jr. was one of the parents among the group who helped lead the way during the clean up and did an admirable job motivating the children. He also served

as the day's cook during a lunch time barbeque party held at the Big Cypress community pool at the end of the clean up.

The PAC II Committee was organized to support the Seminole youth that attend public and private schools off the reservation. Services include after school extended care and tutoring. In efforts to get the students involved in their community, the committee conducts a series of activities that demand effort and teamwork, such as the community clean up project.

"Our goal is to teach the children to appreciate what they have," said Herrera. "It's for the sake of taking pride in their community because this is where they live, it also brings the community together."

For the children, it was a day of hard work that brought endless self-rewards and they were expressive about how they felt and what they had learned. Tribal citizen Symphony Osceola, a student at Sagemont School in Weston, Fla. was only one of the students who said trash clean ups are "good to help our community."

"I learned respect for our land, we should keep it clean," said Osceola's classmate at Sagemont School,



Adelsa Williams

Tired youngsters after cleaning up the community.



Adelsa Williams

After the clean up several youngsters cooled off in the pool.



Adelsa Williams

PAC II parents assisted their children during the community clean up.



Adelsa Williams

All monies raised from all fund raisers will be donated to the Native American College Fund.

Rodeo ❖ Ko-waa-ye Esh-ham-pa-lèesh-ke ❖ Curakko Ohapoketv

Results from the Junior Cypress Memorial Rodeo

Submitted by Jo "Boogie" Jumper

BIG CYPRESS — Mutton Busting: 1. Jobe Johns, 30, Joel Puente, 11.06, 3. Donovan Tiger, 7.09.
Pony Riding: 1. Thomas Bearden, 55, 2. William Bearden, 52.
Calf Riding: 1. Brantley Osceola, 48, 2. Dylan Chalfant, 40, 3. Adrienne Cypress, 2.89, 4. Andre Jumper, 2.63.
Steer Riding: 1. 42, 2. Josh Johns, 43.
Jr. Bull Riding: 1. Ethan Gopher, 48, 2. Adam Philips, 46.
Jr. Breakaway: 1. Hilliard Gopher, 39.56, 2. Andre Jumper, 59.87.
4-8 Barrels: 1. Acealyn Youngblood, 17.822, 2. Kalgary Johns, 17.848, 3. Courtney Gore, 21.053, 3. Blevins Jumper, 24.009; 9-12 Barrels: 1. Nauthkee Henry, 18.057, 2. JJ John, 21.643, 3. Adrienne Cypress, 21.692; 13-18 Barrels: 1. Hilliard Gopher, 18.406, 2. Taylor Johns, 18.838.
Jr. Bareback: 1. Seth Randolph, 3.16, 2. Jacoby Johns, 2.96.

50 and Older Breakaway: 1. Moses Jumper, 4.55, Norman Jumper, 9.73, 3. Billie Joe Johns, 33.11.
Sanctioned Events: Bareback Riding: 1. Shawn Best, 74, 2. Jaycee Chino, 62.
Saddle Bronc: No qualified rides.
Steer Wrestling: 1. Robbie Chalfant, 4.44, 2. Naha Jumper, 8.31, 3. Josh Jumper, 9.63, 4. Alex Johns, 11.25, 5. Sydney Gore, 20.66.
Calf Roping: 1. Preston Williams, 10, Naha Jumper, 9, 3. Alfonso Tigertail, 8.
Breakaway Roping: 1. Billie Tiger.
Barrel Racing: 1. Boogie Jumper, 17.301, 2. Tess Duchenaux, 17.358, 3. Carrera Gopher, 17.451, 4. Clarissa Bowers, 17.487, 5. Mackenzie Johns, 17.864, 6. Trina Bowers, 17.874.
Team Roping: 1. Miles/Preston Williams, 10, 2. Billie/Amos Tiger, 9, 3. Cicero Osceola/Pauletta Bowers, 8, 4. Jeff/Todd Johns, 7.
Bull Riding: 1. Koty Brugh, 10, 2. Shawn Best Jr., 9, 3. Gordon Smith, 8.

Tentative 2005 EIRA Rodeo Schedule

Brighton, Fla., April 9
Kids rodeo at 6 p.m – Sanctioned rodeo at 8 p.m.
Call In Monday April 4 and Tuesday April 5

Cinco De Mayo Rodeo
Immokalee, Fla., May 7
Kids rodeo at 6 p.m – Sanctioned rodeo at 8 p.m.
Call In Monday May 2 and Tuesday May 3

Memorial Weekend Rodeo
Big Cypress, Fla., May 21
Kids rodeo at 6 p.m – Sanctioned rodeo at 8 p.m.
Call in Monday May 16 and Tuesday May 17

Josiah Johns Memorial Rodeo
Brighton, Fla., July 2
Kids rodeo at 6 p.m – Sanctioned rodeo at 8 p.m.
Call in Monday June 27 and Tuesday June 28

Hollywood Rodeo
Big Cypress, Fla., July 23
Call in Monday July 18 Tuesday July 19

Clewiston Rodeo–Tentative
Clewiston, Fla.

Please call (863) 763-4128, Ext. 124 for all rodeos.

EIRA Contact List

Submitted by Jo "Boogie" Jumper

Adam Turtle – BB
Route 6 Box, 595-D
Okeechobee, FL 34974
(863) 534-4920

Amos Pres and Billie Tiger – BAW
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Chairman is Grand Marshall at Speckled Perch Festival

By Nery Mejicano
OKEECHOBEE, FL
— On March 12, Seminole Tribal Chairman Mitchell Cypress was honored with being the Grand Marshal of the Speckled Perch parade on March 12. The event was part of the 37th Annual Speckled Perch Festival, held on March 11-13.

In addition to the chairman, Stephen Bowers and Charles Hiers represented the Seminole Color Guard during the festivities. Several Seminole floats were entered and carried most of the Seminole royalty, including Miss Seminole JoJo Osceola, Jr. Miss Seminole Krystle Young, Little Miss Seminole Shalynn Josh, Brighton Seminole Princess Stephanie Smith, Brighton Jr. Miss Seminole Sheila Jones and Little Mr. Seminole Matthew Osceola. All wore beautiful and colorful Seminole clothing and were a hit among the many locals and tourist attending the parade.

After the very well attended rodeo at the Cattleman's Arena, Joe Nichols, a young country music artist was the headliner for an evening concert. This is the first year that a music event was added to the festival, and judging by the enthusiastic response, it was a success.

The Okeechobee Chamber of Commerce hosted this event and, in addition to the parade and the music concert, there were many more activities including a car show, arts and crafts and



Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Carmen Arango and Charles Hiers.

many delicious foods offered at the downtown Flagler Park.

Seniors Attend Chippendale Show



(L-R) Nancy Frank ,Linda Henry, Annie Henry, Susie Doctor, Maggie Garcia, Peggy Cubis, Jane Osceola. In red: Lola Juarez, Elder Affairs Program Project Coordinator and Jackie Smith, Assistant Project Coordinator having dinner at the Green Room.

Submitted by Lola Juarez
TAMPA — Several Seminole seniors attended the well-known Chippendale's show at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino on Valentines Day. The ladies were treated to dinner at the

Green Room, presented with baskets, flowers and candy.

After dinner, the ladies were given the opportunity to go backstage, meet the Chippendales and take pictures.

Seminole Tribe Recruits at Nova Job Fair

By Iretta Tiger
DAVIE, FL — On March 13, Angella Dixon and Anthony Frank, of the Human Resources department, represented the Seminole Tribe at a job fair at Nova Southeastern University. The Seminole booth was one of the most well received with Dixon and Frank collecting more than 50 applications and résumés.

"I go into detail about the history of the Tribe and what the Tribe is doing now," said Dixon "They've been asking general questions about the Tribe and about the Hard Rock Hotel."

The day-long job fair had more than 100 people stopping by the Seminole booth.

If you missed the job fair, do not worry; you can still check out what positions are available with the Tribe by visiting <http://www.seminoletribe.com/employment.shtm> l.



Tribal employees Angela Dixon (left) and Anthony Frank (right) recruiting for the Seminole Tribe.

Seminole wins Baby Miss Moore Haven

By Emma Brown
BRIGHTON — Brighton youngster Alice Miriam Osceola was recently crowned Baby Miss Moore Haven during the Chalo Nitka Festival. The contest was judged on appearance and personality, and Alice dazzled the judges with her smile and bubbly personality.

Alice is a lovely little princess from the Brighton Reservation and is the daughter of Russell and Holly Osceola, and the granddaughter of Norman and Debbie Johns, and Russell Osceola Sr., all of Brighton. Alice's family wishes to congratulate her and let her know how proud they are of her.



'Movin On' Miccosukee Sculptures Unveiled

By Vida Volkert
TALLAHASSEE, FL — Movin' On, a group of life-size bronze sculptures depicting a traveling Miccosukee family of the 1930s, was dedicated at the R.A. Gray Building in Tallahassee on March 15.

"There is no better way to show a time period than showing a family of the time," said sculptor Bradley Cooley.

The Miccosukee family sculptures include a father carrying a sack, a mother with a baby in her arms and a child walking along the path. The family is wearing typical patchwork clothes, and the mother is distinguished by a hairstyle that shades her face like a bonnet and multiple beads around her neck. Typically, these beds were handed down to the women for generations.

The figures were designed and created by Cooley and his son Bradley Jr., of Lamont, Fla. The Cooleys were commissioned to do the sculptures by Miccosukee Tribal Chairman Billy Cypress, who attended the ceremony along with Seminole Tribal Chairman Mitchell Cypress.

Members of the Florida Governor's Council on Indian Affairs staff, including its Executive Director Joe Quetone, Florida Supreme Court Justice Harry Lee Anstead, and Secretary of State Glenda E. Hood, joined them.

During the ceremony Hood announced that March 15 has been proclaimed by Governor Jeb Bush as Florida Native American Day. This particular day was chosen because it is the opening day of Heritage Month. On the same day next year another group of bronze figures representing the Seminole War period are planned to be dedicated. They are a total of four

different periods, including the European contact period and Pre-Columbian period.

Cooley and his son Bradley Jr., were selected to do the statues because of their expertise working on South Eastern Tribal sculptures. Their work can be seen in the homes of many Seminole Tribal citizens as well as in many Tribal office buildings.



(L-R) Miccosukee Chairman Billy Cypress with Chariman Mitchell Cypress.

HUD Assistant Secretary Meets with Tribal Housing Department

Submitted by the Housing Department
HOLLYWOOD — On March 3 the Seminole Tribe of Florida distinguished guest and Assistant Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Michael Minoru Fawn Liu visited the Tribal headquarters. He met with members of the Seminole Housing department, the Treasurer's Office and the Executive Administrative Officer.

Liu was in town to attend a joint Consultation meeting between HUD, the USET Housing Committee and the Great Lakes Indian Housing Association held at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. During his visit, Liu expressed the desire to meet with pertinent Seminole Tribal staff to commend them on the Tribe's historic and longstanding participation in various HUD programs. He specifically applauded the Tribe's recent pioneering success in launching the HUD Section 184 Program.

President Moses B. Osceola invited Liu into his office for a private chat and photo opportunity in a reciprocal gesture to convey appreciation for the good

faith efforts put forth by HUD. Osceola also wanted commended HUD for continuing to work closely with Indian tribes across the country in the critically needed areas of housing and economic development.



(L-R) Dorian Lange, Housing Director Michelle Thomas, Kevin Fitzgibbons, Michael Liu, President Moses Osceola, and Peter M. Russo.

Housing Director D. Michele Thomas, Assistant Director Peter M. Russo, HUD Grant/Fund Manager Dorian T. Lange and Administrator of the Eastern Woodlands Office of Native American Programs Kevin Fitzgibbons also joined Liu in the offices of President Osceola.

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Triple Crown Series Fishing Tournament

By Felix DoBosz
BIG CYPRESS — Another beautiful sunny morning kicked off the 5th Annual Howard Tiger Memorial Fishing Tournament. On March 12 at the L-28 Canal, 12 fishing teams got busy early. The challenge, to win big prizes for the biggest catch, enticed participants to pay the \$100 entry fee on a two person boat team. The entry fee was divided, with half going towards the payout for the Big Bass competition, the other half went into the pot.

