



The SEMINOLE TRIBUNE

"Voice of the Unconquered"

50¢

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February 25, 2005



Iretta Tiger

Jim Boyd accepts the Record of the Year Nammy.

Seminole Host 2005 Nammy Awards

By Iretta Tiger
HOLLYWOOD — This is the big event Indian country has been waiting for. The list of the performers alone was enough to make your head spin with excitement; Medicine Dream, Derek Miller and Jim Boyd.

On Feb. 10, the Seminole Tribe hosted the 7th Annual Native American Music Awards, or Nammys at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. This feat was accomplished by Trail Liaison William Osceola.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress and President Moses Osceola welcomed everyone and Osceola gave special recognition to William Osceola for his efforts in bringing the Nammys to the Hard Rock.

Nominees and guests were then treated to a special performance by the Seminole stomp dancers. The emcees for this year's Nammys were actor Adam Beach and musician Jana.

One performance that stood out was the group Yarina, a group of brothers from Ecuador that play "Music of the Andes." In their native Quichua language Yarina means "remembrance." Though the family was raised on traditional music, they had to teach themselves how to play. Like any Native musicians who love their culture Yarina wanted to bring awareness to the Indigenous rights of the Otavalos natives in Northern

❖ See NAMMY, page 24

Sports Hall of Fame Golf Tournament

By Adelsa Williams
WESTON, FL — The Hollywood Recreation department held their annual Hall of Fame golf tournament this year at the Bonaventure Country Club on Tuesday, Feb. 8.

There was a huge turnout in this year's competition as the event drew over 90 golfers. There were many Tribal citizens from all of the Florida reservations. There were players traveling all the way from Canada, New York, Michigan, Kansas, New Mexico and Oklahoma to participate in this popular event. Most visitors seemed ecstatic to get away from the cold weather back in their respective northern hometown and enjoy some of South Florida's mild winter weather.

Tea off began at early hours of the morning and ran throughout the late afternoon. After a long day of play, everyone gathered for a light catered barbecue luncheon as the winners were awarded their prizes. Everyone seemed enthusiastic to visit the newly developed Hollywood Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino for a different play to try their luck at the slots. The winners are as follows:

Overall: 1. Marl Osceola and Neil Johnson, 2. Jeremy Harrison and Jackie Thompson, 3. Steve Tooshkenig and P.J. Bluebird, 4. Danny Manny and F. Marshall, 5. C. Shawkince and A. Rockwell.

Longest Drive: Senior Men: #8 Randy Goodleaf, Men: Ed Elijah, Senior Women: Terry Hahn, Women: Ashley Keway.

Closest to the Pin: Senior Men: #3 Don Maney, #6 Bo Young, #12 Neal Johnson, #17 Moses Jumper Jr. Men: #3 Marl Osceola, #6 Jeremy Harrison, #12 Mitch Osceola, #17 Junior Todome, Women: #3 Salina No Ear, #17 Jackie Thompson.



Adelsa Williams

Golfer George Grasshopper.



Stephen Galla

The 2005-2006 Little Miss Seminole Shalynn Alexis Josh.

Please see the 2005 Tribal Fair special section on pages 25-29. Coverage includes photographic highlights from the clothing contest, alligator show, dance competition and many more activities taking place at this year's exciting Tribal Fair.

The Boy Scouts Visit Big Cypress

By Jaime Restrepo
BIG CYPRESS — Two large groups from Southwest Florida Boy Scouts Council paid a visit to Big Cypress for a weeks worth of camping and other activities.

According to Chris Lombardo, adult advisor to the scouts, approximately 670 Boy Scouts attended the camping events held during the week of January 23. The troops came from Estero, Cape Coral, Fort Myers and Naples.

Given the large number of participants, all found plenty of room across from the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. The parking lot and adjoining grounds provided ample space for their equipment, and their activities, which included stick tossing, Seminole patchwork, Seminole stick ball, archery, and other events.

The campers, with ages ranging from 11-18 years old, are members of two groups, Alligator and Panther. Both groups comprise part of the Southwest Florida Boy Scouts Council. The Alligator group covers Collier County, while the Panther group covers Lee and Hendry Counties.

For this event, the Alligators hosted the Panthers for one big get-together. There were some Cub Scouts

camping as well who were guests of the Alligator group. Cub Scouts range in age from 7-11.

There are two other groups within the Southwest Florida Boy Scouts Council, Manatee, covering Manatee County, and Two Rivers, which covers Sarasota, Charlotte and DeSoto Counties. However, they were not present for this event.

Although adults were present, the kids run the show. Zack Johnson, from the Alligator group was the chairman of the event. He hails from Naples, Fla.

"We get elected to the position by our fellow members," Johnson said. "My duties are to make sure all the programs are correct and that everything runs smoothly, that everyone's having fun."

It was a tall order for this young man, but is one of the things that teaches leadership and organizational skills. Judging by the looks of the event, it appeared he was doing his job just fine.

Lombardo said he wishes to thank the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum for its graciousness and hospitality for inviting the Boy Scouts.

"This is one of the best places we have camped at," said Lombardo. "It could not have been more perfect."



Jaime Restrepo

The troop gets ready for their week's worth of camping.

Tribe Donates to the American Red Cross Tsunami Relief Efforts

By Jaime Restrepo
HOLLYWOOD — On Jan. 31, Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Big Cypress Council Representative David Cypress presented a check to representatives of the Broward County chapter of the American Red Cross as a contribution towards the Red Cross National Relief Fund, as well as the International Relief Fund.

The proceeds came from a Jan. 15 fund raising event at the Ahfachkeke Festival in Big Cypress. Co-headliners John Anderson and the Bellamy Brothers, as well as several other music acts, played at the festival.

Both Cypress brothers presented Kathryn Cousins and Danielle Johnson from the Broward County chapter of the American Red Cross with a check for \$3,000. Also present were: Special Projects Coordinator Nery Mejicano, Marketing Director Lucy Evanicki, concert promoter Randy Carrillo, Cindy Malin Communications Manager and David Cypress's Administrative Assistant Dale Grasshopper.

The idea for a concert was originally conceived in the Big Cypress community with the assistance of the Big Cypress Council Representative David Cypress and Chairman Mitchell Cypress. They became very involved with the disaster relief effort and asked Mejicano to facilitate a public venue to raise money and public awareness.

It was originally planned for Sept. 4, 2004, Labor Day weekend, to benefit the victims of the first hurricane to strike Florida, Hurricane Charlie, which struck the state on Aug. 13. Unfortunately, Hurricane Francis paid the state a visit during that weekend, so the concert was postponed until Jan. 15.

❖ See TSUNAMI, page 23



Jaime Restrepo

Chairman Mitchell Cypress presents the \$3,000 check to Kathryn Cousins (center) and Danielle Johns (right) from the Broward County American Red Cross.



Special Council Meeting Addresses Budget Vote

By Iretta Tiger
HOLLYWOOD — On Jan. 27, the Tribal Council held a special meeting in the auditorium at the Tribal headquarters. The meeting was regarding the outcome of the recent election for the recall of the 2004-2005 Tribal Budget.

However, before the Council could vote on the recall of the budget, a Tribal citizen interrupted. After much discussion, the Council voted to acknowledge the recall of the budget. It was determined that a meeting would be held on each reservation where Tribal citizens would be able to review the budget.

According to the Tribal Constitution, a new budget must be created within 60 days of Jan. 27.

Also on the agenda was a resolution authorizing the continued funding of Tribal government operations. Both resolutions were approved.

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.



Do you recognize these moms? The answer will appear in the next issue.

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:

The Seminole Tribune
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) 683-7800, Ext. 1260. E-mail vmitchell@semtribe.com, fax (954) 967-3482, or mail to: The Seminole Tribune, 6300 Stirling Road, Hollywood, Florida 33024.

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Letters & E-mail

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

Dear Editor,
Hi, my name is Lisa Staes and I am a program director at the Center for Urban Transportation Research and the University of South Florida. I am working on a project for the Florida Department of Transportation, looking at transportation needs in the south central Florida area (specifically, Glades, Hendry, Okeechobee, Highlands, Hardee, and Desoto Counties). Do you have the opportunity for or do you provide any employment trips or other transportation for members of the tribe? Does the Brighton Casino provide work trips for the employees?
Sincerely,
Lisa Staes

Dear Ms. Staes,
The Immokalee Casino does not offer this service.
Sincerely,
Tony Sanchez, General Manager

Dear Editor,
Thank you for the paper. My class enjoyed it.
Thank you,
Alissa Buti Libby, MT
[Editor's Note: Alissa Buti was mailed a complimentary copy of *The Seminole Tribune* to assist her with a book report.]



Dear Mrs. Melissa Sherman and Family,
I want to thank you on behalf of myself and the rest of the Wolfhounds for your support and the generous packages you sent. The letters and the stuff you sent was greatly appreciated by all of us, and I can't tell you how much it means to us to know that people like you care about our morale and wellbeing.
I'm sorry this e-mail was such a long time coming, computer access at the F.O.B. we're at is very limited. I had got you a little gift, just a token of our appreciation a while ago, but for the past month or so, we have been unable to send packages because of the weather. We're pretty much snowed in and the mail helicopters cannot get here. Hopefully within the next month before we leave, I will be able to send it to you, but if not, I will send it when I get back to Hawaii in the middle of March. I apologize that it took so long for me to tell you how much we appreciate what you did, but please know that it meant a lot to all of us.
My wife and I will be moving to my new duty station at Fort Benning, GA in the fall and will be home (in Florida) on leave for a little while before we go. If you have a little time, I would love to stop by the Tribune office and thank you in person. Hope that can be arranged.
Well, my 30 minutes on the computer is up, but I'm glad I finally got to thank you. My wife and I share this email address, so if you reply, I might not be able to receive it, but I'm sure she will read it to me on the phone.
Thank you so much again. It's people like you and your family that make our country worth defending.
Thank you again,
SGT Juan Maya

Dear Ms. Adelsa Williams,
I'm writing to thank you for all your support to me and the rest of my platoon. I loved your article—my wife sent me a copy—and I showed it around to all the guys. The patriotism and support it displayed helped to brighten our holidays.
Also, thank you so much for the packages. The guys were thrilled and put all the stuff to good use. It helps everyone's morale to know that there are people back home that care.
I'm sorry it took so long for me to send you this e-mail. Computer access at this base is very limited and the connections are pretty bad. My wife and I will be moving to my new duty station at Fort Benning, Ga. in the fall and will be in Florida for a little while on leave between here and there. If you have a minute, I would love to stop by the Tribune office and thank you in person.
My wife and I share this e-mail address, so if you reply, I might not be able to receive it, but I'm sure she will read it to me on the phone.
Thanking you again,
SGT Juan Maya
[Editor's Note: *Seminole Tribune* employees Adelsa Williams and Melissa Sherman sent care packages to Sergeant Juan Maya's platoon stationed in Afghanistan during the 2004 holiday season. His letters are in response to their generosity.]

Dear Editor,
I live in Florida. I was told you have Pai Gow Poker at your establishment; is this true?
Sincerely,
Bill Hartmann

Dear Mr. Hartmann,
Here at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino we offer 48 tables of poker 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The poker games include Texas Hold'Em,

Omaha Hi-Lo, and 7 Card Stud. Exciting live games and tournament play are on-going around the clock.
We're located at the intersection of SR 7 (441) and Stirling Road, Hollywood, Fla. Seminole Hard Rock offers 500 hotel rooms, more than 2,000 exciting gaming machines, fine dining, and large entertainment complex called Seminole Paradise. Seminole Paradise provides several excellent dining experiences, comedy club, retail shops, and great night clubs. Please check our website, seminolehardrock.com, for current event listings.
Please contact our reservations for future hotel accommodations at (800) 937-0010. Thank you for your inquiry.
Sincerely,
Larry Frank, General Manager, Gaming Operations
Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino

Dear Editor,
My name is Jarrett Ray. I live in Lewisville, Texas. I attend Valley Ridge Elementary. I am doing a school report on Seminole Indians. Can you please help me answer a few questions for my report? I am required to do an interview with someone who has knowledge about my subject.
Sincerely,
Jarrett Ray

- Dear Mr. Ray,**
1. *How were the children raised and taught tribal life? Children are taught about their tribal life in a number of ways. First, their parents and family teach them their traditions and ways of life that need to be followed. Children who attend reservation schools receive cultural programming during school.*
2. *What kinds of animals were and are hunted to support the tribe? Deer, alligators, garfish, turtles and many birds.*
3. *Why is the tribe called Seminoles? What does that mean? The most widely accepted theory is that the word "Seminole" is actually from a Spanish word meaning fighter/warrior.*
4. *What facts did the tribe learn about their environment? The Seminoles learned quickly that the environment was diverse. Northern Florida was a mixture of dry land and swamp. Southern Florida is primarily swampland.*
5. *Did the Seminoles participate in any wars? There were three declared wars.*
6. *What was and is the tribal religion? There is no formal name for the traditional religion of the Seminoles.*
7. *What are some of the Seminole beliefs? Seminoles try to avoid sleeping with their heads pointed to the west. Seminoles are not allowed to touch or have snakes for pets.*
Sincerely,
Tina Marie Osceola, Executive Director, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Dear Editor,
Is there anyone in the Bird Clan that teaches ceremonial bird dances? If so how can I locate them?
Thank you,
Patty Murphy
pamr28@webtv.net

Dear Editor,
We saw your Swamp Safari advertised on a travel show. We were very impressed and would like to visit and stay overnight in August 2005.
Could you clarify the difference between the Swamp Critter show and the Alligator and Snake Educational show? Is it possible to see both?
How far in advance do we need to book?
Thanks for the help,
Suzan Harding

Dear Ms. Harding,
The difference between the Critter Show and Alligator and Snake Show is that the Critter Show has a variety of animals including possums, wild boar, birds of prey, skunks, etc., and the Alligator and Snake Show includes an American alligator and venomous and non-venomous snakes. These shows occur daily, with the Critter Show at 1:15 p.m. and Alligator and Snake Show at 2:15 p.m.
If you have any further questions please call us at (800) 949 6101 and we will gladly answer them.
Sincerely,
Billie Swamp Safari Staff

Dear Ms. Harding:
Thank you for your letter about your upcoming visit to Billie Swamp Safari. We are pleased to hear that you saw our feature on television in the UK on TV Travel Shop.
The Swamp Critter Show at Billie Swamp Safari takes place in an outdoor amphitheater with covered bleacher seating. Among the animals featured are the armadillo, skunk, ferret, southern razorback hog, as well as non-venomous snakes, birds of prey, parrots, tarantulas and scorpions.
The Snake and Alligator Educational Show takes place in an air conditioned herpetarium building. The presenter of the show has venomous and non-venomous snakes as well as a small alligator. He will teach the difference in the snakes and about the life of alligators. For example, how alligators eat, how many teeth they go through in a lifetime—approximately 2,000—and why they have two sets of eyelids.
Thank you for your interest. We

look forward to seeing you in August.
Sincerely,
Cindy Malin, Communications Manager

Dear Ms. Harding,
Thank you for your interest in camping at our Big Cypress RV Resort. Please call the RV Resort directly at (800) 437-4102 and ask for Barabra, the campground manager. She will be able to check reservations and assist you.
We look forward to seeing you, and please drive safely!
Sincerely,
Lucy Evanicki, Marketing Director

Dear Editor,
Does the tribe recognize members from other tribes, for example can a member of another tribe buy gas and cigarettes on the reservation?
Sincerely,
Vivian Quantz, Member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Dear Sir or Madame,
Hi, anybody is welcome to buy cigarettes from Seminole Tribal Smoke Shops on the reservation. However, they are only allowed to buy 3 cartons per customer per day.
Sincerely,
Elsie Bowers, Seminole Smoke Shop Manager

Dear Editor,
I was wondering if you guys had poker tournaments, and if you were anticipating having any large tournaments in the near future?
Thank you,
Dave Richard

Dear Mr. Richard,
Thanks for inquiring about our tournaments. I have included the schedule for Hard Rock and Hollywood Classic.
The schedule for the Hard Rock is:
Monday: \$300 buy-in no-limit Texas Hold-Em with no re-buys 6:30 p.m., Tuesday: \$65 buy-in Texas Hold-Em no-limit 20 re-buys 6:30 p.m., Wednesday: \$40 Ladies Only no-limit Texas Hold-Em \$10 re-buys 6:30 p.m., Friday: \$65 Texas Hold-Em no-limit \$20 re-buys 11 a.m. and Saturday: \$200 Texas Hold-Em no limit no re-buys 11 a.m.
We have one \$500 no-limit Texas Hold-Em tournament the third Saturday of the month, this tournament has no re-buys. We offer one table tournaments every day 24 hours a day. The buy-in for these are: \$135, \$250 and \$500.
Hollywood Classic is our sister property and below is their tournament schedule.
Monday: \$75 buy-in Texas Hold-Em no limit no re-buys 12 p.m. and \$45 buy-in Texas Hold-Em no limit no re-buys 6:30 p.m., Tuesday \$70 buy-in Omaha \$5 bounty and \$10 re-buys 6 p.m., Wednesday \$65 buy-in Texas Hold-Em no limit \$10 re-buys 6:30 p.m., Thursday \$65 buy-in Texas Hold-Em no limit no re-buys 12 p.m., Thursday \$300 buy-in Texas Hold-Em no limit no re-buys 6:30 p.m., Friday \$65 buy-in Texas Hold-Em no limit no re-buys 6:30 p.m., Saturday \$45 buy-in 7 Stud no re-buys 12 p.m. and \$75 Buy-in Texas Hold-Em no limit no re-buys 6:30 p.m.
Hollywood Classic also has a \$575 tournament on the first Sunday of the month and offers the one table tournaments.
Sincerely,
Steve Watkins, Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino

Correction

In the Feb. 4 issue of *The Seminole Tribune* Chyenne McInturff was misidentified in a photo caption as Alexis Aguilar. This photo accompanied the story "Steer Clinic offers Tips to 4-H'ers."



Chyenne McInturff's steer enjoys hand feeding and head massages.

Photo Quiz Answer



Seen here are Juanita Billie and Peggy Stivers.

Fifth Annual Super Bowl Cook-Off

By Emma Brown

BRIGHTON — Brighton's 5th Annual Super Bowl Cook-Off was held on Sunday Feb. 13 at the Brighton 4-H complex. The cook-off was originally planned for Feb. 6, Super Bowl Sunday, but had to be rescheduled for one week later due to unforeseen circumstances.

The field for this year's cook-off was larger than ever, a whopping 20 teams competed for bragging rights for a year. Each team had the opportunity to barbecue chicken, ribs, or both. They hoped to have just the right concoction to excite the judge's taste buds enough to take home the trophy.

