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Emma Brown

Future Miss Seminoles? Young children show off their regalia.

The 66th Annual Brighton Field Day and Rodeo

By Emma Brown
BRIGHTON — On Feb. 20-22, the Brighton Reservation hosted The Sixty-Sixth Annual Seminole Arts & Crafts Field Day Festival and Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) Rodeo. November 1938 marked the beginning of the Field Day event which began as a "Day of Fun," and was organized and produced by mainly non-Native Americans. It was deemed the Day of Fun because tribal

citizens competed in different games and activities. The most popular event back then was the horse race, which is still loved by many tribal citizens today. They also held a big barbecue and heard speeches from some of the leaders of the tribe. This day of fun was an all-Native American event, allowing family and friends from all reservations to gather together to have a grand time. This year, the community began

charging for admission, selling arts and crafts, and food. What started as one day fun and games with family and friends has now evolved into several days of fun and activities. Folks travel from all over South and Central Florida to be part of the three-day arts and crafts festival and rodeo. This year, the festival started on Tuesday and

❖ See FIELD DAY, page 6

Hollywood Seminole Children Visit Vermont

By Joe Collins
STOWE, VT — The boys and girls from the Hollywood reservation were no different from the many other people who visit Stowe. This small town is a popular vacation spot for most snow seekers on the Atlantic coast. As they prepared for their trip to the frozen mountains of Vermont, the kids had dreams of building a snowman, sledding, snowboarding and most of all hitting their chaperones with many, many snowballs. They boarded the plane here in sunny Ft. Lauderdale, wearing typical Floridian clothing, t-shirts, jeans and shorts. When they landed in Vermont, they had to grab jackets and make a run for the mini-vans, and take the 45 minute ride through the snow-filled mountains before reaching the comfort of their warm and dry rooms. The kids were anxious to dive right into the snow, and the first snowball fight broke out as we were picking up the keys to the rooms. The fight then carried over to the front of the rooms as the kids through snowballs and each other

into the three-foot deep snow banks before they returned to their rooms. The sun was just coming up on Friday morning, and all of the boys and girls were up and ready for a long day of playing in the snow. They started with sledding on a hill in town were they each tried to out do the other and to see who was brave enough to go all the way to the top. They raced each other down the hill, laughing all the way. As soon as they reached the bottom, they would grab the sled and race back to the top. At first, the kids who had been raised in the sun and surf of South Florida, struggled with handling the sleds, but it didn't take long for all of them to master the techniques of snow sledding. As lunch drew near, this crew of professional sledgers boarded the mini-vans to tackle lunch. On the way, they were given a quick look at the mountain they would take on the next day.



Recreation Department staff

Krystle Young slides down a snow-covered hill in Vermont.

❖ See VERMONT, page 7

Native Businesses Highlights USET Gaming Expo

By Iretta Tiger
MIAMI, FL — On Feb. 20, at the Miccosukee Resort and Convention Center, the final day of the Tenth Annual United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) Gaming Conference and Expo had begun. At first, the expo seemed like any other gaming exhibition, with slot

machine and video pull-tab displays, but take the time to look around and you will notice something has changed. There is an increase in Native owned businesses and they are aiming at different areas of the gaming market. Sister Sky is a bath and body care company created and owned by sisters Marina Turning Robe and Monica Simeon, of the Spokane Tribe. "We started about five years ago; our target market is Indian casinos and hotels," said Robe. "We can create custom blends for scents that represent nature that is indigenous to an area." Sister Sky is available online with bath gels and lotions in beautiful scents such as Moon and Rain. Look for Sister Sky the next time you stay at a tribally owned hotel. Cranberry juice, cigarettes and water; it may sound like an odd combination but these are the products the Native Wholesale Supply Company offers. Created by Arthur Montour of the Seneca Nation, Native Wholesale Supply carries products owned and manufactured by Natives. Seneca brand cigarettes are manufactured on the Six Nations Indian Reservation in Canada. Iroquois Cranberry Growers, owned and operated by the Wahta Mohawk band, offers a variety of cranberry products, such as cran-maple syrup and cran-strawberry jam. Also from the Wahta Mohawk territory is Wahta Springs bottled water. Mike DeCaire, of the Wahta Mohawk tribe, is part owner and Plant Manager of Wahta Springs. From the Oneida Nation comes Oneida Textile Designs, specializing in state-of-the-art custom embroidery, screen printing, printing and engraving. Products vary from T-shirts and golf towels to water bottles and key chains. Also from Oneida is Standing Stone Gaming, which has introduced cashless gaming. This system works much like using

❖ See EXPO, page 3

Tampa Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Ready to Roll

By Shelley Marmor
TAMPA — Some came to gamble. Others came to look around. And some people came just to see the Flying Elvi, a team of 10 Elvis Presley-impersonating professional skydivers. On Thursday March 11, the Tampa Hard Rock Hotel & Casino officially opened its doors to eager crowds wanting to gamble and stay in one of the hotel's 250 brand new rooms. Tribal citizens Nicodemus Billie from Big Cypress and Diane Frank from Hollywood managed to squeeze in a few games in the 90,000-square foot casino before the opening ceremony kicked off. Bilie said that though he was not winning, he noticed others were having a different kind of luck. "I see a lot of people winning," he said. At about 12 p.m., most people had made their way outside to see the much anticipated Flying Elvi soar through the air at 120 miles per hour, and watch the ceremonial smashing of the guitar, a tradition at the grand opening of Hard Rock hotels. In addition to these two crowd pleasers, several people responsible for the hotel's opening also said a few words. Phil Clemente, Hard Rock CEO, commended the partnership between the Hard Rock Corporation and the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Jim Allen, the tribe's CEO of Gaming, followed. He commended Baltimore-based real estate developers The Cordish Co., as well as the tribe for all their hard work. "We believe we've achieved our goal," Allen said. "We wanted a good partnership with contractors, architects, [and] designers." David S. Cordish, Co-Owner of The Cordish Co., said key players from the two major gaming markets, Las Vegas and Atlantic City, have called him to congratulate the landmark partnership between his company, the Tribe, and Hard Rock. "This is an accomplishment I will remember forever," Cordish said. Bobby Henry gave a traditional blessing of the building, and Ernie Stevens, CEO of the National Indian Gaming Committee, told the crowd that Native American casinos have created many jobs and also account for \$70 million in charitable donations annually. He also extended a message of congratulations on behalf of all of Indian Country. Members of the Tribal Council also offered a few words. Most

❖ See TAMPA, page 22



Shelley Marmor

Chairman Mitchell Cypress saying a few words during the Tampa Hard Rock Hotel & Casino's grand opening ceremony.

Seminoles Welcome Deputy Secretary Claude Allen

By Iretta Tiger
HOLLYWOOD — On Tuesday March 2, Deputy Secretary Claude Allen, of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, spent the day visiting with the Seminole Tribe. Accompanying Allen were Amanda Robinson, representing the Regional Director of Region IV of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Constantinos Miskis, Lance Leggett, Counselor to the Deputy Secretary, Richie Grinnell, Acting Area Director of Indian Health Services, Captain B. Kevin Molloy, special assistant to the director, and Pelagie "Mike" Snesrud, Senior Tribal Liason for Policy and Evaluation. The visit began with a meeting between Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Vice Chairman Moses Osceola, Health Director Connie Whidden, and the HHS delegation. Chairman Cypress expressed his belief on the importance of health care. "Health is more important than money," joked Cypress. "You've got to be healthy to spend money or somebody else will spend it." Introductions were made and Whidden described all the services of the Seminole Health Department, and its future plans. Suzanne Davis, the Seminole Allied Health Program Manager, explained the Diabetes Prevention Program. Davis commended Cypress' success in managing his weight and diabetes. After the meeting, the delegation toured the Health Complex. Hollywood Council Representative Max Osceola Jr. greeted them and informed them about some of the details in building the complex. The delegation took the time to tour the departments in detail. Allen asked many questions and listened closely as Family Services, Dental and the Clinic described their programs. Chairman Cypress met up with the delegation at the Preschool Department. Cypress and Allen sat with the children for lunch and talked with them. The children welcomed Allen with several gifts each class had

❖ See ALLEN, page 4



Staff photo

(L-R) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Deputy Secretary Claude Allen with Chairman Mitchell Cypress.



Iretta Tiger

Polly Hayes (center) and LaWanna Niles (right) discuss the Seminole Tribe with a Tenth Annual USET Gaming Conference and Expo attendee.



Ko-wah-yah-łot to chené pahén pom • Three horses are eating hay



Stephen Galla

An incorrect photo was placed with the story "Improvements to Snake Road in the Works" which appeared in the Feb. 27 issue. Above is the correct photo of Snake Road.

The Seminole Tribune

If you need a reporter or you would like to submit an article, birthday or poem to the *Seminole Tribune*, please contact the Editor Michael Kelly at (800) 683-7800 ext. 1267. E-

mail mkelly@semtribe.com, fax (954) 967-3482, or mail to: The Seminole Tribune, 6300 Stirling Road, Hollywood, Florida 33024. (800) 683-7800.

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Editor-in-Chief:
Virginia Mitchell

Editor:
Michael Kelly

Assistant Editor:
Shelley Marmor

Designers:
Stephen Galla,

Melissa Sherman

Reporters:
Adelsa Williams,

Iretta Tiger

Contributors:

Alexandra Frank, Emma Brown,

Judy Weeks, Kenny Bayon, Lucy Evanicki,

Nery Mejicano, Randi Simmons,

Susan Etxebarria, Tabitha Osceola

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Editorials

Around the Campfire: We Need to Boycott Bad Colleges

By Dr. Dean Chavers

I am sick of colleges doing the wrong thing by Indian students. By the wrong thing I mean taking their money, doing little or nothing for them, and kicking them out, usually the first year they are enrolled. I think we need a national boycott of the worst colleges.

Colleges can and should do the right things to Indian students. The leadership for change has to come from the top. If the college administration wants to make positive changes, it can. But most of them do not care. And we let them get away with it.

I estimate now that the overall dropout rate in the U.S. is about 82 percent, which is almost double the national dropout rate for college students of 44 percent. It is time we did something about it. That thing is a national boycott of the worst offenders.

Tribes and high schools both need to stop sending students to places where 80 percent or 90 percent of them will drop out or be kicked out. Instead they need to send students to campuses where they have a decent chance of finishing.

Indian Country needs trained professionals more than any place else in the nation. Any Indian person who has had to wait eight hours to see a doctor will agree. Anyone who has had a relative die from being misdiagnosed at an Indian hospital will agree. Anyone who has had incompetent teachers leave their kids with inadequate skills will agree.

So when the colleges take Indian money and do nothing for the student they are cheating the whole Indian community, not just that student.

A young professor came to be from the University of New Mexico 14 years ago. He is one of only two people from that university to visit my office, and we have three dozen or more students there on scholarship.

"What can I do for you, sir?" I asked him as soon as we sat down.

"I want you to help me get an Indian student through the biology program and earn a degree," he said.

"What do you mean?" I asked. "You have had thousands of Indian students on the campus, at least since the late-1960s. Some of them must have earned a degree in biology."

"No, none of them has," he said.

"But Ted Jojola's study reported that you have had over a dozen Indians who earned MD degrees," I responded.

"They were all from out of state," he answered. "None of them was an Apache, a Pueblo, or a Navajo."

I learned later that he was right. He had done his research. Three or four years later the first Indian earned her degree in biology. She was a Navajo, and a friend of one of my staff members. The biology department even threw a party for her, they were so happy to finally see an Indian grad.

"Why don't Indian students do better?" I asked.

"The professors don't do anything different for them," he said. "These are mostly traditional students. They don't believe in touching the dead. If they touch a dead person, they have to be healed."

"What is so bad about the biology classroom?" I asked.

He said, "The old time professor brings traditional students in the lab for their first day of class," he answered. "When they open the drawers in the lab, what do they find? Human bones. They freak out. Then they go to the cloak room and what do they find? A human skeleton. They really freak out. Many of them don't come back a second time."

I was unable to do anything to help that young professor except to give him some worthless tips, such as the need for sensitivity training for the old fuddy-duddy professors.

But later that year I determined was to do something about it. So I made an appointment to go see the University of New Mexico (UNM) President, Dr. Richard Peck. He agreed to see me, James Lujan, who is vice president of Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute, and Gene Leitka, who was head of Indian

Education in Albuquerque Public Schools. We met with Peck on July 11, 1991.

We told him he had serious problem, that Dr. Ted Jojola had found that the dropout rate at UNM was 83 percent. Only four out of 1,000 students earned a degree in four years, and only 130 out of that 1,000 ever earned a degree.

"I'm glad you brought that up," Peck said. "I am going to have my new Vice President (VP) for Student Affairs get right on it when she arrives."

The new VP was Dr. Orcilia Zuniga-Forbes, who came in from the University of Washington. We heard nothing more about the matter for four months. Finally I called her.

"I'm glad you called," she said. "We are calling all the tribes in the state to come to a meeting on December 6."

The meeting happened, and tribes came and complained. Some threatened to boycott the university. Then, from my perspective, nothing else happened.

I learned in 1994 that the university had had another seven meetings with tribes since the first meeting. I was not invited. In fact, I'm sure I was distinctly uninvited. No one told me about the seven meetings; no one likes the boy who says the king has no clothes, or that dropout rates are too high. But I found out about the ninth one by accident, and invited myself.

This ninth one was an all-day affair at the Continuing Education center. All the big time university administrators were there, plus another 250 or more tribal people from around the state. We heard presentations all morning, then the university served us lunch. I went to sit with some of my friends, but Orcilia came and got me. I had to sit with her and Dr. Peck. It was the "Mafia Code;" keep your friends close, and your enemies closer.

The other people at the table were two Navajo state senators, Thomas Atcity and Leonard Tsosie. Tsosie asked if it would help to get funding for an American Indian recruitment and retention project at UNM, and all the four of us agreed.

Tsosie, who is a powerhouse in the Senate, got \$840,000 for the project in three weeks. A few weeks later, the staff person on the project, Peter Treadway, came to visit me at my office to tell me what was going on. He said they had appointed a 15-person committee to work with the president on the project.

"Who are the fifteen," I asked him.

He named off a bunch of names, including several UNM administrators. When he got done I asked, "How many of those people are Indians?"

"None," he stated. I was incredulous. "You mean to tell me you are going to have an Indian committee with no Indians on it? That won't fly."

So they went out and found two apple Indians, a woman and a man, and put them on. When the money came, they chopped it up among the members of the committee. The money continued for three or four years, with them messing it up and doing nothing with it, and finally Tsosie got mad and cut the money off.

Dr. Peck left, his successor Dr. Gordon did nothing about it (we went to see him three times), and this year a new president came on board. I started asking to see him four months ago, and did not get an answer until two weeks ago. The answer was that he was too busy to see us.

That made me mad. He is too busy to see some concerned Indian citizens, when there are more than 1,200 Indian students on the campus. I am calling for every tribe in the state to start an active boycott of UNM. There are other campuses that do a much better job, and our students can go to them. Eastern, Western, New Mexico State University, New Mexico Tech, and Highlands are much better options.

Around the Campfire, Column for March 2004 © Copyright, 2004.

Dr. Dean Chavers is Director of Catching the Dream, a national scholarship and school improvement organization for Native Americans. It has offices in Albuquerque, N.M.

Letters & E-mail

6300 Stirling Rd. Hollywood. FL 33024 • tribune@semtribe.com

Dear Editor,

I'm a person of African and Indian (Cherokee and Blackfoot) ancestry. My mother taught me the sad history of the native people of America, especially the terrible things that Andrew Jackson did to the Cherokee Nation. She said that Cherokees refused to carry a \$20 bill because it contained the likeness of Andrew Jackson.

When you consider the legacy of slavery that was also present in my heritage, you can understand how I felt. That is why the story of the Seminole Nation is so important to people like me. I first heard about the Seminoles from a member of the tribe that I met while in college. This man, who repaired cars, related the history of the Seminoles. He was proud of the fact that they never surrendered. Those words stand out in my mind.

I must admit that I questioned the historical accounts that he related to me because I never book of the "Seminole Wars" in my history books and my mother never talked about the Seminoles. Being from North Carolina, maybe she didn't know about the Seminole Nation. I guess the part about escaped slaves fighting side by side with Native Americans really impressed me. I've heard many stories about the "Buffalo Soldiers," who were black men used by whites to fight Indians. I've never celebrated the memory of these soldiers.

Last year I got married to a Brazilian. My wife and I discussed the status of native people here in the U.S. and Brazil. She admitted that Native Brazilians suffered from the Portuguese and Spanish conquest of South America. I told about what I'd heard about the history of the Seminole Nation.

One night we researched my computer-based encyclopedia for the history of the Seminole Tribe. I was surprised at how little information was available. After looking at various subjects under the search word Seminole, I gave up. However, I refused to accept the information we read because of what my Seminole friend told me years ago.

I also remember a story I heard while I was visiting Florida years ago. It goes something like this: A little Native American boy was watching television and noticed that in the westerns, the "Indians" were always losing the battles. He asked his father why the Indians always lose. His father said, "Until we start writing our history books and making movies, we will always lose."

In February, I attended a concert by the U.S. Air Force Band. One of the featured artists was Tihda Vongkoth, from Seminole, Fla. I told my wife I believed that Tihda is a member of the Seminole Tribe. She has the good looks of a Native American. By the way, she gave an out-

standing performance.

I was so happy to see a Native American that was such an accomplished percussionist that I decided to go on the internet and find out where Seminole, Florida was located. That is how I found your website. Once I found your site, I printed all the articles and was able to read the first accurate account of the history of the Seminole Nation.

I want to thank you for making this information generally available for people like myself. My wife and I would like to visit your new hotel and reservation sometime this year. If you could send us any information, we would be most appreciative. Our address is: 12657 Castile Court, Woodbridge VA, 22192.

Best regards,
Stan Orr

Dear Editor,

I am coming down to Hollywood, Fla. March 6-11. Will the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino be open by then?

Lynni

No, we will open Hard Rock by the end of April.
— **Edward Jenkins, Director of Compliance and Regulations**

Dear Editor,

How old do you have to be to get into the casino?

Anyone between the ages of 12 and 17 may be on the gaming floor during the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. The minor must be accompanied by an adult at all times. No one younger than 18 is allowed on the gaming floor. You must be 18-years-old or older to gamble.
— **Edward Jenkins, Director of Compliance and Regulations**

Dear Editor,

The year is coming to an end and getting the *Tribune* keeps me in touch with home as I know it. Happy Holidays to the staff in Hollywood. I suppose we all get tense around the holidays. Just remember this is a time for miracles. I remember my brother at times like these more than ever.

I'd like to thank everyone that helped out during our loss of Jake and Jeff Storm.

I cannot name each and every one, you know who you are. A special thank you from my mother Mary is I believe in order.

I would like to add a Happy Birthday to my wife Linda Lee (Sept. 5), Taryn (Sept. 2), Trystyn (Dec. 4), Chelsea (Nov. 4), Trishanna (Dec. 17), and Thomas Jr. (Dec. 16). Also, my grandchildren Tyler (Sept. 16), Trevor (Jan. 10),

and Jeff Dean (Sept. 2). Whoa, that's a handful.

I've sent some of my thoughts as they came to me. Hope you or someone identifies with them.

I shall sign off with a holiday greeting to our council and board representatives, and I look forward to coming home. This is a gator guy signing off. Send correspondences to: 03050300, Thomas M. Storm, 3001 N.W. 63 Ave., Hollywood, FL 33024, or 03050300, Thomas M. Storm, 520 Falkenburg Rd., Tampa, FL 33619.

Sho na bish sha,
Thomas Storm

To whom this may concern,

My name is Lauren Sherman and I'm doing a journalism paper for school about the Coconut Creek Casino. I wasn't quite sure who to talk to or even e-mail for that matter for an interview required for the paper. I'd appreciate a quick response telling me who to talk to about this as well as a number or e-mail address I can reach them at as I do have a due date.

Thanks for your time,
Lauren Sherman

Contact Stephen Bonner at
SBonner@semtribe.com. He is the General Manager of the Coconut Creek Casino.
— **Edward Jenkins, Director of Compliance and Regulations**

Dear Editor,

I enjoyed your Brighton Field Days Festival very much and I would like to thank you all for this wonderful day. Attached you will find some of my pictures from Saturdays Pow Wow. With the best regards

Ingrid Tanz-Sym
Arcadia, FL



Ingrid Tanz-Sym

See page 6 for more Brighton photos.

Let It Flow: Restoring the Everglades

By Rhonda Roff

SOUTH BAY, FL — A coalition of local, states, and federal agencies, as well as private organizations and the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes, are making great strides to restore the Everglades. Two of the main objectives of South Florida's ecosystem restoration are cleaning up the water and recreating more natural flow patterns.

Turning on the new G-370 pump last week contributes enormously to both, and the switch was thrown with appropriate ceremony. South Florida Water Management District "SFWMD" Governing Board Chairman Nicolas Gutierrez, with the world's largest constructed treatment wetland behind, opened the program by introducing Senator Jeff Atwater R-FL.

"[This ecosystem is a] wonderful national treasure," Atwater said. "We will be recognized in our time not only as custodians, but also as champions of the Everglades."

The pump directs nutrient rich agricultural runoff to the 26 square mile treatment marsh, Stormwater Treatment Area (STA), where plants will do the cleanup work on the water. Within the next two to three months, all three treatment cells that comprise the STA will be fully operational. After its five mile southward flow, the cleaner water will contribute to a more historically natural condition in Water Conservation Areas 2A and 3A and lower phosphorus levels in the Holey Land Wildlife Management Area. Pumps will also carry the water westward, ultimately improving water quality on the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation which enters through the G-409 pump station.