This was the first in a series of three fishing tournaments called the Triple Crown Series hosted by the Seminole Tribe's Recreation department and organized by Director of Recreation Moses "Bigg Shot" Jumper Jr. and Hollywood Recreation Coordinator Steve Young. Competition was open to all Native Americans, community members, employees, spouses and their families of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

All the fish caught were weighed at the end of the tournament, and the total weight from each tournament will be counted towards the overall winner at the end of the series. After the bass were weighed in, they are returned to their natural habitat to preserve and maintain the food chain.

Using only artificial plastic worms as bait, the freshwater fisherman tried to bring in the biggest and heaviest bass they could snag. A total of five largemouth bass per boat was permitted, with a 12-inch minimum size limit

as the golden rule to win one of five coveted places in this series.

Joe Collins, Manager of Aquatics for the Hollywood Recreation department Joe, was responsible for weighing in the fish and releasing them while enforcing all the contest rules and distributing placement payouts.

Collins said with a serious grin, "All the boats have to come in by three o'clock or they are disqualified."

Tribal Treasurer Mike Tiger and his son Ernie Tiger, both avid fishermen, were also competing as a team for the top prize.

"I love fishing and so did my late grandfather Howard Tiger, family and sports were his two favorites. I think he would have been very happy to see me and my father, enjoying this tournament together, in honor of him," Ernie Tiger said.

Frank Marrero and Mario Posada, teammates from Immokalee held up the biggest and heaviest largemouth bass in this competition. They were both rewarded with the first place win and cash prizes. They had combination total of over 20 pounds; now that's a winner.



Felix DoBosz

Front row(L-R): Happy Jumper, Joe Grasshopper, Moses "Bigg Shot" Jumper Jr. Second row(L-R): Frank Marrero, Mario Posada, George Grasshopper, Rusty Tiger, Mike Tiger, Salaw Hummingbird, Third row (L-R): Sam Nelson, Chris Osceola, Unknown, Jason Grasshopper, Ernie Tiger and Charlie Cypress.



Felix DoBosz

Frank Marrero (left) and Mario Posada hold up the bass they caught.

Upon docking the boat, Marrero admitted he had no idea his team would win, saying "We just used plastic worms on 15 pound test." Sometimes that's all you need to be a winner, and maybe a little luck on a sunny day.

Here are the official results from the 5th Annual Howard Tiger Memorial Fishing Tournament held on 3/12/05 team standings are: 1. Frank Marrero & Mario Posada, 20.1 lbs, 2.Naha Jumper & Justin Jumper, 16.8 lbs 3. George Grasshopper & Jason Grasshopper, 13.1 lbs 4. Ernie Tiger & Mike Tiger, 12.8lbs 5. Chris Osceola & Sam Nelson, 12.6 lbs 6. Bigg Shot & Davey Snow, 10.8 lbs 7. Rusty Tiger & Clyde Tiger, 6.13 lbs, 8. Charlie Cypress, 6.6 lbs, 9. Ricky Doctor & Richard Doctor, 6.5 lbs 10. Chucky Osceola, 3.10 lbs 11. Fred & Salaw Hummingbird, 3.7 lbs 12. Happy Jumper & Joe Grasshopper, 6.7 (-3)lbs

BIG BASS: Mario Posada & Frank Marrero, 6.7 lbs

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WHEN: May 14-15
WHERE: Clinton Lake Sports Complex, Lawrence, Kansas
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abarnett@haskell.edu, (785) 749-8402, Kerry Girty:
kgirty@haskell.edu, (785) 832-6600 or (785) 979-7051 and Robert Berryhill Jr.: robertberryhill@hotmail.com, (785) 841-1292



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Boys & Girls Club member Notah Begay III (left) prepares these future Seminole golf stars for greatness.

Boys & Girls Club Hosts Pro at Golfing Clinic

By Adelsa Williams
HOLLYWOOD — On March 7, the Boys & Girls Club of The Seminole Tribe and the Hollywood Recreation department hosted a Native American golfing clinic at the Recreation Ball Field.

Robert North Sr., Director of Development for the Boys & Girls Club, proudly introduced Native professional golfer Notah Begay III, who briefly introduced himself and addressed the youth with a few motivational words.

“You can do anything you want,” said Begay. “I make a lot of money playing golf.”

Begay then grouped the Seminole youth to show them a few golf tips and tricks that grasped their attention and surely entertained them.

Afterwards, the children had an opportunity to hit a few golf balls. Begay patiently explained to them the proper way to hold a golf club and different swing styles.

After the clinic, Recreation Director Moses Jumper Jr. and Assistant Director Marl Osceola presented Begay with a traditional Seminole jacket in appreciation for taking time to visit the Seminole Tribe and conduct the special presentation to the Seminole youth.

Josephine North, Chief



Begay instructed children on putting.

Professional Officer of the Seminole Boys & Girls Club, also presented Begay with a set of bath towels with engraved Seminole patchwork.

Begay then handed out to the kids Nike® caps and golf balls and autographed posters for each of the kids.

Notah Begay III, who is half Navajo, half Pueblo, grew up on a reservation with no hot water and an 80 percent unemployment rate. Considered an icon by many, he is the only Native American in the Professional Golf Association (PGA) Tour. He was also an All-American teammate of Tiger Woods at Stanford University.

Begay has joined forces with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America to encourage today's youth to become club members. His visit to the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Boys & Girls Club is in effort to promote positive alternatives for the Native youth.

For more information on Notah Begay III, visit his website at www.notahbegay3.com.

Native Economic Summit Golf Tournament



Mitch Osceola finishes first with a 69 and 1 under par.



Dave Osceola

By Adelsa Williams
WESTON, FL — On March 20, Tribal citizen Mitch Osceola and The Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. sponsored a golf tournament at the Bonaventure Country Club. The event was a recreational outing for participants of the Native Economic Summit, which the Seminole Tribe hosted at the Hard Rock Hotel.

A total of 15 players formed the two-man, blind draw game. They also enjoyed a morning side skins game. In this style of play, the lowest score on the hole wins the hole. If there is a tie, there is no winner.

Tribal citizen Mary Osceola and Ricky Doctor were the winners in the two-man team skins, scoring a birdie, as well as Dave Osceola and Jackie Thompson.

After the tournament, everyone awaited the results as they enjoyed a light barbeque lunch at the clubhouse.

Below are the results.

Overall: 1. Mitch Osceola and Mondo Tiger with a score of 69 and 1 under par, 2. Ricky Doctor and Marcy Osceola Jr. with a score of 73, 3. Max Osceola Jr. and Dorian Lange with a score of 78.

Skins: Hole #3 Dave Osceola and Jackie Thompson, #8 & #12 Mary Osceola and Ricky Doctor, #14 & #18 Mitch Osceola and Mondo Tiger.

Closest to the Pin: Hole #3 Steve Osceola, #5 Marcy Osceola Jr., #11 & #15 Ricky Doctor.



The archers including Joel Frank (second from right) take aim at their targets.

Archery Team Attends World Archery Festival

By Don Osceola
LAS VEGAS, NV — On Feb.25-27, Archery Coach John Waterhouse of Miami, Fla. and his team members, Tribal citizens Richard Henry of Tampa, Joel Frank and Don Osceola of Hollywood, competed in an indoor archery tournament at the Riviera Hotel & Casino.

During the competition, Henry used a compound bow with sights and stabilizer, while Frank used a compound bow with a stabilizer and no sights. Osceola used a traditional recurve bow with a stabilizer and no sights.

The contest consisted of targets which were concentric, eight-inch circles in yellow, red, and blue. The targets were at the distance of 20 meters away from the shooter. From that distance, the target looked small. Each time a shooter went up to the shooting line, they had three arrows to shoot in two-and-a-half minutes.

Seminole archery team members gained the experience of being in a large tournament with its pressures and stresses. They are now looking forward to the upcoming tournaments in Myrtle Beach, S.C., Oak Ridge, Tenn. and Columbus, Ga.

Seminole Motocross Schedule and General Information

Practice Schedule
Thursday Practice: 11a.m.–5:30 p.m.
Bikes and Quads can ride either practice track. On occasion we might have to split the practices. Most of the time this occurs when the kids are out of school.

Saturday Practice: 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
In-between 1-1:30 p.m., MX bikes and Quads switch tracks.

Sunday Practice: 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
In-between 1-1:30 p.m. MX bikes and Quads switch tracks. We are going to switch the dirt bikes and the quads from one track to the other on Saturday and Sunday's practice. About half way through the day, the bikes will ride on the Quad track, and the Quads will ride on the MX track.

Practice times subject to change due to racing, weather, or any other acts of nature out of our control. In the future we will post any racing or changes in practice times.

Rider and Spectator Fees: \$3 for general admission (non-riders), \$20 for riders six-years-old and older, \$10 for riders five-years-old and younger.

Rider admission is per person, not per bike. Every rider must have an arm band. If two people are caught using the same arm band, they will be told to leave for the day.

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Friday: 9 a.m.–4 p.m., Thursday: 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Saturday, Sunday: 9 a.m.–4 p.m., Wednesday: Closed

The Hare Scramble Trail: These trails are meant for practice. They are not meant for looking for a nice picnic spot. Please be aware that bikes 80cc and higher are allowed to ride the trails. Faster riders, please be patient with slower riders, and slower riders please be kind and let the faster rider pass—remember it is only practice, and everyone wants to have fun.

Also, it is the riders' responsibility to look out for slower or down riders, there are no flaggers on the track. If your bike or Quad becomes disabled while on the trail please stay with it. The trail is going to be monitored though out the day.


Trails are a seven mile loop. Please make sure you have a full tank of gas, also children younger than 12 are not permitted to be on the trails.

The Pee Wee Track: This track is about four-tenths of a mile long. This track is for small wheel Pee Wee bikes only—50cc two stroke, and 50cc up to 110cc four stroke. No 60/65's, 80/85's or Pit Bikes are allowed on the Pee Wee track. No exceptions.

If it becomes necessary, we will split the Pee Wee riders. The riding intervals will be 20 minutes.

For more information, please visit <http://www.seminoletribemotocross.com>.

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AMERICAN INDIAN PROBATE REFORM ACT

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

The American Indian Probate Reform Act (AIPRA) of 2004 was enacted on October 27, 2004. The Act amends the Indian Land Consolidation Act and amendments made in 2000 and this notice replaces the notice provided in 2001. **This Act affects your ownership rights in trust or restricted land, unless the land is located in Alaska. Most of the provisions do not take effect for one (1) year.**

AIPRA changes the way trust estates are distributed to your heirs after your death. This increases the importance and benefits of writing a will or doing an estate plan. AIPRA also improves your ability to consolidate your interests in trust or restricted land.

SECTION 1: PROPERTY DISTRIBUTION, WILLS, AND ESTATE PLANNING

The Act creates a new nation-wide probate code that changes how your trust property will be distributed among your heirs if you die without a will. Other changes include amended definitions of "Indian" and "eligible heirs" for purposes of inheriting in trust. The changes also provide opportunities for Indians or the tribe to purchase your interest in trust or restricted land at probate. In order to give you time to plan, the inheritance changes take effect after one (1) year. To help you understand some of the most important changes, you need to know what happens if you do not have a will or an estate plan.

SHOULD YOU WRITE A WILL?

The new law protects your rights as a property owner to transfer your property by will. By writing a will, you can designate how your trust land will be transferred in trust to any Indian person or to your descendants even if they are not tribal members. You can control how your trust property is passed by creating an estate plan, such as a will or deed. There are also new provisions on wills. If you have already written a will, you should review it to make sure the will says what you currently want.

WHO CAN RECEIVE YOUR PROPERTY AT DEATH IN TRUST?

Without a Will:

If you do not write a will, your trust property will pass under the new federal probate code or approved tribal probate code, rather than under the state laws that currently govern Indian probate. Your trust land will continue to be inherited by your immediate family – first to your children or grandchildren or possibly great grandchildren, and if you have none, then to your parents or brothers and sisters. All of these people will be eligible to inherit your trust property as long as each meets the definition of Indian below, or are your descendants within two generations of an Indian, or they already are co-owners in the same parcel. Land not passing to one of the people above will then pass to the tribe

where the land is located. If you have a spouse and other eligible heirs, your surviving spouse will inherit 1/3 of any money in your IIM account at the time of your death, and all of the money produced from your interest in trust or restricted land during your spouse's lifetime. Your other heirs get the remaining 2/3 of any money in your IIM account at the time of death, and the remaining ownership interest in the trust or restricted land. Your spouse may also continue to live in a family home located on allotted land. If your spouse but no other eligible heirs survive you, the spouse gets your IIM account, and during the spouse's lifetime, the money produced from your land interest. The spouse may also continue to live in a family home located on allotted land. The remaining ownership interest in land goes to the tribe where the land is located. If you do not write a will and your ownership interest is less than 5% of the total, your spouse may continue to live in the family home on the parcel and then the new probate law will limit inheritance to the oldest eligible child, and then oldest eligible grandchild or oldest eligible great-grandchild.

