

The SEMINOLE TRIBUNE

"Voice of the Unconquered"



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Special Tribal Council Meeting

By Janice Billie
HOLLYWOOD — The Tribal Council held a special meeting on the morning of Dec. 14, 2005, in the Tribal Headquarters Auditorium. The Tribal Council voted on and passed the following resolution: "Authorization for the Chairman of the Tribal Council to submit a request to the Secretary of the Interior for Immediate Class III Gaming procedures for the Conduct of Class III Slot Machines and Card Games on Tribal Lands and Requesting Expedited Consideration of the Balance of the Tribe's Request for Procedures." The resolution was presented to the Tribal Council by General Counsel Jim Shore. Shore went on to review a brief history of the Seminole Tribe's prior efforts to achieve a gaming compact with the state in reference to Class III gaming. These efforts to date have not moved forward. He stated that this resolution "will get the ball rolling" in the Tribe's efforts to reach a ruling.

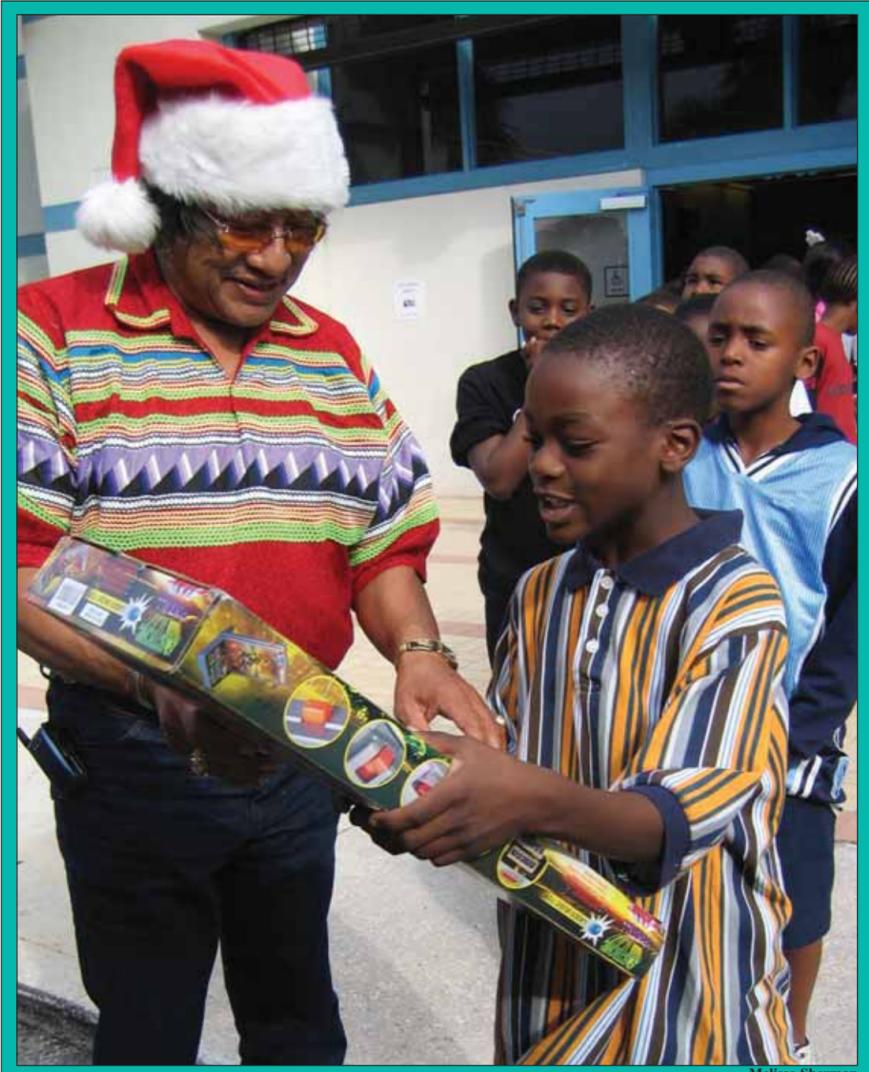


(L-R) Meaghan Osceola, Krystle Young, Chelsea Mountain and Demetria Tigertail.

Seminole Athletes Shine in High School Basketball this Year

By Tony Heard
HOLLYWOOD — The high school basketball season is here and full of excitement. Forget about all the Kobe and Phil reunion in Las Angeles, never mind the Heat with all the new faces and Shaq not playing due to injury. The focus right now should be on how many Seminole Tribal youth we have participating in high school basketball this year. Hard work in the off season and playing in tournaments throughout the summer has paid off for many youngsters in our community. Two of the young athletes are Krystle Young and Meaghan Osceola, who are both ninth graders attending Pine Crest Academy and playing on the varsity basketball team. Pine Crest had their season opener on Nov. 14 against Archbishop McCarthy. Even though Krystle and Meaghan had 20 steals and 15 points between the two of them, they suffered a close loss (37-41) at the hands of a very scrappy Archbishop team. With their knowledge of the game and undying hustle on the court both young ladies have already proven to be important assets to the team. It will be very interesting to see how the rest of their season pans out. This shifts the focus to arch rival, American Heritage, one of their deadly opponents due solely to the fact that they will face their Lady Seminoles teammates, super Sophomores Chelsea Mountain and Demetria Tigertail; the "dynamic duo" on the varsity team at American Heritage. These four young ladies know each other very well on the court and mesh even better when they are all in the same uniform. With their athleticism and defensive intensity they cause frustration and headaches to any opponents they face. The intensity will be at an all time high when they meet on opposite sides of the ball. Demetria is the starting point guard for American Heritage. Known to all her friends simply as Dee, this little spark plug is usually the defensive nucleus and an offensive pacesetter on any team she is on. With powerhouse rebounder, and finisher Chelsea Mountain now controlling the paint more than ever this year, it is a toss up on who will come out on top in this game. American Heritage lost their season opener to Kings Academy in a close game that was very exciting and intense with Dee having 17 points, six assists and seven steals. Chelsea also gave a wonderful performance with 17 points and 12 rebounds. The heated match up between the four friends and the Lady Seminole teammates will take place two times this year, once on Dec. 3 at Pine Crest and again on Jan. 4 at American Heritage. Both games will likely be extremely competitive and full of excitement. Watching these young ladies go at it representing their respective schools will be interesting to say the least. Who will end the season with the bragging rights? If things go right for both teams they could bump heads again in the playoffs. Even though the University School just graduated two great basketball players and sisters

