

The SEMINOLE TRIBUNE

"Voice of the Unconquered"

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Seminole Tribe of Florida Boys & Girls Club Hosts Open House



Adelsa Williams

The SPD Emergency Response Team demonstrates how to take down a hijacker.

By Adelsa Williams
HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Tribe of Florida Boys & Girls Club held an open house on March 5 on the Hollywood reservation. A continental breakfast was served to all attendees prior to the ceremonies and a light barbeque lunch afterwards; both compliments of the Seminole Police Department (SPD).
Robert North Sr. introduced Tribal citizen Dan Osceola for a word of prayer. He then handed over the microphone to his wife and Chief Professional Officer of the Boys & Girls Club Jo North. She took charge of introducing the guest speakers, but oldest her son and Boys & Girls Club member, Robert North, Jr. stole the show.

◆ See CLUB, page 12

Special Tribal Council Meetings Held in BC

By Iretta Tiger
BIG CYPRESS — On March 2, the Seminole Tribal Council held two special meetings at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.
The first meeting addressed petition — 01 — 05; Removal of Big Cypress Tribal Council Representative. Only tribal citizens were allowed to attend the meeting.
Before addressing the petition, the Council and Tribal attorney Jim Shore discussed how the proceeding should unfold; there is no set procedure. It was decided that this meeting would set a standard as to how petitions would be handled in the future.
Tribal Secretary Priscilla Sayen read the petition to the Council and those present. The councilman then responded to the petition and the council recessed for five minutes to discuss the issue.
The Council, by a majority vote, approved a motion to deny the petition.
After order was restored, the Council began the second meeting. Among the items that the Council approved were:
*The Seminole Tribe of Florida (government) Policy and Procedures Manual.
*The elimination (write-off) of all outstanding tribal council loans to deceased borrowers through Dec. 31, 2004.
*Engineering service agreement between Seminole Tribe of Florida and Suwannee Valley Engineering, LLC for engineering services related to the veteran's building at the Brighton Seminole Indian reservation.
The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for March 28 on the Hollywood reservation.



Emma Brown

Congratulations to Sheila Jones, the 2005-2006 Brighton Miss Seminole.

Smith, Jones Crowned Brighton Misses

By Emma Brown
BRIGHTON — The Brighton reservation crowned their new royalty for 2005-2006 on Feb. 17 at the Brighton Rodeo Grounds. The evening began with a 5:30 p.m. dinner for the community and guests, followed by the Brighton Miss and Brighton Jr. Miss pageant beginning at 7 p.m.
The 2005-2006 Brighton Jr. Miss is Sheila Jones and Brighton Miss is Stephanie Smith.
This year's emcee was Miss Seminole JoJo Osceola, who did a wonderful job elaborating on details presented by the contestants, which helped educate the audience about many of the tra-

ditional talents and items that were presented throughout the evening. The pageant began with the invocation by President Moses Osceola, who also offered a few words of encouragement for each contestant.
Following the invocation was the introduction of the reigning 2003-2004 Brighton Miss Jennifer Chalfant and Jr. Miss Breanna Nunez. Next, each contestant was brought on stage one at a time to give their introductions.
Brighton Jr. Miss contestants were: Breanna Billie, Janet Smith, Erena Billie, Kiylier Baker, Lois Billie, Ravenne Osceola, Sheila Jones,

◆ See MISS BRIGHTON, page 17

Team Seminole Attends Heart Walk

By Felix DoBosz
DAVIE, FL — On a sunny March 5 morning, more than 5,000 people showed up to the annual American Heart Association's (AHA) Broward County Heart Walk to walk the 2.5 mile course and

promote heart health. The large crowd converged on Nova Southeastern University's Davie Campus for what was to be more than just an event—it was a celebration of healthy living.
The American Heart Walk is a national event that takes place in more than 600 cities across America on the same day. It aims to bring attention to cardiovascular disease, which the AHA says is still the number one killer of Americans. According to the AHA, various heart diseases claim the lives of nearly 39 percent of all American deaths annually.
Among the 5,000 participants, a small minority came from Team Seminole. Team member Edna McDuffie from Big Cypress estimated 18 people attended on behalf of the Seminole Tribe.
"This was our first year here with the Hard Rock, we wanted to participate last year

◆ See HEART, page 11



Felix DoBosz

Team Seminole gets ready for the 2.5 mile Heart Walk.

Annual Brighton Field Days Festival Gets Bigger and Better

By Susan Etxebarria
BRIGHTON — The grounds of the 67th Annual Brighton Reservation Arts & Crafts Festival & Rodeo were crammed tight this year with a large variety of quality booths displaying authentic Indian products. On display were crafts from the Navajos of Arizona, Aztecs of Mexico, Incas of Ecuador and an array of handmade Seminole dolls, beadwork, clothing and art.
A favorite stop was the Authentic Seminole Living Village, where festival-goers had the chance to watch the Tribe's artisans carve wood, cook, sew and make the intricate beadwork that is the hallmark of the Tribe.
The festival was exceptional this year with more booths, more entertainment, fantastic professional rodeo, and fantastic crowds. There were even more food booths selling traditional Seminole foods. There were booths selling books, videos and CDs about Native American tribes. There was a Cherokee herbalist selling sage and other ceremonial and medicinal herbs, there was an Inca flutist selling his CDs, and numerous booths featuring the handcrafts by Seminoles from the Trail and Seminoles from Immokalee as well as Brighton.
Saturday morning's parade ended at the stage arena after a long line of wonderful floats and entries passed by the judges. When the school children on the Pull-Out Program's float passed by, parade emcee Willie Johns, told the crowd about the Tribe's efforts to preserve Seminole culture. Johns teaches the Brighton youth Seminole history and language.
"It is our goal one day to make all the children Muscogee speakers," he said.
Johns' commentary on the parade was very informative for the audience comprised pri-

◆ See FESTIVAL, page 17



Susan Etxebarria

Martha Jones, the Old-Style Traditional 60 and older winner.



Iretta Tiger

Seminole Princess JoJo Osceola (left) and event organizer Yvonne Courtney (right) hold the banner while participants cheerfully wave their Seminole flags and march down 64th Avenue. SEE PAGE 3.

Dr. Sam Billison and the Navajo Code Talkers

By Dr. Dean Chavers
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I first met Dr. Sam Billison 25 or 30 years ago and came to respect him highly. Dr. Sam died three months ago with hardly a ripple in the newspapers about it. He should have had the highest honors for the things he accomplished in life.

Dr. Sam, King Mike, Carl Gorman, Peter MacDonald, and hundreds of other Navajos were Code Talkers in World War II. According to publicity I read about the Navajo reservation, they participated in sixteen battles in World War II, including Saipan, Guadalcanal, Peleliu, Okinawa, and Tarawa. The last of these in 1945 was the bloodiest of all—Iwo Jima.

Marine Corps Major Howard Connor, the Signal Officer of the Fifth Marine Division, said "Were it not for the Navajos, the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima." He had six Navajo Code Talkers working around the clock in the first two days of the battle. They sent and received more than 800 messages, all without error, he said.

The battle of Iwo Jima had a 75 percent fatality rate for the Marines who fought there. The Marines lost more troops in that battle than in any other one they have ever fought.

My cousin James "Bubba" Chavers of Savannah, Ga. was one of the Marines there. Four years ago at our family reunion he told us part of his story of being there. His best buddy was in the fox-hole with him and decided to raise his head and look around.

A Japanese bullet hit his buddy right between the eyes and he fell back dead. He died in Bubba's arms. Bubba said he learned right quick to keep his head down. Bubba was one of the lucky ones. He was not wounded in the entire battle.

The Navajo Code Talkers served in all six Marine divisions in World War II, plus the Marine raider battalions and the Marine parachute units. The Red Raiders, one of the most decorated units, has been giving a scholarship for a decade through my organization, Catching the Dream, for the descendants of the Code Talkers.

Philip Johnston, the son of missionaries to the Navajos, was the person who came up with the idea for Navajo Code Talkers. Having lived on the reservation for 24 years, he had learned the language well enough that he thought it would be the perfect vehicle to talk in code so the Japanese would not understand what was being said. He turned out to be right; the Navajo code talk was the only U. S. code that was not broken or compromised during the war. The Japanese had no better idea at the end than they had at the

beginning of what was being said in Navajo.

Mr. Johnston took the idea to Maj. Gen. Clayton P. Vogel, the Commander of the Amphibious Corps of the Pacific Fleet in February 1942, two months after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. After studying it for three months, Gen. Vogel launched the program in May 1942.

Mr. Johnston, who had served in the military in World War I, gave a demonstration to the General in February. The test proved that a message could be spoken in English, translated into Navajo, transmitted in Navajo, and decoded back into English faster than could the same message using conventional coding procedures.

The program began recruiting Navajos in May 1942. By September, the first wave of 29 Navajo Marines had been trained at Marine boot camp in San Diego, Calif., and in the Code Talk at Camp Pendleton and was ready to go overseas.

The whole project was classified at the highest level, and remained top secret until it was finally declassified in 1968. They did not use Navajo directly. Instead, they used code words. For instance, the Navajo word for "turtle" was a code word for "tank." "Corps" became "clan" and "squad" was "black sheep." The Navajo word for "hummingbird" meant "fighter plane" in English. Each term was translated twice before it was transmitted, and had to be decoded twice upon receipt at the other end.

There were Navajo terms for the alphabet, for the military designations, for the officer corps (general, colonel, major, etc.), for countries, for types of airplanes, for types of ships, for names of months, for military terms (abandon, advance, retreat, etc.), and for terms in general. For instance, a Code Talker could say over his radio "Tell the Lieutenant to take four tanks and flank behind us on the left side immediately" and the message could be sent to the lieutenant, decoded by the receiver, and given to the lieutenant in English in less than twenty seconds.

The first group quickly developed a whole dictionary of Navajo/English terms, which each Code Talker had to memorize. The whole list is several hundred words long.

After the war, the head of Japanese intelligence, Lt. Gen. Seizo Arisue, said that his troops had broken both the Army and the Air Corps codes, but never broke the Marine Corps Navajo Code. According to the Marine Corps, at least 375 Navajo Marines, and possibly as many as 420, were trained as Code Talkers before the end of the war. Because of the enforced secrecy, for decades the Code Talkers could not receive any recognition

for their contributions to the war effort.

King Mike, one of the most decorated Code Talkers, saved many keepsakes, including Japanese rifles and bayonets, and preserved them for years. His son Richard has constructed a Code Talkers museum in his honor. It is located halfway between Farmington, N.M. and Tuba City, Ariz. on Highway 160, just south of Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park, where so many movies and commercials are filmed.

After the war, Dr. Sam went back to college and finished his teaching degree. After teaching for a few years, he went to graduate school and got his doctorate. I last worked with him when he was Principal of Ganado Middle School ten years ago. I worked with the administrative team there put a long-range plan together.

Dr. Billison was a modest man. Few people knew what he did in the Code Talkers, and probably about as few knew what he did afterward. In 1967 Dr. Sam, Dr. Will Antell, and Ms. Rosemary Christiansen founded the National Indian Education Association, for which none of them has gotten adequate credit.

When the declassification finally let the Code Talkers tell others about what they had done, they formed the Navajo Code Talkers Association and elected Dr. Sam as the President. He continued to serve in this capacity until his death.

He got some belated recognition a few years ago when the Mattel toy company designed a "GI Joe" doll as a Code Talker. Dr. Sam's voice is the sound that comes out when kids pull the string to make the doll talk.

When I saw John Woo's movie about the Code Talkers, "Windtalkers," a few years ago I thought it was too bloody. It starred Nicolas Cage and showed numerous battles, firefights, grenade tosses, tanks blowing up, and other gory scenes. But as I studied the history of the Code Talkers recently through the Margaret Bixler book "Winds of Freedom," I realized that the depiction of the battles was that bloody. The survivors were lucky to come home alive.

When the Navajo Code was finally declassified, the Code Talkers got some recognition from the Marine Corps. In 1992 a group of 35 of them went to the Pentagon for a special ceremony where they were finally given medals by President Bill Clinton for their bravery under fire.

There were Comanche Code Talkers as well, and they also have not gotten much recognition. Let's hope one day both the Comanches and the Navajos get the recognition they deserve.



Who is this Seminole gentleman? Please see the next issue of the *Tribune* to find out.

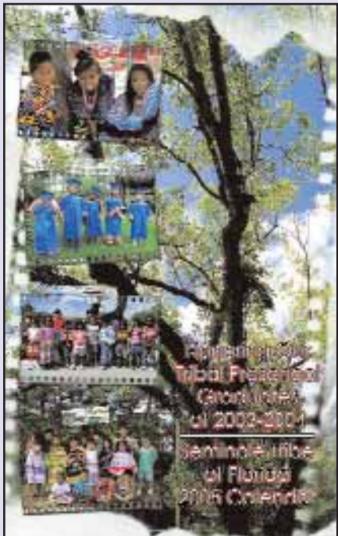
2005 Seminole Tribal Calendar

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

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

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

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



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

Attention Tribal Citizens

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

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

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Letters & E-mail

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

Dear Editor,
I would like to enquire if you have any cabins available from the 15-18 of December. We are with two adults and a baby of 18 months.

Many thanks for your reply,
Richard Thorp

Dear Mr. Thorp,
As of Feb. 24 we do have availability for December. If you have any questions you can call Jacob at (800) 949-6101, Ext. 115 and he will make the reservation for you or visit www.seminoletribe.com and book your vacation online.

Again, thank you,
Billie Swamp Safari Staff

Dear Editor,
We plan to visit your park on Easter Sunday, March 27, after a cruise. We're planning on the day package. First, are you open this day?

Can you also give me directions from the Ft. Lauderdale airport? We are renting a car and driving. I couldn't find a directions link on your web site.

Thanks,
Judy & Mary

Dear Judy & Mary,
Thank you for your inquiry, but the museum is closed on that date, Easter Sunday. We will re-open on Tuesday March 29. Hopefully you can make arrangements to visit us another time.

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

Dear Editor,
Hello, my name is Pauletta Johnson. I heard that there is a golf tournament along with some other sports activities held at the end of May. Could you tell me who the contact person and telephone number is so I can more information to qualify? I'm from Oklahoma and would be very much interested in participating. Your reply would be appreciated.

Sincerely,
Pauletta Johnson

Dear Ms. Johnson,
I am not aware of any golf dates at this time but I will ask our golf coordinator and let you know. Next week, write me back and remind me and I will let you know what I found.

Sincerely,
Steven Young
Recreation Department

Dear Editor,
My name is Mike Hinds and I am going to be in Ft. Lauderdale on March 9-13. I am wondering if it is too late to

schedule a meat hog hunt for either March 11 or March 12?
Thank you for your help,
Mike Hinds

Dear Mr. Hinds,
I called the Hunting Adventure at (800) 689-2378 and found that they are booked through April as this is their Osceola Turkey season.
Sincerely,
Debi Lee
Administrative Assistant
Big Cypress Hunting Adventures

Dear Editor,
I am inquiring about becoming a firefighter for your Tribe. I am currently a certified firefighter II and I enrolled in an EMT class which will conclude on June 6. Will I still be able to apply, or do I need to wait until your next hiring period?
Thank You,
Brian Hoadley

Dear Mr. Hoadley,
Unfortunately, 80 percent of our business constitutes emergency medical response. Therefore, if a candidate does not have the required certifications such as Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certifications, it defeats the purpose.

My answer is that you must wait until our next hiring period when hopefully by then you will have the required certifications for the position.
Thank you,
Armando Negrin
Director
Emergency Services Department

Dear Editor,
I was looking on your calendar for any information on Field Days at Brighton this weekend. Can you send me information on times of events?
Thank you,
Eric Myer

Dear Mr. Myer,
Here is a list of events:
Feb. 13: Bowling, 2p.m.,
Feb. 15: Pool tournament, 7 p.m.,
Feb. 16: Golf blind draw, 7 a.m.,
Feb. 17: Community supper, 5:30 p.m. and Brighton Princess Contest, 7 p.m.,
Feb. 18: Walk, 6 a.m., Cultural Days for school children, 10 a.m., Kids Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) Rodeo, 6 p.m., EIRA sanctioned rodeo, 7 p.m.,
Feb. 19: Parade, 10 a.m., Introduction of Tribal officials and new Princesses, 10:30 a.m., Bird Chopper Dancers and Singers, 10:45 a.m., Johnny U and Band, 11:15 a.m., Arcadia Rangerettes, 11:40 a.m., Alligator

wrestling, 11:55 a.m., Aztec dancers, 12:20 p.m., Cloggers, 12:45 p.m., Seminole clothing contest, 1:15 p.m., Recreation activities, 3 p.m., Bird Chopper Dancers and Singers, 4 p.m., Cloggers, 4:30 p.m., Johnny U and Band, 5 p.m., Alligator wrestling, 5:30 p.m., Aztec dancers, 6 p.m., Gates open for Rodeo, 6:45 p.m., PRCA Rodeo, 7 p.m.,
Feb. 20: Gates open, 11:30 a.m., Bird Chopper Dancers and Singers, 12 p.m., Johnny U and Band, 12:45 p.m., Alligator wrestling, 1:30 p.m., Aztec dancers, 2:15 p.m., Gates open for PRCA Rodeo, 2:30 p.m. and PRCA Rodeo, 3 p.m.