Along with filtering up to 350,000 acre feet of agricultural runoff, the STA will be able to accommodate 250,000 acre feet per year of water from Lake Okeechobee, thus reducing the impact of freshwater releases into the coastal estuaries. The health of estuarine ecosystems depends on the delicate salinity balance controlled by the natural river flows and the tide.



Rhonda Roff

SFWMD Governing Board Chair Nicolas Gutierrez.

Plans for another major project to elevate a 3,000-foot stretch of Tamiami Trail, just west of the Miccosukee Resort and Casino, was submitted for public comment by the Army Corps of Engineers that same week. Part of the older Modified Waters Delivery project, the bridge will effectively eliminate the damming effect of the Trail in that segment and allow sheet flow once again into Everglades National Park. Anyone interested may view the plans at www.saj.usace.army.mil/dp/tamiami.htm, and make comments by March 22.

Groundbreaking on routing water through the controversial eight-and-a-half square mile area, an embattled residential neighborhood fighting claims of eminent domain, began last week, as the first homes were demolished. Upstream flow improvement projects had been held up until a decision regarding this downstream outlet was made. Links to complete descriptions of

all three of these projects may be found at www.evergladesplan.org/pm/projects/other_sf_projects.cfm.

Earlier in February, the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians offered 8,000-acres of land to the South Florida Water Management District, provided the District agrees to backfill portions of the L-28 and L-28 Interceptor canals. The Governing Board is in favor of the project, which will serve to re-hydrate the area Miccosukee Reservation just south of Alligator Alley.

More than merely refuge for wildlife, though, the Everglades is bountiful. Restoration will require the historical overland, excruciatingly slow flow of almost impossibly clean water all the way from the Kissimmee drainage to Florida Bay. The Seminoles carved out an entire lifestyle here after having successfully evaded and battled the U.S. Army several times. It is this part of natural history—severe, extreme, forbidding, and glorious—that hopefully, all the young Seminoles will have the chance to see reborn.



Rhonda Roff

Attendees watch as the G-370 Pump Station is officially turned on.



Iretta Tiger

The entrance gate of Seminole Memorial Garden shows a tranquil sky peeking through shade trees.

Seminole Memorial Garden

By Iretta Tiger

HOLLYWOOD — Looking through the gates you wonder if it really is a cemetery. Tall old trees and undisturbed grass; it's very calming. The name of the cemetery at the entrance could easily be mistaken for a park. When you first enter, the few headstones here are not obvious.

I remember this place; this is where they buried my sister more than 20 years ago. There is nothing to mark her grave but I remember the area where she rests. Looking at the cemetery it's easy to see that visitors are rare. The stone steps that used to be at the entrance are so overgrown with grass it is now a slope.

Located in a gated community, it's easy to forget the cemetery exists. Referred to as the old cemetery, Seminole Memorial Garden was built shortly after the tribe was formed in 1936. At first, no one wanted to use the cemetery, most preferred a traditional funeral. With the introduction of Christianity, burials at the cemetery increased.

Temporary markers were the only indicators of where the older gravesites were located but they were removed by a lawn service and never replaced. Also gone are any tokens of affection; there used to be a Navajo vase at my sisters' grave.

Trying to locate a specific gravesite is nearly

impossible. There is some information, but it is outdated, and sadly, inaccurate. Information about the cemetery ends in the 1950s, but the last burial was in the late-1970s.

Tribal Secretary Priscilla Sayen has been trying to organize and update information on this cemetery for years. Her office placed a notice in *The Seminole Tribune* a few years ago asking for any information, but she did not receive any responses.

"We are trying to get names of the people who are buried there so that we can commemorate them with a plaque that will be placed in the cemetery or just outside the cemetery gates," said Sayen.

Sayen is optimistic about completing the list. She believes tribal citizens will come forward and share their knowledge of the cemetery.

Because the reservation is sovereign land, local offices, like city hall, are not obligated to keep records of the cemetery or who is buried there. Research is limited to the knowledge of the tribal citizens.

Documenting this knowledge can help the future generations to preserve this cemetery. A cemetery is not a subject most tribal citizens like to talk about, but it is something we need to address. Proof of where ancestors and immediate family are buried is a powerful weapon to have.

has been a lot of interest," said Yolanda Ponce De Leon, Operations Manager. "We are one of two Indian owned gaming supply companies."

Seminole 4-H had a booth run by Polly Hayes and Lawanna Niles, both were ready to educate everyone about the tribe.

"It started when the officials asked us to create an exhibit about the whole tribe," explained Hayes.

The exhibit travels to different conferences and there is always a lot of interest in the tribe. At the USET Gaming Conference, the Seminole 4H booth was the only one that provided information only about a tribe.

"Visitors ask a lot of questions about the tribe," said Niles. "Most people think the tribe is just about the casino."

The booth, sponsored by the Board and Council, received a lot of compliments and recently most of the questions have been about both soon-to-be-completed Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casinos.

Rick Hill, former Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Association, was excited by the amount of Native businesses.

"It is great to see such a turn out," he said. "I hope we [Great Plains Gaming Association] have just as good a showing at our conference."

The conference Hill is referring to is the Great Plains/Midwest Gaming Conference and Trade Show held in Minneapolis, MN, May 17-19.

With more Natives creating businesses in so many markets, he shouldn't have much to worry about.



Iretta Tiger

Seth Billie and Yolanda Ponce De Leon at the gamingtables4u.com booth.

Company and Elness Swenson Graham Architects, Inc. were also present. The Perini Building Company has built several tribal resorts, most notably the Mohegan Sun. They are presently working on the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casinos in both Tampa and Hollywood. Elness Swenson Graham Architects Inc. is the builder of the Miccosukee Resort and Conference Center.

GamingTables4U.com is a Native owned company that supplies custom made poker, blackjack and other gaming tables. They also supply chip trays and other various table accessories. Created and owned by The Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc., GamingTables4U.com made its debut at the Rez 2004 show in Las Vegas, NV in January.

"Though we're still a new company there



Iretta Tiger

A vendor at the USET Gaming Conference & Expo selling Native American goods.

Spring Revival

Featuring Evangelist Richard Pickup of Salina, Okla.

When: April 4-8

Where: First Seminole Indian Baptist Church

4701 Stirling Road, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Time: Supper Nightly at 5:30 p.m.; sermon, testimonies, and singing spectral music begins at 6:45 p.m.

For more information please call First Seminole Indian Baptist Church's Reverend Paul Buster at (954) 585-0311.

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Iretta Tiger

Job hunters wait in line at the Job Fair.

Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Job Fair

By Tabitha Osceola

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Job Fair can be described in one word — successful.

The Job Fair started on Thursday, Feb. 26. People began lining up in the early morning, anxiously waiting for the doors to open in hopes of getting a position at the new Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. Hopeful applicants were taken through a series of screenings and interviews before being offered any type of position. The wait was long for some, however, job-seekers were entertained by a DJ and also given refreshments in a fully decorated area.

More than 6,000 people attended the Job Fair. Most people were from South Florida, but there were people from New York, South Carolina and



Iretta Tiger

Job Fair attendee makes note of jobs still available.

Nevada who made the trip to attend. With such a high turnout, the Hollywood Casino Human Resources staff, Compliance & Regulations staff and many others, worked long hours, some after midnight, but did a spectacular job at handling the big turnout.

“The job fair was a successful event,” said Misty Moskowitz, Recruitment Manager. “We had great team work.”

As an employee of the Compliance & Regulations Department, and having worked the Job Fair, I would like to thank Ken Thibeault, Director of Human Resources and his staff for all they did to make things run smoothly. Thanks to Doug Pattison, President of the Hollywood Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, for the complimentary massages that were so desperately needed after a long, long day.



Tabitha Osceola

(From top, L-R) Surveillance Manager Daryl Willshire, Wendy Williams, John Jumper, Phillis Hawkins, Tabitha Osceola, Yamila Izquierdo, Jack Keenan Surveillance Director, Cori Lupo, Elizabeth Trover, Sandra Johnson.

Tribune Article to Appear in *Indian Life*

By Iretta Tiger

HOLLYWOOD — Congratulations to Shelley Marmor, Assistant Editor of *The Seminole Tribune*. Her article “Snake Warrior Honored With Park” [*Seminole Tribune* Feb. 6, 2004] will be reprinted in *Indian Life* newspaper for their March/April edition.

The article told of the Jan. 21 dedication of the Miramar park to Chitto Tustenuggee, Snake Warrior.

Viola Fehr, Editor of *Indian Life*, explains

what drew them to the article.

“It’s a positive story about Native people getting the recognition they deserve for their accomplishments in the past and the contributions they’re making today,” she said.

Indian Life is a bi-monthly newspaper concerning Native Americans and faith. The article will also be available on the *Indian Life* website at www.indianlife.org.

Kudos to Shelley for her excellent work, and thank you to *Indian Life* for the recognition.

Small Business Administration Workshop Being Held

Submitted by the Water Resources Department

On Wednesday March 25 at 10 a.m., there will be a Small Business Administration (SBA) workshop at the Hollywood Tribal Offices. Attendees will receive updated information on opportunities available for small firms to participate in the Seminole Tribe of Florida’s Critical

Project on the Big Cypress reservation.

A presentation will be given by the area SBA office on how to become certified. The event is free of charge. Register at the door. For further information, please contact Cherise Maples in Water Resources Management at (954) 966-6300, Ext. 1121.

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Seminole Police Honor Fellow Officer

Submitted by Sgt. Gerald Meisenheimer, Brighton Seminole Police Department

BRIGHTON — Veteran Seminole Police Officer, Angela Comito, was recently named Brighton Officer-of-the-Year. Comito received an engraved plaque by Chief of Police Mike Floyd at a ceremony in her honor held at the Brighton Seminole Casino.

Brighton Seminole Police Department (SPD) staff and representatives from Hollywood SPD attended the dinner along with family and friends. Chief Floyd read the Letter of Commendation which told about how Officer Comito went far beyond the call of duty.

She is credited with finding an elderly female tribal citizen at home alone. The lady, who is disabled, was unable to get her food out of the refrigerator, and had not eaten. Suffering from diabetes, she appeared very weak and lacked color. Officer Comito immediately prepared a meal for her and continued to check on her until family members returned home the next day.



Sgt. Gerald Meisenheimer

Chief of Police Mike Floyd and Officer Angela Comito.

In addition to this and many other acts of kindness, Officer Comito has been an excellent police officer and is an asset to the Seminole Tribe.



Iretta Tiger

Representatives, Liasons, Deputies, Captains and Officials gathered for lunch at the Senior Center where Deputy Secretary Cluade Allen addressed the seniors and spoke of possible future plans.

Allen

Continued from page 1

made, including a card that read “Welcome to our world” on the cover and the children’s handprints on the inside. Allen talked with the children to let them know why he was visiting.

“I come from a long way,” he said. “I’ve come to see how your school is. You get to eat very well, you’re learning a lot and you get to do arts and crafts. These [the gifts] are beautiful, thank you very much.”

After Preschool, the group next toured the Dorothy Scott Osceola (DSO) building. Mike Tiger, Treasurer of the Seminole Tribe, lead the tour. As with the Health Complex, the delegation visited every department at the DSO.

Jo North, the Language Coordinator, gave Allen a Miccosukee counting book. Herbert Jim, a language teacher, gave Allen an impromptu

Miccosukee language lesson.

Following the tour of the DSO, the delegation had lunch with the seniors at the Senior Center. Chairman Cypress rejoined the group for lunch. Allen addressed the seniors and spoke of possible plans.

“I’m here to honor to you, the elders, he said. “We hope to find ways that we can partner together with the Seminole Tribe. In terms of partnership with the tribe, we can improve health care to improve the lives of the Seminole people.”

The visit concluded with a tour of the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. The delegation explored one the completed hotel rooms and walked through the nearly-complete casino.

Overall, Allen and his colleagues seemed to enjoy their time with the tribe. Their questions conveyed a genuine interest in the services the tribal citizens are receiving. We hope Allen and his associates will visit again soon.

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4-H Livestock Show & Sale Coming to Big Cypress in March

By Polly Hayes, 4-H Coordinator

BIG CYPRESS — Youth members from the 4-H Club in Brighton, Immokalee, Hollywood and Big Cypress are preparing to exhibit their steers and hogs at the 2004 Seminole Tribe 4-H Livestock Show & Sale.

The event takes place March 25–26 at the Big Cypress 4-H Pavilion. Approximately 64 hogs and 30 steers will be shown on Thursday, March 25 at 6 p.m. A Buyers Dinner will follow on Friday, March 26 at 5 p.m., with the sale starting at 7 p.m.

The 2004 Livestock Show & Sale will be the first one held in Big Cypress. In the past, all shows have been held at the Brighton Reservation in conjunction with their Field Day activities. The Big Cypress Representatives made a bid last April to the 4-H Advisory Committee to have the event held on their reservation, noting that the largest majority of the youth were coming from Big Cypress, Immokalee and Hollywood Reservations.

This year's show will be held in conjunction with the Junior Cypress Cattle Drive, which will be held on March 27. The animals will be housed at the 4-H Pavilion through Saturday, and the public may come by to see the exhibits.

The young people put a tremendous investment in time, effort and money in their project animals and will be selling them in the Livestock Auction on Friday March 26. The youth pick out

their steers and calves usually in August, and must come from tribal-owned herds.

Please keep in mind that there are many options as to how to deal with the animals after purchase. With all animals, regardless of species, buyers have the options of reselling them at a predetermined resale price. All animals are typically sold on a live weight basis. Resale prices will be listed on the bill of sale the night of the auction.

Buyers may also keep the animal. All market steers and market hogs must go to slaughter, so if a buyer chooses to keep one, they will be getting meat back. All hogs and steers will be taken to the Big Cypress Processing Plant for cut and wrap.

Carrying the animal elsewhere will be up to the buyer. There will be cut and wrap sheets available at the auction on sale night for the buyer to complete. If the buyer intends to send the animal to some other slaughter facility, please notify a person handling the forms on or before sale. It is necessary that each buyer, or representative, pick up their meat at the specified time and date when notified.

This year, Seminole Tribe of Florida Seminoles will be hosting a buyer's steak dinner for each buyer and one guest, beginning at 5 p.m. on sale night. Dinner will be held under the big chickee next to the Big Cypress 4-H Pavilion.

Everyone is invited to come out and see some of the finest well-cared steers and hogs that can be purchased anywhere for sale. These young people have far more than market prices invested in their animals; they need and deserve all the support that each buyer can give them.

For further information on the upcoming 4-H Livestock Show & Sale, please call Polly Hayes at (863) 763-5020, Ext. 111, or Candi at (863) 983-3436.

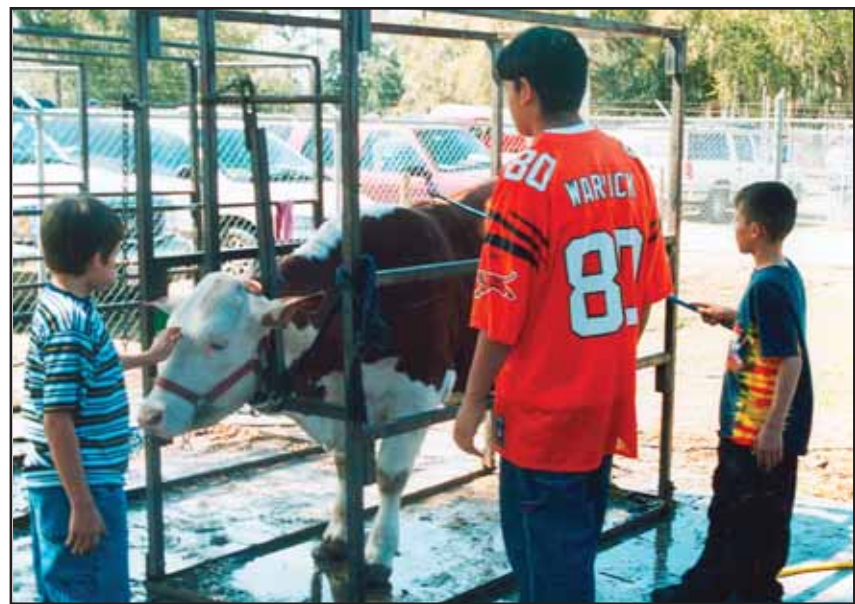
Schedule — Show: 6 p.m. on March 25; Buyer's Dinner: 5 p.m. on March 26; Sale at: 7 p.m.

Directions — From Route 80: Take Route 833 and follow signs to Big Cypress Indian Reservation, then to the Rodeo Arena. From Alligator Alley: Exit at Route 833 to the Big Cypress Reservation. 4-H Pavilion is on the left, next to the Rodeo Arena.



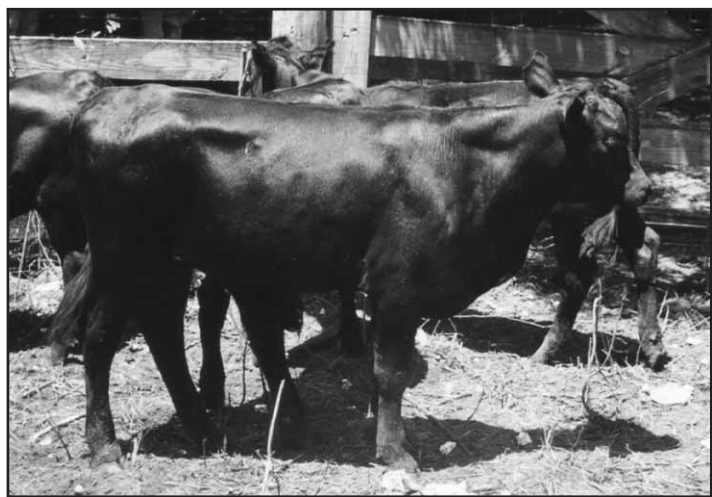
Nathan Billie working his steer.

Polly Hayes



4-H kids get steers groomed up for show.

Polly Hayes



2004
Seminole Indian
4-H

SHOW & SALE

MARCH 24, 25 & 26

Big Cypress Reservation @ Big Cypress 4-H Pavilion next to rodeo arena

SCHEDULE:

SWINE WEIGH-IN: 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. Wednesday, March 24, 2004

STEER WEIGH-IN: 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 24, 2004

SHOW: 6 p.m. Thursday, March 25, 2004

BUYER'S DINNER:

5 p.m. Friday, March 26, 2004

Under big chickee

SALE:

7 p.m. Friday, March 26, 2004

INFORMATION:

Polly Hayes (863) 763-5020, Ext. 111

or (863) 634-8899

Candi Mancil (863) 983-3436

or (863) 447-0303

DIRECTIONS:

From Rt. 80 take Rt. 833

follow signs to the Big

Cypress Indian Reservation to the rodeo

arena. From Alligator Alley - exit to 833

to the Big Cypress Reservation.



Mika Lopez cleans her pig Dora's pen.

Judy Weeks

Immokalee 4-H News

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — All of the chapters of the Seminole 4-H program have been very busy for several months and Immokalee is no exception.

Concerned parents handle the 4-H projects in Immokalee as a cooperative with Chris Marrero, their unofficial coordinator of "Large Animals". After many months of feeding, handling, grooming and training, all the hard work of the participants is paying off. There will be eight steers and 33 pigs ready to show!

Some of the exhibitors have participated in the program before and were aware of the responsibilities involved. Most of the beginners were surprised by the amount of effort that goes into raising livestock to say nothing of the daily feeding and cleaning routine.

The handling and taming of the rough stock in the beginning was the hardest part. For some, it was terrifying to say the least. Haltering and leading of the steers for the first time required the help of the whole family, which is one of the 4-H goals. The initial bathing and grooming were not only difficult, but on occasion, it was hilarious.

Working with the pigs was the same story as very few of them were willing to cooperate without a lot of encouragement. Since each participant is responsible for the cleaning and feeding of their livestock, it is impressive to walk through the barns and notice how clean and healthy the animals appear. This is proof that the youngsters have put in a lot of hard work.

On Saturday, Feb. 28, Mr. Marvin Hines of

Brighton came to Immokalee with his steer table for the hoof trimming procedure in preparation for the upcoming sale. Following this difficult job, he instructed the participants in proper shaving tech-



YUCK: Jessica Lopez receives a kiss from her cow.

Judy Weeks

niques. He then supervised their individual efforts. The contribution of his valuable time was very much appreciated.

Immokalee has reintroduced "Small Animal Exhibitors" for the first time in several years. Lois Alvarez is heading up this portion of the 4-H program. Currently, the list of projects includes: rabbits, chickens, fish, grasshoppers, caterpillars, dogs, cats and hamsters. This enables everyone from all age groups to participate.

This year, the Immokalee 4-H has been bigger and better than ever before. Some of the participants have worked hard and enjoyed their project, but admit that it was much more than they had anticipated. Others are already talking about how to improve the program by putting the experience they had this year to work for them next year. The new pig barn made a big difference and work has already begun on a new steer facility, which should be completed this summer.

Immokalee's 4-H youth would like to take this opportunity to thank their parents, sponsors and all the people that have helped to make this year a success.



Judy Weeks

KEEP 'EM CLEAN: Marvin Hines instructing hoof trimming.

Collier County 4-H Thanks Rep. Aguilar

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — In keeping with the Seminole Tribe's policy of community awareness and involvement with youth activities, Elaine Aguilar, Immokalee Council Representative, helped sponsor one of Collier County's 4-H projects.

On Feb. 21, the John Jimmie Memorial Arena was host to the 2004 Collier County University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension 4-H Qualifying

Horse Show. Entrants signed up to compete in categories ranging from Halter, English, Western and Speed divisions. The all-day event turned into a fun-filled play day.