❖ See BASKETBALL, page 33



HE IS COMING TO TOWN: Chairman Cypress hands out Boys & Girls Club children gifts.

Chairman Surprises Broward County Boys & Girls Club with Christmas Gifts

By Melissa Sherman
HALLANDALE BEACH, FL — Like every other ordinary school day off scores of children gathered and played at the local Broward County Boys & Girls Club. What they did not now was Santa and Chairman Mitchell Cypress where coming early to pay them a visit. It wasn't a big red sleigh but rather a huge fire engine that Cypress was coming to town in. Loaded to the top were bags of toys and goodies for all off the children. The counselors at the center blew the whistle and kids faces lit up with excitement. Service Director Rose Brown at the

Seminole Tribe Contributes to Red Cross

By Nery Mejicano
DANIA BEACH, FL — During and following the 2005 hurricane season, the American Red Cross acted as the lead agency ensuring the victims received the organization's much needed services. Since Oct. 24, 2005, when Hurricane Wilma hit South Florida, American Red Cross chapters provided shelter, counseling and meals to thousands of South Floridians. The Seminole Tribe of Florida recognizes the tremendous effort of the thousands of volunteers and staff of the Red Cross and their invaluable help and assistance. The Tribe has been on of the sponsors of the funding activities that the Red Cross has sponsored. On Dec. 2, 2005, the Seminole Tribe of Florida made a donation to the Broward Chapter during the "Taste of the Season" fundraising event held at the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum. On Dec. 31, 2005, the Tribe was also a sponsor at the New Year's Gala Event hosted by the Naples Red Cross.



(L-R) Tribune Editor in Chief Virginia Mitchell hands the donation check to Broward County Red Cross Chapter Chairman Mark Walter.

Hahn Graduates from Haskell



Pete Hahn's graduation picture with parents.

By Emma Brown
LAWRENCE, KS — Pete Hahn, son of Peter Hahn and Terry Hahn of Brighton, has reached a milestone in his life's journey. On Dec. 8 family and Education staff flew into Lawrence, Kan. greeted with single-digit weather and a town covered with a beautiful blanket of snow to share a very special day with Pete, his college graduation day. Upon arrival Pete met his friends and family at Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU) and gave them a small tour of the campus. It was a very frigid day outdoors so the consensus was to stay inside as much as possible. After the tour of HINU, it was downtown for a tour of Lawrence in the winter and a stop at Starbucks for some liquid heat. At 4 p.m. everyone headed over to the auditorium for the graduation ceremony. Although the ceremony was short, with approximately 41 students graduating, it was very powerful in its message to the students and audience. Each chosen speaker spoke from their hearts about the beauty of being Native

❖ See HAHN, page 33

December Tribal Council Meeting Held



Bill Maddox (center) with the Tribal Council.

By Janice Billie
BIG CYPRESS — On Dec. 15 the Seminole Tribal Council held the monthly meeting at the Herman Osceola Gymnasium. Several presentations were made to the Council before the official business of the Council began. Hendry County Commissioner and longtime friend of the Seminole Tribe Bill Maddox addressed the Council first. He presented the Council with a plaque in appreciation for the Tribe's support and dedication for the Swamp Cabbage Festival. He also presented a plaque to Board of Directors President Moses Osceola in recognition of the Board's contributions of support for the festival. Maddox gave a personal thanks to Board Representative Paul Bowers. He recalled how Bowers helped him paint signs in the cold and rain in preparation for the event. The next presentation was to an employee of the Hard Rock Hotel. Emergency Services Director Armando Negrin honored Jean-Marc Clacemus with the Billy Cypress Service Award. Clacemus is a medical response technician. He saved a patron from choking using the Heimlich maneuver at the Hollywood Hard Rock's Blue Plate restaurant on Oct. 15. After the presentations the regular session began with Executive Administrator Ken Fields reading the consent agenda. The consent agenda consists of "items of a routine and administrative nature and have been previously discussed by the Tribal Council." Among the resolutions that were discussed and passed at this meeting were approval of agreement with Seminole Design Build, Inc., purchase agreement and service contract for currency counter equipment for the Tampa Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino and authorization for formation of a Tribal court committee. The next Council Meeting is scheduled for Jan. 13 on the Hollywood reservation.



BC officials collected toys to donate to needy families.

BC Toy Drive helps Families in Need

By Jaime Restrepo
BIG CYPRESS — There are plenty of Christmas toys, food and surprises awaiting happy children and parents. BC Seminole Police Department Sergeant Barbara Akin coordinated the drive that collected enough food and toys for seven needy families in the Clewiston area. Originating as a Big Cypress Team program event, Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Representative David Cypress and Board Representative Paul Bowers, gave their blessings and support, both logistically and financially to the effort. The idea, originating back in November, commenced with the placement of collection boxes in the Family Investment Center lobby for anyone wishing to donate toys, or non-perishable food. The seven families were adopted from a list submitted by the Clewiston Police Department. Representatives from the Clewiston Police Department were on hand to receive the collection of toys and food for transport back to Clewiston. Councilman David Cypress and Board Representative Paul Bowers personally handed off the goodies to the Clewiston police officers as Sergeant Akin looked on. They will oversee the final process of distribution to the selected family members, some of which were very hard hit by Hurricane Wilma. Hopefully, this act of goodwill will bring these families an enhanced sense of Christmas cheer. This goodwill gesture is just one of many Hendry County intercommunity events in the years to come.



