

The SEMINOLE TRIBUNE

“Voice of the Unconquered”

50¢

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September 2, 2005

Color Guard Attends National Powwow 2005

By Iretta Tiger
WASHINGTON, D.C. — Education and camaraderie are two words that come to mind when describing the National Museum of the American Indian’s (NMAI) National Powwow 2005. The powwow was held at the MCI Center in Washington, D.C. from Aug. 12–14; various presentations and events were also held at the museum.



Iretta Tiger

Guarding the colors: (L-R) Dan Bowers, Paul Bowers, Steven Bowers, Archie Johns and Joe Osceola Jr.

For the powwow, NMAI put together a comprehensive souvenir program. It contains the details of grand entry, the history of powwow and the history of the various dances.

Two films, “The World of Indian Dance” and “Into the Circle: An Introduction to Oklahoma Powwows and Celebrations” were shown at the museum throughout the powwow. Also at the museum were dance exhibitions, powwow regalia-making, drum making and birch bark canoe making.

NMAI’s Director Richard West

Jr. and Vice Chairman of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Glynn Crooks lead every grand entry in full regalia.

The Seminole Tribe’s Color Guard, Stephen Bowers, Paul Bowers, NAME and NAME, was given the honor of leading the veterans in the powwow’s grand entries. Members of the Vietnam Era Veterans Intertribal Association (VEVITA) joined the color guard.

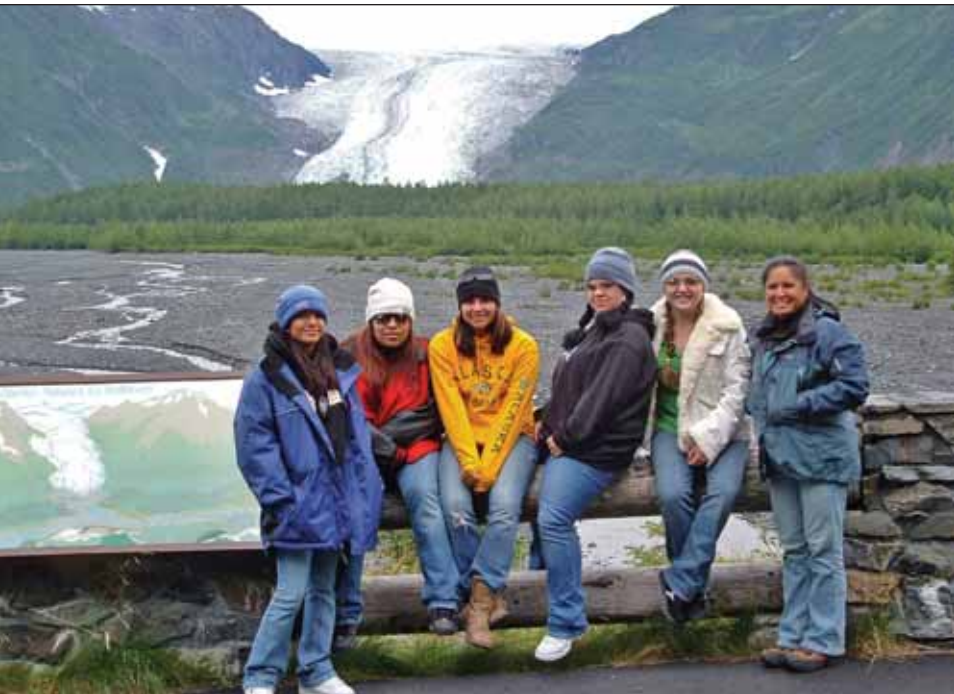
Former Colorado Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell (retired) joined West and Crooks for two grand entries. Miss Seminole Christine McCall also participated in the grand entries; there was an impressive showing of native royalty.

Though not part of the powwow, McCall and Trail Liaison William Osceola were invited to tour the offices of America’s Most Wanted (AMW) and as part of the tour they were allowed to watch the phone center in action. Unfortunately

AMW’s host John Walsh was not present but McCall and Osceola were still thrilled to be there.

This special tour was specially arranged by Lloyd Wideman, Diamond III LLC, and JR Patton, Native NCTS driver. Patton is the driver for AMW Racing and was sponsored by the Seminole Tribe at the Ford 200 in 2004.

So far, the National Powwow is not an annual powwow but that could change. For updates on the next National Powwow and museum updates surf to www.nmai.si.edu.



Emma Brown

Brighton high school students were rewarded with a trip to Alaska.

High School Students Visit the ‘Last Frontier’

By Emma Brown
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA — High school students from Brighton who earned a 2.5 GPA or higher received an incentive award trip to Alaska. The destination was actually chosen during the year by the high school students themselves, which allowed them to have a goal to work towards.

Many students qualified for the trip, but with the hectic summer schedules that students now have, only five young ladies were able to attend the trip along with their chaperones and Brighton education advisor and Education director. The students that attended the trip were Kelly Haught, Reba Osceola, Stephanie Smith, Shelby Huff and Heather Peterson.

The journey began with an eight-and-a-half hour flight from Orlando, Fla. to Anchorage. From Anchorage the students boarded the Alaskan Railroad for a four hour ride to Seward. The four hour train ride into Seward offered breathtaking scenery that made the ride feel much shorter.

Along the way students were able to dine while taking in the surrounding scenery. They saw beautiful mountain sides, awesome glaciers, moose, Dahl sheep, Eagles, beavers and much more. Once in Seward the group was taken to the Seward Sea Life Center which offered an amazing look inside the Alaskan sea life.

Next the students checked into the Wind Song Lodge which was absolute-

ly breathtaking. From their they took a two hour walking tour of Exit Glacier, which took them close enough to a tidal glacier that they were within the glacial climate that is created by the glacier itself.

The following morning the students bordered a boat for a five hour luncheon cruised of the Kenai Fjords. Traveling by boat provided students with sites of a humpback whale, Orcas whales, sea otters, and Stellar sea lions. Fortunately the students were able to catch a few pictures of these amazing creatures before being caught in a ferocious storm that caused 10–12 foot seas.

The ship’s captain announced via intercom that the passengers were bearing witness to seas that many people will never see, and probably would never want to see. This incident definitely tested the captain’s navigational abilities, as well as, providing a little excitement for the students.

The next day the students were taken on a 10 hour tour of the grand city of Anchorage stopping at the Alaskan Heritage Museum and the Alyeska Ski Resort.

All of the students had an amazing time visiting and learning about the beauties and natural wonders found in Alaska. This trip rewarded students for their outstanding academic efforts for the year while offering them a great deal of education and geography at the same time.

High School Grads Celebrate in the Islands



Shelley Marmor

The 2004 and 2005 high school graduates wait outside the WatersEdge restaurant at Atlantis before the Awards Banquet.

By Shelley Marmor
NASSAU, BAHAMAS — For the week of Aug. 15–19, the 2004 and 2005 Seminole high school graduates received a gift courtesy of Chairman Mitchell Cypress—a trip to the Bahamas. The 13 grads, along with several family members and chaperones, stayed at the Atlantis resort on Paradise Island in the Bahamas.

Representing the class of 2004 on the trip were: Linda Henry and Savannah Huggins. Mia Da’Wanna Sapp also graduated in 2004, however, did not attend this trip. Representing the class of 2005 were: Tiffany Frank, Clarissa Garza, Christine McCall, JoJo Dakota Osceola, Tasha Osceola, Le’Anna Sapp, Zane Sauls, Gabriel Stockton, James Tommie and Karissa Tommie. Graduates Kayla Billie and Travelis Timothy did not attend.

After a brief 35 minute flight, the group landed in the Bahamas on Aug. 15. The only thing on the agenda this day was a private luncheon reception at the WatersEdge restaurant at the Atlantis hotel.

At the luncheon, Ft. Pierce Liaison Sally Tommie welcomed the graduates and told them this is their week to relax. She also congratulated them on graduating, and encouraged them to focus on “the next level of life.”

“You all have huge—I’m not going to say big, huge—things ahead of you,” Tommie added.

Tommie then introduced Chairman Mitchell Cypress for his opening remarks. The chairman reminded everyone that though the Bahamas is close to the U.S., it is a foreign country with rules that differ from the U.S., rules that everyone must follow. He encour-

aged everyone to look out for everyone else, and of course, to have a good time.

“This is your trip,” he told the graduates. “This is your time and we want you to enjoy it.”

Following the welcome luncheon, everyone had free time to settle in and get ready for a full day of activities on Aug. 16. On this day, the group took a bus tour of downtown Nassau stopping at historic sites including the Queen’s Staircase, Gregory’s Arch and Fort Charlotte.

After stopping for lunch at Luciano’s of Chicago, the group made their way to a shopper’s paradise—the Straw Market. While at the Straw Market, the ladies all had their eyes on designer knock-off purses. The men, Trail Liaison William Osceola, Tampa

❖ See ISLANDS, page 32

Twelfth Annual Seminole Wellness Conference

By Judy Weeks
MARCO ISLAND, FL — The Seminole Tribe wants everyone to be of sound mind, body and soul. To this end they have set up numerous departments and are sponsoring both clinics and conferences. The 12th Annual Seminole Wellness Conference on Marco Island incorporated many of these programs into a week full of opportunities. Participants in this very important event began arriving at the Marco Island Hilton on July 17.

Coordination of this enormous task was placed in the very capable hands of Helene Buster and a committee of individuals dedicated to its success. Project planning began in January, with first weekly, and finally, daily meetings as each intricate piece of the puzzle slowly came together.

“It was quickly established that each meeting must accomplish an objective regardless of the members present. Decisions were made, plans correlated and

❖ See WELLNESS, page 5



Judy Weeks

Audience participation was encouraged at the 12th Annual Wellness Conference.

Seminole Tribe Celebrates Its Independence Day



Iretta Tiger

Betty Osceola leads the gospel singers during the ceremony.

By Iretta Tiger
HOLLYWOOD — “This last Fourth of July Gloria [Wilson] and I were talking and we started wondering why the Tribe didn’t have its own version of the Fourth of July,” said Hollywood Representative Max B. Osceola Jr. “Soon after that conversation Gloria started to organize the event and here we are today”

On Aug. 20 the Seminole Tribe celebrated the 48th anniversary of the ratification of the Tribe’s Constitution and Bylaws. The original date of the ratification is Aug. 21, 1957.

Wilson had organized not just a celebration but an eloquent reminder of where we come from. The ceremony opened with a video by the Seminole Broadcasting department. The video was specially created for the celebration; it detailed the ratification and the success of the Tribe after the ratification.

Attending the ceremony was the last surviving constitution committee member Reverend Frank Billie. Councilman Osceola presented Reverend Billie with a special recognition plaque. Danny Jumper translated for Reverend

❖ See 48TH, page 10

Native Intelligence: Another Rich White Man For The Supreme Court

By Jack D. Forbes

[Editor's Note: Jack Forbes is professor emeritus of Native American Studies. He has been writing about legal issues and Native Americans since the early 1960s. The opinions he expresses here are his own. Copyright (C) 2005 by the author]

John G. Roberts, nominee for the Supreme Court, seems likely to be a shoe-in for the appointment. What is shocking, in a way, is that not a single article seen by this writer has wondered out loud why the court needs another "rich white man" (RWM). The court has always been dominated by RWMs and, in fact, until recently every single justice was a WM if not an RWM.

Let us look at the court. It includes one woman, one African-American, and six white males, most of the latter from privileged backgrounds or elite university law schools. The court has no African-American women, no Native Americans, no Mexican-Americans, no Asian-Americans, no Puerto Ricans or other Caribbean-Americans, no Gays, no Lesbians, no Green Party members, to my knowledge, et cetera.

In other words, the court is in the hands of the same old ruling class of the U.S.!

Most of the court members are PCs, or privileged conservatives, derived from the Northeastern U.S. and its elite law schools—although a few have Stanford ties as undergrads. This is how the country is run; is it not, with law graduates from Harvard, Yale etc. cultivating the right connections so that they can clerk with high-level judges, such as William Rehnquist, and then receive important appointments in presidential administrations, such as those of Ronald Reagan and George Bush Sr.

Very few persons want to discuss the manner in which this country is ruled by white males, or how the western half of the U.S. is usually colonized and dominated by elites from the northeast. Of course, some southern whites have been able to share the mantle of power because of the "solid south," formerly Democratic, now GOP, but ordinarily it is the old rich elites of the northeast who run the nation.

So should we just roll over and let Bush appoint another of the same crowd to an already lop-sided court?

Native Americans know only too well how these RWMs have run the Supreme Court for more than two centuries, essentially as a private debating club for protecting white corporate and elite interests. And it is interesting to read article after article by white journalists or legal scholars analyzing how some judges are "pragmatists" while others are "textualists" and others are "strict constructionists" or "originalists" and so on.

Most of these categories are figments of the imagination, in my opinion. For example, the Constitution explicitly makes all ratified treaties "the supreme law of the land" along with the Constitution itself.

But what about treaties with Native American Nations—duly ratified!—?

What about the international agreements signed and agreed to by the U.S.? What about the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo with Mexico, and the Treaty of Mesilla, the Papago-Apache Treaty, its successor?

These treaties are ignored by the RWMs of the Supreme Court, meaning that none of them are truly strict constructionists.

We can also look at the Interstate Commerce Clause, which is the only place in the Constitution where the U.S. federal government is given specific authority over native nations, and that authority is limited to regulating commerce with the Tribes.

And yet the Supreme Court continues to act as if the Commerce Clause does not exist in relation to Native Nations or that somehow, magically, the government has obtained power over tribes from some other un-named source—conquest perhaps? But many tribes were never conquered.

Clarence Thomas and Antonin Scalia are not "strict constructionists" or "textualists" or "originalists" but rather they, like most of their colleagues, read the Constitution to serve the interests of the elites who rule the country.

The RWMs of the Supreme Court, in the Dred Scott decision, ignored the fact that persons of color had been allowed to vote in North Carolina and other states in earlier times and, in any case, that the Constitution guaranteed that no "person" should be deprived of liberty without due process of law. We know that free persons of African ancestry were regarded on occasion, along with Native Americans, as "persons" since they are so named, as "all other free persons," in the early U.S. censuses.

Later, of course, the RWMs of the Supreme Court have allowed Native Americans to be swindled of their rights under the Fifth Amendment to "just compensation" in terms of federal taking of Indian lands without payment of market value or interest. Moreover, Native Americans have been denied the status of "persons" under the Fourteenth Amendment, again by Supreme Court justices.

Ironically, the RWMs on the court decided that white corporations are "persons," in spite of the fact that the Constitution never hints at such a nonsensical idea, while treating first Americans, and Blacks before the Civil War, as non-persons.

Now where do we find "strict constructionists" in such a mess of contradictory decisions? What we find often are arguments which benefited, and still benefit, railroads, banks, land companies, corporations, and RWMs who can buy up hundreds of radio and TV stations, etcetera.

So why must we have another right-wing RWM on the Supreme Court? Are we seeing another attempt to solidify the great corporations and the very rich—the "have mores"—in their control of this country?

Should we not demand diversity on the Supreme Court?

Dear Editor,

My name is Tyler Sirois. I am working on a paper for school. I've spent the day trying to find Seminole translations for the following words: warrior, pride, honor, vision, voice, teamwork/together and faith/spirit. I've read your website over, but can't seem to find what I'm looking for. Thanks you so much for any help you can offer or resources you can turn me to. I appreciate it very much.

Tyler Sirois

Dear Mr. Sirois,

Here are the translations: warrior—Tvs-tv-nv-ke, pride—E-kv-svm-kv, honor—A-ra-ka-ke-cet, vision—En-hec-ken, voice—O-po-na-kv, teamwork/together—Te-ma-ni-cet and faith/spirit—A-kv-svm-kv. If you have any questions regarding the pronunciation of the words, please do not hesitate to call me at (863) 763-7501.

Lorene B. Gopher
Director of Cultural Education

Dear Editor,

I ask you for help! I am doing my research for the Ph.D. thesis titled "Native Americans in the U.S. Socio-Cultural Policies of the Late XXth–Early XXIst Centuries."

Within my survey I'd like to get the results of the questionnaire that I have posted on the Internet—this would greatly help me in this research. The main idea is to ask American Indians their own opinion on several questions (the details are stated in the introductory words on the site). For this purpose, I should distribute that questionnaire as widely as possible, so that a maximum number of the U.S. Native Americans could participate.

The procedure is very simple, it takes just a few minutes, plus it's anonymous. Thus, I do ask you for assistance: if you have anyone of American Indian descent among your friends, acquaintances, colleagues, fellow-students, neighbors, etc., please send them this link! And take part yourself! I would greatly appreciate your help!

Please see <http://amerindians.site-burg.com/> to take this survey. If you want any reply or information, just leave your e-mail at the end in the "Comments," section and I'll gladly get in touch with you.

Oksana Danchevskaya
MSPU, Moscow, Russia

Dear Editor,

Thank you to the group at Billie Swamp Safari for one of the most exciting times we ever had. Many thanks to Gus as well.

John MacArthur



Dear Editor,

I just wanted to drop you a short note of thanks as an alumni of Florida State University for your formal support for our school's use of your namesake. My appreciation for your history and culture truly has been raised by my experience at FSU. I am proud to be a "Seminole" at heart, and your support of our school is a true blessing.

Kevin J. Leahy

Dear Editor,

The NCAA, with the collusion of the ACLU, has declared that we cannot field our proud, great, Seminole mascot at post season events, such as playoffs. I feel a rush of Native pride every time I see that Great Warrior ride around the field, and have never felt that the school has slighted the Seminole Indian Nation. I feel that this is war, and my pen, (keyboard), is loaded, aimed and cocked.

Please help us in this fight to return America to the majority of Americans. What would placate the NCAA anyway; for the School to rename itself as the Conquering Whites?

Frankie Caryl

Dear Editor,

I sincerely hope that you can convey to Mr. Jim Shore just exactly how proud I am, as an alumnus of Florida State University, to have read his op-ed article that appeared in the *New York Times* on Aug. 27, that should set the record straight vis-a-vis the original contentions of the NCAA.

Since entering that university in 1959, I have considered myself part of the heritage that we borrowed by using and honoring the name of the first Floridians. Although I was raised in Florida and graduated high school in Dade County, Mr. Shore's article informed me of many points of which I was not aware. He stresses the bond that exists between the school and the nation that we chose, and got permission, to represent, and with the eloquence in which he has expressed himself, I believe his thoughts should evoke a letter of apology from the NCAA directed to the school and to the Seminole Tribe of Florida, if not the entire Seminole Nation of the United States.

I shall continue to wear my Seminole jacket with the pride that I held in the past, not only for the school I sup-

Letters & E-mail

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port, but also the people that I, and that school, represent and with the dignity which they deserve. The NCAA was wrong with their first actions, and it's comforting to know that letters like Mr. Shore's are actually read and understood by those who make policy for seemingly insensitive organizations.

Dr. Steven Baron
B.A., Florida State University,

1963

Dear Editor,

I hope what I've read is true that the Seminole Tribe in Florida supports Florida State University using the Seminole as its mascot.

I am a white Caucasian and can't really speak about ever having been in a minority, but I think if I ever were, that using my heritage as a symbol for determination, tenacity and a symbol to rally behind would be the utmost sign of flattery there could be. If your support for FSU is true, please continue.

I'm an Auburn graduate—War Eagle, by the way—and huge college sports fan and I would really hate to see the end of one of the higher profile mascot images there is. I know the NCAA may have more to say about it, but please do what you can to preserve FSU's heritage, which is the Seminole.

Bob Wood
Florence, AL

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you on behalf of me and so many of my other friends and family for your support of both Florida State University and the tradition that I hope that the community represents. Your continued support of the university is extremely appreciated by my fellow students, as well as the alumni.

The tradition at Florida State depends directly upon your involvement in the operations of our school, and I cannot stress enough the importance of such association. I can only hope that our gratification with your relationship does mean as much to you as it does to everyone's tie to the University.

Thank you again, and I hope that my contributions as a student, and upon my December graduation, will be of some value to you in the future.

Patrick King

Dear Editor,

One morning as I drove to work, well before dawn, I heard the statement by Tina Osceola and I thought it was so well written. This is a shining example of how, even in these very troublesome times, a people can come to agreement and still maintain their cultural dignity.

The decision to endorse and permit the use of the Seminole mascot by Florida State is a wonderful opportunity to share accurate information concerning your people with many. It is a good thing for your people to choose not to be victims in this mascot issue, but to embrace the opportunity to teach about your people and your culture.

Thank you Tina, for your thoughtful statement.

Jack Carney
Stone Mountain, GA

Dear Editor,

We have been working here in North Carolina for nearly 10 years to eliminate Indian sport mascots in the NC public schools. The State Board of Education passed a directive in 2002 for all educators in the state to educate themselves on the cultural, psychological, and educational impacts of using Indian sport mascots. As a result, 29 schools have retired their 'Indian' mascots.

The current controversy over the NCAA's directive brings this issue to the national stage. Our work and the work of so many across the nation will be affected by how this issue pans out. And this issue's results may be greatly impacted by the efforts of Florida State.

There is a tremendous opportunity for the Seminole Tribe of Florida to move this important issue forward toward elimination of these mascots. What you all do will be watched and used as a basis for action by many. Please let us know your position on this issue and what action you suggest others take.

Monroe Gilmour, Coordinator
NC Mascot Education & Action

Group

Dear Editor,

My name is Tim Bond. I am the President of College Football Media, <http://cfbmedia.com>.

College Football Media is a fan

based college football site. The fans that visit our website on a regular basis has repeated commented their displeasure with the NCAA about the banning the traditions of the Seminole Tribe of Florida's right to allow FSU to represent your proud nation.

I, myself am 1/32 Apache and 1/32 Cherokee and disagree with the ruling. I live in Oklahoma and view that though some names are offensive, the NCAA should not speak for every tribe about every school.

College Football Media has setup a petition at <http://www.petitiononline.com/cfbmedia/petition.html> about the disagreement with the NCAA.

The petition spans all schools, not just Florida State University, and was coming to the Nation of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, to let you know about the petition, and would ask if you would spread the word about it.

Tim Bond
President, College Football Media
timb@cfbmedia.com

Dear Editor,

Just a brief note of thanks for your continued support of our university and the proper and consensual use of the imagery and pageantry of your great nation and ancestors...thank you.

Trent Thomason

Dear Editor,

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support concerning the Florida State University Seminoles.

I have been an FSU Seminole since being a teenager. I attended FSU from 1967–1970 and watched this great university grow and become even greater since that time.

I am extremely proud to tell people I am a Seminole fan. I have learned a lot about your culture and what you went through many years ago.

I don't think there is a more moving athletic event than pre-game at an FSU home game, with Chief Osceola riding out on that beautiful horse, Renegade, and implanting that flaming spear into the home field turf. I get chill bumps just thinking about it. It is a very majestic ritual, thanks to your education and assistance with all procedures.

Obviously, I think the NCAA committee has gone way too far concerning the issue of the use of the name Seminoles, and all that is involved with it. They have over stepped their boundaries. There are some names and mascots that should be banned, such as Redskins, Savages, and that stupid Cleveland Indian mascot, among others.