Each year, in conjunction with the barbecuing, women have also battled for the title of best pumpkin bread and best fry bread cook. Unfortunately, due to the rescheduling of the event, only eight teams showed up to battle for title of best grills and five women to showed up to compete



Emma Brown

Avant Brown checks out his culinary barbecue masterpieces.

dishes and a succulent meal was served for everyone to enjoy. It was a smaller crowd than expected, but the fun and excitement carried on and next year is expected to be the biggest yet!

Special recognition must be given this year to Betty Billie for earning her third championship in the pumpkin bread contest. Congratulations to all of this year's winners who are listed below:

Ribs: 1. Willie Johns and Ray King, 2. Bill and Angel Osceola (2004 winners), 3. Lewis Gopher and Lewis Gopher Jr.

Chicken: 1. Reno and Adam Osceola, 2. Willie Johns and Ray King, 3. Robert and Stormin Youngblood

Pumpkin Bread: 1. Betty Billie (2003, 2004 and 2005 champion), 2. Mary Jo Micco, 3. Lorene Gopher

Fry Bread: 1. Joyce Jumper, 2. Mary Jo Micco, 3. Betty Billie.



Emma Brown

Pumpkin bread winner Betty Billie.

in the fry bread contest. However, the show did go one with lots of fun and bragging throughout the day.

The teams had from 1-4 p.m. to prepare what could have become the award-winning meat. Each team was given aprons and towels to assist in their preparation, and used their own special recipes to add just the right flavor and texture to their barbecue. Thanks to Brighton Board Representative Johnny Jones, Brighton Recreation, Alex Johns, and John Huff Jr., the day went off successfully.

Brighton's local EMT's and Fire Rescue department staff once again graciously put their taste buds to test and came up with this year's master grills men and fry bread cookers. Once the results were in and the winners were announced, all of the day's meat and bread went onto one serving table with side



Emma Brown

Fry bread winner Joyce Jumper and Alex Johns.



Emma Brown

Barbecue rib winners (L-R) Ray King and Willie Johns.

Big Plans to 'Fatten Up the Snake'

By Iretta Tiger

BIG CYPRESS — The Snake Road Stabilization Project has officially begun. On Jan. 28, a ground breaking ceremony marked the start of the project and the much-needed improvements for the notoriously dangerous road.

The project is in conjunction with the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida. Six miles of the nineteen mile project are on Miccosukee land; the remaining thirteen miles are on Seminole land.

The immediate safety of travelers on Snake Road is the first priority. This project will bring up the shoulders, or the sides of the roads, level with the road. This would allow some leeway for vehicles to recover should they go off the road.

An aerial map and a diagram were on display during the ceremony for a visual idea of how wide the road will become.

"All we're doing is fattening up the snake," joked Big Cypress Councilman David Cypress.

Attending the ceremony were many

important guests including Miccosukee Chairman Billy Cypress, the Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) Eastern Regional Director Frank Keel, Gwen Pipkin of the Florida Department of Transportation, and congressional and senatorial staff members representing Congressional Representatives Alcee Hastings and Mark Foley, and Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL).

In his speech, Big Cypress Board Representative Paul Bowers informed everyone that the original name of the road is Josie Billie Road. It is also known as BIA Route 1281 and County Road 833.

The widening of Snake Road is only a temporary solution and should be completed within six months. There is a long-term project which will widen the road and pave the road. There will also be an adjustment to the horizontal alignment of the road, making it less curvy.

As this article goes to press, the Florida Department of Transportation is working on a preliminary design and is also conducting environmental assessments for the long-term project.



Stephen Galla

Aerial view of Snake Road.



Tribune Archive Photo

Mr. and Mrs. Josie Billie at the opening of Josie Billie Road, the original name of what is now known more commonly as Snake Road.



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The Honorable President Moses B. Osceola
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The Seminole Tribal Members;

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The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should be based solely upon advertisement. Guy J. Seligman worked as a Certified Legal Intern in both the State Attorney and Public Defender offices in Dade and Broward Counties for two years in provide pro bono for 10 years. He graduated from Nova Southeastern University Law School in 1997 and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1999.

5th Annual Rez Rally 2005

The Seminole Tribe of Florida
"Together We Can Manage Diabetes"



See You In Hollywood



Thank You For Your Support!



Chairman Mitchell Cypress, President Moses Osceola, Big Cypress Council Representative David Cypress, Brighton Council Representative Roger Smith, Hollywood Council Representative Max Osceola, Big Cypress Board Representative Paul Bowers, Brighton Board Representative Johnny Jones, Hollywood Board Representative David Dehass, Immokalee Liaison Elaine Aguilar, Trail Liaison William Osceola, Fort Pierce Liaison Sally Tommie, Naples Liaison OB Osceola, Tampa Liaison Richard Henry, 2005 Rez Rally Race Committee, Big Cypress Team Captains, Brighton Team Captains, Hollywood Team Captains, Immokalee Team Captains, All Recreation Departments, Fitness Department, Health Department, Swamp Safari, Ah Tah Thi Ki Museum, Seminole Police Department, Fire Rescue, EMS, Nike, KippPhotos, Utilities, Broadcasting, Communications, Keith and Schnars and all employees, community and tribal members who participated in the walk.

There Are No Excuses in Mitchell Cypress' World

By Susan Etxebarria

This is a story about a 57-year-old Seminole and diabetic who often calls himself just an ordinary guy. This "ordinary" guy says the difference between a winner and a loser is that a winner knows "you have to walk your talk."

The diabetic is Mitchell Cypress, chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Nothing illustrates his philosophy of life better than his recent bout in the hospital and recovery from an accident. These were some of his recent days of trials and day of triumphs.

Oct. 16, 2004 – Banged up and bruised, the tribal leader didn't feel like a winner on that fateful day when he crashed his motorcycle.

He was transported on a gurney to an emergency room with five broken ribs, a broken clavicle and a knee and toe fracture. Cypress took a spill on his motorcycle while riding in the annual Jerry Micco Memorial Bike Rally.

Cypress is a Type II diabetic. Because of his disease his medical condition was serious. Every time a diabetic's body is under stress it raises their sugar and there is a greater risk of infection. Since Cypress was in good shape before the motorcycle accident—he watches what he eats and exercises regularly—he recovered faster than he would have if he was overweight, still drinking and smoking as he used to do years ago.

"If I had never come down with diabetes I would have kept abusing my body and my way of life would have continued but becoming a diabetic gives you a second look at yourself and you compare what you have seen others go through—dialysis and insulin shots—and it was a wake up call," Cypress said.

When he was diagnosed in 1983 he did not immediately manage his diabetes as he should. It took him 10 years to get really serious.

"I was in denial," he said. "I wanted to go ahead and party, drink and smoke but I had a cousin whose leg was amputated and seeing one of our tribal leaders die because of diabetes is what caused me to wake up and face what I was dealing with."

Cypress said he has been told often that he should be careful because he is the leader of the tribe. But he likes to ride motorcycles and have some fun. He says he's no different from anyone else.

"People look at me with respect because I am the chairman but to me I am on the same level as anyone else," he said. "But, I realize that I have a responsibility to look out for and take care of my people."

Oct. 20, 2004 – Four days later Cypress leaves the hospital in a wheelchair and returns to his home at Big Cypress reservation.

He is told not to put any weight on his left leg. His right arm is immobilized. But he has responsibilities. It isn't long before he is on the phones at home, managing tribal matters as best he can and holding mini-meetings in his living room. He has time to think.

He wonders if he will be well enough to do the annual Rez Rally race that promotes diabetes



Jaime Restrepo
Employees Vicky Barogiannis (left) and Carmen Arango (right) from the fitness department assist Mitchell Cypress in his transition to crutches.

awareness coming up in two and half months time. The chairman and health department created this event to bring all of the reservations together one day each year to promote health and fitness for tribal citizens and employees.

For him, it is important to show up because he has a legacy to live up to as the first place winner in the 5K walk in his age bracket for the past three years.

"My thoughts while in the wheelchair were 'there's a reason why things happen. Maybe it's a message for me to put it out to the tribal members that you can get in an accident, you can be in a wheelchair, you can be on crutches, you can use a cane, and you can still finish the race.'"

He knew he may not be the first one across the finish line, but that was no longer his goal. It was simply getting up again and doing it that kept him motivated to get back in shape as soon as he could. He has always encouraged tribal citizens to participate in the Rez Rally for what it represents to the tribe.

"If you are healthy, you can do it," Cypress said. "You have to have that will power. If you don't, you're lazy."

Oct. 26, 2004 – The orthopedic surgeon decides not to operate on his leg as long as Cypress can exercise it.

He begins physical therapy three times per week. His ribs are still very sore. He makes several trips to his offices to take care of tribal matters; but it is tiring. His diabetes experience taught him to discipline himself, to walk every morning, if possible, lift weights at the gym and eat sensibly. Now he applies the same self-discipline to his recovery from his accident.

Long before his diagnosis, he was always interested in trying to improve his health



Suzanne Davis
Mitchell Cypress was released from the hospital.

but he never took the time to do it, saying, "I put time into other things that were not right for my health." Cypress finally understood one day that diabetes usu-



Suzanne Davis
Cypress underwent physical therapy up to three times per week.

ally progresses.

"If you're scared of something and you stay in bed, you will never get out of bed; you will never accomplish anything," he said. "But, if you get out of bed and you go, you never know what will happen."

Making a commitment makes a big difference. All of a sudden all kinds of support occurs that strengthens your motivation. You are not competing against anyone else but yourself to improve your condition. Cypress recalled seeing friends die of the disease.

"I know I might get there one day but I don't want to push it," he said. "I want to try to avoid those kinds of things that can cause it."

Some day there may be a miracle medicine to cure diabetes, but for now Cypress says he wants to live as healthy as he can.

Nov. 23, 2004 – Cypress's progress is amazing.

Almost a month after his debilitating accident, Cypress is told he can finally get out of the wheelchair but still has to avoid putting any weight on his left knee. He has to learn to walk on crutches. He continues with physical therapy three times a week for another three weeks. Just like the help he got when he struggled to manage his diabetes, the help he gets with his rehabilitation makes all the difference in the world.

He said anyone can change their diet and lifestyle with the support offered by the Seminole Tribe's health department and the Diabetes Prevention Program.

"You go with the support, the nutritionist, and you attend workshops, those kinds of things, and you look around the room and you see other people are concerned about their health and you are not alone," Cypress said. You make up your mind and you do it."

He said its all about hard work and credits the his work ethic with helping him progress in his political, eventually leading him to the position he has now holds as chairman.

There's an anonymous saying that "Success comes before work only in the dictionary."

His first job for the tribe in 1975 was transporting patients to their doctor appointments at the

health clinic. He heard about diabetes back then but never thought it would happen to him. He did not know then that diabetes would someday be considered an epidemic among Native Americans.

The tribe's establishment of the Diabetes Prevention Program several years ago is a forward-thinking step. They offer cutting-edge physical care and medical support. They stress early testing since diabetes can be very hard to detect. But, ultimately, it is up to the individual to seek support.

"If it works for me, it will work for anyone," said Cypress. "I don't want to be a role model, but I want to encourage anyone that is diabetic."

Dec. 23, 2004 – Cypress throws away the crutches and learns to walk with a cane.

He can do a limited amount of weight-bearing exercises. He is using the cane quite well by Christmas. Physical therapy continues three times a week to strengthen his quadriceps muscles to help stabilize the knee and to insure range of motion in his left shoulder.

The Rez Rally is getting closer and he is feeling confident he will do it. His physical strength has returned. But now he has to watch something else. Christmas parties offer other temptations for the diabetic and getting sugar out of whack can ruin everything. He loves sofkee. But, he drinks it in moderation.

Some traditional foods can blow the sugar way out of bounds if eaten in excess. But there are worse things—fast foods and snacks. Diabetes can affect your moods and that can affect relationships. Even Cypress admits that he gets cranky when his sugar gets too low, below 50, and that stress raises his sugar.

Knowing what to do to counteract these highs and lows is what he learns at the clinic. He says one can take the attitude that "you can go out the door and get run over by a truck" so you might as well live it up; though he said that's "just an excuse."

Jan. 18, 2004 – The orthopedic doctor gives Cypress the okay to remove his knee brace and he no longer needs the cane.

Only five days away from race day. Will he be ready for the rally? Cypress said when he makes a commitment he sticks to it, especially when it comes to his individual diabetes treatment program.

"When I get lazy and have to go exercise I might feel a little self pity and then I stop and think 'Whose fault is it anyway? Nobody but yourself. You create who you are.' And then I get up and go," he said.

Diabetes maybe be genetic, as well as envi-



Kipp Photo
Cypress holds the reservation trophy aloft.

ronmental, but early prevention can make a big difference.

Jan. 22, 2004 – Cypress enters the Rez Rally Race and finishes third in his age category.

"I had doubts the last 100 yards," he said. "I was limping the last 50 yards but I said to myself 'I talked the talk, now I have to walk the walk.'"

Why is it important that Cypress tell his story? He hopes anyone reading this can say, "If Mitchell Cypress can do it, so can I." What he hopes is that everyone will do whatever they can to fight diabetes from robbing their health and the health of their loved ones. Education and prevention must be a top priority for the tribe.

He urges the Seminole communities to set high standards for community health, to offer good nutrition at community gatherings, encourage cooking sensibly at home, and engaging in regular exercise.

"As a community we need to work together to improve our health," he said.



Kipp Photo
Cypress finished third in his age category three months after a serious motorcycle accident.



Suzanne Davis
(L-R) Vicky Barogiannis, Mitchell Cypress, Christine Owen, Physical Therapist HealthSouth Rehabilitation.

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Hollywood residents stopped traffic as they made their way down 64th Avenue.

Rez Community Shows Its Love

By Iretta Tiger
HOLLYWOOD — From one Tribal citizen to another it's not easy to say "I love you" or show affection. Sometimes, its easier to be quick to criticize and degrade each other rather than give a pat on the back. Sadly, most public displays of affection are frowned upon.

It's not easy to realize who this affects the most—our children.

On Jan. 31, Hollywood Tribal citizens and the Family Services department marched through the Hollywood community in an effort to save its chil-

dren. It would be easy to dismiss this march, but think about this—there was no prize money or participation money involved.

The march, organized by the Family Services department, was named "Protecting Our Future." Beautiful T-shirts and small Seminole flags were given to the participants and they proudly displayed both during the march.

The march started at the baseball field at the gym; the route went through the neighborhood on the north side of the clinic, up 64th Avenue, through the old rez and finished at the baseball field. The Seminole Police Department escorted the march and blocked off traffic on 64th Avenue.

Immediately following the march was a dinner prepared by Vivian Delgado, Donna Turtle and several other volunteers.

"You being here says that you're committed to the wellbeing of our children," said Hollywood Councilman Max B. Osceola Jr.

There you have it Seminole youth, a very public display of affection that is telling you everyone does care about you and that it hurts to see you kill yourselves with drinking, smoking and drugs. So what if everyone is doing it, be true to yourselves. Explore the world and learn that there are much better things to do.



The "Protecting Our Future" march participants walked up 64th Avenue.

Senior Valentine's King and Queen Crowned

By Adelsa Williams
HOLLYWOOD — Love was in the air at the Hollywood Senior's Center. On Valentine's Day, Feb. 14 the department of Elder Affairs hosted a special holiday luncheon where a Valentine's King and Queen were crowned.

There were two categories, the married

The other two couples who did not place, but are still winners in another respect, were Paul and Meg Buster who have been married 11-and-a-half years and Marie and Jimmie Osceola who have kept their vows for more than 45 enduring years.

In the single's couple category, the winners were President of the Seminole Tribe of Florida Moses Osceola, who was paired up with his mother, Maggie Osceola. Maggie was arrayed in a beautiful traditional Seminole dress especially made for the day. The top portion of the dress had a detail of little hearts, hipped for the occasion.

"Maggie is one of the seniors who still does her hair the traditional way," praised Hollywood Council Representative Max B. Osceola Jr.

Four enthusiastic judges from different Tribal departments were selected to choose the winners, they were Anthony Frank and Angel Torres from the Human Resources department, Delores "Sweet P" Crumpler-Michael from the Preschool program and Jerome Williams from the Seminole Police Department.

After the competition, everyone enjoyed some chicken, vegetables and baked potatoes for lunch along with a choice of three red Valentine's Day desserts.

Special thanks to Vivian Delgado for cheerfully emceeing the event, and all the couples and singles who showed good spirit and participated in the competition.



King Don Osceola and Queen Mary Gay Osceola.

couples and the singles.

Three married couples competed for the grand prize. The winners were Don and Mary Gay Osceola, who have been married for 23 years.

A Successful Valentine's Day Bash

By Judy Weeks
IMMOKALEE — The gym was transformed into a red, white and pink extravaganza by the Immokalee Recreation department for a Valentine's Day party on Feb 14th. The event, which lasted from 5 p.m.–8 p.m., proved that Valentine's Day isn't just for lovers; it was a time to show appreciation and spread brotherly love throughout the community.

Recreation Director David Billie enlisted the services of Rides, Slides and Games, Inc., who did a fabulous job of coordinating the entire event. The gym was decorated in red fabric streamers from the ceiling to the floor, forming a canopy around a beautiful ice sculpture.

The walls were covered with red draped latticework and hundreds of red, white and pink balloons. Rose petals were scattered about on each of the red table clothes. A generous buffet was served at 6 p.m..

The biggest hit with both young and old was the chocolate fountain. While the younger crowd delighted in dipping marshmallows, rice crispy treats, pretzels, chocolate pirogues and bananas, the adults indulged in strawberries, pineapple and cream puffs.

Throughout the entire event a disc jockey provided entertainment with hula hoop contests, karaoke and interaction dancing. The lights would dim and romantic music would summon couples to

the dance floor for a while and then alternate with the Electric Slide, Hokey-Pokey and the Chicken Dance.

Outside was the greatest treat of all! A wagon with two large draft horses provided hay rides around the reservation. The wagon, which can carry approximately 20 passengers, was loaded down all evening with a line waiting for their opportunity.

The general consensus was that the Recreation department sure knows how to throw a party.



Hula hooping youngsters competed for prizes.

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Owner Stanley Frank Jr. and son Shaman talking to patrons at the Tribal Fair.

Thank you,
Seminole Tribe of Florida and the patrons
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for visiting our vendors booth.

Schedule of Classes

Aroma Therapy as Preventive Medicine - February 23rd, 7:30-9:30

In this interactive course participants will learn how to use essential oils and related herbs to alleviate symptoms pertaining to: sinus & cold, headaches, stress, skin conditions, blood pressure, cancer, lack of energy and more.

Aroma Therapy Blending Lab - March 2nd, 7:30-9:30

Participants will make and take home the following products; moisturizing skin care blend, lavender salve, sinus & cold inhaler, glycerin soap bar and cleaning solutions. All materials for this lab are included with your registration.