Can you guess who this Seminole chickee builder is? Please see the Feb. 3 issue of *The Seminole Tribune* to find out.

Wow—What's the Postage on That?

The Tribe receives 230 year old letter... Again

Submitted by the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum
BIG CYPRESS — The Seminole Tribe's Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum has acquired an historical document that is of considerable significance to both the Seminole people and to Florida history. Dated Feb. 9, 1774, this letter was written by the lieutenant governor of the territory of British East Florida, John Moultrie. It is addressed to "The Cowkeeper and other Headmen and Warriors of the Creek Nation."

The Cowkeeper was the first leader, and founder, of the Seminole Tribe. Like George Washington, he was the father of his country. He led a band of Creeks from the Town of Oconee, in Georgia, to Florida sometime around 1740. As a lifelong ally of the British, he aided General Oglethorpe in attacking the Spanish at St. Augustine.

The Cowkeeper settled his people on the rich prairie lands south of Gainesville, Florida. He established a town there called Cuscowilla, or Alachua. This was the first settlement of the people who would become known as the Seminoles.

At Cuscowilla the Seminoles gathered stray Spanish cattle that roamed over the prairies. These cattle were the last vestiges of the old Spanish ranchos that once fed St. Augustine and the abandoned missions.

True to his name, the Cowkeeper had hundreds of head of cattle grazing on the prairies around Cuscowilla. These large herds were the envy of their white neighbors in Georgia. This led to a series of conflicts between the Georgians and the Seminole peoples. Cattle rustlers coming from Georgia under

the guise of defensive military expeditions, returned home with hundreds of head of Seminole cattle.

Cowkeeper's family would remain in the area for the next one hundred years. Payne's Prairie, just north of Cuscowilla, was named after the Cowkeeper's nephew, Payne.

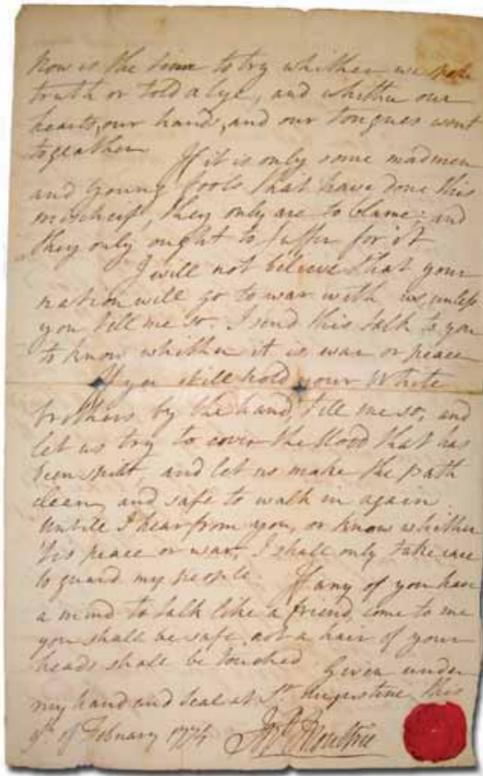
Payne's nephew, Micanopy, had his name applied to the town that now sits on the ancient remnants of Cuscowilla. Micanopy's nephew was Billy Bowlegs. All of these men were famous leaders of the Seminole people and can be seen in the pages of the history books as the legacy of the great Cowkeeper.

This letter was written at such an early point in the history of the Tribe that Moultrie still refers to them as members of "the Creek Nation." The term Seminole was not yet in common use.

At the time that the letter was written, a questionable land deal that involved 2.1 million acres of land that was claimed by both the Creeks and the Cherokees, had led to an outbreak of frontier violence that was threatening to become open warfare. The English Government was concerned that the Creeks were going to unite with the Cherokee and Shawnee people against the English colonies. Thirteen white settlers and five Creeks had already been killed when this letter was written. The English wanted to know if the Cowkeeper's people were preparing for war.

The British had a reason to be concerned. As a leader,

the Cowkeeper had maintained the west side of the St. John's River as the "Indian shore"; or the national boundary of the Seminole Nation. Just before he died, the Cowkeeper claimed to have killed eighty-six Spaniards defending this land, and that his only regret was in not having killed an even one-hundred. He asked his family to kill another fourteen that his soul might rest more easily. The threat of war with Cowkeeper was a cause for serious concern. The letter that the Museum has acquired was written during the brief period between the administrations of Governors James Grant and Patrick Tonyn, and hence was written by the Lieutenant Governor, John Moultrie. He began with...



I send you bad news. I have heard that some of your nation have struck the Great King's children in Georgia and spilt their blood upon the ground. The white people grew angry and killed some of them.

He reminded the Cowkeeper of the professed friendship between their people and went on to say...

Now is the time to try whither we spoke the truth or told a lye, and whither our hearts, our hands, and our tongues went together.

If it is only some madmen and young fools that have done this

mischief, they only are to blame; and they only ought to suffer for it.

If you still hold your White brothers by the hand, tell me so, and let us try to cover the blood that has been spilt, and let us make the path clean, and safe to walk in again.

Until I hear from you, or know whither 'tis peace or war, I shall only take care to guard my people.

New Governor Patrick Tonyn arrived in March. On the 14th he met with the Cowkeeper and other leaders. Outright war with the Seminoles was averted, but violence continued to plague the frontier until the next year, when an overwhelming conflict, the American Revolution, engulfed the frontier in flames. Remembered as an international conflict, it was an Indian war as well.