Hopefully, because of your ringing endorsement of FSU, we'll be able to continue forever as the Seminoles of Florida State University. It is truly an honor.

Doug Mann
Tampa, FL

Dear Editor,

My name is Michael Ellis. I am a current student at Florida State University and I wanted to deeply thank your Tribal Council and Board of Directors for their public support and approval of our university.

It means the world to all of the student body and alumni at FSU.

Michael Ellis

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to commend your people for the endorsement of the continued use of your symbols, name, insignias, etc, by Florida State University. I have always admired all American Indians and their culture, and this is a welcome sign of sanity that your Tribe does not consider the proper use and admiration, as unequivocal condemnation, irregardless of others trying to malign and twist what I consider a compliment.

I hope your Tribe continues to work with the Florida State University, and I hope this helps to nullify the NCAA's attempt to invalidate the use of Indian names in other arenas by other university teams.

A. Steve Giordano
Kane, PA

Dear Editor,

I just want to thank you for your support to our school; your support is greatly appreciated throughout our fans, students, alumni, boosters, and sponsors. Thank you very much.

Kristin Noreña
Tallahassee, FL

The Seminole Tribune

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

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

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Photo Quiz



Can you guess how these two Seminole ladies are? See the Sept. 23 issue to find out.



Seen here are: Oscar Johns, Daniel Gopher, Julie Johns Driggers, Linda Smith Tommie.



Mary Tigertail, Lucy Evanicki, Linda Jim, Virginia Mitchell, Victor Osceola, Nery Mejicano.

Seminole Attend the 38th Annual Governor's Conference on Tourism

By Nery Mejicano
HOLLYWOOD — In spite of four hurricanes, Florida welcomed more than 79.8 million visitors in 2004, up seven percent from 2003.

Governor Jeb Bush addressed attendees of the 38th Governor's Conference on Tourism at the beautiful Westin Diplomat Resort & Spa. He praised tourism industry professionals and attributed the continued success of Florida tourism to the fast response in damage control provided by Visit Florida, the state's tourism marketing agency, by declaring that the State was open and welcoming visitors to the Sunshine State.

As the attractions, hotels and casinos of the Seminole Tribe of Florida become more popular with tourists, participation in international, national and local tourism marketing efforts is essential. The growth of the Big Cypress reservation, with its popular Billie Swamp Safari tours and its beautiful Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, is attracting not only out of state and local visitors, but international visitors also, who marvel at the natural beauty of the Seminole homeland.

In addition, The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Seminole Paradise, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum at Okalee Village and Seminole Okalee Indian Village, are becoming popular South Florida tourism destinations, competing and surpassing some of the more well known areas such as South Beach.

The conference, hosted annually by Visit Florida, kicked started on Aug. 14, with a dinner at the Westin Diplomat. The theme of the dinner was "King Tut," based on the upcoming exhibition at the Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale and tastefully decorated with Egyptian décor and atmosphere.

During breakfast on Aug. 15, Florida Seminole Tourism and Seminole Gaming were honored as finalists for a Flagler Award from Visit

Florida for their efforts in multicultural marketing. Flagler Awards are given annually in recognition of outstanding achievement in Florida tourism marketing.

Attending the conference were: O.B. Osceola Sr., Director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museums Tina Osceola, Assistant Director of Billie Swamp Safari



O.B. Osceola, Sr., Tina Osceola, Bud Nocera/Visit Florida, Mary Tigertail.

Mary Tigertail, *The Seminole Tribune* Editor in Chief Virginia Mitchell, Linda Jim, Tribal Marketing Director and head of Florida Seminole Tourism Lucy Evanicki, Communication Manager Cindy Malin, Big Cypress Administrative Project Officer Nery Mejicano, Director of Marketing for Seminole Gaming Maureen Holden, Director of Advertising and Public Relations for the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Susan Scheirer and Public Relations Manager for the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Julianne Carelli.

'The Trail of Lost Tears' Speaker Series

Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum At Okalee Village Host Series

By Anne McCudden, Curator of Collections, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum
HOLLYWOOD — On Aug. 13, Tina M. Osceola, Bill Steele, Jim Pepe, and Anne McCudden from the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, conducted a panel discussion on the work that the Museum Department carries out. This speaker series was sponsored by the not-for-profit group The Trail of the Lost Tribes, which had received grants from the Florida Humanities Council and the Frank E. Duckwall Foundation.

The speaker's series has six events all together; there will be one more in Gainesville, Fla. on Oct. 14. The goal of these talks is to educate the public about various archaeological work that goes on within the state of Florida.

The talk on Saturday was attended by a group of about 100 people from across the state. There were academics, local historians, artists, journalists and Tribal employees. The Museum department hosted the event with an open house afterwards at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki at Okalee Museum in Seminole Paradise.

The topics of each speaker were as follows: Executive Director of the Museum Tina Osceola spoke about historic preservation for the entire Tribe and how the work of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office is so vital to preserving the history of the Seminole people. Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Bill Steele spoke about some of the historical connections that the Seminole people of today have with the prehistoric people of the Southeastern U.S. and he also explained some of the federal laws that pertain to historic preservation, why this office exists within the tribe and what its responsibilities are.

Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Jim Pepe described some of the archaeological infor-

mation that the tribal historic preservation office has uncovered from the Seminole reservations. Because of the surveys that their department conducts, we are able to learn a lot about the cultures that lived in Florida in the past and in the present. Lastly, Curator of Collections for the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Anne McCudden explained what the museum collections consist of and how the museum staff cares for these items that are so vital to Seminole history.



(L-R) Linda Jim and Virginia Mitchell review old tourist postcards.

Other Tribal departments also attended the event. Angel A. Torres and Glen Altman from Human Resources had a booth set up for Tribal recruitment and the broadcasting department also attended. The event was a great success and the Museum department hopes to participate in more of these types of events in the future.



Seminole Fire Rescue recruits performed vehicle extrications.

Tribal Firefighters Complete Extrication Training



A recruit trains to use the jaws of life.

By Eva Cain, Public Information Officer, Department of Emergency Services

OKEECHOBEE, FL — Twenty-eight new recruits of the Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue reviewed tactics necessary to perform vehicle extrications. They received hands-on experience utilizing various Holmaltro emergency rescue equipment to pull apart several cars donated by Jim's Parts Place, Inc. located at 220 NE 14th Ave. in Okeechobee, Fla.

This is one of the many training exercises included in their rigorous eight week departmental orientation program as they prepare to graduate from the Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue. Recruits have participated in classroom and practical evolutions throughout the training process.

A special thanks goes to Mr. Doug Martin, Owner/Operator of Jim's Parts Place, Inc. for his donation of the vehicles used by the firefighters in this training. Martin's generosity has proved to be a vital training resource for area fire departments. His support is greatly appreciated and is sure to benefit the community.

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Seniors Travel to Utah to 'Celebrate in the Park'

By Judy Weeks
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH — Several Seminole seniors flew into Salt Lake City, Utah, on July 22 to attend the Native American Celebration in the Park. A relatively new pow-wow, it has been organized by Cal Nez, a Navajo Tribal member.

"I would like to see more Native Americans walking together," Nez said. "While this is our native land, we represent only three percent of the population in the U.S. It is imperative that through peace and unity we promote our culture to prevent extinction."

Nez was delighted when he discovered that members of the Seminole Tribe had come all the way across the country to be spectators. He immediately invited them to join in the grand entry procession wearing their traditional patchwork attire and provided a shaded canopy for their viewing area.

During the opening ceremonies, he surprised Elaine Aguilar by requesting that she take the microphone and speak to the gathering in her native Miccosukee language. During her discourse, she related how happy the Seminoles were to be present, and said they were looking forward to learning about other tribal nations and were supportive of their cultural endeavors.



Photo courtesy of Angie Arreguin
(L-R) Theresa Jumper, Elaine Aguilar, Angie Arreguin and Louise Osceola walked around Salt Lake's nearby mountains.



(L-R, back row) Patsy Billie, Linda Billie, Louise Osceola, Carol Cypress, Lucille Jumper, Virginia Tommie and Joe Billie (front row).

fruits and vegetables.

Side trips were planned as the seniors familiarized themselves with the Salt Lake City landscape, which is in such great contrast to their homeland in Florida.

Traveling into the mountains, they had an opportunity to walk in the beautiful countryside. They even encountered a stream with very cold, clear water bubbling across its rocky bottom. Several of the ladies were captured on film as they gathered around a large boulder beside the creek. A crystal clear waterfall cascaded down the rocky slope providing them with a refreshing drink as they made their way along the trail.

Travel opportunities are always rewarding, but spending time with cherished friends away from the hum-drum of every day activities is even better.

"We are all brothers and sisters and need to learn to recognize that fact to make our Native American family strong," Aguilar said.

The production included pow-wow dancers competing in several traditional styles and costumes. A Native American falconer circulated through the park with a hawk perched on his arm.

Displaying this magnificent bird, which had been trained to hunt and then return to its owner, he said, "This ancient hunting technique is part of our heritage, but is nearly non-existent in today's society."

The festive pow-wow weekend included a parade and well stocked market place with something for everyone. Found among the booths were not only native vendors, but a wide variety of merchandise, fresh



The Grand Entry pow-wow procession.



(L-R) Pedro Aguilar, Frank J. Billie, Carmen Arango, Mabel Frank and Nicodemus Billie.

Big Cypress Seniors Take Tricycle Rides

By Nery Mejicano
BIG CYPRESS — Shiny and fire engine red, these are the BC senior's rides. Every day, they take their tricycles for about a two mile long ride around the community.

Their hair nicely tucked under a shiny blue helmet, they cruise as a group, maintaining a surprisingly nice speed. In addition to being fun, the trike ride provides the seniors with a great exercise, fresh air and lots of sun shine.

Along with the BC Senior Center staff, many programs are involved in the trike ride. Seminole Police Department officers are there to ensure a safe ride through the community roads, they check tire pressures and ensure that the seniors enjoy their ride as staff from the BC Fitness Program escort the seniors. All seniors participating in this activity are cleared by the staff at the Health Clinic to ensure their safety.

Frank J. Billie has not missed a day since this program started and is usually the first to arrive to start the ride. The trike ride is a program that should inspire others to get involved in fun and healthy activity that not only promotes health, but provides the opportunity to be with others. The program has been so successful that a "Seniors Trike Fest" is being planned Tribal wide for the early part of November 2005.



(L-R) Mabel Frank and aide Darlene Needle.



A spectacular fireworks display was given to highlight the event.

Iretta Tiger



ROCK CLIMBING: Hanging out and hanging on.

Iretta Tiger



There were several carnival rides for the kids.

Iretta Tiger



(Center) Last surviving constitution committee member Reverend Frank Billie.

Iretta Tiger



The race sack did not have a size limit.

Iretta Tiger

❖ 48th

Continued from page 1

Billie as he recalled the time of the ratification. Betty Clay and Dan Bowers lead a group in singing gospel songs in Miccosukee. Miss Seminole Christine McCall read an article which was an interview with Reverend Billie.

In a special presentation Miss Seminole and Jr. Miss Seminole Jennifer-Diane Chalfant presented medals to past and present board and council members. Liaisons and Tribal Secretary Priscilla Sayen were also presented with a medal.

Descendants of those who have passed away accepted on their behalf.

Chairman Cypress received three medals for his positions on both the board and the council; he was the only one to receive that many.

Jr. Miss Seminole recited the poem "Council Oak" was written by Moses Jumper Jr. The ceremony closed with congratulations and paying respect to Reverend Billie, but the day was not over.

Even before the ceremony there were golfing and bowling tournaments. In lieu of prizes based on placement participation prizes were awarded for the bowling tournament.

Following the ceremony were sack races, egg tossing, horseshoe tossing and a hula hoop contest. There were also several carnival rides and rock climbing for the kids. The celebration closed with an excellent display of fireworks.

Happy 48th birthday Seminole Tribe of Florida.



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Iretta Tiger

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2. Billy Bowlegs - Lead the Seminoles in the 3rd Seminole War - Dark Chocolate & Caramel

3. Remember the Clans! - All 9 Clans: Otter Bear, Snake, Panther, Big Town, Bird, Deer, Wind and the extinct Alligator

4. Josie Billie - One of the Strongest Medicine Men of the Seminole Tribe - Dark Chocolate & Hazelnut

5. Ingram Billie - Brother of Josie, also a Powerful Medicine Man - Vanilla & Hazelnut

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

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

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

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

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

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

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12. Priscilla Sayen - Long time Respected Tribal Secretary - Irish Cream & Hazelnut

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21. Mike Tiger - Former Director of Indian Health Svs & current Treasurer - Half and Half, Sugar and whipped cream

22. Winifred Tiger - Helped Seminole Youth stay in School, graduate and go to college - English Toffee & Vanilla

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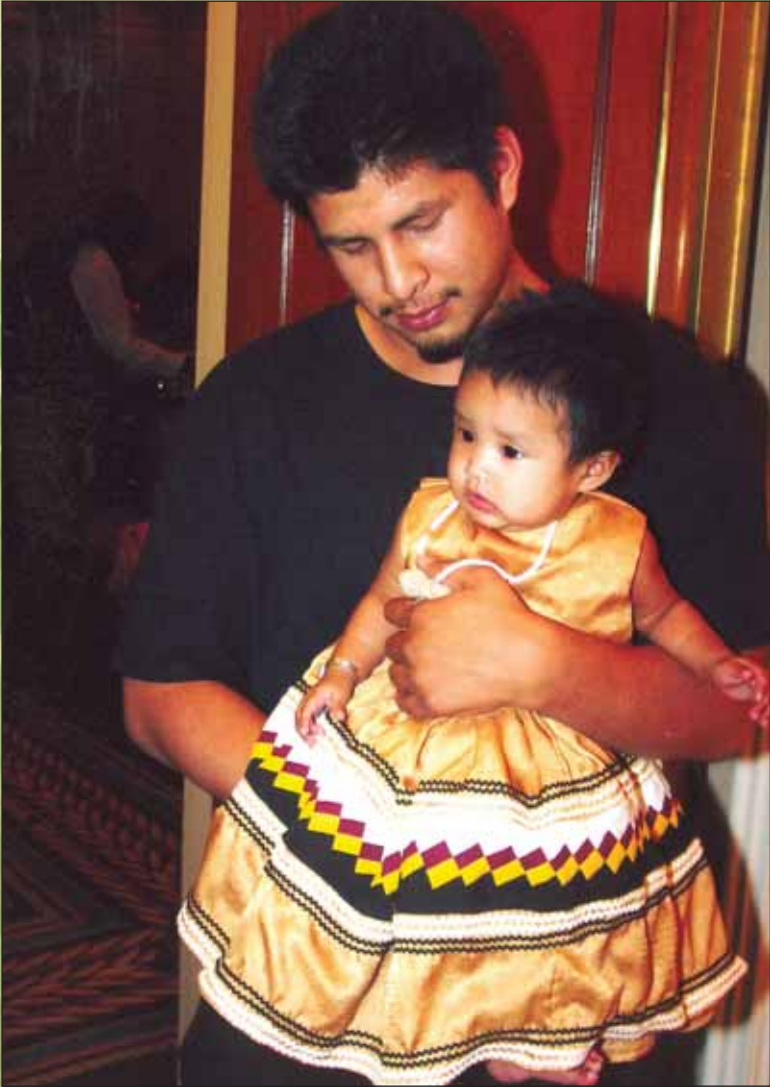
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❖Wellness

Continued from page 1

tasks assigned as we moved forward. The committee grew into a small dedicated army, each making a vital contribution to this conference,” said Buster.

“In an effort to thank all of these wonderful people, I fear that I am going to forget someone, and it will probably be those who have acted as my right arm these many long months. If this is the case, I



Judy Weeks

The Wellness Conference was a family affair for all ages.

ask you to please forgive me,” apologized Buster in advance.

She thanked: Andy Buster, Mitchell Cypress, David Cypress, Mark Billie, Edna McDuffie, Candy Cypress, Sheila Vevineau, Vera Herrera, Kathy Cypress, Codene Jumper, Mary Jene Koenes, Yvonne Courtney, Suzanne Davis, Connie Whidden, Basil Phillips, Jeanette Cypress, Ralph Billie, Debra Ray, Rick Benson, Timi Bearden, Carol Cypress, Eric Bricker, Jodie and Ray King.

INTRODUCTION AND OPENING REMARKS

Following a sunrise morning walk on the beach and breakfast, participants gathered in the main conference room for the opening ceremonies on July 18. Taking center stage, a parade of individuals came forth to offer welcoming remarks.

Taking the lead, President Moses Osceola said, “It is good to take care of the body, but it is equally important to care for the soul. By attending here today, I can see you are taking a step in that direction.”

Harry Billie said, “I love the guitar. Music is a great relaxer, but nothing cares for the individual like the love and understanding of family, friends and our creator. When you put this combination together, you can win the battle of daily temptations.”

Hollywood Council Representative Max B Osceola Jr. remarked, “Caring for ourselves requires healthy choices, food and physical or athletic awareness. Individuals make families and the tribe is one big family. We are all related to each other somehow. When one person hurts, the whole Tribe hurts. As you change for the better, the Tribe becomes healthier.”

“Pat yourself on the back for being here. Take advantage of this opportunity and take it home with you. What you acquire here can make a positive difference for years to come,” said Brighton Representative Andrew Bowers.

Rushing into the room laughing, Chairman Mitchell Cypress stepped forward, “We all have come here for a reason and I think mine is to work on being on time. Seriously, we are here for one reason—to get help. Every one of us have a problem—if not, you are not on this



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Andy and Helene Buster.

earth.”

Continuing, Cypress said, “Growing up, I always followed three men, Andy Buster, Joe Billie and Harry Billie. I looked up to them and guess what, they are all here today.”

“I have had 21 years of recovery and in order to do it, I had to learn one important lesson—we have to take care of ourselves,” admitted Hollywood Board Representative Gloria Wilson. “Starting at 18 and quitting at 26, I had a real problem. I couldn’t remember those years! You have to understand what is important to you, take care of yourself and then you can accomplish helping others. Tribal leaders have made a commitment to you. I pray every morning and you have my support.”

“I was just in the fitness room watching them exercise and thinking about the effort it takes to care for yourself. That is the foundation for success in recovery. Taking care of yourself, body and soul,” said Big Cypress Representative David Cypress. “You all know that when I was out there, I was way, way out there. Then lightning struck and I said, ‘Take me home.’ They did and said, ‘We’ll be back in about 6 hours to pick you up.’ I told them not to bother and here I stand nine years later and I’m still clean.”

“When they’re using everyone wants to talk to you. Don’t turn them away. It could be their last day on earth. Show compassion because you might help shape their tomorrow,” Cypress concluded.

Big Cypress Board Representative Paul Bowers chuckled, “I see a few empty chairs. That tells me that we are not in a bar or a lounge. I have been sober for eleven years. Enjoy yourself here, learn something and take it home to share with others. Perhaps, we’ll see them here next year.”

Seminole Trail Liaison William Osceola confessed, “For me it’s been seven years since rehab. Before that, it was drink, smoke and go to town. I did everything but shoot-up. It’s a battle and you can win it by being honest. Focus on what is good in you. Don’t throw your life in a trash can! My old friends would come by and say ‘What happened to you?’ Treating me like an old broken down car, they said, ‘Did you put yourself up on cinder blocks?’ I replied, ‘I guess I did. It was time to rebuild.’”

“I spied Elaine Aguilar at 4-H and lectured away to hide in a car. I didn’t want to face her or the lecture that I had coming. Just when I thought it was safe, she walked up and said, ‘Hey there!’ Sheepishly, I blurted out, ‘I got one year clean!’ To my surprise, she replied, ‘That’s good and before you know it, you’ll have two and then three.’ That’s what recovery is all about. Love yourself and support each other.”

Osceola concluded, “My first year here, I was drinking and got sent home. I’ve been to conferences about many things, but this is the one I need to attend. My message is ‘Don’t be overwhelmed. There is Zero Tolerance!’ If you sneak off to drink in your room and don’t get caught, you will know about it. You can lie to everyone else, but sooner or later, you must face yourself.”

CHANGING THE FAMILY LEGACY

Coming all the way from the Betty Ford Center in Rancho Mirage, California, Jerry Moe gave a very informative presentation on the family diseases known as alcohol, drug and child abuse. As the National Director of Children’s Programs at the Center, he has an extensive background in public speaking and quickly captivated his audience.

He began with an old Iroquois proverb, “The actions I take today, impact the next seven generations.” Expanding on this thought, he explained how alcoholism, drug addiction, and child abuse can run in families for several generations, but it is never too late to break the cycle. The effect these diseases have upon a child’s self esteem and ability to cope with reality set the stage for the next dysfunctional generation. Many of them place the blame on themselves for their parents’ actions and can’t forgive themselves for what they feel they have caused.”

Drawing on his own personal experiences in a dysfunctional family and being a recovered alcoholic, his audience can connect with him.

“We are on this earth to love and if we fail to love ourselves, we will find it hard to nurture our children. Without this love they cannot thrive. They develop with a hole in their spirit, which they are drawn to fill with alcohol, drugs or an aggressive behavior and the vicious circle continues. There are never enough substitutes for the loss they feel and they can’t be set free until they deal with their problems,” said Moe.

“Recovery means going back to what we had. My parents never had it so they couldn’t give it to me. Discovery came with sobriety. We need to figure out our gifts, forgive ourselves and others in order to stay sober. You can’t carry around too much baggage because it will get in the way of recovery,” he concluded.

GRIEF

Barbara Aragon and John Bird are two Native Americans, who have dedicated their lives to helping people find their inner spirit, deal with their feelings and accept their natural emotions. Through legends about the Creator, the sweat lodge, medicine bundles and prayer, they helped their listeners discover their emotions.

Grief is an emotion not necessarily associated with death. Grieving comes in many forms because of choices made. Local disaster, divorce, loss of security, feelings of pain, anger, loss or change can evoke this emotion. You must learn to deal with these things in order to live a healthy life. Allow time to grieve and repair your inner-self.

Don’t be afraid to show your inner feelings, look for the source and pray for relief. Helping and supporting each other on this journey gives us second chances. We all make mistakes.

12 STEPS

Ed Arenado is a counselor at the Miccosukee Rehab facility. Addressing the conference on the first day, he introduced the twelve steps of Alcoholics Anonymous and explained each one in detail.

Arenado emphasized making peace with your creator and yourself is the best starting point. As you make the journey to recovery, you should not be afraid to reach out to others who have gone before you. Don’t return to your friends who share the same problems.

“Being honest with yourself will help you learn self-control. Making peace with others and making amends for your transgressions will open doors to your future. Seeking the awareness of your creator can bring spiritual awakening and harmony into your life. Support each other!” he said.

LETTING GO OF JUDGMENTS AND CONFLICT

Denise Alley used pamphlets, worksheets, breathing techniques and positive thinking to teach methods of dealing with conflict, anger and stress. Louise Osceola and Ray King performed a short skit at the beginning of the session to set an example.

Conflict can be constructive or destructive, depending upon the circumstances and how we deal with them. Alley provided sugges-



Judy Weeks

The Youth Program meet in the lobby for a side trip to the zoo.

tions for recognizing and dealing with issues.