Additionally, the Department of the Interior may purchase interests in land that are less than 5% of the total, for fair market value during the probate proceeding without the consent of the heirs. However, this authority to purchase small interests without the heirs' consent DOES NOT APPLY IF THE INTEREST IS PASSING THROUGH A VALID WILL, or if the heirs were living on the land. Spouses living on a parcel also are protected.

With a Will:

By writing a will, your land can be transferred in trust to any Indian person, the tribe that has jurisdiction, or any Indian co-owners. You can also transfer your land in trust to any of your descendants (children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren) even if they are not Indian. You can control how your trust property is passed by creating an estate plan, such as a will or deed. You can transfer your interests out of trust to anybody. Even if your spouse is not mentioned in a will, your spouse may inherit some of your trust property.

WHO MAY INHERIT LAND IN TRUST UNDER AIPRA?

There is an amended definition of Indian that helps determine who can inherit an interest in land in trust, particularly where there is no will. Under AIPRA, an "Indian" is a person who: is a member of an Indian tribe, or is eligible to become a member of an Indian tribe; or was an owner of an interest in trust or restricted land on October 27, 2004; or meets the definition of "Indian" under the Indian Reorganization Act, or in California, any person as in 1, 2, 3, and 4, or who owns trust or restricted land in California. This will not affect your eligibility for other federal Indian programs. Your heirs who are not

Indian may be able to inherit in trust if they meet the statutory requirements for "eligible heirs." If you have heirs who are non-Indian, be sure to seek information at the toll-free number below or at your local agency office. The provisions of AIPRA are complex. Be sure to seek information for any questions you may have.

SECTION 2: CONSOLIDATING OWNERSHIP INTERESTS

One of the main purposes of the Act is to preserve the trust status and reduce the number of small, fractionated interests in Indian lands. The Act does this by providing individuals and tribes with more opportunities to consolidate fractionated interests and by removing some restrictions on what tribes and individuals can do with their lands.

WHAT IS THE PURCHASE OPTION AT PROBATE?

Certain people can purchase your interest in the parcel during probate. Your heirs, other co-owners, and the tribe where the land is located will be able to purchase your interest in the parcel. The purchase price must equal or exceed the fair market value. Your heirs would receive the money paid for your interest in the parcel instead of a share of your interest in the parcel. If your heirs are to receive 5% interest or more in the parcel, or if they live on the parcel, your heirs' consent to the purchase is required.

WHAT ARE CONSOLIDATION AGREEMENTS?

Heirs can decide how they want the trust estate distributed at the probate hearing. For example, they may decide whether they wish to inherit their share, or sell it to other co-owners or the tribe where the land is located. Heirs may also give their share to another named Indian person instead of inheriting it.

HOW CAN A PERSON ACQUIRE OTHER FRACTIONATED INTERESTS?

The Act contains a number of provisions that are important to Indian landowners. Some examples are: Land consolidation options for landowners, Partition by sale of Indian lands, Continuation and expansion of the federal "buy back" program, and Greater flexibility for landowners to consolidate and acquire interests during the probate process.

HOW CAN YOU TRANSFER AN INTEREST IN PROPERTY DURING YOUR LIFETIME?

Please seek information from your trust officer, your local BIA office or the toll free number below for information on estate planning options during your lifetime such as: Negotiated sales, Gift deeds, Land exchanges, and other transactions.

For more information about this notice or the Act, call 1-888-678-6836 ext 888



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Globe Trekkers Films Seminole Country



Jaime Restrepo

Brian Zepeda (right) does an on-camera interview for an up-coming Globe Trekkers episode.

By Jaime Restrepo

BIG CYPRESS — The cast of the internationally watched TV show *Globe Trekkers*, as well as crew members, spent two-and-a-half days at Seminole Big Cypress reservation on March 6-8. They shot footage to record an episode highlighting the lifestyle, history, and culture of the Seminole Tribe, as well as what sorts of adventure can be found in the Everglades.

Globe Trekkers is a travel-adventure series that airs on the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). In each episode, members of the *Globe Trekker* cast and crew visit a part of the world, bringing the culture and lifestyle, with action and adventure, to the homes of millions of viewers. From the Himalaya mountains, to Australia, all the way to the Everglades, *Globe Trekkers* is there to bring it all back to the television audience.

The travel television show will feature the Seminole as one of three highlights of Florida. The show has a worldwide audience of 33 million.

They arrived Sunday evening, March 6 and spent the night at the Billie Swamp Safari VIP house. After breakfast at the café, the cast and crew took an air boat ride to shoot some footage. The airboat zipped them through the sawgrass, into the cypress preserve. Swamp buggies awaited them when they returned from the boat ride to take cast and crew on an Eco-Tour.

While on the tour, the visitors experienced an intimate look at the terrain and surroundings, much as the Seminoles from many years ago did. The hammocks and trails within the Safari provided a perfect

setting, filled with a wide assortment of animal and plant species. Upon their return from the Eco-Tour, the guests enjoyed the alligator wrestling and swamp critter shows.

Throughout their visit and adventure in Big Cypress, the crew took advantage of the multitude of subjects for them to photograph and record, and making sure not to miss anything. The following day, the Trekkers visited the Ah-Tha-Thi-Ki Museum and met with Brian Zepeda, Morning Osceola and Chris McHaney, of the museum's Community Outreach Program. The program devotes its efforts to cultivating and maintaining a presence within the community, as well as promoting the museum to outside groups and agencies through special events and programs, like the Kissimmee Slough Shootout.

While there, the visitors experienced some traditional Seminole cooking while in a traditional Seminole setting. The cameras were rolling as Brian Zepeda showed the hostess the various aspects of traditional Seminole life, including the various structures like chickees used for housing and cooking.

The Trekkers began their visit with the Seminole Tribe during the Tribal Fair. They also toured the Hollywood Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino prior to their visit in Big Cypress. This of course, provided a complete balance of the old and the new, the traditional and the modern aspects of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

The episode, scheduled to air in about eight weeks, is perfect opportunity for the Tribe to say "welcome" the world.

INVITATION TO BID RFB OT050433 FLAT MOWING SERVICES

The Procurement Department of the South Florida Water Management District will receive sealed bids at the 2nd Floor, B-1 Building, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, Florida, 33406, for flat mowing services of grassed levees, berms, access roads of various widths, and around water control structures in the District's Ft. Lauderdale Field Station service area in Ft. Lauderdale, FL on April 8, 2005, at 2:30 P.M. local time, at which time bids will be opened and publicly read.

An optional PRE-BID CONFERENCE will be held March 25, 2005, at 11:00 A.M. at the Field Station located at 2535 Davie Road, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33317.

All bids must conform to the instructions in the Request for Bids and include a properly executed Contract Compliance Disclosure Form.

Solicitation documents will be available March 18, 2005 in the SFWMD Procurement Office, at the above address, by-downloading a free copy from the District's website at www.sfwmd.gov, by calling (561) 687-6391. Interested bidders may also call the 24-hour BID HOT-LINE at 800-472-5290. The public is invited to attend the RFB opening. Information on the status of this solicitation can be obtained at our web site www.sfwmd.gov.

For more information, please contact Don Hill, Contract Specialist: at (561) 682-2045.

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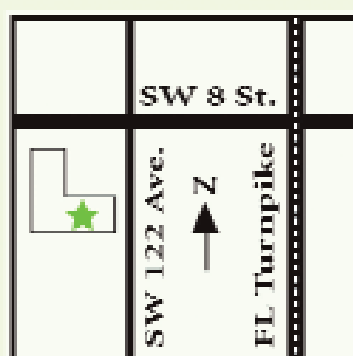
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Happy Birthday



Happy 12th birthday to Kristin Billie on April 14. Have a great time celebrating your birthday. Keep up the hard work in school and playing girl's fast pitch softball for the Pembroke Lakes Bandits.

Love you always,
**Dad (John), Mom (Esther),
Chelsea and Byron**



Happy birthday to Trisha Lola Walker on April 16. Wow...How fast you've grown; you're already 16. All of our love goes out to you on this precious day. Hope you have fun—I know you will.

Love,
**Mom (Tisha W.), Lariah,
Anthony, Nacia and Lil' Ricky**



Happy birthday to my grandma Martha Jumper. I bet you didn't think you would become a grandma right away did you? Well anyways here I am so happy birthday.

Love,
**Your granddaughter Ryanna
Osceola**

I want to say **happy birthday** on April 7 to my mom **Martha Jumper.** These years go by so fast. You are a wonderful grandmother. We've had our ups and downs but we get over them. Thanks for being my mother.

Love,
Randa



We would like to wish **Billy "Wonk-Wonk"** a **happy 30th birthday** on March 2; and many more to come. Take it easy!

With lots of love from,
**Your sis (Tisha W.) and the rest
of your family in BC**



New Kids

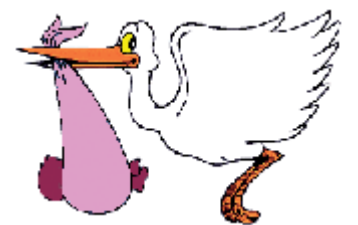


We would like to introduce and welcome our first daughter, **Alyss Estella Frances Cypress.** She was born Monday Feb. 28 at 11:52 a.m. She weighed seven pounds, five ounces and was 20 inches long. She is a member of the Panther clan.

We love you very much,
Tee.wa.ye.she,

**Proud parents: Wynter Dawn
Billie and Dakotah Cypress,
Grandparents: Debbie S. Osceola,
Ronnie B. Billie Sr., Gary "Neal,"
Eileen Waggener and Kenny Tommie,
Great-grandparents: Alice Billie of
B.C., Frances J., Wild Bill McKinley
Osceola, Esther Buster and Irene Buster**

Congratulations **June and Junior Battiest** on the birth of their beautiful daughter **Petra Osceola.** She was born Sept. 23, 2004 and weighing nine pounds, four ounces.



Happy belated 17th birthday Kellie on March 30. We love you and may the Lord bless you with many more.

Love,
**Mom, Demetria and Grandma
Mary**

Congratulations



Congratulations Miss Stephanie Smith, the 2005–2006 Miss Brighton Seminole Princess

My baby girl, so beautiful, smart, and silly I know you really didn't want to I know you did it to make me proud. Since the day you were born when Grandpa Fred named you Stephanie I have always been proud From little Miss Seminole to Miss Brighton Seminole You have always made me proud My darling, we know everyone is not perfect I have watched you come back strong from adversity; To make positive changes in your life What more could a mother ask for I know I'm hard on you but it's because I

know you are strong Everyone makes mistakes But those who learn from them and move on are the winners in life Believe me baby, you are a winner You have it in you, I see it already Yes, just like me, you are strong, smart, hard working, and honest My young one, always avoid the negative and illuminate the positive This will always take you to the next level and beyond Keep your head up and smile You know I will always be there, Jarrid and Cee Jae too We got your back baby!

I love you baby girl,
Mom (Camellia Smith Osceola)



Christine McCall (center) visited the Hollywood Senior Center to donate 15 raffle tickets, sponsored through a donation from the Tribal Board and Council, to each senior Tribal citizen who walked through the door for breakfast that morning. Maggie Osceola (left) made a few

outfits for Crissi and Mary Gay Osceola (right), Maggie's daughter, is a past Seminole Princess. Both mother and daughter were happy to support Christine as she competes for the Miss Indian World pageant.

In Memoriam

It's almost a year and your birthday is coming around. We miss you a lot. You will always have a special place in our hearts. I wish Ryanna could see what a wonderful uncle she had. I show her pictures to let her know who you are. We just want to say happy birthday to Cordell Jumper Jr. on April 7. We will always miss you.