A-CAM Practitioner Certification - March 6th, 13th & 20th, 10:00-5:00

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Meet the Brighton Students

By Emma Brown

BRIGHTON — Kelsey Spencer is the son of Jessica Billie. He is in the 10th grade at Okeechobee High School and resides in Okeechobee, Fla. Some of Spencer's favorite hobbies include football, basketball, and track. His main focus and goal at this time is to receive a scholarship in one of the sports in which he is involved.

He is currently undecided on what college he would like to attend, but he has some time to figure that out.

Spencer devotes his success in sports and school to his mother, Jessica, because she is the one that encouraged him to do well and stay involved in sports.

Brittany Smith is the daughter of Councilman Roger Smith and Diane Smith. She is in the 9th grade at Okeechobee's freshman campus. Smith's favorite hobbies are volleyball and basketball.

Her goals are to graduate and attend college to receive an

education and continue playing sports. Smith would like to major in sports medicine or business Management. She wants to stay active in sports and some day come back and work for her tribe.

Smith had some encouraging words to offer young Seminoles.

"...Stay in school, go to college, get a good job, and achieve your goals," she said.

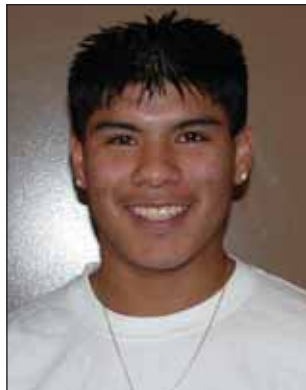
She gives credit to her family for being her strength, because they all have been there for her and inspire her because they have all graduated from high school.

Audrey Snow is the daughter of Roy and Diane Snow. She is in the 11th grade at Okeechobee High School. Snow loves the sport of basketball and has set her sights high. She would like to graduate with a GPA of 3.0 or higher and get into a respectable university to study law or psychology.

She encourages the youth of the tribe to "Do well in whatever you try and reach for what you want."

Snow says that her aunt has been a big educational motivator because she is always saying to get a good education and go to college so that you can get a good job.

Brighton is full of talented youth, such as these three students, with great potential and we look forward to their success and hope that some day they will be our future leaders.



Emma Brown
Kelsey Spencer



Emma Brown
Audrey Snow



Emma Brown
Brittany Smith

Students Learn About Higher Education

By Emma Brown

BRIGHTON — Every year, Higher Education Advisor Dora Bell visits each reservation hoping to encourage all high school students to take advantage of the wonderful scholarship program offered by the Seminole Tribe. On Wednesday, Jan. 25, Bell came to visit the students on the Brighton reservation.

The students were checked out of school to attend a luncheon at Golden Corral and hear about the invaluable resources available to them after high school. Bell informed the students about the higher education scholarship, now called The Billy L. Cypress Higher Education Scholarship, which is available for each Seminole Tribal citizen to attend college.

She said every student is eligible for this scholarship and for college, no matter what their academic history may be, because there is always room for improvement and everyone has a right to an education. Bell also explained the benefits of the scholarship, such as full tuition, book fees and a monthly stipend to assist them throughout their higher education endeavors.

As with any scholarship, there are rules, such as maintaining a 2.0 GPA, and staying in contact with the higher education staff should a student decide to leave school during a semester. Bell informed the students that she is available to assist with the higher education process from college selection to assisting them with career choices.

Employment and Training Counselor Juan Franco was also at the luncheon to address all Native Americans of federally recognized tribes. Franco spoke to the students about the vocational program and job training program that is offered by the employment and training program, and about the summer work program that is available for the youth 18-years-old and younger that allows them to work up to 20 hours per week during the summer. This program allows our youth to gain knowledge of the work industry and help build a strong work ethic.



Higher Education Advisor Dora Bell discusses the tribe's scholarship program with Brighton students.

Like the Director of Education Louise Gopher always says, "Education is like your personal gold mine, because no one can ever take it away from you!"

The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Education department is available to assist students from kindergarten through higher education in any educational aspect that you wish to explore. Please see Dora Bell, Juan Franco, or your respective education advisor for any assistance with educational programs.

Preschoolers Visit Kissimmee Shootout

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — Feb. 4 was a big day in the lives of the three and four year olds at the Immokalee Preschool. First thing in the morning, they boarded the big yellow school bus for the ride to Big Cypress to attend the 7th Annual Kissimmee Slough Shootout and Rendezvous.

The seven preschool students: Geneva and Crystal Garcia, Cartaya Billie, Lindsey Posada, Ezekiel Roberts, Jack Adams and Neo Motlow, all said they had a wonderful time. They toured the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum while the preschool staff — Michelle Ford, Elva "Bay" Montez and Maria Castro — explained the various exhibits on a level consistent with their understanding capabilities. Parental chaperone Lorraine Posada completed the group, assisting wherever needed.

Despite their young age, they were intrigued with the Seminole War battle re-enactments and enjoyed the southeastern native dancing very much. The field trip concluded with a tour of the vendors, which went quickly, because of the temperature drop due to an approaching cold front.



Michelle Ford

Mom Lorraine Posada accompanied daughter Lindsey to the Slough Shootout in BC.

Seminole Named Student of the Month

Submitted by University School of Nova Southeastern University

DAVIE, FL — The first grade teachers at University School of Nova Southeastern University are very proud to recognize Seminole Tribal citizen Carson Knaby as the Student of the Month. Knaby has been a good student since the first day of school in every way. She is the kind of student every teacher dreams about having in her class because she is hard-working, caring, responsible, and trustworthy, and she always makes good choices.

Knaby works hard at being a successful student. She is a super listener and she always follows directions. She takes time and pride in her work and always puts forth her best effort. Knaby enjoys math activities and loves to read, especially books about animals. Her favorite school activity is music.

She is also a cooperative student who has a strong school spirit. Knaby is a sensitive, compassionate friend who is always there to help her classmates and she encourages them to participate in a positive manner. Both teachers and students know they can count on her to lend a helping hand. Knaby's kind and giving demeanor has made her an excellent role model for her peers.



Joletta John-Carney

The University School student of the month with her teacher Mrs. Toni Wimer.



Joletta John-Carney

Big brother J J John and his award-winning sister Carson Knaby.

Knaby enjoys doing activities outside of school as well. She enjoys cheerleading and gymnastics, and she is very excited about her upcoming horseback riding lessons.

It is our pleasure to present Carson Knaby as the Student of the Month. This award is well deserved. Congratulations, we are all proud of your accomplishments.

January 14, 2005

Dear Mrs. Joletta John-Carney and Mr. Douglas Carney,

I am very pleased and proud to inform you that Carson Knaby has been selected as the Lower School Student of the Month. Selected by the teachers on a monthly basis, the Student of the Month is a student who exemplifies the highest standards of character and positive attitude, effort and cooperation, responsibility and contribution to the ethos of the school.

Each student selected was recognized at a special ceremony at the Davie Police Department on Tuesday Jan. 25. They received a certificate of

achievement and a picture with McGruff the Crime Dog.

My congratulations to you and your child for being selected to represent our school. This is a very fine accomplishment and an honor to be chosen from among such a fine student body.

Sincerely,

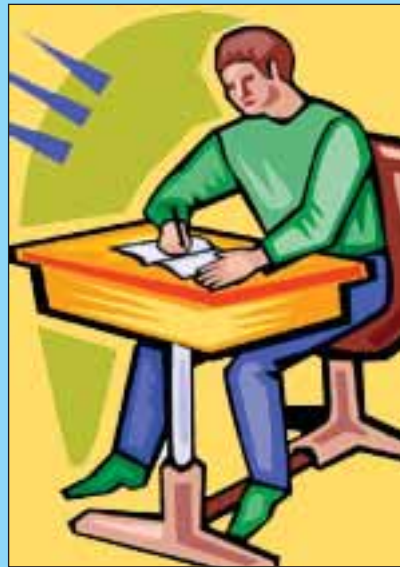
Elizabeth C. Brennan

Elizabeth C. Brennan, Ed.D.
Associate Head for Academic Affairs
Director, Lower School

Adult English Classes for Seminole Elders

Submitted by Linda Knee

HOLLYWOOD — Beginning Feb. 23 the education department will be offering English classes exclusively for seniors. Classes will be held at the Dorothy Scott Osceola building on Wednesday mornings at 8:35 a.m. and last one hour. For more information call Linda Knee at (954) 989-6840, Ext. 1225.



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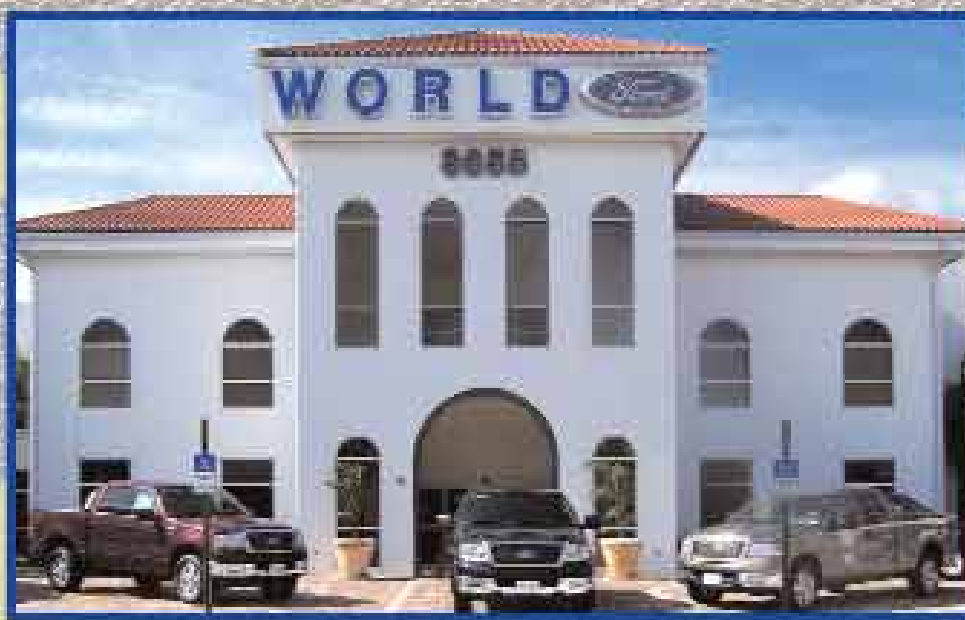
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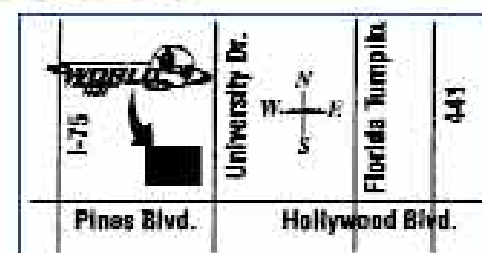
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Seminole Paradise Sizzles Every Thursday with ‘Light Up Hollywood’ Fireworks Spectacular



Fireworks display at Seminole Paradise on New Year’s. Come see what they have in store during the “Light Up Hollywood” extravaganza.

South Florida’s Ultimate Entertainment District Aims to Jump-Start the Weekend and Attract Visitors with Signature Event

Submitted by Mayra Hernandez, Bitner Goodman PR
HOLLYWOOD — Seminole Paradise has launched “Light Up Hollywood,” a weekly fireworks spectacular taking place every Thursday at 9:30 p.m. Seminole Paradise, South Florida’s ultimate entertainment district, aims to help South Floridians jump-start their weekend and attract visitors to the complex with the display, live music and strolling animation from 7–11 p.m.

One of several marketing efforts designed to boost Seminole Paradise’s visibility, “Light Up Hollywood” joins Seminole Paradise Live!, a monthly live music concert series featuring national acts, family fun days and club and retail oriented events such as Mardi Gras, Bike Night and celebrity appearances.

““Light Up Hollywood” was created to be a signature branding endeavor,” explained Julie Katz, marketing director for Seminole Paradise. “Disney World has New Year’s every night at Pleasure Island; now South Florida has fireworks every Thursday at Seminole Paradise. Why wait until July 4th for a spectacular display when you can enjoy the view, excitement of live music and entertainment to suit any taste right here, right now?”



Celebrate the Luck of the Irish at Seminole Paradise

Activities include performances by The Young Dubliners, the Paraic Keane Band, Pride—A U2 Tribute, the Kathleen Rondeau dancers, bagpipers and more

a variety of free all-day Celtic-themed concerts, activities and more for revelers.

The party starts at 10 a.m. with green beer and traditional holiday camaraderie. Throughout the day, the Kathleen Rondeau Irish dancers and bagpipers, the Paraic Keane Celtic Rock Band and Pride of New York City performing their signature tribute to rock legends, U2, will move the crowd to an Irish beat.

Then, at 8 p.m., get ready to party with The Young Dubliners, a blend of classic rock and Celtic instrumentation direct from Ireland. This critically-acclaimed band, known for the “whirling jig pits” at their live shows, has sold out more than 40 consecutive gigs at the renowned House of Blues in Los Angeles.

Upcoming Seminole Tampa Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Events

Submitted by Chris Jaramillo, Special Events Coordinator
Feb. 25
Soundhole performs in the Lobby Bar. 3 p.m.–7 p.m. No cover.

Sunset Nights: Poolside Happy Hour: Smooth grooved provided by Morgan Stone. \$4 top shelf liquor and specialty margaritas, complimentary hors d'oeuvres and weekly prize drawings. 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. at Floyds. \$19.99 for Player's Club members and \$24.99 for non-members.

a.m. in the Lobby Bar. No cover. Groove Productions along with Love & Light present MASSIVE: Featuring Josh Wink and a DJ Monk special performance. 12 midnight in Floyd's.

Feb. 26
DJ Maestro performs in the Lobby Bar. 1 a.m.–4 a.m. No cover.

Acquiesce performs in the Lobby Bar. 3 p.m.–7 p.m. No cover. Bacardi Boys perform in the Lobby Bar. 8 p.m.–1 a.m.

Element performs, 11 p.m., Exclusive Video Hits of the Past, Present and Future, 11p.m.–2 a.m., Craze, 2 a.m.–5:30 a.m. All events at Floyd's Late Night. \$10 Cover before 2 a.m., \$15 Cover after 2 a.m. Patrons can pick up their Element H20 \$5 off card at Floyd's Nightclub Friday and Saturday nights.

Feb. 27
Green Room Brunch with musical act TBA. 11 a.m.–3 p.m. in the Green Room. \$19.99 for Player's Club members and \$24.99 for non-members.

Biker Bash in the Ballroom/Pool/Back parking lot. 12 p.m.–6 p.m.



Submitted by Sarah Macak, Bitner Goodman PR
HOLLYWOOD — Irish eyes will be smiling at Seminole Paradise this St. Patrick's Day, March 17. The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood and Murphy's Law Irish Pub have lined-up

Last Two ‘Legends’ Performances at Hard Rock

Submitted by Alina Viera, Bitner Goodman PR
HOLLYWOOD — You and your guests are cordially invited to Legends in Concert at the Hollywood Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. Come and meet the world's greatest celebrity impersonators and enjoy their tributes to world-renowned artists including Prince, Elvis Presley, Marilyn Monroe, Shania Twain and Donna Summer in the original celebrity impersonators show.

The show runs through Sunday Feb. 27, and is part of two-week run the Legends in Concert have performed at the Hard Rock, the site of a future permanent showroom for the Legends troupe.

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Darlene Quinn

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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.



(L-R) Helene and Andy Buster canoe down the beautiful Alexander Springs.

Eric Bricker

Second Annual Twelve Step Retreat Weekend and Canoe Trip Full of Adventure and Triumph

By Eric Bricker

EUSTIS, FL — Despite its many acres, The Lake Yale Baptist Convention Center is easy to miss once you have driven north on I-19 through Eustis, Fla. As a matter of fact, Eustis and I-19 are pretty easy to miss as well. Any of the participants in the second annual Twelve Step Retreat Weekend can tell you that is true.

The retreat, which took place from Thursday Jan. 27–Sunday Jan. 31, was hosted by the Seminoles in Recovery organization with sponsorship from family services department and the president's office.

The purpose of the gathering was to educate recovering Tribal citizens on the twelve steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. These twelve steps are considered to be the cornerstones of recovery by many people recovering from alcoholism and addiction. In fact, these principles have helped so many people recover from addiction and alcoholism that they have been applied to several other problems such as overeating, gambling, and codependency.

One of the speakers lectured on the first three steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, saying alcoholism is "a disease because it has a predictable course of action." The speaker used a doctor's diagnosis of the measles as a means of understanding alcoholism.

"The doctor can tell you what is going to happen to someone diagnosed with the measles because measles is a disease with a predictable course of action," he said, then making the parallel to alcoholism. "If an alcoholic continues to drink, I can tell you what will happen to him."

As the weekend went on, several other speakers lectured to

the group on each of the twelve steps. Most of the speakers used personal experiences to demonstrate how the twelve steps helped to get them sober. Between and after the groups, periods of fellowship took place. This was an opportunity for everyone to enjoy a bit of sober social interaction.

While the lodging at Lake Yale was certainly comfortable, it was no accident that none of the rooms had either a phone or television in it. Chemical Dependency Counselor at the Miccosukee Family Treatment Center Ed Arenado said "No TV, no phones, you can really get in touch out here if you can let it happen."

The canoe trip, however, was a bit of a different story. As our party of sixteen descended down the Alexander Springs, the group continued the laughing and simple enjoyment that comes with being sober and learning to be content with oneself.

However, that enjoyment was challenged once we realized that we passed the end of the poorly marked canoe trail by about five miles, when the lead canoe reached the St John's River and was cautioned to turn back by a passing recreational boater. The boater told the occupants of lead canoe that the end of our canoe trail was far back.

We canoed back against the current for about two miles before we decided to beach the canoes by what appeared to be an old boat launch. The trail led back up to one of the many winding dirt roads that run through the Ocala National Forest. We then called the canoe haulers to come pick up the canoes and drive us back to our vans.

This seemed simple enough, but we had no way to

indicate our position to the canoe haulers as none of the dirt roads were marked. We waited for a number of hours before we set up a small campfire and sent out a party of six to search for the paved road. I was one of the members of the search party.

After we walked about five miles in the dark, we came upon a house that was isolated in the woods. It looked like something out of the movie "Blair Witch Project." The occupant of the house was not able to offer us a ride, but she did give us some information.

"If you boys keep walking the way you're going, it's fifteen miles to the dirt road that leads to the dirt road that leads to the paved road," she told the group.

She was also observant enough to point out to us "yep, that's quite-a-ways." At that point, we decided to walk back to the camp. Along the way we ran into the canoe hauling vans which took us back to our camp and then back to our vans.

The thing that impressed me the most about the whole ordeal was that no one got mad or frustrated. No one blamed anybody else, and no one's spirits got down. Everyone continued the joking and light hearted talk because we all knew that whatever happened, we would all be alright.

If you spend enough time around recovering people, you will undoubtedly become a fan of them. Their triumphs are often understated and subtle, but they are always inspiring and moving. The twelve step program teaches its members to humble and anonymous. Thus they have become the quiet miracles that walk among the rest of us, and each of them, in their own way, has come "quite-a-ways."