Authentic Seminole Living Village will be on display all day Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, Feb. 18-20, at the Seminole Cultural Camp.
Sincerely,
Jo "Boogie" Jumper
EIRA Secretary

Dear Editor,
My fiancé and I are planning a wedding. I would love to have a southwestern theme, dress and all. Can anyone tell me where I can get assistance ideas, etc.
Sincerely,
Cassie Powell

Dear Ms. Powell,
The Seminole Tribe is considered a Southeastern Tribe so if you need info about Southwestern dress and tradition my suggestion would be to search the internet. However, most Tribes and Tribal people do not share information on specific customs or sacred rites, so you may not have too much luck when approaching Tribes.
Sincerely,
Tina M. Osceola
Executive Director
Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Photo Quiz Answer



Seen here are Katie Smith and Ada Tiger.



This Seminole re-enactor readies his rifle for battle with the U.S. soldiers.

Art Rengers

Native American & Pioneer Days Festival

By Shelley Marmor

NAPLES — An estimated 2,500 people spent their President's Day weekend at Collier-Seminole State Park to attend the Third Annual Native American & Pioneer Days Festival, according to festival co-organizer and Rosemary Rengers. The festival took place Feb. 19-20, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

The highlight of the festival for many was the November 1857 Third Seminole War Re-enactment of the Battle of Royal Palm Hammock. Since the re-enactment was such a crowd-gathering event, organizers decided they had to have narrators for the first time at this year's festival.

The re-enactment took place on both days at 2 p.m. However, many other exciting activities took place all weekend long.

In addition to numerous vendors selling their crafts, both traditional native crafts and non-native crafts, festival goers got to sample such traditional Floridian foods as alligator and catfish.

Other booths showcased artisans creating wares in pioneer fashion, such as a man and woman making soap from scratch before everyone's eyes and a blacksmith making horseshoes over an open flame.

Stanley and Denise Frank and their son Shaman Frank also had a vendor booth set up promoting their business, American Apothecary. They were selling various medicines and herbs such as California sage, as well as Native American saw palmetto dolls and sweet-grass baskets.

Luckily for everyone experiencing run-ins



U.S. soldier re-enactors get ready for battle.

Art Rengers

with mosquitoes at the festival, Denise Frank brought along some all-natural insect repellent. She said it was her own special concoction.

Also throughout the park were numerous individuals dressed in traditional native regalia as well as traditional U.S. soldier and pioneer clothing. All were frequently stopped by festival attendees and asked questions about everything from their clothing to other historic information on the time period and culture of the time they were representing.

Many people brought their own lawn chairs and blankets and made it an all-day affair. There was even a historic scavenger hunt for the kids which no doubt taught them a lot about the festival's era, the mid-19th century.

On both days festival goers were entertained with live bluegrass and pioneer music. Featured bands included the Flat Mountain String Band on Saturday and the Sawgrass Drifters on Sunday.

"We had such good response to them, we're going to invite them again [next year]," said Rengers.

Several groups were also on hand promoting awareness to various causes such as the National Estuarine Research Reserve, which promotes environmental restoration and preservation and a group promoting tourism to the Fakahatchee Strand State Park in Copeland, Fla.

Next year's Native American & Pioneer Days Festival will take place Feb. 18-19. For more information, please call Collier-Seminole State Park at (239) 394-3397 or visit www.floridastateparks.org/collier-seminole.



This Pioneer demonstrates how sewing was done in the mid-19th century on her spinning wheel.

Art Rengers

Hollywood Takes to the Streets a Second Time

By Iretta Tiger

HOLLYWOOD — Not even the strong possibility of rain could stop the march. As the clouds became darker, the resolution of the participants grew stronger.

On Feb. 28, over 100 Tribal citizens took to the streets in a march against drugs and alcohol. The event was a follow-up to the original march in January and has now become a monthly event.

A heartening sight was the presence of more teenagers joining the walk.

"I came out to represent," said Gary Frank, 15, "We need to stick together and help each other out."

The message of unity and support was prevalent throughout the walk and grows stronger with each gathering.

Betty Osceola encouraged young mothers to bring their kids and join in the march.

"Help each other and if you need help let us know," said Osceola "I love you all and I pray for you."

Although the message is important and they march to show their support, many admitted that they also enjoy the social aspect of the gatherings.

"I tell them that the grandmothers like to see them and they get to meet everyone in the community," said Robert Frank about his children.

As with many other community events, dinner was prepared by Vivian Delgado, Donna Turtle and several other Tribal citizens. Everyone who marched also stayed and enjoyed dinner, joined by those who came merely for the dinner.

Maybe some Tribal citizens who are involved in drugs and/or alcohol think these events are no big deal and do not affect them in any way. Some even think they do better when they're high or drunk, but here's an example of what can be accomplished without all that garbage.

Miss Seminole JoJo Osceola, who was also at the march, is involved in two honor societies, plays basketball, jogs, is an A student and has her Miss Seminole duties on top of it all. And what's even more remarkable is that this graceful young woman chooses not to indulge in drugs and alcohol.



Leoda Osceola (left) proudly supports her community.

Iretta Tiger



Tribal Treasurer Mike D. Tiger (second from left) and Broadcasting's Bobby Frank (right) lead the way.

Iretta Tiger



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Two Influential Groups Meet for Housing Conference

HUD Assistant Secretary Speaks to Attendees

By Shelley Marmor

HOLLYWOOD — The United Southern and Eastern Tribes (USET) and the Eastern/Woodlands Office of Native American Programs (E/WONAP) held a joint housing conference from March 1-4 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. On March 4, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Assistant Secretary Michael Liu was the guest speaker.

Liu spoke on a variety of topics including the president's 2006 budget for HUD's Native American-specific housing programs, the Indian Community Development Block Grant program, Section 8 housing on reservations, improving relations with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and finally Section 184 Loans.

According to Liu, Section 184 Loans guarantee that all Tribal citizens from federally recognized Tribes will receive a loan to purchase a house on reservation land should they want such a loan. He said there are provisions written into the Section 184 plan that give protection to banks should the loan default, making these types

of loans very appealing to banks. He commended the Seminole Tribe for taking advantage of an amendment made to the Section 184 Loan on Oct. 14, 2004. The new text allows for all Florida Seminoles to have the same loan guarantee provided through Section 184 for the purchase of a home anywhere in the state, not just on reservation land.

Previously, Section 184 only afforded loans to those persons wanting to purchase a house on Tribal reservation land. The Seminole Tribe was the first Tribe to take advantage of this amendment. Liu said this illustrates the "good relationship" he has with the Tribe, the Tribal Housing department and the "close, personal relationship" he has with USET's Housing Chairman and Tribal citizen Joel Frank. Liu said the notice for this Section 184 revision went out in Sept. 2004 and the Seminole Tribe was the only Tribe to respond.

Also present at the three-day convention were USET Housing Chairman Joel Frank, Chairman of the Great Lakes Housing Association Cheryl Parish and Administrator for E/WONAP Kevin Fitzgibbons as well as representatives from the Tribal Housing department.



Shelley Marmor

(L-R) USET Housing Chairman Joel Frank and Chairperson of the Great Lakes Housing Association Cheryl Parish.



Shelley Marmor

Guest Speaker and HUD Assistant Secretary Michael Liu (left) speaks to attendees at the conference.

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Meet the Department of Elder Affairs

By Adelsa Williams
HOLLY-

WOOD — The Hollywood Department of Elder Affairs is located at the Dorothy S. Osceola Building in the Hollywood reservation.

The department's main purpose is to organize and provide every service necessary to the Seminole senior citizens. The department's primary duty is to prepare and serve a daily hot breakfast and lunches to the seniors.

Sometimes, during a special event or holiday, the staff will organize a fun activity for the entertainment of the seniors. In the past, there have been activities such as pumpkin carving and costume contest during Halloween, bingo and cash and prize raffles during Thanksgiving and the holiday season.

At times, Seminole seniors from other reservations are transported to the Hollywood senior center facility to participate along with the Hollywood sen-



Adelsa Williams
 Meet the staff: (L-R) Patricia Ferreira, Leanne Carman, Linda Ormond, Site Manager, and Joan Byfield.

iors in the different scheduled festivities. The department also assists with the coordination and roundtrip transportation to special events off the reservation. Other Tribal citizens in the community also volunteer their time to assist the seniors with the assistance of the Department of Elder Affairs.

Meet the Broadcasting Department

By Adelsa Williams
HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole

Broadcasting department's main office is located in the third floor of the Hollywood headquarters building.

The department's main function is to document and broadcast Tribal affairs and newsworthy events, including news of the state, national and international caliber that may apply to the Seminole Tribe of Florida and related entities.



Adelsa Williams
 The Broadcasting staff: (L-R) Troy Tiger, Dana Poore, Alexandra Frank, Lakisha Moore, Lawrence Osceola, Johnnie VanDesande, Director Daniel Jumper, Diana Matos and Bobby Frank.

The priority of this department is to document the life and the times of Tribal citizens from the youngest to the oldest. As a result, the department makes every effort to cover every requested event.

Events such as Tribal functions, Tribal meetings, sporting events, graduations, family reunions, inaugurations are just some of the daily functions that make up the program of the department, but most importantly are the informative programs on the Seminole culture and historic events of the Seminole Tribe.

Archival material is kept in an extensive video library, which is currently being upgraded from VHS to DVD. Most videotaped material is available to all Tribal citizens by request and is subject to the director's discretion.

Should you need assistance from the Broadcasting department you may reach the friendly and ready for service staff at (954) 967-3417 or by fax at (954) 967-3485.

Tribal citizen Daniel Jumper, Panther Clan, has successfully served as the department's director for more than a decade and currently supervises a total of 20 employees throughout the Seminole reservations.

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The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should be based solely upon advertisements. Guy A. Seligman worked as a Certified Legal Intern in both the State Attorney and Public Defender offices in Duval and Broward Counties; he has been in private practice for 16 years. He graduated from Nova Southeastern University Law School in 1987 and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1989.

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NATIONAL FSA AMERICAN INDIAN CREDIT OUTREACH INITIATIVE

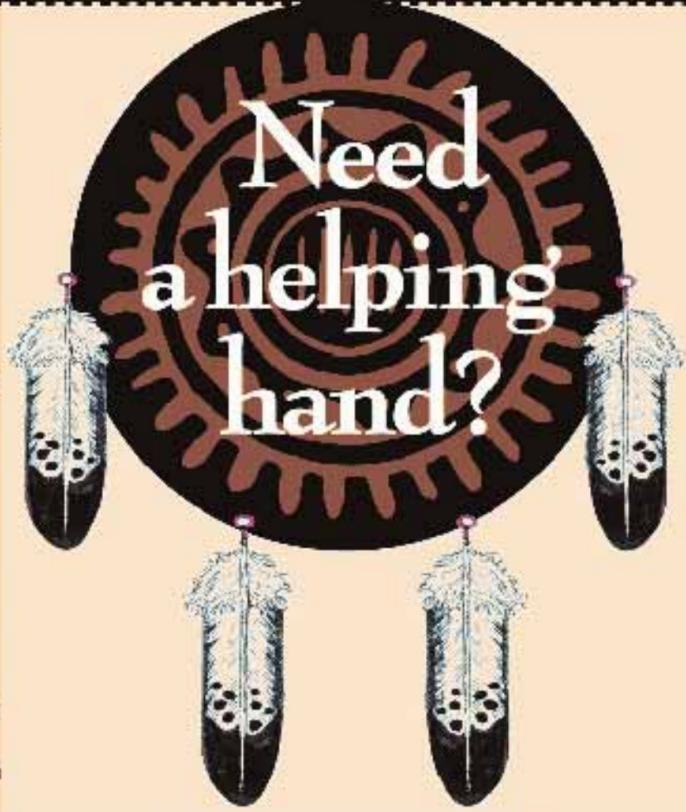
Project Objectives

This project is a creative approach designed to address the unique agriculture credit needs of the American Indian community. The project incorporates outreach, education, and loan application preparation services to ensure American Indian farmers, ranchers, and youth have access to the full range of FSA credit opportunities. Our Outreach Liaisons are equipped to assist potential American Indian borrowers in the development of a complete loan package.

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- Rural Youth



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Job Announcement

1 Half-time Outreach Liaison: Coverage area includes the Indian Reservations in the state of Florida

The primary duties are to assist American Indian farmers, ranchers and youth in the development of Farm Service Agency (FSA) loan applications. Applicants for this position must have a minimum of a 2-yr college degree, preferably a Bachelor's Degree in Business or Agriculture. A degree or work experience in Business, Education, Facilitation or Social Work will also be considered. Must be assertive with good communication skills-both oral and written, and be comfortable in an advocacy role and public speaking. Must be able to work well with American Indian farmers, ranchers, youth, and Farm Service Agency staff. **COMPUTER PROFICIENCY IS ESSENTIAL!** Must be competent in use of Microsoft Office Suite Programs, such as Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, Corel Word Perfect and web based applications. Interested persons must be committed to learning about farm and ranch planning, cash flows, and the FSA loan application process and procedures. Must be willing to travel extensively within an assigned geographic area and have reliable transportation. Must be a flexible person willing to adapt outreach methods as we discover what methods work best through this outreach project. Please submit letter of interest, resume, and three (3) letters of reference to the address listed below. Salary: Negotiable, depending on experience. Hours: 20 hours/week utilizing a flexible work schedule.

Submit Required Documentation To:
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 Box Elder, MT 59521
 1-800-963-0015
samantha@indiancreditoutreach.com

Contact Us Directly
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A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NATIONAL TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION AND THE USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY

News From Indian Country

Seminole Tribe Participates in Native American Job Fair

By Angel A. Torres

TULSA, OK — The Ninth Annual Native American Job fair held in Tulsa, Okla. on Feb 25 was the first out of state recruitment venture for the Seminole Tribe of Florida. More than 1,000 persons attended the fair along with more than 30 exhibitors and vendors from the private and public sectors as well as federal and state government representatives who welcomed Native American job applicants and provided information on available employment opportunities.

More than ten Tribes and Tribal nations also participated in the fair. The Seminole Tribe's Human Resources department collected more than 100 resumes from employment candidates. Many other resumes are to be mailed in response to our open job postings. Employment information pertaining to the Hard Rock gaming operations was also made available to job seekers expressing an



Angel Torres
Tribal Human Resources Analyst/Recruiter Glen Altman (left), and *Native American Times* newspaper employees (L-R) Bryan Miller, Sheldon Gore, and Liz Gray.

interest in gaming employment opportunities.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida drew a lot of attention by having an impressive employment booth and display. Many of the attendees said they were aware of the success of the Seminole Tribe of Florida in a number of business ventures. They also shared with the recruitment team how grateful other Tribes were to the Florida Seminoles for being pioneers in the gaming industry.

Glen Altman and I took advantage of this recruitment opportunity to visit our brothers and sisters at the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. We were well received and hosted by their Principal Chief Kenneth E. Chambers and his staff. Gifts were exchanged and we were presented with a beautiful reproduction of an important Native American art piece.

After lunch, we were given a tour of the Seminole Nation's economic and business ventures as well as their medical dialysis center. The Seminole Nation's reservation boundaries include most of Seminole County, which is 16 miles wide and 40 miles long. The main Tribal headquarters are located at Wewoka, which is the county seat of Seminole County and the capitol of Seminole Nation. The Seminole Nation's population of Tribal members is estimated at about 16,000 with a large percentage living within or near the Seminole Nation boundaries.

I believe that this recruitment trip met our objectives. For the first time, the department of Human Resources of the Seminole Tribe of Florida actively participated in a predominantly Native American job fair and attracted considerable positive attention. We also were able to establish positive relationships with other Native American entities prominent among them the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma.

PowWows.com Member's Choice Awards

Submitted by Paul Gowder, PowWows.com

PowWows.com is pleased to announce the 2nd Annual Member's Choice Awards. The Member's Choice Awards are a way for our members to recognize and honor outstanding powwows and the people affiliated with them for the past year. Nominations were accepted in January. The top nominees in each category were voted on by the members of the site during the month of February.

This year's awards had more than 25 categories and more than 3,000 votes. PowWows.com would like to congratulate all of the winners.

Best Pow Wow:
Gathering of Nations, Best Contest Pow Wow: Gathering of Nations, Best Non Contest Pow Wow: Menominee Veteran's Pow-wow, Best 49: American Indian Expo, Best Website: Gathering of Nations, Best Vendors at a Pow Wow: Gathering of Nations, Best Vendor: Rez Dog, Best AD: Jonathan Windyboy, Best MC: Dale Old Horn, Best Food at a Pow Wow: Gathering of Nations, Best Southern Drum: Cozad, Best Northern Drum: Bear Creek, Best Hand Drum Singer: Harvey Dreaver, Best Hand Drum Group, White Fish Jrs, Best Golden Age Male: Ron



Goodeagle, Best Golden Age Female: Delores Goodeagle, Best Male: Wayne Silas, Best Female: Jackie Tsonetokoy, Best Hoop Dancer: Daniel Trammer, Best Buckskin Dancer: Jackie Tsonetokoy, Best Cloth Dancer: Ponka We Victors, Best Fancy Shawl Dancer: (tie) Urseloria Kanuho and Rose Track, Best Jingle Dancer: B J McDaniel, Best Chicken Dancer: Shawn Scabbyrobe, Best Grass Dancer: Terrance Goodwill, Best Fancy Feather Dancer: Wayne Silas Jr., Best Northern Traditional Dancer: Kevin Haywahay and Best Straight Dancer: Terry Tsotigh.

PowWows.com, LLC was created by Paul Gowder in 1997. The web site was originally established as a way to bring issues in Native America to life, as well as bridging Native Americans together with others across the world. Following eight years of growth and development, membership to PowWows.com is still free and currently more than 11,000 strong. PowWows.com celebrates our recognition as the best source of information concerning powwows on a single Internet site today. For more information, please contact Paul Gowder at (803) 361-1160.