The letter that the Tribe has acquired appears to be the actual letter that was sent to the Cowkeeper. It was originally a folded, closed and sealed page. It has the equivalent of two written pages; is addressed on the outside and has a red wax seal.

They did not use envelopes at that time, instead they would fold the sheet of paper into a makeshift envelope. Officials would keep copies of their correspondence in a letter-book. These were the carbon copies of their time. The letter-book copy appears to be located in the Colonial Office records of the British government.

These records are located in London, England. J. Leitch Wright refers to that letter on page 108 of his book "Creeks and Seminoles".

The Cowkeeper is gone and the town he built is turned to dust. Many of the towns that his children and children's children built were burnt to the ground by waves of armies. It is an amazing thing that an object as frail as a piece of paper has outlasted all else. Like a letter long lost in the mail, this letter to the Tribe's founder and first government has been re-delivered.

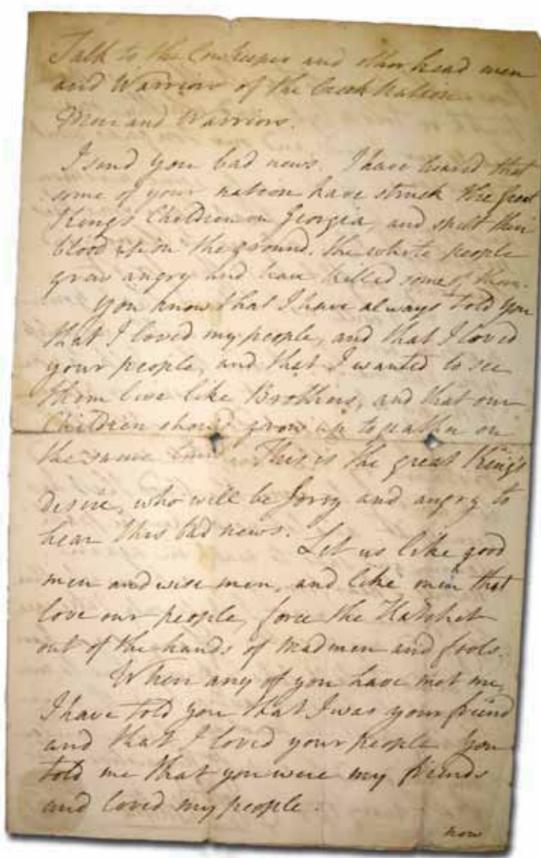


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Billy Bowlegs

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Dear Editor,

My name is Zach Bogenschutz and I am aware that in my family I do have some Cherokee but, who doesn't have some form of Native American in them. Nowadays everyone claims to have "Indian" in their blood.

I was very moved as I read your web-

site and reading of the history I must say that the Native American is the most oppressed people in the world. I come from a Scottish/Irish background (with a German last name) and I have also seen the hardships of my ancestors.

I have never been to the Seminole casinos but, now vow to make the trip so I can contribute to your nation. Thank you for posting such a great wealth of knowledge. I hope you take this country back one step at a time and reclaim what was and is rightfully yours.

Sincerely,
 Zach Bogenschutz

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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Sacred Items Returned to Bois Forte

By Tom Klein, *Timberjay News*

OJIBWE RESERVATION, MN — When three sacred scrolls and six other artifacts were returned to the Bois Forte Band earlier this month, Rose Berens described it as being reunited with family.

"When they bring something into a room that's been gone for 100 years, it's a feeling that's almost indescribable," said Berens, who is director of the Bois Forte Heritage Center and Cultural Museum. "It's like finding a long-lost relative, someone you loved very much."

Berens and others first traveled to New York to document that the artifacts belonged to the Bois Forte Band. More than two years after that visit, tribal elders finally reclaimed the objects from the American Museum of Natural History, where they had been stored.

To Phyllis Boshey, the artifacts are more than mere reminders of the past.

"These objects are like living spirits," explained Boshey, a former Tribal Council member and follower of Midewewin, a secret Ojibwe medicine society.

"They should not be locked up."

The repatriation of the Bois Forte artifacts has been in the works for at least two years. In addition to three inscribed birch bark scrolls, the objects included two rattles, a beaded ceremonial bag, a fawn skin bag, food fungus and black dye.

The process might have taken even longer if not for changes in the administration of a federal law known as the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. In general, the law requires museums to inventory their collections and identify items of significance. It is up to the descendants or affiliated tribes to claim them.

Although passed in 1990, the law wasn't much use without money to back up the effort. New leadership within the National Park Service has revamped the program and provided more than \$2.4 million in grants to help tribes cover transportation and other expenses in recovering artifacts. The Bois Forte Band received \$9,105 to pay for trips to New York to document their claim.

Boshey said photos of items help verify the Bois Forte Band's claim on artifacts and she spoke about the need to develop a photo inventory of missing artifacts by copying photographs that band members may have in their possession.

According to museum officials, the artifacts were originally acquired in a museum expedition led by William Jones, an anthropologist who studied Ojibwe language and culture.

The birch bark scrolls and ceremonial items hold special significance for the Midewewin. Only certain members of the secret medicine society can interpret the birch bark inscriptions, which are considered sacred and must never be exposed to public view.

Spokesman Steve Reichl said the American Museum of Natural History kept the artifacts mainly for research purposes and, to his knowledge, they were never on display.

Bill Latady, curator of the Bois Forte Heritage Center and Cultural Museum, said the items also will not be on display at Heritage Center. "These are sacred items and this is just their temporary home pending their ultimate destination," he said.