Handling angry people as well as controlling your own anger proved to be a very beneficial topic to which everyone could relate. Learning self-awareness and recognizing what causes your irritation can help you deal with frustration and stress. Negativity and fear can be controlled by positive energy and attitude.

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Seminole Family Services Mental Health Counselor Basil Phillips grabbed the audience’s attention by beginning his presentation



Judy Weeks

Many embraced after their emotional testimonials.

with a song whose words reflected feelings that we have all had at some time or another. “Done so many things wrong—Don’t know if I can do right.”

Using his own background and family as an example, Phillips drew on his own experiences to connect with his listeners. Drawn into juvenile delinquency, he was rescued by a counselor who saw his potential.

“She saw something in me and said, ‘If you don’t stand for something, you will fall for anything.’ She gave me the inspiration to look for my own identity,” he said. “Your ethnic background has placed you under similar circumstances. There were Seminole wars, genocide, no truce, no treaty and no surrender with years of bitter struggle. Still fighting today, you face the drug war of the minds.”

“You come from strong blood. Your ancestors were too busy fighting to get high and now you need to enter the fight,” he added.

“Warriors are individuals with discipline and self-esteem. Don’t let addiction steal these qualities from you,” said Phillips before reading “A Dope Fiend’s 23rd Psalm.”

When making relationships, be true to your values, take care of your needs, be assertive not aggressive, respect yourself and don’t put up with a lack of respect from others. Phillips spent a great deal of time on what to look for when forming romantic relationships. A relationship can’t be healthier than the people in it.

With the clever use of history and storytelling, he drove his point home and energized his audience. In conclusion, he played Bill Withers’ song “Lean on Me” and read “The Fight—Rounds 1 Through 11.”

DIABETES

Native American Duane Mackey is the assistant professor of alcohol and drug abuse studies at the University of South Dakota. He was invited to the conference to tackle a very difficult

subject—diabetes.

“Diabetes is a chronic disease which afflicts a vast number of our people. With proper choices, in most cases it is manageable. I speak from experience. With high fat and salty food, I ate my way to heart surgery.

The two most prevalent types of diabetes are: type 1, juvenile diabetes, Insulin requiring and type 2, gestational diabetes, eight out of 10 being overweight or obese.

In the first type we have to learn to control our blood sugar, balance our diet, regulate our medications and exercise regularly. Type 2 is more common than ever among Native Americans and Alaskans. Becoming inactive and overweight as a teen can put you at risk for this type. Stay healthy and have fun by keeping active to reduce your risk.

Diabetes is epidemic among our people and is closely reaching two-thirds of the adult population. These are the risk factors: over eating, sedimentary lifestyle, smoking, alcohol, stress, poverty, low self-esteem, social isolation, personal trauma, family genetics, and reinforcement of an unhealthy lifestyle by your family and community. You have many fine Tribal programs to help you combat the above



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Conference Attendee Patty Grant, from Cherokee, N.C. and Motivational Speaker Denise Alley.

Wellness

Continued from page 6

Some tips offered include: Learning how to visualize a healthy future with a sound mind, body and soul. Learn to not only trust but forgive yourself. Be willing to try change, like a gardener planting seeds and dreaming of what may grow from them. Have faith and know that your prayers will be answered one way or another. With the help of your God or Creator, you will be safe and protected from all harm. Recommit yourself to a healthy spiritual, physical, mental and emotional life. If you are carrying around any excess baggage, dispose of it and don't let others unload theirs on you. Visualize a good healthy future.

All of these things represent Wellness and the reason for attending this conference. Basically, attending the conference offered hope of a new beginning.

BODY TOUR

Allied Health Manager Suzanne Davis addressed separate male and female groups concentrating on the special needs of both sexes. Eighty percent of all major illnesses are controllable and it is hoped that by familiarizing individuals with their medical necessities, they will all live longer, healthier lives.

Using a body diagram, Davis instructed the groups on basic health needs and recommended exams.

The men's health checklist included a physical exam periodically, monitoring blood pressure, TB skin test every five years, and blood and urinalysis tests to screen for cholesterol, diabetes, kidney or thyroid dysfunction. Screening by electrocardiogram, rectal exam, PSA Blood testing, testosterone, chest X-ray and bone density can bring about early detection of many dangerous conditions. Cancer possibilities can be addressed with Hemocult, Colorectal and self-exams. Sexually active adults should consider themselves at risk and screen for STDs.

Women are faced with nearly all of the above issues with the exception of testosterone screening and testicle lumps. In their circum-



Judy Weeks

Awards were handed out to various committee members.

stance, they should substitute self-breast exams, mammography and estrogen. In addition, female reproductive health is one of the most important areas and should be dealt with every one to three years with pap tests and pelvic exams.

Cancer, smoking, stress, cholesterol, blood sugar, stroke and heart attacks can be greatly reduced with healthy choices and exercise in addition to screening for early detection.

SEXUAL ABUSE

Sexual abuse is a very confidential topic and was addressed by both male and female groups. The men met with John Bird, while the women were monitored by Barbara Aragon.

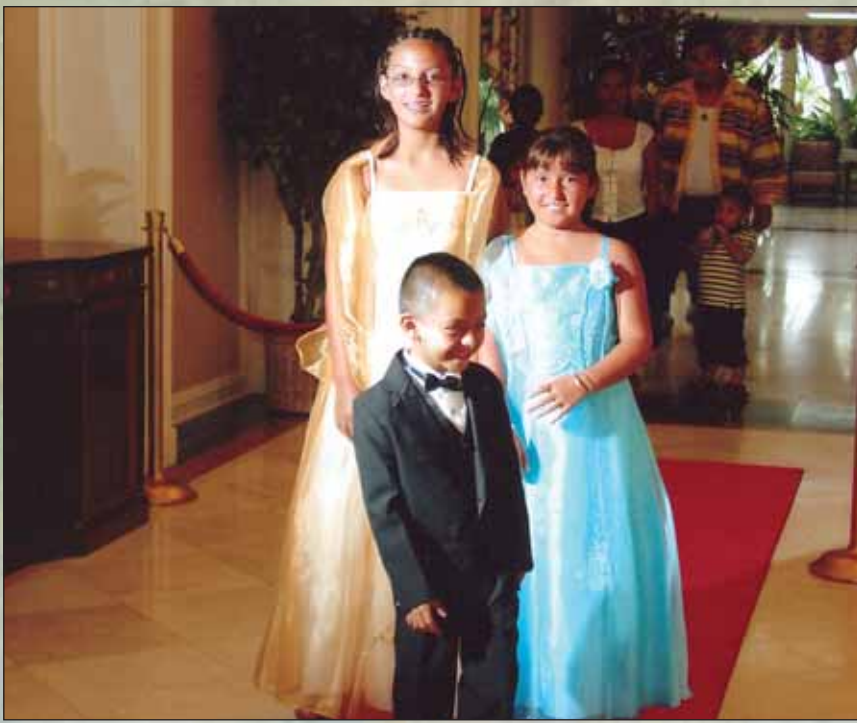
Sexual Abuse is a violation of faith, body, mind and soul. It has nothing to do with intimacy or love. Conceived as the ultimate form of control, it spawns shame, lack of respect and betrayal as well as violence. The terrible sense of betrayal can leave scars for a lifetime.

As a parent, you have responsibilities to protect, be supportive, and set boundaries. Many questions arose during the discussion—If you press charges, how will it affect others? How will you be treated by the legal system? As a victim or perpetrator? How do you protect yourself and loved ones during healing?

Many of the women who had remained silent for the first few days of the conference, found their voices and expressed their feelings during this emotionally charged discussion. A Tribal senior tearfully confided how she and others were treated as children when the men returned from town drunk. She said it was the duty of the women to inform the children, both boys and girls, about the dirty old men.

"Through education, possibly you can prevent this horrible crime and save their fragile little souls. I ashamedly repressed what happened to me during my childhood, married and raised a family, but never was able to overcome the inner turmoil it caused. When I was approached inappropriately by a co-worker, it all came flooding back and I was overwhelmed. My heart was broken and my self-esteem shattered. I spent a long time trying to pick up the pieces," she cried.

By her admission she empowered others and many spoke up, relating the traumas of being sexually traded for drugs, betrayed by their addicted parents and partners, and being made to believe that



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Jessica Lopez, Troy Cantu and Mika Lopez on "Oscar Night."

everything was their fault. The entire group became emotionally involved and supportive of each other.

MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER

Mental Health Counselor Basil Phillips praised everyone for making this such a productive conference. "In the past few days, I have heard testimonies that were not only emotional but awe inspiring. You have reached down inside and touched each others souls giving relief to your own traumas and held up a mirror to others. The things that have gone on here will have a positive impact on everyone for a long time," he said with conviction.

Phillips made good use of music to inspire and activate the senses and awareness. Reaching out to others, holding hands, touching, hugging, listening, feeling, offering hope by example, forgiveness and prayer are some of the most powerful tools we possess on our road to sobriety and healthy relationships.

"As Native Americans and Seminoles, you have a rich culture for which you can be proud. In your bodies flow the blood of warriors, who fought for your existence and never gave up. Even in death they have passed their strength on to you and it is your legacy to carry the torch to light the way for the next generations. Be proud and draw strength from your ancestors. Don't let addiction steal your minds, never surrender. The war you are fighting today insures a future for the Seminole Tribe," he declared.

"We are told 'Don't talk. Don't trust. Don't feel.' They say this to keep you in hiding. By isolation, they can exert control. This is a form of abuse and you have learned here this week that you don't have to take it. By supporting each other without enabling, you are empowering a force that cannot be defeated. You are warriors and you have received here the ammunition to go home and fight the battle and win," Phillips shouted with contagious enthusiasm.

WHO ARE WE? SEMINOLE PANEL

After telling a few humorous antidotes, Clayton Small asked for volunteers from the audience to come forth and set on a panel and answer a series of questions. The seats were quickly filled by Carol Cypress, Danny Billie, Lenny, Timi Bearden, and Robert "R.C." Clinedor. As monitor, Small asked the questions, while the panel members responded.

People from the floor were often called upon to contribute to the discussion. A few of the issues were: What did you hope to get out of attending the conference? Learn to love myself, socialize, deal with diabetes, give back some of the support I have received from others, free some of the pain that I feel and better my life.

An audience member asked Small where he got his family values from, he responded: "Independence and strength from my grandmother and mother, my grandfather and uncles, my grandfather Billie Osceola said 'Don't judge people when you first meet them—never look through your eyes with color or prejudice.' Grandpa Jack gave me religion, raised and encouraged me. I will never forget him.

A second question was asked: What is your greatest strength from your parents or grandparents? "My sense of humor, ability to raise my children as a single parent, my native language and culture," he said.

Elaine Aguilar responded from the floor, "Grandpa Jack taught me to respect my elders, even if they are only two years older than me. Respect all other human beings and try to love them. We need to love each other."

Andy Buster stood up and said, "Not only my talent, but that of my family can be traced back to my great, great, grandfather, Jack Buster. He loved music and rhythm and encouraged his sons to learn the guitar, sing and write the songs that were in their hearts."

"The Creator had blessed his spirit with this talent and he has passed it down to his descendants, creating a whole family who express themselves through a love of music. I find great personal pride and derive some of my strength from music which is so much a part of me."

Another question for Small came. Someone asked: What gets in the way of you fulfilling your dreams? "Not believing in myself, shame—I am working on it at this moment, the legal system—after that the sky is the limit, laziness and wanting to control everything, fear of failure, working too much, addiction and I'm working on that now in recovery," Small said.

Another person asked Small: Do friends or adults have more power over teenagers? "Peer pressure took me down the wrong path, in my 20's I was shy and couldn't talk. Even though adults warned me, I used alcohol to loosen up, I feel an obligation to my friend. She has always been there for me and when she has bad days, I want to be with her. My spouse can't understand this."

Clayton Small asked, "I want to commend you all for great answers to tough questions. Does anyone have anything to add to what has been said?"

There were numerous replies. "Friends know me as a drunk so I guess I will have to change friends. If teenagers would open up, maybe we could understand them better, I'm my own worst enemy. My peer pressure is worrying about what I am missing out o.. I love you, but I want you to change your behavior. When you are ready to

learn, teachers will appear."

If you could convince a Tribal citizen not to use, what would you do? Show them the effects they have on others, Set a good example, Give them leadership in recovery and by the grace of God, hope they will follow,. Help them seek traditional medicine and support, Be honest with them, offer assistance but never money for them to mess up, Show my experiences and hope that they will want to join me, Offer tough love. I had to throw my daughter out of the house, and then prayed for her healthy return. She's back.

ROLE MODELING

"Humor is our greatest asset. Leadership is encouragement, trust and character. Ninety percent of all leadership failures are character failures. When trust is present, mistakes are forgiven and forgotten. Life is what happens when we are busy doing other things. All these basic truths are words to live by. Consider that we all have imagination and creativity, which can be used when we are sober to accomplish our dreams."

Clayton Small and John Bird opened the assembly with these facts. They then asked the audience to name one person that was a positive role model. List the most important things learned from them. What is the one gift that you have to offer others as a role model?

Response to the above was over-whelming. Here are just a few of the remarks that came from around the room.

John Bird began with his great, great, great grandmother, who, as a seven year old child survived the Baker Massacre. With both of her parents killed, she walked for many miles following a river to the next encampment seeking help.

"She has given me a legacy of survival," he said.

Timi Bearden said, "My mother, Helene, chose not to be a victim anymore. She is a survivor and has learned not to be judgmental. I admire her for her ability to forgive herself and look into others seeking their best qualities and only hope that I too can reach this place in recovery."

Nancy Motlow stood up and said, "My mother gave me our language, crafts and an ability to work. She never gave up trying to provide for us and we never went hungry. She made me self-reliant and strong. I never gave up on my three sons and am very proud to say that all of them are in recovery."

Carol Cypress said, "My father and my Grandma Susie gave me my culture and my strength to carry on, but my husband Billie showed me the way before he passed."

Roberta from Miccosukee said, "My Aunt Mary Jane never



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Mary Jene Koenes, Jeanette Cypress and Debra Ray do the STD skit.

talks down to me and encourages me in recovery. We have shared a lot of things. She is amazing and holds our family together. I love her so much. She gives faith and hope."

Elaine Aguilar spoke of her mother, Lucy Johns, "Mom was a single parent and gave us the best she could—today it looks like trash but it was all she had. She gave unconditional love and taught me that if you back stab me, I should turn around and enjoy your company. I miss my mom very much. If you have a mom and dad spend time with them, because they may be gone tomorrow. As tribal members we must learn to care for each other as we did 30 or 40 years ago."

Vivian from Hollywood said, "Donna Turtle loves everyone and makes no one feel alone. She is the most supportive person on earth."

Helene Buster remarked, "I am in awe of my daughter, Timi. With four kids crawling all over her, I don't know how she accomplishes anything, but she does very well. She's not only putting her life in order but giving a piece of herself to each of her children. Andy teaches me every day. He sets a standard and won't go below that and after seven years of marriage, I have to say that he is my rock. I find inspiration everyday in the many wonderful people I encounter at work and in the AA program."

Andy Buster stood up and commented, "My great, great grandfather, Jack Buster, is my role model and inspiration. Life in the Everglades after the Seminole Wars wasn't easy for our people. Understandably, there was a lot of prejudice and distrust. Despite this he had the wisdom and foresight to recognize the fact that they would have to

adapt, if his people were going to survive. They were vastly outnumbered and they could not prevent the rapid changes that were taking place in their world."

"The existence of our people depended on developing new skills, while retaining their culture. He felt that learning about your enemy and educating your children would help to remove the barriers so that everyone could live in peace. He saw unity as the solution to a future for all humanity," continued Buster.

"Being human he had his shortcomings, but his vision of hope far outweighed them. Unfortunately, his point of view and the changes it would bring were not well accepted. He was assassinated for his beliefs in human rights just like John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King. He is my strength and I am proud that his blood flows in my veins," concluded Buster.

Remarking on the responses, Small and Bird said, "No one mentioned money. You talked about the things that really sustain, carry, nurture and feed our souls, not our mouths. Our ancestors connected with each other, the land and the Creator. As Native Americans we need to rebuild those connections. They are a gift from God."

SKITS

Several members of the conference committee worked very hard writing, preparing scenery and acting in a wonderful production that covered many facets of a dysfunctional family, addiction, intervention and codependency.

Many very serious topics were introduced such as young people experimenting with weed, drunken parents, domestic violence, arrest, Family Services' assistance, the Foster Care program, Rehab, Mom's eventual return to the family and Dad's time in jail.

The entire skit was very skillfully prepared and presented in a meaningful way that was easy to understand and the audience was able to relate to the subject.



Judy Weeks

The Gambling Panel, headed by Rick Benson (second from left).

PERSONAL TESTIMONIALS

Each afternoon time was set aside for personal testimonials and many people stepped forward during some of the sessions. The very emotional and graphic nature of these soul-bearing presentations limit what can be expressed here.

As individuals told their stories, the people throughout the



A tasty Seminole watermelon from the buffet.

Judy Weeks

room immediately begin to connect with them, feel their pain and suffering, shame and doubt. It is as though someone is holding up a mirror and people begin to see pieces of their own broken lives in the glass.

The people around you, both men and women fight tears as they see the anguish and are exhilarated by the joy that comes with



(L-R) Cleofas Yzaguirre, Laurisa Yzaguirre and Amy Yzaguirre.

Judy Weeks

recovery, forgiveness, and acceptance of a higher power.

It can't help but tear at your heart, when you hear a woman tell of a childhood filled with physical and sexual abuse at the hands of family and friends in an addictive stupor. The shame and loss of self-esteem that comes from children shouldering the responsibilities of their parents and caring for their brothers and sisters, only to fall into the same vicious cycle is almost unbearable to witness.

One beautiful young lady in particular stands out. Watching her for three days, as she nervously played with her hands, jingled her leg up and down, bit her lip and hung her head listening intently to the presentations, you couldn't help but recognize her anguish.

Often her eyes were shiny with unshed tears that finally ran down her cheeks during the testimonials. Her pain and suffered extended to the people sitting around her. During one of the final sessions, she exploded like a volcano and sobbing told of her own problems with her children because she loved her mother so much but hated what she had been subjected to during her mother's addictive years. She couldn't forgive herself for the feelings she had toward her mother and the things she had done to her own children while trying to fill the void in her life.

There was a shy young man made to feel inferior. No matter what he did wasn't good enough. He was ashamed of his family and their addiction and abusive behavior. Wanting to belong and be accept-



Collecting a few keep sake from one of the beautiful Marco Island beaches.

ed, he followed peer pressure into the dark world of addiction where he blamed everyone for his problems. This gave him the excuses he needed to continue his own self-destruction.

A mother told of her own recovery and the horrible shame and guilt she harbored because of what had become of her children. The only way she could stay in recovery was to throw her daughter out of the house and cease to enable her. For many nights she couldn't sleep, then she cried herself to sleep praying for her daughter's safety out in the streets. She had come to realize that for survival she had to take care of herself first and ask God to help her with forgiveness and strength.

The empowering force of testimony for both the individuals and their listeners is incredible. It relieves stress, opens doors to understanding and compassion and helps to cleanse the spirit of everyone involved.

SATELITE PROGRAMS

Under the direction of Helene Buster and her dedicated staff, the 12th Annual Seminole Wellness Conference was a fabulous success. Buster delegated jobs to very qualified people who produced the desired results. Working like a well oiled machine, the conference ran on time, was very organized and beneficial to all participants.

Booths lined the hallway offering information and assistance at all times. Rovers were available to handle any problems that arose with tact and diplomacy. Meals were carefully planned to provide a healthy, attractive menu throughout the entire conference.

Culture activities were organized by Mary Jene Koenes and included making baskets, moccasins and beadwork nightly.

She said, "The turnout was overwhelming and kept us very busy. I was thrilled by the participation of both adults and children."

Activities had been planned each day for the children with ample chaperones. In addition to the ever popular swimming pool, they took a boat ride, went shelling on the beach, visited the zoo, took in the movies and participated in arts and crafts.

Recreation was organized by the Seminole Tribe's Fitness Program under the careful eyes of Vickie Barogiannis and her assistant Neil Prager. Each morning began with a Powerwalk at 6 a.m. for approximately three miles on the beach. The fitness room was opened for workouts following the day's planned presentations. Beach volleyball and water aerobics took place every afternoon with the weather permitting.

AA Meetings and a women's support group were available each evening under a different individual's leadership in order to provide a variety of ideas and refreshing input. Volunteering their services for these very important meetings were: Ralph Billie, Denise Alley, Allen McInturff, Mary O'litzky, Gary McInturff, and Yvonne Courtney.

AWARDS, RECOGNITION AND COUNT-DOWN

Taking center stage, Helene Buster addressed the conference attendees on the final afternoon. She expressed her appreciation to the entire staff who helped make this year a success and hoped that everyone would be able to take something home with them to help make their lives more rewarding.

"We are extremely pleased with the number of people who got out of bed each morning and participated in the powerwalk on the beach. The first day there were 51, second day 50, third day 47 and because several people had to leave to meet other obligations, the last day saw only 32. This is an outstanding turnout," Buster said. "I would like to announce the three drawing winners for an Apple iPod® and MP3 Player. Congratulations to Yvonne Courtney, Samuel Tommie and Rita Micco."

Turning the microphone over to Chairman Mitchell Cypress, she prepared for the awards presentations. Cypress congratulated everyone on a successful conference and said, "You came here to learn and heal. We all brought problems and I hope you can leave them behind. As you travel home, pray and God will watch over you."

Taking a Crystal Award from Assistant Fitness Director Neil Prager, Cypress read its inscription "In Recognition for Community Service to the Seminole Tribe of Florida in Walking Events-Edna McDuffie. For those of you who don't know, Edna has been a vital part in organizing our walking events not only at Big Cypress but around Lake Okeechobee. With her help, we are working toward a healthier Seminole Tribe."

After presenting certificates of appreciation to the conference committee members, Helene Buster announced that there were 502 registered attendees of this year's conference. Calling for the countdown, participants came forward and held hands congratulating each other on their sobriety. After tabulation, she determined that there were 322 years and 40 days of sobriety present in the room. The crowd cheered and offered a closing prayer.

OSCAR® NIGHT

Dressed in tuxedos, evening gowns, or traditional Seminole attire, the group gathered in the dining room for Oscar® Night. A fantastic band with two singers entertained for several hours with music from the 60's through 90's.

The ballroom had been lavishly decorated like a Hollywood set with Marilyn Monroe dominating the hallway. A photographer documented the occasion, as the party goers entered for an extraordinary dinner served with orchids on each plate and the band played mood music in the background. Each place setting was accompanied by an Oscar® trophy acknowledging that by attending the conference, you were automatically a winner.

Following dinner, the dance floor remained crowded with happy couples, line dancers and children alike as they celebrated their wellness.

CHAIRMAN MITCHELL CYPRESS' COMMENTARY

"I consider it to have been a privilege to participate in the 12th Annual Seminole Wellness Conference. Rather than just a learning experience, it has been a celebration honoring all the courageous Native Americans who have fought and are winning the battle against addiction and its side effects.