Entrepreneurship Shows Potential for Native Economies Beyond Gaming

New report tracks momentum toward Indian small business ventures

Submitted by The Northwest Area Foundation

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Despite considerable economic and social obstacles, entrepreneurial business activity on and around Indian reservations is gaining momentum, according to a recent report released by economic development firm CFED and the Northwest Area Foundation.

The report, "Native Entrepreneurship: Challenges and Opportunities for Rural Communities," looks at the current state of Native non-gaming entrepreneurship and analyzes the support network available to native entrepreneurs.

In addition to U.S. Census and other trend data showing the number of Native-owned small businesses growing, the report notes that among firms earning more than \$50,000 in profits, these companies outperform other minority-owned ventures. Dun and Bradstreet data show that Native American businesses, while representing only five percent of minority

firms, perform higher than their counterparts in average sales volume and number of employees.

At the state and reservation level, however, the picture looks different. In many states where there are high numbers of Native Americans, Native entrepreneurs own private businesses at a much lower rate and earn less per capita than the non-minority population. The full report is available at www.cfed.org

"The good news is that more Native entrepreneurs are starting and growing successful businesses than ever before," said CFED's Jennifer Malkin, the lead author of the report. "Unfortunately the bad news is that many aspiring Native entrepreneurs can't get the support they need to formalize or grow their businesses and are forced to operate on the margins."

The Northwest Area Foundation, headquartered in St. Paul, Minnesota, helps communities reduce poverty in its eight-state region: Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon. The foundation brings technical assistance and financial resources that help identify, share and advocate community-focused strategies for long-term poverty reduction. For additional information please see www.nwaf.org or call (651) 224-9635.



BC National Preserve Seeks Public Commitment for Home Site Development

Submitted by Bob DeGross

BIG CYPRESS — The National Park Service (NPS) has recently completed preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the construction of six home sites for occupancy by members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida in Big Cypress National Preserve. The EA also includes a draft Statement of Findings, required for projects having adverse effects on wetlands. These documents can be viewed at the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment website, <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>.

The EA analyzes the effects of a preferred alternative and the no action alternative, i.e., no construction. The preferred alternative would involve expansion of six existing filled areas into adjacent wetlands to the extent necessary to accommodate chickees, ceremonial and garden areas, bathhouses with associated septic tanks and drain fields, and setback requirements.

The total amount of fill in wetlands for the six sites would be approximately six acres. The wetlands filled would be mitigated by the restoration of 9.8 acres of wetlands at a nearby disturbed site known as Patton's Pit and by payment from the Seminole Tribe into a regional mitigation bank. Required permits for this project have been issued by the South Florida Water Management District and the

Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The EA is being provided for public review for 30 days. If you wish to comment on the document, please do so electronically utilizing the form provided on the website. Alternatively, you may submit comments addressed to the Acting Superintendent, Big Cypress National Preserve, HCR 61, Box 110, Ochopee, FL 34141.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law.

If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

For more information, please call Bob DeGross at (239) 695-1107.

Cherokee Nation Gives More Than \$2.2 Million to Area Public Schools

Courtesy of the Cherokee Nation

©2005, Reprinted with permission
TAHLEQUAH, OK — The Cherokee Nation dispersed more than \$2.2 million to Northeast Oklahoma schools, including \$48,500 million for public schools in Washington County, at an education summit held recently at the Cherokee Nation Complex in Tahlequah.

"With all of the budget cuts the government has proposed, I think this will pick up some of the slack," said Buel Anglen, Cherokee Nation Tribal Council member representing Tulsa and Washington Counties. "I hope the schools will take this money and use it the way it should be and remember they're getting it because of their Cherokee students."

The money was generated from the sale of Cherokee Nation car tags. Under Cherokee Nation law, the tribe gives schools within its jurisdictional area 38 percent of the revenue generated from the sale of Cherokee Nation car tags. The tag revenue only goes to schools whose district lines are within the Cherokee Nation's 14-county jurisdictional area because they only sell tags to its citizens who live within the jurisdictional boundary.

This year's contribution to area schools is greater than last year's by more than \$400,000. The

2005 contribution to Washington County schools tops last year's by more than \$7,000.

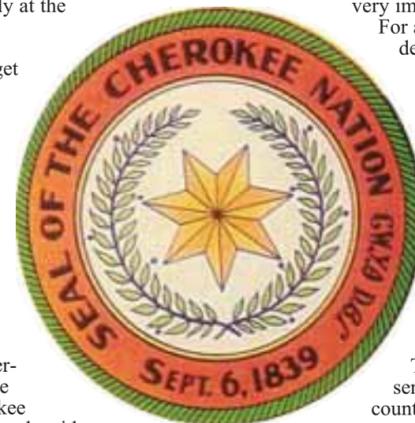
"The Cherokee Nation has committed to sharing our car tag revenues with the public schools that educate our children," said Chad Smith, Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation. "Education is very important to the Cherokee people. For a promising future, we need to develop leaders with vision and education is the gateway to visionary thinking."

Education funding is distributed based on the number of Cherokee children in each school, with each school receiving \$113.54 for each Cherokee student.

"Every school appreciates it and that's [education] where our tag dollars need to go," said Bill Johnson, Cherokee Nation Tribal Council member representing Tulsa and Washington counties.

The Cherokee Nation disbursed \$48,710.67 to the following eligible schools in Washington County:

Bartlesville Public Schools \$18,848.42, Copan Public Schools \$3,065.70, Dewey Public Schools \$13,284.73, Caney Valley Public Schools \$11,240.93 and Osage Hills Public Schools \$2,270.89. A complete list of schools and their funding amounts is available at: www.cherokee.org.



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Meet the Brighton Students

By Emma Brown
BRIGHTON — Mary Huff is a ninth grader and daughter of John and Vicki Huff. She attends school at the Okeechobee Freshman Campus in Okeechobee, Fla.

Huff enjoys all kinds of activities including softball, volleyball, 4-H, and bowling. She plans to attend college to study veterinary medicine out of her love for animals. Huff's goals are to complete college, continue playing softball, and to someday get a good job and be successful both in and out of school.

Huff's advice to young Tribal citizens is "work hard to achieve what you want and remember nothing is impossible."

Her biggest influence has been her mother and father. Huff is thankful to her mother for being supportive and always making sure she is where she needs to be and always encourages her to be the best she can be. Huff is thankful to her father for supporting her in school and sports and always encouraging her to be the best.

Heather Peterson is the ninth grade daughter of Loretta and Robert Peterson. She attends school at the Okeechobee Freshman campus in Okeechobee, Fla.

Peterson's after school activities include softball, Latin club, horses, roping, mudding, and most importantly keeping up with her honors classes. She plans on pursuing an education in agriculture because she likes working outside and it builds your



Emma Brown
Mary Huff



Emma Brown
Candice Simmer



Emma Brown
Heather Peterson

strength to work outside. Peterson's goals are to become successful at rodeo, continue playing softball and improving her game, someday start mechanic school to become a certified mechanic, start wrestling next year, and to always excel in school.

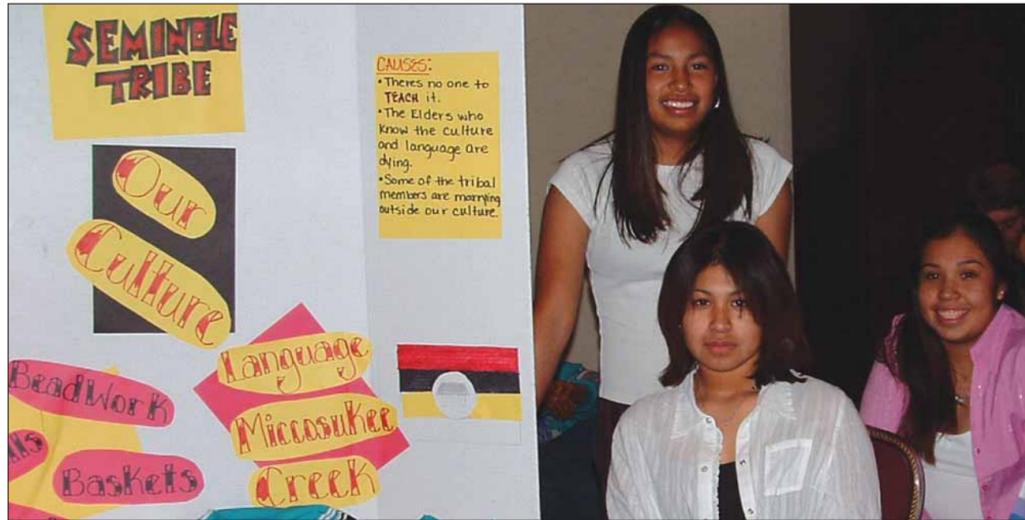
Peterson's wishes to encourage all Tribal youngsters to, "work your hardest through middle and high school, it will pay off and get as much extra curriculum for future purposes even the classes you think you will never use, believe me you will!"

Peterson said her biggest influence has been Ashley Tomberg because even though people don't think much of her, she knows more about stuff in everyday life, she is hardcore, aggressive and is a great teacher of horsemanship.

Candice Simmer is the 11th grade daughter of Reese and Angie Bert. She attends the First Indian Baptist Academy. Simmer enjoys playing volleyball and riding four wheelers. Simmer's future goals are to finish school and attend college to become a pediatrician and to someday help other Native Americans.

Simmer's advice to young children is, "stay in school and stay away from drugs!"

Simmer's biggest influence in her life has been her parents because they struggle through life but no matter what, they always hold their head up and accomplish things they want in life.



Emma Brown

(L-R) Michaela Fish, and Josie and Audrey Snow make a Community Action Plan to enlighten other young people about various cultural-loss issues.

Seminole Students Attend Close Up Program

By Emma Brown
WASHINGTON, D.C. — Every year, the Seminole Tribe sends high school students from each reservation to be part of the Close Up Program. This year, high school students from the Immokalee, Ft. Pierce, and Brighton reservations attended the program in Washington, D.C. from Feb. 6-12.

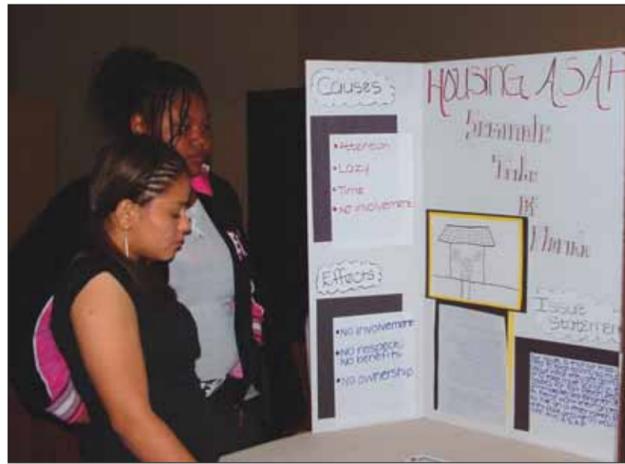
What is the Close Up Program? The Close Up Program is an exciting and invigorating weeklong study visit to the nation's capital. Students have the opportunity to experience their government and the political process firsthand. This program allows students to get an inside look at the nation's capital and at the people and places

that make D.C. unique. Students from the United Southern and Eastern Tribes (USET) attend the Close Up Program during impact week, which is the week of the National USET convention. This allows the students to have meetings with their leading officials and directors and share their ideas and thoughts about their communities. Students engage in a learning adventure like no other, filled with active participation, peer interaction, and most of all, lots of fun!

The Close Up Program is designed to help students become an active citizen and understand how they can influence their community, state and nation. Students on the program explore the corridors of Capitol Hill, visit monuments, museums, and attend daily sessions to exchange viewpoints on current issues that effect their nation and community. It is a close up, intensive look at government in action, both at the Tribal and national level.

This year's students put together a few community actions plans that were endorsed by many Tribal USET members all along the Eastern seaboard. The main focus of the Seminole students' community action plans was cultural loss issues and housing issues. Close Up is not all work though, the students enjoyed nights out attending a play, and a final banquet and dance.

Above all else, the Seminole students gained invaluable friendships of many other Native Americans from USET tribes that will be everlasting and may someday be valuable contacts for conducting positive Tribal business. If you are in high school and wish to attend next year's Close Up program, please contact the education advisor at your reservation.



Emma Brown

Ft. Pierce students expressed the need for housing on different reservations.

Adult English Classes for Seminole Elders

HOLLYWOOD — Beginning Feb. 23, the Education department will offer 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.

Attention College Students

Apply to the Billy L. Cypress Higher Education Program to attend college this summer. The deadline is Friday April 1. For more information, call Higher Education Advisor Dora Bell at (954) 989-6840, Ext. 1311.

Computer Classes Available

The Hollywood Employment and Training department is hosting an intermediate computer class at the Dorothy Scott Osceola building, March 29-31 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. For any additional information, please contact Juan Franco at (954) 989-6840, Ext. 1221.

Immokalee Students Attend Indian Youth Summit

Story by Judy Weeks
WASHINGTON, D.C. — On Feb. 6-12, Seminole youth from Immokalee, Brighton and Ft. Pierce took advantage of a wonderful opportunity made possible by the United Southern and Eastern Tribes (USET) known as the American Indian Youth Summit or Close Up.

The Immokalee youth began their odyssey to the nation's capital on Feb. 6 at the Ft. Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport, when the first members of the group boarded a flight bound Washington, D.C.

Immokalee was represented by five students: sophomores Jonathan Rodriguez, Josie Davis and Frankie Marrero, accompanied by his classroom assistant, Ray Yzaguirre III, a three year alumni of the program, and seniors Clarissa Garza and Lazara Marrero rounded out the group. Librarian Cris Marrero, her husband Frank, and PAC Advisor Rhonda Nunez attended as chaperones.

In addition to Immokalee, the Seminole Tribe was represented by six people from Ft. Pierce and four from Brighton.

The American Indian Youth Summit was held at the Quality Hotel Courthouse in Arlington, Virginia. Room assignments placed four boys or girls to each room and dispersed the group with members of other tribes to create an opportunity to make new friends and learn about their neighbors. For instance, Jonathan Rodriguez roomed with two boys from Ft. Pierce and one from New York, while Lazara Marrero and Clarissa Garza shared a room with Georgia and Alabama participants. This arrangement apparently worked out well, because at the end of the summit the boys and girls were making plans to meet again at the Governor's Council in Tallahassee, Fla.

Chaperone Rhonda Nunez roomed with Carlene Bullock, a member of the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, who was attending from Texas. Nunez said she enjoyed her company very much and learned a great deal about some of the smaller tribes in the Southeastern U.S.

The conference began with a student dinner, orientation by USET President Keller George and assignment to six workshops. This was the beginning of several days of activities and opportunities.

The afternoon of Feb. 7 was filled by a visit to the Jefferson Memorial followed by the Lincoln, Korean and Vietnam Veteran's Memorial. The evening found them in workshops where Tribal governments were emphasized. The Immokalee children did a presentation depicting the Seminole Tribal Council, Board, the resolution process and voting procedures. The group later traveled to Capitol Hill for a

walking workshop and a legislative briefing by Janet Erickson of the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. The participants were divided into three groups in the afternoon hosted by Candace Gingrich from the Human Rights Campaign, Jacqueline DeCarlo from the Fair Trade Resource Network and Jay Walker of AmeriCorps.

A highlight for many was the Feb. 8 visit to the Smithsonian National Museum of the American



Emma Brown

The Close Up group at breakfast with various Tribal officials, including General Council Jim Shore (second from left).

Indian. At the museum, they watched the film "Who We Are." Later, workshops and group activities were followed by visits to the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Study and U.S. Marine Corp. Memorial.

On Feb. 10, the Immokalee youth had breakfast with their tribal leaders, which included special guests from the Tribe, such as General Council Jim Shore, his assistant Agnes Billie Motlow, Housing Director Michele Thomas and Health Director Connie Whidden.

While the weather was good most of the week, it became very cold on Friday and the Immokalee representatives all commented on freezing conditions. Since this was a free day, they elected to ride the Washington, D.C. subway to the massive Springfield Mall for some shopping. Back at the hotel by 4:30 p.m., they attended their last workshops.

The summit concluded with a banquet and dance at which there were some goodbyes, but more "when will we meet agains?"

Immokalee sophomores Jonathan, Josie and Frankie said they learned a great deal not only other Tribal cultures and governments, but the many possibilities available to them personally. Seniors Lazara and Clarissa will graduate high school soon and plan futures that include further education with an eventual return to the Seminole Tribe to enhance their communities.