The 4-H riders were accumulating points to qualify to compete on a state level later in the year. The youth and their leadership would like to take this opportunity to thank the Seminole Tribe for their assistance.

4-H... More Than You
Ever Imagined.



We Thank Seminole Tribe for
letting us use their very
nice arena grounds

Kelly Lambert

Angie Culbros

Kayla Schmaeling

Kara Grady

Madeline Limer

Christina Lober

Maribel Limer

Seminole Tribe
Judy's Curtis
Just want to say Thank
you for making our 4-H show
so much fun. The food was
so very good!! And whenever
anyone needs help with a horse
to get in the ring or trailer,
Curtis was there.

Thanks for going
beyond the expected

Madeline + Kallie

County 4-H kids

Thank you for

sharing

with us.

Ashli Whitley

Becky Leide

Dora Russo

Grant Southwick

Mia Brighi

Amanda Storch

Brooke Miller

God Y Weeks

Mariah Grieser

Charnelle Mclewan

Clarissa Phillips

Brighton Princess Contest 2004

By Emma Brown
BRIGHTON — On Thursday Feb. 19, the Brighton Princess Committee hosted the annual Brighton Miss and Jr. Miss contest, held in conjunction with the annual Brighton Field Day activities. The evening began with a Community Dinner at 6 p.m., followed by the contest at 7 p.m.

There were six contestants in the Brighton Jr. Miss contest and one in the Brighton Sr. Miss contest. The contestants were as follows: Brighton Jr. Miss: Erena Billie, Janet Smith, Breanna Nuñez, Sheila Jones, Lois Billie, Destiny Nuñez; Brighton Miss: Jennifer Chalfant.

This year's master of ceremonies was the reigning Miss Seminole, Cherelee Hall. The contest began with the invocation that the contestants recited. They all gathered on stage in a circle and cited the Lords Prayer, which offered a very inspirational and personal beginning to the evening.

Following this was the introduction of the Brighton Princess Committee: Salina Dorgan, Charlotte Burgess, Joyce Jumper, and Wendell Juarez. Brighton Board and Council Representatives, Johnnie Jones and Roger Smith received a warm welcome.

Special guests and judges included: Jr. Miss Seminole Brittney Smith, Eastern Indian Rodeo Association Rodeo Queen Trina Bowers, Little Miss Seminole Rumor Juarez, and Little Mr. Seminole Rudy Juarez.

After the introductions, each contestant came on stage to deliver their presentation speech to the audience. They dressed in unique and beautiful traditional dress. Once presentation speeches were completed, Roger Smith and Johnnie Jones welcomed the crowd and wished all contestants good luck.

Next was the appearance portion of the contest. Each contestant took their formal walk on stage modeling their beauty, poise, and traditional outfit. After the modeling was completed, it was time for the talent portion to begin.

Each contestant was given a chance to display their knowledge of their culture by exhibiting a traditional talent of their choice. There were many different cultural exhibitions, including how to make a traditional baby swing, interpretations of the Creek language using colors, numbers and animals, instructions on how to make a sweet grass basket, explanations and meanings of Native American designs.

Next was the impromptu question, which always seems to be the most difficult with any contest. Erena Billie was asked to describe what kind of dress she was wearing and who it was made by.

"I am wearing an old fashioned traditional dress that



Emma Brown

Brittany Smith, Jr. Miss Seminole, Brianna Nunez, Brighton Jr. Miss, Jennifer Chalfant, Brighton Princess, Cherelee Hall, Miss Seminole.

was made by my Aunt Dionne," she said. Judges asked contestant Breanna Nuñez what her favorite subject is, and she gave them an honest answer. "My favorite subject is recess because I like hanging out with my friends," Nuñez said.

This answer put a smile on the face of the judges because they knew that there was absolutely no fabrication to that answer. Once each contestant had answered their question, the judges then had to tally up the scores and chose winners.

While the judges were busy adding up numbers, the reigning Mrs. Brighton, Ericka Osceola, and Brighton Jr. Miss, Jaryaca Baker came on stage to give their farewell speeches. Each princess wished the contestants good luck and talked about their wonderful experience as Brighton princess.

The judges had their work cut out for them. Every contestant was a winner and deserved to be commended for their courage and effort that was put forth. Congratulations to all of the chosen winners and good luck as you carry out your title as Brighton Jr. Miss and Brighton Miss.

This year's recipients were: Talent winner: Sheila Jones; Participation awards: Erena Billie and Janet Smith; Brighton Jr. Miss: third runner-up: Lois Billie, second runner-up: Sheila Jones, first runner-up: Destiny Nuñez; 2004 Brighton Jr. Miss: Breanna Nuñez; 2004 Brighton Miss Seminole: Jennifer Chalfant.



Emma Brown

Sheila Jones was winner of the Talent Contest.

❖ Field Day

Continued from page 1

ended on Sunday with the final performance of the (PRCA) Rodeo, which had standing room only for both performances.

During the festival week, the community held their annual Princess contest, golf tournament, pool tournament, walk/run, and cultural day for school children held on Friday each year. This is the day that the community invites surrounding school districts to bring their students out to the reservation on a cultural field trip and enjoy what the festival has to offer.

On Friday night, the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) held their annual Brighton Field Day Rodeo, which has all Native American cowboys and cowgirls competing in it. Each year on Saturday morning at 10 a.m., the parade kicks off the weekend as it travels through the festival grounds with its colorful and traditional display of department floats, four-wheelers, swamp buggies, local county and tribal politicians, and Native American cowboys and cowgirls dressed in traditional clothing.

Throughout the weekend, spectators could visit the Authentic Seminole Living Village, located on the festival



Emma Brown

The Johns family gathers for a group photo.

grounds at the culture camp. They could also visit the arena stage to see Aztec fire dancers, cloggers, Seminole clothing contests, alligator wrestling and much more. Visitors could also browse the many arts and crafts booths, or sample traditional foods such as the famous Seminole pumpkin bread and Indian burgers.

To top off each day, the PRCA rodeo was held Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon, bringing in such a large crowd that there was only elbow room between spectators. Some reports suggested that this year's crowd was the biggest ever.

The Brighton Field Day and Rodeo event has definitely come a long way since the 1930s. The tremendous growth of this festival says a great deal about the collaboration and efforts of the Seminole Tribe and those who have helped produce such a tremendous day of fun. There is a genuine interest in learning and appreciating the Seminole Indians.

Tourists Admire Cultural Exhibits at Brighton Field Day

By Susan Etxebarria
BRIGHTON — Sampling sofkee was a strange new experience for some tourists who stopped at the cultural exhibit under the chickee at Brighton Field Days and Rodeo on Saturday Feb. 27.

"This is interesting," said Harvey Mitchell of Michigan "This is really different; is it an energy drink?"

Being a regular attendee at Field Day for the past nine years, as long as he has been a winter-only Florida resident, Mitchell said this was his first time checking out the modest cultural exhibits. Although the cultural exhibits are not as noticeable as the live action going on at the stage, or the food booths, many people still made their way to the exhibits.

Tribal citizen Willie Johns, a teacher with the Pull-Out Program, was dispensing more than samples of fried pumpkin bread and sofkee as he answered many questions about Seminole traditions.

During the day, the smoke swirled through the chickee as the cooking fires were being tended by volunteers, including the cook, Mary Jene Coppedge, and her assistant, Loretta Huff. The two started the preparations at sunrise and worked all day. It seems the Seminole world leaves an extremely positive impression, judged by what the festival-goers had to say.

"This is our second year here, but last year we missed all the cultural exhibits," said Lois Roberts of Athens, Ohio "It is most enlightening."

Claude and Helen Dagget of New Brunswick, Canada, were amazed

by the construction of the chickee.

"It looks like it was constructed by an architect," Helen Dagget said.

Sara Acree, and her companion, Lee Habryle, both from Washington State, commented how different Seminole traditions are from those of the tribes in the Pacific Northwest. Both Acree and Habryle praised the Seminoles for being one of the cleanest, prettiest, most modern and progressive reservations they have ever visited.

"It is very evident the Seminoles take pride in their reservation," said Acree. "I am very impressed with the people. Everyone was very friendly and accommodating."

Habryle also said he found the



Susan Etxebarria

Tourists admire the intricate patchwork design on a shirt.

patchwork clothing very interesting.

"There was a lot of craftsmanship in the clothes, a lot of work in them," she said.

Seeing Seminole traditions brings new understandings. As Mitchell said after he drank the sofkee, "This is pretty educational if you take time to look, especially if you see the stuff the Seminoles actually make for these exhibits."



Barbara Boling

CROWD FAVORITE: The Brighton Clininc staff constructed the M*A*S*H float.

Brighton Clinic's M*A*S*H Unit Wins Second Place

By Barbara Boling, Health Educator
BRIGHTON — The Brighton Clinic staff would like to say a big thank you to Health Director Connie Whidden and Brighton Clinic Manager Patty Waldron for making it possible for employees to participate in the Brighton Field Day Parade.

The staff constructed a float using the theme from the 1970s television show M*A*S*H. The clinic reinvented characters from the popular show; Candice Hightower dressed as Hot Lips, Dr. Vincent McClane was Radar, and Billy Micco dressed as the lovable Klinger.

The nursing staff provided a realistic wounded patient and medical care team administered first aid.

Additional clinic staff and Jack Micco were riding three wheel bicycles to accompany the float. The staff and crowd enjoyed the float very much.



Barbara Boling

Billie Micco dressed as the character "Klinger" and Clinic Manager Patty Waldron in army gear.



Emma Brown

Seminole ladies line up for the traditional clothing contest.



Ingrid Tanz-Sym

New Health Promotion Programs at the University of Oklahoma

NORMAN, OK — Health Promotion Programs in the College of Continuing Education at the University of Oklahoma proudly presents Native Women & Men's Wellness IV Conference to be held April 4-8, at the Town & Country Resort Hotel in San Diego, Calif.

The conference's theme is "Connecting the Circles Creating Our Paths to Fulfillment." Native women, men and youth will be coming together in San Diego from the four directions to again celebrate healthy living and wellness in their personal lives as well as in their families, work places and communities. General sessions, workshops, wellness classes and other conference activities are designed to reinforce this theme. All conference activities will be based upon a solid foundation of native holistic wellness and conducted in a safe and healthy manner.

This conference gathering will be a skills-based training for individuals working in helping roles, including: educators, counselors, social workers, medical clinicians, spiritual leaders and healers, and community health representatives. In addition, the conference activities will provide valuable information and training for others who play critical roles in the health and wellness of their families and communities: elders, tribal and community leaders, youths, parents and grandparents of all ages. One may choose to participate in this gathering to help maintain and promote personal and/or professional growth.

Highlights for this year's conference include a comprehensive health fair, intensive training semi-

nars (grant writing, diabetes prevention, Native fitness for special populations), couples panel, youth camp, model program presentation, dinner dance, and closing brunch featuring a special guest send off message and performance by actor, musician, author and advocate, Floyd "Red Crow" Westerman. All are invited to join this gathering in beautiful Southern California.

Conference keynote speakers include Kevin Locke (Lakota/Anishinabe) and Lt. Governor Mary Thomas (Pima/Hopi). They have both established themselves as powerful spokespersons for wellness in Indian Country. Locke, an indigenous flute player, traditional hoop dancer and storyteller, cultural ambassador and educator, is known internationally for his understanding of the commonality and vision of people around the world, with special focus on Native peoples and their traditions. Thomas, elected as the first Lt. Governor and later Governor of the Gila River (AZ) Indian Community, is a strong leader in the wellness movement in that community and advocate for Native wellness throughout Indian Country. After 42 years of living well with diabetes, she brings both a personal and professional message to the gathering. Workshop topics have been chosen to complement these speakers and focus on wellness in the many circles of our lives: self, family, work, and community.

For more information about this conference or other conferences and trainings coordinated by Health Promotion Programs, please call (405) 325-1790 or visit the website at <http://hpp.ou.edu>.



Hollywood kids and Recreation staff look cool in the cold.

♦ Vermont

Continued from page 1

That afternoon, everyone loaded up and headed to a small town just down the road from Stowe. That town was Waterbury, and it is the home to one of America's greatest landmarks, the Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Factory. The tour allowed the children to view the factory as well as a brief history of company, and best of all, free ice cream. After indulging themselves on ice cream, the crew stopped at one the many local shops to rent their snowboarding equipment for Saturday's trip to the mountain.

Saturday morning began early, as most of the kids were out trying their snowboards and building a snowman, which turned out to be a snow-woman. As lunch time approached, the snow boarders; Garrett Anderson, Joseph Osceola, Courtney Osceola, Huston Osceola, Nicole Osceola, and Krystle Young gathered up their boards and headed to the mountain for some serious snowboarding action.

The group learned the different aspects of handling a board, most of which was learning how to



Nicole Osceola (back) and Patrice McCrea make a snowman.

get back up after falling. After lunch a couple brave survivors, Garrett Anderson and Krystle Young took the long ride up to the top to try to tame the mountain. All of the snow boarders survived their trip to the mountain and headed back to receive their well earned dinner and swimming.

But for Mike Doctor, his adventure was about to begin. Doctor, being a veteran of countless all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trail rides with the Hollywood Recreation Department, is very familiar with 4 wheelers. However, this time Doctor was on an ATV that didn't have wheels, a 2004 Polaris snowmobile.

The next day was Sunday, and even the waitress at the small diner noticed the long faces on all of the kids. They knew their trip was over. They knew they were going home and would have to go to school the next day. But they used their time wisely, making sure they used up every second to play in the snow, and making sure to hit the adults with one last snowball before they left.



(L-R) Huston Osceola and Krystle Young as the next Ben & Jerry.



Recreation kids get ready to try snowboarding.

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Your Right to Vote—Use It!

By Nery Mejicano

In 1774, at the Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia, Penn., the Framers of the Constitution could not come to agreement as to who should be given the right to vote. The Constitution, therefore, left to each state government the power to decide who could vote.

From 1776-1779 white men were given the right to vote and take active part in government if they met certain prerequisites, such as owning property and being more than 21 years of age. It was not until June 2, 1924, 148 years later that congress granted citizenship to all Native Americans, and with it, the right to vote.

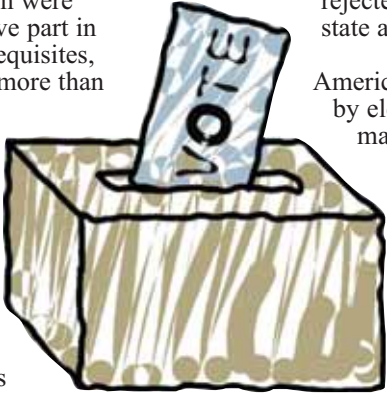
But because the right to vote was governed by state law, up until 1948, some states barred Native Americans from voting. American policy toward Indians up until 1934 was shaped by the Dawes Severalty Act of 1887. This Act encouraged Native Americans to "assimilate," hoping to resolve the "indian problem," and in this process Indian Schools were established for the purpose of teaching Native American children white values and traditions and slowly "de-indianizing" the Natives.

The Federal Government began to redistribute tribal lands to individuals in 160-acre allotments


and unclaimed surplus lands were sold. With the passage of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, the government encouraged the tribes to engage in active self-government, forbid the further re-distribution of Indian lands and returned some of the "surplus" land to the tribes. Most of these legislations, that so seriously affected the Native people, were passed or rejected by elected officials at the federal, state and local levels.

Today, the challenges that Native Americans face, are still directly controlled by elected officials. The Native vote can make a difference in the direction national and state policy toward Native American and national issues go. Today, the tribes are fighting for their self-determination; their rights of economic development such as gaming on Indian lands; the protection of the environment; and other serious social and health related issues.

As you recall, Florida was lost by only a few votes during the 2000 presidential election. A few Seminole votes could have turned the direction of history. So, if you think your vote does not count, think again. On April 1st, there will be a voter registration drive in Big Cypress. Registration applications will be available, as well as assistance in filling the applications.



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Battle of Okeechobee Manifests Spirit of the Unconquered Seminoles

By Susan Etxebarría

OKEECHOBEE, FL — The fierce and bloody Battle of Okeechobee in which Seminole warriors fought off General Zachary Taylor and his troops during the Second Seminole War was re-enacted on Feb. 28–29 in front of large crowds of history buffs, curious tourists and people fascinated by the saga of the Seminoles.

“For the Seminoles, this re-enactment represents a point of pride because we defeated the U.S. military here and walked away from the battle,” said Moses Osceola, President of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. “I can think back on what my relatives accomplished here and as a descendant to actually stand on the ground where the battle took place is of real significance to me.”

To watch the re-enactment can be a haunting and emotional experience. Although it’s but a group of amateur actors playing parts, it propels the mind into imagining a tragic era when great and mighty warriors were forced to defend their lives, their homes and their lands against invading forces.

To read some of the many outdated historical accounts about this major battle of the Seminole

place where battles actually took place and the conditions that prevailed at the time, since these accounts are often coming from one-sided sources, while archaeology can change the interpretation of what occurred.

“You actually go out there and prove where the battle took place,” Steele said, sitting under a cypress tree the day of the re-enactment. “Historians said the battle was fought on the north shore of Okeechobee, but the north shore was one mile north of here in 1837. So when you take science and start applying it into account, you come to different conclusions then maybe a historian would.”

What we do know historically is that the Seminoles ambushed, killed and wounded far more enemy troops, leaving the U.S. Army in total chaos and confusion. The shrewd warriors disappeared from the Okeechobee battlefield to strike elsewhere on another day against the enemy.

Professor of history at the University of Oklahoma, Edwin C. McReynolds, cites in his book “The Seminoles” that General Taylor led his force of 1,100 men into Seminole Country with the explicit order to kill or capture the Seminole Indians. The total Native force at the Okeechobee battlefield were reported to be less than four hundred Native Americans who, led by the joint forces of Arpeika and his Mikasukies, Coacoochee, and the warriors of Halpatter Tustenuggee, fought the hardest battle of the Seminole Wars. Approximately 26 of General Taylor’s troops were killed and 112 wounded, versus an estimated 11 losses for the greatly outnumbered Seminoles.

What now what remains of this historic site is in peril. While the tribe’s archeologists and historians work against the clock to discover every bit of evidence about this battle, developers have already plowed through much of the 650 acres on which the battle took place. The ridge, where the worst of the battle took place has had a church, a flea market, a restaurant built on top of it, and a large development known as King’s Bay was built on the land that was once the swamp-filled area where Taylor’s troops may have waded through saw grass between five and six feet tall.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, an organization that aims to preserve historic sites, has placed this battlefield on its list of one of the 11 most endangered places. The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers may issue a permit for a housing development in the western section of the site. The battlefield may lose its status as a National Historic Landmark if much more of the site is lost to development.

Preserving the battlefield to educate future generations is a goal of the tribe which is also being aided by the efforts Friends of the Okeechobee Battlefield, the group that organized the 4th Annual Okeechobee Battlefield Commemoration. Members include such influential forces as State Representative Richard Machek D-FL, the South Florida Water Management District, the Okeechobee Tourist Development Council, the Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners, the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, the Florida Division of Forestry, and many other private and public supporters.

Machek is trying to get the state of Florida to purchase the land as a historic park, but he said the state is limited in its resources and land prices are rising dramatically in Okeechobee County.

“It is an opportunity to bring back part of the history of Florida, the Second Seminole War that happened here at this site” he said. “There is a lot of heritage here.”

He said the site would be planned with



Susan Etxebarría
Looking down the barrel.



Susan Etxebarría
President Moses Osceola (sixth from right) poses with the U.S. Military re-enactors.



Oliver Wareham
Jack Williams portrays General Zackery Taylor.

Wars, one might be led to believe that General Taylor won the battle, a boast that helped elect him to the twelfth presidency of the U.S. But the true story of what really happened at this battlefield on Christmas Day in 1837 is constantly being updated and verified by the Seminole Tribe’s modern day use of archaeology, a scientific method from fiction.

“Archaeology is the ground-proofing of history,” said Willard Steele, Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Seminole Tribe of Florida. “[History is an] immature form of mythology.”

He also participated in the re-enactment playing the part of Colonel Richard Gentry.

In regards to this important battle, Steele said he has read grossly exaggerated accounts of the battle made by persons who had never been to the battlefield. Steele said historical accounts often mis-



Susan Etxebarría
Seminole warrior re-enactor takes aim.

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exhibits, displaying artifacts taken from the site, and a museum to educate the visitors to the site.

“We are working hard to get the state to preserve the battlefield; to get this nailed down before development and the commercialism comes in and takes this property out for commercial use,” he added.

Machek said the property is on the A-list for preservation and there have been attempts to negotiate with sellers, but so far there has not been an

agreement on the price.

The significance of the Okeechobee Battlefield goes back further than the tragedy and disgrace of the Seminole Wars waged against native people. According to Steele, every Native American group of people in the southeast that had made an effort from 1670 to 1858 to stop the encroachments of non-native people, every group who had lost a war and been broken up, and those remnants who had attached themselves to the Creek Nation, and who faced war against the United States in the Creek War of 1813, are ancestors of the Seminoles.

“The Seminoles can take pride in this battlefield because they are the last remnant of two hundred years of efforts,” said Steele. “At this battlefield were the descendants of freedom fighters who had been fighting generation after generation, tribe after tribe. The Seminoles, a small group of people who were still standing here, still refusing to surrender after 150 year of solid war, were the legitimate inheritors of every effort before them to fight against the invaders.”



Susan Etxebarría
Seminole warriors prepare to ambush the U.S. troops.