Love,
Randa, Ryan and Ryanna



**In loving memory of
Ricardo Rodriguez
(Oct. 7, 1977–Jan. 4, 2004)**

I have a few words to say
There were a lot of things left
unsaid
It's been sometime since you've
been gone
'LiL' Rick is still waiting for you
to pull up in the Big Chevy
He doesn't understand that God
took you home to be with him
I thought I would be strong by
now
But there are times I cry inside
I have learned hiding all the pain
won't bring you back
So much time has already passed
That I realize life has to go on
But one thing remains to be said:
we will never forget you
You will be in our hearts
We still miss and love you
We think of you all the time
Until we meet again

Peace,
Love always,
**Your wife, Tisha Lee Walker
and kids Ignacia and 'LiL'
Ricky Walker**

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6. Laura Mae Osceola - Instrumental in getting Federal Recognition of the Seminole Tribe - Dark Chocolate & Bananas

7. Joe Dan Osceola - Youngest elected President & First Ambassador - Almond & Dark Chocolate

8. Fred Smith - Longest serving Tribal President - Dark Chocolate & Mint

9. Jim Shore - Longtime General Legal Counsel of the Seminole Tribe - Dark Chocolate & Raspberry

10. Betty Mae Jumper - First Chairwoman of the Seminoles - Apple & Cinnamon

11. James Billie - Longest Serving Elected Chairman of the Tribe - Vanilla & Caramel

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13. Howard Tiger - First Military person Elected President. Organized sports programs for the Seminole Youth - Dark Chocolate

14. Mitchell & David Cypress - Brothers and Leaders from the Big Cypress Reservation - White Chocolate & Caramel

15. David DeHass - Hollywood Representative - Board - Dark Chocolate & Coconut

16. Moses Osceola - President of the Seminole Tribe - Irish Cream & Dark Chocolate

17. Roger Smith - Brighton Representative - Council - Dark Chocolate & Vanilla


18. Paul Bowers - Big Cypress Representative - Board - Caramel & Hazelnut

19. Johnny Jones - Brighton Representative - Board - Dark Chocolate & Praline

20. Howard Tommie - 2 Term Elected Chairman, Introduced Seminole Bingo - Dark Chocolate & Honey

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Several Seminole members from Baptist churches on different reservations attended the Gathering.

Native Choir sings at ‘The Gathering of Nations’ For Spiritual Awakening

By Don Osceola

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK — Recently some members of the Seminole Baptist churches of Big Cypress, Hollywood and Brighton reservations traveled to Oklahoma City to attend a spiritual awakening conference. Other Baptist Natives from several different tribes also attended the gathering.

During the worship service, a 45 member choir known as Native Praise sang hymns in a Native language.

All choir members were Native ladies wearing their colorful Native dresses. The choir is working on a CD.

They have also been invited to sing their Native hymns at the Baptist conference in England this summer. They are raising funds for the trip by selling fry bread.

Each day at the conference had a theme. Themes were: Prayer, Confession, Renewal and Celebration. Furthermore, there was Bible studies and great preaching about the word of God and prayers for needful spiritual awaken and turning to God among the Native people in the nation.

On a chilly, sunny day at the conclusion of the

gathering, people started on their trips to their homes with these God's living words in their hearts: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength," Deuteronomy 6:4, 6:5.

Just a few people from the 45 member choir.

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Seminole Tribe of Florida
A New Guinea native embraces his new found friendship with Seminole Tribal citizen Herbert Jim.

Tribe Takes Center Stage at International Travel Tradeshow

Herbert Rainey Jim attends as cultural representative

BERLIN, GERMANY — Representatives from the Seminole Tribe of Florida’s Florida Seminole Tourism attended the International Tourismus-Boruse (ITB), the world’s largest travel industry tradeshow from March 10–15 in Berlin, Germany. International Tourismus-Boruse is German and translates to International Tourism Exchange in English.

Tribal representatives showcased the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, Billie Swamp Safari, Seminole Okalee Museum, Seminole Okalee Indian Village, Seminole Hard Rock Hotels & Casinos, Seminole Paradise and the Immokalee Casino. This is the tenth year in a row that Florida Seminole Tourism representatives have attended this international travel tradeshow to attract more visitors.

This is the tenth year in a row that Florida Seminole Tourism representatives have attended this international travel tradeshow.

“Germany is one of our number one markets for visitors to the Seminole Tribe’s tourism venues,” said Tribal Marketing Director Lucy Evanicki. “The Tribe has an international following and attending shows like this enables us to meet with tour operators, travel agents and media to help sell and promote the Seminole Tribe’s cultural and attraction tourism products.”

The ITB tradeshow attracts high-ranking travel professionals from around the world including tour operators, travel agents, media, representatives from attractions, hotels, countries, theme parks and



Seminole Tribe of Florida
Herbie Jim shows his name written in Arabic.

On the back of this postcard were descriptions of the Seminole tourist attractions, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, Seminole Okalee Indian Village and Museum and of course, Billie Swamp Safari. These postcards, which doubled as cultural mementos, were also intended to be promotional pieces that would entice attendees to make a stop at any of these Tribal venues while vacationing in Florida.

While at ITB, Florida Seminole Tourism representatives met one-on-one with more than 45 tour operators, travel agents and media. The Seminole Tribe also sponsored the Second Annual Native

American Dinner in conjunction with ITB. All Native American ITB participants were invited to attend, and the majority did; including Governor Richard Mermejo from the Picuris Pueblo in New Mexico, San Juan Pueblo Tribal representatives and ancient storytellers Theresa True, Melissa True and Bo Taylor representing the Cherokee Nation.

The USA is confident 2005 will prove to be one of its best years for overseas tourists as the weak dollar helps to pull in record numbers of European holiday makers. Tourism bosses are in a bullish mood following a strong 2004 that states such as Florida believed matched 2000—the year most American officials regard as the last high-water mark of real growth.

“Everyone thought 2005 would be the year to catch up, but I think we got there in 2004,” said Visit Florida UK and Scandinavia Director Colin Brodie. “That means 2005 will be the best year ever for Florida.”

Even the hurricanes which battered the Sunshine State’s coastline last autumn have failed to deter travelers, according to Visit Florida, the state’s official travel planning website.

“The hurricane issue is a non-event. Only one customer has mentioned it at ITB,” said Visit Florida’s Director of Continental Europe Philip Chryst. “The important things are price and value—Europeans are 32 percent richer in Florida because of the weak dollar. There is a pent-up desire to visit and people think the time is now. We are looking at a boom year for the German market.”

Portions of this article have been taken from an article that was featured in FVW International by Sara Macefield.



Seminole Tribe of Florida
(L-R) Governor Richard Mermejo of the Picurus Pueblo in New Mexico, Seminole Herbert Jim and Teresa and Melissa True from the San Juan Pueblo in New Mexico enjoyed the Native American dinner.

more and allows them to meet one-on-one to sell their products and negotiate future business. With more than 10,000 exhibitors from over 180 countries, ITB represents the full spectrum of global tourism.

Herbert Rainey Jim from the Tribal Education department attended ITB as the Seminole Tribe’s cultural representative. While at the show, he interacted and networked with other cultural liaisons from many foreign locales such as the Far East, Africa and South America.

Jim also met a Middle Eastern gentleman who made him a keepsake of his full name written in Arabic. In addition, Jim autographed postcards for visiting ITB attendees. The postcard depicted him making his way through the Everglades waters at Billie Swamp Safari.

First Annual BC Gospel Celebration

Submitted by Cindy Malin

BIG CYPRESS — Join gospel music fans as they enjoy performances by the Crabb Family and Charles Johnson and the Revivers at the Big Cypress Gospel Celebration presented by the Seminole Tribe of Florida on April 16 at the Big Cypress Rodeo Arena located on the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation. Gates open at 10 a.m., concert begins at 12 p.m.

The first performer will be Nicole Niles, a national recording artist who has opened for Shania Twain, Garth Brooks, Trisha Yearwood and others and has been writing Christian music for the past three years. Next will be the Andy Buster Band representing the Miccosukee Tribe followed by the Jonah Cypress Band representing the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Charles Johnson and the Revivers will be performing at 4 p.m. Formerly with the Sensational Nightingales, Johnson has joined Maurice Morgan and Daryl Richmond to form this nationally known

gospel band. He has also recorded his own CDs, made his own videos and has written an autobiography to remind readers of the spiritual heritage of our country.

The final musical performance which is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. will be the Crabb Family. From a church in rural Kentucky, the Crabb Family has managed to break through musical barriers to reach people from all walks of life with the message of the gospel. Their schedule leads them from the Grand Ole’ Opry to State Fairs to Christian festivals. Although their roots are primarily Southern Gospel, the Crabb Family’s latest recording, “Driven,” features a variety of styles and genres.

In addition to gospel music, Seminole arts, crafts and food will be available. There will also be a children’s village with a bounce house, face painting by clowns, free popcorn and snow cones.

For further information, please call Josh Jumper at (863) 983-8923 or (863) 902-3200.

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Crabb Family

Charles Johnson
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Nichole Niles

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NICOLE NILES - 12:00 NOON

ANDY BUSTER BAND - 1:30 PM

JONAH CYPRESS BAND - 2:30 PM

CHARLES JOHNSON & THE REVIVERS - 4:00 PM

THE CRABB FAMILY - 5:30 PM

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Directions: From the north, take 80 to 833 south to the Seminole Tribe's Big Cypress Reservation, continue south on 833 to the Big Cypress Rodeo Arena.

From Fort Lauderdale or Naples, take I-75/Alligator Alley to exit 49, then north 16 miles to Big Cypress Rodeo Arena.

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News From Indian Country



Jennifer Villalobos

Participants from the 19th Annual RES Economic Summit's youth track.

Teaching Indian Youth Business Success

By Ryan Slattery

LAS VEGAS, NV — John Mia and Adrian Phoenix are proving you don't have to be out of high school to start thinking about the future. Around the time each was first eligible to apply for a driver's license the teens were starting their own catering business—the Red Chili Shack.

Their hard work has paid off and not just with a successful business. At the 19th Annual Reservation Economic Summit (RES) the pair was presented with the "Youth Entrepreneur of the Year" award.

Not only that. They won some high praise from Bureau of Indian Affairs Assistant Secretary Dave Anderson, the businessman who turned Famous Dave's barbeque into a franchise of restaurants across the country. Anderson was the featured keynote speaker on the final day of RES and took the stage immediately following the announcement that the Red Chili Shack had taken home the honor.

"If things are going to change in Indian Country its going to come from our young entrepreneurs," Anderson said. "We all have to get out of our comfort zones. We have to start telling our young people they are worthy as Indian people and can do amazing things."

Anderson's comments on the younger generation taking charge of the future of business on the reservations were echoed by a number of speakers throughout the four day conference at the Las Vegas Hilton. During his speech, Rick Stephens, Senior Vice President of Internal Service for Boeing told the crowd that "it's the youth who will help us develop the future."

It was no coincidence that so many speakers used their time to address younger conference attendees. It was the first time in the history of RES that there was a track dedicated strictly to Indian youth.

The Young Entrepreneurs track was the brainchild of Jennifer Villalobos and Clark Tallbull who saw a need to get young people involved in business at an earlier age. Villalobos, 34, said the idea came to her three years ago when at RES she noticed that there were no young people in attendance.

"I was so inspired by seeing so many Native American businesses and what they were doing, and the effect it had on me that I wondered what effect it would have on teens," said Villalobos, the 2004 recipient of the Youth Entrepreneur award. "So we took it upon ourselves to see if there would be support here for a youth track and there was."

About two dozen high school and college age youth participated in the inaugural session. The students were assigned mentors, took part in self-esteem and confidence building exercises and attended workshops on wellness, financial planning and networking. The purpose of the track was to instill confi-

dence and get the students thinking on a larger business scale.

Presenter Robert Johnston used his class to teach the students how to feel comfortable introducing themselves to business leaders, showing them how to make the most out of a brief conversation to ensure they land the job or client. Later the students were "let loose to the lions" on the trade show floor to use the techniques they had just learned.

"This has opened a lot of people's eyes," Johnston said of the youth track. "The greatest resource any tribe has is its youth. It's an investment in the future."

Singer Darryl Tonemah was also a presenter. In the time Tonemah spent at the conference and in traveling to reservations all across the nation, he said he's seen a change in attitude among Indian youth. The defeatist attitude, he said, that was prevalent



Jennifer Villalobos

(L-R) John Mia and Adrian Phoenix with their "Youth Entrepreneur of the Year" award.

when he was growing up is fading away.