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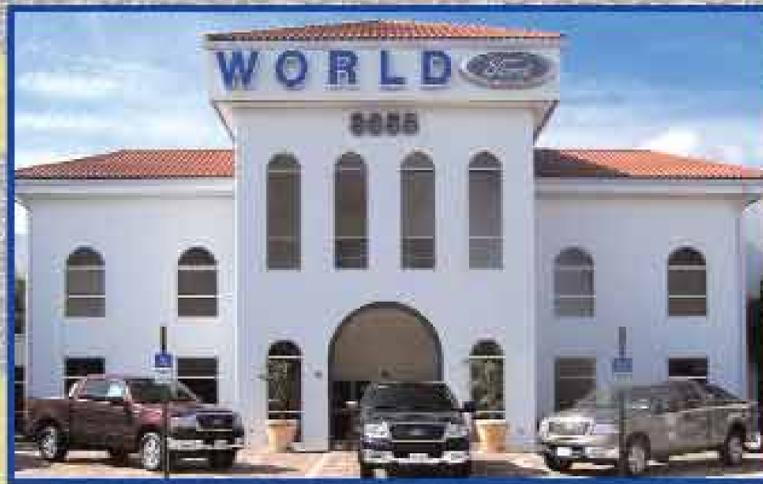
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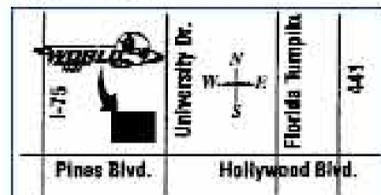
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St. Patrick's Day Weekend at Hard Rock

Celebrities Regis Philbin and Susan Lucci to be on hand

Submitted by Alina Viera, Bitner Goodman PR

HOLLYWOOD — Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the Seminole Hard Rock with plenty of festivities and shows with Regis Philbin and Susan Lucci booked to perform in the ballroom at 8 p.m. on March 18. "Reg" is best known for co-hosting the show "Live with Regis and Kelly" with Kelly Ripa. Susan Lucci is the star of ABC's long running soap opera "All My Children."

Both celebrities are also accomplished singers, and they will sing together as part of their Seminole Hard Rock show. Tickets are \$75.

Doors open one hour before each show. All seats are reserved and may be purchased at the Seminole Hard

Rock Casino Box Office, open daily from noon to 7 p.m. Tickets also are available at all Ticketmaster outlets and online at www.ticketmaster.com. Charge by phone: Miami-Dade (305) 358-5885, Broward (954) 523-3309 and Palm Beach (561) 966-3309.

Try your luck in the Seminole Hard Rock Casino during the Luck O' The Irish giveaway with \$1,000 free-play drawings every 15 minutes from 1 p.m.-7 p.m. Also, the casino floor serves as the stage for a St. Patrick's Day parade complete with Regis Philbin as the grand marshal.

Seminole Paradise will be filled with a bit of Ireland at Murphy's Law for its St. Patrick's Day Celebration from 10 a.m.-6 a.m. featuring the Young Dubliners, The U2 Show performed by Pride of New York City at 5 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., Parac Keane Celtic Rock Band and Kathleen Roundeau Champion Irish Dancers and bagpipers performing all day.

Upcoming Tampa Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Events

Submitted by Chris Jaramillo, Special Events Coordinator

March 18-20
"When I'm Sixty Four" The Art Work of John Lennon - Featuring original art work by John Lennon including prints and original art pieces will be available for purchase, Friday, March 18: 5 p.m.-9 p.m., Saturday March 19: 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Sun: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. in the Ballroom; suggested \$2 donation to benefit the Florida Hurricane Relief Fund.

March 18
Morgan Stone, 3 p.m.-7 p.m., Lobby Bar, No cover.

Sunset Nights: Poolside Happy Hour, \$4 top shelf liquor, \$4 specialty martini, complimentary hors d'oeuvres, weekly drawings for prizes, 5 p.m.-10 p.m., at the pool, no cover.

Floyd's seafood dinner buffet entertainment with Theo Valentin, 6 p.m.-9 p.m., Floyd's, \$19.99 for Player's Club and \$24.99 for non-members.

March 18
Basic Rock Outfit, 8 p.m.-1 a.m., Lobby Bar, no cover.

March 19
"Service Industry Night" AKA SIN: The Past, Present & Future with VJ Chris Craze, 12 a.m.-3 a.m.

March 19: Popular Progressive with DJ Chris Craze, 3 a.m.-5:30 a.m., Floyd's, \$10 cover charge, \$4 drink specials. Complimentary admission if you bring in a current service industry paycheck stub.

DJ Maestro, 1 a.m.-4 a.m., Lobby Bar, no cover.

Basic Rock Outfit, 3 p.m.-7 p.m., Lobby Bar, no cover.

Ted Wray, 8 p.m.-1 a.m., Lobby Bar, no cover.

Element at Floyd's Late Night: Exclusive video hits of the past, present and future, 11 p.m.-2 a.m.

Sexy Vocal Breaks and Bass Heavy Tracks with DJ Jason Perez & Craze, 2 a.m.-5:30 a.m., Floyd's, \$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 & Saturday nights.

DJ Maestro, 1 a.m.-5 a.m., Lobby Bar, no cover.

March 20
Green Room Brunch with act TBA, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Green Room, \$19.99 for Player's Club and \$24.99 for non-members.

March 21
Hall Roach, the King of Blarney performs live. General admission ticketed event with doors opening at 1:30 p.m., show at 2:30 p.m. in the Ballroom. For ticket information, call the Hard Rock Retail Store at (813) 287-8844 or (727) 898-2100 or shop online at www.ticketmaster.com. Tickets are \$20.

Morgan Stone, 6 p.m.-11 p.m., Lobby Bar, no cover.

Gift of the Month promotion: Player's Club members can pick up gifts at the Player's Club while supplies last.

March 22
Morgan Stone, 6 p.m.-11 p.m., Lobby Bar, no cover.

Swipe n Win promotion: Swipe Player's Club card at a kiosk to enter for a chance to win prizes.

March 23
Morgan Stone, 6 p.m.-11 p.m., Lobby Bar, no cover.

March 24
Morgan Stone, 6 p.m.-11 p.m., Lobby Bar, no cover.

DJ Maestro, 12 midnight-4 a.m., Lobby Bar, no cover.

Decorating Dollars/\$25,000 Wednesdays promotion: Swipe Player's Club card at a kiosk to enter to win prizes.

March 25
6th Annual Brides Against Breast Cancer: Name brand and designer gowns available for sale with all proceeds from this event will benefit the Making Memories Breast Cancer Foundation, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., in the Ballroom. For additional information please visit www.wyqk.com.

Morgan Stone, 6 p.m.-11 p.m., Lobby Bar, no cover.

Sunset Nights: Poolside Happy Hour, \$4 top shelf liquor, \$4 specialty martini, complimentary hors d'oeuvres, weekly drawings for prizes, 5 p.m.-10 p.m., at the pool, no cover.

Floyd's seafood dinner buffet entertainment with Theo Valentin, 6 p.m.-9 p.m., Floyd's, \$19.99 for Player's Club and \$24.99 for non-members.

Whiskey Chicks, 8 p.m.-1 a.m., Lobby Bar, no cover.

"Service Industry Night" AKA SIN: The Past, Present & Future with VJ Chris Craze, 12 a.m.-3 a.m.

March 19: Popular Progressive with DJ Chris Craze, 3 a.m.-5:30 a.m., Floyd's, \$10 cover charge, \$4 drink specials. Complimentary admission if you bring in a current service industry paycheck stub.

DJ Maestro, 1 a.m.-4 a.m., Lobby Bar, no cover.

March 26
6th Annual Brides Against Breast Cancer: Name brand and designer gowns available for sale with all proceeds from this event will benefit the Making Memories Breast Cancer Foundation, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., in the Ballroom. For additional information please visit www.wyqk.com.

Acquiesce, 3 p.m.-7 p.m., Lobby Bar, no cover.

Ted Wray, 8 p.m.-1 a.m., Lobby Bar, no cover.

Element at Floyd's Late Night: Exclusive video hits of the past, present and future, 11 p.m.-2 a.m.

Sexy Vocal Breaks and Bass Heavy Tracks with DJ Jason Perez & Craze, 2 a.m.-5:30 a.m., Floyd's, \$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 & Saturday nights.

DJ Maestro, 1 a.m.-5 a.m., Lobby Bar, no cover.

March 27
Green Room Brunch with act TBA, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Green Room, \$19.99 for Player's Club and \$24.99 for non-members.

Seminole Paradise 2005 March Concert Schedule

Submitted by Sarah Macak, Bitner Goodman PR

HOLLYWOOD — Seminole Paradise, South Florida's Ultimate Entertainment District at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Hollywood, has announced its March 2005 schedule of free national and local recording artists as follows:

Performing as part of the Seminole Paradise Live! Concert Series: March 28-29 The B Street Band, A Tribute to "The Boss" Bruce Springsteen at 8 p.m. Considered to be the longest running tribute band in the world, the B Street Band, originally known as Back-streets, has performed for well over 10 million people and has

appeared on Late Night with Conan O'Brien and Howard Stern.

Local acts scheduled to appear throughout the month are: Sundays, March 6, 13, 20 and 27, Togetherness, Reggae, from 7-10 p.m., Wednesdays March 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 Los Amigos, Latin jazz and pop, from 7-11 p.m., Thursdays March 3, 10, 24 and 31 Light Up Hollywood with The Royal Insects, contemporary pop/rock, from 7-10 p.m., Fridays March 4, 11, 18 and 25 Billy Bones, contemporary sax, from 7-11 p.m. and Saturdays March 5, 12, 19 and 26 Smokin' Dance Party with local DJs, from 7-11 p.m.

All acts scheduled to appear at the Seminole Paradise Center Fountain.

Comedian Sinbad Performs at Hard Rock

Submitted by Alina Viera, Bitner Goodman PR

HOLLYWOOD — Tickets go on sale Friday March 4 for a performance by Sinbad at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. The show is slated for 8 p.m.; doors open at 7 p.m., one hour before each show. Sinbad never tells jokes—"I don't know any," he admits—but rather stalks the stage, telling real-life stories.

He received his break with Star Search in the mid-80s. Sinbad was never a winner, but good enough to get on the show seven times and become a finalist. That led to a TV movie and a role as Redd Foxx's son on The New Redd Foxx Show.

Tickets are \$50; seats are reserved and may be purchased at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Box Office, open Tuesday

through Saturday from noon to 7 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. Tickets also are available at all Ticketmaster outlets and online at www.ticketmaster.com. Charge by phone: Miami-Dade (305)358-5885, Broward (954) 523-3309, and Palm Beach (561) 966-3309. Tickets are available at Will Call two hours before the show.

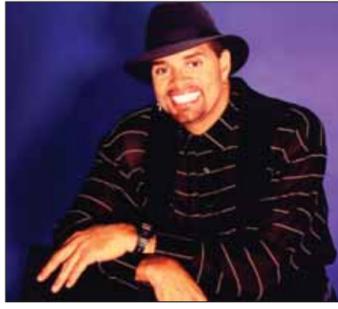


Photo submitted by Alina Viera
Sinbad takes on the Hard Rock.

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

Emergency Services Purchases AEDs

Submitted by Eva Cain

As part of the continuing expansion of services provided by the department of Emergency Services, 10 additional Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) were purchased and will be available for public use by individuals who have received proper training.

Due to the potential for sudden cardiac arrest to Tribal citizens, employees and visitors at the various reservations, the department of Emergency Services will provide ongoing training to those individuals who want to learn to operate these units.

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, there are 220,000 victims of sudden cardiac arrest annually in the U.S. and about 10,000 sudden cardiac arrests occur at work. Waiting for the arrival of emergency medical system personnel results in an only five to seven percent survival rate. Studies with immediate defibrillation have shown up to 60 percent survival one year after Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SAC).

The AED units will be placed in key Tribal facilities with priority given to the areas

with the most heavy, public traffic. Facility directors should submit in writing a request to the Emergency Services office for an AED unit.

An AED is used to treat victims who experience SAC. SAC is usually caused by an electrical malfunction that makes the heart quiver ineffectively, in which case, CPR is not enough. A lifesaving pulse of electricity, defibrillation, is the only treatment and must be delivered quickly to restore the heart's normal rhythm. It is only to be applied to victims who are unconscious, not breathing, and show no signs of circulation such as normal breathing, coughing and movement.

The AED analyses the heart rhythm and advises the operator if a shockable rhythm is detected. If a shockable rhythm is detected, the AED will charge to the appropriate energy level and advise the operator a shock is being delivered.

For more information, please contact the Emergency Services department at (863) 983-2150.



Health Department Offers Food Safety Classes

By Virginia Yarce, Environmental Health Program

Question: How do you get around a hazard that you can't see, smell or taste?
Answer: By taking a food safety certification class sponsored by the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Health department.

Not knowing the basics of food safety can make people sick. Abdominal cramps, nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea—you might call it the 24 hour flu, but it's more likely to come from a food that was improperly handled.

There are 76 million cases of food-borne illness in the U.S. annually. Most cases are mild; however, the importance of food safety training can't be emphasized enough. Food safety training ranks as a life-saver, because approximately 5,000 food-borne illness cases each year result in death.

Are you a candidate for food safety training? Try these questions on for size: If I have a cut on my finger, is it safe for me to handle food? The recipe says "marinate the meat on the counter overnight." Is this safe? Do raw eggs with unbroken shells contain bacteria? I send brown bag lunches with my kids to school. They are unrefrigerated for about four hours before lunch time. Could this make my kids sick? Is unpasteurized milk safe to drink?

If you want or need to know the answers to questions like these, you're definitely a candidate for one of our upcoming

food handler certification classes. Also, if you work in a restaurant or in food service on one of the reservations, and the Health department food inspector arrives, you'll be proud to show off your certificate. Every food handler is required to be certified every two years or the facility could be cited for a violation.

Food safety certification classes are offered free of charge to Tribal citizens and employees of restaurants owned by Tribal citizens on a quarterly and as needed basis. Restaurants located on the reservations may also have their employees attend if space is available. Special classes are also offered for temporary food vendors that have booths at fairs and festivals. Call the Environmental Health Program at (954) 962-2009 to find out when the next class will be held, or where you can take classes by other certifiers like ServSafe.

Classes usually last between two and three hours and have interesting dynamics like the "Glitterbug" that shows how hands aren't quite clean by making the residues glow in the dark. You won't want to miss the hand-glowing demos at the yearly health fair at the Tribal office in May, where you can meet the food inspectors in person and receive free food safety materials.

If you want the answers to the above food safety questions without waiting for the next class, e-mail the Tribal food inspector at hristuchepa@semtribe.com.



Seminole Children's Dental Health Month Poster Contest

Submitted by Kerri Cook, Seminole Dental Program

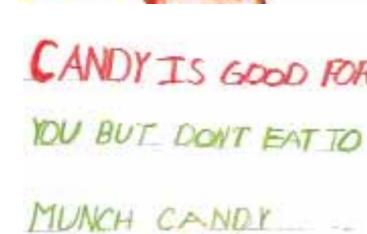
The Seminole Dental Program would like to congratulate the following students whose artwork was selected as the winners for the Seminole Children's Dental Health

Month Poster Contest.

Big Cypress: Katherine Bert, Leanna Brooks, Sabre Billie, Gloria Brooks, Candy Landin, Kaitlin Osceola and Silver Wolf, Immokalee: Alexis Aguilar and Starz Sanchez, Trail: Jennifer Holdiness, Katinna Jumper, and Alana Roberts.

The Seminole Dental Program would like to say a special thank you to Big Cypress student Mika Lopez, Immokalee students Julissa Juliann Arreguin, Nathaniel Jim, Selena Perez and Jillian Rodriguez and Trail student Darian Cypress-Osceola for their participation in the contest.

The artwork of the winners features in the soon-to-be-printed 2005-2006 Seminole Children's Dental Health Month Poster Calendar. All participants will receive a gift bag, compliments of the Seminole Dental Program.



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 Puentes, (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.

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

Seminole Pathway Celebrates Grand Opening

By Susan Etxebarria

BRIGHTON — The grand opening celebration to dedicate Seminole Pathway to New Hope, a new rehabilitation center that will serve Brighton residents, was held on Feb. 26 at the Brighton Rodeo Grounds. It was a great day of jubilation with national gospel bands and stars, rib and chicken dinners by Cleve Baker, guest speakers, booths and children's games.

The new rehab center will be operating under the auspices of the First Indian Baptist Church of Brighton and Pathways Community Church of Seminole County. The center's mission is to work with women who have drug and/or alcohol problems, as well as serve as a shelter for women who are victims of domestic abuse.

The center is located off the reservation on Highway 78 in nearby Lakeport, Fla. and will open with six beds. Brighton resident Billie Tiger, an alcoholism and drug counselor in training, has accepted the position as director of the center.

The facility, which includes six bedrooms, a kitchen, and living room was once a small quaint Baptist church serving the Lakeport community well until the congregation outgrew the space and built a larger one. The church was vacant for a number of years until the Tribe bought the property. It seems fitting that a place that was the vessel of many prayers over the years may soon be the answer to many people's prayers.

Gathered at the grand opening celebration were 125 members of Pathway and just as many guests from Brighton and local communities. Board President Moses Osceola also made an appearance. The band Master's Touch sang wonderful gospel songs as did two-time Grammy® winners and Indian Motown artist, writer and producer Tom and Vicki Bee of Red Sea Ministries. A Christian hip hop group from Tampa, Fla. called Prodigal Skillz also performed.



Susan Etxebarria
Pastor Wonder Johns (left) and Tribal officials, including President Moses B. Osceola (second from right) made it to the grand opening event.

Pastor Wonder Johns at First Indian Baptist has had concerns for Tribal citizens and their spouses afflicted by drug and alcohol addictions but his church did not have the finances or ability to support a rehabilitation program. Johns had considered utilizing the old church but said "it was in terrible shape and we had no idea how we were going to renovate it."

"The people at Pathway looked at the place and I thought they would scrap the whole thing," he said.

That was not the case.

The members of the Pathway congregation donated 2,200 man hours over an eight month period. Up to 75 members made countless trips to spend the day scraping, peeling, painting, pounding and whatever it took to get the facility ready. The members of Pathways have also made donations of money for the project. It was Pathways that paid for the grand opening.