The war we fight today is just as deadly as the conflicts our ancestors were engaged in as they fought for their continued existence. As you have learned this



Judy Weeks

The group expelled negative energy during Denise Alley's "Letting Go of Judgement and Conflict."

past week, drugs, alcohol, obesity, diabetes, gaming, physical and emotional abuse are just a few of the weapons we encounter on this battleground. They are causing as many fatalities as taking a walk

Seminole Woman

Only a Seminole woman can take a week of left over scraps and make a gourmet meal.
Only a Seminole woman can live below the poverty level and set a fashion trend.
Only a Seminole woman can be 75 years old and have the wisdom to be a storyteller.
Only a Seminole woman can make sofkee and fry bread and make you ask for more.
Only a Seminole woman can take a man that is broken in spirit, that someone called a savage and make him feel like a warrior.
Only a Seminole woman can trace her heritage back at least 12,000 years in America.
Only a Seminole woman can be the maternal head of a clan.
Only a Seminole woman can tell the world no matter how old her son is, he can still come home.

—Basil Phillips

through a mine field or dodging hand grenades.

It is our hope that this conference and your fellow participants have strengthened you and armed you with the necessary resolve to win this war and secure a future for yourselves and our culture. As Seminole Indians, we stand strong."



Judy Weeks

Edna McDuffie (left) receives an award from the Chairman (left) and Neil Rogers (center).



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Family Services Director Crissie Carter and Vickie Borogiannis at the Health Education booth.

Indian Day Celebration 2005

Sept. 23, 24 & 25

*National Indian Celebration at Okalee Village
Schedule of Events*

Fri 9 am - 7 pm *Dance Troop 12:00am*

Gator Wrestling 1:30pm

Dance Troop 2:30pm

Gator Wrestling 3:30pm

Dance Troop 5:00pm

Sat 9 am - 11 pm *Gator Wrestling 11:30am*

Dance Troop 12:00

Dance Troop 2:30pm

Gator Wrestling 3:30pm

Dance Troop 4:30pm

Gator Wrestling 5:30

Dance Troop 6:30pm

Gator Wrestling 7:00pm

Concert 8:00pm

Sun 9 am - 5 pm *Gator Wrestling 11:30am*

Dance Troop 12:00

Gator Wrestling 1:30pm

Dance Troop 2:00pm

Concert 3pm

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NAJA Members Come Together for Annual Conference

Seminole Tribune takes home Best News Writing award

By Shelley Marmor and Adelsa Williams
LINCOLN, NE — For the week of Aug. 11-14 the Native American Journalist's Association (NAJA) took over the Embassy Suites Hotel in Lincoln, Neb. for the 21st annual convention. This year's NAJA conference also featured a career fair, as well as several other supplementary activities.

Beginning Aug. 11, conference attendees were able to attend a golf tournament at the nearby Highlands Golf Course. For those wanting an authentic look at the majestic Midwestern prairie landscape, NAJA arranged for an ecology tour.

The tour, sponsored by Columbia University, took attendees through various Nebraska landscapes and focused on environmental issues that plague the area. Dr. Mace Hack, the assistant administrator for the state's Wildlife Division and Lois LaRose, a former caretaker at the Winnebago Bison Project, led the tour.

Later that day, NAJA conference attendees gathered for one of the more popular seminars—the New Media seminar. This four-hour class aimed to bring Tribal newspapers into the digital age with tutorials on putting news online.

Following the New Media seminar, NAJA hosted its opening reception at the Lincoln Indian Center, just a five minute drive from the conference site. NAJA President Dan Lewerenz acted as emcee for the reception. And after a 30 minute rain delay, festivities got underway.

Lewerenz invited local and spiritual Tribal



The National Indian Child Welfare Association booth at NAJA's career fair.

Lincoln's newspaper, the *Journal Star* is across the street from the conference site. Native panelists included: Mike Kellog, *Stillwater NewsPress* publisher and Dorreen Yellow Bird from the *Grand Forks Herald*, among others.

Located just next to the rooms where these seminars took place was the career fair. At the fair several high-profile media outlets, including ABC News, *The New York Times*, the Associated Press, *USA Today* and National Public Radio, had representative on-hand attempting to recruit Native American journalists.

Other Native organizations and craft vendors had booths at the Career Fair. The National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) administered questionnaires dealing with Indian foster care laws, the history of the Indian Child Welfare Act and other similar questions. NICWA Communications Manager Kristy Alberty said that everyone who did the questionnaire was automatically entered in a drawing to win a NICWA poster.

On the last day of the convention, NAJA hosted the Awards Gala Banquet and Closing Ceremony. Conference attendees learned which native media associations and native journalists won awards at this ceremony as they dined.

Seminole Tribune Reporter

Adelsa Williams took home the award for best news writing in the print journalism category. For a complete list of the 2005 NAJA winners, please see http://www.naja.com/news/najanews/050816_naja-awards.



Best News Writing award winner Adelsa Williams.



NAJA interviews ESPN representative at the welcome reception.

elder Ken Bordeaux to conduct invocation. Bordeaux asked all NAJA members to "feel like you're at home" at the Lincoln Indian Center, which serves all Natives in Eastern Nebraska. He also commended the media's work, calling it "a good outlet we have to tell people how it is."

Following a traditional dinner, those at the opening reception went outside to the center's William Canby Arena for a powwow. The Color Guard, called the Warrior's Society, traveled about an hour from Omaha, Neb. to present the colors. Various dancers followed the Color Guard in the grand entry; then asking everyone present to join in on the Round Dance.

Also present at the opening ceremony was Lincoln's Mayor Coleen Seng. She commended the work of NAJA saying "it's so important we get a lot of journalists trained."

"Thank you for all you're doing; particularly in the education of youth," Seng said.

The remaining days of the conference featured numerous workshops, most of them focusing on media ethics and how to cover Indian Country with respect to culture. In the "Responsibilities of a Free Press—Protocols and Cultural Considerations" seminar, panel moderator Ronnie Washines, the Yakama Nation Program Administrator and NAJA board member, suggested journalists who cover a Tribe they are not a member of go out of their way to be culturally sensitive—even ignoring the job at hand momentarily.

"You can't run up to [Tribal citizens], pencil in hand, because you have a deadline," Washines advised the audience.

Panelists at these seminars were both Native and non-Native alike—since



(L-R) Christine McCall, Wanda Bowers, Casey McCall and Sonny and Christine Nevaquaya.

McCall Celebrates 17th Birthday

By Adelsa Williams
HOLLYWOOD — On Aug. 5, Casey McCall celebrated in grand style with his friends at a stylish and lavish birthday celebration.

The party took place at the old bingo hall, located inside the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, which was decorated with poker theme—one of McCall's favorite games.

During the night's event there were plenty of glow sticks and other favorites that illuminated the party room which was set up club style, with an entertaining disc jockey, dancers and a huge MTV-style big screen which constantly played music videos that went accordingly to the songs the DJ played.

Invites enjoyed a buffet style dinner, plenty of refreshments and desserts along with ample time to socialize and dance simulating a night club late night experience, a unique treat for the high schoolers.

McCall's proud mother Wanda Bowers took charge of the microphone to welcome and thank everyone for sharing her son's special day.

"It's always an honor and pleasure these days when you can still be a part of your children's life especially being invited to my son's 17 year birthday party," said Bowers. "Just because I organized the party and that I am his mom does not mean I am automatically invited—which I did and thank God I was."

"As long as my children allow me to be a part of their lives along with meeting their friends, that's a pleasure I will never pass up. I want my kids



Casey McCall

to know no matter what I will always be there for them. The only way to show that is to always be vocal with them and spend as much time with them if they let you. I always tell my friends when I take my kids out shopping or going out to eat, that I am bonding with them as far as I could see we had a blast.

"Being a single parent especially for one boy, one girl sometimes it takes its toll and you end up going in two different directions but, somehow making it all work out in the end. I am sure it'll be worth it.

"I also want to thank Mitchell and Max for always being there for me when I call on them for help. Thanks, guys."

Bowers also announced a dance contest she conducted later during the evening.

The anticipated contest drew three female and male competitors to the dance floor as the DJ played their favorite songs during the square off. McCall along with the rest of the crowd cheered on to their favorite dancer. Each was rewarded with a prize.

Tribal citizen Casey McCall is a senior, captain of the football team and president of student body at Sheridan Hills Christian high school.

After graduation he plans to attend Florida State University along with his sister, Christine McCall. He hopes to play football for FSU—if he's big enough. If not FSU, he wants to attend a university somewhere close to his home.

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Jason Taylor: "Never give up, and try to pursue your dreams."

Felix DoBosz

Grads Attend Pre-Bahamas Trip Dinner

Celebrity Guest Speaker Jason Taylor

By Felix DoBosz

HOLLYWOOD — On Aug. 14, the 2004-2005 Seminole high school graduates gathered slowly in the Lightning Bingo Room of the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino for an enlightening dinner. The dozen or so graduates were being rewarded by the Chairman Mitchell Cypress for their scholarly achievements with a trip to beautiful Nassau, Bahamas.

The next day, the lucky young teens were leaving for the world famous Atlantis Hotel & Casino, to participate and share in carefully planned activities.

Some of the speakers motivated the young minds in attendance with interesting success stories. Sally Tommie emceed the event and was totally committed with focused enthusiasm while hosting this wonderful dinner for these well deserving graduates.

Tommie mentioned that Chairman Mitchell Cypress is making a big effort to encourage young people to go further with their continued educational choices. After the opening prayer, she went over the trip itinerary with the group; everyone then broke for a delicious buffet.

She also introduced celebrity guest speaker and Miami Dolphins player Jason Taylor. He received a warm reception by those seated around a half dozen circular dinner tables.

Taylor talked sincerely about success and what it takes to be and stay motivated in life.

He said, " ...This is the start of your life the last eighteen years has been a warm-up, when you got into trouble in the past, mom and dad could get you out of it sometimes, but now your responsible for your actions.

"For me, being successful was being a professional football player. Whatever your passion is in life you have



Chairman Mitchell Cypress: "You know God is testing you out..."

Felix DoBosz

to set goals. I set new goals for myself all the time, not just every season, but goals off the field as well.

"Never give up and try to pursue your dreams, having a dream and having a goal is great, but if you don't get out of bed and pursue that thing each and every day then it's worthless, you got to stay focused on it, you got to have discipline.

"That's one of the biggest things in life no matter what walk of life you're in whether you're the Chairman of the Seminole Tribe or a Professional football player or someone like the manager of Publix, you have to be disciplined in everything that you do in life...Nobody owes you anything, all you can do is prepare yourself each and everyday for whenever opportunity comes, if your not ready, you my never get the chance again.

"That's why I encourage you so much through education, to be prepared. Whatever you want to do in life you got to prepare yourself."

Sally Tommie then introduced Chairman Mitchell Cypress to the audience. The Chairman spoke briefly to those gathered.

"You know God is testing you out, and if you can't jump over that obstacle in front of you, you'll fall back, he knows your weak, so he has something for you here, there's some obstacles you have to hurdle over," he said. "It may be a tough time in the Tribe or it may be a tough time during that day or during your lifetime, but I always try to hurdle and challenge and go on to the next one."

He then mentioned that the Seminole Tribe of Florida is fully behind Florida State University in the Indian mascot controversy. He thanked all the parents and students and speech givers for all their hard work and dedication. Next stop for these graduates: Nassau, Paradise Island, in the beautiful Bahamas.

Students Attend Annual Rez Youth Conference

By Emma Brown

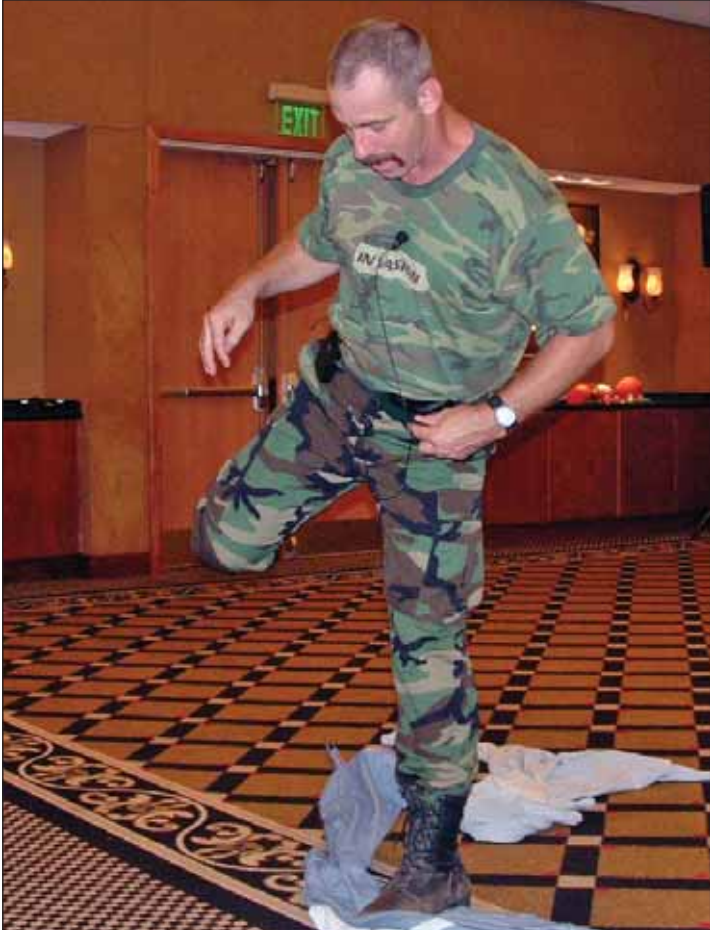
ORLANDO, FL — Brighton's final independent Youth Conference was held during the first week of August at the Hard Rock Hotel in Orlando. The conference committee spent several carefully planning and sorting out details to bring this conference together successfully.

It takes the efforts and dedication of many people to cover all of the details that go into such a large conference and the committee is to be commended on doing such an outstanding job hosting this year's conference. It was said by many to be one of the best yet!

Each day began with a 6 a.m. fitness hour before breakfast. After breakfast, break out sessions were offered for everyone from kindergarten to adults. Different motivational speakers spoke to the groups throughout the entire week.

Wade Snow, Don Burnstick, and Buddy Big Mountain were among the invited guest speakers. Each speaker brought something different to offer to the conference participants, leaving strong messages for everyone to take home.

Most of the classes for students and adults were taught by Tribal department staff. The departments teaching at this year's conference were: Health, Education, Culture, Library, Legal, Recreation, SPD, 4-H, Family Services, and Fire Rescue. It was amazing to witness the resources that Tribal citizens have,



Speaker Wade Snow unveils his outer attire to show that everyone is not what they may appear to be.

Emma Brown



The audience joins in on a fun game of Simon Says.

Emma Brown

and that these departments can host almost an entire conference, without having to seek classes from the outside.

Each afternoon, the Culture and Recreation departments offered activities for conference participants, while some took advantage of the awesome pool facilities at the hotel.

On the final evening of the conference, a talent show was held giving an opportunity for children, adults, and families to debut their hidden talents. This evening offered lots of fun and laughter and was a time to show support to the aspiring actors and singers of Brighton.

On the final morning, the committee and the Health Department presented awards to those who attended each fitness hour, the committee distributed passes to the Universal Studios theme parks and gave their final farewell.


It has been more than 10 years since Brighton began their youth conferences, and the sadness to see it come to an end was present. However, the memories made during the years will forever remain in the hearts of those that have been a part of these conferences.




Students listen eagerly to the telling of Seminole Legends by Tribal elder Alice Snow.

Emma Brown

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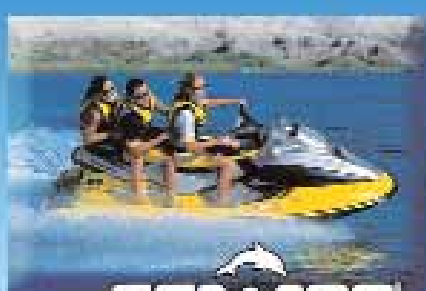
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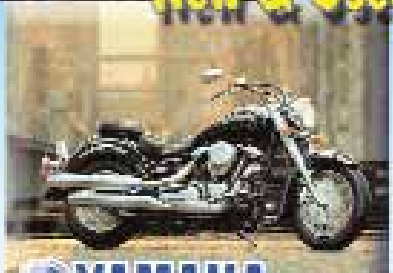
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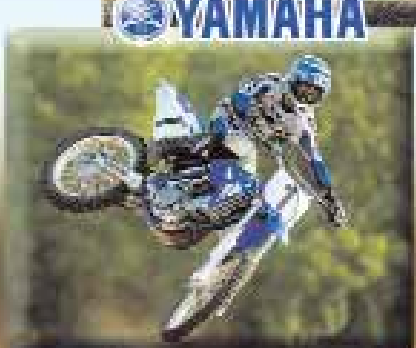
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Health Corner

Walking for the Health of It

Submitted by Brenda A Bordogna MS, CHES

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' 2005 Dietary Guidelines, people should engage in 30 minutes of daily exercise to reduce the risk of chronic diseases, such as heart disease and diabetes. Sixty minutes of daily exercise is needed in order to maintain a healthy body weight.

One of the easiest ways to get 30 to 60 minutes of exercise each day is to start walking. Walking only requires a good pair of sneakers and the motivation to start. Walking can be done anywhere—in a neighborhood, a park or even the mall, and can happen alone or with friends.

Some of the health benefits of walking include: improved circulation and blood pressure, decreased levels of bad cholesterol and increased levels of good cholesterol, better physical appearance, which can lead to better self-esteem, strengthened bones, reduced stress and it can help to combat depression.

In an effort to get everyone out and walking, the Seminole Health department now provides monthly Rez walks. The Big Cypress, Brighton, Hollywood and Immokalee reservations all now have a community fitness walk scheduled for the last Friday of each month.

Each group gathers to show support, not only for their community but also to show their commitment to better health. For more information on each reservation's walking event, contact a reservation walk coordinator.

BIG CYPRESS
"Walk Around Big Cypress"
6:30 a.m.
Edna McDuffie, Outreach Liaison
863-983-5798 X 107
Last Friday of each month

BRIGHTON
"Walk About"
6:00 a.m.
Barbara Boling, Brighton Health Educator
863-763-0271 X 125
Beth Morlang, Brighton Nutritionist
863-763-0271 X 144
Last Friday of each month

HOLLYWOOD
"Walk in the Park"
12:00 Noon
Brenda Bordogna, Health Education Coordinator
954-965-1300 X 177
Last Friday of each month

IMMOKALEE
"Walk this Weigh"
8:30 a.m.
Charlotte Porcaro, Immokalee Health Educator/Nutritionist
239-657-6038
Last Friday of each month

Hand Washing: Its More Important Than You Think

By Hristu Chepa, Environmental Health Program

Parents are always urged to wash children's hands. Constantly washing one's hands can be a chore, but there is logic behind the task. One of the reasons to wash one's hands is to avoid getting sick from germs.

The Shigella bacterium is of a particular interest. It causes the infectious disease shigellosis. Every year, about 18,000 cases of shigellosis are reported in the U.S. Because many milder cases are not diagnosed or reported, the actual number of infections may be twenty times greater.

So what is the Shigella bacterium all about? It is very similar to E. coli and some scientists consider it to be another strain of E. coli.

Most that are infected with Shigella develop diarrhea, fever, and stomach cramps starting a day or two after they are exposed to the bacterium. The diarrhea is often bloody. Shigellosis usually gets out of your system in five to seven days. In some persons, especially young children and the elderly, the diarrhea can be so severe that the patient needs to be hospitalized. A severe infection with high fever may also be associated with seizures in children less than two years old. Some persons who are infected may have no symptoms at all, but may still pass the Shigella bacteria to others.

How can I catch this bacterium?

The Shigella bacteria pass from one infected person to the next. Shigella are present in the diarrheal stools of infected persons while they are sick and for a week or two afterwards. Most Shigella infections are the result of the bacterium passing from stools or soiled fingers of one person to the mouth of another person. This happens when basic hygiene and handwashing habits are inadequate.

It is particularly likely to occur among toddlers who are not fully toilet-trained. Family members and playmates of such children are at high risk of becoming infected. Shigella infections may also be acquired from eating contaminated food. Contaminated food may look and smell normal.

Food may become contaminated by infected food handlers who forget to wash their hands with soap after using the bathroom. Vegetables can become contaminated if they are harvested from a field with sewage in it. Flies can breed in infected feces and then contaminate food. Shigella infections can also be acquired by drinking or swimming in contaminated water. Water may become contaminated if sewage runs into it, or if someone with shigellosis swims in it.

So how come I've never heard of it?

A Shigella outbreak, in fact, occurred on Seminole reservations in 2002. The Seminole Health department confirmed several cases of Shigella and

many others with the symptoms of Shigella. Shigellosis is more common in summer than winter. Children, especially toddlers aged two to four, are the most likely to get shigellosis. Many cases are related to the spread of illness in child-care settings, and many more are the result of the spread of the illness in families with small children.



Determining that Shigella is the cause of the illness depends on laboratory tests that identify Shigella in the stools of an infected person. Persons with mild infections will usually recover quickly without antibiotic treatment.

Is there anything I can do?

The spread of Shigella from an infected person to other persons can be diminished by frequent and careful handwashing with soap. Frequent and careful handwashing is important among all age groups. Frequent, supervised handwashing of all children should be followed in day care centers and in homes with children who are not completely toilet-trained, including children in diapers.

When possible, young children with a Shigella infection who are still in diapers should not be in contact with uninfected children.

Please call the Environmental Health Program at (954) 962-2009 with any additional questions.

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Team Seminole Helps Makes Strides Against Breast Cancer

By Barbara Boling, Brighton Health Educator OKEECHOBEE, FL — Temperatures soared on Aug. 13, but that did not stop the members of Team Seminole from completing the 5k Walk in Okeechobee, Fla.

The walk was held by the American Cancer Society in an effort to raise funds and awareness about breast cancer. It was the first time that the “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer” walk was held in Okeechobee.

The event started with a ceremony to recognize breast cancer survivors. Tribal member and breast cancer survivor Addie Osceola was present to accept a necklace from the American Cancer Society.

The event raised a total of \$28,000.00 for the American Cancer Society. The event was a huge success.

Team Seminole members for this event were: Edna McDuffie, Addie Osceola, Patty Waldron, Helene Buster, William Bearden, Mable Haight, Rita Gopher, Michael Garcia, Erik Garcia, Michelle Thomas, Ray King, Barbara Boling, Beth Morlang, Chris Morlang, Shelley Maggard, Levi Boney, Donelda Mercer, Rodni Mercer and Melanie Mello.

Thank you to Brighton Council Representative Andy Bowers for sponsoring Team Seminole. Thank you to the Seminole Health Department for your commitment to community events which promote a healthy lifestyle. For the members of Team Seminole, your dedication to health and wellness is an inspiration for all.

There will be other “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer” walks in South Florida. For the last three years Team Seminole has participated in similar walks in Fort Myers, Fla. The Ft. Myers event will be held on Oct. 15.



Team Seminole partidipated in the American Cancer Society 5k Walk.