Latady accompanied spiritual adviser Vernon Adams and elder Myra Thompson to New York to reclaim the artifacts. A pipe ceremony was conducted at the museum in acknowledgment of the mystical power that band members believe dwell in all things.

"It's like they were sleeping for a long time," Adams explained. "The ceremony was to wake them up and let them know they're going home."

Boshey said the band will need to meet with elders and medicine men to determine how to properly store and treat the artifacts. She also noted that the significance of the religious items may call for an annual ceremony. She'd like to see that ceremony be used to teach youth more about the Bois Forte heritage and culture.

Meanwhile, Berens said there are other artifacts at museums that the Bois Forte Band is seeking to bring home, including items at a museum in Colorado.

"But it's a long process," she added. "There's a lot of bureaucracy to deal with first."

Zachary Battiest Celebrates 17th Birthday With Family, Friends

By Felix DoBosz
MIAMI, FL — Zachary Battiest turned 17 on Dec. 22, 2005. This year was different he said, "Last year we held my 16th birthday party at the Seminole Hard Rock Casino with over a 100 invited guests mostly my relatives and friends." He added: "We also had famous DJ Laz mixing it up for us."

This year's festivities were a lot more low-key than last year. Only 20 people, mostly close friends and family, was invited to celebrate with Zachary at this exclusive restaurant Porcao Churrascaria, at the Four Ambassador Suites Hotel. Porcao is an exceptional Brazilian-style restaurant devoted mostly to meat—"porcao" means steakhouse in Portuguese.

Panoramic views of Biscayne Bay and downtown skyscrapers are offered to all the diners through huge ceiling to floor windows in an elegant marble-floored dining room. The huge dining room bustled with constant activity. Guests feasted on salads and meats and sampled the unlimited gourmet buffet, which included such fillers as pickled quail eggs, marinated onions and an entire pig.

An onslaught of graceful waiters bearing hunks of deliciously bronzed meat on skewers scrambled from table to table, slicing it to order for the carnivorous diners. Choices of meat included lamb, bacon wrapped filet mignon, chicken hearts and drumsticks, and sirloin steaks grilled, skewered, and sliced right at your table and as much as you could possibly eat.

Then it was time to make room for dessert carts with New York-style cheesecakes, flan, gourmet pies and sweet whipped crême topped mousse. The restaurant played live Brazilian jazz music to get you into a samba mood, but it was challenging to carry on conversations.

The late Gustavus "Pete" Baker was June Battiest's father and grandfather to Zachary. Pete had a beautiful hand-made favorite Seminole Patch jacket which was about five years old. On this, his 17th birthday, the eldest male child of the Battiest family was presented with his grandfather's jacket which he wore with great pride.



Zachary Battiest

Felix DoBosz

Zach, as he likes to be called, recently won the toughest football player Challenger Award from the Hollywood Christian Academy, in Hollywood where he is one of the smallest members of the team. This young athlete takes his junior year in academics seriously while also juggling to play defensive line-backer and offensive fullback for his high school football team.

As a professional drummer since the age of 9, he has always been in demand playing drums which has made him popular among his peers. Zach also owns and operates his own DJ Company and puts on shows for local parties and Seminole Gym sporting

events, besides Zach loves kids and they respond well to him and his music. He's been busy finding resources to start a stage lighting company.

This responsible young man makes every effort to be a positive role model for the younger kids. Zachary trains hard and hopes to attend a big University to play football someday after he graduates from Hollywood Christian Academy.

Junior Battiest, said he hopes his son will grow up to be a Seminole Tribal leader someday and is grateful for all the blessings he has been fortunate to receive. He's very proud of Zachary and all his kids, but feels that Zach has changed almost overnight and matured into a young man.

Junior said his son has matured into a positive role model because of his strong Christian faith and his closely knit family.

His father said, "When June was about 3 months pregnant with Zach we were so excited to be having a baby."

Unfortunately, we were called to the hospital because testing had revealed a serious medical problem. The physician told us the shocking news that we were going to have a severe deformed baby with spina bifida. The doctor suggested we terminate the pregnancy, but we would be able to have healthy babies later.

"We were so shocked to hear a doctor say this to us, to terminate a life was against our basic Christian beliefs," Junior said. "The Bible tells us that God is a great physician and we believed that God would take care of us."

After serious family consultations and praying everyday and night with the family and the grandparents, Junior and June decided to carry the pregnancy through. A few weeks later the doctor ran one more test, a sonogram. The team of doctors could not find a trace of any type of disease or deformity, the fetus was clear and healthy.

"So I believe that God touched my son Zachary and healed him," he said.

Junior Battiest affirms that because of his families strong Christian faith in God, Zachary was saved, and is here today, sharing all the love and faith with his family and friends on his special day, his birthday, now that's a Christmas story.



(L-R) June, Zachary and Junior Battiest at the party.

Felix DoBosz

If you don't already know, Zachary is the son of Junior and June Battiest of the Hollywood Rezervation. They have seven children together: eldest son Zachary, brother Spencer 15, and daughters, Ashley Crosby, 21, Taylor, 11, Turquoise, 9, Coral, 8, and little Petra, 16 months old.

Zachary promised to be true to his sweetheart Missy Olivarez 16, from LaBelle, Fla. He nervously presented her with his and hers gold promise rings and she delightfully accepted the ring. They met almost a year ago for the first time at the Big Cypress Church and fell in love at first sight.

Zachary received beautiful presents, cards and jewelry from his loving family and close friends. He was so happy to be celebrating his birthday with his family, friends and his faith.



The children watched a movie in the Youth Center, and tried to stay awake.

Patricia Robinson

Big Fun at the Recreation Lock-In

By Tony Heard
HOLLYWOOD — It was a night of fun to remember for kids and adults. Dec. 22 at 6:30 p.m. the Seminole Recreation department and Youth Center teamed up for a Christmas lock-in.