Department of Emergency Services Assumes EMS Responsibilities

Submitted by Eva Cain, SPD Public Information Officer

BIG CYPRESS — The Seminole Tribe's department of emergency services diligently inventoried and stocked the rescue units as they prepared to assume all EMS responsibilities for the Big Cypress and Brighton Communities from Glades and Hendry County on Feb. 7.

Fire Rescue will provide EMS Services without interruption on a 24 hour a day, year round basis at both reservations. This new service allows for a superior level of personalized care and employs the latest state of the art emergency medical equip-



Eva Cain

Working dual roles as firefighters and paramedics (L-R) Jonathan Hedrick and Albert Quiñones.



Eva Cain

Firefighter and paramedic Mike Hopkins.

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Upcoming concerts; Sunday, Feb. 27 will be Darryl Worley with special guest South Florida's own Amber Leigh. Next on Sunday, April 3rd features The Bellamy Brothers. Tribal citizens welcome!

The Round Up is located at: 9020 W. State Road 84 Davie, Florida 33324. (Southwest Corner of I-595 and Pine Island Road in the Pine Island Plaza)

Call (954) 423-1990 or visit us at www.roundupcountry.com.

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Fitness Portion of the Dietary Guidelines, Part I

Information Compiled By Kenny Bayon
[Editor's Note: Please see the continuation of this article in the March 18 issue of The Seminole Tribune. That article will cover the nutrition section of the newly-established guidelines.]

After years of giving the American public guidelines on fitness and nutrition that was not even on the right page, on Jan. 12 the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Agriculture released the sixth edition of Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

These guidelines are published every five years or so and represent the federal governments' best science-based advice about how proper dietary habits can enhance health and decrease the risk of chronic diseases, including coronary artery disease, hypertension, Type 2 diabetes, osteoporosis, and certain types of cancer. The recommendations, found in the Dietary Guidelines, are developed for the general public over two years of age and who live in the U.S.

Compared to the last edition of the Dietary Guidelines, there is an even stronger emphasis on reducing the intake of calories and increasing physical activity. Reasons are that Americans tend to be relatively inactive.

According to morbidity and mortality weekly report in 2002, 25 percent of adult Americans did not participate in any kind of leisure time physical activities in a one month period. They also stated that the widespread availability of food options and choices as well as oversized food portions contribute to this

problem.

This report said the number of overweight and obese Americans has doubled in the past two decades amounting to a shocking 90 million. One-third of adults in America is obese and has a body mass index of 30 or greater. The body mass index, or BMI, is a person's weight in kilograms divided by height in meters then the number is squared.

According to the Evidence Report of Clinical Guidelines, a person with a healthy weight would have a BMI ranging from 19-24, an overweight person 25-29, and an obese person 30-35. In order to successfully solve the problem of obesity and unhealthy dieting, the Dietary Guidelines' advice is used to help Americans live a healthier and longer life.

This means that people must make significant changes in eating habits and lifestyles to reduce the risk of chronic diseases but also to meet the physical demands of work and leisure comfortably. Let's be realistic here folks, we have to do something or else these numbers are only going to rise.

It isn't as simple as it sounds, but it is common sense. In order to lose weight, we can't consume more calories than we actually need. The Dietary Guidelines make it clear that the only way to get rid of excess fat is through a nutritious low calorie diet and plenty of physical activity.

It is strongly recommended to engage in physical activity on a regular basis and reduce sedentary activities. This will help to promote health and

psychological well-being, as well as a healthy body weight. Please make note of the different recommendations in regards to physical activities for adults, children and adolescence, pregnant women, and older adults.

The list of different groups and suggested physical activity in the new 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans is as follows.

Key recommendations for adults: Reduce the risk of chronic diseases in adulthood by engaging in at least 30 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity, above usual activity, at work or home on most days of the week. Greater health benefits can be achieved by engaging in physical activity of more vigorous.

Managing body weight and prevent gradual unhealthy body weight gain in adulthood: Engage in approximately 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous-intensity activity on most days of the week while not exceeding caloric intake requirements.

Sustaining weight loss in adulthood: Participate in at least 60-90 minutes of daily moderate-intensity physical activity while not exceeding caloric intake requirements.

Key Recommendations for Specific Groups:

Children and adolescence: Engage in at least 60 minutes of physical activity on most, preferably all, days of the week.

Pregnant women: In the absence of medical complications, incorporate 30 minutes or more of moderate-intensity physical activity on most, if not all, days of the week. Avoid activities with a high risk of falling or abdominal trauma.

Older adults: Participate in regular physical activity to reduce functional declines associated with aging and to achieve the other benefits of physical identified for all adults.

trolling one's weight with the benefit of good nutrition and cardiovascular exercise is essential.

According to the DGAC Report, a reduction of 50-100 calories per day combined with a 60 minutes of moderate-to vigorous intensity physical activity per day can help prevent gradual, unhealthy body weight gain in adulthood. If you want to successfully lose weight and sustain weight loss on a long term basis, you have to reduce your calorie intake by at least 500 calories per day as well as 60-90 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity per day, as recommended by the DGAC report.

It is important to understand that even modest weight loss has health benefits, will enhance physical well being, and prevent people from further weight gain. Preventing gradual weight gain is essential and can be achieved by even small decreases of calories consumed, especially if a person engages in physical activities.

It is suggested that men older than 40 years and women older than 50 years who plan to engage in a vigorous physical activity program, or who have a chronic disease, or have a risk for a chronic disease, should consult their physician prior to engagement in such a program.

All the examples of physical activities mentioned in above list have a different impact, in regards to physical fitness and benefits. Vigorous physical activities such as jogging or other aerobic exercises burn more calories than do moderate physical activities such as walking. Weight training and resistance band workouts increase muscular strength and endurance and maintain or increase the amount of muscle mass.

The Dietary Guidelines suggests that even if you are not able to perform physical activities on a daily basis for a set amount of time, to consider between three and six short bouts of 10 minutes or so of moderate-intensity activity. It is the accumulated time spent on physical activity that contributes to one's health and for burning calories. The littlest change in your physical behavior will have a positive impact on your well being. Just by limiting sedentary activities and replacing them with activities that require movement and physical strength, you will contribute to a healthy living.

Reducing these sedentary behaviors will especially have a positive effect on treating and preventing overweight among our children and adolescents. Help them get engaged in regular physical activities such as team sports, outside activities, or just reduce the time they spend on watching TV and playing video games.

These are just a few examples of how you can cut down sedentary behavior. Another good example is to avoid looking for parking that is most convenient in regards to walking distance. Take the extra step and burn a few more calories.

Sources: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, "Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2005," Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2002," Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report," Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee Report, 2005, "DGAC Report," "Evidence of Clinical Guidelines on the Identification, Evaluation, and Treatment of Overweight and Obesity in Adults," 1998.

INVITATION TO BID RF13 OT050456 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 Miami Field Station service area in Miami, Fla. on March 11, 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 February 25, 2005, at 11 a.m.. at the Field Station located at 9001 NW 58th Street Miami, Fla. 33178. 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 February 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 HOTLINE 800-472-5290. The public is invited to attend they 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.

Moderate physical activity calories per hour for a 154 pound person	Approximate
Hiking 370	
Dancing330	
Golf (walking and carrying clubs)	330
Bicycling (less than 10 mph)	290
Walking (3.5 mph)	280
Weight lifting (light workout)	220
Stretching 180	
Vigorous Physical Activity calories per hour for a 154 pound person	Approximate
Running/jogging (5 mph)	590
Bicycling (more than 10 mph)	590
Aerobics 480	
Walking (4.5 mph)	460
Weight lifting (vigorous effort)	440
Basketball (vigorous)	440

Source: Adapted from the 2005 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee (DGAC) Report.

According to the chart, the calories burned per hour will be higher for persons who weigh more than 154 pounds and lower for persons who weigh less.

Let's be realistic, before these new guidelines they recommended that a person do 20 minutes of cardio three times a week. That was barely enough to break a sweat. With the growing health problems in Native Americans like obesity and diabetes, con-



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Freedom Edition | Black_H2_2004_25 Passenger

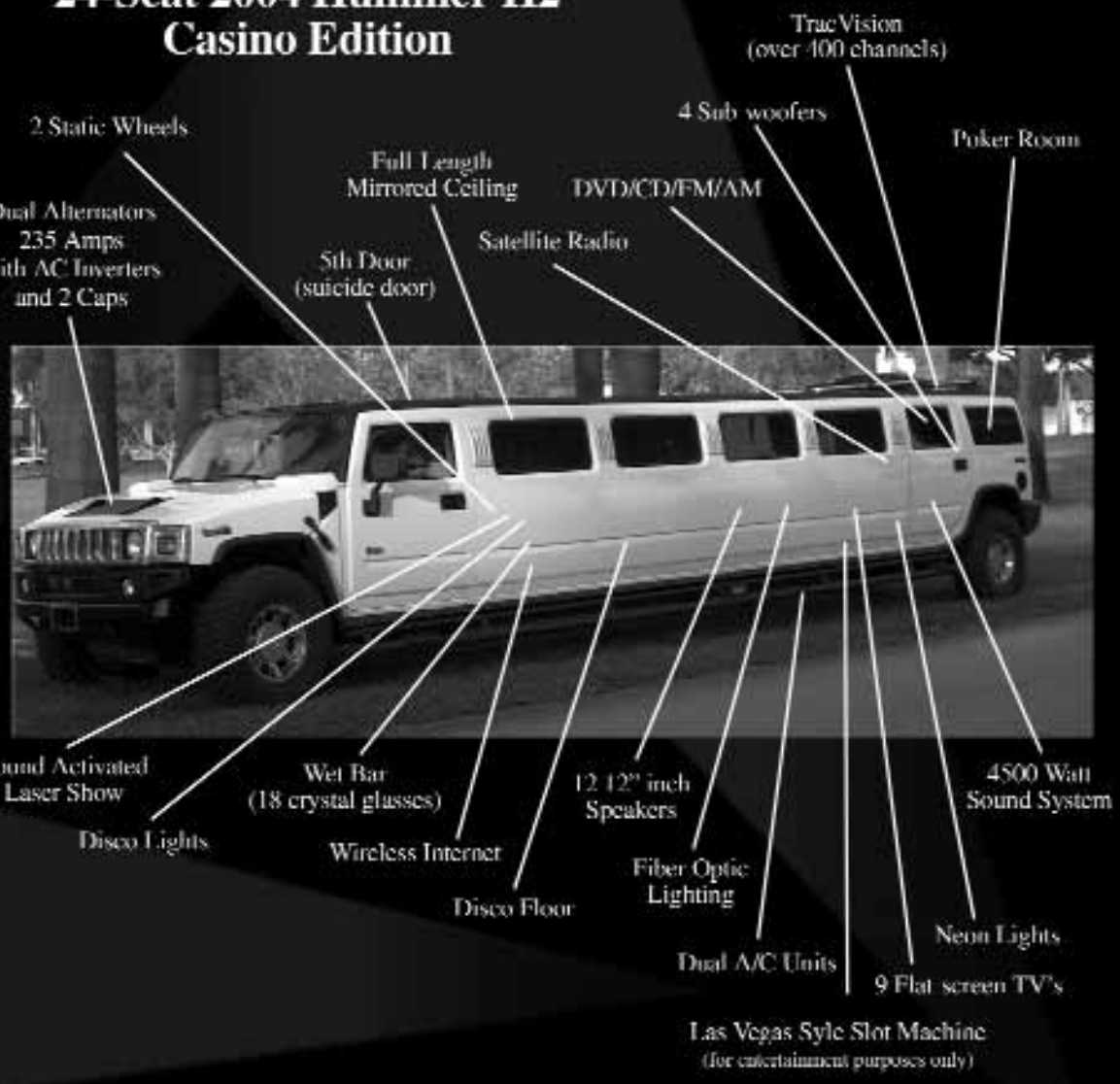


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Upcoming Seminole Police Department Events


Submitted by Sgt. Al Signore

March 1
Time: 12 p.m.
Topic: Residential Alarms
Guest Speaker: Sgt. Al Signore from SPDs crime Prevention Unit
Sponsored By: Brighton Parent Advisory Committee
Location: Brighton Reservation Education Building

March 8
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Topic: Personal Safety
Guest Speaker: Sgt. Al Signore from SPDs crime Prevention Unit

Sponsored By: Tampa Parent Advisory Committee
Location: Tampa Tribal Office

March 8
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Topic: I.D. Theft
Guest Speaker: Sgt. Al Signore from SPDs Crime Prevention Unit
Sponsored By: Big Cypress Ahfachkee School Parent Advisory Committee
Location: Ahfachkee School Cafeteria



Important Safety Tips for Golfers

Submitted by Sergeant Al Signore

Many golfers have invested significant amounts of money on the latest in golf equipment and technology. Special clubs can cost as much as \$500 each and unfortunately, this also makes golf clubs a prime target for thieves.

Here are a few tips to reduce your chances of being a victim of theft while at the course:

1. Do not wear or bring valuable jewelry to the golf course. Wedding rings, watches, etc. may be stored in a valuables pouch but this should be placed in the interior pocket of your bag which faces the golf cart. Do not store valuables in the boot pocket, because this area is easily accessible to thieves.
2. Ladies, store your purse and other valuables that you have chosen to bring to the course in your car trunk. Remember to lock your car also, as many vehicles are equipped with trunk releases in the glove compartment. If your car interior is not locked; your trunk is accessible by simply opening the glove compartment and popping the trunk button.
3. When choosing which valuables to put in your golf bag, remember the possibility that your complete bag could be stolen off your golf cart, so all your possessions in the bag would be gone. Plan accordingly.
4. Do not put your purse, day planner or wallet in the golf cart. Take a small bag with minimal items such as identification, one credit card and a minimal amount of cash. Keep this bag with you at all times when you are away from the cart. Purses in the clothing basket of a golf cart are prime targets for thieves, as are other similar items.
5. Be aware when parking your golf cart at

on-course rest areas. Peruse the surroundings for possible hiding places for loiterers, etc. and enlist the assistance of fellow players to watch your cart while you use the facilities. Then return the favor for them.

6. Accompany fellow golfers when searching for lost balls in areas that could be dangerous. Perimeter areas of the course may not be fenced, and locals may have unlimited access to these areas. There is safety in numbers.
7. Be alert during shotgun starts to any person loitering in or around the car. A large number of people socializing or looking for their starting positions create an environment ripe for criminal behavior. Many times golfers are not allowed to take their carts to the driving range to hit balls and they will take a few clubs instead. This leaves their remaining bag unattended and a prime target.
8. At the conclusion of your round, put your clubs in your car trunk as soon as possible and definitely do this before you go to lunch
9. When you must park your cart around the clubhouse area, think about backing the cart up to a hedge, the curb or some interior area. This makes your clubs less attractive to remove from the cart.
10. As in any situation, be alert to your surroundings and report any suspicious activity or persons to pro shop staff. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

For more information on Golfer Safety tips, call Sergeant Al Signore with the Seminole Police Department Crime Prevention Unit at (813) 623-5748.



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2. Billy Bowlegs - Lead the Seminoles in the 3rd Seminole War - Dark Chocolate & Caramel
3. Remember the Clans! - All 9 Clans: Otter Bear, Snake, Panther, Big Town, Bird, Deer, Wind and the extinct Alligator - Iced Lattes
4. Josie Billie - One of the Strongest Medicine Men of the Seminole Tribe - Dark Chocolate & Hazelnut
5. Ingram Billie - Brother of Josie; also a Powerful Medicine Man - Vanilla & Hazelnut
6. Laura Mae Osceola - Instrumental in getting Federal Recognition of the Seminole Tribe - Dark Chocolate & 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
12. Priscilla Sayen - Long time Respected Tribal Secretary - Irish Cream & Hazelnut
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 & Peppermint
20. Howard Tommie - 2 Term Elected Chairman, Introduced Seminole Bingo - Dark Chocolate & Honey
21. Mike Tiger - Former Director of Indian Health Svs & current Treasurer - Half and Half, Sugar and whipped cream
22. Winifred Tiger - Helped Seminole Youth stay in School, graduate and go to college. - English Toffee & Vanilla

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Anthony "Tony" Scalese
Tribal Member Pueblo of Isleta

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The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements. Before you decide, ask us to send you free written information about our qualifications and experience.

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

Eastern Indian Rodeo Association

Tentative 2005 Schedule

February
Labelle, Fla., Feb. 25
Kids rodeo at 6 p.m.
Sanctioned rodeo at 8 p.m.
Call in Monday Feb. 21 and Tuesday Feb. 22

March
Junior Cypress Memorial Rodeo
Big Cypress, Fla., March 19
Kids rodeo at 6 p.m.
Sanctioned rodeo at 8 p.m.
Call in Monday March 14 and Tuesday March 15

April
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

May
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

July
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
Route 6, Box 603
Okeechobee, FL 34974
(863) 467-7227

Moses Jumper – Special Events
HC 61, Box 42-F
Clewiston, FL 33440
(863) 983-9234

Reno Osceola – TR
Route 6, Box 718
Okeechobee, FL 34974
(863) 634-2165

Sydney Gore – SB
Route 6, Box 626
Okeechobee, FL 34974
(863) 634-1651

Lisa Osceola – Barrels
Route 6, Box 739
Okeechobee, FL 34974
(863) 634-3800

Josh Jumper – CR
1522 Joshua Blvd.
Clewiston, FL 33440
(863) 677-0649

Jeff Johns – SW
Route 6, Box 769B
Okeechobee, FL 34974
(863) 634-1561

Paul Bowers Sr. and Paul Bowers Jr.
PO Box 952
Clewiston, FL 33440
Paul Bowers Sr. (863) 447-0020
Paul Bowers Jr. (863) 258-0869

Shawn Johns, Parker Jones, Shyla Jones, Earl Kirkland, Ethan Malone, Benny Motlow, Cicero Osceola, Micco Osceola, Malanie Perez, Dusty Robertson, Roy Stewart, Layton Thomas and Krissy Jo White.
Please pay your fines or you can not enter the upcoming rodeos.

EIRA Blacklist 2004

Submitted by Jo “Boogie” Jumper
The following people owe money to the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association: Dane Bettleyoun, Isaac Bettleyoun, Erena Billie, Onna Billie, Destiny Cypress, Jerome Davis, Alfonso Francis, Ynez Gonzalez, Carrera Gopher, Courtney Gore, Marty Johns,

EIRA Rodeo Season Off to Good Start

By Tabitha Osceola
BIG CYPRESS — On Jan. 29, the Junior Cypress Memorial Arena was full of excitement as the new Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) season began. This season will keep all the rodeo fans on the edge of their seats and the competitors sharpening up their skills because this season brings new competitors, new challenges and new goals.