"A lot of young people on the reservations I go to have bigger ideas. They want to start businesses," said the 38-year-old Tonemah. "When I ask kids what they want to do, they have plans, which is encouraging because that option wasn't there 20 years ago. You don't have to go so far away to be successful. You don't have to do off the reservation to have a business. It's easier. There are more start up opportunities now. It's pretty cool they came to this to get that dream started."

For Mia, who said he plans to apply some of the marketing strategies he learned to his business, that dream is already becoming a reality.

"This helps push you in the right direction," said the 18-year-old Cal-State freshman of the new youth track. "It shows what it takes to set up a business and put it all into action."

Oneida Tribe Honors NIGA Chairman

Submitted by Bobbi Webster

ONEIDA, WI — The Oneida Business Committee honored National Indian Gaming Association Chairman Ernie Stevens Jr. on March 23 for his outstanding leadership and commitment to promote and support national Native issues. Surrounded by his family, Stevens accepted the award and in turn presented the Oneida Tribe with the American Indian Tribal Leadership Award he received from the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development at their annual summit in Las Vegas, Nev.

Chairman Stevens said in accepting the award, "It's a great honor to receive this award and I want to thank send commend all of you who sit in this circle of energy where I have learned from the very best how to move our initiatives forward to serve our Tribal communities."

Stevens then proceeded to honor his father Ernie Stevens Sr. with a Seminole jacket as a tribute to the role model he has provided as a national icon in Indian Country.

Previously, the Oneida Business Committee passed a resolution of unanimous support for the re-

election of Oneida Tribal delegate, Ernie Stevens Jr. as the Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Association.

Veteran Councilman Paul Ninham sponsored the resolution and stated, "Chairman Stevens has provided the gaming Tribes in this country with solid and strong leadership for the past four years and we need to continue the success we have experienced with Stevens."

Chairman Stevens has sponsored initiatives during his term that encourage strengthening of youth leadership and mentor programs, and an aggressive approach to public education on the benefits of Indian gaming through economic diversification and business development. Stevens recently received the Tribal leadership award from Reservation 2005, a reservation economic summit conference that was held in February.

Ernie Stevens Jr. has served as the Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Association since 2001. Prior to serving NIGA, Stevens served as an elected Oneida Tribal Councilman for the Oneida Tribe for nine years.

AMERIND's Change in Operation

Submitted by AMERIND Risk Management Corporation

ALBUQUERQUE, NM — AMERIND Risk Management Corporation has launched a cost effective risk pool alternative to worker's compensation for Tribes and Tribal enterprises to phenomenal reception. A Tribe or Tribal enterprise can continue to directly access the AMERIND Tribal Employee Injury Protection (TEIP) program or the Tribe or Tribal enterprise can engage an insurance agent of their choosing to access the popular program on their behalf.

Compensation paid to insurance agents is the responsibility of the Tribe or Tribal enterprise.

An agreement to assist in the recruitment and servicing of TEIP customers between AMERIND and Brown and Brown Insurance has been rescinded. Inadvertent advertising information produced by Brown and Brown indicated an exclusive arrangement with AMERIND. No such exclusivity exists and all interested Tribes or Tribal enterprises can choose to participate in the TEIP program without utilizing Brown and Brown Insurance or any other insurance agent.

Tribes, as sovereign nations, are not required to adopt state mandated worker's compensation

statutes within their reservations. Many Tribes, by ordinance, have adopted the equivalent of a worker's compensation statute and either self-insure or purchases traditional worker's compensation insurance—but many have not. Affordability and availability had been key reasons why many Tribes and Tribal businesses are without adequate protection for their employees.

Protecting "life" within Indian Communities is a fundamental purpose of AMERIND and the creation of the Tribal Employee Injury Protection program fulfills that purpose. In conjunction with Berkley Risk Administrators, AMERIND has created a cost effective risk pool alternative to workers compensation that provides equivalent protection at an affordable price.

Flexibility and affordability continue to be the reasons why strong Tribal governments and Tribal Enterprises choose AMERIND's Tribal Employee Injury Protection program.

AMERIND is a not-for-profit Native American risk pool providing property, liability and employee protection to over 500 participating Tribes. To learn more about Indian Country's newest employee protection risk pool or the time-tested self-insured housing risk pool, visit us at: www.amerind-corp.org.

News From Indian Country

IHS, BIA Respond to Red Lake Reservation Shooting

Submitted by Athena Elliott and Nedra Darling
WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Indian Health Service (IHS) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) are coordinating a multi-agency federal response to a tragic shooting that occurred on March 21 on the reservation of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians of Minnesota. Ten people were killed and seven others were injured. The Directors of the BIA and IHS today expressed, their agencies' joint commitment to assisting the Tribe in the wake of the tragedy.

"On behalf of all Bureau of Indian Affairs employees, I want to express our deepest condolences to the Red Lake Tribe and to the families of the victims over their tragic loss," BIA Director W. Patrick Ragsdale said. "The BIA is providing active service to the Red Lake community to help them begin the process of recovering and healing."

"This is an incredible tragedy that is affecting the entire Tribe," said IHS Director Charles W. Grim. "We are working with other Federal agencies to do all that we can to alleviate the suffering and lingering effects of this dreadful day. Our hearts and our prayers go out to all of them, especially the families of the victims."

The IHS Bemidji Area Chief Medical Officer and the IHS Bemidji Area Director are on-site today on the Red Lake Reservation assessing medical and other public health needs, as well as meeting with community and family members of the victims of the shooting to offer support and condolences. The IHS is coordinating with medical providers and law enforcement staff in the community and will mobilize staff as appropriate to meet health needs. Also, the IHS is collaborating with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the National Institute of Mental Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention disaster response psychological unit, for immediate and long-term support. The IHS and BIA are working jointly to determine needs for information alerts and other intervention processes to address and prevent future violence.

The Health Resources and Services Administration will provide emergency funds to the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians to help deal with the aftermath of the tragedy, and the IHS and BIA are also working jointly to determine needs for information alerts and other intervention processes to address and prevent future violence.

A number of BIA personnel are already providing support to on-the-ground federal and local agencies in Red Lake. The BIA's Office of Law Enforcement Services has sent personnel to the site to assist the FBI, which has primary responsibility for investigating the incident. They include uniformed police officers, special agents, supervisory special agents, telecommunications officers and law enforcement officers trained in providing peer support counseling to local police and community members. A BIA mobile community substation also has been sent to Red Lake with dispatchers to provide an array of telecommunications services and carry out other spe-

cialized law enforcement functions.

In addition, the Bureau's Office of Tribal Services has sent social workers from its Midwest Regional Office, in Ft. Snelling, Minn., to Red Lake to provide support to community members. They also will work with the Red Lake Tribal government in obtaining long-term resources to help the Tribe deal with any lingering effects produced by the tragedy.



Letters to the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians of Minnesota

Dear Red Lake Nation,

Our hearts are grieving for your loss and trauma. We do not have words to express our feelings for you; if we could only take away your pain.

We are your neighbors from Chisholm, Minnesota. We plan to help by donating monies to Wells Fargo Bank as a token of how we want to help you. Please inform us if we can assist you in other ways. You are so important to us.

It is totally inappropriate that President George W. Bush was so late with his message of sympathy. The people of Minnesota really count, don't we?

Our love and prayers are yours,
Jeanne and John Jugovich
 Chisholm, MN

To all of you in the Red Lake area, our thoughts and prayers are with you. Be strong. The people of Colorado are all sending you our hope.

Sincerely,
Patricia Banta
 Englewood, CO

Dear Red Lake Residents,

Here are just a few lines to let you know that you are all in my prayers. It's hard when something like this happens. Although it was bad, I thank God because it could have been worse.

Sincerely,
Deborah Russell



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4-H'ers Show Their Stuff at Livestock Sale

By Judy Weeks
BIG CYPRESS — Finally, the big day was in sight. On March 16, parents and ranch employees loaded steers and swine carefully in the trailers to be transported to the Big Cypress Arena for the 19th Annual Seminole Indian 4-H Show and Sale. The 4-H Show Barn had been prepared to receive the 26 steer entries with mounds of sawdust. Tents and awnings were raised to cover over 50 swine pens which had been erected.

Mary Jane Koenes supervised the swine loading process, explaining how temperamental pigs can be.

“They must be carefully handled to avoid stress,” Koenes said. “Without sweat glands, they easily overheat.” Fortunately, all of the animals arrived intact.

After school, the children headed to the Big Cypress Arena for the weigh-in. 4-H Coordinator Polly Hayes was on hand with assistants Dionne Smedley and Candi Mancil, who recorded the weights and supervised the classification of hogs. Before the day was over, each pig was sorted and penned according to its scheduled appearance in the arena.

Hayes said, “We are especially grateful to Andy Bowers, a Tribal member and Public Defender for Okeechobee County. After a long day of depositions, he traveled to Big Cypress to oversee the swine shifter process and insure that each entry was properly processed.”

While manning the scales and record books, Hayes recalled her first 4-H experience with planting cactus. As a young girl in Brighton, she joined 4-H in the late-1950s. At that time, they only had planting and gardening projects.

One year, the 4-H Club was comprised of Polly Buck, Connie, Edna and Elsie Johns. This small group was given an opportunity to attend the Florida State Fair in Tampa. While there, they were invited to appear in front of a large crowd of spectators.

Much to her astonishment, the emcee suddenly asked her to step forward and say her name. Stage fright took over and her mind went blank—she couldn’t remember her name. Looking at her cousin beside her, she finally said, “My name is Connie Johns.”

What a surprise that was for her cousin Connie! However, the wide-eyed Connie quickly recovered and said, “I am Polly Buck.”

They had never seen so many people in one place before and were overwhelmed to think that everyone had come to see their 4-H group. Later, they realized that the audience had gathered to see Roy Rogers and his horse Trigger as he joined them in front of the crowd.

Hayes grew up in 4-H and eventually took a job in Okeechobee with the County Extension Agent, where she remained for 12 years. As coordinator of the Seminole 4-H, she has been instrumental in the development and expansion of the program and looks forward to many future improvements.

In order to qualify for the show and sale, all steers must attain a weight of 900 pounds and swine must reach 180 pounds. Fortunately, there were only a few in each category that did not make the weight requirement.

Hayes and her staff were very complimentary of the hard working parents, ranch and arena employees who transported the livestock, assisted with the weigh-in, sorting and penning process. Without their behind-the-scenes help, the show and sale could not have taken place.

After the weigh-in, steers accompanied their owners individually into the round pen for the shifting procedure. The Sifter, Tommy Benn, observed each entrant to determine whether or not the children could control their animals, which can often become unpredictable. He was very diplomatic and sympathetic to the group as he screened their handling of the livestock for the safety of the child and other exhibitors. Fortunately, there was minimal elimination.

Show night, March 17, found the barn buzzing with activity. The children arrived after school to wash and groom their stock for the arena. A heavy rain that continued all day and late into the evening did not dampen spirits or prevent the job from getting done. The exhibitors and their parents scrubbed the livestock in the pouring rain; then brought them inside to dry, brush and groom. The steers donned new show halters and leads while their owners dressed for their presentation. Swine were

bathed, rubbed dry and brushed for the occasion. PeeWee Exhibitors, ages five–seven combed their calves, fluffed their rabbits and ducks in anticipation. Rylee Smith cuddled a little yellow duckling and explained that it would some day have feathers and learn to swim.

Blevyns Jumper held the lead on his calf, Red, like an old pro. The seven-year-old explained how he cleaned the stall and fed him Ringmaster and



Judy Weeks

Rylee Smith displays his duck at the show.

alfalfa hay.

Seven year old Kailin Brown proudly displayed her calf, Gator. She said this is her first year but added “I had so much fun that I will do it again.”

Oreo, the calf, stood very still while Chastity Harmon in her little pink raincoat rubbed him dry. She said, “I have to get him clean. He doesn’t like to be messy.”

Ahnvie Jumper proudly displayed her first project, Jack and Jill. The gray and white rabbits enjoyed a large clean cage. The five-year-old is looking forward to her rabbits growing up and making a family of bunnies.

Roy, a little black calf, was getting a last minute hug from Troy Cantu. His mother, Sheila Aguilar, said she had a very important message.

“Being a single parent, I want to thank everyone who helped me,” Aguilar said. “I have three children involved with a steer, pig and calf. This past season has been hectic; between my job, the kids in school, 4-H and extracurricular activities, we are always on the go. Never doubt yourself when you are a single parent—get involved!”