Neither Johns, nor Pastor Bill Losasso of Pathways, knew one another but a momentous realization came to Losasso that led him to Johns' doorstep. Losasso, a recovering addict himself, says he heard the charge of an African American minister at a convention of pastors that "white" churches needed to be

more attentive to the needs of churches of other races and cultures.

He said the minister accused the 10,000 pastors at the Promise Keepers conference of "not doing their job" to overcome the cultural separation and lack of knowledge of each other's cultures. When he returned to his congregation he vowed to get his people involved in community outreach with minority groups.

Through a series of phone calls to many organizations, from the Southern Baptist Convention to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, asking whom he might talk to about his personal commitment to work with Native American congregations, John's name kept coming up. The two finally met last May, a productive exchange evolved, and the idea of renovating the old church resulted.

"This is the kind of thing we needed for a long time," said Johns. "Things are happening in the Lord's right time."

Now that all the work is done, the next step was to develop a treatment program, create procedures and policies. Director Billie Tiger said she is excited about the prospect of starting from scratch. Tiger made a commitment in her life to help alcoholics as she was once helped.

She is working now at Dunklin Memorial Rehab Center as a counselor. Dunklin has agreed to provide her with all the training and support she will need to manage the faith-based rehab for Brighton residents and Tribal citizens.

"I will be able to give hope and be an example to others that there is more to life than drugs and alcohol," said the 27-year-old Tiger. "I think this symbolizes a new beginning. The special aspect is the involvement you will have from the Tribal members."

Dear Counselor,
My wife is about to leave me. I am a 38 year old married man, with three children. I have been married for more than 12 years, and I truly love my wife and three daughters. I am addicted to crack cocaine. I have zero balance in my bank account. I am about to lose my job. I find myself increasingly paranoid.

My cocaine habit started as a weekend pleasure with my friends. My whole world is upside down. I promised my wife I would quit one day, and then I find myself in the crack house or running to the pawn shop the next day.

Please help me. Signed,
Desperate on the Reservation

Dear Desperate on the Reservation,
I am proud of you, for taking the first step on your road to recovery on your journey to remain drug free, you will discover that recovery is not a matter of chance; it is a matter of choice. Let me share with you, no matter what your past may have been, your future is spotless.

Your letter describes the heart break of cocaine abuse. Your entire family is being held hostage. Each year, millions of people seek therapy and receive professional help for a vast number of problems and issues. Your problem with cocaine is caused by its mind-altering effect.

The cycle quickly becomes obsessive. Cocaine works by stimulating the brain. Once ingested, cocaine quickly travels to the brain, which releases dopamine. Dopamine is a chemical that makes humans feel pleasure. However, unlike the natural release of dopamine cocaine prevents the brain from reabsorbing the chemical, which causes extreme euphoria.

Ask The Counselor



Basil Phillips
M.S. Mental Health Counseling

Letters of interest from the community

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

By stimulating the brain, cocaine also stimulates the digestive tract, cardiovascular system and the central nervous system. Frequently there is a preoccupation with or compulsive need to take this powerful stimulant thus becoming a chronic abuser. The obsession overrides everything family, friend, careers and money.

An individual who uses cocaine believes they can hide their addiction. However, the obvious physical signs soon become noticeable. Cocaine users typically have runny noses, frequently upper respiratory infections and severe mood swings during cocaine's cycle of euphoria followed by severe depression typically reinforce its use.

I encourage you to contact and make an appointment with the Family Services department, where there is a variety of treatments available for cocaine abuse. The initial phase is detoxification and total abstinence. The agencies aim is for the patient to have total withdrawal with the least possibility and physical and minimal psychological discomfort.

Signed,
Counselor

Facts from the American Heart Association

*64.4 million Americans have some form of cardiovascular disease (CVD). This includes diseases of the heart, stroke, high blood pressure, congestive heart failure, congenital cardiovascular defects, hardening of the arteries and other circulatory system.

*It's estimated that about 30 percent of non-Hispanic white men and 24 percent of non-Hispanic white women have cardiovascular disease. Among non-Hispanic blacks, about 41 percent of men and 40 percent of women have CVD.

*Americans paid about \$368 billion in 2004 for CVD-related medical costs and disability.

*To learn more visit:
<http://www.americanheart.org>.



Susan Etxebarria
Seminole Pathways Director Billie Tiger (right) talks to a member of the Pathways Community Church.

❖ Heart

Continued from page 1

but I found out about it a little bit too late," McDuffie, Community Outreach Liaison with the Seminole Health department, said. "We wanted to participate because we have heart problems in our tribe too. That's the reason we want to help raise funds for the heart association."

In addition to McDuffie, Tribal Health Director Connie Whidden, Allied Health Manager Suzanne Davis, Special Events Coordinator Helene Buster also attended the Broward County Heart Walk.

The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino provided the T-shirts for Team Seminole, but sponsorship was through the Tribe and President Moses Osceola's Office this year, McDuffie said.

In addition to the Hard Rock, many other corporations sponsored teams that had their own tents setup with free T-shirts and water for thirsty walkers. A large percentage of the monies raised stay right in South Florida, going to fund cardiovascular research at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Medical Center's Miami Heart Institute.

Team Seminole will also participate in the March of Dimes Walk America walk in Okeechobee, Fla. on March 19.



Seminole Edition | Black_H2_2004_22 Passenger



Independence Edition | Pewter_H2_2004_25 Passenger



Tribal Edition | White_H2_2004_22 Passenger



Liberty Edition | Pearl White_Escalade_2004_27 Passenger



Freedom Edition | Black_H2_2004_25 Passenger



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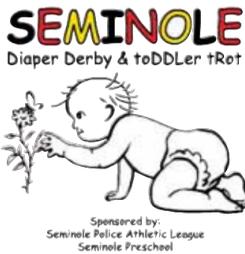
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The Diaper Derby & Toddler Trot

Submitted by Sgt. Al Signore, SPD
BIG CYPRESS — 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, chubbier 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.

Community Awareness Program on Street Drugs

By Judy Weeks
IMMOKALEE — The Seminole Police Department and Family Services department combined their efforts in a presentation at the Immokalee Gym on Feb. 17. The topic of the evening was Community Awareness on Street Drugs. Seminole Police Department Officer Laura Herran introduced Family Services Director Crissie Carter, Addictions Program Administrator Eric Bricker and Mental Health Counselor Basil Phillips as the speakers and consultants for the evening.



Judy Weeks
Family Services staff members including Director Crissie Carter (right) and Basil Phillips (center) and SPD's Laura Herran assisted with the street drug seminar.

more deaths than all the others combined. These deaths resulted from health deterioration, drunk driving, suicide and violence. Bricker said many people disregard the occasional or recreational use of drugs as unimportant. The strong addictive properties of heroin and cocaine were used as an example. Bricker discussed a study involving rats and cocaine. He said the rat became addicted after one use, learned to manipulate a lever to administer the drug and eventually starved to death in a cage filled with food. He also displayed drug paraphernalia such as glass stems, pipes and filters which are readily available at many convenience stores. He said these items are probably tell-tale signs of a user and encouraged the audience to seek assistance if they find such paraphernalia. The Family Services department on each reservation will offer immediate confidential help. The Seminole Police Department is available 24 hours a day in their effort to care for the Tribe and Tribal communities.

A table was prepared to display the various drugs, over the counter packaging and paraphernalia. Bricker welcomed interaction from the audience and encouraged questions. He identified the tell-tale signs of a drug user and stressed immediate intervention by family and friends who suspect abuse before the situation becomes unmanageable. He also addressed each drug in common use individually, discussing its physical and mental affects on the body as well as addictive qualities. Alcohol, probably the most widely used drug, is responsible for

Fire Fighters Respond to Call for Assistance

Submitted by Eva Cain, Public Information Officer
HENDRY COUNTY, FL — The Seminole Tribe of Florida's firefighters were the first to arrive on scene after receiving a call for assistance from Hendry County. Firefighters were dispatched to Thomas' Produce located on County Road 833 where they found rolls of plastic and a tractor trailer engulfed in flames. Thanks to the efforts of Fire Fighters Joshua Bauer, Ira Goodstadt, and Lieutenant Tim Lanham the fire was extinguished with no structural damage.



Eva Cain
Lieutenant Tim Lanham gets the blaze under control.

SEMINOLE POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION

SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION

APRIL 4, 2005
7:00 P.M.
SEMINOLE TRIBAL AUDITORIUM

PRESENTED BY:

OFFICER HENRI SUISSA, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who possesses a Master Degree in Clinical Social Work and Psychology and has substantial experience in treating, working, and dealing with issues of rape, incest and molestation. Officer Suissa's experience in Social Work and Law Enforcement is a unique blend that enables him to comprehend the dynamics that are involved with victimization; criminal procedure and treatment. Officer Suissa has over 13 years of experience in Social Work and Law Enforcement that allows him to be informative and comprehending to the sensitive issue of rape.

DETECTIVE STEVE LOPEZ, possess a Master Degree in Criminal Justice with an emphasis in Public Administration from Florida International University. Detective Lopez is a college instructor at Keiser college teaching criminal justice and mentoring college students. Detective Lopez has 7 years of Law Enforcement work and as a Detective, Steve Lopez has a wide range of experience in investigating, case filing and prosecuting perpetrators of Sex Crimes. His ability to recognize, identify, and work with victims of Sex Crimes is a tremendous asset that the Seminole Police Department possesses.



Adelsa Williams
Seminole kids gather to check out the home made go-cart brought in by Officer Scott Burke.

❖ Club

Continued from page 1

North then introduced guest speaker Leatrice "Chick" Big Crow, Executive Director of the SuAnne Big Crow Boys & Girls Club on the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota. "Today is a beautiful day and not only physically, but is beautiful in my heart because the Boys & Girls club will be serving more kids in Indian country," said Big Crow. "Thank you to everybody for working together and think of the children because like I said, it takes a whole Tribe to raise one child." Big Crow is the mother of the late SuAnne Big Crow who was tragically killed in a car accident. It was SuAnne's dream to build what she called "Happytown"—a place where young people could learn and be safe from drugs and alcohol, violence and gangs. After SuAnne's passing, her dreams came true as the Boys & Girls Club of America opened the first club in Indian Country, dedicated in SuAnne's name.



Adelsa Williams
SPD Chief Mike Floyd gave a speech recognizing this BSO detective for his commitment to the Boys & Girls Club.

Currently there are more than 184 Boys & Girls Clubs in Indian Country, Native Alaskan and Native Hawaiian communities. The Seminole Tribe of Florida's being one of 21 clubs in progress. Another special guest speaker was Lorraine Orr of the National Boys & Girls Club of America, representing the National Boys & Girls Club of America's headquarters, located in Atlanta, Ga. Orr presented Max Osceola with the Boys & Girls Club of America's most prestigious award, the Helping Hand award. The award is given to individuals who go beyond the call of duty and work tirelessly to help start a Boys & Girls Club. "Every time I meet this gentleman I walk

for, we're here for you and that's what we're doing today, we said we needed to change something and we established the Boys & Girls Club." Vice President of Development from the Boys & Girls Club of Sarasota County Doug Kerr said a few words congratulating the Seminole Tribe of Florida for being the first Native Boys & Girls Club in the state of Florida. He also shared a story about a young girl in his area that chose to go to the arts and crafts class instead of a street fight where the other two inviting friends died in result of the fight. She said to him "If it wasn't for the arts and crafts teacher at the Boys & Girls Club, I would be dead too."

In closing Kerr said, "Do we change lives, yes. Can we save lives, yes. Because of people like you and because of history like the history of Seminole Indians that need to be shared with other children in the state of Florida." Osceola gave the ceremonies' closing remarks by first and foremost thanking everyone that helped make possible this project successful, especially to Robert and Josephine North. He presented Josephine North with a Pioneer Award in appreciation for her time and spirit. The enlightening day capped off with a few special law enforcement presentations by the SPD. All who attended, especially the children enjoyed a staged school bus hijacking situation that was handled by the actual Seminole emergency response team, best known in other law enforcement agencies as the SWAT team. The children cheered as the team apprehended the bad guy. There were also mini police cars that attracted the attention of the kids as well as the K-9 officer, which everyone made a line to pet.



Adelsa Williams
(L-R) "Chick" Big Crow, Max B. Osceola and Jo North stand together during Big Crow's speech about her late daughter.

away inspired because of his commitment and passion for the Seminole youth," Orr said. "He took the time to travel our country and look at other Boys & Girls clubs on Native American lands and came back and said he needs the same type of program for his young people. His leadership and passion is just contagious and we at Boys & Girls Club of America appreciate him. He serves on our National Native American advisory committee and it is our honor to present this award to him today." Even though not in attendance, Orr presented the same award to General Counsel for the Seminole Tribe Jim Shore. SPD Chief Mike Floyd gave brief speech and recognized one of his officers on staff and one of the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) detectives for their involvement with the Boys & Girls club. "This is long time coming," said Floyd. "It is an honor to be a partner with the Boys & Girls Club." Family Services department Director Crissie Carter also took stage and presented the Boys & Girls Club with an oil painting of young Osceola for display in their facility. Arrayed in Traditional Seminole wear, Tribal citizen Herbie Jim from the Seminole language and culture department rapped up the ceremonies with an impressive speech.



Adelsa Williams
After watching the show (L-R) Robbi and McKenzie Sherman greet K-9 Officer Tyson who is being held by his partner Officer Steve Casserly.

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

Rodeo Queens Crowned at Annual Event

By Tabitha Osceola
BRIGHTON — On Feb. 18 three young ladies were preparing to compete against each other for the crown and title of Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) Rodeo Queen and EIRA Junior Rodeo Queen. The contestant running for EIRA Rodeo Queen was Shelby Osceola, a Hollywood resident and the daughter of William and Tabitha Osceola. The contestants running for EIRA Junior Rodeo Queen were Heather Peterson, a member of the Big Town Clan, daughter of Bob and Loretta Peterson and Sheyanna Osceola, a Hollywood resident, the daughter of William and Tabitha Osceola.

The contestants were required to write an essay and a biography. They also had to go through an interview with the judges where they were asked questions pertaining to rodeo and Seminole traditions. The final test was a horsemanship competition, where each contestant was required to ride two different horses through a pattern and they were judged on how well they were able to handle the horses. After all the competition was done the girls were treated to a lunch.

The rodeo competition started with the little kids. Courtney Gore made a fantastic calf ride to win the calf riding event and Dayne Johns won the junior breakaway with a fast time of 5.1 seconds.

After the kids' events, EIRA Secretary Boogie Jumper talked to the crowd about the three young ladies who competed for queen earlier in the day. Jumper mentioned how tough the competition was and that all the girls did a fine job; then she announced the winners. Shelby Osceola was the new EIRA Rodeo Queen and Sheyanna Osceola was the new EIRA Junior Rodeo Queen. The crowns were passed to the new queens and flowers were given to all the contestants.

Seminole President Moses Osceola spoke to the crowd and congratulated all the young ladies.

The sanctioned events got started with the bareback competition were Shawn Best Sr. made an outstanding ride for a score of 71. The calf roping



Rodeo Queen Shelby Osceola

Tabitha Osceola

was very competitive, but Preston Williams from Arizona took first place with a time of 9.66 seconds. Sydney Gore and Norman Johns were the champs for the night in the team roping and Shelby Osceola walked away with first place in the barrel racing.

Non-Sanctioned Events
Mutton Bustin: 1. Jobe Johns, 2. Joel Puente, 3. Donovan Tiger
Pony Riding: 1. Timothy Bearden, 2. Thomas Bearden
Calf Riding: 1. Courtney Gore, 2. Frank Huff, 3. Andre Jumper, 4. Kelton Smedley, 5. Kenny Descheene

Barrels: 4-8-years-old: 1. Acealyn Youngblood, 2. Kalgary Johns, 3. Kelton Smedley, 4. Courtney Gore, 5. Blevins Jumper; 9-12-years-old: 1. Zane Duchenaux, 2. Nauthkee Henry, 3. JJ Johns, 4. Janae Braswell; 13-18-years-old: 1. Hilliard Gopher, 2. Ethan Gopher.
Jr. Bull Riding: 1. Garrett Anderson, 2. Adam Phillips, 3. Dayne Johns.

Jr. Breakaway: 1. Dayne Johns, 2. Hilliard Gopher, 3. Randel Osceola.
Jr. Bareback: 1. Seth Randolph, 2. Jacoby Johns.
50+ Breakaway: 1. Moses Jumper Jr., 2. Rudy Osceola, 3. Billie Joe Johns.

Sanctioned Events
Bareback: 1. Shawn Best. **Steer Wrestling:** 1. Terry Fisher, 2. Sydney Gore, 3. Alex Johns.

Saddle Bronc: 1. Robert Youngblood, 2. Shawn Best.
Calf Roping: 1. Preston Williams, 2. Naha Jumper, 3. Kyle Dennison, 4. Happy Jumper
Breakaway Roping: 1. Billie Tiger, 2. Tess Duchenaux, 3. Shelby Osceola, 4. Boogie Jumper.

Team Roping: 1. Sydney Gore/Norman Johns, 2. Billie Joe Johns/Rudy Osceola, 3. Terry Fisher/Terry Doka, 4. Moses Jumper/Alfonso Tigertail, 5. Preston Williams/Stitches Stanley.

Barrel Racing: 1. Shelby Osceola, 2. Clarissa Bowers, 3. Tess Duchenaux, 4. Boogie Jumper.

Bull Riding: 1. Shawn Best.

Swamp Cabbage Festival EIRA Rodeo

Tabitha Osceola
LABELLE, FL — Just one week after the 67th Annual Brighton Field Day Rodeo, the cowboys and cowgirls were prepared to compete again.