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Family Services

Family Services – Encouraging Your Self-Esteem

Big Cypress Family Services Booth

By Wanda Przybysz

BIG CYPRESS — The Family Services Department had a table set up for Dividend Day encouraging positive attitudes and good self-esteem for everyone. Tina Mennella put together a basket of goodies that would make everyone feel good about themselves. It included a “Believe in yourself” journal, a small book of affirmations, and an assortment of candles, tea and bath salts.



Family Services Department
T-shirt painting fun at the booth.

Michael Onco and Noella O’Donnell gave out oranges and tangerines that were hand picked on the Big Cypress Reservation. They put happy faces on them with a marker and told everyone to start their day of positive. Wanda Przybysz was there to encourage everyone to sign up for the raffle and we all gave out stickers with positive affirmations. Jeremiah H. won the basket out of approximately 65 people. Congratulations.

Linda Fleishman was painting t-shirts and had several special requests for positive statements of self-esteem. Lucille Jumper was there, and Przybysz was taking a few pictures for the first time. All in all the day went well with Family Services getting involved with the community.



Family Services Department
Noella O’Donnell and Michael Onco gave out fresh fruit.



Family Services Department
The Fire and Rescue 4-Wheeler followed the group to ensure everyone's safety.

Immokalee Family Services Booth March 2004

By Billie Napper

IMMOKALEE — The Immokalee Family Services staff had a Dividend Day booth on March 1 just outside the front door of the Field Office. Laura Heritier handed out flyers on Healthy Self-Esteem along with soft drinks and water. She also had a display of things that make for healthy self-esteem. About 45 people

registered for the gift basket, which Juanita (Pequeño) Martinez won.

Several people commented on information that was in the handouts from last month, which indicates people are taking interest in the information. Laura and Billie Napper enjoy the interaction with the community and look forward to the booth next month.



Family Services Department
Juanita (Pequeño) Martinez won the raffle.

Brighton Family Services Booth

By Tony Bullington

BRIGHTON — Dark, overcast skies could not dampen the spirit of warmth and friendship that flowed around the Family Services Dividend Day table in front of the Brighton Field Office. Tribal citizens stopped by throughout the morning to partake in hot coffee, an assortment of juices, soft drinks, water and healthy snacks. They laughed and talked with each other and with the staff members.

This month, being windy March, the office decided to have a kite give away. Tribal citizens were encouraged to sign drawing slips for their kids or grandkids. Sixty-seven



Family Services Department
Brenda Walker gives snacks to Karilee Bowers and her two children Joey and Krystal Tonesges.



Family Services Department
Jacoby Johns won this kite at the Brighton booth raffle.

entrees were made and the winning slip was drawn that afternoon. The winner was Jacoby Johns, son of Jeff and Wendy Johns. He was thrilled with the prize of two kites, but even more surprised that his mother had entered him in the drawing.

The theme of this month was self-esteem and many tribal citizens received a handout detailing ways to secure healthy self-esteem. The friendly spirit of the morning had an impact on the people and nature, too. The dark, threatening clouds of the early morning, parted and gave way to the warm rays of sunshine and a beautiful afternoon.

Hollywood Family Services Booth

By Mark Lichtenberg

HOLLYWOOD — For the month of March, the Family Services booth focused on Self-Esteem. There were hand-outs available on what self-esteem means (your opinion of yourself), ways to improve your self-esteem, as well as your child’s self-esteem.

Self-esteem can affect our health, our relationships, and our morale. Family Services also offered free fruit and drinks, along with a raffle. The prize consisted of a basket filled with several items, including a gift certificate to Wal-Mart.

Thirty-five tribal members participated in the raffle and Joel Frank Sr. won. Next month, come by for a snack or just a chat.

For April, the theme will be titled: Cherish the Child - Child abuse awareness.



Mark Lichtenberg
Jack VanCott and Yvonne Courtney show the prize basket.



Mark Lichtenberg
Amber Giebtrock

Family Fun Day in Big Cypress

By Martin Borthick and Crissie Carter

BIG CYPRESS — On Feb. 21, more than twenty Big Cypress community members had a great adventure participating in the Third Semi-Annual 4-Wheel Family Fun Day. All the young folks showed up wearing helmets as fun and safety were emphasized. The group was led throughout the Big Cypress Reservation woods by tribal community citizens (thanks Lupe Osceola) on remote trails that most people never have the opportunity to experience.

This community activity was officially organized by Big Cypress Family Services Department. However, the event flourished with the help of the other Big Cypress tribal departments that participated, and supported by their Tribal Council Representative, David Cypress.

Martin Borthick of Family Services spent Saturday morning making sandwiches and making sure the vehicles had gas. The afternoon was fun because all the Family Services staff; Marisol, Michael, Carmen, Linda, and Tina worked hard to make sure

Martin did all the stuff he was supposed to.

The Big Cypress Family Investment building staff and receptionists did their part to help make the afternoon enjoyable. Fire and Rescue came along in their 4-Wheeler while Emergency Medical Services and the Seminole Police Department were on stand by. Safari and Ahfachkee supported the outing, as well as the Recreation Department. To Stan and all his staff, everyone thanks you for your help and support.

Big Cypress Family Services sponsors and promotes Family Fun Day to engage tribal family members to participate in recreational and social events with each other. This adventure provides the opportunity for family members to face challenges, help each other find solutions, and identify people’s individual strengths.

Family Services endorses families spending quality time with each other. We want families to learn that they can have fun with each other while tackling life’s difficulties. Someone once said, “It’s never too late to have a happy childhood.”

New Employee Hired in Tampa

Submitted by Family Services Program

TAMPA — The Tampa Family

Services Program welcomed the month of March by introducing a new staff member to the Tampa community and addressing self-esteem issues.

Marilyn Stillwell introduced herself to the community members as she will be working as a full time counselor in Tampa. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and has 20 years of experience working with children, families, and substance abuse issues. You may remember Stillwell

from her days of working with Family Services in the Hollywood and Big Cypress Reservations. She is excited to rejoin Family Services and looks forward to meeting everyone.



Marilyn Stillwell

Self-esteem is an important concept that relates to how we feel about ourselves. Self-esteem is a life-long issue that can empower you to live a fuller and happier life. Many people have unresolved issues from past experiences that impact self-esteem. Similarly, many people can also benefit from education and counseling related to this issue.



Family Services Department
(L-R) Mabel Frank and Nellie Bain attend the personal safety lecture.

Senior Action Committee Discusses Personal Safety

By Billie Napper, Immokalee Site Supervisor

IMMOKALEE — Seniors from Immokalee and Big Cypress met at the Immokalee Gym for the February Senior Activity planned by the Senior Action Committee of Immokalee. The topic of Personal Safety was presented by Officer Connie Ledbetter of the Collier County Sheriff’s Department.

Ledbetter discussed ideas such as not leaving your purse in the shopping cart in a store, shopping with friends rather than alone, letting someone know when you expect to be home, and keeping your doors locked all the time.

After the lecture, attendees had a chance to chat with each other and look at some pictures of previous outings and events

in Immokalee. The lunch was catered by Lozano’s and was very tasty.

Seniors attending the luncheon included: Elizabeth Olea, Nancy Garza, Nellie Bain, Mary J. Robbins, Patsy Billie, Mabel Frank, John Billie, Louise Billie, Rachel Billie, Frank J. Billie, Joe Osceola, Virginia Tommie, Mary Louise Johns and Billie Johns.

Raymond Garza, Board Member, and Elaine Aguilar, Council Rep, attended the luncheon to show their support of senior activities.

Seminole Police Department (SPD) Sgt. Phillip Gonzalez, Officer Laura Herron, and Officer John Hill were at the meeting to provide information about accessing help from SPD. Employees from the Senior Center and the Family Services Department set up the luncheon and provided door prizes.

Family Services – Encouraging Your Self-Esteem

Self-Esteem, an Inside Job

By Billie Napper, Immokalee Site Supervisor

Self-esteem is an inside job. We all have self-esteem; it's just that some of us don't make the most of it. Self-esteem is the way that you see yourself. Self-image is how others see you. How others see us is often based on our own self-esteem. It determines how we act, how we dress, how we respond to problems, and how we interact with others.

Having poor self-esteem can cause a host of problems. Someone with poor self-esteem tends to see others as better than them, regardless of how the other person acts. The person with poor self-esteem will often follow others because they think the other person is smarter than them, better than them, or knows more than them. This can cause some real problems if the other person engages in self-destructive or criminal activities.

You don't have to be a beauty queen or a genius to have good self-esteem. Good self-esteem comes from taking a personal inventory. The personal inventory involves listing your strengths and good points, as well as your weaknesses and negative points. Interestingly enough, if you ask people to list five traits about themselves that they like and then list five traits about themselves that they don't like, most people can do one or the other, but few people can do both. This

may be because people who think positively can list good traits about themselves that they like, but because they don't think of negatives, they can't list their own weaknesses. The flip side of that is true too. A person who sees themselves and their world negatively can't see their own good traits.

The importance of identifying your strengths and weaknesses is so you can work to decrease your weaknesses while working to play up your strengths. The process of identifying both strengths and weaknesses needs to be an ongoing event. The first time you identify your strengths and weaknesses is a good start, but as time goes by, those strengths and weaknesses may change and it is important to notice the changes.

The really important thing to remember about self-esteem is that it is an inside job. Only you can cause your self-esteem to go down and only you can make your self-esteem go up. If you're having a real problem seeing yourself in a positive manner, try seeing a counselor. Sometimes it is easier for someone else to see our strengths. Working on your self-esteem doesn't sound like the most exciting thing in the world, but improving your self-esteem can make your life seem much better and result in your feeling happier and more confident. Improving your self-esteem is certainly worth the effort.

Encouraging Positive Self-Esteem

By Tony Bullington

BRIGHTON — Many popular counseling theories are based on the premise that a majority of problems addressed in counseling are rooted in the client's belief system. Irrational and dysfunctional beliefs produce unstable emotions and maladaptive behaviors. What we believe about ourselves has a profound impact on our relationships with others and our own, personal estimation of self-worth, self-image and self-esteem.



A child that is told from infancy that they are worthless or no good or any other derogatory statements will begin to believe these things about themselves. Those beliefs will eventually become evident in their behavior at home, school and in the community. The child believes that they are no good and will seek to prove it to everyone in his or her world. The implications of these beliefs and actions are obvious.

These things may lead to mischief as a child, and crime when someone enters adolescence. These beliefs and low self-esteem issues can make anyone a ripe candidate for drug addiction and alcoholism. The relationships they develop will most likely be characterized by verbal and possibly physical abuse.

The above scenario is lived out daily by millions of people in this nation. Drug addiction, alcoholism, domestic violence, theft and sexual abuse can be linked to a person's dysfunctional belief system and diminished self-esteem. The importance of a positive self-esteem can not be under estimated.

The Family Services Department has a staff of professionals trained in various aspects of expertise: mental health counselors, substance abuse counselors, social workers, foster care counselors, marriage and family therapists and tribal support counselors. Problems are addressed individually as presented by clients with the utilization of tools learned from training. Though each discipline possess different strengths, the common thread tying them all together is the focus on seeing all clients as people who are unique, special and worthy of respect and dignity.

The counselors address issues by providing services and resources designed to produce changes in behaviors, beliefs and ultimately increasing the level of self-worth and self-esteem. Small steps and victories are celebrated and applauded. As beliefs change, behavior is modified and the client's conscience is marked by the smiles of new found self-confidence and self-esteem.

What is Self-Esteem?

Self-esteem is how we feel about ourselves; it is how we see ourselves when we look in the mirror. It affects every aspect of our lives – how we think, how we act and feel, and how we relate to others.

Where does self-esteem come from?

We are not born with self-esteem. Self-esteem comes from a lifetime of experiences. Our family, home, school, work and social life all contribute to our self-esteem.

High or Low?

If you feel good about yourself in most areas of your life, you probably have good self-esteem. If you feel bad about yourself in many areas of your life, then your self-esteem may be suffering. Even if you only feel bad in certain areas, for example, you may like how well you do your job, but feel bad about your appearance, you can take steps to feel better about yourself.

Creating Positive Self-Esteem: Look at your strengths

Building self-esteem takes action. Start by making a list of things you do well. Then list the reasons other people like you. Next, list the qualities you like about yourself. Keep your list handy and look at it often.

Identify your weaknesses

We all have strengths and weaknesses. Take an honest look at the things you don't like about yourself. Identify those things you would like to improve. Identify those things you cannot change too. Sometimes accepting yourself is the best change you can make.

Make Changes to Feel Better

Picture yourself at your best. Keep that picture in your mind and then take action. At first, take small, easy steps toward change. Then as your confidence grows, tackle the harder changes. Remember to acknowledge every small step. Focus on improvements, not perfection.

Focus on your good qualities

Use affirmations, or positive statements, such as "I am strong and competent," or "I am loveable." Write your affirmations down. Be as specific as possible. For example, write down "I am a good friend to John," or "I am a good cook." Put your affirmations on a mirror, beside your bed or in your pocket. Say them five, ten, or even twenty times each day until they feel like a part of you.

People can help

Be around people who help you feel good about yourself. Avoid people who are negative or put you down. The better your relationships, the faster your self-esteem will rise.

Set yourself up for success

Do things that help you feel good about yourself. Look at the list of things you do well for ideas. Try new things. Take up a new hobby, make a new friend or volunteer to help others. Each new positive experience will counteract an old negative experience. Don't expect perfection. Everyone makes mistakes – even at the things they do well.

Be your own best friend

Take pride in what you do. Encourage and praise yourself. Eat right, exercise, rest and play. By showing self-care, you are acting out of good self-esteem.

What difference does self-esteem make?

Self-esteem affects our health, our relationships, and our morale and stress at work. High self-esteem allows us to trust our intuition, face fears, and learn from experience.

Can we raise our self-esteem?

Stop self-abuse, including, substance abuse, binge eating, compulsive spending, gambling, and raging. These block learning and drag us down. We need to identify these addictions and find ways to replace them with self-care.

Practice self-care by joining self-help groups, practicing positive health care, and learning assertion, stress management, and relapse prevention skills.

Face our fears and discomforts; we are stronger than we know! Confusion is the source of wisdom.

We are not responsible for low self-esteem, but only we can raise it. Move beyond being a victim and into becoming a survivor.

Say "no" to old rules, beliefs, and associations that lead to low self-esteem.

Suggestions to Help You Build Your Child's Self-Esteem

By Crissie Carter

BIG CYPRESS — When your child asks you a question, take the time to listen. Stop what you are doing and make sure your child know that what he or she says is very important to you.

Assign your child daily home responsibilities. Even the youngest child can help match socks, fold dinner napkins, or push a dust mop across the floor. Be sure to compliment the task! Remember, your focus should be on creating a situation in which your child feels valued rather forcing them to achieve a perfect result at the task.

Reassure your child of your love and support. Do this at unexpected times as well as when praising a particular accom-

plishment. Giving a warm hug as your child sits gazing out the window says a lot. Praise does not always have to be verbal.

Develop the bedtime routine of telling your child at least one wonderful thing your noticed about him or her that day. What a wonderful way to induce sweet dreams!

Keep in mind that the most effective way to teach your child about positive self-esteem is to be a good role model. Let your child see you take joy in your own accomplishments and cope with mistakes or disappointments in a constructive way. Your child will copy your healthy attitude, and you will feel happier as well.



Daily Affirmations for Self-Esteem

I am lovable and capable.
I am a unique and priceless person, worthy of the respect of others.
I am a valuable and important person, with a lot to offer.
I am radiant being filled with light and love.
I am my own expert, and I allow others the same privilege.
I express my ideas easily, and I know others respect my point of view.
I love myself fully just the way I am. I am enough.
I am kind, compassionate and gentle with myself.
I am at ease asking for the things I want and need.
I feel warm and loving toward myself, for I am a unique and precious being, ever doing the best my awareness permits, ever growing in wisdom and love.
The more I love myself, the more love I have to give to others.
I have the right to ask for what I want.
I am a total success in all that I do.
I am counting my blessings and rejoicing in my growing awareness.
I trust myself and will go at my own speed.
I now approve of all my actions.
I am enjoying my limitless capacity for joy and pleasure.
No matter what you say or do to me, I am still a worthwhile person.
I accept compliments easily and share my successes with others who have contributed to them.
I have pride in my past performance and a positive expectancy of the future.

Look in the mirror and read these to yourself, eye-to-eye, for 30 days in a row, then add your own goals and affirmations to the list.

Family Services Department Phone Numbers

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The Doctor’s Are In

By **Connie Whidden, Health Director**

The Seminole Tribe of Florida Health Department is very fortunate to have great doctors working in our Medical Clinics. I thought it would be nice to reintroduce them to you and encourage you to come in to one of the clinics and talk with them regarding any medical issues or concerns you may have.

Dr. James VanGelder, MD – Chief Medical Officer for the Seminole Tribe of Florida

Dr. VanGelder was born in Detroit, Mich., and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio. He received a bachelor’s degree and then a master’s degree from the University of Cincinnati. After completing an internship at the Albany Medical College Hospital and residency and chief residency at the University of Cincinnati, he served a two-year fellowship in nephrology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, TX.

During his training, VanGelder received a Bogen Award for Research. Following his training, he settled in Hollywood. in 1974, where he has practiced internal medicine and nephrology. VanGelder is not only Board Certified in Nephrology, but is South Broward’s only Board Certified Clinical Specialist in hypertension, or high blood pressure.

His professional activities and honors have included membership in the Florida Medical



Dr. James VanGelder, MD

Award from the South Florida Chapter of the American Association of Kidney Disease and a Distinguished Service Award from the End-Stage Renal Disease Regional Network.

In addition to this historical information, Dr. VanGelder was asked to express his thoughts regarding our health care. His response follows.

“I have had the pleasure and honor of knowing and treating members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida since 1974. During this time period, I have been proud to participate in the evolution of a Health Care System that I think is the best delivery system in this part of the country.”

“Through the tribe’s involvement, vision, and participatory leadership, the Seminole Health Care System has evolved into a multi-disciplinary system that has established the welfare of the whole person as the principal goal – medically and spiritually.

“Our patients have access to the latest advances in health care. Great strides have been made; however, these laurels belong to the past. What is important is that we keep an eye to the future. As previously mentioned, our Health Care System is in evolution – always changing, always striving to do more and become better at what we do and provide. For this to occur, we need open constructive lines of communication so that we may all grow.

“Some of the ideas expressed by community members is that incorporation of homeopathic remedies, in additions to traditional remedies in the management of medical issues. This is an extremely challenging area that we hope to develop. As we move forth in this direction, we must be mindful that many products sold over-the-counter can be harmful to people with medical conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, kidney disease etc. But forward we will move!

“I would like to thank the Seminole Tribe of Florida for the personal and spiritual growth that working with you has provided me.”

Dr. VanGelder’s Schedule in our Medical Clinics:

Big Cypress Clinic (863) 983-5151

Tuesdays: 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Hollywood Clinic (954) 962-2009

Wednesdays: 9:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

Fridays: 9:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

Dr. Christopher J. Mavroides, MD

Dr. Christopher J. Mavroides is a Board Certified Internist and Geriatrician. He is a resident of Okeechobee, Fla., where he lives with his family. Mavroides went to school at Williams College in Massachusetts and went to Medical School at the

University of Cincinnati, in Cincinnati, Ohio. He did his training, internship and residency in internal medicine at St. Vincent’s Hospital/UMass. in Worcester, Mass.



(left) Dr. Christopher J. Mavroides, MD with Dan Bowers.

Mavroides has been practicing medicine for 20 years and has been with the Seminole Tribe of Florida for the past six years. He is an affiliate clinical professor at the University of South Florida and a member of the American College of Physicians, Wilderness Medical Society and American Board of Quality Assurance and Utilization Review Physicians.

He has certifications in internal medicine and geriatrics, as well as health care quality and management. Mavroides has served as Chief-of-Staff at Raulerson Hospital, his local community hospital in Okeechobee, and is currently on the Board at Raulerson Hospital.

Mavroides is active in the community giving lectures on maintaining health and longevity through natural means including exercise, diet and use of vitamins as natural supplements. He is active in the city of Okeechobee participating on the City Boards of Land Use and Zoning. Mavroides coaches soccer as well as basketball for community youth. He attends Okeechobee Missionary Baptist Church.

His practice in Okeechobee is truly a family practice with his wife working in the office as well as his son and mother-in-law. His oldest daughter is a teacher in Okeechobee. He has two daughters in college, and his two youngest children go to public school in Okeechobee.

His philosophy of medicine and medical care has been holistic, looking at the entire individual in a medical as well as a social context. Healing, not only through medication but through therapy and natural means, has been important. Using social support such as family is also important. This philosophy has blended well with the Health Care System of the Seminole Tribe which blends medicine and modern technology with traditional values and social support.

Dr. Mavroides’s Schedule in our Brighton Clinic: (863) 763-0271

Tuesdays: 9 a.m.–12 p.m.

Thursdays: 2 p.m.–5 p.m.

Dr. Joseph A. Rodriguez, MD

Dr. Joseph A. Rodriguez has served the tribe for seven years. Medical duties have taken him to Big Cypress, Cleveland Clinic Hospital, and Memorial Pembroke Hospital.

He is Board Certified in family practice and has operated private medical practices in



Dr. Joseph A. Rodriguez, MD

Rodriguez completed college and medical school at Penn State University in Philadelphia, Pa. He completed an internship and residency at Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Medical Center, Houston, and Penn State University’s Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.

He endorses a healthy, balanced diet–high in natural ingredients but low in fats and low in carbohydrates–as well as regular exercise. His spends his leisure time with wife, Gina (a Taino Descendent) and three-year-old son, Michael Anthony, and also enjoys exploring the outdoors.