For those of you out there who are not familiar with how a lock-in works let me explain short and sweet. Once the doors are locked and everyone has been checked in, no one is allowed to come in or leave until the designated time, which in this case was 7 a.m. the next morning.

Recreation staffers Carlos Adamson, Tony Heard, Jose Herrera, Gladys Herrera, Maria Ramos, Kevin Herrera and Youth Center staff members Nathan "Dino" Doctor and Patricia Robinson got together to arrange a schedule of events for the kids.

Considering the age limits were from seven through 17, the activities had to cater to all different ages and personalities.



Chris Hunter eating pizza.

Patricia Robinson

The lock-in staff had compiled a nice variety of items to be auctioned off. Some items were for boys, and some just for girls, items for anyone and everyone who had the Indian bucks to place a bid.

The auction was very exciting with kids bidding everything they had to try to win the item of their choice. Some succeeded and a few did not, by the end of it all I think everyone had a great time.

Dakota Tiger and Marsha Osceola won a game boy advance; Marissa Osceola took home the Barbie® doll and gift certificate; Konrod Jones won the football game and Chris Hunter ended up winning the remote controlled Hummer H2. He had lots of help from friends; his sister Lacey Jordan voluntarily helped him out by giving her whole stash to him.

"I was amazed at the turnout that we had for the lock-in and extremely pleased with the participation we got from the youth," Carlos Adamson said at the conclusion of the lock-in. "The



A fun game of musical chairs.

Patricia Robinson

When the doors locked the final head count ended up at 32 kids, which is about what was expected. If the kids are going to be up having fun all night long, it is essential to have some food. Therefore, Mr. M's subs were called upon to bring delicious subs, fruits, and cookies for the event.

To give a little variety we ordered a few pizzas, for those who wanted that extra little boost for the late night hours. All the drinks were provided by Marl Osceola, who brought a great variety and plenty to go around.

While the kids were eating we explained the concept of "Indian Bucks," which was play money that all the kids received for coming. They also received Indian Bucks for participating and winning events throughout the night. The object of the evening was to see how many Indian Bucks each child could win and that much more to spend at the auction in the wee hours of the morning.

After everyone ate and settled down a little bit, the first game took place. What better way to kick off the night than with a kickball game. The lock-in staff divided the kids up who wanted to play. Then an intense game of homerun kicks, stolen bases and exciting catches took place.

For those kids who did not want to play kick ball there was a movie playing in the youth center for their enjoyment. After that the video games and pool tournament started. Pretty much every kid in the gym got involved in these two events. The few who did not play pool or video games played a little bingo with Ms. Pat and others shot a few hoops.

Following the tournament the time had come for the multi-game portion of the night. Musical chairs, knockout, a football toss competition, a very entertaining dance contest, and an intense game of Simon Says; it was great!

The lock-in staff gave the kids a little free time considering it was about 3 a.m., which was a little relaxation time for the staff also who had been going 100 miles an hour all night, so far. After the brief thirty minutes of free time the bingo game started. Three quick games, with Indian Bucks up for grabs, made the games highly competitive.



Ms. Pat (left) playing a fun game with the girls.

Patricia Robinson



Xbox® and PlayStation® tournaments in the Youth Center.

Patricia Robinson

John, Chris Hunter, Lacey Jordan, Maleah Isaac, Gharret Smith, Chloe Smith, Dakota Tiger, Jamie Tiger, Isabel Tucker.



The gals couldn't hang with the big dogs and fell asleep in the corner.

Patricia Robinson

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Gospel Music's Best Featured at Free Family Christmas Event in Big Cypress

By Susan Etxebarria

BIG CYPRESS — Four outstanding Florida-based gospel music groups performed at the Christmas Gospel Concert at Big Cypress on Dec. 10.

The professional stage and sound system was strategically set in the middle of the rodeo rounds and the audience had excellent close up

vocals group whose pure southern gospel hand clapping music reaches a heavenly harmony. The famed group originated in 1947.

Among the highlights of the concert was a special performance by the sensational 15-year-old Seminole vocalist Spencer Battiest. The teen took first place in a national youth talent show last summer in which he competed against 2,000 contestants. Spencer is the son of Junior Battiest who is well known as one of the original Battiest Family Singers.

"There's no greater joy than watching your own son singing gospel with you," said Junior who has been singing gospel for 35 years.

Junior, and his band of gospel singers, created a new group called Native Voice that perpetuates the original Battiest legacy with its fun, energetic and joyful sound.

Andrea Samuels, Vandel Samuels, and Junior sang to the accompaniment of 17-year-old drummer Zachary Battiest and Rick Car on keyboard. Junior spoke to the audience about his love for gospel music.

"I think there is no greater music than gospel," he said. "It gives you peace to listen to it."

Andy Jackson, Willie Johnson and Kenneth Layton sang Klassique's vocals. One audience member, 14-year-old Ernesto Peña, who attends the First Baptist Church at Big Cypress, said he really enjoyed the music of Klassique.

"They have good rhythm. They sound good," Peña said. "The



Susan Etxebarria

Gospel musicians Klassique entertain the crowd.



Glory Bound, a quartet of musicians from the Big Cypress First Indian Baptist Church.

seats under a giant canopy. Moses Jumper Jr. emceed the concert starting at 1 p.m.

He welcomed the crowd saying: "I was watching CNN this morning. There's people up north that can't even get out of their houses because of the snow and here we are in the beautiful sun at Big Cypress."

After the national anthem was sung by Rossana Parodi of Miami, Jumper asked elder Jack Micco of Brighton to offer the opening prayer. Micco was on stage with the warm up act of singers called Glory Bound and he played the tambourine.