Josh Johns rode his steer for a full six seconds to win the steer riding competition with a score of 73 and Shyla Jones had a nice barrel run to win the 13-18 barrels competition. Steer wrestling was won by Naha Jumper with a time of 5.34 seconds, but Robbie Chalfant wasn't far behind with a time of 5.84 seconds. Billie Tiger won the ladies breakaway in 3.67 seconds and Shelby Osceola was only one-tenth of a second behind Tiger.

Big Cypress will host the next EIRA rodeo on March 19 with the kids events starting at 6 p.m. and the sanctioned events at 8 p.m.

Non-Sanctioned Events
Mutton Bustin: 1. Jobe Johns, 2. Dovovan Tiger, 3. Reed Gopher.
Pony Riding: 1. William Bearden, 2. Timothy Bearden.
Calf Riding: 1. Blevins Jumper, 2. Zane Duchenaux, 3. Kenny Descheene, 4. Frank Huff.
Jr. Bareback: 1. Jacoby Johns, 2. Seth Randolph.
Steer Riding: 1. Josh Johns, 2. Andrew Holmes.
Jr. Bull Riding: 1. Dayne Johns, 2. Garrett

Anderson.
Jr. Breakaway: No qualified times.
Barrels: 4-8-years-old: 1. Acealyn Youngblood, 2. Kalgary Johns, 3. Blevins Jumper, 4. Jobe Johns, 5. Ahnny Jumper; 9-12-years-old: 1. Nauthkee Henry, 2. Zane Duchaux, 3. Janae Braswell, 4. Andre Jumper; 13-18-years-old: 1. Shyla Jones, 2. Hilliard Gopher.
50 & Over Breakaway: 1. Amos Tiger, 2. Billie Joe Johns, 3. Parker Jones.

Sanctioned Events
Bareback: 1. Shawn Best, 2. Adam Turtle.

Steer Wrestling: 1. Naha Jumper, 2. Robbie Chalfant, 3. Josh Jumper.

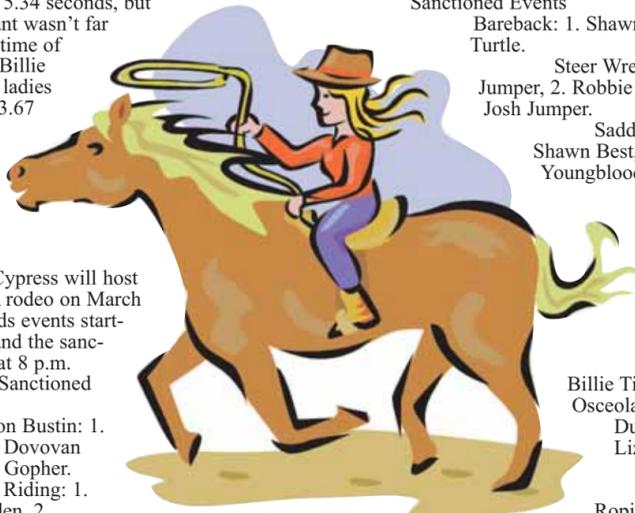
Saddle Bronc: 1. Shawn Best, 2. Robert Youngblood.

Calf Roping: 1. Naha Jumper, 2. Happy Jumper.

Breakaway: 1. Billie Tiger, 2. Shelby Osceola, 3. Tess Duchenaux, 4. Lizzie Dixie.

Team Roping: 1. John McCabe/Rodney Osceola, 2. Billie Tiger/Amos Tiger, 3. Sydney Gore/Norman Johns, 4. Justin Gopher/Hilliard Gopher.

Barrels: 1. Tess Duchenaux, 2. Boogie Jumper, 3. Azye Henry, 4. LeAnna Billie.
Bull Riding: 1. (tie) Koty Brough, Shawn Best Sr., 3. Justin Gopher.



Tentative 2005 EIRA Rodeo Schedule

March
Junior Cypress Memorial Rodeo
 Big Cypress, Fla., March 19
 Kids rodeo at 6 p.m. — Sanctioned rodeo at 8 p.m.

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

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, 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.



Junior Rodeo Queen Sheyanna Osceola

Tabitha Osceola

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Seminole Gymnasts Shine at Competition

By Kenny Bayon

ST. PETERSBURG, FL — The 17th Annual Gasparilla Gymnastics Classic was a showcase for the Seminole Tribal girls and gave us a glimpse of the future. One of the largest gymnastics meets held in the U.S., this year's meet included more than 2,100 female gymnasts representing 11 states. The event was held in the 50,000 seat Tropicana Field on Feb. 25-27.

Since the competition has gymnasts from different levels, it gave the gymnasts in the lower levels a chance to see the more experienced gymnasts compete. The Seminole girls gave it their all and represented the tribe with grace and dignity. All of the girls were always smiling even if they made a mistake and showed that they will be a factor for years to come. All of the girls competed for Flairs Gymnastics in Davie, Fla., with the exception of Raevin Frank who competed for the Orlando Metro.

The highlights of the competition were: a first place finish by Braudie Blais-Billie in the vault with an amazing 9.4 out of 10, a spectacular balance beam showing by Brittany Leah Cox that was good enough for a first place finish with a score of 9.6, Anissa Osceola kept up with the trend and tied for first place on the vault with a score of 9.05, and Raevin Frank was just as amazing with a second place finish in the vault with a dazzling 9.5.

Braudie Blais-Billie, 11, Level 4a. She finished tied in sixth place in the floor exercise and seventh in the bars with a 7.825 and ninth on the beam with an 8.3. This gave her a sixth place in the all-around with a total of 34.175.

Anissa Osceola, 8, Level 3a. Osceola finished in ninth place in the floor exercise with a score of 8.25, 10th on the bars with a score of 8.2 and a sixth on the beam with a score of 8.9, which gave her an all-around score of 34.4 and a seventh place finish.

Raevin Frank, 7, Level 3c. She had a 15th place finish in the floor exercise with a score of 8.325, 16th on the bars with a score of 8.875 and a seventh on the beam with a score of 9.075, giving her an all-around score of 35.975 and a sixth place finish.

Brittany Leah Cox, 9, Level 3a. Cox took seventh on the vault with a score of 8.95, 10th on the bars with a score of 8.825, 17th in the floor exercise with a score of 8.325 and eighth all-around with a score of 35.7.

Tia Blais-Billie, 9, Level 4a. She placed ninth in the floor exercise with score of 8.35, 13th on the vault

with a score of 8.7, 13th on bars with a score of 7.675 and a 13th on beam with a score of 7.625, which gave her an all-around score of 32.35 and a 13th place finish.

Anahna Sirota, 13, Level 3a. Sirota had an amazing second place finish on vault with a 9.45, seventh place finish in floor exercise with a score of 8.55, ninth on bars with an 8.675, ninth on the beam with an 8.3, and an all-around score of 34.975 and a seventh place finish.

Leisset Baker, 7, Level 2a. She came in eighth in floor exercise with a score of 8.9, seventh in the vault with a score of 9.1, eighth on the bars with an 8.275 and a ninth on beam with a score of 8.45, and a seventh place finish all-around with a score of 34.725.

Mariah Bowers, 5, Level 2a. She placed 16th in floor exercise with a 7.4, 12th on vault with an 8.8, 12th on bars with a 7.175 and a 12th on beam with a score of 8.45, giving her an all-around score of 31.625 and a 13th place finish.

Natomah Robbins, 5, Level 2a. Robbins had a 15th place finish in floor exercise, scoring 8.1, 15th place on the vault with an 8.7, 13th on bars with a 6.3 and a 11th place on beam with an 8.45, which gave her an all-around score of 34.725 and a 13th place finish.

Ashley Osceola, 5, Level 2a. She placed 12th in floor exercise with an 8.475, 11th on vault with a score of 8.85, 16th on bars with a 4.75 and a 14th on beam with a 7.9, giving her an all-around score of 29.975 and a 15th place finish.

Carson Knaby, 6, Level 2a. She came in 13th in floor exercise with an 8.4, 13th on vault with an 8.9, 14th on bars with a 7.6 and a 13th on beam with a score of 8.15, her an all-around score was 33.05 and she placed 14th.

Audriahana Sirota, 5, Level 2b. She finished 13th in floor exercise with an 8.2, 15th on vault with an 8.75, 14th on bars with a 6.275 and a 16th on beam with a 6.75, which gave her an all-around score of 29.925 and a 16th place finish.



Anissa Osceola placed sixth on the balance beam.



Though Anissa Osceola placed 10th on the bars, she finished seventh overall.

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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

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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 & Praline
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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- 100000 SUNSHINE
- 1000 WATT BEAR AIR & HEAT
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Simmons Wins High School District Wrestling Championship

By Kenny Bayon
TAMPA — Seminole Tribal citizen Clayton Simmons won the District 7-Region 2A High School Championship in the 215 pound weight class. Weighing only 190 pounds, the first year varsity wrestler wanted to make his family proud by doing something his famous brother Keith Mitchell Simmons couldn't do and win a District Championship his sophomore year.

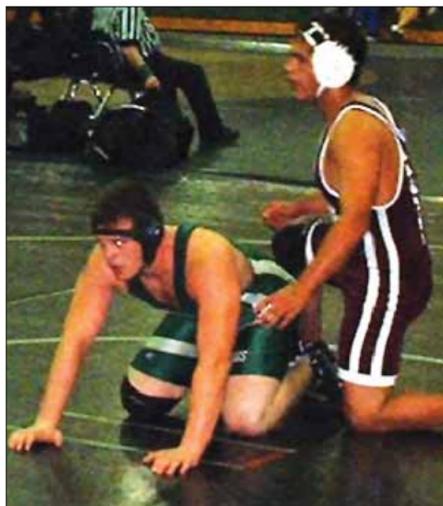
His first match was against an opponent from Middleton High School. Simmons started the match with a quick take-down and then applied a half-nelson to put his opponent on his back and finished it with a pin at the 1:20 mark of the match.

The final match was Simmons' toughest task, facing his rival from East Bay High School for the championship. He was already at a disadvantage: the tournament was held at East Bay High School.

Simmons started the match off with a takedown as he denied a single leg and countered it by scoring two points. He rode out the rest of the period.

During the second period, Simmons scored an escape and the two wrestlers were unsuccessful from there on and scored again in the period. In the third period, he put on a powerful bear hug to put his opponent on the mat and nearly pinned him.

"I guess the home field ended up not being a factor," Simmons said. "My goal now is to go on to the State Championships in Lakeland, [Fla.]"



Clayton Simmons (right) at 2005 Regionals.

To meet that goal, Simmons would have to go to Lakeland for the 2-2A Regional Championships and place in the top four for the chance at the state title. His first match was a forfeit, which meant he would have to win his next match for the chance at the semi-finals. Going up against senior Ken Ellis from Lake Region High School, Simmons was not on his game and lost a tough 6-3 decision.

His next match was against Bradley Myrick of Fort Pierce Central High

School. After a scoreless first period, Simmons showed real quickness by bringing Myrick to the mat with a swift double leg takedown to take a 3-0 lead. After giving his opponent an escape, Simmons took him down again to take a 5-1 lead.

In the third period, Simmons put on a cradle clinic as he put Bradley on his back numerous times with inside and outside cradles to give him the commanding lead and a trip to the next round.

His next opponent was against John Taylor of Wharton High School. The first period was scoreless as both wrestlers were unsuccessful at any attempts. The second period saw Taylor do a standing switch to get two reverse points. He rode Simmons out to end the period and took a 2-0 lead.

The third period was where the weight advantage really took its toll on the young Seminole Warrior as he escaped to cut the lead to one point, but didn't have enough gas in his tank to pull out the victory. He was just one match away from going to the state championships.

After a 24-11 record and a district championship under his belt, Simmons knows the future is going to be bright.

"I want to commit myself this summer to be the best that I can be," he said. "Right now, I'm a bit disappointed in not going to states but its just going to make me that much more hungrier."

Knowing the bloodline of this promising and dedicated young athlete, the sky's the limit.

Seminole High School Student Pushes Team to Victory

By Kenny Bayon
FT. LAUDERDALE, FL — On Feb. 12, Seminole Tribal citizen Jerome Davis of Hollywood led the Boyd Anderson High School Cobras to victory against Cypress Bay High School in the Broward County Championships.

Boyd Anderson, the number 1 ranked 6A high school in Florida, was 20-2 coming into the game, but they found themselves in a tight game going into halftime with only a 31-28 lead. The beginning of the second half was the "Jerome Davis Show," as he lit the fire back into his team by scoring six out of the first 10 points and the Cobras never looked back.

Earlier in the tournament, Davis was unable to play in the first game due to sickness. The next game was a match up against one of the top teams in the area, Flanagan High School. The school has top Florida recruit Adrian Thomas, who has signed to play for the University of Miami. While nursing the ailment, Jerome played sparingly yet still made a few contributions to help Boyd Anderson escape with an overtime victory.

His best was still to come as he started the game against Cypress Bay still feeling the after affects of his sickness. Before the game, Davis said he always wanted to play in the Broward County Big Eight champi-

onship and that nothing would prevent him from playing.

The second half started with Davis backing down top five area player Eni Cuka, who has signed to play for Niagara University, and drawing his third foul. After he made one of two free throws, Cypress Bay missed a bucket and Davis grabbed the defensive rebound and hit a three point basket. Two possessions later, he received the ball in the wing, drove to the basket and made a double reverse lay-up to cap his run and put the game away for the championship.

The six-foot-three junior shooting guard transferred from American Heritage High School to Boyd Anderson to broaden his basketball skills and play at a bigger school.

"I never doubted my skills, I just wanted a chance to show everyone what I can do," said Jerome "I love my new school and I'm very happy about my decision."

Next on deck is the District Championship, where Boyd Anderson is 8-0 and looking for a chance to win a State Championship.

"Winning the Big Eight was huge for my team but winning a State Championship would be my ultimate dream," said Davis. "We want to take it one step at a time. Win districts and then take it one game at a time."

Annual March Madness Basketball Tournament

By Kenny Bayon
HOLLYWOOD — The Tenth Annual March Madness Tournament put on by Richard Osceola and hosted by the Hollywood Seminole Recreation department was a brilliant success as 15 teams vied for the chance to be crowned champion in this open event.

Teams from neighboring counties, such as Dade, Broward, Leon and Collier made it a point to participate in this prestigious tournament, which was held from March 3-5. The three day event included a DJ with the latest dance tunes, good food, a three point contest, won by Quentin Jackson, and a dunk contest, won by Marvin "The Sky" Walker.

After many overtime games including the two games that were essentially the semifinals to enter the main event. The final game pitted the famous Canes, which entered the game undefeated, against Two-Legit, the defending champions. Two-Legit came all the way back from the loser's bracket after falling in their first

game on Thursday. The Canes were missing starters, among them, Amos Huggins who was recovering from an injury he suffered during the Canes' first round game. The game started out tight as both teams were playing intense defense such as a double block shot by Charlie Frye. The second defensive highlight was when Frye literally grabbed the ball with both hands from the shooter. After a scoreless three minutes, Two-Legit's Terrance Shelman made a nice jump-shot to score the game's first basket.

A powerful turnaround by Frye tied the game at six all. After exchanging baskets, Two-Legit went on a 5-0 run triggered by Paul Jones only to see the Canes come storming back with the help of Joe Prue's consecutive three point baskets and a strong basket by Frye, in which he was fouled and made the free throw to take a 19-13 lead.

After Paul Jones hit a three to cut the lead to three, the Canes took off with the help of back to back lay-ups by Carlos

Adamson and a driving reverse dunk by Prue to ignite the crowd and take a commanding 27-16 lead. After a three pointer by Two-Legit's David Watts, the Canes lit it up with a lay-up by Gene Wolf, a lay-up and free throws by Tony Heard and a reverse lay-up by Prue in traffic while the buzzer sounded to give the Canes a 41-26 halftime lead. The second half leading scorers were Prue of the Canes with 14 points and Two-Legit's Paul Jones with 10.

The second half begun with a perfect give and go between Frye and Wolf to start out the scoring followed by a driving double pump reverse lay-up by Heard. Neal Wright of Two-Legit helped cut the deficit to a 49-34 score.

Tournament MVP Tony Heard of the Canes began motoring though the defense with lay-ups and a sensational turnaround jumper to extend the lead to 24 points. Heard's 17 second half points, he scored a team high 27 points, that propelled the Canes to win the Tenth Annual March Madness tournament by a 71-47 score.



Jerome Davis, #32 (left), shoots for the 3-pointer.

Kenny Bayon

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Brighton Field Days ❖ Taal-Choob-ayooke Tapehkeeke ❖ Tarakkvlkv Tokvlketv

School Children Learn Seminole Ways at 'School Days'



Susan Etzebarria

Tribal citizen Mary Jene Koenes explains the construction of a chickee to the students.

By Susan Etzebarria

BRIGHTON — At least 30 big yellow school buses transported over 1,200 enthusiastic students, their energized teachers and teachers' aides, to the 67th Annual Field Day: Seminole Arts & Crafts Festival & PRCA Rodeo on Feb. 18. Kids descended in hordes at the admission gate in gleeful expectation. It was School Days, the traditional day for one of the best field trips in South Florida.

Each year, students are invited to the Brighton Reservation so they can learn about Seminole culture and be inspired by the multitude of Native American arts and crafts, dance and drums. Like every year, kids dominated the landscape, running to and fro, there was so much to do and see. Little do the kids know about the special efforts it takes by Tribal citizens and staff that work so hard to

produce this extraordinary event.