Dr. Rodriguez’s Schedule in our Big Cypress Clinic: (863) 983-5151

Wednesdays: 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Asthma Presentation

By **Jamie Schevis and Shannon McKeown**

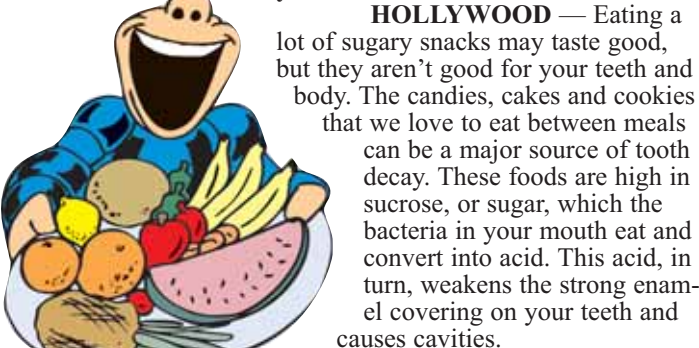
HOLLYWOOD — In conjunction with Hollywood Representative Max Osceola, Jr. and the Hollywood Recreation Department, the Health Department presented an educational meeting about asthma to approximately 40 tribal and community citizens, including parents and children from the Parent Advisory Committee meeting.

The Recreation Department hosted a dinner that was served before the presentation. The presentation focused on parents of children with asthma, although general information was discussed that would apply to adults as well.

For example, tips were given to avoid dust mites and concentrate on removing things from the house that collect dust easily. Some other tidbits of information involved how stuffed animals are a major collector of allergens and only stuffed animals that can be washed in hot water frequently would be an appropriate childhood friend. The community learned the difference between allergens and irritants and knowing the importance of what triggers may cause an attack.

Choose Healthy Snacks for Healthy Teeth

By **Kerri Descheene**



To avoid getting cavities, think about what you are about to eat

HOLLYWOOD — Eating a lot of sugary snacks may taste good, but they aren’t good for your teeth and body. The candies, cakes and cookies that we love to eat between meals can be a major source of tooth decay. These foods are high in sucrose, or sugar, which the bacteria in your mouth eat and convert into acid. This acid, in turn, weakens the strong enamel covering on your teeth and causes cavities.

or drink for a snack; instead of a candy bar, choose a snack that is low in sugar and high fiber and vitamins such as cheese, or fresh fruits and vegetables. If you do have to have a sugary snack, remember that the body needs about 20 minutes to neutralize the acids that form in your mouth.

Drinking an occasional soda isn’t going to cause a lot of damage, but drinking sodas all day long can easily cause major problems in a very short time. Basically, the more healthy and low-sugar snacks that you choose, the less time you’ll have to spend in the dental chair getting fillings.

Seminole Muscle

Ten Keys to Fitness Success

By **Kenny Bayon C.F.T**

1. Convenience

Let’s be realistic. After working an eight hour day, then trying to get to a gym that is miles out of the way, just doesn’t make sense. A common reason for people to not exercise is the lack of convenient facilities. If you try to commute to your gym, and it’s a far journey, then you likely will make excuses not to go, rather than just going and getting the workout done. Just like you must be wary of both limited hours or the fitness center getting crowded, time and convenience must be addressed.

2. Stay on Track

Try and keep a record of what you do and what you have accomplished. The log can contain start-up information such as bodyweight, girth measurements, resting blood pressure, cholesterol level, daily calorie intake and resting heart rate. Training specifics include distance or time doing cardio work; weights, reps and sets lifted; time spent cross training and etc. This self monitoring technique helps you stick to your program and gives you visual feedback as well as an accurate record of your progress toward your goals.

3. Enjoy

If there was one that should be on top of the list it would be this one. Half of all people who start an exercise program drop out within the first six months. So what keeps the other 50 percent in the gym? No one magic method can keep you involved in the process. As researchers say, strong determinants of continued participation are self-motivation, behavioral skills, spousal support, available time, access to facilities, perception of good health and high risk for heart disease. Yet one element remains prevalent throughout-enjoying what you do.

“The major reason for participation in youth sports is to have fun,” said Robert Weinberg, PhD, and Daniel Gould, PhD. “Yet as people mature, the fun aspect of sport and physical activity seems to be ousted by needs to be productive, hard working and successful”

The bottom line is that you shouldn’t dread exercising. Find something that keeps your interest such as mountain climbing or aerobics so that you get the benefits of exercising and its fun as well.

4. Time line

This is a technique that is very effective for making exercise a part of your daily routine. Everyday, you should try to set aside a part of the day so that going to the gym is habit forming. Let everyone know that that part of the day has already been set aside for you to take care of business. This establishes a habit pattern and holds you accountable to those who know about your schedule. Remember, this is a habit you don’t want to break.

5. Find a Partner

There are going to be times that you’re having a bad day and you don’t really feel like training, this is when the buddy system comes to effect. They are pumped up for the workout and you’re trying to get out of it. The social support is an important ingredient in motivating you to stick to your training. Lack of reinforcement is frequently named as the forerunner to dropping out.

A tight chest cough and/or dry cough are classic symptoms of asthma that can be brought on by smoke, pollen and changes in the weather. Information was discussed about when to call the doctor, for example, someone should call when they or their child is having severe wheezing and/or trouble talking.

Educational booklets were given to all who attended as well as catalogs filled with products that would benefit asthmatics and people with allergies. As the presentation came to an end, prizes such as a dehumidifier, a HEPA air cleaner, and a humidity/temperature gauge were given by Max Osceola, Jr. to raffle. The event was well received and everyone was able to learn one new thing about asthma and how to recognize it.

If you have any medication questions, call the Seminole Health Clinic or your personal physician. If you would like more information about asthma, please contact Shannon McKeown from the Hollywood Health Clinic at (954) 962-2009, Ext. 113.

Try to find someone that has similar goals and is highly motivated. Be friendly and make friends at the gym that could be looking someone like you. If all else fails, hire a trainer for a bit so that you have already made the financial commitment and that will more than likely make you want to go train.

6. Choice

As we all know, life is all about choices and the ones we make can outcome how our lives are lived. Exercise is a choice, and a very important one at that. Not only will this affect you, but the loved ones that surround you. Living a healthy lifestyle, eating well, and training are all important choices that have to be made so that you can live a long and happy life. Remember, its not all physical. Mental stress can be a downfall as well, which is why it’s important to stay positive and keep a clear state of mind.

7. Realism

Magazines and television ads are filled with high expectations that are hardly attainable to the average person. If you’re a beginner, you can expect your initial experiences to be a bit uncomfortable. Meaning, you’re putting your body though activity probably never done before and there will be some awkwardness doing exercises. Soreness is to be expected, even if you’re just stretching or walking on the treadmill. Never doubt yourself or the reasons for doing it because in the long run it will pay off. Remember, you are only rich if you have your health!

8. Organize

Never give the excuse that you don’t have time as most adults use this to get out of not doing anything. Busy throughout the day such as work, school, family and leisure, it’s easy to just not make it a point to not go and workout. Organize your day so that you can at least get an hour workout either at the gym or at home, such as running around the neighborhood or free weights at home, or break it up into two-half hour sessions a day so that you can make the time to do it.

9. Bask in Your Glory

Your regiment will not only change the way you look, but your attitude as well. You’ll feel better about yourself and appreciate the value of training. Getting started may have been hard, but it’s just as hard to stay with it as well. Splurge once in a while by buying yourself a new outfit that tailor fits to your new body, or go out for a nice dinner once in while by having the cheat food that you have so longed for. Training hard has many benefits so take advantage of them.

10. Don’t be afraid

If you have no idea what do to in a gym, it doesn’t mean you shouldn’t go. There are many people that are frightened by the idea of being embarrassed of getting hurt. That’s why it’s important to hire a trainer that can assist you on the road to that healthy lifestyle. Also, be your own teacher by reading books and magazines that help show you what to do. Remember, no one knew exactly what they were doing the first time they set foot in a gym, or on a field.

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Meet the Brighton Students

Trio of ninth graders aspire to work for Seminole Tribe

By Emma Brown

BRIGHTON — Michaela Fish is the daughter of Mike Fish and Tammy Cloud. She is a 9th grader at the Okeechobee Freshman Campus who enjoys participating in basketball and softball. Her goal is to finish high school and attend a college of her choice.

"I want to do something with my life," she said.

Fish plans on attending college to study medicine and hopes to one day become a pediatrician because she loves to be around children. When asked what advice she has to offer to young tribal citizens, Fish offered a few words of wisdom.

"Always know what you want in life and do it," she said. "Make something happen in your life and succeed in whatever you do."

Fish's biggest influence in her life is her father because he always inspires her to do

her best in school and sports. He always shows her how happy her staying focused on positive things makes him.

Erin Willie is the daughter of Juan and Cynthia Rodriguez. She is a 9th grader at the Okeechobee Freshman Campus. After graduating from high school, Willie would like to attend college

to earn a doctorate in dentistry. After finishing college, she would like to practice orthodontics.

Her advice for young tribal citizens is to always work hard. Her biggest inspiration is her Grandfather because he's been through a great deal in



Emma Brown

(L-R) Erin Willie and Jennifer Chalfant

his life, yet still has faith.

Jennifer Chalfant is the daughter of Jack Chalfant and Tammy Murray. She is also a 9th grader at the Okeechobee Freshman Campus. She enjoys participating in basketball, softball, and cheerleading. Her goals are to attend college and become an orthopedic surgeon.

Chalfant would like to some day come back to work for her tribe. Her advice to young tribal citizens is, "Do not give up, succeed in your life, and remember you can do and be anything you want."

Chalfant's dad, Jack Chalfant, is her life's inspiration because he works every day to provide for his family in spite of dividends and he is a very strong-willed person. Congratulations to Chalfant for recently earning the 2004 Brighton Miss Seminole title.



Emma Brown

Michaela Fish



Alexandra Frank

Preschoolers enjoyed playing all types of games.

Hollywood Preschool Hosts Third Annual Valentines Ball



Alexandra Frank

Will you be my valentine?

By Alexandra Frank

HOLLYWOOD — On Feb. 12, the Hollywood Preschool held its Third Annual Valentines Ball at the Dorothy Scott Osceola building. At the event, parents and children were asked to dress in traditional Seminole clothes. Fathers escorted their daughters to the ball, while mothers escorted their sons.

There were games for the children to compete in, with various gifts for both boys and girls. The families who came dressed up in traditional clothing also received a prize. First place went to J.D. Bowers and family, second place went to Anna Tucker for wearing a traditional skirt and bringing her family, and third place went to Aaron Billie and his granddaughter.

The King and Queen of the event were Anaky Robbins, and Clarissa Avila, respectively. Everyone had a good time playing games and spending time with one another.

MVHAVKV CUKO Graduate, Mackenzie Johns

Submitted by Holly Billie

Two dreams were realized when Mackenzie Johns graduated from MVHAVKV CUKO (Teaching House), now known as First Indian Baptist Academy. When the school first opened its doors in the fall of 1999, Johns was one of the first students to enroll.

"I wanted to receive my education in a small school environment, close to home, that allowed me to spend a lot of time with my family, yet provided me an opportunity to graduate from high school," said Johns.

As her dream came true, so did that of Pastor Wonder Johns.

"Our desire is to provide our students with a quality Christian education in a loving, nurturing and spiritual atmosphere," he said.

After much struggle and many challenges, Pastor Johns saw his first student accept her high school diploma.

Mackenzie's grandmother, Connie Whidden, offered words of support and encouragement to all students attending the ceremony. As she shared her own educational experiences, her focus remained on encouraging students to "always try their hardest to do their best." Whidden reminded everyone that furthering one's education is always an option for all Seminole children.

Johns is currently employed at the Brighton Casino where she assists with office management bookkeeping. She continues to make her parents, Marty and Kim Johns, proud as she proves herself to be a hard worker and a contributing member of the Brighton Community.

She has expressed an interest in becoming a physical therapist, but says, "Now I enjoy what I am doing at the Casino and might be interested in business."



Photography by Bobbi

Proud graduate Mackenzie Johns.

Whatever Johns chooses to do, she will have a loving family as well as a supportive community who recognize how very special and unique she is, and who will continue to encourage her to achieve her goals and dreams.

Pull Out Program (Pemayetv) Begins Second Semester

By Shelly Walker, Pull-Out Program Coordinator.

BRIGHTON — The second year of our Pull-Out Program is off to a great start. We began the second semester on Jan. 9. Currently, there are 68 children enrolled.

The elementary students who are enrolled begin each Friday by attending an assembly program where a speaker talks to them about their language and culture. After the assembly, students break into grade levels and attend five different classes. Each student receives instruction in Language Arts, Language Reading and Writing, History, Physical Education (P.E.), and Arts and Crafts. Each class focuses on the Creek language and the culture of the Seminole Indians to fulfill the mission of our program.

Our language arts teachers Diane Smith and Jenny Johns, along with our language, reading and writing teachers Lorene Gopher, Louise Gopher and Jenny Shore, teach our students the Creek alphabet and sounds of the alphabet. Students are also learning how to greet and reply to a greeting and speak short sentences. Students receive instruction on Creek numbers and colors.

During the first two months of our program, students studied their Indian names. They learned how to spell and write their names and the meaning of their names. During the month of November, our teaching theme was hunting. Students learned Creek hunting and camping words and a turkey song. In December, students sang Creek Christmas songs and taught other Creek words associated with the month of December.

Alice Sweat and Martha Jones provide instructions in our arts and crafts class. Students have been digging up the vegetables that they planted during the past school year, cooking and then eating the

vegetables. In this class, students learn and use the Creek words for the names of the vegetables and the utensils used in the preparation of the food. Students also made fun holiday related projects such as pasta ornaments, a winter scene and a sweet turkey apple.

In history, our teachers Willie Johns, Rita Gopher and Dr. Susan Stans are teaching students about the discovery of North America, the First, Second and Third Seminole War, the Treaty of Moultrie Creek, the Indian Removal Act, the Battle of Okeechobee and the formation of The Seminole Indian Tribe formal government.

Our P.E. coaches Richard Osceola, Tim Thomas and Leroy Boyett, along with other staff from the recreation department, instruct students the rules of flag football. Students enjoy playing kickball, soccer and basketball. Students have learned drills, pick-up games and lay-up relays. Our coaches also plan and provide a short after-lunch recess for the entire school. John Waterhouse teaches our fifth grade boys archery. These students were involved in an archery competition at our gym on January 31st and February 1st.

During our second semester, we hope to build a chickee, replant our garden, learn carving, elect a student government, invite parents to class day, hold a PTA meeting and have an open house.

As you can see, this is a wonderful fun program to be involved in and a great way to pass down your knowledge of your language and culture to the upcoming generation.

If you would like an opportunity to teach or assist with our program, please give Shelly Walker a call at (863) 763-7501. If you would like to visit, please call ahead so that we can make arrangements.

Members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida Who Have Earned College Degrees

Submitted by Dora Bell, Higher Education Advisor

The Higher Education Program established a list of all members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida who have completed an associate's degree, bachelor's degree, or any graduate or professional degree. This list includes the graduate's name, their major, school or university they attended, and year they completed their degree program.

If there are any errors in this list, please call Dora Bell, Higher Education Advisor, at (954) 233-9541.

Associate of Arts (AA) Degree — Carol Frank Cypress, Education, Miami-Dade Community College, 1972. Moses Jumper Jr., Physical Education, Haskell Indian Junior College, 1972. James Jumper, Criminal Justice, Broward Community College, 1986. Naomi Wilson, Fashion Merchandising, Bauder College, 1987. Bracher Harmon and Donna Susan, Fashion Merchandising, Bauder College, 1989. Robert Frank, Liberal Arts Haskell Indian Junior College, 1990. O.B. Osceola, Business Administration, Edison Community College, 1990. Lee Anthony Zepeda., Political Science, Education Community College, 1990. Charlotte Gopher, Business Administration, Haskell Indian Junior College, 1991. Marina Renee Tigertail, General Education, Palm Beach Community College, 1992., Mary Jumper, Business Administration, Palm Beach Community College, 1993. Rita Gopher, Mathematics, Indian River Community College, 1994. Nuñez O'Donnell and Noella Dyan, Liberal Arts, Brevard Community College, 1994. Lenora Roberts, Business Administration, Haskell Indian Junior College, 1994. Rita Michelle Youngman, Business Administration, South Florida Community College, 1995. Corinna Frank, Computer Information Systems, Edison Community College, 1996. Jo Leigh Johns, Criminology, Indian River Community College, 1996. Joseph Scott Kippenberger, Computer Electronics Engineer, Keiser College, 1996. Cypress Slusher and Brenda Joy, Business Administration, Broward Community College, 1996. Daniel Tommie, General Studies, Lake Superior College, 1996. Linda A. Drigger Daum, General Studies, South Florida Community College, 1997. Lavonne Marie Kippenberger, Liberal Arts, Borough of Manhattan Community College, 1998. Dallas Nuñez, General Studies, Indian River Community College, 1998. Manuel Tiger, General Studies, Bacone College, 1998. Clorine Cathy Cypress, Liberal Arts, Broward Community College, 1999. Anthony Frank, Business Administration, Broward Community College, 1999. Alexandra Frank, Liberal Arts, Broward Community College, 1999. Dollie Michelle Thomas, Business Administration, Indian River Community College, 1999. Suraiya Tiffany Youngblood, Psychology, Indian River Community College, 2001. Amanda Ruby Smith, Psychology, Indian River Community College, 2002. Laura Billie, Business Administration, Broward Community College, 2003. O'Hara Tommie, Business Administration, Keiser College, 2003.

Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Degree — Bryan Kelly Youngblood, Welding, Haskell Indian Junior College, 1987. Reese Pernel Bert, Refrigeration, Haskell Indian Junior College, 1989. Corinna Frank, Computer Programming, Haskell Indian Junior College, 1991. Bernard Doyle Robbins, Welding, Salt Lake City Community College, 1995. Robert Allen Stivers, General Business, American Institute of Commerce, 1997. Stephanie Lynn Philpott, Nursing, Connors State College, 1998.

Associate of Science (AS) Degree — Wilmeth Rolbert DeHass, Pest Control, Broward Community College, 1979. Tommy Henry Jr., Advertising Design, The Art Institute, 1984. Marla Henry Wilson, Liberal Arts, Haskell Junior College, 1986. Patty Johns Waldron, Medical Records Administration, Indian River Community College, 1987. Ruth Marie Stewart, Pre-Law, Seminole Junior College, 1987. Naomi Tommie Pacheco, Data Processing, Pueblo Community College, 1987. Robert Preston Kippenberger, Photography, The Art Institute, 1989. Johns Braswell and Janice Kay, Dental Hygiene, Indian River Community College, 1991. Marvin Osceola, Building Construction Technology, Indian River Community College, 1995. Helene Johns Clay, Nursing, South Florida Community College, 1996. Danielle Janine Jumper, Physical Therapy, Oklahoma Community College, 1996. Joletha Kay Johns, Health Information Management, Indian River Community College, 1998. Tara Osceola Courson, Science, Lake City Community College, 1998. Neil Baxley, Electronic Engineering Technology, ITT Technical Institute,

1999. Gordon Oliver Wareham, Business Administration, Broward Community College, 1999. Billie WhiteCloud and Bobbie Jamie, Natural Health/Massage, Florida College of Natural Health, 2002.

Bachelor in Business Studies (B.B.S.) Degree — Larry Frank, Business Administration, University of Oklahoma, 1976.


Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Degree — Elrod Daniel Bowers, Political Science, Wheaton College, 1994. Paula Lynn Bowers, Psychology, New York University, 1993. Billy William L. Cypress, English, Stetson University, 1965. Tommy Henry Jr., Graphic Design, Ringling School of Art & Design, 1996. Stephanie Hiatt, Elementary Education, University of Sioux Falls, 1998. Connie Johns Whidden, Liberal Arts, Barry University, 1980. Jo Leigh Johns, Social Science, Florida Gulf Coast University, 1999. Alicia Anette Josh, Early Childhood Education, Oklahoma City University, 1995. James Jumper, Criminal Justice, Florida Atlantic University, 1988. Jerome Ray Jumper, Youth Ministry, Bob Jones University, 2002. Shirley Mae Motlow, Elementary Education, Palm Beach Atlantic College, 1977. Theodore Scott Nelson Jr., Social Work, The Union Institute, 1994. Max B Osceola Jr., Political Science, University of Miami, 1974. Tina Marie Osceola, Political Science, Rollins College, 1989. Marie Osceola-Branch, Elementary Education, University of Miami, 1974. Billie Porter, Business Administration, University of Florida, 2003. Tony Sanchez, Education, St. Edwards University, 1982. Brenda Shore Fuller, Psychology, University of Northern Colorado, 1990. Jim Shore, History, Stetson University, 1977. Nancy Shore, Liberal Arts, Barry College, 1980. Kashane Tiger, Business Administration, Saint Leo University, 2003. Lee Anthony Zepeda, History, Stetson University, 1993.