The one question lurking in the minds of all rodeo fans is the same at the start off every new rodeo season; who will be the 2005-2006 champions?
The night started with the non-sanctioned events, which are the little cowboys and cowgirls’ events. Their events are very much similar to the “real” rodeo events and are just as exciting to watch.

Jobe Johns had an outstanding rodeo night by hanging on for a full 30 seconds in the mutton bustin’ and placed third in the 4-8-years-old barrel racing with a 23.766 seconds.
“We’re finally out of the 28 seconds,” said John’s mom Tara Johns after his fantastic run.

Andre Jumper competed in the calf riding event and made an outstanding ride to receive a high score of 67. Taylor Johns did an excellent job in winning the 13-18-year-old barrel racing category with an 18.205.

A new event, junior breakaway, was added to the non-sanctioned events this year. It should be really exciting to watch, as this is the only roping event for the younger cowboys and cowgirls.

After the non-sanctioned events, Amos Tiger, the new EIRA president, called a for a quick membership meeting to update the members on some new rules that have been put into place this year. Tiger spoke about the new calf roping rule: the time limit has been lowered to 25 seconds.

He also mentioned two new rules for the women’s



Tabitha Osceola

Adrian Cypress makes her way around the barrel.

ed these rules can be found on the INFR website, www.infr.org.

The sanctioned events got underway with each cowboy and cowgirl doing their very best to get a good start to another season. Robbie Chalfant got a great start in the steer wrestling category with a very quick time of 4.85 seconds and Jeff Johns was right there knocking on Chalfant’s door with a time of five seconds.

Team roping this year is going to be the event to watch because even though the Jumper brothers, Naha and Josh, won the team roping, another brother duo, Hillard and Justin Gopher weren’t far behind with a fast time of 10.5 seconds. Bull riding is always a crowd pleaser and Koty Brough certainly pleased the crowd when he rode Marki Rodeo’s famous bull “Jam on it” for a score of 83.

If you weren’t able to come out and cheer on your favorite cowboy or cowgirl or to just feel the excitement of a rodeo; check the rodeo schedule published in this issue of *The Seminole Tribune* for upcoming rodeo events. Below is the complete list of rodeo results.

Non-Sanctioned Events

Barrels
4-8-years-old: 1. Acealyn Youngblood, 2. Calgary Johns, 3. Jobe Johns, 4. Blevins Jumper; **9-12-years-old:** 1. Zane Ducheneaux, 2. Nauthkee Henry, 3. Raven Osceola; **13-18-years-old:** 1. Taylor Johns, 2. Serena Johns.
Mutton Busting: 1. Jobe Johns, 2. Joel Puente, 3. Cyrus Smedley.
Calf Riding: 1. Andre Jumper, 2. Kelton Smedley, 3. Melanie Perez, 4. Brantley Osceola.
Junior Breakaway: No winners
Steer Riding: No Contestants
Junior Bulls: 1. Ethan Gopher
Pony Riding: 1. William Bearden, 2. Thomas Bearden.
Junior Bareback: 1. Jacoby Johns, 2. Seth Randolph

Sanctioned Events

Steer Wrestling: 1. Robbie Chalfant, 2. Jeff Johns, 3. Josh Jumper.
Calf Roping: 1. Naha Jumper.
Breakaway Roping: 1. Tess Duchenaux, 2. Pauletta Bowers, 3. Billie Tiger.
50 and Older Breakaway: 1. Moses Jumper Jr., 2. Billie Joe Johns.
Team Roping: 1. Josh Jumper/Naha Jumper, 2. Hillard Gopher/Justin Gopher, 3. Richard Bowers/Paul Bowers, 4. Cicero Osceola/Pauletta Bowers.
Barrel Racing: 1. Tess Duchenaux, 2. Boogie Jumper, 3. Sheyanna Osceola, 4. Brenda Youngblood.
Bull Riding: 1. Koty Brough.

ISY&LR Hosts Dual Team Roping Events

By Judy Weeks
IMMOKALEE — The Immokalee Seminole Youth and Livestock Ranch (ISY&LR) hosted two team roping events back-to-back on Jan. 30 at the John Jimmie Memorial Arena.

An all-Indian and affiliate round robin got underway at 1 p.m. as a three head progressive. It was immediately followed by an open jackpot team roping with unlimited entries taken until the end of the first round.

ISY&LR Director Benny Motlow coordinated the events with Youth Ranch participants holding key positions in the operations. Youth Ranch employee Carlos Alvarado ran the heading box while Carl Presley supervised the run.

Immokalee Seminole youth worked hard to make the roping a success. Jonathan Rodriguez manned the stripping chute while Ray and Anthony Yzaguirre with Cody and Chad Motlow pushed cattle in the runs. Jaime Yzaguirre and Arlene Rimes handled the announcer’s booth and score keeping jobs while Randy Rimes officiated as judge, assisted by Amos Tiger.

The 4-H parents operated the concession stand with Norita Yzaguirre, Cris Marrero and Mrs. Valdez at the helm.

Youth Roping and Barrel Racing Classes

By Judy Weeks
IMMOKALEE

— The Immokalee Seminole Youth and Livestock Ranch (ISY&LR) began providing classes for tribal youth and dependents at the John Jimmie Memorial Arena at the beginning of February.

Barrel Racing lessons take place on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from 3:30–5:30 p.m. The instructor, Brigitte Long, has a lengthy background in barrel racing as well as rodeo competition events and barrel horse training. The youth ranch feels very fortunate to have her services available.

Junior roping classes are offered every Saturday morning from 9 a.m.–12 p.m. under the direction of either Randy or Chester Rimes. At this time, the classes have included three to six young men who have been learning



Judy Weeks

Chad Motlow throws his rope as his brother Cody Motlow waits his turn.

plans include horsemanship classes on Saturdays, the time will be announced as soon as arrangements have been made.

the basic skills and are already becoming proficient on the roping dummies.

The lessons are not limited to boys alone, and the group said they look forward to including some girls who may have an interest in roping. The Seminole Tribe already has several young ladies who compete in roping events in Eastern Indian Rodeo Association and frequently attend team roping competitions.

Any Tribal citizens interested in joining these classes should contact ISY&LR Director Benny Motlow at (239) 657-3255, or stop by the Youth Ranch when the lessons are in progress. Future

Seminole Girls Compete in Epic Basketball Battle

By Kenny Bayon
DAVIE, FL — When the Broward County basketball schedules came out in early October, there was one game that was circled by the Seminole Tribe as the game of the year: University High School vs. Sheridan Hills High. This game was a match up between the reigning Seminole Princess JoJo Osceola and Jr. Princess Krystle Young, as well as a match up between Osceola and runner up Princess contestant Christine McCall.

It was a match between two play-

knew that the game was going to be hyped and that the competition was going to be tough.”

On the afternoon of Feb. 2 at University School in Davie, Fla. the game became a reality. McCall won the jump ball for University School, but it was stolen by JoJo, who passed the ball to Tasha, who then made a jump shot to start the scoring and take a 2-0 lead.

Sheridan Hills was hampered by turnovers, mostly caused by the pressure applied by JoJo and Tasha, and University School ended the first quarter with a 12-8 lead.

The second quarter was a different story, as Sheridan Hills’ defense locked down University School with tough interior defense and rebounding by McCall and suffocating one on one defense by Young, who held them to two points in the quarter and took a 16-14 half-time lead.

University School would not let this halftime deficit ruin their Senior Night. They turned the pressure on and Sheridan Hills was unable to counter when the third quarter started with two baskets by Katie Tiger and JoJo. University took a 24-21 lead.

The fourth quarter began with a JoJo free throw, followed by McCall making two baskets to tie the game at 25 with five-and-a-half minutes left in the game. That’s when the team’s leading scorer Tasha Osceola took over by driving the ball to the basket and forcing a foul.

She went to the line and hit two free throws, then stole the ball and made a driving lay-up to go up by four points. Even a couple late baskets by McCall wasn’t enough to come back as University School won 34-30.

The score wasn’t significant because in this game everyone was a winner. To the seniors, JoJo and Tasha Osceola and Christine McCall, thanks for representing your Tribe and showing the toughness and guts it takes to be competitive student athletes.

Highlights from the Tribal Fair Basketball Tournament

By Kenny Bayon
HOLLYWOOD — The 2005 Tribal Fair basketball tournament, hosted by the Seminole Tribe, was redemption time for two teams that were upset a month ago at Native American Sports Association (NASA) tournament.

With Native teams coming from Mississippi, New York and North Carolina, it was going to be a tough road for The Lady Seminoles and Canes; but they came out with fire in their eyes and battled to regain their winning championship ways.

The highlight game of the tournament was the woman’s final between Sundown and The Lady Seminoles. Earlier in the tournament, the Lady Seminoles were beaten by Sundown 51-40. It was in the finals that the Ladies Seminoles were waiting to turn on the pressure. The backcourt was pressing and Sundown had no answer.

The team was led by Tasha Osceola’s 11 points and Francine Osceola’s eight first-half points. Francine, who is coming back from a pregnancy, showed flashes of her old game as she rebounded and popped the open shot. Sundown closed the margin to six points with eight minutes to go in the second half. At that time it turned to “The Lila

Osceola Show” as she made consecutive baskets and ones. The latter one was with two Sundown ladies hanging all over her

unstoppable, taking it to the basket with authority and leading team in the first half with 12 points.

The Canes kept putting the pressure on, causing the Heels to commit numerous turnovers, but with the help of Deon Hammonds and Mike Lowery’s 11 points the Heels came back before the first half to trail by a 31-27 margin.

The Canes turned it on in the second half, running at will. When the Heels made a basket the Canes would come right back at them and score within seconds. The stifling man-to-man defense was applied by Pete Osceola and Marl Osceola. Remember, defense is what wins



Kenny Bayon

The Lady Seminoles basketball team.

like leaves on a tree and it made no difference as she just wanted it more and was not to be denied.

The men’s final was between the Canes and the Tar Heels. The Canes started the game on fire, Amos Huggins was

championships.

The second half dominance was led by Tony Heard’s 23 and Carlos Adamson’s 17 second half points. The Canes beat the Tar Heels by a 90-67 margin and won the Tribal Fair tournament.

Carrying On the Simmons Family Tradition

By Kenny Bayon
HOLLYWOOD — They say good things come to those that wait. For Seminoles Clayton and Sierra Simmons that time is now as they embark on the beginning of a new era at Brandon High School. They will carry the family tradition that Keith Mitchell Simmons left off last year.

Keith Mitchell, an all-Hillsboro County football player as well as a state champion in wrestling, set the bar for his two siblings; but they are up for the challenge.

Clayton, a sophomore wrestler at Brandon, where state champions are a part of life, is starting on the varsity team. Weighing only 190 pounds, he wrestles at the 215 pound weight class, and even in the heavyweight division sometimes, often being outweighed by almost a hundred pounds.

Since he started wrestling a few years ago, Clayton is still new to the sport but makes up for it by using his speed and stamina to win matches. Earlier in the sea-

son, Clayton wrestled at the Soto Invitational at Flanagan High in Pembroke Pines, Fla. where he placed fourth and



Kenny Bayon

Clayton and Sierra Simmons

which will be held in Lakeland, Fla., on the last weekend of February.

“I know I have to work harder to catch up to my brother and his accomplishments,” he said. “My brother has helped me a lot by coming to my practices and working me hard, pushing me to the limit.

“Last year I was young Simmons trying to make my mark, and this year I’m the one being looked up to by my sister. For next few years, the Simmons name is going to be echoing throughout the hallways of the school and set our mark in the state.”

Freshman Sierra is a starter on the junior varsity volleyball and point guard on the junior varsity basketball this past season. Her strengths are her toughness and power, as she is stronger than most opponents. “I feel pressure because everyone knows me as Mitchell and Clayton’s little sister, but one day they are going to know me as Sierra Simmons,” she said.

The future is bright for these two young scholar-athletes of the Seminole Tribe of Florida as they strive to live up to the standards set so high by their super-athlete older brother.



Kenny Bayon

Team members from the Sheridan Hills and University High School. (L-R) Katie Tiger, Christine McCall, Krystle Young, Tasha Osceola and JoJo Osceola.

ers who transferred schools two years ago, only to play against each other on Senior Night. With so many stories within the story, the game itself was worth all the hype.

The match between Osceola and Young was the first time in recent history that the Seminole Princess and Jr. Princess played against each other in a high school match up. To make the game even more exciting, McCall was in the game as well. This is proof that even royalty is willing to get into competitive sports and mix it up a bit.

The irony of this was even more special for sisters JoJo and Tasha Osceola as they played against Sheridan Hills, a school that both of them transferred from two years ago.

“It felt kind of weird playing against your old school, especially when two of the girls on the other team are Tribal members,” said Tasha Osceola. “We

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“Showtime” Earns Split Decision

By Adelsa Williams
HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, in association with Warrior’s Boxing Promotions, Inc., hosted another Hard Knocks at The Hard Rock boxing series, on Friday Feb. 4. The boxing match aired live on ESPN2’s Friday Night Fights show.

The main event featured Puerto Rican and Davie, Fla. local, Ricky “Showtime” Quiles ranked 12th in the International Boxing Federation (IBF), against IBF’s ninth-ranked contender Edner Cherry from Wauchula, Fla.

It was a very stirring bout and a close call for both fighters in almost every round. Quiles came out of his corner confident and focused to beat Cherry in this eliminating brawl. Cherry was a tough one to beat, he demonstrated much skill throughout the fight even though he was deducted a point in the sixth round for hitting while holding behind the head. Both fighters gave fans exactly what they came out for—a riveting show that lasted all twelve rounds.

During the end of the last two rounds, it was clear that the fighters were exhausted, but neither showed any signs of surrender. In the final round, both Quiles and Cherry gave it their best during the

two-ranked Canadian cruiserweight “Cowboy” Dale Brown taking on up-and-coming prospect Shelby Gross from South Carolina.

Brown dominated with his rock-like punch-



The (L-R) Edner Cherry vs. Ricky “Showtime” Quiles fight.

es, dissecting Gross in every round. Gross was dropped on rounds three, four and five, barely making it back up but still refusing to give up. The referee finally said “enough” one minute into the fifth round, making Brown the winner by technical knock-out.

Brown improved to 32-3-1, 20 KO’s while Gross drops to 15-2, 12 KO’s.

In other bouts, Warrior’s junior middleweight Ed Paredes from Hollywood, Fla. scored an impressive win over Puerto Rican Roberto Irrizary from Orlando, Fla.

The fourth bout was a special heavy-weight match between Chicago native, Thomas Hayes and challenger Joe Johnson from Miami, Fla. In a scheduled six round match, Hayes was the more aggressive one chasing Johnson fiercely around the ring, especially during the fifth round. In the end, Hayes won by

unanimous decision.

Executive Director for Warriors Boxing Promotions Jessie Robinson commented that this Hard Knocks at the Hard Rock series was once again a sold out event, marking another commercial success.

“The event was fantastic,” said Robinson. “It was a great win for Quiles. He was very game; he came out to fight.”



Warrior’s star Michael Moorer (center) with “Showtime” Quiles.

last 30 seconds, to accumulate as many possible last minute punches; a strategic move on their respective parts.

The judges scored the fight 114-113 for Cherry and 114-113, 116-111 for Quiles, making the veteran Quiles the winner by split decision. With this win, Quiles moved up to IBF’s second Lightweight spot, a 135 pound ranking.

The co-main event featured IBF/World Boxing Council/World Boxing Organization number

2005 Tribal Fair Golf Tournament

By Adelsa Williams
WESTON, FL — The Seminole Tribe of Florida Tribal Fair golf tournament was held on Feb. 9 at the Bonaventure Country Club.

The tournament, played during a long week of activities in conjunction with the annual Seminole Tribal Fair. This marks the 34th year for the Tribal Fair, an event that is always sure to attract many Native Americans nationwide to the South Florida’s Seminole lands.

Tribal citizen Mitch Osceola took charge of pairing up the two-man teams, using the players list from the Hall of Fame golf tournament held the day before at the same location. In order to make it a fair game, players were categorized depending on their scores. A player from each level was chosen to play with another from a higher or lower category.

After a nice cool day of play at the infamous Bonaventure course, players grouped together for lunch and discussion of Tribal Fair plans for the rest of the week. During this recess, the golfing scores were tallied up.

Prior to the posting of the scores, former assistant recreation director Bo Young said his farewells to the attendees and announced that this would be his last participation in a tribal event.

Congratulations to all who placed. The winners are listed below.

Overall: 1. Jim Harrison, William Huff, Randy Goodleaf and Wanda Goodleaf, 2. Steve Thomas, Sonny Pedwaydon, Steve Tooshkenig and Harry Kennedy, 3. Ed Elijah, Al Pedwaydon, Georgia Pedro and Butch McIntosh, 4. Terry Hahn, Allen Huff, Earnest Riley and Denise Stonefish, 5. Andre Gauthier, Salina No Ear, Del Riley and Eric Cypress, 6. Arnold Antone, Faye Antone, P.J. Bluebird and Mitch Osceola, 7. Shawn Doxtator, Aaron Elijah, Leroy King and Sandy Pembleton, 8. Joe Grasshopper, George Grasshopper, Lee Richard and Glenda Johnson.

Most Honest: Dwayne Doxtator, Ted Keweyosh, Lou Washington and Linda Tommie.

Straightest Drive: #8: Senior Men: Carson Ireland, Men: Ray Garza Sr., Senior Women: Denise Stonefish, Women: Georgia Pedro.

Longest Drive: #4: Senior men: Del Riley, Men: Steve Tooshkenig, Senior Women: Denise Stonefish, Women: Virginia Billie.

Closest to the Pin: Senior Men: Hole #3 Del Riley, #6 Andre Gauthier, #12 Butch McIntosh, #17 William

Huff, Men: #3 Steven Thomas, #6 Joe Grasshopper, #12 Donny Maney, #17 Neil Perley, Senior Women: #3 and #6 Terry Hahn, Women: #3, #6 and #12 Melissa DeMayo, #17 Jackie Thompson.



Jason Grasshopper makes his swing count.

Wanted: Cyclists to Help Children’s Cause

Submitted by Kelly Mattox
JACKSONVILLE, FL — Take Stock in Children, Florida’s premiere mentoring and scholarship program is looking for cyclists to participate in its second annual scholarship bike ride, Cycling for Success on March 11–12.

On Friday, March 11, riders will begin a 200 mile, two day excursion leaving from Ocala, Fla. riding along Florida’s most scenic roads through Gainesville to Lake City. Riders will leave on March 12, returning to Ocala.

Each rider is asked to help raise money to purchase college scholarships for underserved children living in his/her community. One hundred percent of the funds raised by each cyclist will help

purchase scholarships for Take Stock in Children students living in the participant’s community.

Take Stock in Children has a 90 percent success rate in keeping students, who enter the program in the seventh grade, in school and on track to high school graduation. Additionally, 72 percent of Take Stock in Children students attends college within six months of graduation. Take Stock in Children is providing a solution to overcoming child poverty, academic failure and youth crime.