Tribal Extension Agricultural Agent Michael Bond who has been actively involved with Polly Hayes and Dionne Smedley throughout the entire season stated, “This has been a remarkable experience. Working with this group has been incredible and I have to say they are proving to be very professional competitors. I am proud to be a part of this.”

He then joined Cattle and Range Secretaries Leoma Simmons and Cecelia Thomas in the announcer’s booth to begin the 19th Annual Seminole Indian 4-H Sale.

Dallas Townsend started the activities with the presentation of a plaque to the Seminole Tribe, Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Big Cypress Board Representative Paul Bowers Sr. from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. The Florida Chapter was host to the national convention and barbecue in July and could not have done so without the support of the Seminole Tribe, for which they said they are very grateful.

The following PeeWee Exhibitors made a grand entry before a very appreciative crowd: Dairy and Beef Calves: Kailin Brown, Courtney Gore, Chasity Harmon, Cyrus Smedley, Kelton Smedley,

Troy Cantu and Blevyns Jumper. Rabbits: Trevor Thomas, Toby Gopher and Ahnie Jumper. Ducks: Rayven Smith, Rylee Smith and Cyrus Smedley.

Judge for the show was Highlands County Agricultural Extension Agent Pat Hogue. Carefully examining each animal, he explained their condition, both good and bad qualities, and then announced his final decision. Norman Johns assisted Hogue with judging in the arena.

Steers received 20 blue ribbons and four red. The competitors were divided into weight classes with the following results: First Class: 1. Robert Parker, 2. Seth Randolph, 3. William Bearden Jr. Second Class: 1. Kiylier Baker, 2. Cheyenne McInturff, 3. Justin Villareal, 4. Immokalee Club Steer. Third Class: 1. Ravenne Osceola, 2. Shelby Osceola, 3. Kristina Osceola, 4. Lazarra Marrero, 5. Erena Billie, 6. Ethan Gopher. Fourth Class: 1. Leanna Billie, 2. Dayne Johns, 3. Nathan Gopher, 4. Ryan Osceola. Fifth Class: 1. Jessica Lopez, 2. Steele Gopher, 3. Reba Osceola, 4. Karen Sue Cypress. Sixth Class: 1. Justin Aldridge, 2. Adam Osceola, 3. Randal Osceola, 4. Jessie Osceola.

Grand Champion went to an outstanding entry by Justin Aldridge of Brighton. His steer, P.W. a.k.a. Fats, finished out at 1,300 pounds and showed a remarkable build for the beef industry. His proud parents, Dionne and Sam Smedley, posed with their Grand Champions after the show and expressed their gratitude to everyone in the program.

“It was a wonderful season working with Polly and all the great kids and their parents,” said Dionne. “Justin worked hard with his steer and never complained. We really enjoyed the time we spent together and are very proud of his accomplishments.”

Reserve Grand Champion went to Adam Osceola of Brighton with his 1,180 pound winner. Adam is an outstanding young man who has become very involved in his 4-H club and says it has turned his life around.

Judge Hogue had no difficulty selecting Leanna Billie for Senior Showmanship.

He said, “This young lady remained calm, self-assured and completely in control of her steer. She presented him very professionally each time she entered the arena.”

Junior Showmanship went to Kiylier Baker. Despite the fact that she is only nine-years-old, she did a fantastic job. The daughter of Mona and Preston Baker, Kiylier is one of eight children. She has learned responsibility and respect at an early age.

Her happy mother said, “We try to put our kids above everything. She is a hard little worker, and we are proud of her.”

The Seminole 4-H staff would like to make mention of an outstanding senior. Lazara Marrero will be graduating from Immokalee High School in a few months and entering college in the fall. This seventeen-year-old has been involved in 4-H since the Pee-Wees.

For the past couple of years, Marrero has not only raised and shown her own steer, but also the Immokalee Club project. Her brother Frankie raises a swine entry each year and she shows it for him in the arena, making it possible for him to participate. Marrero has maintained a wonderful grade average in school and is involved in many extra curricular activities.

The swine program was full of lots of outstanding young people. Visiting the barn prior to the show was an exhilarating experience. Each of the competitors showed great pride in their animal and couldn’t wait for an opportunity to talk about them.

Hilliard Gopher pointed at his leopard spotted hog and laughing said, “I bet you can’t guess why I named him Spot.” Jade Tapia told about feeding her hog Mr. T and walking him every day to develop his muscles.

Chebon Gooden gently sprayed Lil Juica with the hose and said, “This is one of his favorite

things.”

Brianna Billie said, “This is my first year in 4-H and I bought a pig from Georgia. Her name is Charlotte. I have so much fun with her. She chases me like a puppy. I’m going to miss Charlotte.”

First Class in Swine started with the 180-pounders and progressed through eight different weight classes with 38 blue ribbon and 12 red ribbon winners. Judge Hogue carefully examined and discussed each entry, offering tips for next year’s projects.

The 287-pound Grand Champion belonged to Andre Jumper of Big Cypress. The son of Josh and Andrea Jumper didn’t have to say anything. The bright glow on his face and radiant smile said it all.

He said, “I never thought I would win. I don’t know what to say.”

Brighton’s Lois Billie captured the Reserve Grand Championship with her 249-pound beauty. All her hard work paid off and she is thinking about next year.

Judge Hogue brought five entries back into the arena for observation before making his final decision on Senior Showmanship.

He commented, “There is one young lady here who stands out above the rest. Every where I turned she was presenting her hog to me. She handled her cane well and never took advantage of her competitors. Josie Davis receives the Senior Showmanship Award.”

Davis is from Immokalee, very active in school and sports, and a veteran of the 4-H program.

Junior Showmanship took considerable review with a lot of contenders. However, the final judgment was awarded to Bonnie Davis of Immokalee. Proud father, Kenny Joe Davis congratulated both of his daughters on a job well done.

Results of the Swine Competition are as follows: First Class: 1. Breanna Billie, 2. Lily Mora, 3. Antonio Hernandez, 4. Allison Garza, 5. Demi Garza. Second Class: 1. Cassandra Jimmie, 2. Josie Davis, 3. Krystal Garza, 4. Joseph Rodriguez, 5. Eliza Mora. Third Class: 1. Raphael Sanchez Jr. 2. Bonnie Davis, 3. Brianna Nunez, 4. Joshua Boromei, 5. Alexis Jimmie, 6. Kerwin Miller. Fourth Class: 1. Jonathan Rodriguez, 2. Clarissa Garza, 3. Reagan Osceola, 4. Juliza Martinez, 5. Destiny Nunez, 6. Taylor Boone, 7. Ashton Baxley. Fifth Class: 1. Marissa Sanchez, 2. Jordan Rodriguez, 3. Malori Sanchez, 4. Mark Arriaga, 5. Stevie Brantley, 6. Hilliard Gopher, 7. Brandtley Osceola. Sixth Class: 1. Frankie Marrero, 2. Rosa Urbina, 3. Dani Jae Tommie, 4. Chebon Gooden, 5. Laci Sanchez, 6. Nikki Davis, 7. Cody Motlow. Seventh Class: 1. Lois Billie, 2. Tyler Tigertail, 3. Big Cypress Swine Club, 4. Jade Tapia, 5. Catlin Tommie, 6. Meloni Perez. Eighth Class: 1. Andre Jumper, 2. Rosalinda Lopez, 3. Clint Bowers, 4. Aaron Alvarado,



Judy Weeks

Roy Cantu and his calf Roy from the PeeWee division.

5. Mary Huff, 6. Colby Strickland, 7. Immokalee Swine Club.

At the conclusion of the show, Judge Hogue was presented with a beautiful Seminole jacket and daily planner in appreciation of his services.

The Sifter Helps Out Before the Show

By Susan Etxebarrria
BIG CYPRESS — On March 16, the Seminole 4-H youth appeared just a little nervous leading their steers, one at a time, into the screening ring. After having their “project” cows weighed-in at the chute by volunteer Cecelia “Cissy” Thomas, those whose cattle met the required weight of 900 pounds, or more, breathed a sigh of relief.

Their next hurdle to qualify for the annual Seminole 4-H Livestock Show and Sale on the following Thursday and Friday night would be to demonstrate their ability as a handler to keep their animals under their control. For safety reasons, no one would be allowed in the show ring with an animal that was uncontrollable.

In the screening ring, the process of sifting began. Parents hung around the outdoor ring watching their children go through sifting, the act of separating the qualified handlers from the unqualified.

To add to their nervousness, no one could have appeared more intimidating than the Sifter, Tommy Benn, a 61-year-old cowboy, cattle rancher and former rodeo rider with an imposing figure whose glower under thick eyebrows was merely his way of focusing on the tough job he was asked to do. Under the gruff demeanor is a soft heart, but this was no time to let the kids off the hook.

Because safety is the main priority when the animals are herded into the show ring, the Sifter had the responsibility to screen out any animal that can not be controlled by the owner. To disqualify a 4-H youth breaks his heart, he confided.

“That’s the hardest part of what I have to do,” said Benn.

The standards set by 4-H to qualify for the Show and Sale is part of the educational process. The screening ring tells the tale.

“The control the kids have shows if they have been working with them,” said Benn. “You can really tell the difference between the kids who have been working their cows, and those that don’t. You can tell the difference if the parents have been working the cows, and not the kid.”

The kids had to show they had mastered the

skill of being able to lead their animal with a rope. It is not an easy task. Wild cows stay wild without training. Benn said it is best to walk your steer often and get your steer used to you and you get used to the steer.

In the ring, the youth led their cows around the edge of the circle twice and then the sifter called out to bring the cow to stand before him. Many kids handled their steer very well, but a few had trouble with a poorly trained cow unwilling to budge, kicking or pulling in the opposite direction. Under the watchful eye of the Sifter, the handler must also demonstrate how well the youth uses the showman’s stick.

The child is told to set up the cow so it stands straight. The show stick is then used to nudge the hoofs to make the steer move his feet into a perfect posture that aids with the judging in the show ring. The show stick is also used as a kind of back scratcher that can often calm an anxious cow.

This year there were two outstanding 4-H’ers in the screening ring. The superior performance of Lee Ann Billie of Brighton in the show ring Thursday brought her the prized trophy for Showmanship this year. Alexis Marrero, 9, of Immokalee, failed to qualify—but her attitude was another kind of showmanship. Both girls won the



Susan Etxebarrria

The Sifter Tommy Benn (left) assists Justin Aldridge with this steer.

respect of the Sifter.

Anyone who watched the grace and ease that Billie exhibited as she worked with her cow named Jet in the screening ring was impressed. From the

“Jet was pretty crazy when I first got him,” said the daughter of Holly Billie.

Taken from Alex John’s herd, Billie said Jet often tried to kick her in the beginning but she was determined to tame the wild cow and eventually she said Jet became so tame she could put kids on his back. The secret of her success was walking Jet one hour a day almost daily. In the end, Jet weighed 1,065 pounds.

Another unofficial winner of the 4-H competition was Alexis Martin, was one of the youngest kids to enter a steer in the competition. Though she didn’t have a notable performance at the Show and Sale, this pint-sized nine-year-old isn’t ready to quit 4-H despite her disqualification this year.

“It broke my heart to tell her she couldn’t go on,” said Benn. “But safety for her, and others, was paramount.”

The black steer was a handful, even for grown men trying to subdue the animal outside the ring. There was disappointment but there were no tears for Martin who started her first year in 4-H with a steer instead of a swine as most younger kids do. When 4-H Coordinator Polly Hayes Osceola comforted the plucky little girl and suggested that she enter a swine next year, Martin held her head high and said she will enter a steer again.

Martin is the daughter of Pete and Vanessa Aguilar. Both Benn and Osceola gave her the practical wisdom of their experience. Sometimes the picking of the cow is as important as the training. They suggested next year that she find a calf that looks down when you call it to you in the pasture. No one loses when they learn. Learning by your mistakes can make you a winner someday.

Just ask this year’s grand prize winner Justin Aldridge, who was disqualified last year because his cow didn’t make the weight requirement. Just ask Lee Ann who won the Showmanship award after four years of competing.

“Try your best at whatever you do and even when you don’t do so well there’s always another time,” said Billie. “Don’t give up.”

beginning, it was obvious this eleventh-grader, who aspires to a career as a veterinarian’s assistant some day, would be hard to beat in the show ring. For Billie, winning the Senior Showmanship award was the culmination of four years of competition in 4-H that ended in her first big win.