Ask The Counselor

Dear Counselor,

I look forward in reading your articles in *The Seminole Tribune*. Before I started reading “Ask the Counselor,” I thought all men were hard with their feelings and showed no emotions. I thought all men first love was alcohol and drugs.

Those combinations are very difficult in a relationship. Your articles have opened my mind that recovery and tenderness is not on manly. My friends all laugh at my new behavior and tease me for being sober and weak. My friends say true men don’t think with their hearts they think with their hormones.

My girl friend loves my new way of treating her, the other day with tears in her eyes she told me to see me go from physical and mental abuse, to go from alcohol and drug, to go from being mean spirited and cruel to support and love in recovery is a blessing.

Counselor, your articles have taught me that the heart and hands are for helping not hurting. Please write to my friends and other men who are afraid of recovery and who are blind and can’t see that recovery and tenderness can only be shown by men who are not afraid to show emotions.

Signed,
New Man

Dear New Man,

Your new approach will be welcome with open heart and arms by your girlfriend. I am proud of you, and your commitment for change. It is always difficult for men to exhibit a level of sensitivity when it comes to the women they are involved with. Too many men spend more time on the appearance of their cars and not enough time on the appearance of their relationships.

The importance of your new approach was high lighted in one of the best songs of the mid 60s. The song is a lasting tribute to women everywhere and it came in the form of Otis Redding’s award winning song “Try a Little Tenderness.” Redding didn’t just sing the song, he made you feel what he was singing about. Try a Little Tenderness was a love song from the heart of recovery. And it came from the soul of staying clean.



Basil Phillips
M.S. Mental Health Counseling
Letters of interest from the community

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

Even now, in 2005 a full 39 years since Otis put his musical signature on the song the words are just as powerful and penetrating as they were when he first gave the world a recovery message in a love song.

“Oh she may be weary

Those young girls, they do get weary

Wearing that same old shaggy dress

But when she gets weary

You try a little tenderness”

New Man, you are right. Otis was right. The Counselor is right. Women do get weary waiting for their

man to stop physically, sexually and emotionally abusing them. New Man, your friends who laugh at you should ask themselves would they want their daughters to marry someone like them, if the answerer is hell no, they should try a little tenderness.

Unfortunately, for some men, displaying that kind of sensitivity and tenderness is not the manly thing to do .A real man is able to say the word I love you, without lying, without saying it just for sex, without trying to manipulate, and without expecting any thing in return. Being affectionate, considerate and respectful to the women in your life is a huge part of recovery and a huge part in being a mature man.

New man, it is this Counselor’s opinion that there are two types of men, mature and immature men. Mature men are like warriors, they have the discipline to fight the obstacles in life for their families. They show up for work. They are brave enough to show affection and use the word love in their behavior. Then there are immature men, the more immature a man is, the less responsibility he shows to himself and his family.

The words love and affection are used as weapons to get over, to steal emotions, and to get something for nothing. New Man, you are a mature man, you are a warrior and no matter what your friends say, you should know that there’s nothing weak about being meek for your woman.

Signed,
Counselor

Community Care for the Elderly Gets New Home

By Susan Etxebarria

BRIGHTON — Community Care for the Elderly (CCE) has been around since the 80’s but this vital Tribal agency, serving the needs of elders at Brighton and Big Cypress, recently held a grand opening at a brand new location.

Under the management of the CCE Director Alice Sweat, Tribal citizens 55 and older now have a comfortable and tastefully decorated place they can come to see her and her staff about any needs they have. Sweat is undeniably well-equipped to satisfy their needs, she has been CCE director since 1995.

The CCE office was moved from the Brighton Field Office to a private home with many conveniences that will make it easier for the elderly to get in the door and relax in an air-conditioned sitting room. It is a comfortable place they can call their own.

After extensive remodeling, a vacated two bedroom, one bath home at 1530 East Village Street was transformed into the cheery, brightly painted headquarters for CCE. On Aug. 15, Sweat and her staff invited residents and guests to come check out the new digs. She hosted a delicious lunch under an outdoor canopy and there was an abundance of wonderful door prizes thanks to Chairman Mitchell Cypress.

“I thank each and everyone of you for coming. Our goal at CCE is to keep all our clients happy,” Sweat said. “Whatever their needs, we’re here for them.”

She introduced Brighton Council Representative Andrew Bowers, who attended the luncheon and he congratulated Sweat for the CCE improvements.

“I have always said, whatever you are doing for our seniors, don’t change it,” Bowers said. “The Council supports this type of activity for the Tribe.”

The headquarters has two large offices and a sitting room with plush leather couches and a TV. There is a small kitchenette and along the back wall a row of shiny new washing machines and dryers. This is where the four full time homemakers on the CCE staff bring the laundry of elders to be washed and dried.

CCE is committed to assisting the elders. Whatever a senior needs to make their life healthy and happy, CCE is there to help, says Sweat. Other homemaker chores include housekeeping, cleaning refrigerators, client transportation and shopping assistance.

The staff also has maintenance workers who help seniors with home repairs. Other chores are sea-

sonal cleanings, running essential errands, lifting and moving furniture, appliances and large objects in the home. They can help with pest control, and yard work such as weed eating and trash pick up. All chores provided must be in the home in which the elder resides.

Occasionally, CCE is able to help with emergency home repair assistance when the Tribe’s Housing department, or construction, cannot provide the service in a timely fashion.

The luncheon was well attended by well-wishers, including Lottie Baxley, who looked around the new offices and was impressed.

“It looks really nice,” Baxley said. “It’s a good idea.”

There are approximately 36 clients being served by CCE. Anyone can call and a homemaker will be assigned. Sweat said she makes home visits and goes with the homemaker to the house to introduce them to a new client.

“Our department is growing and we’re getting more clients,” Sweat said. “I was blessed to learn to speak both languages, Creek and Miccosukee, and I think it is one of the reasons I got this job.”

Sweat also introduced all of her staff at the luncheon. At Brighton, her Assistant Director is Rhonda Goodman. The four homemakers are: Doris Williams, Lou Ann Clark, Fannie Porter and Melanie Stremus. The maintenance workers are Daniel Nunez and Lewis Venzor.



Susan Etxebarria

(L-R) Brighton Representative Andrew Bowers and CCE Director Alice Sweat at the new Brighton facility.

At Big Cypress, the homemakers are: Maria Masias, Orchid Littles, Brenda Castro and Amy Madrigal. The maintenance workers are George Perez, Tod Willis, Jason Melton and the secretary at Big Cypress is Nelda Melton.

Anyone in Brighton or Big Cypress needing services may call CCE at (863)763-3561.

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Family Services Department Hires New Site Supervisor

Submitted by the Family Services department

BRIGHTON — Gregory Lamm is a new employee working as the site supervisor for the Family Services department in Brighton. In the past, he worked as a clinical director for a residential, therapeutic community for adults with serious mental illness, who also sometimes struggle with substance abuse, or serious family concerns.

He has worked in several states, has experience working with various cultures, and has also enjoyed an opportunity to live and work in Japan. He has extensive experience working in diverse settings, and has developed several programs which resulted in national models.

Lamm describes himself as a functional social worker, using a multi-systemic orientation, while integrating virtues and spirituality throughout



Gregory Lamm

his work.

He comes from a small, rural, farming community in Ohio. He has been a licensed social worker since 1978, having many years of experience working with children and families in a variety of settings.

He is the proud father of two daughters, two grandchildren and has another grandson due to arrive at the end of September. His wife is an artist, and paints religious themes and icons.

Lamm has said that at this time of his life, his purpose is to find joy in the immediate present, finding the infinite in each encounter he is privileged to experience. Lamm loves to meet people and said he hopes he has a chance to meet each person who may have a chance to read this bio-sketch about him.

Fish and Wildlife Service Announces Private Stewardship Grant

Grants offered to landowners for endangered species conservation projects in southeast region

Submitted by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
WASHINGTON, D.C. — On Aug. 11 Interior Secretary Gale Norton today announced grants totaling more than \$5.7 million to private landowners and groups in 38 states and one territory to undertake conservation projects on their land for endangered, threatened and other at-risk species thanks to the Administration’s Private Stewardship Grants Program. The new grants will benefit several Southeastern U.S. species including the red-cockaded woodpecker, the Puerto Rican boa, the Florida black bear, the gopher tortoise, the Key deer, the Relict darter, sea turtles, and the Louisiana pine snake.

“The Private Stewardship Grants Program encourages citizens to take conservation into their own hands by providing incentives for and flexibility in the development of on-the-ground solutions for the conservation of locally imperiled species,” Norton said. “This seed money supports the growing partnership between Americans and the federal government as we work together to find better and more cost-effective ways to conserve at-risk species found on private lands.”

Administered by the department’s U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, each of the 72 grants awarded today require at least a 10 percent match in non-federal dollars or in-kind contributions. Now in its third year, the Private Stewardship Grants Program provides federal

grants on a competitive basis to individuals and groups engaged in voluntary conservation efforts on private lands that benefit federally listed endangered or threatened species, candidate species or other at-risk species. Under this program, private landowners as well as groups working with private landowners submit proposals directly to the Service for funding to support these efforts.

The administration has requested funding of \$10 million for this program in 2006; last year, 97 grants totaling more than \$7 million were awarded to private individuals and groups in 39 states. In the first two years of the program, 210 grants totaling more than \$16 million were awarded to private landowners across the country.

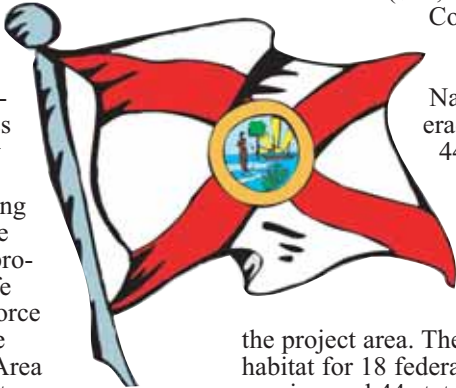
“Private Stewardship grants continue to provide support to private landowners who have made voluntary commitments to conserve species on their land,” said Acting Service Director Matt Hogan.

Following the recent rediscovery of the ivory-billed woodpecker in Arkansas, Norton set aside \$800,000 from the fiscal year 2005 Private Stewardship Grants Program to fund a separate “call for proposals” for projects specifically designed to benefit that species’ conservation. The service recently announced the availability of this grant money through www.grants.gov.

Additional information may be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/grants>.

Grants Awarded to Floridian Programs

1. Nokuse Plantation (application by a private landowner) Walton County, Florida – (\$180,000) – The grant to Nokuse Plantation, a 53,000 acre site within the proposed Northwest Florida Greenway, will restore an historical longleaf pine-wiregrass community on approximately 4,392 acres by undertaking prescribed burning and planting longleaf pine seedlings. These actions will help establish a protected landscape-level wildlife corridor between Eglin Air Force Base and the Choctawhatchee River Wildlife Management Area and will benefit the project’s two flagship species, the gopher tortoise and the Florida black bear.



2. Project GreenSweep – (application by The Nature Conservancy) – Monroe County, Florida – (\$92,698) – The Nature Conservancy will work with private landowners on lands adjacent to Key Deer National Wildlife Refuge to eradicate invasive species on 44.25 acres of land. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection will complement this project by undertaking exotics removal on public land in the project area. The overall effort will restore habitat for 18 federally-listed and candidate species, and 44 state-listed species, including four species of sea turtles and Key deer.

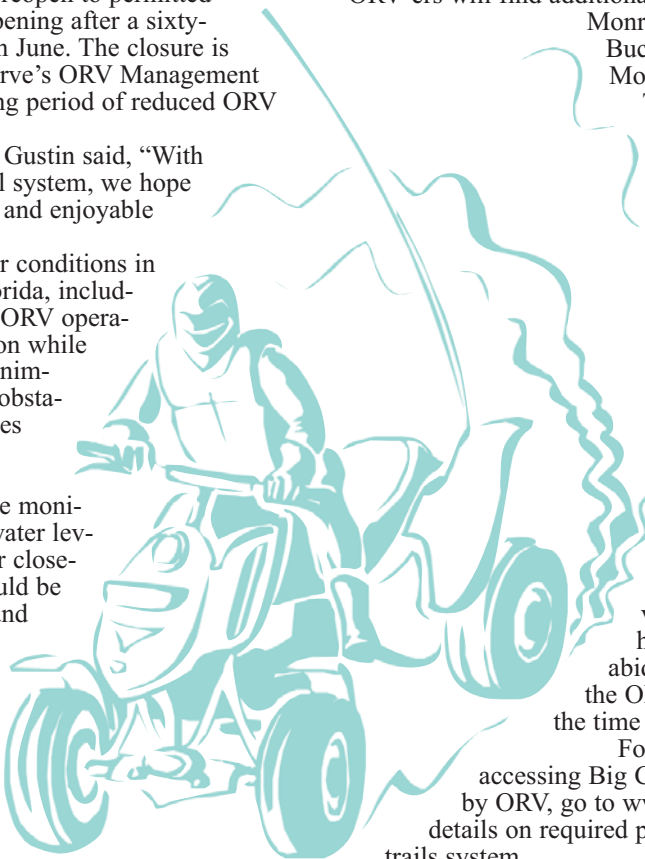
Big Cypress National Preserve Re-Opens for Off-Road Vehicle Use

Submitted By Bob DeGross
BIG CYPRESS — Big Cypress National Preserve Superintendent Karen Gustin announced that effective Aug. 19, the off-road vehicle (ORV) trails within the preserve will reopen to permitted users. The trails are reopening after a sixty-day closure that began in June. The closure is required under the preserve’s ORV Management Plan to allow for a resting period of reduced ORV use within the area.

Superintendent Gustin said, “With the reopening of the trail system, we hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable ORV season.”

With high water conditions in many areas of South Florida, including within the preserve, ORV operators should use precaution while traveling in areas with unimproved trails, as hidden obstacles such as deep potholes may exist.

The National Park Service staff will be monitoring trail conditions, water levels and wildlife behavior closely. ORV enthusiasts should be aware that future ORV and hunting closures of all or part of the Preserve may be necessary to protect resources that may be affected by high water. Additional news releases and web site postings will be



issued in a timely manner.

Coinciding with the reopening of the trails will be the reopening of airboat trails in Zone 4 of the Preserve. Also, new for the 2005–2006 season, ORV’ers will find additional improvements to the Monroe North Trail, formerly Buckskin Trail, north of Monroe Station, Monument Trail connecting Monroe North and Concho Billie Trails and Oasis Trail that runs north of the Oasis Visitor Center.

Visitors to the preserve this fall will find that Midway Campground remains closed for facility improvements. The campground is scheduled to reopen in December of this year.

Preserve staff reminds visitors operating ORVs that all normal rules apply. Off-road vehicles and airboats must have valid permits and abide by all rules set forth in the ORV guidelines provided at the time permits are purchased.

For more information on accessing Big Cypress National Preserve by ORV, go to www.nps.gov/bicy for details on required permits, access points and trails system.

NativeEnergy is Now Native-Owned

InterTribal COUP acquires majority stake in leading renewable energy marketer, on behalf of its member Tribes

Submitted by NativeEnergy
ROSEBUD, SD and CHARLOTTE, VT — NativeEnergy, the leading national marketer of Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) and greenhouse gas offsets, and the nonprofit InterTribal Council On Utility Policy (COUP), announced ON Aug. 15 that COUP has acquired a majority interest in NativeEnergy on behalf of its member Tribes.

The conversion of one of the country’s leading renewable energy marketers into a Native American-owned business marks the next step in the Great Plains Tribes’ historic effort to power America with Native wind and fight global warming.

The equity investment will give the COUP Tribes direct access to the retail market for the renewable power and RECs that their wind farms will generate. The sale of RECs is critical to the successful development of wind farms on the Great Plains reservations. In the past, COUP has looked to NativeEnergy as a wholesale purchaser of wind RECs, whose client list includes recognized leaders Ben & Jerry’s, Clif Bar, Stonyfield Farm, NRDC, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Aveda, College of the Atlantic, and Dave Matthews Band.

Participating in the retail sale of RECs through NativeEnergy will bring additional revenues to the COUP Tribes, as well as access to NativeEnergy’s loyal customer base. These revenues are vital to build sustainable economies for the Tribes, in harmony with Tribal cultural beliefs.

“This is a great day for Native American people everywhere because we are demonstrating that living in harmony with our Mother Earth is not only good for the environment, it is also good business,” says COUP President Patrick Spears, a member of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe. “We congratulate NativeEnergy’s success on behalf of the COUP Tribes’ wind development efforts, and appreciate the demonstrated integrity of their management team. The strategic fit could not be better. We look forward to bringing in more Tribes as equity participants and taking NativeEnergy to the next level,” Spears said.

One of the initial strategic goals of the acquisition is to facilitate the development of an 80 Megawatt (MW) distributed wind project, hosted in 10 MW “clusters” at eight different COUP reservations. In addition to providing enough clean energy to power more than 23,000 homes, these wind farms will also create jobs and revenue streams for the Tribes from the sale of electricity and the RECs.

This initiative follows the success of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe wind project, the first 100 percent Native American-owned and operated commercial-scale wind facility, which was built with significant support from NativeEnergy’s customers.

Wind turbines generate electricity that would otherwise have to come from polluting power facilities on the regional grid, preventing carbon dioxide, a leading cause of global warming, from entering the air. These reductions in carbon dioxide emissions are among the environmental attributes that comprise the RECs.

Since its inception in 2000 NativeEnergy has focused on promoting Tribal and farmer-owned projects that help Tribes and rural communities develop sustainable economies based on the generation of clean, renewable energy.

“We will develop a transition and growth plan for the company that will create Native American ownership, management, and staff opportunities and allow NativeEnergy to continue to build and access the market for Tribally generated renewable energy, while continuing our support of ‘off-reservation’ renewable projects in partnership with the COUP Tribes,” says President and CEO Tom Boucher.

NativeEnergy’s existing stockholders and management team will stay with the company, with COUP actively participating on the company’s board of directors. Through NativeEnergy, the COUP Tribes plan to engage businesses and individuals across America in joining the fight against global warming, by helping finance the development of the Tribes’ vast renewable energy potential.

Morongo Tribe Donates to Habitat For Humanity

Submitted by Nicole Ratcliff
CABAZON, CA — The Morongo Band of Mission Indians delivered more than 14 tons of building materials to the Greater Los Angeles Habitat for Humanity on Aug. 10–11. The thousands of construction items being prepared for delivery are surplus from the building of the Morongo Tribe’s new \$250 million casino, resort and spa in Cabazon.

The massive loading operation took place at the two-acre Morongo construction yard, located just west of the casino.

Morongo Tribal Chairman Maurice Lyons will join a work team of Tribal members helping the crews to load a convoy of commercial trucks. The trucks will transport the supplies to a warehouse in Carson. The materials will be used by Habitat for Humanity to provide affordable housing for low-income families throughout Southern California.

“We have a special appreciation for Habitat for Humanity’s work in helping families realize the dream of having a home,” said Lyons.

“Growing up on the reservation, many of us lived in homes where we had to stuff paper in the window cracks to keep the wind out. Most homes had no running water. So we know how important it is to have safe, reliable housing. Our construction surplus was a tremendous opportunity to furnish materials that would make new homes possible for low-income

families.”

Morongo Tribal volunteers assisted the work crews loading heavy pallets onto the trucks. A large tent was erected at the site and Tribal members served lunch to the men loading the materials and handing out bottled water as truck after truck is packed full.

A total of six moving trucks and 16 men spent two days loading and hauling the materials from Cabazon to Habitat’s warehouse. The construction items being donated include 300 new toilets, 64 windows, four bathtubs, 32 closet doors, electrical and plumbing supplies, 15 rolls of chain link fencing, paving stones and cotton waddles.

“This is one of the most extensive donations of building materials our chapter has ever received,” said Erin Rank, president and CEO for the Greater Los Angeles Habitat for Humanity. “The Morongo Tribe’s generosity will touch the lives of hundreds of families in the years to come.”

In preparation for the two-day move, a project team spent three weeks sorting, gathering, palletizing and wrapping the materials.

“We could have sold these materials quite easily, but the Tribal Council determined this was a far better use. I think it makes us all work that much harder knowing this effort will be helping so many,” said Reservation Services Administrator Dennis Dalbeck.

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Hollywood Community 2005 Calendar of Events

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Dolphins 2005 at Dolphins Stadium

Vs Denver, Sunday, September 11, 2005, 1:00 p.m.
Vs Carolina, Sunday, September 25, 2005, 1:00 p.m.
Vs Kansas, Sunday, October 23, 2005, 1:00 p.m.
Vs Atlanta, Sunday, November 6, 2005, 1:00 p.m.
Vs New England, Sunday, November 13, 2005, 1:00 p.m.
Vs Buffalo, Sunday, December 4, 2005, 1:00 p.m.
Vs Jets, Sunday, December 18, 2005, 1:00 p.m.
Vs Tennessee, Saturday, December 24, 2005, 1:00 p.m.

American Airlines Arena

Paul McCartney, Friday, September 16, 2005
Marc Anthony, Saturday, September 18, 2005
Marc Anthony, Sunday, September 19, 2005
Daddy Yankee, Friday, October 7, 2005
Rolling Stones, Monday, October 17, 2005
U2, Sunday, November 13, 2005
Juan Gabriel, Sunday, November 19, 2005

Hard Rock Live

Meatloaf, Wednesday, September 14, 2005, 8:00 p.m.
Journey, Sunday, September 18, 2005, 8:00 p.m.
Ron White, Thursday, September 22, 2005, 8:00 p.m.
Gilberto Santa Rosa, Friday, September 23, 2005, 8:00 p.m.
Alice Cooper, Tuesday, September 27, 2005, 8:00 p.m.
Loggins and Messina, Thursday, September 29, 2005, 8:00 p.m.

Sound Advice Amphitheater

311, Friday, September 2, 2005, 6:30 p.m.
Ozz Fest, Sunday, September 4, 2005, 11:00 a.m.
Cold Play, Tuesday, September 13, 2005, 7:30 p.m.
Alan Jackson, Saturday, November 5, 2005, 7:00 p.m.

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Young Hawaiian maiden prepares Marcellus Osceola for the hula dance.

Iretta Tiger



LaWanna Niles and Brenda Bordogna join hula dance class.

Iretta Tiger



Mike Tiger enjoyed the Hawaiian Senior Wellness Day.

Iretta Tiger

Hawaiian Luau for Seminole Seniors

By Iretta Tiger

HOLLYWOOD — It was a small taste of paradise; palm trees, tropical flowers and Hawaiian leis. Not bad considering this was the Hollywood Seniors Center. Why the tropical decorations? It was all for the Hawaiian Senior Wellness Day, which took place on Aug. 23.

Once the seniors walked through the doors they were given a tasteful Hawaiian shirt, a goody bag and a lei. The center was decorated with palm trees, Hawaiian totem poles and the tables wore flowered grass skirts.

Three presentations were made by the Seminole Health department. The presentations were about personal health maintenance, healthy food choices, proper portions of food and the consequences of unhealthy eating.

While the seniors enjoyed a healthy Hawaiian meal they were treated to Polynesian dancers.

LaWanna Niles and Health Education Coordinator Brenda Bordogna bravely participated in a hula dancing class.