For more information, or to register to participate in Cycling for Success, please call (888) 322-HOPE or e-mail kmattox@takestockinchildren.com.

Annual Seminole Sports Hall of Fame Banquet

By Shelley Marmor
HOLLYWOOD — On Tuesday night, Feb. 7 about 75 people gathered in the Hollywood Tribal Auditorium to celebrate and recognize the outstanding Seminole athletes. The event was sponsored by the Seminole Recreation department.

Event emcee and Recreation Director Moses “Bigg Shot” Jumper Jr. began the presentation at 7:30 p.m. after a barbecue dinner catered by Scruby’s. New Assistant Director of Recreation Marl Osceola made a brief speech following an introduction by Jumper.

Hollywood’s Fitness Trainer Kenny Bayon presented a 20 minute video he created himself, highlighting the past sports year with driving pop music to match all the sports action that Seminole citizens participated in this year.

Guest speaker and Haskell Indian University Athletic Director Dwight Pickering followed Bayon with a folksy speech describing how life was years ago for Native American athletes. Pickering showed photos of the past great Indian sports stars that became legends of their time.

Four Seminoles were inducted into the hall of fame this year for sporting excellence that spanned decades. These recipients include: Yvonne Courtney, Henry Nelson, the late Billy Cypress and Big Cypress Councilman David Cypress. Each recipient was awarded a plaque.

Award certificates were handed out by Lila Osceola to athletes excelling in sports including golf, rodeo, cross country, motocross, T-ball, gymnastics, archery, basketball, baseball and football. Congratulations to all our winners. Award recipients are listed below.

Football: River Dillon, Dorian Jumper, Eden Jumper, Cameron Osceola, Ethan Osceola, Neko Osceola, Robert Osceola, Tyson Osceola, Ty Pierce, Keith Mitchell Simmons, Rhett Tiger, Garret Anderson, David Anderson, Kyler Bell, Luke Baxley, Devan Bowers, Ethan Cypress and Josh Cypress.

Basketball: Jerome Davis, Briana Harjochee,

Chassidy Harjochee, Chris Hunter, Lacey Jordan, Arek Jumper, Christine McCall, Chelsea Mountain, Ariaah Osceola, Cameron Osceola, Courtney Osceola, Ethan Osceola, Harley Osceola, Hunter Osceola, Huston Osceola, JoJo Osceola, Jeanie Osceola, Josh Osceola, Joseph Osceola, Kaylan Osceola, Lucas Osceola, Meghan Osceola, Neko Osceola, Robert Osceola, Skyla Osceola, Tasha Osceola, Taylor Osceola, Tyson Osceola, Trewston Pierce, Daniel

Rodriguez, Francisco Rodriguez, Katie Tiger, Demetria Tigertail, Krystle Young, Devan Bowers, Jonathan Bowers, Leah Cox, Timmy Cox, Ethan Cypress, and Josh Cypress.

T-Ball: Brent Frank, Taylor Holata, Arek Jumper, Cameron Jumper, Brady Latchford, Kyra Mowat, Skyla Osceola, Tyson Osceola, Amaya Baxley, Luke Baxley, Travis Baker, Kyler Bell, Brevan Cypress and Janay Cypress.

Baseball: Chebon Gooden, Nick Jumper,

Trewston Pierce, Ty Pierce, Cameron Osceola, Ethan Osceola, Lucas Osceola, Trevor Osceola, Daven Bowers, Jonathan Bowers and Nick DeHass.

Gymnastics: Leah Cox, Taylor Holata, J J John, Carson Knaby, Aaron Osceola, Anissa Osceola, Ashley Osceola, Chechehem Osceola, Knaaochet Osceola, Marsh Osceola, Adakai Robbins, Natomah Robbins, Audriahana Sirota, Anahna Sirota, Boryilaisis Cypress-Sirota, Rhett Tiger, Isabel Tucker, Katelyn Young, Tianna Young, Cinci Adair, Jordan Baker, Lisset Baker, Manni Baker, Amaya Baxley, Luke Baxley, Akira Billie, Brianna Billie, Braudie Blais-Billie, Tia Blais-Billie, Devan Bowers, Mariah Bowers, Trinity Bowers and Timmy Cox.

Softball: Briana Harjochee, Chassidy Harjochee, Meghan Osceola and Nicole Osceola.

Rodeo: Cheyenne Osceola and Shelby Osceola; Cross Country: JoJo Osceola and Krystle Young; Archery: Casey McCall; Golf: Cindi Adair; Motocross: Billy Nelson; Swimming: Meghan Osceola; and Skeet Shooting: Gregory Osceola.

Seniors Tribal Fair Bowling Tournament at Don Carter’s

By Adelsa Williams
DAVIE, FL — The Seminole seniors came together from all reservations to Don Carter Lanes to participate in the annual Tribal Fair senior’s bowling tournament, held on Feb. 11.

Seminole Tribe of Florida Education Director Louise Gopher assisted in the event, along with Eugene Bowers and Mary Jo Micco.

There were three categories for 50, 60, and 70-year-old seniors, also divided into men’s and women’s separate categories.

It was a huge turnout at this year’s competition, as a total of 44 senior bowlers congregated at what seemed to be a fun-filled event. There were plenty of cheerful faces, as each one came up to their lane to try to knock down the most pins.

After a recreational afternoon of bowling, the seniors were treated to some pizza, wings and

fries as the volunteers announced the winners. At the end, almost every name was called up for a prize.

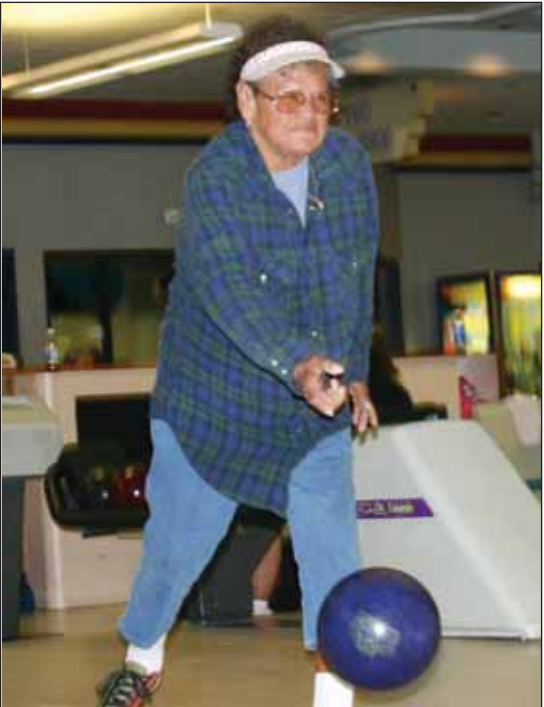
“Everyone got something today,” remarked Eugene Bowers.

Below are the results.

50–59-years-old: Men: 1. Moses Osceola and Elbert Snow (tie), 2. John Osceola, 3. Parker Jones, 4. Ronnie Doctor, 5. Sammie Gopher and Thomas Cypress (tie); Women: 1. Mary Bowers, 2. Jennie Johns, 3. Beulah Gopher, 4. Mollie Shore, 5. Sarah Sampson, 6. Mary Tigertail.

60–69-years-old: Men: 1. Sammie Nelson and Don Osceola (tie), 2. Eugene Bowers, 3. Dan Bowers, 4. Bill Louis, 5. Joe Billie, 6. Billie Micco; Women: 1. Mary Gay Osceola, 2. Lawanna Niles, 3. Mable Osceola, 4. Agnes Bert, 5. Ruby Osceola, 6. Addie Osceola.

70 and older: Men: 1. Archie Johns, 2. Wonder Johns; Women: 1. Lottie Baxley, 2. Rosie Billie.



Rosie Billie hopes for the strike.

Seminole Tribal Fair Bowling Tournament

By Adelsa Williams
DAVIE, FL — The annual Tribal Fair bowling tournament was held on Feb. 11 at the Don Carter Lanes.

Tribal citizens, spouses, employees and other Native Americans participated in the competition. A total of 86 bowlers registered in the late afternoon for an evening of play. The crowd took up most of the 64 lanes of the establishment. There were a few visitors from Oklahoma City, Okla. and Dallas, Texas.

“We scheduled the tournament in the evening to give a chance to the bowlers to attend the different Tribal Fair activities going on during the day,” said Eugene Bowers, one of the event volunteer coordinators.

Some of the seniors that bowled earlier in the day were allowed to participate in this tournament as well.

There were 15 places in the three different categories. Below are the results.

Regular: 1. Trisha Osceola and Marcy Osceola, 2. Beverly Tommie and Kevin Tommie, 3. Christalee Coppedge and Jim Herran, 4. Mary Wilcox and Remus Griffin, 5. Reina Micco and Phil Bowers, 6. Terri Frank and Bobby Frank, 7. Denise Morin and Michael Micco, 8. Farrah Jones and Elton Shore, 9. Thomasine Micco and Moke Osceola, 10. Patty Entry and Ricardo Hernandez, 11. Amanda Smith and Derek Thomas, 12. Pamela Jumper and Dwayne Billie, 13.

Alfreda Muskett and Amos Billie, 14. Wendi Juarez and Elbert Snow, 15. Monica Cypress and Andre Jumper.

No Tap: 1. Alvin Buster and Mary Alice Huff, 2. Remus Griffin and Terri Frank, 3. Maxie Tommie and Thomasine Micco, 4. Leon Wilcox and Mary Bowers, 5. Shannon Gopher and Michael Micco, 6. Kassim Stockton and Wanda Billie, 7.

Reina Micco and Kevin Tommie, 8. Christalee Coppedge and Lawrence B., 9. Alfreda Muskett and Emery, 10. Linda Tommie and Moke Osceola, 11. Roger Smith and Trisha Osceola, 12. Jim Herran and Mahala Madrigal, 13. Tommie Billie and Jamie Smith, 14. Wendi Juarez and Dwayne Billie, Elbert Snow and Rose Jones.

3–6–9: 1. Joe Billie and Monica Cypress, 2. Michael Micco and Trisha Osceola, 3. Greg Keway and Dallas Cypress, 4. Andre

Jumper and Wendi Juarez, 5. Remus Griffin and Mahala Madrigal, 6. Marcy Osceola and Christalee Coppedge, 7. Gary Sampson and Michelle Osceola, 8. Leon Wilcox and Shannon Gopher, 9. Elton Shore and Mary Wilcox, 10. Ryan Osceola and Tommie Billie, 11. Bobby Frank and Denise Morin, 11. Kevin Tommie and Janel Billie (tie), 13. John Madrigal and Rose Jones, 14. Pernel Bert and Linda Tommie, 14. Jamie Smith and Nadine Tommie, 14. Amos Billie and Patty Entry (tie).



Wanda Billie concentrates on the pins.

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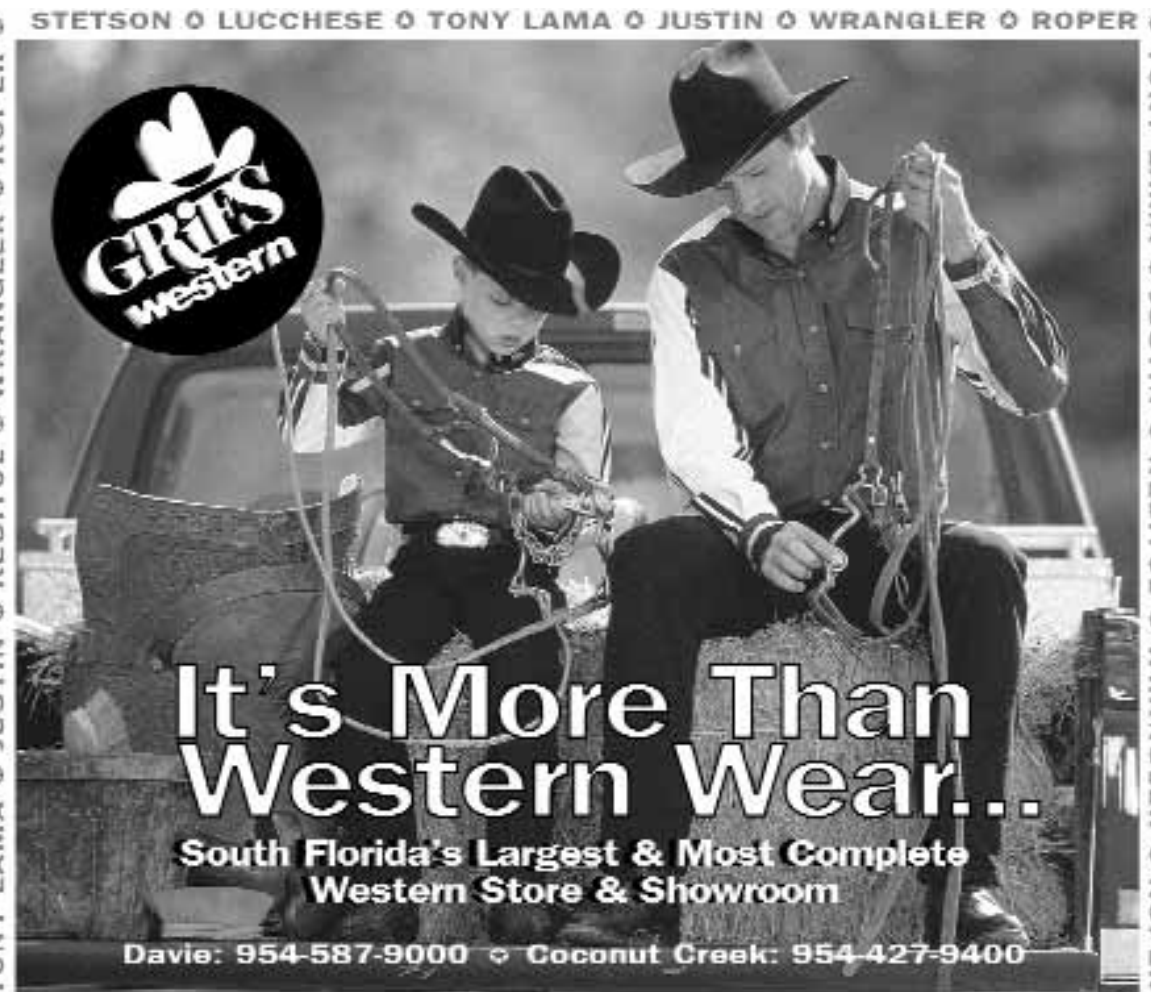
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Announcements ❖ Ahaaheeke ❖ Nak-ohkērkēcetv

Happy Birthday



Happy belated 1st birthday to our daughter **Tammy Puente** on Feb. 8. We want to wish you happiness on your birthday and everyday. Thank you for the love and joy you have fulfilled in our hearts.

Love forever,
Avalon, Eric, and Mom and Dad



Happy 3rd birthday to Damien Lee Markus Fish. We want to let you know how much we love you! Happy birthday, psycho. Its hard to believe you're already three!
Much love,
Mommy (Leslie Fish), Tito, Unk Josh and John, Grandma (Ruth Dawson) and Cecily



Mom and dad are wishing **Daylon Osceola** the best on his **2nd birthday** on Feb. 24. It has been one of the greatest experiences watching you grow these past couple of years. From taking your first steps to speaking your first words and everything else you do. Who could ask for anything more than a son like you? We love you very much. Happy birthday!

Proud loving parents,
Greg and Carol Osceola
To **Daylon Osceola**, happy birthday little one. It's a joy watching you grow up and be comical and cute. We love you, and you have a good birthday.
Love,
Papa and Maw Maw
Happy 2nd birthday Daylon Osceola. With lots of love, I hope it's a good one. If mom and dad say "No" remember to come to Aunt Mushie.
Love always,
Mushie
Happy 2nd birthday baby, Daylon Osceola. Hope all your wishes come true and stop growing up so fast!
Love your Aunt,
Crystal
Daylon Osceola, I just wanted to say when your mother came into my life I though there could be no other love that brings me so much happiness and joy. Then your father came into our lives and brought your mother love and happiness, which made me happy and full of joy. Then the day you came into our lives, I felt something like nothing I ever felt before, something so deep there are no words to describe it but to say that you have a special place in my heart that no other can replace. I love you Daylon; **Happy birthday.** Hope to be with you for many more birthdays to come.
Love always,
Grandma Marie



Happy 2nd birthday to Hyatt Rowel on March 12. Thanks for the memories these past two years. Happy birthday baby boy.
We love you,
Momma, Nana, Paw, Aunt Chele, Uncle Gene, Bubba, Aunt Kim, Uncle Marty, My My, Dewell, Tater Bug, Big Sissy and Paul Jr. and every-one else in the family

Happy Birthday to my daughter **Melissa Jane** whom I admire and adore greatly I love watching you be a mom and to my **Grandson Logan** my precious little one your growing so fast. Lots of Luv from your proud **Grandma & Great Grandma (Tina Lacey).**



Happy 22nd birthday on Feb. 22 to my last son **Albert DoBosz.** May this year bring you the wisdom and strength to make the great decisions that will change your life for the best year ever, and may the Schwartz be with you.
All our love,
Daddy OH, Mom, Cesar, Jessie Dee and Jagger

Congratulations

A big **congratulations to Elrod Bowers** for making the National Dean's list at FIU as well as maintaining his status on the Honor Society.
Love always,
Holly Tiger

Congratulations to Elrod Bowers for making the Dean's List at FIU from **Terri Hahn and Mercedes Osceola.**

Poems

Unrequited

Alone I sit and think about
The things I said before
Again I wonder who was it
That you were looking for?
The way that you would touch me
As we passed in the hall.
Please tell me, who it is
That you are looking for?
I would wake in the morning
Remembering the night before
I wished that it was me
That you're looking for.
The day would pass and you never
Failed to make me smile.
I'm hoping it's me
Who you're looking for.
At this time I don't see you anymore,
But in my heart you will always be.
Because it was me
That you were looking for...
—**Christopher L. Billie**
Otter Clan

A Dream

Walking in a dream, I came upon a stream
The water was home to many fish
In need of a pole, I made a wish
Next thing I knew one was in my hand
On the first cast I brought a fish to land
Before I could cast again
A stranger appeared and says "Excuse me friend"
Startled I asked "Am I somewhere I do not belong?"
The stranger gave a loving smile
Out of his lips came a beautiful song
Listening to the words my mind fell into a trance
I looked up and saw angels in the clouds
doing a dance
Happiness fell upon my face
As I gazed at such a magnificent place
I looked to the stranger but he was suddenly gone
It ended and I awoke all alone
—**Leslie J. Gopher**

Soft Hater

Words are cheap from soft haters
Making false claims, fake intimidators
Threats of this and that
Stuck for now, soon to be where they're at
All game when not around
Arrive and hear not a sound

Thinking the real have all passed on or are locked away
Silly fools, did not know the gates would open one day
Take heed without a doubt
Must see what the fuss is about
Bound to meet sooner or later
Remember your words, soft hater
—**Leslie J. Gopher**

New Kids



She's a Bigtown Clan girl!
Cyiah Latrice Avila was born on Jan. 22 at 11:16 p.m. She weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces and was 19 inches long. She is the daughter of Susan E. Billie and Clarence L. Avila. Her grandparents are Aaron Billie, Cynthia Osceola and Paula Harjo. Her great-grandma and grandpa are Jennifer Harjo and Martine. We are proud to have a beautiful little girl come into our lives. She is God's gift.