Highlights from the 2004-2005 4-H Season



Judy Weeks

Lazara Marrero practices how to lead Conch'e.

Story by Judy Weeks

The Seminole 4-H kicked off its 2004-2005 livestock program at the end of August when the participants acquired their steers for this year's projects. Several veterans of the steer program took advantage of the cattle being rounded up at the beginning of the month. Ranchers such as Mike Smith and Moses Jumper Jr., among many others, allowed the youngsters to visit their cow pens and make tentative selections.

Possible project steers were separated from the herds in order to avoid shipment to market or turnout. This provided an opportunity for the children to examine their options at several locations.

When the time arrived, they returned to the ranches to make a final decision and purchase. Based on previous experience or guidance from the 4-H staff, they looked for things in these animals that could develop into show qualities. A straight back, solid frame to carry the weight and good conformation were the uppermost requirements. In addition, gut instinct sometimes played a role.

Karen Cypress of Immokalee had been fluctuating between two choices. Her cousin, Jessica Lopez, raised last year's Grand Champion and picked him because he walked over to her at the fence. As Karen pondered her choices, the steer farthest away suddenly moved toward her. The decision was made in that instant, and he turned out to have a very nice disposition.

All of the possible project steers were made into steers prior to selection and purchase. The cattle were transported to their new homes before Sept. 11, 2004, when the official weigh-in took place and the projects began. Each of the boys and girls started a record book entering the date and amount of purchase, location of their animal and initial weight.

The swine program started at the beginning of November. The participants had an opportunity to purchase show quality swine from a breeding farm in Georgia, hog farms in Central Florida and private individuals. Although the pigs all weighed in approximately the same, they were a variety of colors, breeds and personalities.

Regardless of the choice of livestock, each participant's living arrangements determined where they would raise their project. Those living in a housing community kept their animals in the reservation 4-H facilities. Rural entries in most cases kept their stock in the backyard.

Hollywood residents, being city dwellers, were faced with a dilemma this year. Without a community barn, boarding was their only option. While this deterred most prospective 4-Hers, Shelby Osceola met the problem head on. Since she is active in the EIRA, she had to board her horse and persuaded the Triple Cross Ranch to accept her steer also.

"This had both advantages and disadvantages. There was a lot of activity in the barn which helped him get used to people and noise," Osceola, 16, said. "However, the barn is located at the intersection of Flamingo [Road] and 595. There wasn't any place to walk him safely because of the close highways. He had to be exercised in the barn and stall daily."

As far as the steers were concerned, the first step in the taming process was haltering and worming. The assistance of parents, neighbors, and ranch employees were critical at this stage and the first couple of months.

Immokalee Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar described this best. "4-H provides lessons for our young people as they strive to become adults. Each project is designed to teach responsibility, whether dealing with small animals, swine or steers.

"As the project becomes larger, so are the challenges. No one expects a 75-135 pound youngster to manipulate and learn to control a 1,000-1,200 pound creature without numerous difficulties along the way. When the boys and girls discover that situations are beyond their control, they learn to keep trying."

"Just like the stumbling blocks we find in our lives, we have to stop, think and seek solutions. Often this means looking for assistance and learning from other people's successes and mistakes."

Aguilar concluded by saying, "They learn to accept responsibility for their actions and the effects they have on others."

During the first months of the program, the participants and their helpers had stories to tell that included bumps, bruises, rope burns, stitches, frustration, tears and a great deal of laughter. Situations that seemed like tragedies at the time became a chuckle when the tales were recounted at the end of the project.

Gabriel Acosta of the Immokalee Seminole Youth & Livestock Ranch (ISY&LR) staff was snatched off his feet and sent airborne, fracturing his elbow and sustaining road rash. With his arm in a sling, he laughed and said, "Better me than one of the youngsters."

Erena Billie, a 10-year-old from Brighton, wrote in her sponsorship letter, "This is my second year in 4-H and I named my steer after the person I got him from. He is M.J. I kinda had a hard time with him, but at the end he was nice and gentle. Although he still tries to kick me, I stuck by his side even when he tried to catch and kick me so many times. My Aunt Dionne helped me a lot and she stuck by me too."

Lupe Cepeda of the ISY&LR was slammed to the ground on show night while catching a runaway steer for one of the children. Bruised and smiling, he led it back to the child.

Seth Randolph of Brighton

valuable opportunity parents have to teach their children about managing finances while involved in 4-H.

She said, "The record book is required of course to take care of all expenses and activities. But this is just a beginning. After the sale, youngsters who plan to participate in the next season should set aside purchase money, as well as operating expenses."

Hayes continued, "Let them figure out what it will take to feed and produce their next entry. Being responsible for the animal will help them to learn the valuable lesson of setting up a budget and managing their money."

As the weeks passed, the youngsters settled into a daily routine of feeding as well as cleaning stalls and pens. Pigs require frequent washing, brushing and most of all, exercise. Steers must get used to being tied, learn to lead and submit to their owners. Monthly weigh-ins recorded the development process.

Marvin Hines, who specializes in steer showmanship and handling, held several clinics in Immokalee and Brighton. He taught nutrition, cleanliness and fresh water in the beginning, then moving on to gentling, leading and proper use of the show stick. One of the



Judy Weeks

Karen Cypress shaves her steer Heffalump.

most difficult tasks to teach the children is to not let the animal take control.

Meanwhile the swine projects were putting on weight, developing muscle and the youngsters were learning the use of the cane. In Immokalee Parent Advisor Cris Marrero supervised regular swine meetings conducted by the club officers. Project books were updated and showmanship techniques discussed.

Caring for livestock is a seven day a week job. If the animals were kept at home, the parents saw that the boys and girls attended to their daily chores and worked at least 10-30 minutes a day cleaning and handling.

Animals raised in the community barn required daily transportation for the children supplied either by parents and friends or if close enough, a bicycle or four-wheeler. Of course, feed and hay had to be purchased and delivered.

Immokalee Education Advisor Norita Yzaguirre put her feelings into words when she said, "We become so busy with our daily lives that we often forget to take time out for a little one on one with our children. I began to look forward to the time I spent with my son, Antonio, driving back and forth, cleaning the pen and working his pig. We began to

share the day's events, talked out problems and most of all, we became good friends. Helping your child to become an adult is the best reward we can hope for in this world."

Billie Napper of Family Services expressed similar feelings when she said, "4-H is a wonderful program because it promotes family participation and involves the parents in the learning process. For a successful project, everyone must look toward a common goal. Your children are your greatest achievements and any time you spend with them is time well spent."

In the final weeks before the show, Marvin Hines taught clinics on handling steers in the arena, and grooming techniques to enhance the animal's appearance. He gave clipping and shaving instruction and supervised as the children prepared their projects. Hines brought a steer table to the community barns and trimmed the cows' hooves and answered last minute questions for each of the competitors.



Judy Weeks

Justin Aldridge (center) with his parents and the Grand Champion Steer P.W.

Brighton Rez Sweeps 4-H Show

By Susan Etzbarria

BIG CYPRESS — The Brighton 4-H Club swept the top awards in this year's Seminole 4-H Livestock Show held March 17 in Big Cypress. The work that the new Assistant 4-H Coordinator Dionne Smedley did with her 4-H crew this year certainly had something to do with the club's success. She instituted monthly weigh-ins and really stressed that the kids practice the use of the show stick and learn to control the animal in the ring.

The winners of the top four awards had a few comments about their success.

Justin Aldridge - winner of Grand Champion

"My steer did what I wanted him to do," said Justin whose steer came from Patty Waldron's herd. "He was longer than most and taller than most and at 1,300 pounds he was the heaviest."

Justin was one of the 4-H kids who spent time walking his cow with a rope and using the showman's stick to control his animal and as a result he performed very well in the ring.

Adam Osceola - winner of Grand Reserve

"I handled my steer pretty good and I had one of the best," the high school senior said. "But I was shocked I won."

His steer, Mr. Beefy, came from Minnie Bert's herd at Big Cypress.

"He was a tough steer to work with," he said. "He was a little wild but I worked with him and used the show stick."

Adam is the son of Reno and Kelli Osceola. Adam said he is sad that this is his last year in 4-H. Adam has been the President of the Brighton 4-H club for the past three years but he is graduating this year. As president, he said he learned

some valuable skills such as how to run a meeting, how to speak in front of groups, and how to mentor younger or new members.

"4-H is fun," he said. "I made good friends and it was a learning experience."

Adam said he is planning to go to Texas Christian University to become a veterinarian.

"He's been a terrific example of leadership and we are really going to miss him," said Tribal 4-H Coordinator Polly Hayes Osceola. Adam's dad, Reno, said parents need to get involved with their kids and 4-H is a good family activity. The Osceola's have

three children in 4-H.

Lee Anne Billie - winner of Showmanship Award

"I was glad I won," she said. "I haven't won a whole lot in the past, but my steer was easier to break and I took a little extra time."

Her steer, Jet, came from Alex John's herd. Lee Anne spent about one hour a day training her steer. She said she wanted to thank her mother, Molly Billie, who encouraged her and made sure she fed her animal and took care of it.

Lois Billie - Reserve Grand Champion swine

Betty and Sandy Billie of Brighton said they are proud of their daughter, Lois Billie, who took first place in the 4-H competition.

"She worked three years to get her where she's at now," they said.

Lois raised her swine she named Bacon on Walpole Feed and it went from 55 to 249 pounds.

"I am happy and excited," said the eleventh-grader.



Judy Weeks

Lois Billie, Reserve Grand Champion Swine winner.

The Final Day of the Show & Sale: The Buyers Dinner

By Judy Weeks

BIG CYPRESS — The Buyers Dinner was the start of a very exciting evening on March 18. Steak and all the fixin's were served under the Big Chickee at 5:30 p.m. The 4-H Club Sale began at 6:30 p.m. with the introduction of Auctioneer Brian Trimble, an agricultural teacher from Okeechobee County with an extensive background in 4-H.

Big Cypress Board Representative Paul Bowers volunteered his services that night, assisting in the arena. He was very enthusiastic about being involved with Seminole 4-H.

"I am honored to have a chance to become involved with the 4-H livestock program and help all of these young people," Bowers said. "This is the second year that the show and sale have been held at Big Cypress and it is even better than last year."

"I have seen a lot of parents here working with their children and supporting their projects. Parents and children working together build strong families. As the kids grow up and need to make choices, this will help them turn to their families rather than the dangerous streets," Bowers added.

The livestock sale alternated cattle and swine throughout the evening. Bidding, which began with the Grand Champions and Reserves, was brisk and often heated as the exhibitors received top dollar for their projects. Thanks to the Tribal Council, Tribal Board and various departments of the Seminole Tribe on each reservation, this year's 4-H was a resounding success.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress,

President Moses Osceola and Trail Liaison William Osceola made generous add-ons to each sale as an incentive to all of the participants. Walpoles Feed also purchased a swine and then donated it back for resale to benefit the 4-H programs.

Following each sale, the happy exhibitor presented the buyer with a Buyer's Basket in appreciation.

On the night of the sale, Chairman Mitchell Cypress looked out across the exhibitors in the show ring and said, "For many generations our tribal heritage and culture have made us a part of the land where we live. It was only natural that agriculture would become a part of our way of life and survival. Most of our elders fed and cared for their families by doing the jobs they could find on the farms and ranches in south Florida. It was hard back-breaking labor that they did with pride as they held their families together."

He continued, "The livestock industry is a basic part of our economy and I am very proud to see our youth joining these 4-H programs. It gives them an opportunity to learn responsibility and to realize that nothing worthwhile comes without hard work and effort. A successful livestock project requires the help and support of the entire family."

With a sweeping gesture of his arm, indicating the building filled with participants and their families, he said, "It is always good to see families working together. This is like the old days with the elders teaching the young. It is not about winning, but learning to compete and survive in today's world. Just being here tonight is being a winner."



Good Friday Easter and Youth Block Party



Cartaya Billie some spent time painting at the Family Services booth.

Story by Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — Immokalee celebrated Easter with a Spring Youth Block Party on Good Friday, March 25. This wonderful opportunity to work with our young people received overwhelming support from many departments.

The Immokalee Seminole Youth and Livestock Ranch (ISY&LR) made an excellent location for an event of this magnitude. By 9:30 a.m. two hayride wagons were in operation shuttling party goers from the cultural village to the John Jimmie Memorial Arena.