Bachelor of Science (B.S.) Degree — Louise Jones Bowers, Business Administration, Florida Atlantic University, 1970. Moses Bernard Osceola, Business Administration, Florida International University, 1979. Joe Frank, Forestry, Stephen F. Austin University, 1982. Andrew Jackson Bowers, Criminal Justice, Nova Southeastern University, 1983. Cynthia Ann Johns Willie, Nursing, East Central University, 1986. Patty Johns Waldon, Medical Records Administration, University of Central Florida, 1987. Marla Henry Wilson, Nursing, Pittsburg State University, 1989. Willie John, History, Palm Beach Atlantic University, 1993. Carla Susan Gopher, Business Management, Florida State University, 1996. Stephanie Lynn Bowers, Elementary Education, University of Sioux Falls, 1997. Amy Lea Cox, Education, Georgia Southwestern University, 1997. Nuñez O'Donnell and Noella Dyan, Health Service, University of Central Florida, 1997. Jo-Lin Dawn Osceola, Business Management, The Union Institute, 1997. Ella Frances DeHass, Pre-Med, Oral Roberts University, 1998. Amy Johns Waldon Ashley, Social Work, Arizona State University, 1999. Bractcher Harmon and Donna Susan, Nursing, Northern Arizona University, 1999. Emma Nurse Johns, Sociology, Florida Atlantic University, 1999. Lavonne Marie Kippenberger, Secondary Education, New York University, 2000. Douglas C. Zepada, Information Studies, Florida State University, 2001. Stephanie Lynn Philpot, Social Work, Northeastern State University, 2002. Emily Osceola-Branch, Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, Florida State University, 2003.

Master of Arts (M.A.) Degree — Billy William L. Cypress, Elementary Education, Arizona State University, 1972. Ella Frances DeHass, Christian Counseling, Oral Roberts University, 1995. Ella Frances DeHass, Substance Abuse Counseling, Oral Roberts University, 1996. Theodore Scott Nelson Jr., Mental Health Counselor, Nova Southeastern University, 1997. Amy Johns Waldon Ashley, Public Administration, Arizona State University, 2001.

Master of Science (M.S.) Degree — Nancy Shore, Social Work, Barry College, 1981. James Jumper, Human Service, Nova Southeastern University, 1991. Connie Johns Whidden, Social Work, Barry University, 1993. Paula Lunn Sanchez Bowers, Mental Health Counselor, Nova Southeastern University, 1996. Nuñez O'Donnell and Noella Dyan, Science and Gerontology, Minnesota State University at Mankato, 1999.

Doctorate Degree — Jim Shore, Jurisprudence, Stetson University, 1980. Andrew Jackson Bowers, Jurisprudence, St. Thomas Law School, 1988.



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March Madness Invitational Shoot-Out 2004

By Alexandra Frank

HOLLYWOOD —The March Madness Invitational Shoot-Out, hosted by Richard Osceola, got under way on March 4-6. Chairman Mitchell Cypress tossed up the jump ball at the first game, signifying the start of the event.

The tournament featured some of Broward County and Miami-Dade County's best teams. There were also teams from the Hollywood, Trail, and Big Cypress reservations.

The team that dominated the event was none other than the Hurricanes, a team consisting of Seminole tribal citizens from Hollywood and Trail. The team had an impressive 6-0 record, until they faced-off against Nu Flava in the playoffs.

Nu flava had to battle their way out of the losers bracket to play the Canes; not an easy task. First off, they had to play Two Ligit, a team that played

them with tough, physical basketball. Nu Flava prevailed and beat Two Ligit 50-40.

The next team Nu Flava faced was last year's March Madness Champions, Push Rods. This game fea-

It was time for the playoffs to start in this single elimination event. The Hurricanes did lead during the first half and showned Nu Flava it was not going to be an easy game to win. They lead the first quarter 15-10 and pushed Nu Flava harder than any other team had.

Something must have clicked for Nu Flava during the break because they began showing signs of life about 14 minutes into the second quarter. Nu flava began to pick up steam and speed as they began to pass up the Canes in points. Nu Flava went on to beat the Canes 78-61. Nu Flava is this year's Champion for the March Madness Invitational Shoot-Out 2004.

The MVP Award went to Shawn Nelson. Thad Squire won a Free Throw Competition; Paul Joyner won the 3-Point Throw, and Terrence Shelman won the Slam Dunk Contest. Congratulations everyone and we hope to see you next at next year's event.



Alexandra Frank

Nu Flava wins first place at the March Madness Invitational Shoot-Out.

ured great shooting technique, talent, and skill. Even though Push Rods showed they wanted to remain in the running for the championship, they could not hang on to the chance at the title. Nu Flava beat the Push Rods 58-55.

Night of the Gladiators

By Nery Mejicano

COCONUT CREEK, FL — On Saturday Feb. 28,

lights and music filled the boxing arena of the Seminole Coconut Creek casino. Eight bouts were scheduled on the fight card with former Olympic medal winner and former World Boxing Organization heavyweight champion "Merciless" Ray Mercer from North Carolina fighting Steve Panell of Roanoke, Va. being slated as the main event.

Mercer defeated Pannel in round three of the scheduled 10 rounds. The fight had to be suspended for about 40 minutes after the first round, due to the ring physicians having to attend to Luis Villalta, who collapsed following his defeat by Ricky Quiles.

In the undercard, Laura Ramsey in her pro-debut, defeated Jennifer Mancil of Clewiston, Fla., by unanimous decision in a four round bout. Charles Whittaker of Miami pounded Ed Goins of North Carolina in the first round and won by TKO.

Belinda Laracuente of Miami, a local crowd favorite, defeated Iva Weston by unanimous decision. The fight started slow, but both



Nery Mejicano

Middleweight fighter Laura Ramsey (left) is about to connect against Jennifer Mancil.

fighters picked up the pace with Laracuente dominating the action in a great fight.

In his pro-debut, Edward Paredes of Hollywood defeated Tomas Subial of Miami in a four round bout. In one of the most exciting and action-filled fights of the night, in the flyweight division, Angel Priolo of Colombia defeated diminutive Mexican fighter Paulino Villalobos after ten rounds of non-stop action. The crowd booed the judges' decision because they likely felt Villalobos deserved the win.

In one of the most anticipated fights of the night, Robert Daniel Maldonado of Henderson, Ky., stripped the North American Boxing Association featherweight title from Whyber Garcia of Panama. Maldonado won by TKO in the ninth round. Ricky Quiles of Puerto Rico defeated Luis Villalta of Peru after 12 rounds, capturing the North American Boxing Association light-weight title.



Nery Mejicano

OUT COLD: "Merciless" Ray Mercer makes quick work of Steve Panell.

Tragedy Strikes the Boxing Ring



Nery Mejicano

Luis Villalta

By Nery Mejicano

POMPANO BEACH, FL — After his fight with Ricky Quiles of Pembroke Pines, at the Coconut Creek Casino, fighter Luis Villalta collapsed unconscious in the dressing room and was taken to the trauma center of North Broward Medical Center in Pompano Beach.

Villalta, 35, of Peru walked out the fight disappointed after losing his North American Boxing Association (NABA) light-weight title to Quiles. He complained of a headache and then lost consciousness. The ring physician, emergency technicians and others rushed to his side.

On Sunday morning, he underwent surgery at the trauma unit of North Broward medical Center and was placed on life support. Warrior's Boxing Promotions was able to arrange an emergency visa and travel for his wife,

Maribel, to come to the U.S. His wife and his father, Luis, were at his side when he died Wednesday March 3 early in the afternoon.

Villalta also has a 13-year-old daughter and a three-year-old son, who remained in Peru. Villalta has been living in New Jersey for the last three years in his attempt to improve his ranking in the world of professional boxing. In July of 2003, Villalta defeated Martin O'Malley of Tacoma, Wash. for the NABA lightweight title.

Warrior's Boxing is helping coordinate Villalta's funeral in Peru and a fund was being set up to assist his family. Those interested in making a contribution to this fund can contact Peter Kahn of Warrior's Gym at (954) 985-1155. Our prayers are with Villalta's family, as well as with Ricky Quiles, who has been affected by this loss.

Seminole Gymnasts Show Their Strengths

By Kenny Bayon

TAMPA — The Flairs gymnastics team from Davie, Fla., which consists of seven young Seminole girls, placed 1st in the Level Two and 3rd in the Level Three as a team at the 16th Annual Gasparilla Classic.

The Gasparilla Classic is one of the largest gymnastics tournaments held in the U.S. The event was held at the 50,000-seat domed Tropicana Field stadium, home of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays baseball team. There were athletes representing 19 different states and countries including Canada and Spain.

Here are the athletes of note and there accomplishments.

Raevin Frank placed second overall at the level 2A Young Division Competition. Her strongest events were the bars with a score of 9.1 out of 10, which tied her for second, and the balance beam which she placed second with a score of 9.1.

Anissa Osceola placed seventh

overall at the level 2A Young Division Competition. Her best was the balance beam. She scored 8.7 out of 10, to finish forth in the event.

Leah Cox finished second overall in the Level 2A Mid-Youth. Her best events were the floor, where she placed 1st with a 9.25, and the balance beam where she placed 3rd in the event with a 9.1.

Katelyn Young placed ninth overall at the Level 2A Mid-Youth Division. Her best event was the bars where she placed sixth with a score of 8.5.

Tiana Young placed ninth overall in the Level 2A Mid-Old Division. Her best score was a strong 8.9 on the balance beam. She finished third in the event.

Anahna Sirota placed seventh overall in the Level 2A Old Division. Her best event was the floor, where she scored a 9.05.

Cindi Adair placed tenth overall at the Level 3A Division.



Kenny Bayon

Raevin Frank holding her awards from the 16th Annual Gasparilla Classic.

Play Ball in Immokalee

Story and photo by Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — If you

haven't been out to the Collier County Park in Immokalee to watch the 3-5-year-olds play ball, you have really missed something. "Sport's Mom" Sheila Aguilar takes her boys, Troy Cantu, Elijah Billie and her nephew Edward Aguilar Jr., on Monday and Wednesday evenings for basketball. On Tuesday and Thursday, soccer is offered, which the boys also enjoy.

These little athletes are having the time of their lives while beginning to learn some of life's most valuable lessons, including good sportsmanship and self-discipline. They also learn that exercise is not only important, but can be a lot of fun.



Swift kick for Troy Cantu (left) as Elijah Billie runs to get a kick in.

Super Bowl Golf Tournament 2004

By Alexandra Frank

FT. LAUDERDALE, FL —

The day was overcast and rain drizzled throughout the Super Bowl Golf Tournament, but this didn't deter the 26 golfers who came out to play at the Bonaventure Golf Course. They played all 36 holes to win cash prizes and to hopefully add another notch to their tournament wins.

The winners are listed below.

Women: 1st place Linda Tommie and Terry Hahn, 179; 2nd Jackie Thompson and Brett Osceola, 197; 3rd Loretta Micco and G. Allardce.

Men: 1st place James Tommie and Jason Tommie, 148; 2nd Mitchell Osceola and Marcy Osceola, 149; 3rd Charlie Cypress and George Grasshopper, 151; 4th Bo Young and Jerry Ordis, 156; 5th Salaw Hummingbird and Keeno King, 170; 6th John Madrigal and Max Tommie, 181; 7th C Osceola and A. Tigertail, 198; 8th Vince Micco and Ricky Doctor, 205; 9th S. Osceola and Joe Kippenburger, 209.

Senior Men: 1st Place Max Osceola and Lawrence Osceola 167.

East Men Closest to the Pin:

#3 Charlie Cypress; #6 Jason Tommie; #12 James Tommie; #17 Marcy Osceola.

Senior Men Closest to the Pin:

#3 Max Osceola; #6 Max Osceola; #12 Lawrence Osceola.

East Longest Drive Man –

Mitchell Osceola; **Woman** – Linda Tommie

Longest Drive Senior Men:

George Grasshopper.

West Men Closest to the Pin:

#3 Marcy Osceola; #5 Salaw Hummingbird; #11 Salaw Hummingbird; #15 Jerry Ordis; #17 Ricky Doctor.

Senior Men Closest to the Pin:

#8 Max Osceola; #11 George Grasshopper; #15 George Grasshopper; #17 George Grasshopper.

West Women Closest to the Pin:

#3 Terry Hahn; #11 Jackie Thompson; #8 Terry Hahn; #15 Linda Tommie.

Straightest Drive Men:

– Charlie Cypress; **Woman** – Jackie Thompson; **Senior Men** – Keeno King.

Tribal Fair Basketball Tournament 2004

By Kenny Bayon

HOLLYWOOD — Perhaps the fairest match-up of the Seminole Tribal Fair Basketball Tournament would have been the Hollywood men's and women's teams playing each other. Instead, both squads thoroughly dominated their respective opponents en route to first place finishes at the 10-tribe tournament, hosted by the Hollywood Seminoles on Feb. 13-14 in conjunction with the Tribal Fair.

The Hollywood Hurricanes men's squad, playing in its first multi-team competition since a first place finish at the Native American Sports Association (NASA) tournament in Mississippi on January 9-10, won all four of its games convincingly. The closest contest was a 15-point blowout against the runner-ups, which also consisted of Hollywood tribal citizens. The final score was 69-54.

Tony Heard led a balanced attack for the Hurricanes, averaging 20 points a game for the tournament. Pete Osceola, Marl Osceola, Amos Huggins and Charlie Frye all averaged in double figures as well, but it was their relentless defensive pressure that really helped them shut down their opponents.

The Lady Seminoles were just as powerful, as they mercy-ruled all their opponents. The mercy rule, when a game is cut short, is applied when a team is trailing by 30 or more points in the second half. The final score was 62-31.

Top scorer Lila Osceola averaged 22 points per game and was one of four Lady Seminoles to average in double figures. Francine Osceola provided inspiration by playing in her first game since sustaining an ankle injury in the NASA tournament, where the Lady Seminoles finished third.

Mitchell Simmons Wins Florida Wrestling State Champion

Simmons becomes first Seminole to win Florida high school wrestling title

By Kenny Bayon, C.F.T and Wrestling coach for Team Florida

LAKELAND, FL — About four years ago, Keith Simmons took his oldest son, Mitchell Simmons, then a high school freshman, to meet with fabled Brandon High wrestling coach, Russ Cozart. Keith Simmons wanted his son, who had no previous organized grappling experience, to wrestle at Brandon. And if there was any prep coach in the U.S. who could quickly turn a novice wrestler into a champion it was Cozart.

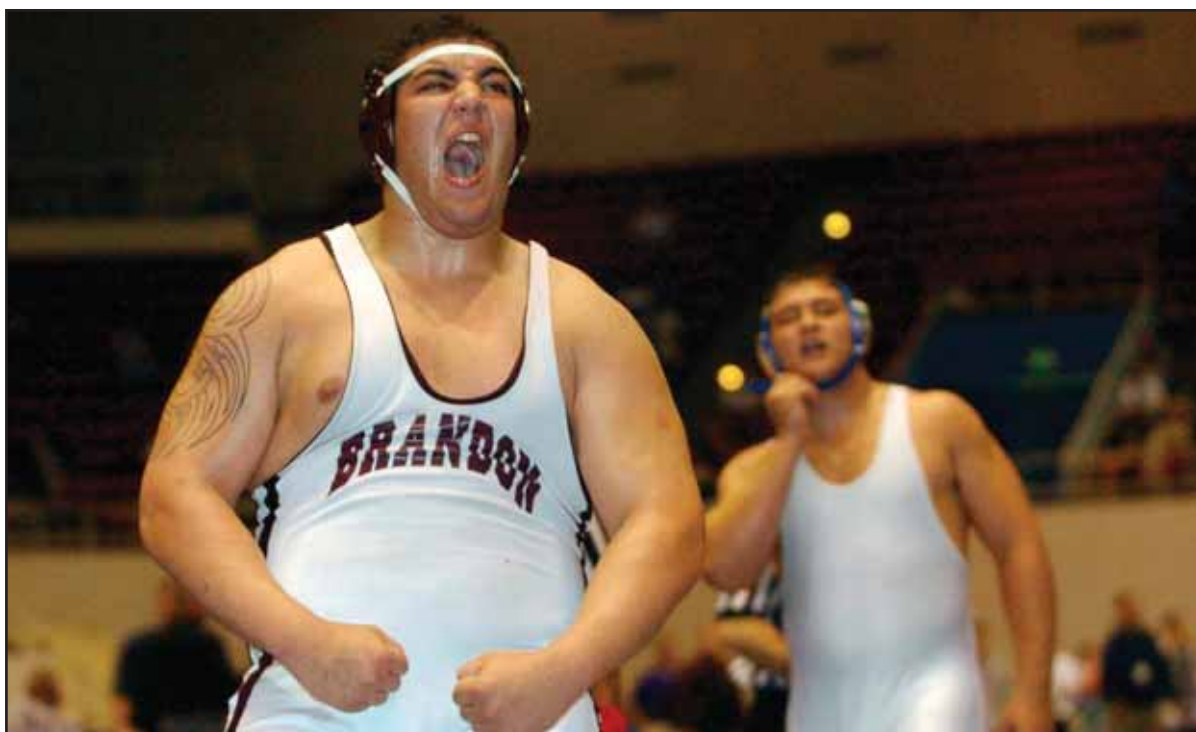
Cozart, who at that point had won nine state titles at Brandon High, had coached many an individual champions at both Tampa's Chamberlain High and Brandon. And when he looked Simmons up and down that fateful day in 2000, Cozart recalls, he knew Simmons had the potential for prep glory.

"He was a big and athletic young man," Cozart said. "I knew there was something special about him."

Simmons immediately took Cozart's vision to heart, and soon began working toward the lofty goal of becoming state champion. Finally, on Feb. 28, Simmons, a senior, fulfilled his vision quest by winning the Class 2A heavyweight state title at the Lakeland Center with a 4-3 victory against Riche Rosabella, from Baron Collier High School in Naples, Fla.

In the process, Simmons ingrained himself in local Seminole sports lore by becoming the first tribal citizen to win a Florida high school wrestling title.

"It feels awesome to be the first Seminole to accomplish this," Simmons said. "I feel that it has brought 'positiveness' to the tribe. I feel like I am a role model to the young Seminole tribal members because of the goals that I have not only set, but accomplished."



Tampa Tribune, reprinted with permission
Keith Mitchell "The Silent Giant" Simmons celebrates winning the Florida State Championship.

"Four years of sacrifice was worth it, especially after last year placing second," he said.

Simmons almost pulled off the feat last year, losing 4-3 in the Class 2A title match. Almost as soon as the match was finished, he vowed to work as hard as possible for the next year to join the ever-growing ranks of Brandon state champions.

Instead of relaxing during his summer break, he spent endless hours running, lifting weights and, most importantly, wrestling in top-notch competitions, including a trip to Winnipeg, Canada for the 2003 North American Indigenous Games, in which he won a gold medal for Team Florida and the Seminole Tribe.

"He set an example that just because the money is coming in, it doesn't mean you just sit back and wait for it," said Mitchell's mother, Mira Simmons. "He set up and accomplished meaningful goals. He makes our tribe proud because of his accomplishments. He set a great example to the younger tribal members."

Simmons' rigorous summer training paid off nicely, as he finished second at the Walsh Ironman Tournament in December, arguably the nation's toughest prep wrestling tournament. He also won the Hillsborough County championship. Simmons continued to dominate into the postseason, rolling to the Class 2A-District title.

Although he faced a minor stumbling block in the regional tournament, finishing third, Simmons bounced back to win four straight matches at the state tournament. He was one of six Brandon wrestlers to capture state titles this year, and that rich school heritage — combined with his Seminole pride — made the victory especially sweet; and even essential.

"Keith wrestling for Brandon was an advantage because all of the others had won and he didn't want to be the one to lose," Cozart said. "That was his mental attitude before the match. Wrestling is 90 percent mental and 10 percent physical. Plus, it was his last high school match [in Florida], and he wanted to go out good."

"The lessons that Mitch can teach the younger athletes on my team and to his tribal members is to never give up. To the kids, if you put your mind to it, apply yourself everyday to not only wrestling, but to whatever you want in life, you can be a champion as well," he continued.

Simmons credits the victory this year to his improved confidence, athleticism and strength from a year ago. Even after the loss at the regionals, Simmons said he never lost focus or faith in his ability to win the big title.

"I knew in my heart that I was going to win," Simmons said. "I never questioned my ability. My coaches pushed me extra hard this week [between the regional and state tournaments] to prepare me for this."

Said Cozart: "For a big man, Keith has great balance, a wide array of moves and he is really great on his feet. Endurance, skill level and a great fighting spirit are what separate Keith from the other heavyweights."

Besides Cozart's tutelage, Simmons also trained for the past three years with Eagles Assistant Coach Kevin Donofrio. Donofrio, owner of the Athletic Club in Brandon, guided Simmons' fitness regimen and provided a tough sparring partner in practice.

"I took a special interest in Keith and I took what he did very personally," Donofrio said. "We shed a lot of blood, sweat and even tears together. I felt it was important to not only me, but to himself, his family and his tribe to be the best he can be. Whatever Keith puts his mind to; he makes sure it's accomplished."

"Keith can absolutely wrestle in college and the ability to even go to the Olympics if that's what he so desires. He has the ability and the heart to take it all the way," he said.

As for Simmons' future, he's still undecided on what college he'll attend and whether he'll even play sports, he is also a two-way lineman in football, in college. The future also holds a new wrestler climbing the ladder of success, younger brother Clayton, who is destined with his hard work and athletic ability to be a champion as well.

For the moment, Simmons is focusing on preparing to compete in two final prep wrestling tournaments, the high school nationals in Cleveland, Ohio and the junior nationals in Las Vegas, Nev. Both tournaments, in April, are among the nations most prestigious for high school-age wrestlers. And further down the line, of course, is the 2005 North American Indigenous Games, to be held in Buffalo, N.Y. in which he'll compete in the men's division.

Wherever Simmons ends up, whether wrestling in college, or playing football, or perhaps even taking a shot at Olympic glory, or any other endeavor, you can bet that people will remember: he was the first Seminole tribal citizen to win a Florida high school state wrestling championship.

"Mitchell is a hero in my eyes, to his family, and to his tribe," said Simmons. "The dedication was amazing for this young man; you don't see this around here that often. He did it for himself and for his family. This is a product of a family, always being together and standing by each other's side, always!"