On their first day performing their official duties, the newly crowned Brighton Princess Stephanie Smith, 15, and Brighton Junior Princess Sheila Jones, acted as competent goodwill ambassadors for the Tribe by greeting the students who came for the day. The poised young ladies walked about the grounds and spoke to curious students who asked questions about their traditional Seminole clothing.

Tenth grader Richard Loftis, a Moore Haven High School student, said it was the first time he has seen traditional Seminole clothes.

"Seminole people have a unique way of living," he said. "But, I wouldn't want to wear Indian costumes like the Aztec dancers. It's too hot."

A few fascinated students from Lake Worth, Fla.'s Trinity Christian School reached out over the

railings of the bleachers in the stage area trying to touch the scary-looking snakes exhibited during the popular animal show. A few students lucky enough to have the latest gadgets in technology were taking photos of the snakes with their cell phone cameras. One of them was William Donahue, a fourth grader at Trinity.

"The alligator and the panther are pretty cool," he said. "We got to touch a python." However, a few of the more intimidated younger kids scrambled to the back of the bleachers when snake-handler Jeremy Possman brought his venomous king cobra out of the box. While some teachers watched from a distance and let the kids go on their own, showing a high level of trust in the kids and the Tribe, others escorted their groups around to the different activities.

One teacher tried to keep his group of students from a Jupiter, Fla. school together. It was their first time to the reservation. The teens were curious about Seminole patchwork jackets at one booth and beaded jewelry at another.

When his students stopped at the cooking chickee for a free sample of fry bread they got another treat. Tribal citizen Mary Jene Koenes stepped out of the smoky chickee where she had just been visiting the two cooks, Nancy Billie and Ruth Osceola. She explained to the youth how the fry bread was made the old way and the tradition of the chickee.

The students tasted the delicious fry bread prompting one grinning kid to say "It tastes like a donut!" Teachers had very positive things to say about the festival. Pat Ringstaff of Moore Haven High School said she really likes bringing her students to the festival year after year.

"Here they can see tradition in a culture," Ringstaff said. "Tradition is a long lost thing with kids. This culture is beautiful to me because of the Seminole bond with nature."



Susan Etzebarria

(L-R) Brighton Miss Stephanie Smith and Jr. Miss Sheila Jones educate students about the Seminoles.



Susan Etzebarria

Brighton Council Representative Roger Smith waves to the crowd.

❖ Festival

Continued from page 1

marily of Florida tourists. The teacher explained some of the Tribe's wonderful programs and achievements, including the Cattle and Range operations, Seminole 4-H, Community Care for the Elderly, Culture and Education. Youths driving their ATVs in the parade were a new addition this year and the seniors in wheelchairs received an extra applause from the crowd. Cattle owners, rodeo queens, princesses and Tribal officials riding their prized horses into the arena added just the right touch.

The judging of the floats resulted in the following winners: 1. Community Care for the Elderly, 2. Brighton Princess Stephanie Smith, 3. Brighton Recreation department, 4. Seminole 4-H and 5. The Board of Directors.

Entertainment throughout the day was both colorful and fun. Johnny U, the smooth-voiced cowboy singer from Idaho, rode his horse into the arena, got close up to the audience sitting in the bleachers and crooned old time favorites while sitting in his saddle. The thrills of watching the alligator wrestlers and snake handlers drew a crowd every time they appeared in the show arena.

The Aztec Dancers and the Bird Chopper Dancers and Singers pleased the crowds as they do every year with the announcing by Ric Bird, a Cherokee of North Carolina, whose

camp were the entries in the Arts & Crafts Contest. These were authentic handmade crafts, many of them Seminole dress skirts and dress shirts. But, there was a variety of crafts and many submissions.

It wasn't easy for the judges to choose the best when so many were good. The results of the judging were, as follows: 1. Lottie Huff, clothes, 2. Martha Jones, doll, 3. Lorraine Posada, basket, 4. Joe B. Osceola, woodcarving and 5. Jenine Cypress, patchwork.

One of the most impressive segments of the festival is the Seminole Clothing Contest. The number of entries was outstanding, with many more baby entries this year than previous years. The arena was aglow with the color of the costumes. The audience was transfixed by the cultural display. The competition, as usual, is divided into various age categories and different styles.

Many people came to the festival just to see the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) Rodeo Saturday or Sunday which featured the best talent in bronc riding, bulldogging, roping, barrel racing, bull riding and wild horse racing. A special star this year was the three time saddle bronc world champion Monty "Hawkeye" Henson.

The entire week leading up to the festival was also a very busy one for Tribal citizens who participated in activities including: a bowling tournament, pool tournament, golf tournament, pole peeling and an archery contest, a community supper and Brighton Princess contest, a 6 a.m. walk on Friday morning, and the Friday night Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) Rodeos and crowning of the Rodeo Queens.



Susan Etzebarria

Community Care for the Elderly (CCE) won the float competition.



Emma Brown

❖ Miss Brighton

Continued from page 1

and Kristina Osceola. Brighton Miss contestants were: Stephanie Smith and Reba Osceola.

Then, it was off stage to change for the modeling category in which each contestant was judged on their traditional clothing and overall appearance. While the contestants were preparing for the modeling portion of the competition, Brighton Board Representative Johnny Jones came up to wish each of the contestants good luck.

The talent category has evolved from being open to any talent to now being traditional talents only, which allows each contestant the opportunity to learn and share their culture with others. The talents were amazing, and ranged from demonstrations on how to make sweet grass baskets to a few contestants demonstrating their native Creek language. This segment of the pageant is always the most difficult for judges, because each contestant's talent is unique and extremely interesting.

After the talent portion, each contestant was brought up on stage for the impromptu question and answer portion of the pageant, which always seems to be the most extreme part of the contest for the contestants. Each contestant did an outstanding job this year, leaving almost no room for error on any contestant's answer.

Brighton Jr. Miss contestant Janet Smith was asked, "Why do you want to be the next Jr. Miss, and her response was, "So I can represent my community and share my culture with others." It was short but to the point and well said.

Once the questions were over, it was off stage again to allow the judges time to deliberate and come up with this year's winners. Before the contestants were brought back up on stage, the judges came up and gave a word of thanks for being asked to be a part of this year's pageant and shared their delight in how well all of the contestants did. The reigning Miss and

Jr. Miss also offered their farewell speeches before turning over their crowns.

Once back on stage, the winners were crowned. Congratulations to the Brighton Miss and Jr. Miss winners, as well as Janet Smith who won the Jr. Miss talent competition.



Emma Brown

Erena Billie in the modeling competition.

"All of the girls are winners because it takes a lot of courage to do this," Jones said.

Also during the small break, the princess committee presented each of the past Misses' and Jr. Misses' with a rose, which added a special touch to the evening. Following the modeling category was the portion of the contest in which each contestant demonstrated their traditional talent.



Susan Etzebarria

The little ones try to stand still during the Modern Traditional judging.

three generations of his family capture the traditions of both drum and dance.

In the shadow of all the music and entertainment was woodcarver Victor Billie from the Immokalee reservation sitting on a tree stump at the Seminole cultural camp silently carving a cypress walking stick with his axe. Another woodcarver of much fame showed his work, the fantastic artist Leroy "Henehayo" Osceola of the Everglades. Henehayo is the only remaining renowned Seminole canoe builder.

His massive hand-carved canoe made of cypress drew much interest. Henehayo said "the beauty of nature and the stories and lessons taught by elders provide an unending source of inspiration."

Hand fabricated silver and gold jewelry by Navajos, Carl and Evelyn Yazzie, is one of the most popular booths present every year. Carl Yazzie designs and makes custom jewelry on the spot, storytelling bracelets that depict the symbols and cultural icons of different Tribes and clans are one of their most popular jewelry pieces.

"We do this from the heart," said Evelyn Yazzie. "We do this to preserve our cultures." On display in one of the chickees at the cultural



Susan Etzebarria

The girls competing in the Modern Contemporary were cute as ever and on their best behavior.

Brighton Field Days ♦ Taal-Choob-ayooke Tapehkeeke ♦ Tarakkvlkv Tokvlketv

2005 Field Day Contest Results

Girls, 0-11 months: 1. Kianna Josh, 2. Titani Torres, 3. Leilane Burton, 4. Leanne French, 5. Charlie Osceola.

Girls, 1-2: 1. Kailen Oliverez, 2. Alaina Micco, 3. Hallie Harjochee, 4. Elle Thomas, 5. Shala French.

Girls 3-4: 1. Luzania Venzor, 2. Brianna Bowers, 3. Caroline Micco, 4. Joshlyn Rodriguez.

Boys, 1-2: 1. Theron Osceola,

2. Pherien Baker, 3. Caleb Burton, 4. Sir Marcus, 5. Kayvein Osceola.

Boys, 1-2: 1. Hunter Howard, 2. Ramone Baker, 3. Myran Billie, 4. Jesse Sanchez, 5. Adakain Robbins.

Boys, 3-4: 1. Ozzy Osceola, 2. Layne Thomas, 3. Lance Howard, 4. Malcolm Jones, 5. Sheldon Osceola.

Old Style Traditional Girls, 5-8: 1. Calgary Motlow, 2. Lanie Sedatol, 3. Diamond Shore, 4. Dalaney Osceola, 5. Ashlee Gopher.

Girls, 9-12: 1. Hillary Josh, 2. Sheila Jones, 3. Allysa Dorgan, 4. Brianna Nunez, 5. Destiny Nunez.

Girls, 13-17: 1. Shyla Jones, 2. Brittany Smith, 3. Melanie Jones, 4. D'Anna Osceola, 5. JoJo Osceola.

Women, 18-31: 1. Perrie Brugh, 2. Laverne Thomas, 3. Carla Gopher, 4. Tara Courson, 5. Clarissa Bowers.

Women, 32-45: 1. Rita Gopher, 2. Kay Braswell, 3. Michelle Thomas, 4. Donna Turtle, 5. Wanda Billie.

Women, 46-59: 1. Louise Osceola, 2. Louise Jones, 3. Rose Jones, 4. Mary Jean, 5. Judy Jones.

Women, 60 and older: 1. Martha Jones, 2. Connie Whidden, 3. Frances Osceola, 4. Onnie Osceola, 5. Elsie Smith.

Boys, 5-8: 1. Donovan Tiger, 2. Layton Thomas, 3. Tyson Osceola, 4. Desmond Shore, 5. RD Osceola.

Boys 9-12: 1. Daniel Nunez Jr., 2. Justin Osceola, 3. Brantley Osceola, 4. Randy Shore, 5. Nathan Gopher.

Boys 13-17: 1. Jordan Jones.

Men, 18-31: 1. Happy Jumper, 2. Dallas Nunez, 3. Naha Jumper, 4. Johnny Jones Jr., 5. Elton Shore.

Men, 32-45: 1. Daniel Nunez, 2. Johnny Jones, 3. Jason Baker.

Men, 46-59: 1. Moses Jumper, 2. Albert Snow, 3. Thomas Billie, 4. Parker Jones.

Men, 60 and older: 1. Jimmie Smith.

Modern Traditional Girls, 5-8: 1. Dawndra Osceola, 2. Darla Cypress, 3. Rylee Osceola, 4. Lahna Sedatol, 5. Brianna Billie.

Girls, 9-12: 1. Hillary Josh, 2. Destiny Nunez, 3. Maheah Isaac, 4. Reina Billie, 5. Sheila Jones.

Girls, 13-17: 1. Krystle Young, 2. Megan Jones, 3. Brittany Smith, 4. Melanie Smith, 5. D'Anna Osceola.

Women, 18-31: 1. Jo "Boogie" Jumper, 2. Mercedes Osceola, 3. Holly Tiger, 4. Laverne Thomas, 5. Carla Gopher.

Women, 32-45: 1. Donna Turtle, 2. Kay Braswell, 3. Michelle Harjochee, 2. Destiny Nunez, 3. Alexia Aguilar, 4. Sheila Jones, 5. Justice Baker.

Girls, 13-17: 1. JoJo Osceola, 2. Ruby Harrell, 3. Josey Snow, 4. Stephanie Smith, 5. Dallas Cypress.

Women, 18-31: 1. Alice Billie, 2. Nikki Osceola, 3. Carla Gopher, 4. Jo "Boogie" Jumper, 5. Vanessa Osceola.

Women, 32-45: 1. Joanne Osceola, 2. Michelle Thomas, 3. Oneva Jones, 4. Rita Gopher, 5. Loretta Micco.

Women, 46-59: 1. Diane Smith, 2. Rose Jones, 3. Susie Henry, 4. Peggy Henry, 5. Linda.

Women, 60 and older: 1. Jeannie Snow, 2. Connie Whidden, 3. Agnes Cypress, 4. Lorene Gopher, 5. Frances Osceola.

Boys, 5-8: 1. Michael Garcia, 2. Daniel Nunez Jr., 3. Erick Garcia, 4. Ivess Baker, 5. Rudy Juarez.

Boys 9-12: 1. Randy Shore, 2. Nathan Gopher, 3. Trent Osceola, 4. Alex Buck, 5. Wade Micco.

Boys 13-17: 1. Byron Billie, 2. Jordan Jones.

Men, 18-31: 1. Johnny Jones, 2. Elton Shore, 3. Brian Arledge, 4. Dallas Nunez, 5. Preston Baker.

Men, 32-45: 1. Johnny Jones, 2. Daniel Nunez, 3. Robbie Chalfant, 4. Danny Tommie, 5. Elrod Bowers.

Men, 46-59: 1. Tony Sanchez, 2. Thomas Billie, 3. Sandy Billie Jr., 4. Moses Jumper, 5. Parker Jones.

Men, 60 and older: 1. Jimmie Smith.

Thomas, 4. Wanda Billie, 5. Timi Bearden.

Women, 46-59: 1. Patty Waldron, 2. Louise Osceola, 3. Mary Jo Micco, 4. Diane Snow, 5. Diane Smith.

Women, 60 and older: 1. Juanita Tommie, 2. Jennie Snow, 3. Alice Snow.

Boys, 5-8: 1. J-Wayco Billie, 2. Drayton Billie, 3. Tyson Osceola, 4. Layton Thomas, 5. Ivess Baker.

Boys 9-12: 1. Tacoma Robbins, 2. Cameron Dorgan, 3. Catlin Tommie, 4. Wade Micco, 5. Nathan Gopher.

Boys 13-17: 1. Gary Frank, 2. Jordan Jones, 3. Tyler Harjochee.

Men, 18-31: 1. Marlin Tommie, 2. Sampson Gopher, 3. Brian Arledge, 4. Mike Micco, 5. Dallas Nunez.

Men, 32-45: 1. Daniel Nunez, 2. Johnny Jones, 3. Vince Osceola, 4. Elrod Bowers.

Men, 46-59: 1. Sandy Billie Jr., 2. Albert Snow, 3. Willie Johns, 4. Billy Jo Johns, 5. Tony Sanchez.

Men, 60 and older: 1. Jimmie Smith, 2. Russell Osceola.

Modern Contemporary Girls, 5-8: 1. Calgary Motlow, 2. Brooke Osceola, 3. Cheyenne Nunez, 4. Brianna Billie, 5. Lahna Sedatol.

Girls, 9-12: 1. Chasity



Susan Etzebarria

Girls 13-17, Modern Traditional category contestants.



Susan Etzebarria

Youngster in the Old Style Traditional category.

Arts & Crafts Contest Results

Submitted by Yvonne Calhoun

Sewing (Had to be a clothing item): 1. Lottie Huff from Brighton, 2. Shula Jones from Brighton, 3. Agnes Bowers from Brighton, 4. Judy Jones from Hollywood, 5. Mary J. Coppedge from Big Cypress.

Patchwork (One yard minimum): 1. Janine Cypress from Hollywood, 2. Louise Cypress from Brighton, 3. Nancy Motlow from Immokalee, 4. Agnes Bowers from Brighton, 5. Alice Snow from Brighton.

Dolls: 1. Martha Jones from Brighton, 2. Colleen O. Henry from Tampa, 3. Francis Osceola from Big Cypress, 4. Agnes Jumper from Brighton, 5. Nancy Motlow from Immokalee.

Woodcarving: 1. Joe B. Osceola from Big Cypress, 2. Vinson Osceola from Brighton, 3. Howard Osceola from Brighton, 4. Victor Billie from Immokalee, 5. Milo Osceola from Brighton.

Beadwork: 1. Ricky Doctor from Big Cypress, 2. Carol

Cypress from Big Cypress, 3. Jenny Johns from Brighton, 4. Salina Dorgan from Brighton, 5. Jenny Shore from Brighton.

Basket: 1. Lorraine Posada from Immokalee, 2. Patsy Billie from Big Cypress, 3. Linda Beletso from Big Cypress, 4. Martha Jones from Brighton, 5. Ruth Osceola from Big Cypress.



Susan Etzebarria

Winning entries from the arts & crafts contest.