Booths had been set up at the adjacent locations. Basil Phillips from the Family Services department offered opening remarks at the cultural village at 10 a.m., just prior to Victor Billie’s alligator wrestling demonstration.

The cultural department offered diverse activities, with something for everyone. Carol Cypress provided a bead work display and instruction. Meanwhile, Mary Jene Koenes discussed sewing and patchwork with an interested audience. Following his alligator wrestling exhibition, Victor Billie demonstrated wood carving.

In the large cooking chickee, Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar, Sylvia Marrero of Broadcasting and niece Lazara joined Sheila and Vanessa Aguilar making fry bread. Delighted party goers enjoyed an opportunity to not only watch but sample cooking over the open fire.

As she worked the fry dough in her hands, Aguilar said, “It is such a beautiful day. The weather is perfect and the community participation has been fantastic. Spring is a time of new beginnings and I am happy to be a part of this Celebration of Youth. I am very proud of all of the departments who have joined together for such a wonderful occasion. Happy Easter!”

The booths which had been set up at the Arena offered a variety of entertainment. The Education and Library departments, under the direction of

Norita Yzaguirre and Cris Marrero, had an interesting concept of bingo, called Library Lingo. Under the supervision of America Martinez, contestants looked for answers to literary questions as they competed for education book bags and Easter candy. This was a very popular booth throughout the day.

Charlotte Pocaro and Anna Puente of the Seminole Health department provided the youngsters with an opportunity to test their blood pressure and sugar rate. They also distributed pamphlets with a variety of information on several health issues. Puente said she was extremely pleased with the juvenile interest.

“Seventeen children requested blood sugar tests and did not back out when they saw what it entailed,” Puente said. “Of course, parental permission was obtained prior to administering each test. I am very proud of their response to such a major health issue.”

The Seminole Police Departments Crime Prevention Unit, under the direction of Sergeant Al Signore, was on hand with coloring, comic and drug prevention books designed to attract the younger set. There was a big demand for his mini-bubble sticks and key chains, as he talked to the children about their old friend, McGruff, the crime dog.

Family Services provided a generous number of arts and crafts projects which were very popular. Diana Rocha was joined by her sister, Anna Maria, who was visiting from Colombia, at a table filled with art supplies. A steady stream of children spent the day creating Easter hats, spring flowers, bunny masks and pictures.

Rocha, who said she loves children and communicates so well with them, was in her element. Her sister Anna Maria remarked, “I am so

give me wonderful things to tell when I return to South America.”

Family Services extended their presentation with an Envision Peace Booth manned by Janet Weisburg. Children of all ages were drawn to the large ceiling tile canvases where they created an array of paintings. Teenagers were observed carefully painting sophisticated scenes while the younger set leaned more toward abstract art.

Catharine Robinson, who has recently joined the Immokalee Family Services office, expressed her feelings.

“This is an overwhelming success,” she said. “I am so proud of the enthusiasm expressed by the whole community.”

At 1 p.m. the revelers gathered at the Alligator Pit in the Cultural Village where Basil Phillips, Mental Health Counselor for Family Services, addressed the audience. He gave a terrific presentation titled Young Fearless Warriors.

Phillips’ discourse was not only interesting, but provided a forum with which the young people could identify. Then to everyone’s surprise, he introduced Tribal citizen Gary McInturff. Gary is a son, husband, father and integral part of the community with a history of drug abuse, rehabilitation, back-sliding and recovery. His message was inspiring.

ISY&LR was responsible for the location of the Block Party and supplied a free concession stand for the entire event. Michelle Osceola and Cris Marrero volunteered their services in the kitchen from start to finish.

ISY&LR Director Benny Motlow enlisted the help of Marty Johns of the Marki Rodeo Company. They put together a small rodeo which included bare back and saddle broncs, bulls, team roping, calf wrestling, barrel racing, calf roping and mutton bustin.

Since the day was all about youth, it was a perfect opportunity for Motlow to introduce three Youth Ranch participants who have been taking part in the classes provided at the ranch. Cody Motlow showed off his newly acquired roping skills, while Cheyenne McInturff and Rebecca Osceola made their debut in barrel racing competition.

Brighton

Board Representative Paul Bowers was on hand all day moving from place to place. He visited with the elders, encouraged the teenagers and assisted the younger set in their various activities.

Whether lifting a child onto the hay wagon or helping set out Easter eggs, he was the man for the job.

Standing proudly with his arm around his son, Paul Jr., Bowers said, “This is a wonderful experience for me. I am very happy to see the many departments and community members working together like one big family. United we have a chance to influence our youth in a positive way and can encourage them to accomplish many things.”

The Recreation department arranged for a bounce house, two water slides and a dunk tank. Each of them had heavy traffic throughout the day. The water attractions drew an appreciative crowd during the heat of the afternoon and following the egg toss competition.

What would Easter be without any Easter egg hunt? The hunts took place at various times according to each age group on the grassy field beside the Arena buildings. Community departments had spent the better part of Thursday hard boiling and coloring more than 2,200 eggs for the occasion.

David Billie and his Recreation department divided the field into specific areas and distributed the eggs. As the while blew the scramble was on



Neo Motlow (left) helps grandma Nancy Motlow carry her basket full of Easter eggs.

with each contestant attempting to collect the most eggs and garner the awards.

Seniors led the hunt, followed by the preschoolers, many of whom had donned cute little Easter outfits. Results of the competitions are as below.

Seniors: 1. Nancy Motlow, 2. Violet Jim, 3. Carol Cypress; Preschoolers: 1. K.J. Davis, 2. Neo Motlow, 3. Carlos Bermudez; Youth, 5–9: 1. Dennis Gonzales, 2. Ethan Billie, 3. Ashley Faz; Youth 10–12: 1. Jessica Lopez, 2. Cassandra Jimmie, 3. Christopher Briscall; Youth 13–17: 1. Bonnie Davis, 2. Ali Colon, 3. Tommy Benson; Adult, 18–49: 1. Homer Villareal, 2. Susan Davis, 3. (tie) Justin Villareal and Cecelia Pequeno.

Egg toss results: Youth: 1. Randy Osceola and Allen Hernandez, 2. Mela Billie and Mark Arriaga, 3. Tommy Benson and Cassandra Jimmie; Adult: 1. Kenny Davis and Edwin “Ito” Montanez, 2. Justin Villareal and Cecelia Pequeno, 3. Homer Villareal and Dominick Venzor; Seniors: 1. Nancy Motlow and Justin Villareal, 2. Louise Motlow and



Board Rep Paul Bowers Sr. (second from right) greeted Tribal citizens after their hayride.

grateful for the opportunity to play and create with the children. This is the high-light of my visit and will



The 5–7-year-olds hunting away.

Easter Sunday Gathering at First Seminole Baptist Church

By Wanda Bowers

HOLLYWOOD — Every time I go to the First Seminole Baptist Church here on the Hollywood reservation, I feel like I’m going back into time. But there’s one difference, my kids keep getting bigger and older.

We got there in time to catch the morning service. After the morning services, Reverend Paul Buster whom I’m glad to see is doing well after a short illness, was at the front of the congregation, asking for announcement of birthdays, anniversaries, etc.

After the announcements we were directed to the church grounds and told which locations belonged to the kids, adults and the seniors. It was time for the traditional Easter egg hunt.

It was good seeing old friends, a little older but nevertheless, I was glad to see they were still in good health. I always remember the good ol’ gospel singing that never changes. I

love the church songs but, there’s nothing that compares to Betty Osceola’s voice singing an Indian church song. Lets not forget Vivian Delgado and merry men of young women who can sing up a storm of church songs and keep the congregation in turn with them.

Some of the young kids that used to be under foot have grown up to be young adults whom I’ve had to double check their names just to make sure they were the same kids I used to remember telling them stop kicking each other, be quiet don’t touch him or her. I always feel good when I do go to church, that I am always welcome, with a word of “Hello and glad to see you again, and come back”

I guess that true. It’s always good to go home again. I hope everyone had a good an Easter as I and my kids did at the First Seminole Baptist Church, listening again to the true story of Easter and the traditional egg hunting is good too.



David DeHass (right) and Cornelia Osceola (left) were among those who attended Easter services.



The youngsters looked everywhere for eggs.



Emma Brown

Brighton youngster Brydgett Koontz kept her eyes peeled and found an Easter egg.

Pull-Out Program Students Celebrates Easter

By Emma Brown

BRIGHTON— On March 25, the students of the Brighton Pull-Out Program walked outside to a blanket of rainbow colors covering their school yard. The Easter bunny hopped in while they were in class and hid bright colored Easter eggs in different areas of the yard.

Each class hunted in their own section of the school yard, which cut out the competition between grades. Students were running everywhere with brown paper bags that served as their Easter baskets. Cupcakes and other goodies were served to make the Easter celebration just right for the stu-



Emma Brown

What's inside Immilakiyo Osceola's egg?

Once again, the staff of the Pull-Out Program "pulled" together a nice holiday treat for their students.



Emma Brown

(L-R) Layton Thomas and Deveon Jones check to see who found what.



Emma Brown

The Pull-Out students begin the counting process to see who has the most eggs.

Young-At-Heart Seniors Hunt for Eggs

By Susan Etxebarría

BRIGHTON — Every year, at Easter time, the Hot Meals & Senior Center of Brighton put on a grand party for the seniors; and this year was no exception. The Easter egg hunt held on March 24 in the Senior Center's backyard lasted only minutes as everyone scrambled to find 300 plastic eggs hidden in some unusual places like under the palm fronds of a chickee.

The quickest on his feet was Billie Micco, who won a prize for the most eggs. He managed to locate 34 eggs. Alice Snow won the prize for the least eggs. Four plastic eggs contained larger prizes and had the numbers one through four on them. The finders of these special



Susan Etxebarría

Yes—there was even a egg hidden in this chickee.

just about everyone won something for their participation.

tradition.”

Since the eggs were plastic, the center had previously colored hard boiled eggs and the elders were able to swap the plastic eggs for real ones to take home and enjoy. After the hunt, the seniors were given tickets for a drawing and wonderful presents were

won by many of the seniors. There were also senior Tribal citizens present from Tampa and Big Cypress.



Susan Etxebarría

Seniors and staff members scramble to find eggs.

eggs were: 1. Lucille Jumper. 2. Pilot Billie. 3. Rosie Billie. 4. Louise Billie. Many of the eggs had money inside so



Susan Etxebarría

Lucille Jumper and her first place egg.

Annual Brighton Community Egg Hunt

By Susan Etxebarría

BRIGHTON — Bringing the community together for the annual Easter egg hunt was a lot of work for the staff of the Recreation department and Youth Center at Brighton, but it was worth it from the smiles on everyone's faces. It was obvious everyone was having a good time.

Easter at Brighton is for everyone young at heart. It even seemed as though the older the “kid” the more fun they were having with just as many adults lining up for the afternoon hunt at the rodeo grounds as kids lined up earlier in the day at the gymnasium grounds. Most of the day's activity took place under a huge tent protecting everyone from the sun while eggs were counted and prizes were given to those who found prize eggs, or the most eggs.

The amount of eggs boiled and colored for the children's hunt was 1,088. The plastic eggs numbered about 875. While some of the plastic eggs were stuffed with candy, it was the prize numbers that had everyone hunted their hardest to find; these contained the big prizes.

The winners in the children's event were, as follows:

Kindergarten—1st grades: 1. Keyann Nelson, 2. Eric Puente, 3. River Osceola, 4. and 5. Layne Thomas.

2nd—4th grades: 1. Everett Youngblood, 2. Desiree Snow, 3. Trewston Pierce, 4. McKayla Snow, 5. Desiree Snow.

5th—8th grades: 1. Sheila Jones, 2. Tommie Jackson, 3. Jacoby Johns, 4. Trent Osceola, 5. Jacoby Johns

The winner's in the adult events



Susan Etxebarría

The Brighton community prepares to hunt some Easter eggs.

were, as follows:

Women: 1. Wendy Juarez, 2. Dionne Smedley, 3. Thomasine Jumper, 4. Dana Osceola, 5. Judy Snow.
Women's Most eggs: Louise Hughes.

Men: 1. Emerson Billie, 2. Preston Baker, 3. Donald Croskey, 4. Cleveland Baker.
Men's Most Eggs: Sean Pendleton.



Susan Etxebarría

The women's category winner, Wendy Juarez.



Susan Etxebarría

Egg hunter Charlie Micco.