For the men Marcellus Osceola and Mike Tiger were the lucky men to be chosen for the dance lesson. The highlight of the day had to be watching Tribal Treasurer Mike Tiger dancing. Tiger really knows his hula moves and is not afraid to show them.

To watch the luau stay tuned to WSBC, Seminole Broadcasting.



Hawaiian leis were given to the seniors, including Mary Tiger.

Iretta Tiger

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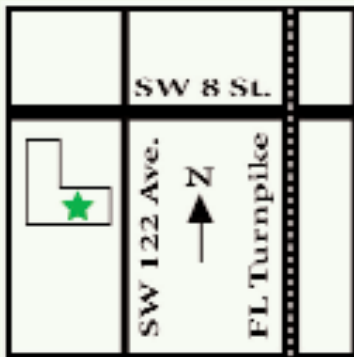


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In Memoriam

In Remembrance of Karen Sue Cypress

No words can express the gratitude we feel toward all the wonderful people who came forth on behalf of our family during our most recent loss. Within a few short hours, relatives, friends and the community had rallied to our aid in more ways than we can possibly count. Without your round the clock support, sympathy and assistance, it is hard to imagine how we could have survived losing our beloved Karen Sue. It is during such difficult times that we come to realize that we are all one big family and how much we mean to each other.

Karen Sue Cypress was born in Hollywood on Dec. 19, 1986, as a member of the Panther clan. Being raised among Otters, she was a tribute to both clans. She was not just a cousin, but a daughter, sister and aunt.

Coming into a family at two years old, where all of the children were nearly grown, she was everybody's baby. Memories of buying little clothes, dress up and a first trip to the portrait studio abound for her sisters. Piggy back rides, toys, jewelry and later four wheeler rides flood the hearts of her brothers. For her parents, she grew up too fast as they recall school, vacations and long conversations that will never be forgotten.

Karen Sue was not only a vital part of our family, but she enjoyed visits with her grandmothers, cousins and the two brothers whom she cherished, Damon and Robert Cypress Jr.

Like so many of our young people today, Karen had experienced the stress of adolescent peer pressure and went through an identity crisis. Being a survivor, she had put all of this behind her and at eighteen was making responsible adult decisions. For her, life and its many opportunities were just beginning.

Caught on the highway in a late afternoon rain storm on July 28, the car she was riding in hit a puddle and went out of control, taking the lives of Karen and her young friend, Magaleno Rios. Had this not happened, we can only wonder

what the future might have held for her.

Her love of animals became apparent at any early age and had no boundaries. If not controlled, she would have provided a home for a dozen dogs and just as many cats. She loved horses and participated in shows and rodeos, often carrying the entry flag. Active in 4-H, she had projects with hogs and this past year put her efforts into raising an awesome steer.

Karen often remarked that she would love to become a veterinarian. Unfortunately, more than half of a vet's patients are injured or ill and she couldn't bear to see their suffering. She wanted to find a happier career that dealt with animals.

Those of us who were close to her will always remember her artistic talents. She loved to draw, paint and even tried her hand at sculpture. Although she didn't believe it, she had very obvious talent.

She may have only shared our lives for eighteen short years, but she left a mark on everyone she touched. Our experiences, shared with her, gave us greater understanding, compassion, tolerance, joy and love for each other and this we will

carry in our hearts forever.

We are extremely grateful for the over-whelming abundance of flowers, friends and support that you have shown us on behalf of our loved one.

Sincerely,
The Aguilars, Pedro, Elaine, Michelle, Sheila, Pete and Edward

I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me
I took his hand when I heard him call
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day
To laugh, to love, to work or play
Tasks left undone must stay that way
I found that place at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void
Then fill it with remembered joy
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss
Ah yes, these things, I too, will miss.

Be not burdened with the times of sorrow
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow
My life's been full, I savored much
Good friends, good times, a loved ones touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief
Lift up your heart and share with me
God wanted me now, He set me Free.

—Anonymous

In Memory of Nathan "Damon" Billie

Many years have past without my son in my life, but I could never forget him.

He was my first son. I watched him grow from a beautiful bouncing baby boy Into a bright minded, handsome athletic child. I remember his talent, sense of humor and charm.

I remember how he learned so fast. I have his photographs and remember watching him playing.

I remember the songs he liked to sing. I remember that family was most important to him, I remember his affection and the love he had for his family. I remember the happy times we shared, and the hard times he had too. I remember the last time my eyes met yours

The memory is a great reason to carry on. I remember my son as I should. My love for him will last forever.

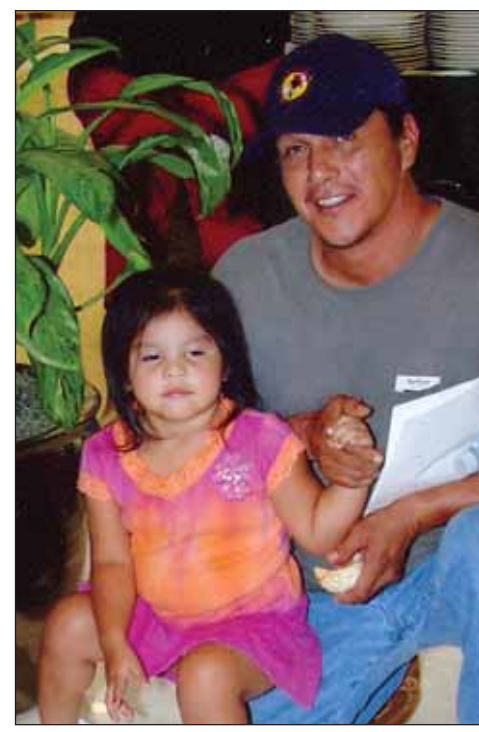
Always in my heart,
Your mom,
Debbie Smith Yescas



Happy Birthday



Happy 1st birthday to Angelie M. Melton on Aug. 16. You've brought us so much joy this first year.
Love you,
Angela Tiger and Rodney Melton



Happy belated 3rd birthday to Martha Jewel Tiger on July 7.
Love,
Mother Angela Tiger and Father Issac Bettelyoun

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I just wanted to say **happy belated birthday** to my mom, **Angela Tiger**, on Aug. 20. You've been through so much and still manage to stay strong. I envy your strength. Nowadays it's too hard but you still hold it down.
I'm proud to say I'm your daughter even if I don't act like it. I love you momma! Happy birthday!
Love always,
Kay Lynn Pewo

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Will be held at the DSO Library's Computer Lab in Hollywood as a three day course starting Monday, September 26th; Wednesday, September 28th; and Friday, September 30th, 2005.

Free to all adult Tribal members! Please fill out below for enrollment and return by September 19th, 2005. By reservation only and space is limited. Must be at least 18 years of age.

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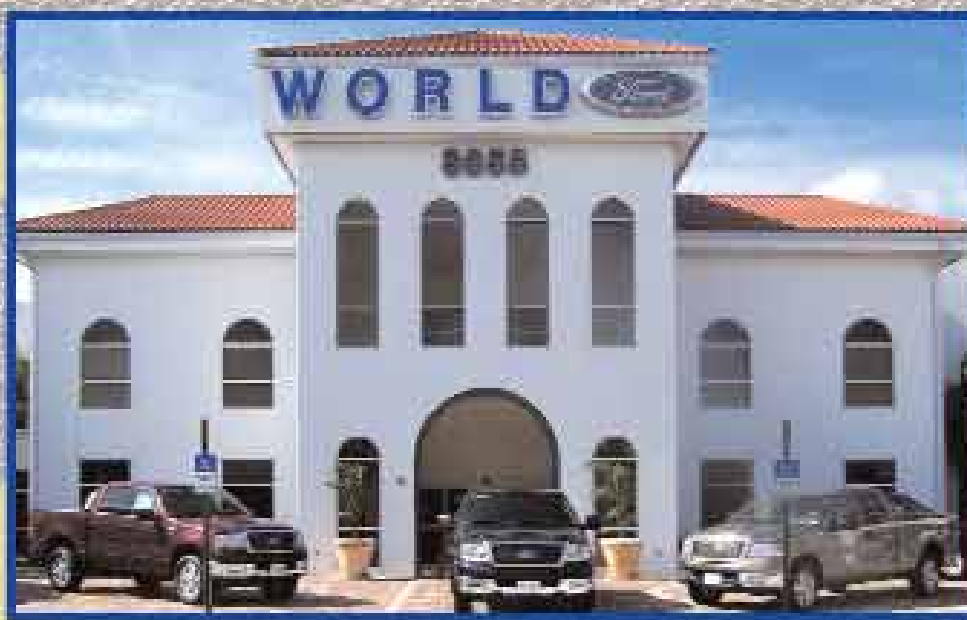
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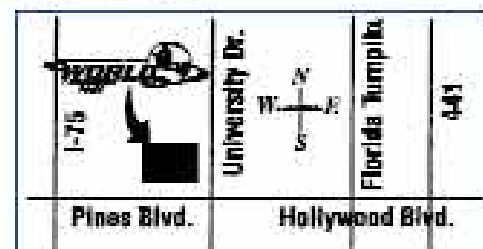
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Tribe’s Gaming Employees Perform at Hard Rock Live



Alice Cooper Ready to Rock Hard Rock Live

HOLLYWOOD — Tickets went on sale July 29 for rocker Alice Cooper’s Sept. 27 Hard Rock Live performance. Cooper will performs at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$40, \$50 and \$60. Cooper pioneered a theatrical and violent brand of heavy metal that was designed to shock. Released in the summer of 1972, “School’s Out” was Alice Cooper’s breakthrough record, peaking at number two and selling over a million copies. The title song became a Top Ten hit in the U.S. and a number one single in the U.K. Cooper made a successful comeback in the late ‘80s, sparked by his appearances in horror films and a series of pop-metal bands that paid musical homage to his classic early records and concerts. Doors open one hour prior to the show. All seats are reserved and may be purchased at the Hard Rock Live Box Office, which will be open Monday–Sunday, 12 p.m.–7 p.m. It can be reached by phone at (954) 797-5531. Tickets purchased at the box office will not incur a service charge. Tickets also are available at all Ticketmaster outlets and online at www.ticketmaster.com. Charge by phone: Miami-Dade (305) 358-5885, Broward (954) 523-3309, and Palm Beach (561) 966-3309. Parking is free.

By Susan Etchey
BRIGHTON — Seminole Tribal citizen Marty Johns, the general manager of the Brighton Seminole Casino, said he was ecstatic about the results of the 1st Annual Employee Talent Show held at Hard Rock Live on Aug. 16. The Brighton Seminole Casino’s Controller Montie Spivey walked away with the grand prize, competing against five other highly talented acts, one chosen from each of the gaming properties owned by the Seminole Tribe. “We kicked butt,” Johns said in a phone interview. “We may be the smallest of all the casinos, but we’re the loudest. We have an excellent team of employees all the way around.” Johns has good reason to brag about his employees, some who could easily qualify for American Idol. There’s lots of hidden talent at Brighton. In fact, the turnout for the competition at all the Tribe’s gaming properties was exceptional.” Contestants from the Seminole Tribe properties at Immokalee, Coconut Creek, Brighton, and Hollywood Classic and the Hollywood and Tampa Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casinos competed in pre-qualifying rounds held at each casino weeks before the grand finale. “I had an opportunity to attend all preliminary talent shows to get to know the contestants,” said Susan Renneisen, the event coordinator who works at the Seminole Gaming corporate offices at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood. “While the contestants displayed a competitive nature they did so without exhibiting any jealousy or pettiness. There was a wonderful sense of camaraderie. The employees were really appreciative of this opportunity.” Employees and judges at the individual casinos had to pick their top performer(s) to go to the finals, having a difficult choice to make from all the great talent that surfaced. Up to 20 people competed on the local level at some properties but only one could be selected by the judges and fellow employees. Who would guess poker dealers, clerks and an accountant like Spivey could sing and dance like superstars? It was an

exciting night at the Hard Rock Live as the Tribe’s gaming employees from across South Florida attended the well-orchestrated event to root for his or her own casino representative. The 34-year-old controller at the Brighton casino had some help with his show-stopping performance. Co-workers from Brighton, Jesse O’Neill, Wendi Miller and Mark Lemley, added comic relief to Spivey’s act that wowed the judges and the audience. He sang the Black Crowes’ hit “Hard to Handle” and Aerosmith’s “Dream On” dressed in classic rock style clothes while his co-workers did a spoof of a security guard pulling an extreme fan off the stage and off of Spivey in one set, and then they acted the part of band members messing up and making it hard on Spivey to sing his song. It was all in jest, of course. “I didn’t want to go on stage as just a singer, I wanted to go on stage as a performer,” said the jovial Spivey who has a history of performing since high school where he sang in My Fair Lady and had the lead role in Grease. The part time performer has been acting in community theaters since then. It may seem surprising that a man with a master’s degree in accounting would be this friendly down-to-earth guy who loves being on stage—but to know Spivey is to understand. “I love to give people a smile,” he said. That’s a believable statement for a man who performed the role of Snoopy

up on stage, off stage he has a serious side. He is thrilled to be working for the Seminole Tribe, which was an important career move for him. He has worked with several other highly successful Native American tribes helping them set up Gaming 3 levels of operation including the Tunica Biloxi Tribe at Avoyelles in Louisiana, the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians and the Campo Tribe of Kumeyaay Indians in southern California. He said he believes the Seminole Tribe’s potential in the gaming industry is even greater with a premier vacation destination like Florida attracting tourists worldwide and he is happy to be part of the bigger picture. Spivey said the prize money is going to be spent on his October 2006 wedding. “I got engaged last weekend so the money is being set aside so me and my bride can go to Venice, Italy on our honeymoon,” he said. The Talent Show was not only a lot of fun but it was a night of fantastic professional entertainment including special performances by Elvis tribute artist Chris MacDonald, Flavour, and Legend’s in Concert’s very own imitations of Madonna and Barry White. “The whole show was awesome,” said Eveleyn Reese who came to Hollywood with a busload of other Brighton employees to see the show. “Spivey was awesome. Everyone was great. We are very proud of him at Brighton.”

after two years on the job, Deborah Arnita, a poker information clerk who has three kids and loves to bowl and Kellie Heburn, a poker dealer, who was once in the stage play Rocky Horror Picture Show. Phylliss Laine Jefferson, a poker dealer and floor supervisor, who earned her bachelor’s degree in music and theatre



Grand prize winner Montie Spivey.



Elvis tribute artist Chris McDonald put on a special show.

from St. Lawrence University, represented the Seminole Hollywood Classic Casino. Cece Simmons who has been singing in front of large audiences since the sixth grade represented Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino at Tampa. She is a graduate of the University of South Florida. Mauricio and Roberto Orellano who performed a dance routine represented the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino at Hollywood. The brothers both have business and marketing degrees and work with the Players Club. Senior Vice President of Human Resources for Seminole Gaming Administration Jeanne Faccadio said employee talent shows are a standard in the gaming industry. “It improves morale and it is good for employee relations,” Faccadio said. “It builds camaraderie and makes it possible for people from different properties at the different reservations to meet one another.” Faccadio said there would be another talent show next year. “The employees were thrilled with this event and the feedback was very positive,” she added.

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A black and white portrait of Darlene Quinn, smiling. She is wearing a patterned sweater over a collared shirt.

Darlene Quinn

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All Indian Golf Tournament Celebrates 48th Anniversary of Tribal Constitution

By Felix DoBosz
WESTON, FL — The players were in a good mood, although the weather was extreme for a South Florida summer tropical climate, with high heat and humidity throughout the day and a few quick passing showers. The Bonaventure Country Club was the setting for an all-Indian Golf Tournament on Aug. 20.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida hosted this grand event in celebration of 48 years of the Tribe's Constitution. At least 30 participants showed up early to get started driving the little white ball through 18 challenging holes on a beautiful golf course.

Mitch Osceola was asked about what the 48th anniversary of the constitution means to the Tribe, he answered, "It means a lot to us, not the golf tournament in particular, but we're just celebrating in what ways we can, we're going to celebrate more this evening over at the gymnasium grounds and I guess some people are going to speak hopefully...but today, it's just a golf tournament. This is our game, these are the golfers that are always here...at any golf tournament...you give them a reason and they're going to come out here and golf. So we are here to basically remember the constitution and have some fun, a lot of people weren't even born back then, but they need to know more about our constitution."

At the completion of the golf match, players wandered into the Bonaventure Clubhouse, sitting around large round tables waiting for the scores to be tallied up.

Hollywood Tribal Council Representative Max B. Osceola Jr. made a short, yet eloquent, speech on the significance of this day to the Seminole Tribe of Florida. He let everyone know that this golf tournament was about more than the sport of golfing, and emphasized that it was about remembering what the Tribal Constitution means to the Seminole Tribe

of Florida.

"The Constitution of the Tribal Council and the Corporate Charter of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc., was approved August 21, 1957, which is 48 years ago tomorrow, that set the framework for the modern government, in fact saved the Seminole Tribe, because at that time, in the fifties, our federal government wanted to terminate the Seminole Tribe," Osceola said.

"Until our elders got together, went to Washington and lobbied Congress to say 'don't terminate us, give us 25 years to educate our youth' and that's what saved the Tribe and so we're celebrating that today. We've got to remember our past, because that's what gives us our strength."

Reverend Salaw Hummingbird said grace, and everyone got up to enjoy a simple delicious luncheon buffet. Mitch Osceola, the event emcee, made the announcements of the players with the best scores.

Mitch Osceola also handed out



Ricky Doctor hits closest to the pin for Senior Men.

Felix DoBosz

the winner's prizes and photos were taken of the winners, this concluded this year's 48th anniversary of the Constitution golf tournament.

The following list contains the best scores for this tournament:

Two-Man Best Score

1. Kyle Doney and John Madrigal, 56,
2. Salaw Hummingbird and Charlie Cypress, 62,
3. Mike Tiger and Moses "Bigg Shot" Jumper Jr., 63, 4. Stephen Bowers and T.J. Young, 64, 5. Terry Hahn and Jackie Thompson, 64, 6. Max B. Osceola Jr. and Lawrence Osceola, 66.

Closest to the Pin

Hole #3, Men: Mitch Osceola; Senior Men: Ricky, Women: Jackie Thompson, Senior Women: Terry Hahn. #6, Men: John Madrigal, Senior Men: Joe Osceola Sr., Senior Women: Mabel Doctor. #12, Men: Marcy Osceola, Senior Men: George G., Women: Jackie Thompson. #17, Men: Marl Osceola, Senior Men: Ernest Riley, Senior Women: Mabel Doctor;

Longest Drive

Hole #4, Men: Steve Osceola, Senior Men: George Grasshopper. #8, Senior Women: Terry Hahn

Straightest Drive

Hole #10, Men: Mondo Tiger, Senior Men: Keeno King, Women: Jackie Thompson.



(L-R) Theresa Nuñez, Phalyn Osceola, Arica Buck, Betty C. Osceola, Emma J. Urbina, Scarlett Young and Ashley Harjo.

Ninth Annual Randolph Clay Memorial Pool Tournament Results

Submitted by Steve Frost

Senior Woman 60 and Older: 1. Annie Jumper, 2. Mabel Doctor, 3. Betty Osceola, 4. Maydell Osceola.

Senior Men 60 and Older: 1. Russell Osceola, 2. Ronnie Doctor, 3. Joe Billie, 4. Alan Jumper, 5. Joe Dan Osceola, 6. Sam Nelson.

Senior Woman 50-59: 1. Laura Clay, 2. Linda Billie, 3. Dale Grasshopper, 4. Juanita Osceola, 5. Vivian Osceola, 6. Louis Osceola.

Senior Men 50-59: 1. George Grasshopper, 2. Jimmie Bert, 3. Truman Bowers, 4. Ricky Doctor, 5. Robin Buster, 6. Howard Osceola.

Senior Scotch Doubles: 1. Joe Billie Jr. and Annie Jumper, 2. George and Dale Grasshopper, 3. Jimmie Bert and Laura Clay, 4. Ronnie and Mabel Doctor, 5. Russell and Juanita Osceola, 6. Howard Osceola and Louise Osceola.

Girls 17 and Younger: 1. Reina Robinson, 2. Mailani Porez, 3. Courtney Osceola, 4. Reveme Osceola, 5. Chassidy Harjochee, 6. Nicole Osceola.

Boys 17 and Younger: 1. Huston Osceola, 2. Jacob Robinson, 3. Marcus Robinson, 4. J.T. Osceola, 5. Cliff Sanchez, 6. Eric Osceola.

Woman 18 and Older 8 Ball: 1. Theresa Nunez, 2. Phalyn Osceola, 3. Arica Buck, 4. Emma Jane Urbina, 5. Scarlett Jumper, 6. Ashley Harjo.

Men 18 and Older 8 Ball: 1. David Cypress, 2. Randy Clay, 3. Charles Osceola, 4. Boogie Nunez, 5. Richard Osceola, 6. Roy Snow.

Scotch Doubles: 1. Charles Osceola and Phalyn Osceola, 2. Boogie Nunez and Theresa Nunez, 3. Jack Billie-Emma Jane Urbina, 4. Jason Grasshopper and Dale Grasshopper, 5. Joe Billie Jr. and Latonya Jumper, 6. Russell Osceola and Juanita Osceola.

Woman's 9 Ball: 1. Theresa Nunez, 2. Esther Buster, 3. Phalyn Osceola, 4. Dale Grasshopper, 5. Betty Osceola.

Men's 9 Ball: 1. Russell Osceola, 2. David Cypress, 3. Jason Grasshopper, 4. Danny Billie, 5. Charles Osceola.

Lady Seminoles are First Runners-Up in NASA Tourney

By Chris Goodwin
CHEROKEE, NC — The Lady Seminoles team headed to the Cherokee Indian reservation in North Carolina Aug. 12-13 for the 2005 NASA slow-pitch softball tournament.

The Ladies faced the Chahta Girls in the first round of the tournament. Laverne Thomas led off with a solo home-run in the top of the second. Brandi Clay had a RBI double that scored Maggie Puente. Clay later scored of a RBI single by Moncia Cypress. In the fourth, two more runs were scored by Clay and Cypress off of five singles by Clay, Monica Cypress, Kasey Baker, Nicki Osceola, and Carla Gopher.

Down 5-6 in the final inning Laverne Thomas has another solo home run. With the game tied at 6, Wendi Juarez had a 2 RBI single scoring Ginger Jones and Maggie Puente. That put up the Lady Seminoles 8-6 and gave them the victory. Kasey Baker pitched a great game only walking one.

The Lady Seminoles faced the Spitfires in the second round. Finding themselves down 3-8 with only one inning left, the women pounded out 11 singles and scored 11 runs to take a 14-8 lead. Laverne Thomas led the offense going 4-4. Carla Gopher and Wendi Juarez each went 3-3. Ginger Jones, Monica Cypress, Nicki Osceola, and Maggie Puente each had two hits apiece.

The Canes were the next team on the list for the ladies to mow down. The defense played outstanding with four dou-

ble plays in six innings. Kasey Baker had another fine performance allowing only one walk. Jackie Smith led the offense going 3-3 Jones combined for five RBI's and had one triple apiece.