Glory Bound is a quartet of singers from Big Cypress' First Baptist Church; featuring Marie Phillips, Brenda Hummingbird, Maxine and Jonah Cypress.

"Just think, I get to hear that every Sunday," Moses Jumper Jr. told the crowd.

The local church singers got everyone in the spirit for an afternoon of wonderful music featuring three highly acclaimed national touring groups known as Native Voice, Klassique and Florida Boys.

Native Voice is an American Indian group from Seminole, Choctaw and Cherokee heritages. Their style is contemporary, high energy with dramatic movement on stage.

Klassique, of West Palm Beach, Fla., is an African American group whose smooth style is punctuated occasionally with a finger snapping rhythm and blues sound.

Florida Boys is a traditional male



Susan Etxebarria

No. 1 recording artists, The Florida Boys at the BC Gospel Fest.

West Palm Beach group's most unusual rendition was a showstopper titled 'Sow The Seed.'

Klassique mesmerized the audience with their dazzling stage show and their twist of original contemporary songs.

Three of the four Florida Boys have been singing sweet gospel for more than 50 years. With No. 1 hits like "Standing on the Solid Rock," "When He Was On The Cross, I Was On His Mind," "Lead Me To The Altar" and "I Lean On You Lord" this legendary group has recorded some 100 albums and attained a following of devoted listeners.

The group is based out of Pensacola. Their barbershop quartet ensemble features four vocalists and two musicians: Glen Allred, baritone and guitar, Gene McDonald, Josh Garner, lead, Les Beasley, Harold Reed and Darrell Stewart, piano.

Glen Allred recently received Southern Gospel music's most prestigious prize, the Marvin Norcross Award at this year's National Quartet Convention. Readers of *Singing News* magazine voted Favorite Bass Gene McDonald.

The Florida Boys' national television appearances consist of The Today Show, TNN's Prime Time Country, Crook & Chase, Gaither Homecoming Videos and their own Gospel Singing Jubilee, which they hosted for many years. The Florida Boys are in the Gospel Music Association Hall Of Fame as a group.

In addition to the music there were food booths and children's attractions such as face painting and a bounce house. Under the large chickees at the rodeo grounds were tables of beautiful arts and crafts by Mabel Jim and Carol Cypress, Maggie Porter and Agnes Bowers.

This special free event for all the communities and surrounding neighboring towns was very nicely organized by Nery Mejicano and sponsored by the Big Cypress Representative David Cypress and Chairman Mitchell Cypress.

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It will be held for two days on January 10th and 12th, 2006 (Tuesday and Thursday) from 10 am - 3 pm. at the Family Investment Center in Big Cypress, Room 215 on the second floor.

Free to all adult Tribal members! Please fill out below for enrollment and return by January 6th, 2006. By reservation only and space is limited. Must be at least 18 years of age.

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Susan Etzebarria

"It's good to get tased so if I have to go to court I can tell the judge I went to this course and I know what it feels like." – Officer Powell Morris, Big Cypress.

Seminole Police Trains to Use Tasers

By Susan Etzebarria

BIG CYPRESS — The use of X-26 Tasers by the Seminole Police Department (SPD) is new within the last three months. *The Seminole Tribune* was invited to observe 17 officers taking a taser training class on Dec. 8.

Approximately 70 SPD officers have

drop by the taser classes being held at the Big Cypress Family Investment Center on Dec. 7 to observe SPD officers in training on that given day.

"I encourage the SPD to update their equipment, especially equipment needed to control the people they arrest," said Cypress. "I saw a demonstration and it is clear you have a got a choice. A suspect can either comply with the police or get a taste of the taser. Our law enforcement is there to protect us," he said "In the long run the taser can save lives. It can prevent someone from being shot. In just a few seconds someone out of control and in a state of anger can be controlled and no one is hurt."

Sergeant D. Zamora, head of the SPD Training Unit, was certified by Taser International to be an instructor in taser training. The use of tasers was initially controversial but now there are more than 8,600 police departments in the U.S. and overseas that have added tasers to their weapons arsenal. The class Zamora teaches includes a test at the end of a day after lectures, films, and lots of hands on training with the taser gun.

Zamora provided the class with a power point presentation that shows how tasers provide non-injurious solutions to violent confrontations that enable law enforcement officers to protect themselves while minimizing injury or death. Numerous news clips taped

for the evening news by various TV stations throughout the country were viewed showing tasers being successfully used in some very dramatic situations including several suicide attempts and hostage taking incidents.

Most police officers want to go home to their families. Tasers provide them with a little extra insurance. Most violent confrontations on the streets do not justify the use of lethal force, but no one should have to be exposed to the risk of injury from physical confrontation with a violent combatant. Tasers increase the safety of law enforcement officers, decrease suspect injuries, improve community relations, reduce litigation and police department medical and liability insurance costs, and have saved thousands of lives.

There was no doubt the SPD officers in training were apprehensive about being tased during the practice sessions. The officers knew it would hurt. But, it seems it's not too painful. After each officer finally got up off the floor there were a few laughs from relief.

Humans in uniform have the same response as humans out of uniform. They were each and every one incapacitated by the taser.

The taser gun itself is a high tech weapon that looks unusual and threatening but it is a less than lethal option. The taser is deployed in an effort to effectively reduce officer and suspect injuries by stopping threats from a distance.

The taser is a conductive energy weapon that propels wires to conduct energy that affects the sensory and motor functions of the central nervous system. It delivers 50 thousand volts of electricity, however, it delivers only 0.036 amps, making it a safe and effective alternative to lethal force, according to Zamora.

The taser has over a 94 percent success rate, and according to Taser International no deaths have ever been attributed to the use of taser technology.