Say hello to our precious baby girl **Alexis "Tanya Marie" Brown** born Nov. 28, 2004. You came into our lives and captured our hearts instantly, there is nothing in the world we wouldn't do so that you always know how much we love and need you.
Love,
Mommy (Nikki Derienzo) & Daddy (Tommy Brown)

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On earth will never leave our hearts
Though the years have turned too fast, we can never change the past—just remember...
How much love we have for each other will be enough to get us through the years to come
We were always the strong one in the family, I wished you could be here forever
Rest in peace now, till we meet again

I love you dad.
Your loving daughter,
Linda

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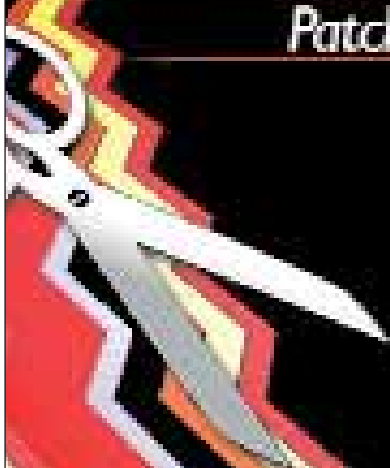
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Nextel Cellular Phone Service Finally Makes Its Way to the Rez

By Jaime Restrepo
BIG CYPRESS — Nextel cellular phone service came to Big Cypress on Feb. 6 at about 3:30 p.m. The overall project was close to two years in the making while going through legal, managerial and logistical channels. The project was formally approved in the spring of 2004.

Extensive testing by Nextel engineers took place last summer to identify the best locations for their equipment without interfering with existing communications towers, used officially, and the navigation equipment used by Aviation Department in Big Cypress. Once the engineers got through with their testing, they determined that two sites would be required in order to give complete coverage of the Reservation, with encompasses slightly more than 52,000 acres.

There was as question as to how many towers would be needed to install the transmitters Nextel would require. Subsequent testing revealed that one site should be located at the Big Cypress water tower on Josie Billie Highway, AKA Snake Raod, and the other site at the entrance to the Big Cypress Motocross Track on West Boundary Road.

The motocross' location required the installation of a tower about 150 feet in height while the water tower, also about 150 feet in height, would provide the necessary height upon which to install transmitters. The motocross location will consist of a single pole tower that looks like large flagpole.

Each tower site is a free standing, and independent of the other, capable of transmitting and receiving on its own, like any other cellular transmitter, where calls are handled by a tower until the user travels closer to the next available cell tower. Each tower has a range of five-10 miles. The towers, in conjunction with other towers ringing Big Cypress, complete the long-time gap in these parts of Hendry



Jaime Restrepo

The Big Cypress water tower, now featuring Nextel's antennas that will provide cellular phone service.

and Broward Counties.

Big Cypress is located in rural areas of both Broward and Hendry Counties. Given its geographic location and the remoteness, the large communication carriers have largely ignored the reservation. There are only two paved roads that lead to the Reservation-one from the North that feeds traffic from either Clewiston, Fla. or Labelle, Fla., and the one from the south, which feeds traffic from I-75, Alligator Alley.

It wasn't until a few years ago that AT&T was providing wireless service at Big Cypress. Sprint is the only other commercial telephone communications provider. Even then, Sprint was only providing land-based telephone communications. The only other wireless communications were off limits to the general public since they are reserved for public safety use such as Bureau of Indian Affairs, forestry, Seminole Police Department and fire department, and licensed limited private use such as the cattle and range programs and Billie Swamp Safari.

The need for enhanced wireless telephone service, such as Nextel's, became more prevalent as more and more economic activities take root on the reservation. From a public safety point of view, the additional service is welcome, given the increase number of residents, tourists and other personnel at Big Cypress.

Big Cypress was the last of the Seminole Indian reservations to get Nextel service. Given the advent of point-to-point direct connect communications, and the ease in which information can be transferred; the service was a long time in coming.

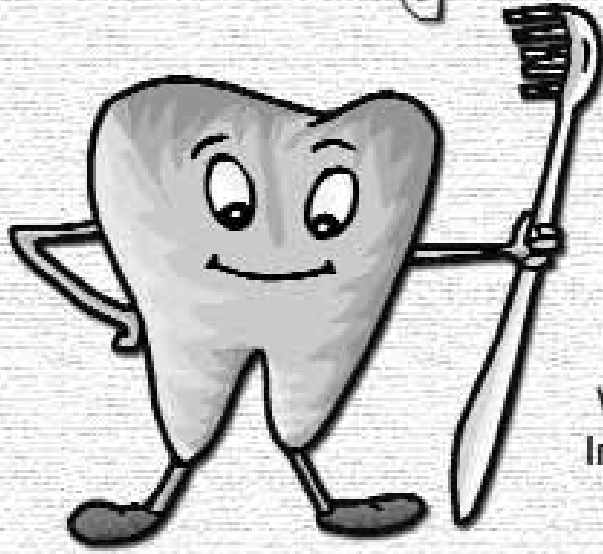
Anyone with Nextel service can use it to communicate seamlessly from or to any of the Tribal reservations. Any department head can now communicate with employees in the field with little or no trouble at all. This will benefit the Tribe now and in the long run with increased productivity, enhanced emergency services, and just plain offer the residents of Big Cypress another alternative to connect with each other.



Jaime Restrepo

The Nextel tower installation site at the Big Cypress Seminole Tribe Motocross complex.

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For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. - Matthew 6:19

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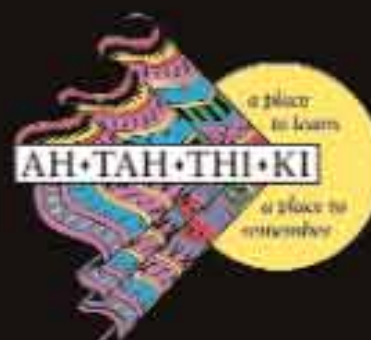
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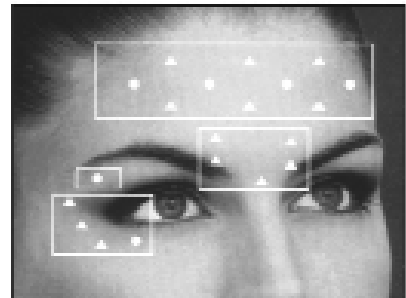
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Construction Progresses on Administration Building

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — The Seminole Tribe broke ground on Nov. 11, 2004, on the long-awaited Immokalee Administration Building, located on the 5.7 acres adjacent to the gym and Field Office.

The contractor, Gulf Building Corporation, and Jordan, Jones and Goulding construction inspectors, entered into a contract to complete this enormous structure within 365 days. At the time of the ground breaking ceremony, the site elevation had been raised by hundreds of loads of fill to build a satisfactory pad for the new complex.

Unfortunately, the contractor was immediately prevented from starting construction because of the steel and concrete shortage that has plagued projects across the United States. During the month of December, all possible site preparation took place.



Construction is underway in Immokalee.

Judy Weeks

Construction office trailers arrived and a security chain link fence was installed. However, without steel or concrete, actual construction was at a halt. Local Tribal members began to wonder if the contractor would be able to meet their deadline for completion.

Finally by mid-January, the precious building materials arrived and work was immediately underway. The contractor made every effort to overcome the delays, extending workdays with several hours overtime and a Saturday labor force. The building site has been swarming like a bee hive and their diligent efforts are paying off. The new structure is rising out of the ground right before our eyes.

A quick check with the contractor and engineers indicates that they are going to bring the Administration Building into reality right on schedule, barring any unforeseen complications.

Recreation Department Expands Facilities

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — The Recreation department in Immokalee has started the new year off with a bang. The new skateboard park and golf driving range are quickly becoming a reservation reality.

Both projects are located adjacent to the ball field. The ground excavation for the golfing range has been completed with the building of a tee off mound and fairway. As soon as the dry season is over, fertilizer will be applied and grass seed planted.

The skateboard park is quickly nearing completion. A concrete slab was poured and ramps of various heights and design have been constructed. The materi-

al for a twelve-foot high chain link fence has been delivered and the entry gates are expected very soon.

Anticipation is high among the youngsters in the community who are already picturing themselves in the park.

Recreation department's Maria Billie said that they expect to have a grand opening toward the end of March. An adult employee will be on hand whenever the gates are open to supervise play and provide a level of security. The gates will be locked before dark each evening unless prior arrangements are made for special occasions in order to insure the participants' protection.



Judy Weeks

Kids of all ages are anticipating the new rez skate park.

New Home for Health, Education, Seniors

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — As the Immokalee reservation has grown so have the service needs of the community. Recognizing this fact, the Seminole Tribe made arrangements two years ago for three trailers to accommodate Health, Education and the Senior's departments.

For some reason the much needed facilities did not arrive until this year at the beginning of February. With permits in order and the site on State

Road 846 prepared, the long anticipated trailers are becoming a reality. Proper set-up is underway with electric, water and plumbing installation in progress.

Occupancy of the new office space should be possible before the end of March. Upon completion of the new Administration Building at the end of the year, space has been appropriated for Education and the Seniors Programs. The ever-expanding Health department will remain at the trailer site.

Throughout life's journey, there are many roads to choose and many paths to find . . .

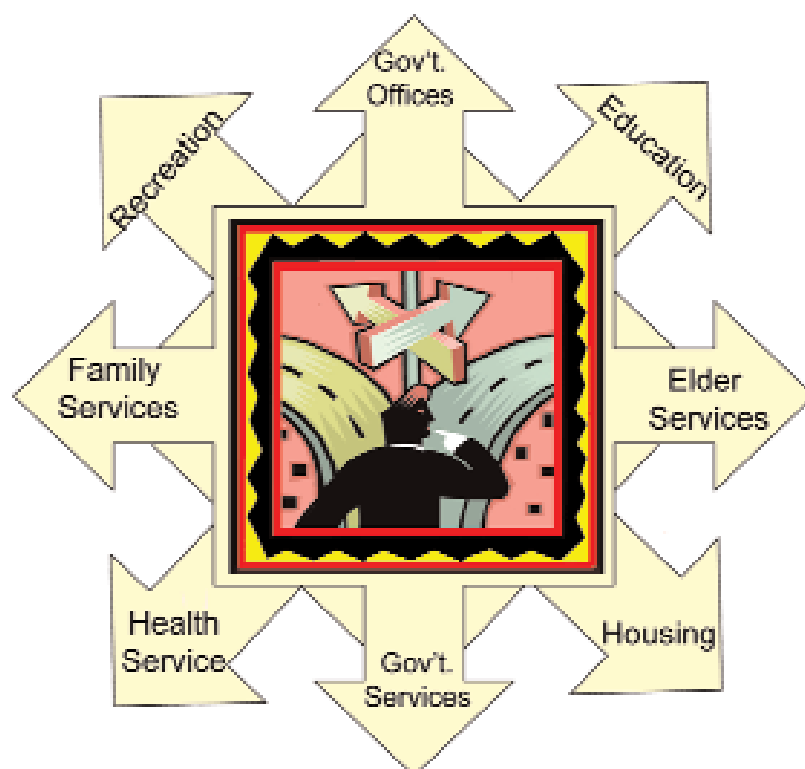
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Anthony Frank, Professional Development and Relationships Liaison
Tribal Human Resources Department, 954-966-6300 x1137.

❖ Tsunami

Continued from page 1

However, during the 2004 Christmas holidays, tragedy struck in Asia when a strong earthquake devastated a region of Indonesia. The tsunamis that resulted from the earthquake went on to wreak havoc and utter devastation in the Indian Ocean basin to kill in excess of 150,000 people. The proceeds from the concert were donated to the Red Cross to benefit both domestic and international relief efforts.

The local chapter of the American Red Cross were pleased to receive a donation and recognition from the Seminole Tribe and is looking forward to mutual cooperation between the Tribe and their organization. Cousins and Johnson were eager to continue the relationship with the Tribe and offered their agency's services with respect to CPR training and coordination of emergency services.

The Tribe has again demonstrated its goodwill in its relationships with other agencies. In this case, the Tribe's goodwill will benefit the victims of last year's hurricane relief, as well as the unfortunate people who suffered through the tsunamis.



Jaime Restrepo

(L-R) Big Cypress Councilman David Cypress, Communications Manager Cindy Malin, Special Projects Coordinator Nery Mejicano, Danielle Johns from the Broward County American Red Cross, Concert Promoter Randy Carrillo, Kathryn Cousins also from the Broward County American Red Cross and Marketing Director Lucy Evanicki at the check presentation.

2005 Okeechobee Battlefield Re-Enactment Postponed

Submitted by Shawn Henderson

OKEECHOBEE, FL — The 5th Annual Okeechobee Battlefield Re-Enactment has been postponed until further notice. Your patience, understanding and support are greatly appreciated while many are working diligently on the acquisition of the Okeechobee Battlefield.

The Battle of Okeechobee, fought on Christmas Day, was the largest and fiercest battle of the Seminole Wars and is greatly endangered due to encroaching development. Acquiring a remaining portion of the original battlefield site for preservation is of utmost importance.

The Okeechobee battlefield site is ranked on

the "A" list as one of the state's top priority lands for acquisition. Preserving this national historic site is significant to Seminole, Florida and national history.

Many special thanks and sincere gratitude are extended to all who have been dedicated and committed to the preservation of this national historic site.

Let's all continue to press forward to the goal of acquisition and again, your patience, understanding and support are so appreciated while many are working to preserve this historic treasure.

For more information, please contact Shawn Henderson at (863) 634-2126 or Gary Ritter at (863) 634-4857.

As the opening event of Florida Heritage Month 2005,
Secretary of State Glenda E. Hood

and
Billy Cypress, Chairman
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Movin' On is a cast bronze sculpture depicting a Miccosukee family
circa 1930s.

Sited at the northwest corner of the R. A. Gray Building, it is
the first of four planned figural groups depicting native peoples of Florida.

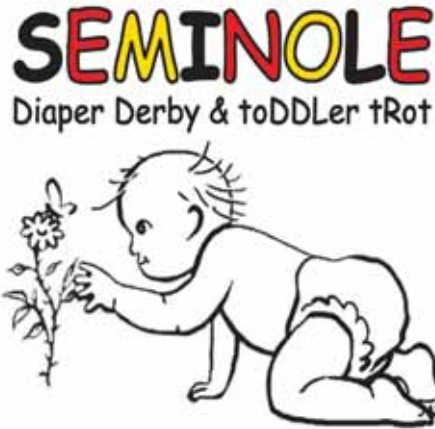
Reception in the Gray Building Heritage Gallery
Immediately following the dedication please RSVP to Alison McCarthy
at (850) 245-6413



The Diaper Derby & Toddler Trot

The Seminole Police Youth Athletic League proudly announces the Diaper Derby & Toddler Trot, to be held on April 9 at 10 a.m. at the Big Cypress Gym. The Diaper Derby & Toddler Trot will be a fun-filled event for crawling children and toddling toddlers up to two years old, as well as their families. Crawlers will make their way across a 15 foot mat from one cheering coach to another; while toddlers will trot down a 25 foot mat.

Special events include: a decorated diaper



contest for funniest design, best theme and most creative and a baby features contest for brightest eyes, baldest head, chubbiest cheeks and most hair. First place trophies, T-shirts, souvenirs and refreshments will be on hand.

This event is open to all Big Cypress and Immokalee Tribal citizens. Pick up an entry form at either the BC Gym, BC Family Investment Center, BC Seminole Police Department or BC Tribal Day Care Center. For more information, please contact Sgt. Al Signore, SPD Crime Prevention Unit, at (813) 623-5748 or (813) 478-2680.

Jimmy O'Toole Osceola Memorial Writing Contest

Attention Seminole tribal citizens: In memory of the late Jimmy O'Toole Osceola cash prizes will be awarded to winners of this annual writing contest. Proceeds donated by attorney at law Guy

Selkigman. Contest categories include: poetry, short stories and a children's entry. Further information will be printed in future editions of *The Seminole Tribune*.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Anthony Frank from the human resources department. Anthony won the Valentine's Day gift basket raffled off by the Florida Seminole Coffee Company, located on the second floor of the Hollywood Tribal Headquarters.

The Florida Seminole Coffee Company also gave out complimentary carnations to customers on Valentine's Day. They can be reached at (954) 966-6300, Ext. 1186.

Photo by Felix DoBosz.



Attention All Vendors

Submitted by Cindy Malin

Arts and crafts vendors are needed for the 37th Annual Speckled Perch Festival and Joe Nichols concert. The festival will take place at the Sacred Hearts Catholic Church festival grounds in

Okeechobee, Fla. March 12 from 6-11 p.m. Vendors will work from 6-10 p.m., with set up from 2-5 p.m.

Call the Okeechobee Chamber of Commerce at (863) 763-6464 for more information.