With only the Lady Seminoles and Natives left in the winners-bracket, the Seminoles ran out of steam, losing to the Natives. The loss put the Lady Seminoles against Triballettes the from the losers bracket.

Finding themselves down 8-1 going into the bottom of the fifth Kasey Baker led off with a single, Brandi Clay singled and Wendi Juarez's fielder choice put Baker out at third. Monica Cypress singled in Clay. Nicki Oseola and Carla Gopher singled in an RBI each scoring Juarez and Cypress. Going into the final inning, the Lady Seminoles regained the led 11-10, only to lose it in the top of the inning 12-11.

With one out, Kasey Baker had a single to left field, Brandi Clay singled home Jones to tie the score. Wendi Juarez's fielder's choice squeezed Clay out at second but gave the Lady Seminoles the victory.

With the win over the Triballettes, the Lady Seminoles were in the finals against the performance. Farrah Jones had a 3 RBI triple and sister Ginger Jones had a 2 RBI double. Carla Gopher led the offense batting 4-4 followed by Jackie Smith 3-3, but that was not enough as the Lady Seminoles eventually lost 23-16.



Felix DoBosz

Mitch Osceola (center) with first place team: Kyle Doney (left) and John Madrigal (right).

Super Seminoles Win NAYO Again

By Chris Goodwin

The Super Seminole team of 2005 had a reputation to uphold after the 9-12 year old team won championships in 2003 and again in 2004.

The question on many minds was: could the '05 team replace four key starters they lost from the '04 team and regain the power that they had been in the past? Their motto would be "Back To Back and We're Back-Phase III."

The first round of the tournament the Super Seminoles faced a scrappy Choctaw team called Southern Rage.

With the score at zero, Lois Billie led off the second with a triple to right field. Ravenne Osceola followed with a walk and advanced to second on a stolen base. Destiny Nunez's two RBI singles scored Billie and Osceola to put up Brighton 2-0.

They scored three more runs in the third. Erena Billie led off with a triple to center field, Sheila Jones followed with a walk. Lois Billie had a two RBI triples, scoring Billie and Jones. With a comfortable 4-0 led Jaryaca Baker tripled to score Lois Billie making it 5-0.

The Super Seminole defense through three was great, going three up, three down. Southern Rage left three runners stranded in the fourth. Another three up, three down in the fifth narrowed the Rages hope to the final inning.

Southern Rage stormed back scoring three runs to narrow the gap 5-3. With two runners on base Kristen Billie struck out the final two batters to end the threat. Kristen Billie pitched an all round great game striking out 13, while walking only one.

In the second round, the Super

Seminoles faced the Poarch Rockets from Alabama. The Rockets gave the Brighton girls a handful of trouble. The game was tied at six with the time limit expiring. Two extra innings were played before the Super Seminoles could squeeze out a run to end Poarch's hope of an upset 8-7.

Sheila Jones started off the first with a two out rally with a walk. Kristen Billie hit to left field and scored Jones. Another left field hit by Loise Billie scored Kristen. Ravenne Osceola followed with a nit to right and Jaryaca Baker had a two RBI hit to center.

Ravenne Osceola and Lois Billie combined for 12 strike outs on the mound. Staying in the winners bracket the Super Seminoles faced the only other unbeaten team Choctaw's finest Extreme Heat.

Kristen Billie destroyed any hopes the Extreme Heat had by freezing them at the plate with her blazing speed. Billie had an amazing 16 K's, or strike-outs. The Super Seminoles struck first in the first with Erena Billie hitting to left field and scoring on Lois Billie's RBI single. In the second, Jaryaca Baker singled and later scored extending their lead 2-0.

Extreme Heat narrowed the gap scoring on in the fourth making the score 2-1. Super Seminoles capped of the sixth with two more runs off of hits by Kristen Billie, Lois Billie, Ravenne Osceola,

Cherokee scored one run off of an errant throw on a bunt and their pitching was second best only to the Super Seminoles. It was a pitching dual. Cherokee struck out 13 batters, but

they both stole second and third. Erena Billie had a short infield fly that dropped between pitcher and third but Nunez got thrown out at the plate.

With their backs against the wall with one inning left, Kristen Billie walked and stole second. Lois Billie followed with a walk and Kristen and Lois stole second and third. Kristen Billie tied the game on a wild pitch.

Jaryaca Baker had a hit up the middle scoring Lois Billie and giving the Super Seminoles the lead. Jaryaca Baker stole second and third and scored on a wild pitch giving the Seminoles breathing room and a 3-1 come from behind victory.

Coach Chris Goodwin said the Super Seminoles once again dominated the pitching, however, the other teams are starting to close the gap. We had an unbelievable 59 K's in four games compared to our opponents 31.

The team played great, to win this tournament for the third year in a row and do so without losing one game is quite an accomplishment. These kids and parents make a lot of sacrifices to get to practice over the summer and I appreciate that. It shows hard work and setting goals really pays off.

A special thank you goes out to Assistant Coaches Preston Baker and Dallas Nunez, who were always there to help support the team. Jeanne Billie and Betty Billie were always there to contribute any way they could. Thanks to Alice Sweat and Sweat trucking for providing the team automobiles with stickers. Lastly, thanks to Richard Osceola and the Recreation department for providing the team with bat bags.



The undefeated Super Seminole Team wins the NAYO tournament for the third year in a row.

Jaryaca Baker and Janet Smith.

The championship game featured the Super Seminoles out of the winners bracket against Cherokee of North Carolina coming out of the losers bracket.

Ravenne Osceola of Brighton struck out an unbelievable 18 batters.

Finding themselves down the sixth, Destiny Nunez beat out an infield hit. Onna Billie followed with a walk and

Sonny Billie Memorial Golf Tournament

By Felix DoBosz
MIAMI, FL — On a humid early Aug. 13 morning, the Second Annual Sonny Billie Memorial Tournament got underway at the old Miami National Golf Club. The club, purchased in 2001 by the Miccosukee Tribe, and renamed after the Tribe, offers golfers 27 holes and a driving range in a lush tropical setting.

These courses have hosted many major LPGA and PGA events, including those attended by champions Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer, among others. The Club is home to The Miccosukee Championship Nationwide Tour Event every year.

The all Indian 4-man blind draw was sponsored by Big Cypress Recreation department and hosted by Ricky Doctor, the son of the late Medicine Man Sonny Billie.

Ricky explained that his father didn't play golf because he was working hard everyday. Ricky learned to play while attending school many years ago while growing up.

"They had a golf course next to the school," he said. "I used to grab the balls out of the water and hit them back in."

He mentioned that his father would have been proud to have this golf tournament named after him as a way to keep his great memory alive.

One of the golf tournament regular competitors was Mondo Tiger, he said, "This is a great tournament and a good turnout we'll see what happens. I've got three good helpers right here, and today I think we got a good chance."

"This [tournament] also helps our Tribe by getting the Miccosukee and Seminole citizens together and to communicate and compete with each other for a fun friendly game-cut-throat friendly," Tiger jokingly added.



(L-R) Bobby Frank, Charlie Frye, Ricky Doctor, Salaw Hummingbird.



EIRA Contact List

Submitted by Jo "Boogie" Jumper
Adam Turtle – BB
Route 6 Box, 595-D
Okeechobee, FL 34974
(863) 534-4920

Amos Pres and Billie Tiger – BAW
Route 6, Box 603
Okeechobee, FL 34974
(863) 467-7227

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



(L-R) Allen Huff, Joe Billie, Raymond Garza Jr.

Another heavy hitter who was also competing in this all Indian event was Immokalee Rep. Raymond Garza, Panther clan.

He said, "I'm really glad to be out here today, for this memorial tournament for the late Sonny Billie, ...in the Corn Dances I was involved with him and helped him build the one in Big Cypress...so I'm always going to be here as long as this tournament keeps going. Sonny Billie was never a golfer, but his son [Ricky Doctor] is, so I guess that's why in order to gather people around, in something he likes doing... to remember his father."

Avid golfer and Chairman of the Miccosukee Tribe Billy Cypress, was also a good friend of Sonny Billie, and honored his old friend by competing in this year's second annual memorial golf event.

The results of the second annual Sonny Billie Memorial Tournament

4 Man Blind Draw: 1. Allen Huff, Joe Billie, Raymond Garza Jr., 63, 2. Matt Tiger, John Madrigal, Jennifer Tigertail, Curtis Osceola, 65, 3. Billy Cypress, Michael Micco, Ernest Graham, Jahna Smith, 65, 4. Manuel Tiger, Terri Hahn, Gale Boone, Johnny Boone, 67, 5. Charlie Frye, Bobby Frank, Ricky Doctor, Charles Hummingbird, 68, 6. Abe Rockwell, Scarlett Young, Michael Billie, Roy Poole, 69, 7. Virginia Billie, Richard Buster, Kyle Doney, 69, 8. Lawrence Osceola, Raymond Garza, Doreen Willie, Eric Cypress, 74, 9. Ronnie Doctor, Cicero Osceola, Andrew Bert, Terry Willie, 74, 10. Rufus Tiger, Mabel Doctor, Andrew Bert, 80.

Closest to the Pin: Men: Abe Rockwell, Cicero Osceola.

Longest Drive, Men: Bobby Frank, Ricky Doctor. Women: Mabel Osceola Doctor, Doreen Osceola-Willie.



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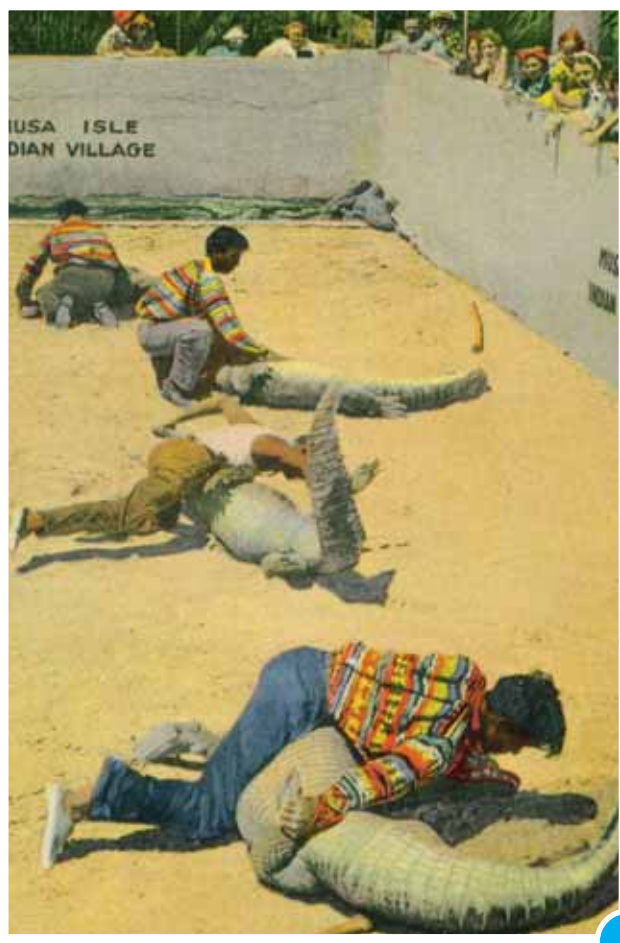
Attention Tribal Citizens:

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum at Big Cypress is putting together a special exhibit on Seminole postcards

We have gone through hundreds of postcards in preparation for this exhibit. Here are examples of some of the postcards in the Museum's collection. We have identified most of the people and the locations in these, but we would like to hear from Tribal citizens to be certain.

Also, we would like to get comments from Tribal citizens about these postcards, such as: Do you remember the event photographed? Are any of these people your relatives? Did you buy Seminole postcards for yourself? What do you think the postcards say about Seminoles?, etc.

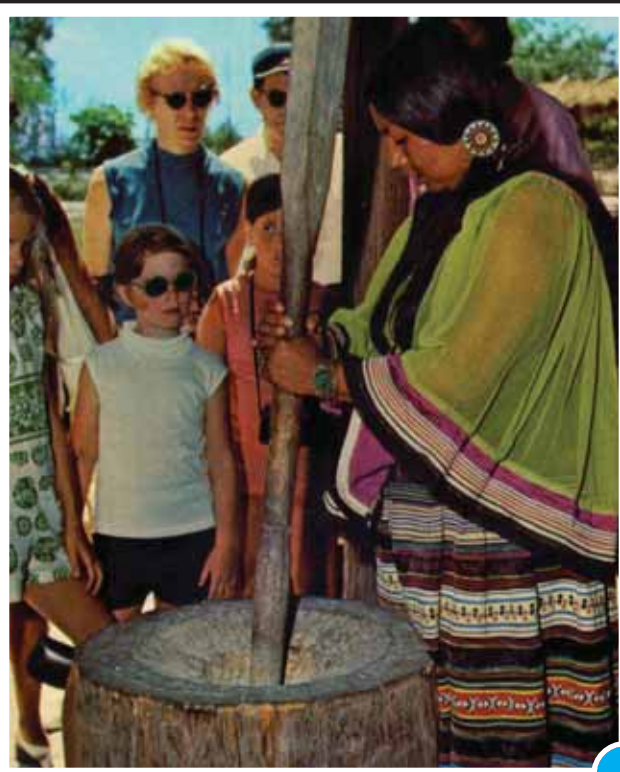
Please contact one of these Museum employees to offer comments: Museum Director David Blackard, (863) 902-1113, Ext. 201, dblackard@semtribe.com, Curator of Collections Anne McCudden, (863) 902-1113, Ext. 106, amccudden@semtribe.com and/or Curator of Education Cynthia Kasee, (863) 902-1113, Ext. 207, ckasee@semtribe.com or mail to HC 61 Box 21, Clewiston, FL 33440.



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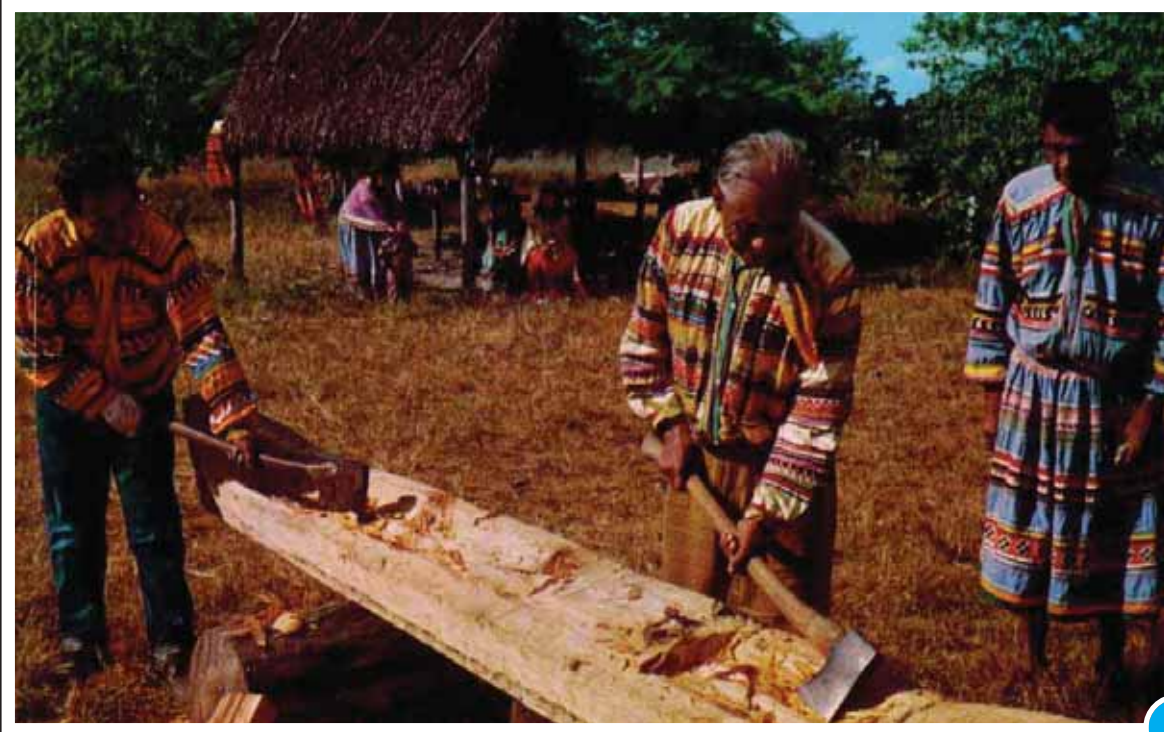


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Comment on Postcard # _____



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Hollywood's 2005 Incentive Award Recipients

Submitted by Education Advisor Lynn Himebauch

David Thomas
Anderson, Jr., Garrett Billie
Anderson, Summer Jade Billie,
Yoklot Jshawn Cornelius,
Kahelote Jonas Cornelius,
Nicholas Charles Dicarolo,
Michael Ronnie Doctor,
Tiffany Nicole Frank, Noel
Lorraine Jim, Catlin Joey Jim,
Richard Allan Keyser, Kurya
Louise Kippenberger, Randi
Joy Kittle, Casey Dean
McCall, Christine Elizabeth
McCall, Chelsea Blair
Mountain, Shelby Ryanne
Osceola, Tasha Kelly Osceola,
Drew James Osceola, Lucas
Kaine Osceola, JoJo Dakota
Osceola, Madeline Arlene
Osceola, Joseph Charles
Richardson, Le'Anna
Le'Shamia Sapp, Zane
Sebastian Sauls, Levi Pearson
Stevens, Calvin Lee Tiger Jr.,
Krystle Anne Young, Gustavus
Adolphus Baker V, Cody
Hayes Billie, Talena Rosa
Castillo, Shelby Rae DeHass,
Joseph Billie Hiers, Aralena
Lacey Jordan, Kelcie Lee
Jumper, Falon Amber Keyser,



Janay Cypress and Nat Moore, former Miami Dolphins wide receiver.



Anissa Osceola with Moore.



Cody H. Billie with Nat Moore.

Janay D'Lyn Cypress, Ethan Rage Cypress, Alexander Nathaniel Escobar, Damion Sinclair Frank, Damion Sinclair Frank, Taylor Elizabeth Holata, Nathaniel Ulysses Jim, Shania Running Fox Victoria Johns, Cameron Paulmer Jumper, Eden Donovan Jumper, Kathryn Jo Kippenberger, Carson Julia Knaby, Tyson Grant Tartsah Osceola, Randee Patricia Pashe Osceola, Marsha Lucy Osceola, Gerret Hyde William Osceola, Elizabeth Marie Osceola, Denise Osceola, Royce Gerret Osceola, John Kyle McKinley Osceola Jr., Raymond Carol Philpott Jr., Isaiah Osceola Pichardo,



Higher education students are recognized for their hard work.



The youngest students display their awards.

Heather Ann Kippenberger, Meaghan Alexiss Osceola, Shelli Mae Osceola, Christian James Osceola, Sheyanna Lynn Osceola, Robert Gerald Osceola, Victor Phillip Osceola, Jackson Tiger Richardson, Anahna Jos-Lin Sirota, James Frank Tiger Jr., Kristen Sharese Billie, Kyle Jailen Baker, Tiyonda Nicole Farrior, Darryl Dean Fuentes, Catherine Elgina Ann Jumper, Marissa Victoria Osceola, Courtney Bridgette Osceola, Whitney Leigh Ruth Osceola, Klayton Duane Sanders, Madison Alan Tiger, Devin Kayne Billie, Braudie Gabriella Blais-Billie, Tayler Ann Cypress, Kristy Rebecca Johns, Dalton James Lee Jumper, Victoria Virginia Lacey, Aria Osceola, Charlie Kandi Toole Osceola, Tucamah Blaine Robbins, Tianna Justine Young, Rayel Sage Billie, Darion Rayann Cypress-Osceola, Jonathon Charles Frank, Justin Willie Frank, Jessie Jimmy Holdiness, Maleah Lynn Isaac, Elena Michelle Jim, Joseph John



High school students receive awards.

William, Korliss Jumper III, Zechariah Nathaniel Lacey, Jesse Emmett Mitchell, Hunter Osceola, Lorelei Tommie, Manuel Jose Baker, Tiffany Ann Baker, Shelli Reubiann Billie, Alisia Hali Billie,

Peter Joe Billie Jr., Tia Emeline Blais-Billie, Jonathan Devon Bowers, Joslyn Demyen Cypress, Jennifer Marlene Holdiness, Nicholas Aron Jumper, Cheyenne Susan Kippenberger, Jaide Whitney Micco, Dominique Taylor Motlow, Aaron Lee Osceola, Trevor Max Baer Osceola, Tristina Little Flower Osceola, Anissa Christine Osceola, Jack Mason Osceola, Adahma, Xavier Sirota, Stephen Buffalo Tiger, Katelyn Rene' Young, Leisset Maria Yatoche Komoshkee Baker, Briana Michelle Bilodeau, Brianna Haley Blais-Billie, Luis Antonio Escobar Jr., Raevin Skye Frank, Deila Maria Elena Harjo, Jonathan David Idle, Katinna Kodi Jumper, Dorian Scott Jumper, Baylee Mykah Micco, Cameron Neil Tartsah Osceola, Elden Frank Ben Osceola, Brooke Ashley Osceola, Neko Miulu Osceola, Alana Sue Roberts, Elijah Maurice Shakur Snell, Isiah Tony Thomas, Kiana Lynn Bell, Morgan Bert, Devan Tyler Bowers,

Natomah Bernice Robbins, Chloe Marie Smith, Jackie Levy Jumper Willie, Jade Michael Young, Kalani Walter Eugene Bankston, Kyler Robert Bell, Demetric Odessa Billie, Di-Toy-Yo Henson Arthur Billie, Mariah Bowers, Tai Numire Cypress, Brevon Leo Cypress, Brent Kyle Frank, Ozzie Wildcat Holdiness, Kyreil Kaa Josh, Arek Dalton Jumper, Brady Osceola Latchford, Kenzie Skylar Motlow, Kira Ivy Mowatt, Rylee Dyan Osceola, John Thorpe Osceola, Skyla Osceola, John Rhodes McKinley Osceola, Kaylene McKinley Osceola, Kiara Ashley Pichardo, Richard Joseph Primeaux, Michael Randolph Jimmie Rosato, Audriahna Dorothy Sirota, Hunter Jacob Tiger, Troy Nathan Yescas.

A Message from O'Hara Tommie

We have all worked hard for our degrees and achievements. In dedication to our ancestors and elders of the Tribe we will strive to continue the journey they began many years ago. We give thanks to them for opening pathways of opportunities, like education, as we follow in their footsteps. Education has always been an important development of character and is one achievement no one can take from you.

Thanks,
O'hara Tommie

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Immokalee Education Incentive Awards

By Judy Weeks
IMMOKALEE — On Aug. 12, Immokalee held an Education Incentive Awards ceremony with a Hawaiian Luau theme. Hollywood Education department representatives Raysa

Delapaz, Linda Iley and Sharon Williams joined Immokalee's Norita Yzaguirre, Cris Marrero and Diana Rocha, in acknowledging the educational efforts of Immokalee's youth.

A large tent was erected near the athletic field surrounded by a carnival to entertain the young award recipients. By 11 a.m., they were enjoying themselves on the rides, winning prizes and cooling off with pineapple and strawberry frozen drinks, snow cones, lemonade and cotton candy.