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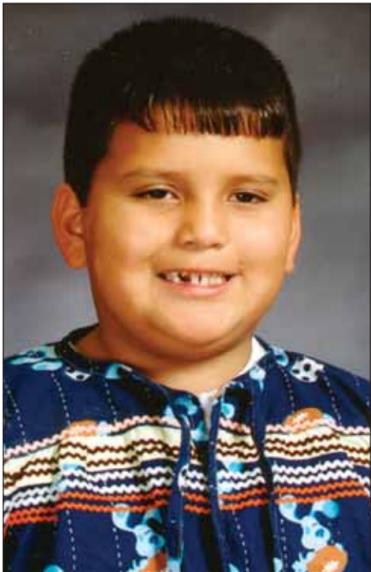


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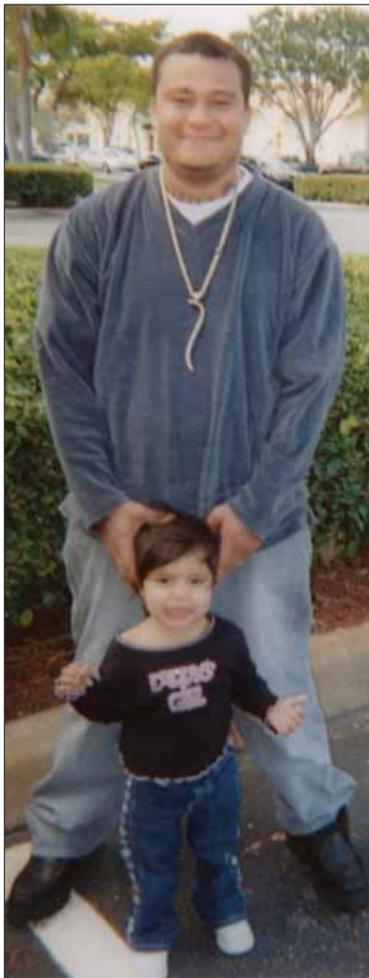
Happy Birthday



Happy belated birthday to our little man **Booboo Puente**. We love you so much. You've come so far in such a short time. We had a blast on your 3rd birthday at Chuck E. Cheese. Love you always son, **Joey and Maggie Puente, and brother and sisters**



Happy 8th birthday big boy **John Dell McInturff** on March 2. We love you John Boy. Love, **Mom, Dad, Chi, Dare Rick, Jared, Kira, Toie, Grandma and Papa**



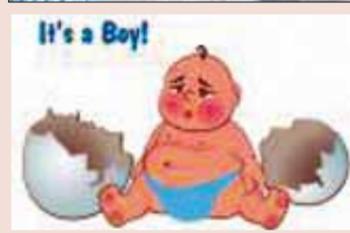
Happy birthday to our little lady **Grace Puente**. Mommy and daddy love you so much. We know you'll have a blast on your day. Your loving parents, **Joey and Maggie Puente**



To our sister, **Jahcole Deborah Wanda Arnold**, we would like to wish a **happy 1st birthday**. We love you, **Jonathan, Litlit, Obee, Taytay & Bonbon**



New Kid



Another one of our God's blessings, **Jose Elias Puente Jr.**, was given to us on Jan. 13 at 8:15 a.m. He weighed 6 pounds, 11 ounces and was 20 inches long. He is a member of the Bird clan. We love you son, with all our hearts. With love, **Joel, Zoey, Booboo, Grace, Tammy, Jose and Maggie Puente**

Poems

Day In-Day Out

Day in -day out, just the same
Consequence for action, myself I must blame
Signs would appear
The vision was a blur, but how could I not see clear
Department of corrections is now my home
Surrounded but by none of my own
Took a gamble and lost
Paying each day at double the cost

Reflections speak of fate
That has no meaning behind this gate
Reasoning to no avail
Too much time to think inside this cell
Will it be different next time 'round
In my mind that question seems to be pound
What is done is done, there's no doubt
Just the same, day in -day out
—**Leslie J. Gopher**

Live For Today

The last dayz are near
The wars, the troubles, all should fear
Make your peace before it too late
Be sure to make it through the gate
All are wrong, no one is right
Turn away from the dark, turn to the light

Close the mouth, open the heart
Forgiveness allows us all a new start
A road is there, just make the way
There may be no tomorrow, live for today
—**Leslie J. Gopher**

In Memory

Abby,
Maryann,

So full of life. Always with a smile.
Always good to me. Always straight up with me. Did I deserve it?
Some days, I want to call you or go see you. It's hard for me to accept you aren't here on earth anymore. I couldn't bear to see them put you in the ground.
Every time, I see your kids; I see you, miss you and love you even more.
You really never know what you got till it's gone. You girls were always there for me, for the good times and the bad. Always with a smile and a joke even if it was on me.
I love you and miss you my friends,
—**Camillia Smith Osceola**
These women were beautiful human beings with big hearts and big smiles. If you didn't get a chance to know them, I wish you had.



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Tribal Treasurer Celebrates Birthday



Iretta Tiger

Mike Tiger takes a moment to embrace his family: (L-R) son Ernest, wife Judy and daughter Katie, during the festivities.



Iretta Tiger

Tiger proudly displays the shirt his mother, Winifred Tiger, made in honor of his birthday.

By Iretta Tiger

HOLLYWOOD — Elvis was blasting on the blasting through the stereo system in celebration of the birthday boy, Tribal Treasurer Mike Tiger, and an area of the pool was even sectioned off for the celebration. Tiger and several guests cel-

brated his birthday poolside at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino on March 7.

Tiger said he was most touched by a present from his mother, a shirt she made for him. Happy birthday, hope all your dreams come true!

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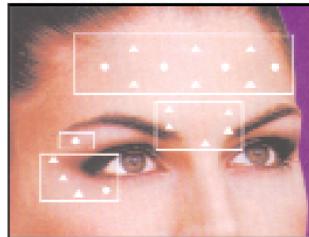
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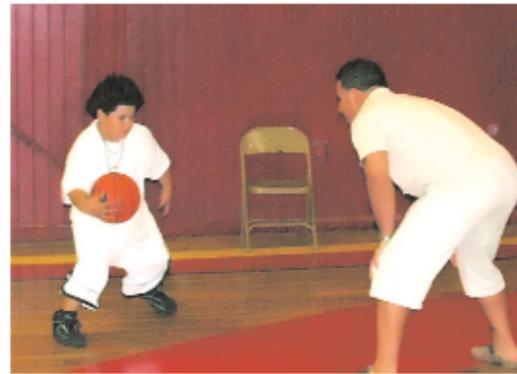
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Tribal Leaders Participate in Swamp Cabbage Festival



Chairman Mitchell Cypress waves to the festival crowd from his unconventional float.



Elated Hollywood Board Representative David DeHass gets into the parade spirit.



Charles Billie Hiers dressed in full Seminole war veteran regalia for the parade.



Tribal citizen Barbara Billie on the Tribe's float.

By Iretta Tiger
LABELLE, FL — Every year the Swamp Cabbage Festival attracts thousands from the many surrounding towns. Festival events including a Swamp Cabbage Festival Queen pageant and a rodeo happen throughout the month of February. The climax of the festival is the parade.

Each year, including this year, Seminole Tribal citizens participated in the parade. Also participating this year were officials including Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Hollywood Board Representative David DeHass, Brighton Board Representative Johnny Jones and Big Cypress Board Representative Paul Bowers Sr. also participated in the parade.

Following the parade, Seminole royalty and the officials enjoyed the festival with some shopping and socializing.

The armadillo races and other festivities continued until sunset. See you next year!



The Swamp Cabbage parade is the main attraction at the annual LaBelle, Fla. festival.



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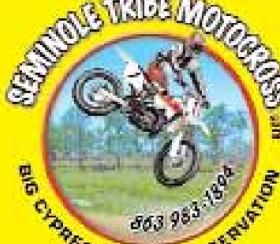
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Seminole 4-H Show and Sale Scheduled

By Susan Etzebarria

BIG CYPRESS — More than 100 animals will be on sale this year at the Seminole 4-H Youth Livestock Show & Sale, to be held at Big Cypress on March 17-18.

All members of the Tribe and guests are invited to this annual agricultural event that means so much to the youth who worked hard raising their animals and learning new skills. On March 17, weigh-ins will begin in the Show Barn at noon and end at 7 p.m. Buyers can register, too. The show begins at 5:30 p.m.

This year, the judges will be enforcing the use of the show stick to control the cow as well as being able to lead with the rope.



"The kids have to show they can handle their animals to qualify for the sale," said Seminole 4-H Coordinator Polly Hayes Osceola. "We don't want any animals running loose."

The Buyer's Dinner begins at 5 p.m. and each buyer gets two tickets, one for the buyer and one for a guest. The Big Cypress cattlemen are supplying the steaks. The sale begins at 6:30 p.m.

The annual Jr. Cypress Trail Ride, sponsored by the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc., and organized by Board Representative Paul Bowers, takes place Saturday. The riders will be riding to the barns to see the sold cattle before they leave the barns. The cows will be moved out on Sunday.

Judge to 4-H Members: Make Good Choices

By Susan Etzebarria

BRIGHTON — Judge Jack E. Lundy of Glades County was very outspoken when he gave advice to Seminole youth about how to stay out of jail.

"It's all about the choices you make," said the county judge who sat on a distinguished panel along with Okeechobee County Defense Attorney Andrew Bowers, a Brighton tribal member, and a Glades County Prosecuting Attorney Harley Brook.

These professionals took time out of their busy lives to talk to youth at Brighton reservation's 4-H Club meeting. Members and parents attended the seminar on Feb. 23, at 5:30 p.m. The presentation was set up by Tribal Extension Agent Michael Bond, in cooperation with the Family Services department.

The goal of the seminar was to let youth know what happens when convicted of crimes related to driving illegally, driving while under the influence of the law, and other violations of the law.

"Having wheels is freedom to go and do what you need to do, especially when you live in a rural area like Glades County," said Lundy. "Under the Florida law, if you are found guilty of any drug offense, you can have your driver's license taken away for up to two years. That is losing your freedom."

He said many people go to jail for driving without a valid driver's license. Knowing many of the youth are in their teens and they are learning how to drive, or already have driving privileges, he warned them all that they have choices to make and if they make the wrong choice it will have consequences.

Lundy told them frankly that they could end up in his court if they break the law. Attorney Harley Brook reiterated what the judge told the youngsters.

"When I was 15-years-old I looked forward to getting a driver's license and when you live in an

area where you need to drive to get around it is really a big deal," said Brook.

He said getting a driver's license is not a right, but a privilege. Brook warned against losing the privilege by driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

"It is one of the most regulated crimes by the Florida Legislature," he said. "And it is really expensive if you are caught."

There are fees, fines, and probation associated with driving under the influence (DUI). A person who gets three DUIs can be imprisoned for committing a felony.

"God forbid you get in an accident and someone dies while you were under the influence," said Lundy. "You are

looking at eight years in prison."

When it comes to making right choices, Bowers said to "choose your friends wisely."

"If you know someone is always in trouble, doesn't stay home when they should, and doesn't go to school, that is not the friend to choose," Bowers added. "When you play sports or belong to 4H you meet kids and get to know their parents. That is the smart choice of friends."

Bowers told the kids they already know right from wrong. Even stealing a small item such as a fountain pen worth \$1.25 or a can of soda is theft.

Another matter that Bowers mentioned was that there are too many kids riding their ATVs illegally. He said it is against the law to ride an ATV on the public roads and shoulders and no one can get a license to operate an ATV on public roads.

At the end of the hour, the youth had received a clear message that having a prison record can destroy their lives, they can be denied voting rights and driver's licenses. Lundy acknowledged that their participation in 4-H shows they know how to make a good choice in life.

"I know most of you are fairly responsible kids because you take care of your animals," he said.



Susan Etzebarria
Glades County Judge Lundy (far left) gives the 4-H'ers important messages regarding the choices they make.

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

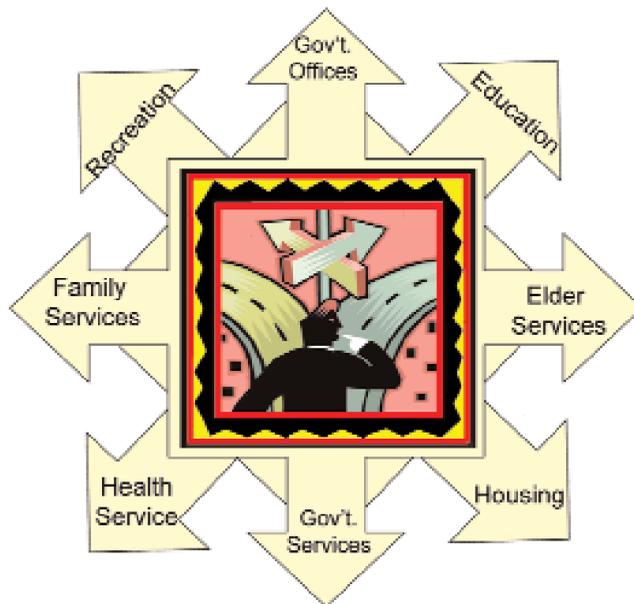
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WARNING: Telemarketing Fraud

Submitted by Sergeant Al Signore, SPD

It is estimated there are more than 10,000 fraudulent telemarketing operators calling hundreds of thousands of American consumers every day. The U.S. Department of Justice estimates that one out of every six consumers is the victims of telemarketing criminals annually. Telemarketing crime costs American consumers more than \$40 billion annually.

The U.S. Department of Justice estimates that one out of every six consumers is the victims of telemarketing criminals annually. In a large percentage of those cases, senior citizens are the targets of the fraud.

Here are some common telephone scams:
•Prize offers: The person who receives the call has to do something to get a free prize, i.e. attend a sales presentation, buy something, or give out a credit card number. The prizes generally are worthless or overpriced.

•Travel packages: Free or low-cost vacations end up costing a great deal in hidden costs. Or, they may never happen. The victim may pay a high price for some part of the package, like hotel or airfare. The total cost may run two to three times more than what the victim was led to believe.

•Vitamins and other health products: The sales pitch may also include a prize offer. This is to entice the victim to pay hundreds of dollars for products that are worth very little.

•Investments: People lose millions of dollars to get rich quick schemes that promise high returns for little or no risk. These can include gemstones, rare coins, oil and gas leases, precious metals, art and other "investment opportunities". As a rule, these are worthless.

•Charities: Con artists often label phony charities with names that sound like better-known reputable organizations.

Telephone con artists perfect their lines to persuade victims to buy. The victim may hear some of the following tip-off's to detect phone fraud:

•You must act now or the offer will expire.
•You have won a free gift, vacation or prize, but you must pay for postage and handling: or other charges.

•You must send money, give a credit card or bank account number, or have a check picked up by courier before you've had a chance to consider the offer carefully.

•You can't afford to miss this high-profit, no-risk, offer.

Tips to avoid telemarketing fraud:

•Don't be pressured to make an immediate decision.

•Don't give your credit card, checking account or Social Security number to unknown callers.

•Don't pay for anything merely because you will get a free gift.

•Check out a charity before you give. Ask how much of your donation actually goes to the charity. Ask that written information be sent to you so you can make an informed giving decision.

•Don't invest your money with an unknown caller who insists you make up your mind immediately.

•Don't send cash by messenger or overnight mail.

•Make sure you know the "per minute" charge for any 1-900 number call you make.

•Be cautious of statements that you won a prize, particularly if the caller says you must send money to claim it.

•Don't agree to any offer you have to pay a registration or shipping fee to receive a prize.

•Check out unsolicited offers from the Better Business Bureau, local consumer protection agency or State Attorney General's office before you agree to send money.

•Do ask about the company's refund policies. If in doubt, talk to family or friends, your attorney, accountant or banker and obtain their advice before you make any large purchase or investment.

•If you do not wish to be called by telemarketers, ask that your telephone number be removed from their list. The Federal Trade Commission's Telemarketing Sales Rule gives you the power to stop unwanted telemarketing calls.

•Tell children and elderly friends and family never to give financial information to callers.

Under federal law, citizens have the right to:

•Request written information, by mail about the product, service, investment or charity and about the organization that is offering it.

•Obtain guarantees or refund provisions in writing before making a financial commitment.

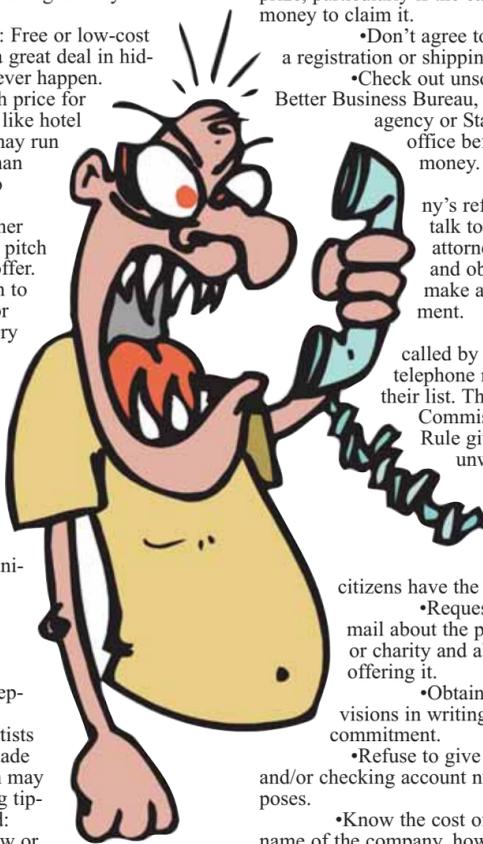
•Refuse to give your credit card number and/or checking account number for information purposes.

•Know the cost of 1-900 number calls, the name of the company, how to hang up without charge and procedures for resolving billing disputes.

•Ask for the name, address and phone number of a magazine seller; know the yearly total costs of each magazine and the whole package of magazines they purchase.

•Know if the caller for a charity is a volunteer or a professional telemarketer/fund-raiser and how much of their donation will go to the charity, as opposed to administrative and fund-raising costs.

For more information on telemarketing fraud crime prevention tips call Sergeant Al Signore with the Seminole Police Department Crime Unit at (813) 623-5748.



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