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BASIA
MIAMI HEAT HOME GAMES**

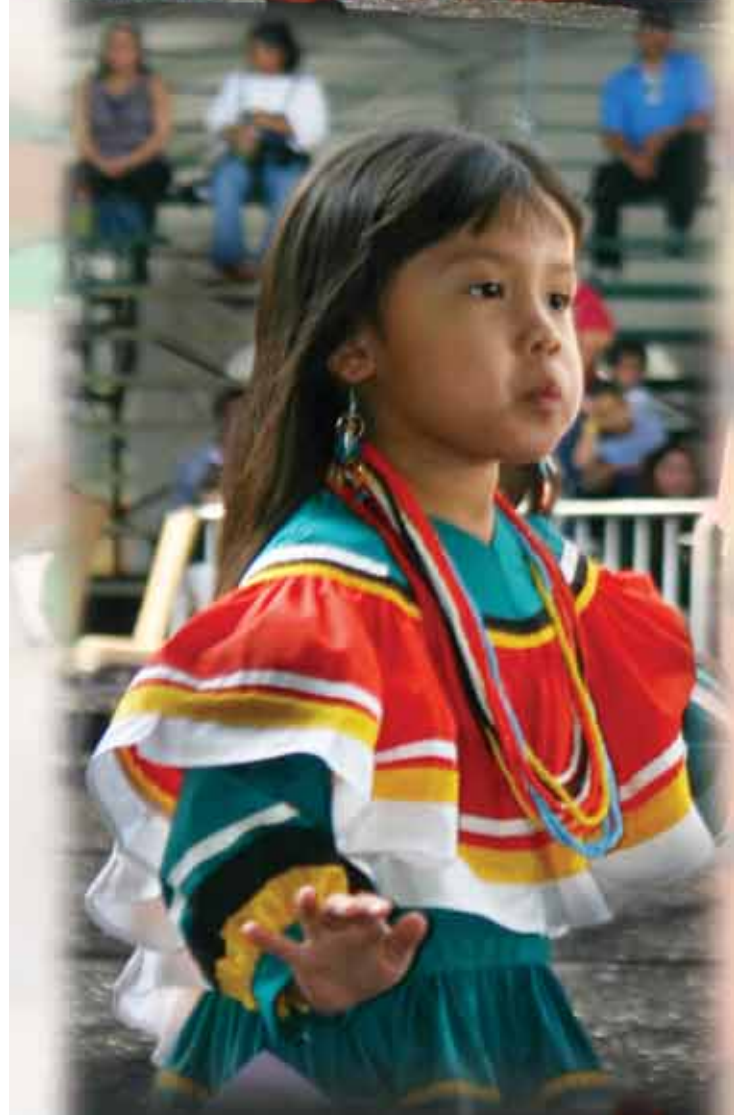
34th Annual Seminole Tribal Fair



Photos by Felix DoBosz, Stephen Galla, Iretta Tiger, and Adelsa Williams



Little Mr. & Miss Seminole Contest



***Congratulations to the 2005
Little Mr. and Little Miss!***

Little Miss Seminole Shalynn Alexis Josh
Brighton Reservation • 5 years old

Little Mr. Seminole Matthew Paul Osceola Jr.
Hollywood Reservation • 4 years old



Pow Wow Dance Competition



By Iretta Tiger
HOLLYWOOD — Native American Pow Wow dancing is not an easy thing to do and it's even harder when hoops are added. This year, at the 2005 Seminole Tribal Fair dance competition, there was one dancer in particular who stood out.

Summer Roberts has been hoop dancing for five years and she's only six years old. She has been hoop dancing since she was a year old.

Roberts was taught to hoop dance by her mother and also participates in the fancy shawl dance. When asked which dance she preferred, Summer replied, "I like them both, they're both fun!"

Good luck, Summer! It's going to be wonderful watching you grow!



Six year old Summer Roberts shows the boys how hoop dancing should be done.

Little Hoop Dancer Steals the Show

Clothing Exhibition



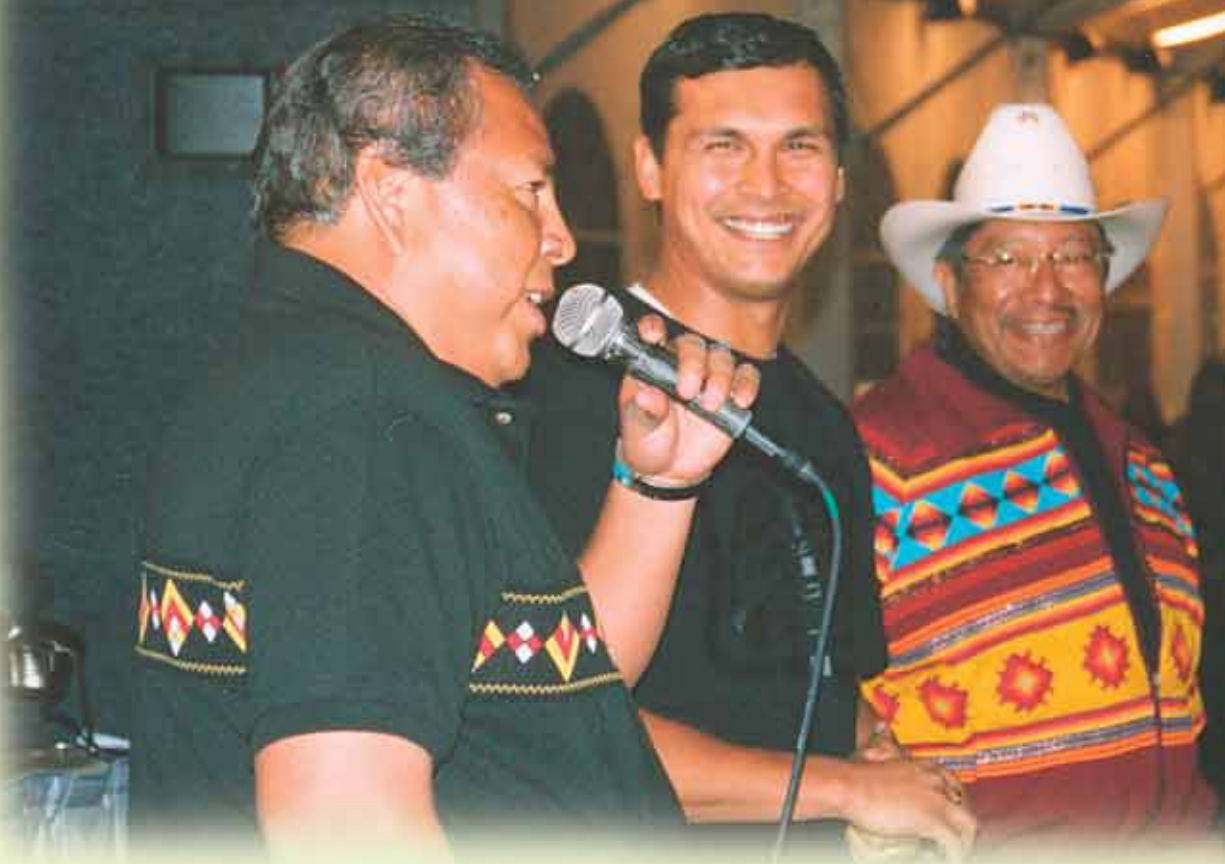
Photos by Stephen Galla



34th Annual Seminole Tribal Fair



Photos by Wanda Bowers





Kissimmee Slough Shootout & Rendezvous

By Felix DoBosz

BIG CYPRESS — On a cold, overcast day in a field adjacent to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, re-enactors performed a fast and ferocious battle skirmish. In the shadow of the nation's largest display of life and culture of the Florida Seminoles, these actors were preserving history by re-enacting famous battles for students, tourists and history buffs.

This three-day event started off with small crowds due to the inclement weather on Friday Feb. 4. On Saturday Feb. 5 and Sunday Feb. 6, the weather was friendlier and big crowds came out to enjoy the seventh annual staging of this important episode in the annals of the Seminoles.

This historic confrontation dramatizes the defeat of the federal government's policy at the hands of brave and fierce Seminole warriors that lead up to the 1841 Second Seminole War. These campaigns against the Seminoles led by the U.S. military, proved to be the most expensive, longest and bloodiest of all the Indian wars.

The U.S. military failed to conquer the Seminoles, who fought with great courage and determination against the government's policy to force them to move from their homeland. These re-enactments represent a small segment of the often violent conflicts between the U.S. military forces and outnumbered Seminoles. This event honors the Seminoles struggle for independence, freedom and the harsh sacrifices they made to stay and keep their land.

While watching the re-enactment, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Development

you don't have fun while doing it, it's no good."

Blacksmith Marlin Fisher from Ft. Myers, Fla. was forging twisted J-hooks through a coal fire. The manually cranked fire forge forces air through the fire to heat the coals to about 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit, while forging with a hammer on the anvil, the iron metal is red-hot then shaped and cooled by dropping it into a bucket of cold water.

Then there was 28-year-old acrylic painter Michael Moore sitting in the corner of a big white vendor tent stroking the canvas, creating a background landscape painting of the flags of the Seminole Tribe of Florida carrying both the Tribal Board's seal and the Tribal Council's seal. Chairman Mitchell Cypress and President Moses Osceola said they were both impressed when they saw Michael Moore's painting, which he created for Brighton Council Representative Roger Smith.

Amazingly, Moore confessed, "I've only been painting for one year."

Another impressive artist whose work was featured was ONETA; she is a freelance artist with mixed cultural heritage from Booneville, Miss., and has painted on single bird feathers, Native American themes and beautiful nature scenes. ONETA has a deep love and respect for life, and uses only dropped feathers to paint her magic on. She is now being hailed as the "Most Versatile Wildlife Artist in America," according to her website, www.oneta-secondmoon.com

Re-enactor and Seminole history buff Mike Mansano, 51, from Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. said, "We do these reenactments primarily to educate people about the Seminole wars. It was the most costly of all the Indian wars in lives and materials; it took more than 50 years to complete all the wars. The Seminoles didn't want to leave their birth land and were being forced to move by the U.S. government, and the United States failed in its goal of removing the Seminoles from here. So, we basically replicate what they did and how they lived, and celebrate with them the Kissimmee Slough Shootout. This is my way of expressing a similarity in culture and brotherhood."

Mansano said he is a direct descendant from a Caribbean Island Indian tribe that is now more or less extinct. Mansano also said he likes to dress as a Seminole warrior because he hates to wear wool, like the U.S. Army re-enactors do, and prefers the cool Seminole clothes.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Community Outreach

Program Coordinator Brian Zepeda said, "This is an entire team effort to put this great event together with the whole Museum staff involved, to the beginning stages of the planning to the end, everyone here gets to do their part. We hope that the Seminole children that see this will have a sense of history and culture and what happened in our past to develop us into what we are today. They can see where we come from and hopefully it will give them some kind of perspec-

Specialist Peggy Osceola said,

"This is great. This is how the children learn when they can actually see it; history comes to life for them."

Tribal citizen Herbert Jim from Hollywood said he enjoys dressing up like a great Seminole warrior and participating in the re-enactments.

"I was at last year's [Shootout] in Okeechobee and it rained a lot," he said. "Basically, I'm doing this for the history, to teach about the Seminole culture, because a lot of it was never written in any Seminole history books, by doing this, it kind of helps explain where the Seminoles came from. We have a lot of school kids that come out to see real Seminoles shooting and playing around and stuff like that. Actually this was kind of a scrimmage, most of the fighting was hit and run warfare because there was not a lot of us Seminoles and a lot more soldiers, so it was hit and run tactics and we would come around behind them and catch them off guard and then hide in the swamps. This is one of the ways our people were able to survive."

Meanwhile, at the encampments, vendors were set up with large tents to replicate the old pioneer spirit style from the early 19th Century. Walking through the camps was like taking a time machine trip back to a world that no longer exists, yet recreated with great detail and imagination to teach people about the past and the hardships faced by the peoples that inhabited this unforgiving land.

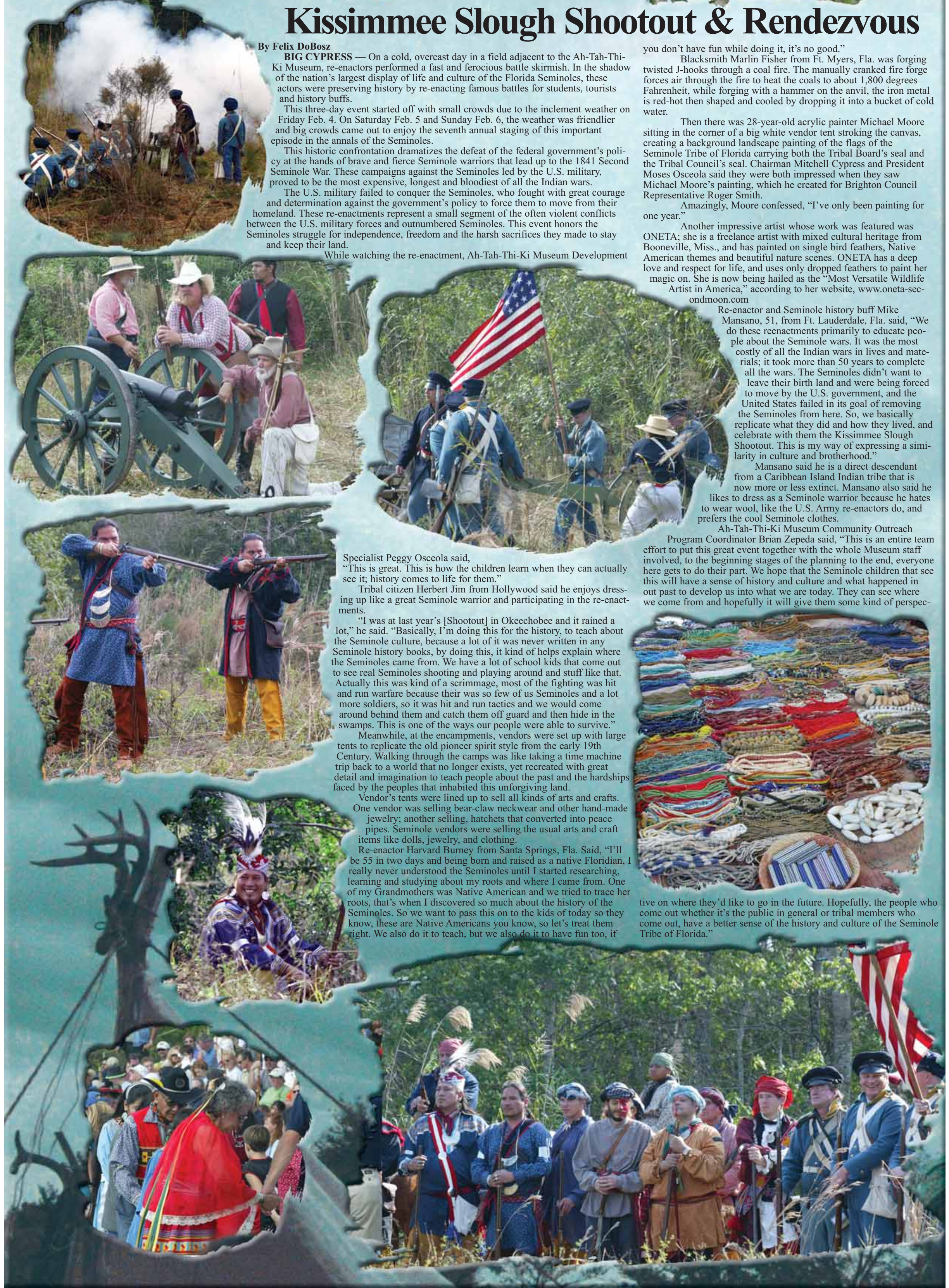
Vendor's tents were lined up to sell all kinds of arts and crafts.

One vendor was selling bear-claw neckwear and other hand-made jewelry; another selling hatchets that converted into peace pipes. Seminole vendors were selling the usual arts and craft items like dolls, jewelry, and clothing.

Re-enactor Harvard Burney from Santa Springs, Fla. said, "I'll be 55 in two days and being born and raised as a native Floridian, I really never understood the Seminoles until I started researching, learning and studying about my roots and where I came from. One of my Grandmothers was Native American and we tried to trace her roots, that's when I discovered so much about the history of the Seminoles. So we want to pass this on to the kids of today so they know, these are Native Americans you know, so let's treat them right. We also do it to teach, but we also do it to have fun too, if



tive on where they'd like to go in the future. Hopefully, the people who come out whether it's the public in general or tribal members who come out, have a better sense of the history and culture of the Seminole Tribe of Florida."

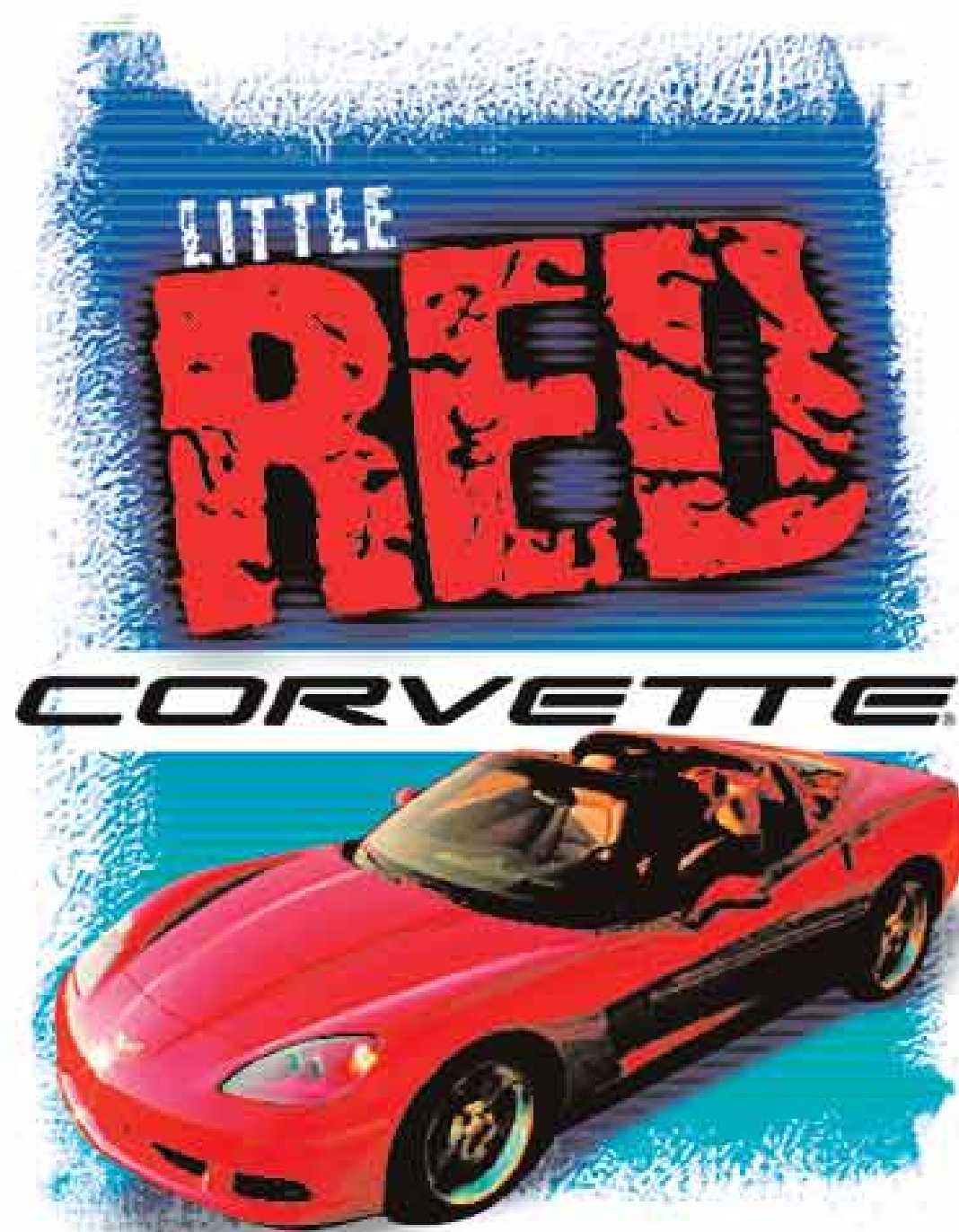






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