The dining tables were adorned with colorful cloths, fresh pineapples and balloons, developing a back drop for the fabulous floor show which began promptly at 12 p.m.

To the delight of the youngsters, movie characters, Disney's® Lilo and Stitch, suddenly entered the tent. Gathering the children around them, they organized both limbo and hula hoop competitions. Hula girls circulated through the tent placing floral leis around everyone's neck. Three Polynesian dancers in green palm frond skirts entertained the audience by dancing to the music of Lilo's Chant.

Blowing on a conch horn, a Hawaiian chieftain joined the dancers. The troupe frequently changed costumes, introduced various forms of dance and musical instruments. Calling the children to the front of the tent, they encouraged them to join in the activities. As a grand finale, the chieftain did a very impressive knife and fire presentation.

A wonderful Hawaiian buffet was prepared, accompanied by traditional side dishes as well as child friendly favorites.

Immokalee Education Advisor Norita Yzaguirre invited Immokalee Liaison Raymond Garza to address the assembly at the introduction of the awards presentation. Garza congratulated the students, discussed the importance of education for the future of the Seminole Tribe and encouraged their efforts.

Yzaguirre then produced a large plaque which acknowledged Elaine Aguilar for her support and contributions to the Immokalee Seminole Education programs. With Aguilar's assistance, the department had expanded throughout the years and had been able to better serve the educational needs of the community.

Surprised and moved by the announcement, Aguilar came forth to accept the plaque. Addressing the group, she talked of her first job

with the Seminole Tribe, working part time in Education. "Some of your parents grew up with me and others with my children," she said. "They have been a part of the progress."

Continuing she said, "I dropped out of school in the ninth grade, but 25 years later, I returned for my GED. It is never too late to get an education and no one can take it away from you. Right now, the Seminole Tribe is forced to hire outsiders to do many of the necessary tasks in running our government facilities. You need to get an education, strive for a degree and come back to help shape the future."

Yzaguirre next paid tribute to David Billie, who unfortunately was out of town. Holding up a plaque she said, "While associated with Recreation, he sponsored numerous Scrabble Tournaments, after school functions, trips and educational projects. His assistance was a vital enhancement of our programs."

Senior graduates Lazara Marrero, Clarissa Garza and Daniel Yzaguirre, were individually recognized for their hard work and achievements. They each received certificates, T-shirts, Education department-logo blankets, backpacks, graduation bobble heads and an award envelope. The crowd expressed their pride in the graduates.

As Norita Yzaguirre called out the students' names, Cris Marrero and Diana Rocha distributed the educational blankets, backpacks, shirts, certificates and envelopes. Those individuals who had not yet returned from the community trip, will be instructed to visit the library to pick up their awards.

Yzaguirre also said Rocha is available to assist any student or parent during school visits, conferences or meetings.



Lilo and Stitch made an appearance.

Judy Weeks



Judy Weeks

The graduates received numerous prizes and awards for their achievements.



Judy Weeks

The kids and adults enjoyed the limbo contest.

Brighton 2004-2005 Incentive Awards

By Emma Brown
ORLANDO— The Brighton Parent Advisory

Committee (PAC) voted to have this year's Incentive Awards Program during the Brighton Youth Conference, held at the Hard Rock Hotel in Orlando, Fla.

Following dinner on Aug. 2, Jason Thomas, emcee for the incentive awards and PAC member, welcomed everyone to the yearly incentive program. Following Thomas's greetings the Brighton Education department presented a slide show with pictures of the Brighton students throughout the recent years.

Immediately after the slide show, guest speaker Billie Tiger gave the audience a very powerful and inspirational message that held everyone's attention. Next, Brighton Councilman Andy Bowers, Brighton Board Representative Johnnie Jones and Chairman Mitchell Cypress, offered some encouraging words about the importance of educa-

tion.

After the dignitaries, former Higher Education Advisor Dora Bell presented Higher Education Incentive Awards to Peter Hahn, Carla Gopher, Jade Braswell, Tanya Huff, Howard Madrigal, and Kevin Holata.

After the Higher Education awards presentations came the presentations of the Brighton K-12 Incentive Awards. Each student receiving an award was presented with a certificate of achievement, a jacket, and a gift card.

Nearly 88.5 percent of Brighton's students were presented with an award some for their grades, some for attendance, some for receiving awards throughout the year, and some for all three areas. The Brighton students are to be commended on their efforts for making education a priority.



Emma Brown

Chairman Mitchell Cypress congratulates Minnie Osceola.



Emma Brown

Trevor Thomas gets a high-five from Council Representative Andrew Bowers Jr.



Emma Brown

Jason Thomas (center) emceed.



Emma Brown

Joshua Madrigal



Emma Brown

Cheyenne Nuñez and Daniel Nuñez Jr.



Emma Brown

Rayven Smith and Rylee Smith



Emma Brown

Deandre Osceola



Emma Brown

Brianna Nuñez

Education ♦ Emahaayeeke ♦ Kerretv

Preschool Holds Back to School Open House



Judy Weeks

Students, teachers and parents enjoyed the old fashioned, horse-drawn hayride.



Judy Weeks

The well-stocked shelves of Maria's General Store.



Judy Weeks

Young preschooler brings his horse to a stop.

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — On Aug. 16, parents were given an opportunity to meet the teachers and visit their children's preschool for an open house. The entire school had been lavishly transformed into a country western theme by the teachers. Using props brought from home and hand-made decorations, the rooms were transformed with décor of yesteryear.

The jail's walls were lined with Wanted posters displaying each student's photo with a reward of hugs and kisses. Hardware, spurs and lariats outlined the bars on the windows.

Maria's General Store offered an array of merchandise from canning jars, blankets, washboards, tubs and cast iron kettles to hard rock candy. Handmade sacks of flour, sugar, rice and beans brought back memories of another era. Hats, boots, chaps and a roping bag joined flat irons, sewing kits and yard goods to complete the well stocked shelves.

Windows and walls covered in horses, cows, chickens, goats and pigs quickly identified the farm as you entered through a Dutch door beside a hay stack. A very clever garden planted with colored paper vegetables adorned one table while students lined up to try their hand on the spring loaded rocking horse.

A favorite room was the kitchen and dining area with cast iron stove, camp fire, old time utensils and red and white checkered tablecloths. Here a wonderful country supper was served with fried chicken, homemade apple pie and cookies.

Under the direction of Center Manager Michelle Ford, the school's staff, Ruby, Rosa and Myra Garcia, Elva Montez, Maria Castro and SanJuanita Reyna, enthusiastically spent several days preparing for the open house.

Seminole Preschool Director Leona Tommie Williams and preschool coordinators traveled from Hollywood to discuss the curriculum and gave a very informed presentation of the Parent's Handbook.

Students, teachers and parents were treated to an old-fashioned horse drawn hayride down the back roads of the reservation and through the beautiful woodlands of the Immokalee Youth Ranch. Everyone enjoyed the ride and hated to see the evening come to an end.

Manager Michelle Ford remarked, "I am very fortunate to have such a dedicated and well organized staff. The work that they put into this open house is just one example of the enthusiasm they evidence daily in the classroom. Together we are looking forward to a wonderful, productive school year."

Emahakv Vpelofv Open House Celebration

By Emma Brown

BRIGHTON — The Cultural Education department in Brighton offered their two week summer program again this year for students of the Brighton reservation in grades first through sixth. The program ran during the weeks of July 18–29, from 8 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

This year was the first year that the program offered shorter days; only having four classes during the morning. The students and staff seemed to enjoy this new schedule because it offered students with a free afternoon to enjoy the rest of their summer.

Each year, summers seem to get shorter for students and it is extremely important not to "burn" students out when it comes to their education. This is something that the Culture staff recognized and worked to implement a day that would be enticing to the students without overdoing it.

There were four classes this year including arts and crafts, creek reading and writing, English reading, and math. Each class was taught by a head teacher and

assisted by either assistant teachers or junior teachers. The junior teachers were Brighton high school or middle school students.

Each year, the program offers students this age with an opportunity to explore the field of teaching, not only in the English language, but mostly in their Native language. On the first day of summer school, all of the students participated in an art contest during arts and crafts.

It was not just any contest though; the art work designed by each student was to be specifically centered on Seminole culture. The students were told that the two best designs would be used to design the t-shirts for the program that would be given out at the final celebration.

This year's winners of the contest were Rosa Urbina and Trista Osceola. They created two very beautiful artistic designs that depicted the Seminole way of life.

On July 29, family, friends, and the entire Brighton community were invited to an open house celebration hosted by the staff of the summer program at the

Education department. The open house provided an opportunity for visitors to visit the various classes offered and to talk with teachers about the different subjects that the students studied for the two weeks.

The teachers also had all of the student's arts and crafts on display. There were patchwork T-shirts made by each student, beadwork and much more on display.

During the celebration program, Brighton Councilman Andy Bowers addressed the visitors in the Creek language for nearly 20 minutes which strongly reiterated the goal of the two week summer program, as well as, the pull-out program held during the school year.

This year's program was another great stride made by the Cultural Education department, which proves their daily perseverance at preserving the Seminole culture.

Questions about this program or the pull-out program can be answered by calling the Culture department at (863) 763-7501.



Linda Fleischman

The Back to School booth in the Big Cypress Investment Center lobby.

Family Services' Back to School Booth

By Tina Menella

BIG CYPRESS — BC's Family Services department had a "Back to School" booth on Aug. 1 in the lobby of the Family Investment center. There was a hand out that detailed school safety tips, a basket of healthy snacks of apples and oranges, children's books and sunglasses for all to enjoy.

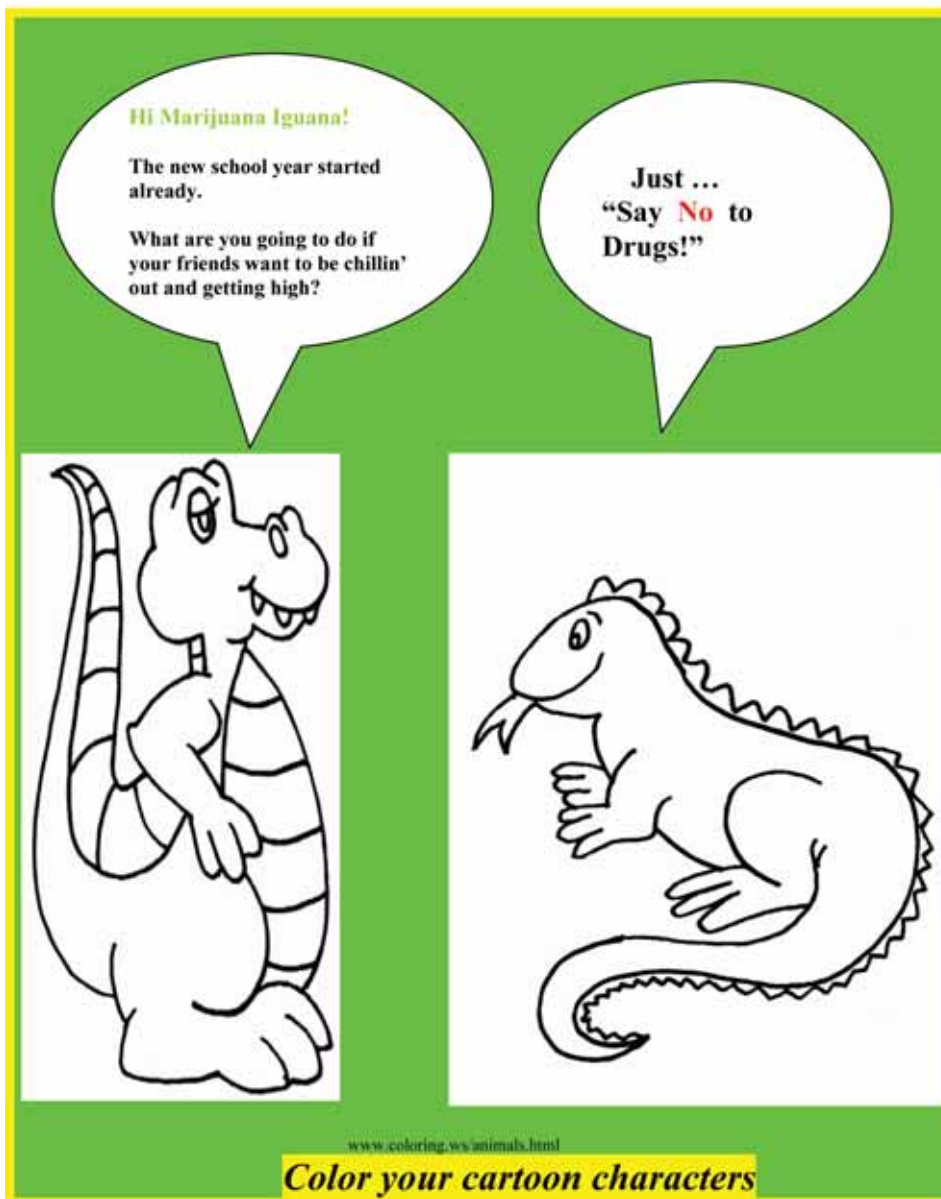
The safety tips were important reminders for children to be aware of and for parents to review with their children.

Among these tips were: walking to school or riding your bike to school with a friend, not alone, waiting in a group at the bus stop, not taking a ride from a stranger, making sure to check with parents about any plan changes and always trusting instincts—if someone makes seems questionable, get away quickly and tell a trusted adult.

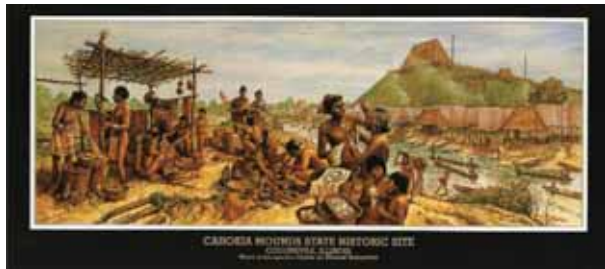
Family Services hopes that everyone will have a safe, productive and fun school year!

Alligator Allie introduces Marijuana Iguana

On the Snake Road to Recovery



Linda Fleischman, LMFT, LMHC, CAP & Stephen Gorman, LCSW, SAP, CAP Big Cypress Family Services



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Buses leave
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Brighton Hot Meals, 10:00 am

and Returns Sunday, September 18, 2005

All Seminole citizens over the age of 18
are invited to participate.
Reservations are Required.

To reserve your place on this exciting tour, contact:
LaVonne Kippenberger
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954.966.6300, ext. 1424



How to Make School Cool

By Mary Olitzky, Family Services Counselor

No matter how old someone is, the thought of going back to school can cause anxiety and fear. Here are some tips to make the most of school:

Attend classes and be ready to learn. You may be surprised at how much this helps. Just look at it as your "job" for the day.

Be prepared. Be prepared. Be prepared. When you have the right tools...notebooks, pens, etc. and homework completed things go much smoother.

Have fun. My son used to tell me that seeing friends was the best part of school. Enjoy old friends and make new

ones.

If schoolwork is stressing you out.... tell someone. Maybe you have a trusted school counselor, parent or friend who would be a good person to talk to. You may need some help in getting organized or a tutor for that subject that is difficult for you.

Give it time. If you are changing schools, for example, from middle school to high school, give yourself time to adjust to the new teachers, schedules and rules there.

Remember, school is a way to reach other goals in your life. Make the best of each day and before you know it summer will be here again!





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Federal Highway Bill Provides Funding for Tribal Priorities

Submitted by Elrod Bowers

Two transportation projects important to the Seminole Tribe were among the big winners in legislation recently enacted by Congress. Thanks to a strong show of support from Florida Senators and Representatives, H.R. 3, the "Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users," includes \$3.6 million in federal funding for improvements to Snake Road on the Big Cypress Reservation, as well as \$4.4 million that will be used to design a new interchange at Florida's Turnpike and Stirling Road on the Hollywood Reservation. The transportation package was approved by both House and Senate on July 29th. The President signed the measure on August 10.

U.S. Representatives Alcee Hastings (D-Miramar) and Mark Foley (R-West Palm Beach) championed inclusion of the Snake Road funds in the House bill at the request of the Seminole Tribe. Senators Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Mel Martinez (R-FL) were able to increase the funding as House and Senate conferees finalized the project levels to be included. U.S. Representatives Kendrick Meek (D-Miami) and Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Weston) led the effort in the House to provide funding for an interchange on Florida's Turnpike at Stirling Road, which also received support from Florida's Senators.

"This is great news for the Seminole Tribe," Chairman Mitchell Cypress told the Tribune. "It shows that our friends in Congress share our concern for the safety of tribal members and others who travel to and from Big Cypress on Snake Road." He added that the tremendous success of the Seminole Hard Rock and Seminole Paradise make construction of a Stirling Road interchange on Florida's Turnpike an urgent priority. The funds provided by Congress will help to assure that continued and significant economic gains to the Tribe and surrounding local communities are not thwarted by increased traffic congestion.

Snake Road Improvements

Improving the safety of Snake Road has been

a priority of the Seminole Tribe for many years. From 1997 through 2000, there were 61 accidents reported on Snake Road, resulting in 46 injuries, six deaths and more than \$400,000 in damage. There were 18 accidents in 1997, eight in 1998, 18 in 1999 and 17 in 2000. A 1991 study conducted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs concluded that Snake Road was in serious need of realignment and repair. In January 2003, the Florida Department of Transportation conducted a second study, which also concluded that the Snake Road Corridor was in serious need of improvement.

Congress subsequently approved funding in FY 2003 for a Snake Road shoulder-stabilization project that broke ground in January of this year. That effort laid the groundwork for a more comprehensive project to widen and stabilize the road and replace the North Feeder Bridge. The Florida Department of Transportation, using funds approved by Congress in FY 2004, is currently conducting preliminary design and engineering work for the larger project, with the goal of beginning the actual construction by next-summer.

Stirling Road Interchange

For the past decade, the Florida Turnpike Enterprise has sought ways to reduce the peak period congestion that occurs at Hollywood Boulevard and to increase access capacity to Florida's Turnpike in Southern Broward County, Florida. The need for the addition of this interchange has been intensified by the opening of the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino and Seminole Paradise in the northeast quadrant of the Stirling Road crossing.

Representatives of the Turnpike Enterprise and the Seminole Tribe, which strongly supports and project and owns the land on which the interchange will be built, have been meeting regularly to discuss the project and the Turnpike Enterprise currently is conducting preliminary design and engineering studies. The \$4.4 million contained in the highway bill will be used for final design of the interchange.

Are You A Tribal Member Looking For An Exciting New Career Opportunity? Are You Unemployed and Want to Work?

The Education Department's Adult Education Program proudly offers work experience positions in many different departments within the Tribe. On the job training provided in all Departments will give you the experience to last a lifetime.

This month's featured positions: **Brighton - Chairman's Office Aide** to include duties such as answering phones, taking messages, greeting tribal members, and other light clerical work duties.

This federally funded program offers reasonable wages, regular hours and work experience training on all reservations. These temporary positions enable you to acquire necessary job skills and prepare you for a permanent position.

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2004 & 2005 Graduates

Not Pictured:
Mia Da'Wanna Sapp
Kayla Marie Billie
Tiffany Nicole Frank
Travelis Antwan Timothy



Tasha Kelly Osceola, 19
University School
Class of 2005



Zane Sebastian Sauls, 19
Davie Academy
Class of 2005



Jojo Dakota Osceola, 18
University School
Class of 2005



Gabriel Jamal Stockton, 18
Ft. Pierce Westwood
Class of 2005



Savannah Joy Huggins, 23
Miccosukee Indian School
Class of 2004



James Matthew Tommie, 19
Zuni High School, Zuni NM
Class of 2005



Le'Anna Le'Shania Sapp, 18
Hollywood Christian
Class of 2005



Karissa Marquita Tommie, 18
Palm Vista Christian
Class of 2005



Clarissa Michelle Garza, 18
Immokalee High School
Class of 2005



Christine Elizabeth McCall, 18
Sheridan Hills Christian
Class of 2005



Linda Jane Henry, 19
Armwood High School
Class of 2004

Affantis Resort



❖ Islands

Continued from page 1

Liaison Richard Henry and Joel Frank, left the bustling market after about 10 minutes of shopping, but waited patiently for the girls to finish.

On Aug. 17, the entire group again congregated at the WatersEdge restaurant for a dinner and awards banquet. Following an opening prayer by Sally Tommie, the traditional Bahamian banquet got underway.

During the banquet, all Tribal officials present said a few encouraging words to the high school graduates. Chairman Mitchell Cypress also reminded the group that education and health are the two most important things in life. He also thanked Hollywood Education Advisor Lynn Himebauch and Ft. Pierce Education Advisor Jane Stockton for their work with the Seminole students.

Following the chairman, Naples Liaison O.B. Osceola Jr. spoke and reminded the grads that the Tribal Council provides "really unbelievable" educational services for them to take advantage of.

After Osceola, Trail Liaison William Osceola let the group know that the Tribal Council is "behind [them] all the way" before turning the microphone over to Tampa Liaison Richard Henry. Henry talked about the importance of a positive attitude, saying it is as important as an education, because it will "carry you."

Immokalee Liaison Ralph Sanchez congratulated the graduates and told them to continue their educational career as far as they want to.

"Don't let it end here," Sanchez said. "Take it as far as you can."



speeches recognizing their child's graduation following the awards presentation.

Sally Tommie summed up the emotional night, saying "We need to bottle the energy that's in here because it's a beautiful thing."

She and the chairman then presented commemorative pens to Education Advisors Stockton and Himebauch, as well a gift to trip organizer extraordinaire Eida Velez and her co-workers, Debbie Christophe and Sandy Selner, all from the Chairman's Office.

On the last day in the Bahamas the group traveled on powerboats, which go as fast as 50 miles per hour, for one hour to Exuma Island. Before reaching Exuma Island, the tour group, Powerboat Adventures, made a brief stop at a smaller island inhabited only by iguanas.

Some of the more brave travelers, like Gabriel Stockton, JoJo Dakota Osceola, Sally Tommie and Wanda Bowers, heavily interacted with these wild animals and fed them grapes. After this everyone loaded back in the powerboats and headed towards Exuma Island, a two mile long private island.

While on the island, everyone had the opportunity to feed the native stingrays and even the sharks. The tour guides from Powerboat Adventures assured the group that they have never had a problem with the sharks in the past and if everyone acts respectfully there should not be a problem. The sharks acted are respectful to the people as they did to the sharks, and there were no incidents.

After this, most of the group went snorkeling just off shore, where they encountered many tropical fish, and more sharks. This was such a popular activity that most people went two or three times, like William Osceola.

Many of the graduates in the

group called this the best part of the trip, including James Tommie and Le'Anna Sapp who called the Exuma Island adventure "once in a lifetime."

"This was the best experience I had ever experienced in my life," Sapp said.

The morning of Aug. 19 inevitably came and the graduates got to enjoy one final farewell breakfast together at the WatersEdge, the same place they began their Bahamian trip. From there, it was back to the Nassau International Airport for the short flight back to Ft. Lauderdale.