Ultimately, Simmons hopes his positive and motivational energy will filter down through the Seminole ranks.

"Never give up and go hard at anything that you do," Simmons said. "If you love something, keep trying no matter what."



Kenny Bayon

Keith Mitchell Simmons holds the 2004 State Championship bracket and waves in celebration of his victory.

A Match-By-Match Recap of Keith Mitchell Simmons' Road to the State Title

Class 2A-Region 2 Wrestling Tournament
Feb. 20–21, Brevard Community College, Titusville, Fla.

Round 1: After winning the Class 2A-District Tournament heavyweight title on Feb. 13–14, Simmons was on a roll heading into his first regional match. Simmons used his favorite move, the Seminole Bear-Hug Slam, with back-exposure points, to grab a 5-0 lead in the first period against unrelated Kenny Mitchell of Astronaut in Titusville, Fla. Simmons finished off his opponent with another slam, followed by a pin just 10 seconds into the second period (2:10).

Round 2: Simmons used the Bear-Hug Slam to take a quick 5-0 lead in the first period against Lake Gibson's Brent Parsons. After Parsons escaped to make it 5-1, Simmons again used the Bear-Hug, with an inside trip, to win by pin in less than one-and-a-half minutes.

Semifinals: Facing one of his toughest opponents this year, undefeated District Champion, Willie Weber of Flagler Palm Coast, Simmons opened the scoring with — surprise — a Bear-Hug takedown for a 2-0 lead. Weber escaped to make it 2-1 at the end of the first period. After choosing to start the second period on the bottom, Simmons took a 3-1 lead with a stand-up escape, but Weber soon tied the score with a single-leg takedown. In all Florida high school wrestling matches, at the start of the second period, one wrestler chooses to start either on all fours, the bottom position, or kneeling behind his opponent, which is called the top position.

In the third period, though, Simmons seemed to lose focus. First, he let Weber up to give his opponent a 4-3 lead. Then Simmons inexplicably slipped and Weber scored a takedown for a 6-3 lead. Simmons escaped via a powerful stand-up to cut the lead to 6-4. But with about 30 seconds remaining and Weber on the defensive, Simmons lunged for a move, and slipped and fell on his back. Weber, who Simmons had defeated the year before en route to the region title, won 11-4.

Wrestle-backs: Simmons must win the match against Chamberlain's Garrett Gibbins from Tampa, to qualify for the state tournament. With their seasons on the line, neither wrestler scored in the first period. Simmons started the second period on top and used a reverse cradle to expose his opponent's back for a 3-0 lead. Simmons followed up with a near-side cradle to go up 6-0, and almost scored a pin as time ran out. Simmons continued his dominance in the third period, finishing with a 9-1 victory and earned his third straight trip to the state tournament. The dream remained alive!

Consolation Match (for 3rd and 4th place): In a rematch against Lake Gibson's Parsons, Simmons easily won again, but this time was a tougher match as Parsons was avoiding Simmons' strength and really trying not to make mistakes. Simmons started the match with a quick takedown via a high crotch single as he rode him out to close out the 1st period. The 2nd was more of the same as Simmons gave up an escape only to quickly takedown Parsons with a Duck under for a 4-1 lead. The only points Parsons was able to score were by

escapes, giving Simmons a 6-2 win, to finish third in the region. On to Lakeland, Fla.!

Florida State Championships
Feb. 26-28, Lakeland Center

Round 1: Simmons attacked his opponent; Juan Kelly of Ridgeview from Orange Park with a record of 15-7 record. He used his patented Seminole Bear Hug Takedown to grab a quick 2-0 lead. Kelly squirmed to his knees, but Simmons then used an arm bar followed by a head-and-arm lock to power Kelly to his back for a 1-minute-36-second pin.

Round 2: Simmons faced his first true test of the state tournament in Venice's Adrian Bull, a regional champion with a 38-2 record. Both wrestlers seem equally powerful, and neither gained an advantage until Simmons used a double underhook and an inside trip to take a 2-0 lead with 15 seconds remaining in the first period. Simmons escaped in the second period to go up 3-0, and hang on for 3-1 victory.

Semifinals: Just one match away from the title bout, Simmons faced another regional champion in Port St. Lucie's Dominic Dawson, a senior with a 31-5 record. Both grapplers seem equally matched as neither scored in the first period. Simmons gained the first lead in the second period, with a one-point escape. Then each big man was alternately penalized one point for stalling, keeping Simmons up 2-1 after the second round. The decisive third period started with Dawson on the bottom position, and he escaped to tie the score 2-2. Then, with less than two minutes to decide his fate, Simmons used a head-and-underhook move to throw Dawson to his knees; Simmons than scooted around him for the takedown and 4-2 advantage. Dawson added more drama by escaping with 10 seconds remaining, but Simmons held on to win 4-3 and reach the state title match for the second consecutive year.

Championship Match: One victory away from fulfilling his ultimate high school goal, Simmons faced his third straight regional champ in Riche Rosabella from Baron Collier High in Naples, Fla., who enters the bout with a 35-2 record. Rosabella surprised Simmons in the first period by executing a single-leg takedown to go up 2-0. But in the second period, Rosabella made a key strategic mistake by choosing the bottom position against Simmons "The Silent Giant." From the top position, Simmons immediately started to work different cradle combinations.

In the move of the night, Simmons faked a near-side cradle and instead went over Rosabella's back to wraps him up in a far-side cradle. After nearly pinning Rosabella with the cradle, Simmons was up 3-2 heading into the third period. In the third period, Simmons used a powerful stand-up to escape from the bottom and take a 4-2 lead. Simmons was then called for stalling, trimming the lead to 4-3. As the final seconds winded down, Simmons fought off Rosabella's last shot at a single leg takedown and held on to become the first Seminole tribal citizen ever to win a high school state wrestling title in Florida.

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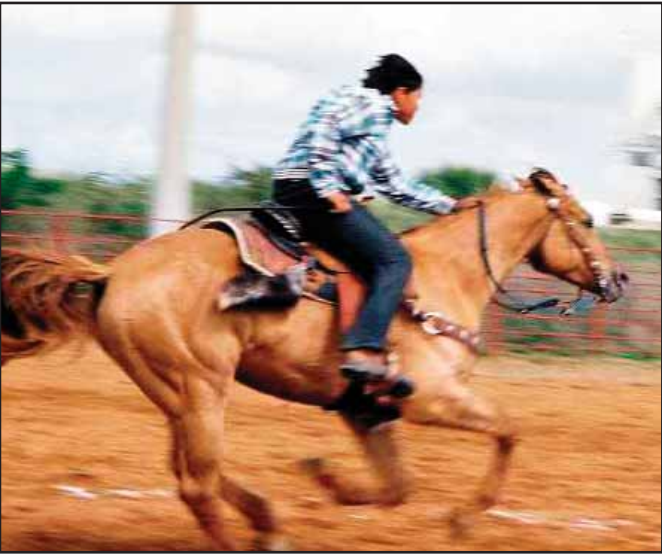
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Seminole Wind Horse Club

By Judy Weeks
IMMOKALEE — For many years, the Seminole Tribe of Florida has practiced community awareness around their reservations. They have become involved in not only civic projects, but schools, clubs and sporting events. This has helped to develop an understanding relationship with their neighbors and promotes family values.



Ayze Henry, Wind Horse Club member, shows off her horseback riding talents.

The Hollywood Recreation Department has a close bond with Hollywood Horse Club, and Brighton and Big Cypress both have a bond with the Clewiston Riding Club. in their activities.

Six years ago, Immokalee Council Representative, Elaine Aguilar was instrumental in the formation of the Seminole Wind Horse Club. The membership has grown and now includes not only Collier County, but the surrounding counties as well. This year it became necessary to expand their monthly show date to encompass two days due to the great success of the club.

The Henry family of Big Cypress has been active members of The Seminole Wind Horse Club for the past five years along with many other tribal citizens and their dependents. Each of them have repeatedly placed in their age group and taken home a portion of the year-end awards. Nauthkee Henry won the PeeWee Saddle in the 2001–2002 season, and last year Courtney Gore of Brighton took home the Winning Saddle in the same cat-

egory. This season the Seminole Tribe has three contenders for the saddle awards. Ayze Henry has thrown her hat in the ring for the Senior Saddle and is working hard to achieve her goal. A current look at the points for the season shows that she is “smoking” the competition. She hasn’t missed a show, and not only competes in all of the events, but has placed high on her scores. With the points she has accumulated to date, she can take a deep breathe and smell that new leather saddle.

In the Junior Division, Justina Billie has her eye on the saddle and is riding to win. She will be hard to beat. With only two shows to go, “J.J.” and her horse, Hillbilly, are in the lead and riding hard to stay there. She hasn’t even looked back over her shoulder to check on her competition. A smart person would place their money on J.J. to win.

In the PeeWee Division, it is a completely different story. The Seminole Wind Horse Club’s show season begins in Oct. and runs through April. Chelsey Ford is a resident of the Immokalee Reservation and daughter of tribal citizen and Preschool Center Manager, Michelle Ford. She decided to run for the PeeWee Saddle at the first show. The competition has been close from the beginning. At the end of each month, the rider in the lead has been changing. This is one race that probably will be won in the last event at the last show.

The Seminole Wind Horse Club meets at the John Jimmie Memorial Arena in Immokalee each month from Oct. through April. Their “Speed Events” take place on the first Saturday of each month. Performance Exhibits take place on the second Saturday of each month. For additional information you may contact Curtis Weeks Sr. at (239) 455-7229.



Justina Billie (left) and Ayze Henry relax between events.

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EIRA Crowns New Rodeo Queens

By Emma Brown
BRIGHTON — At the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) Brighton Field Day Rodeo, two new queens were crowned for the 2004 rodeo season. Held on Friday Feb. 20, each contestant was judged on their horsemanship skills, question/answer, and overall appearance.

Ayze Henry earned the title of 2004 Eastern Indian Rodeo Queen and Leanna Billie received the first runner up title. Trina Bowers, outgoing 2003 EIRA Rodeo Queen, thanked the EIRA, and her family and friends for all of their support during her reign. She also shared with the crowd what a wonderful experience she has had.

For the first time ever, the EIRA also held a Junior Rodeo Queen contest, mainly because there were so many young females participating in the association. This gives the young contestants a chance to gain exposure and experience if they decide to compete for the EIRA Queen title in the future.

Congratulations to Shelby Osceola for being crowned the first EIRA Junior Rodeo Queen.



Emma Brown

Ayze Henry, 2004 EIRA Rodeo Queen

EIRA Brighton Field Day Rodeo Results

Kids Rodeo

Mutton Busting: 1. Sean Osceola; 2. Donavin Jumper; 3. Jobe Johns and Yopalakiyo Osceola.

Calf Riding: 1. Frank Huff; 2. Josh Johns; 3. Blevyns Jumper.

Pony Riding: 1. Jacoby Johns; 2. William Bearden.

Barrels 4–8 years old: 1. Acealyn Youngblood; 2. Reagen Whitecloud; 3. Kalgary Johns; 4. Andre Jumper.

Barrels 9–12 years old: 1. Zane Decheneaux; 2. Nauthkee Henry; 3. Ethan Gopher; 4. Chebon Gooden.

Barrels 13–18 years old: 1. Leanna Billie; 2. Jade Braswell;

Junior Bull Riding: 1.Ethan Gopher; 2. Justin Aldridge.

Sanctioned Rodeo

Bareback Riding: 1. Shawn Best; 2nd Adam Turtle.

Saddle Bronc Riding: 1. Robert Youngblood; 2. Shawn Best.

Calf Roping: 1. Happy Jumper; 2. Naha Jumper; 3. J.W. Ball; 4. Jason Grasshopper.

50 and older Roping: 1. Moses Jumper Jr.; 2. Jonah Cypress.

Women’s Breakaway: 1. Pauletta Bowers; 2. Shelby Osceola; 3. Billie Tiger.

Team Roping: 1. J.W. Ball/Jean Edmo; 2. Josh Jumper/Naha Jumper; 3. Marvin Bowers/Trina Bowers; 4. Robbie Chalfant/Sampson Gopher; 5. Reno Osceola/Rodney Osceola.

Barrel Racing: 1. Tess Ducheneaux; 2. Renee Smith; 3. Renee Smith.

Bull Riding: 1. Shawn Best; 2. Koty Brugh; 3. Shawn Best Jr.

2004 EIRA Rodeo Schedule

Junior Cypress Rodeo in Big Cypress –
Saturday March 27th
Kids Rodeo: 5 p.m.; Sanctioned Rodeo: 7 p.m.
Brighton Field Day Rodeo – Saturday April 10th
Kids Rodeo: 5 p.m.; Sanctioned Rodeo: 7 p.m.
Cinco de Mayo Rodeo in Immokalee –
Saturday May 1
Kids Rodeo: 5 p.m.; Sanctioned Rodeo: 7 p.m.
Sports Festival Rodeo in Hollywood –

Saturday May 2
Kids Rodeo: 5 p.m.; Sanctioned Rodeo: 7 p.m.
Josiah Johns Memorial Rodeo in Brighton –
Saturday July 3
Kids Rodeo: 5 p.m.; Sanctioned Rodeo: 7 p.m.
Hollywood Rodeo – Saturday July 24
Kids Rodeo: 5 p.m.; Sanctioned Rodeo: 7 p.m.
Clewiston Rodeo – Saturday August 7
Kids Rodeo: 5 p.m.; Sanctioned Rodeo: 7 p.m.

Bill Osceola All-Indian Memorial Rodeo



Tabitha Osceola

Steven Billie performed during Bill Osceola All-Indian Memorial Rodeo.

By Tabitha Osceola

DAVIE, FL — Even though the rodeo grounds on the Hollywood reservation no longer exists; the Bill Osceola All-Indian Memorial Rodeo

was still a part of the 2004 Tribal Fair. This year, the rodeo was held at the Bergeron Rodeo in Davie, Fla.

Native Americans from all over the country traveled to Florida annually for this special rodeo, but this year there was a twist. Instead of only one performance, the rodeo consisted of two performances. The average winners received a saddle, which was given out by the Board Representatives David Dehass, Johnny Jones, and Paul Bowers. The winners are listed below.

Barrels

4 – 8 years old

Kalgary Johns

9 – 12 years old

Zane Ducheneaux

13 – 18 years old

Shyla Johns

Mutton Busting

Kalgary Johns

Calf Riding

JJ Johns

Bareback Riding

Shawn Best

Saddle Bronc Riding

Shawn Best

Steer Wrestling

Naha Jumper

Calf Roping

Naha Jumper

Women’s Breakaway

Renee Smith

Team Roping

Howard Edmunson/Corbin Warren

Women’s Barrels

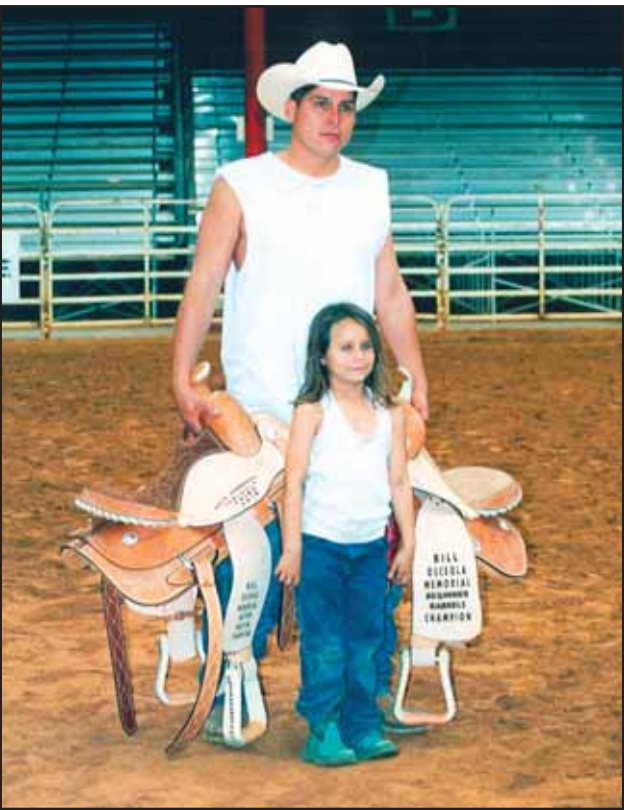
Tess Ducheneaux

Bull Riding

Alfonso Francis

Junior Bull Riding

Ethan Gopher



Tabitha Osceola

Naha Jumper (back) and Kalgary Johns, winner of two saddles for Mutton Busting and Barrels.

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Announcements ♦ Naa-ke A-háà-yah-ke-ke ♦ Nakorkerkecetv

Happy Birthday



Jesse E. Mitchell



Eric Jaden Puente

Happy, happiest birthday to our March boys; **Eric Jaden Puente (Otter Clan) born March 5** and **Jesse E. Mitchell (Bird Clan) born March 6**. You are both growing into such little gentlemen and we are all very proud of you. Much love to ya'll and more blessings are bestowed upon you and all of your families. Have a blast on your special days and remember there are so many more to come!

Love forever,
Moms (Virginia and Avalon), Dads (Eddie and Eric), Kano, Victor, Shelli, Valerie, Vinson, and Grandma Agnes Bert

In Memory

In Memory of Freeman Osceola

My nephew, God sent his angels to take you home. I'm almost positive that your late brothers Herman Osceola, Roger Tucker, Gilbert "Gibby" Bowers and your father were there to greet you with smiles as bright and beautiful as a sweet sunny day. You have left us with so many beautiful and precious memories. Treasures we will cherish forever.

Your family loves you and misses you... especially your mom. I'll miss your encouragements whenever my journey became weary. But it was written, in the book of life...

Freeman Osceola, 9/19/1963 – 2/12/2004
God's plan and will for you was fulfilled.

Till we meet again... Rest in Peace
With Love,
Your Aunt, A.T.

Congratulations



Congratulations Shelby Osceola

Congratulations to our daughter, Shelby for winning the crown of Junior Seminole Rodeo Queen. We are so proud of you and wish you a successful year. We Love You,
Mom, Dad and Lil Sis



Against All Odds

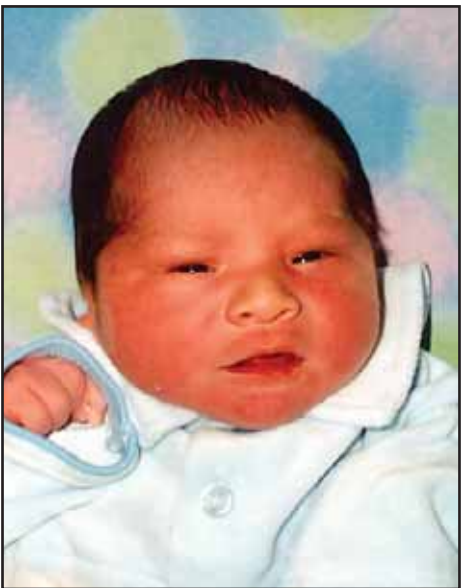
The questions ring so damn loud in my head
Innocent never, alive yet dead
I'm running from inner demons hiding in the shadow
I write so deep, still I remain so shallow
Should I just go on with these thoughts?
Or straighten the f--- up
Questions without answers and in days I stay stuck
What may I ask am I doing here on Earth?
Lord please tell me, what is my worth?
Can it be I was cursed at birth?
The truth is known only by God
For I struggle in this here struggle
Against all odds
Whether free or to lie down with Satan
In cells or in jails
Like heaven and fallen angels
I scream silently in nightmares
Wincing at the light
Then I wake once again
To accept the fact that life aint fair
And I am my only friend
Then I move on

By Markell Billie

New Kids



Dominic Michael Osceola was born on February 24 at 9:40 p.m. He weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce. Parents are Daniel Osceola of Hollywood and Shannon Farrell of Minnesota. He is our third child.



Nakai Kev Alex
Born Dec. 22, 2003.
Weight 8 pounds, 4 ounces
Length: 19 inches
Parents: Angel Billie and Kevin Alex

Poems

Among the Flies

It's like I tell myself all the time
When hell is over my head
And my feet are shackled
As I stand there and I am pushed
To the edge of the devil's courthouse
I am forced to look down
With pain in my heart
And voices pinching at my brain
I awake with memories I can't recall living
Everyday a good thing comes
And I choose the stench of the flies

Every year I shatter the hourglass
And become lost
I sleep all day because there's no routine
I build frustration and forget patience
I'm too tired to explain
Too scared to ask a question
I dream of beautiful women
And nightmares of my crimes
They both seem very real
And I can't die because I'm completely alive
This mud feels thick
I can barely move my body
I beg the Lord for comfort

My age is getting older
And my thoughts grow colder
Your smile is like a four hundred dollar bill
I've never seen one
I'm suppose to be free
But I am shackled
Until I grow strong and believe
And have faith
I will forever be
In the Devil's courthouse
Among the flies

By Phillip Ira Jimmie

And I have received it
And everyday I pray about my case
I know nothing about
I thank the Lord for comfort
I've sinned so long
It feels impossible not to feel
So much shame, pain, paranoia, guilt
And loneliness
I know I won't be afraid forever
Thank you Lord
For the comfort

By Phillip Ira Jimmie

It's only me again
This could be the giant tide
With a long ride
When the sun comes up
I close my eyes
Because I can't have it
There's pain in my head
Look through my windows called eyes
Every bridge I cross is burned
I'm blistered from my head to my feet
I'm confused 'cause my mom's gone
Now I'm lost and confused
'Cause my Grandma's gone

I love the way life feels when I'm free
But I'm afraid 'cause I don't know you
I don't want to be hurt
But it hurts 'cause I know your hurt
I wish I could count backwards
From a hundred to one
And be in my momma's arms again
Love to my family
'Cause I have one
And I pray to God
Because he's there

By Phillip Ira Jimmie

Native Country

"Leave your country!" you command,
I know I can't do this
You cannot understand
I recognize I'll miss.

You're the hero of my life,
You swore success together;
You said I'll be your wife.
I can't leave it, whatever.

I will return!

We drive in the new car.
At night I dream in bed,

But dream from home, it's far.
Really, it makes me sad.

After this one night here,
I know I gave me up,
Feeling a giant fear,
Like a lost, broken cup.

I must forget!

Will fight this battle.
I want to have some wings,
And dream of so great things.

Now I know I need my freedom.

By Anica Cyprian

I Was Born A Bad Seed

The sweet taste of success is something I haven't yet consumed
I was born a bad seed
I never blossomed, never bloomed
With blood red eyes I disguised my pain
Joking or heavenly smoking
I became with an awkward aim
Miserable I remain
Some say I've been insane
No one respects me, loves me, vice versa, the same
Drenched in the damp Florida rain
Go ahead and tell them it was me
And since it's probably true
Without further ado
Yes, I'll take the blame

Raised with doubt
That's my only claim to fame
Ask anybody and they'll tell you the same
I was born a bad seed
Read on playa
And you may be glad I came
Till then though yo
I'm just another faceless name with a tight game
Under this gray sky I'll sit
Feeling like s--t
'Cause if it rains
So giddy up ya'll
Cause I'm here
And I aint moving

By Markell Billie

Hollywood Reservation Curfew

Attention all Seminole Tribe of Florida Hollywood Residents

The Seminole Tribe of Florida has a curfew ordinance already established. Effective immediately, the Seminole Police Department will be strictly enforcing this ordinance, for the benefit of the children younger than 18 years of age. Sun. through Thur. children shall not be out alone without their parent(s)/guardian(s) after 10 p.m.

On Fri. and Sat. children are not allowed out alone without their parent(s)/guardian(s) after 12 a.m. As parents, please assist in continuing to create a safe community.

If you have any questions, please contact the Seminole Police Department at (954) 967-8900.

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City of Hollywood Holds Mardi Gras Celebration

Seminole Tribe Helps Sponsor Popular Event

By Nery Mejicano
HOLLYWOOD — It wasn't New Orleans or Rio De Janiero. In New Orleans, cajun food would have been the



Nery Mejicano
 William Cypress plays the flute at Fiesta Tropicale.

order of the day. In addition to cajun food, Fiesta Tropicale, as this festival is called, featured spicy Colombian, Cuban, Jamaican, and many other foods that delighted the palate of thousands of people.

The festival, partly sponsored by the Seminole Tribe of Florida, was held Feb. 20-24, and was free to the public. Three different stages kept a variety of music going for thirty hours. The Seminole Heritage Stage saw the likes of Fleet Starbucks Blues Band, the Riverside Dixieland Jazz Band, Gris Gris Cajun Band and the wonderful singer, Amber Leigh. A well-known band, Iko-Iko provided the revelers with a taste of their music. People took to the dancing stage and burned off the cajun calories that were consumed.

In addition to food and music, there were many booths selling everything from beads, paintings, to oils and massages. A colorful parade in the historic downtown Hollywood was the zenith of the celebration on Saturday. Many of the local celebrities and officials participated

in this festive event.

The Seminole Tribe's Communications Department, along with the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, shared a large booth, handing out free issues of *The Seminole Tribune* and green necklaces, complete with an alligator charm. The necklaces were quite popular with the crowd. More than 300 issues of *The Tribune* were handed out too! Beautiful Seminole crafts were also for sale, including dolls, handbags, and scarves.

Mayor Mara Giuliani of Hollywood shook hands and threw beads to the many who lined the streets around Young Circle. Monday, the party moved to Hollywood Beach with Lundi Gras and featuring the music of C.B. Pope Dixieland All-stars. On Fat Tuesday, the celebration continued in the famous Hollywood Broadwalk with more music and food.

Mardi Gras came to Hollywood via New Orleans where it was brought by the French in 1699. Early settlers celebrated this French Holiday on the banks of the Mississippi River. Through the years, New Orleans has made Mardi Gras a world renowned festival at par with the famous Rio Carnival of Brazil.



Nery Mejicano
 Representative of Billie Swamp Safari throws beads to Mardi Gras crowd off the back of the swamp buggy.

Mardi Gras, meaning Fat Tuesday, is celebrated on that day, usually between Feb. 3 and March 9, depending on the Lunar Calendar. The official colors of Mardi Gras were chosen in 1872 by the King of Carnival, Rex. They are: purple, which represents justice; green representing faith, and gold, which stands for power.



Nery Mejicano
 Communications Department sold Marketplace Items and gave out issues of *The Seminole Tribune*.



Jacob Coile
 Students at the DSO Library participating in the trivia contest.

Mardi Gras Trivia Contest at DSO Library

By Adelsa Williams
HOLLYWOOD — On Tuesday Feb. 24, the Dorothy Scott Osceola (DSO) Library hosted a Mardi Gras trivia contest for the community children.

Children picked a trivia question out of a fish bowl and then had to find the answer. The library staff assisted the children by guiding them to read a board that contained the history of Mardi Gras.

For every question answered correctly, children received prizes including beads, temporary tattoos, masks and chocolate coins.

Some of the questions the children answered included: which country Mardi Gras comes from, which American city Mardi Gras came to, and what do the words Mardi Gras mean. The answers to these questions are: France, New Orleans, LA, and Fat Tuesday, respectively.

Yudit Lam, Hollywood Branch Librarian, said that the main purpose of the event was to help the children enhance both their reading skills and their skills in searching a book's content. But there were, of course, other benefits.

"The children also get to learn about the traditional Mardi Gras," said Lam.

The library staff

did a wonderful job with the coordination and set-up of this event, as well as motivating the children into reading. Every month, the library plans to have an activity related to that month's event. For information on upcoming events, please contact the DSO Library at (954) 989-6840.



Yudit Lam
 Taylor Osceola looks over questions on the Mardi Gras trivia board.

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New Employees

New Treasurer Mike Tiger’s Homecoming

By Adelsa Williams
HOLLYWOOD — Tribal citizen Mike Tiger returned home to the Seminole Tribe on Feb. 9, as the new Tribal Treasurer.

“I’m pleased to work for the tribe again,” said Tiger. “I made Indian people my business and I have dedicated my time to Indian people.”

Prior to his homecoming, he retired from his federal career as Deputy Area Director with Indian Health Services (IHS) in Nashville, Tenn.

Tiger states that his main objective is to automate the whole financial system of the tribe. He offers full disclosure to all tribal citizens and a very open door of communication. His office is also responsible for the coordination of revenues and helicopter delivery of dividend checks to all reservations. One of his future plans is to open a credit union for tribal citizens and employees.

“I want to do what’s best for the tribe,” Tiger said. “Nothing comes without work.”

Tiger is no rookie at the tribe. Before joining the IHS, at the age of 21, he served as a member of the Seminole Tribe of Florida Board of Directors. Later, he became the Human Resources Director, while starting a program called the Four Wheel Drive Ambulance, in the Big Cypress reservation, known today as the Emergency Medical



Treasurer Mike Tiger

Adelsa Williams

Services Department. After that, he moved on to Executive Administrator.

Besides his numerous positions with the tribe, he also became president of the United States and Eastern Tribes Intertribal Council. Tiger represented 18 Eastern-Area Indian Tribes at the national level. He was also a strong advocate for the concept of tribal self-determination and for enhancing the federal government-to-tribal government relationships. He served as a member of the Governor’s Council on Indian Affairs for the state of Florida and was an advisor through two administrations on issues affecting Florida Indians. In addition, Tiger directed all negotiations for self determination contracts and grants on behalf of the Seminole Tribe.

From 1969–1974 he served in the U.S. National Guard. He says that his highlights were becoming a jungle warfare expert and platoon training.

Tiger strongly believes in family values. He is the son of the late Howard Tiger and Winifred Tiger and is married to Judy Gloyne. They have four children and one grandchild. His hobbies are fishing and hunting.

“Having a hobby keeps your mind healthy,” he said.

You can reach Mike in Hollywood at 954-966-6300 ext. 1421.

Lisa Mullennix: New Administrative Assistant

By Shelley Marmor
HOLLYWOOD — Lisa Mullennix has been an employee of the Seminole Tribe since August of 1996. She has, however, recently taken a new position as Ken Fields’ Administrative Assistant at the Hollywood Tribal Office.

Mullennix was also the former Secretary III in the recently-disbanded Anthropology and Genealogy Department. She says she has fond memories of working there, but most of all has fond memories of her co-workers.

“During my seven years with that Department I had the pleasure of working with several people: Pat Wickman, Geneva Shore, Lavonne Kippenberger, Iretta Tiger, David Jumper and Elrod Bowers,” she said.

Mullennix said her seven years with the Seminole Tribe of Florida has taught her many things, particularly

about the history of the tribe and the ancestry of tribal citizens. However, she says she most enjoyed a more leisurely work related activity.

“One of my most rewarding experiences was going on our yearly Time Travel Tours,” she said. “I have great memories of fun times shared with many tribal members on those trips.”

Though she has only worked in the Executive Office for a few weeks, Mullennix has a long history with the tribe. She will surely thrive in her new position because she is committed to what she does.

“I look forward to assisting Ken Fields and Jean Fontana to the best of my ability and I look forward to having many more years of employment with the tribe,” she said.



Shelley Marmor

Administrative Assistant Lisa Mullennix

The Seminole Tribe Welcomes Holly Tiger as Tribal Clerk

By Iretta Tiger
HOLLWOOD — In Nov. 2003, Holly Tiger started her new position as Tribal Clerk.

Tiger actually came in on her own time a week before her start date to observe the procedures of the Clerk’s Office. The duties of the position come with an extreme responsibility that can be intimidating.

“I was apprehensive at first, looking at the job description I thought ‘do I really want to do this’ then I thought ‘yes, I do’,” said Tiger. “I like that kind of challenge.”

Since starting the job, Tiger has received complete support from both tribal citizens and fellow tribal employees.

During the reorganization of the vault, both the Ah-Tha-Thi-Ki Museum and the Anthropology and Genealogy Department helped in the preservation

of documents. Some of the documents date back to the 1950s.

The duties of the Tribal Clerk’s Office include preparing resolutions and the agenda for Council and Board meetings, serving as notary for the tribe, and automobile registration. Tiger also personally does the follow-up on whichever decisions are made regarding resolutions in Council and Board meetings.

Some of the future plans for Tiger’s department are to make everyone in her office a notary and to cross-train department members, so that each is familiar with all areas of the department.

Tiger has worked for the tribe in the Preschool Language Department and as a TAD attendant at the casino. Congratulations Holly on your new position!



Iretta Tiger

Tribal Clerk Holly Tiger

Amy Johns: New Vice Treasurer



Adelsa Williams

Vice Treasurer Amy Johns

By Adelsa Williams
HOLLYWOOD — Amy Johns decided to change gears professionally and accept the position of Vice Treasurer. She will be working side by side with New Tribal Treasurer Mike Tiger. Johns previously worked in the Executive Administration Office as Executive Assistant to Ken Fields.

“I’m very excited,” said Johns. “We’re at a historic moment where important changes are finally taking place.”

Johns is a graduate of Arizona State University where she obtained her master’s degree in Public Administration. She also holds a Certificate in American Indian Studies, and another in Accounting Operations. She was also a senate intern for the State of Arizona.

Amy Johns is originally from the Brighton reservation, a member of the Panther Clan; daughter of Bruce and Patty Waldron and is the proud mother of son, Steven Barboncito Johns-Ashley.

Amy can be reached in Hollywood at 954-966-6300 ext. 1478.

New Housing Director Michelle Thomas

By Adelsa Williams
HOLLYWOOD —On March 1, the Housing Department hired Michelle Thomas, a member of the Panther Clan, as Director of Housing. Thomas holds an associate degree in business administration, which she received from Indian River Community College in Fort Pierce, Fla.

Thomas has a 20-year history of employment with the Seminole Tribe. She has been previously employed with the Education Department, Chairman’s Office in Brighton, and under the council, working on the Bureau of Indian Affairs road projects.

When asked what motivated her to consider the position, Thomas simply responded, “The job description fit me.”

On her start date, Thomas held a staff meeting to get acquainted with the existing personnel. She said that the staff seemed excited.

“I understand that the staff has been left with no direction for some time,” Thomas said.

She asserted the staff that she will work in trust building, so they can become a cohesive team. In return, they would be able to operate more effectively and to better serve tribal citizens. Overall, the meeting had a positive outcome.

Thomas recognizes that there is a housing crunch. She pointed out that there are more mobile



Adelsa Williams

Director of Housing Michelle Thomas

homes rather than in-ground homes. She wants to improve that way of living for the community.

“Housing needs affect the tribal families, which means that it affects my family,” said Thomas.

Her plans on improvements are to establish permanent housing personnel in other reservations. This way, the Housing Department can better assist the communities by being present in all reservations instead of just Hollywood. Thomas feels that the tribal community is not fully aware of what services are available to them or even who they should call.

Thomas explained that the Housing Department provides tenant /rental services. Also, allocations have been offered to extend maintenance and repairs, hopefully on and off the reservation.

“I want to provide fair and equal service to all tribal members,” said Thomas.

Some ongoing changes are in the construction area. Michelle said that all new construction, renovations and additions are being sub contracted.

Thomas is available at the Hollywood office on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 954-966-6300 ext. 1735; Brighton on Tuesdays at 863-763-4128, and in Big Cypress on Thursdays at 863-902-3200.

Seminole Tribe Welcomes Back Jim Talik

By Iretta Tiger
HOLLYWOOD — On Feb. 23, Jim Talik came back to his former position as Executive Administrator in the President’s Office. Talik originally worked for the tribe from 1990–1997 under Fred Smith.

When asked about his return he exclaimed, “It’s the people. It’s one of the best organizations to work for. It’s unique”

As the Executive Administrator, Talik works directly under President Moses Osceola, and oversees board operations. He also researches new business ventures for the Board.

Talik has an M.B.A. and forty years of business experience, including his employment with the tribe.

In his spare time, Talik focuses on staying healthy. He likes rollerblading and cycling.

Talik is the proud grandfather of four, soon to be six. There are twins on the way.

In the few years since he was last with the tribe, Talik is impressed by the changes the tribe has accomplished. He misses the coziness of the old office, but is ready to forge ahead with the



Adelsa Williams

Executive Administrator Jim Talik

tribe into its future.

“I feel good about being back,” he said. “It’s good to see the progress the tribe has made.”

Congratulations on your return to the tribe, and congratulations on your two new grandchildren.

New Employee: Jim Carnicella

By Shelley Marmor
HOLLYWOOD — Jim Carnicella, Director of Human Resources, began working at the Hollywood Offices on Jan. 5. He, however, is no stranger to the Human Resources (HR) field. Carnicella holds a master’s degree in HR Management, which he received in 1982 from Indiana University. He began working in this field in the mid-1980s, only a few years after receiving his degree.

He says he enjoys many aspects of his job, particularly helping people better their day-to-day workplace activities. His favorite parts of the job include “being challenged to act as a strategic partner with the Executive [Administration] team” and resolving organizational issues, which he says will



Shelley Marmor

Jim Carnicella, Director of Human Resources

“enhance the employees quality of life at the workplace.”

Carnicella’s next major project will be making the HR Department more present on all reservations. He also wants to implement a program that will bring more tribal citizens into the work force.

“This program will include vocational and educational training, internships, [on the job] mentoring opportunities and a variety of other initiatives that hopefully will be directed and supervised by existing tribal members already involved in the organization,” he said. “Our desire would be to have many more tribal members employed, especially in Directors/Management and upper level staff positions, throughout the organization.”

HOLLYWOOD COMMUNITY MEMBERS MARCH 2004 MONTHLY EVENTS TO PUT YOUR NAME ON A TICKET LIST CALL ROBIN OSCEOLA AT 954-383-1071

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 HEAT VS TOTONTO	3 PANTHERS VS NEW JERSERY	4 LINKIN PARK ODC 7:00PM HEAT VS BUCKS	5 JOHN MAYER ODC 8:00PM	6 PANTHERS VS TAMPA BAY HEAT VS KINGS
7 HARLEM GLOBTROTTERS A.A.A.	8	9 HEAT VS MAGIC	10	11	12 MISSY ELLIOTT ODC 7:00PM HEAT VS SEATTLE	13 PANTHERS VS RANGERS
14 RUDY GIULIANI ODC 2:00PM HEAT VS NEW JERSERY	15	16 HEAT VS HORNETS	17 PANTHERS VS ISLANDERS	18	19	20 PANTHERS VS BUFFALO HEAT VS 76ERS
21	22	23 PANTHERS VS NEW JERSERY	24	25	26 HEAT VS MAVERICKS	27 PANTHERS VS ATLANTA
28 BRITTNEY SPEARS A.A.A.	29 PANTHERS VS CAROLINA HEAT VS BULLS	30	31 PANTHERS VS OTTAWA DISNEY ON ICE A.A.A.			

Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa ♦ Grand Opening



Shelley Marmor

(L-R) David Cypress, Mitchell Cypress, Moses Osceola, Max Osceola Jr. and Roger Smith cut the ribbon along with The Hard Rock Girls during the opening festivities. About 20 photographers from various media outlets eagerly look on as Bobby Frank from the Broadcasting Department gets a birds-eye view.

♦ Tampa

Continued from page 1

kept their speeches short, but Hollywood Representative Max Osceola managed a few laughs out of the crowd.

"In 1492 the Indians discovered [Christopher] Columbus," he said. "In 2004, we want you to discover the Hard Rock."

"We had you stretch your necks to see the Flying Elvi," he added." Now we want you to stretch your wallets in the casino."

Tribal President Moses Osceola welcomed his "Miccosukee brethren," and Chairman Mitchell Cypress said that the casino will be open 24 hours a day for people who get the sudden urge to play some games.

After all the speeches were made, Alan Jumper got to smash the guitar and officially open the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. Jim Allen informed the crowd that Jumper would smash the guitar over a piece of memorabilia that use to stand where the hotel now does.

A few years back, before ground was broken on the hotel and casino, a water tower use to be on the land. Allen said that a red arrow went through the tower. When the water tower was removed, construction workers set the arrow aside for the grand opening celebration.

Allen called this a "Seminole twist" to the typical Hard Rock guitar-smashing ceremony.

Following the festivities, many people moved inside to walk around the hotel. Some dined in The Green Tea Room, while others stopped in the Hard Rock Store, where they could buy everything from t-shirts to key chains. A few curious individuals made a quick stop at Body Rock, the hotel's spa, which features about 20 exercise machines, free weights and spa treatments including massages and facials.

Some visitors stopped at the bar between the main entrance and the casino where they could see rock 'n' roll memorabilia including handwritten lyrics to Michael Jackson's song "Dirty Diana," and Elvis Presley's Gold Record for his hit "Blue Hawaii."

Upon exiting the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, a quote from The Eagles' song "Hotel California" in large letters on the wall summed up what everyone involved with the hotel was hoping guests would feel.

"You can check out anytime you like, but you can never leave," it said.



Shelley Marmor

Nicodemus Billie from Big Cypress tries his luck on one of the electronic games in the casino.



Shelley Marmor

Tampa resident Bobby Henry gives the traditional blessing which will bring good luck to the building.



Shelley Marmor

One of the 10 Flying Elvi heads toward the drop zone in the parking lot of the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.



Shelley Marmor

Alan Jumper does the honors by smashing the guitar during the hotel and casino's grand opening festivities. Jim Allen, the tribe's Gaming CEO, watches from a safe distance at the podium behind Jumper.

Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa ♦ Grand Opening



Nery Mejicano

Guests at the “Fire and Ice” pool-side party enjoy a rare sight – flames coming up out of the water.



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One of the Flying Elvi skydivers stands next to a photo of another rock legend – Bob Dylan.



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Hard Rock’s trademark guitar welcomes visitors with a rock ’n’ roll flair.

Tampa Seminole Hard Rock & Casino Hosts Party

By Nery Mejicano

TAMPA — On March 11, Seminole tribal citizens celebrated a landmark achievement, the opening the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Tampa.

With the theme “Fire and Ice,” the poolside party featured live music, dancing, a wide array of food and drinks and a pool that glowed with the flames of multiple fires arising from its bottom. The Hard Rock Store opened early for all to buy the hats, jackets, pins, and shirts, a necessity when one visits The Hard Rock Hotel or Hard Rock Café.

Following the pool party,

tribal citizens and their families were treated to a John Anderson concert in the spacious hotel ballroom. As always, he brought the audience to their feet by singing his famous “Seminole Wind” song.

In late-April, the much anticipated opening of the Hollywood Seminole Hotel & Casino will take place. As one patron said, “You ain’t seen nothing yet.”

Many thanks go to the hotel and casino staff, especially to John Fontana and Jim Allen, for helping make this a truly unforgettable experience.



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John Anderson (center) performs in front of an invitation-only crowd in the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Ballroom.



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Tampa Hard Rock Hotel & Casino lights up the night sky. Several party-goers enjoy refreshments during the “Fire and Ice” party.

Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood ♦ Opening Soon



Photos by Stephen Galla

Aerial view of the soon-to-be-completed Hollywood Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. To the left of the hotel is the Seminole Paradise, a complex that will feature upscale shopping, dining and nightclubs. Seminole Paradise is slated to open in Oct. and the Hard Rock is slated to open in late April.

Kitchen



Ballroom



Contour Spa & Salon



Casino Floor

Beach Club