Tasers are not a pain compliance device. All previous less lethal weapons such as pepper spray have worked on pain compliance, which can be overcome by drugs, alcohol, emotionally disturbed persons or by focused combative individuals. The X-26 Taser does not rely on pain to achieve compliance; it overrides the central nervous system and achieves incapacitation.



Susan Etzebarria

"It felt horrendous but I would rather be tazed than maced. Mace affects you a lot longer." – Officer Emily Maxwell.

received training so far. If any Seminole citizen has questions about the use of tasers, they can be assured that there are policies and protocols in place guiding the judicial use of the tasers. Anyone with a fascination regarding the subject of tasers can go to the Taser International website, www.taser.com, for more facts.

SPD believes tasers help save lives or pre-



Susan Etzebarria

"It felt like something latched on to me and I couldn't move. As a woman police officer it is a great tool because we are not as muscular as men; not as strong. With this we can apprehend a suspect and go home safely to our families." – Officer Della Abraham, Hollywood.

vent injuries caused by violent or combative people that frequent places like Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casinos and other casino properties where thousands of happy-go-lucky tourists and guests visit daily. The advantage of using a taser to stop a suspect who refuses to comply with orders, or tries to flee the scene, is the key consideration; it's better to tase than shoot.

The training is an eight hour class and every officer who voluntarily takes the class is required to experience the electric shock of the taser so they will understand how it feels. If not, they won't be certified to carry the weapon. Getting tased is a badge of honor in the ranks. Getting zapped by a taser is an unpleasant experience.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress took the time to

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Museum's Annual Strategic Planning Retreat Museum Department Initiates Rich Cultural Exchange Experience in Northern New Mexico

**By Tina Marie Osceola, Executive Director
TAOS PUEBLO, N.M.** — As the Chevrolet Yukon left the Albuquerque International Airport rental car terminal late on Nov. 28, 2005, the temperature had plummeted to 27 degrees. Museum staff had looked at each other in bewilderment, wondering how their Florida blood was going to survive in these

Tah-Thi-Ki Museum uses collection management software called Past Perfect. This software allows the museum academic staff to collect, preserve and protect the Tribe's archival and artifact collection. This same software also has applications for museum membership, visitors and tour coordination. It was during this discus-



The Land Tina Marie Osceola

frigid temperatures. As the vehicles paraded up I-25 and on to St. Francis Drive in Santa Fe, N.M., the temperature had dropped at least five degrees, and by early the next morning it was a freezing one degree outside the Kachina Lodge in Taos, N.M.

The frigid temperatures soon fell from everyone's mind because of the warm reception from the Taos Pueblo and the community of Taos. Eighteen employees of the Museum department traveled to Taos for two reasons; the first, to host their annual Strategic Planning Retreat and the second, to represent Chairman Mitchell Cypress for the initiation of a cultural exchange opportunity.

Last year, the Museum department experienced its first Strategic Planning Session in St. Augustine, Fla. The staff at hand created a mission statement and six goals and objectives that covered a three-year period of time.

The staff met again mid-year to share the progress each member had made during the first six months of the plan. Once in Taos, the museum staff was assigned the responsibility of updating the plan to include at least ten goals that spanned a five year time period.

The Museum department will submit its first application for Accreditation to the American Association of Museums in June of 2006. One of the major factors when being considered for accreditation is institutional planning and whether or not the museum is sustainable. The Strategic Planning Process has the Tribal museum project well on its way down the path to accreditation!

During the summer of 2004, museum staff was on a tour of the eight northern pueblos of New Mexico. At this time Tina Osceola came upon an old friend, Richard Archuleta, a Taos Pueblo Tribal citizen and the Tribe's tourism director.

Richard and Tina began sharing stories of what they each do and technology was a large part of the discussion. The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Ah-

son that Richard shared the story of his people and how rich and valuable their cultural assets are in relationship to their financial assets.

The Taos Pueblo is deeply involved in legal battles over water rights and access to their traditional natural resources. The United States government stole the Blue Lake area from the Taos people in 1906 and it wasn't until 1971 that the Blue Lake was returned. Their story of struggle is documented through photos, news articles, and artifacts collected by individual members of the Taos Pueblo, but not necessarily by the Tribe.

The stories of struggle and survival resonated in the heads of those present and upon returning to Florida, Tina Osceola shared some of these stories with Chairman Cypress who agreed to sponsor a gift of computer equipment and the Past Perfect Software to allow the people of Taos Pueblo to begin an archival program for their Tribe.

Curator of Collections at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Anne McCudden worked with Mario Silva, of the Tribe's information and technology department to order the hardware and software for the Taos Pueblo.

During the Museum department's mid-year strategic planning meeting, staff decided to travel to Taos for its annual retreat and it was decided that during this trip, the museum staff and a representative from the Chairman's Office would travel to the Taos Pueblo to make the presentation.

The plans went into motion and it was on Nov. 28-29 that the staff began arriving in Taos to make preparations for the week of events:

Tuesday, November 29, 2005: Anne McCudden, Gretchen DeBree and Dorian Lange from the Seminole Tribe of Florida's, met with Richard Archuleta and they began setting up the computer equipment in the Pueblo's Tourism Office. The equipment consisted of a scanner, laptop and desktop computer. Tina Osceola and Sheri Mausen spent the day preparing for the week.

Wednesday, November 30, 2005: Richard Archuleta and Marcy Winters greeted the staff from the Museum department and gave a brief introduction about their Tribe and what they would experience on their tour of the pueblo.

Richard Archuleta, Anne McCudden, Tina Osceola, Joseph Guerue, and Ciara Billie-Guerue were invited to appear on "Pueblo Perspectives," a 30 minute local radio talk show, in an effort to tell the community about the gift from Chairman Cypress to the Taos Pueblo.

As a person sits in the studio, they are not surrounded by the dark room of black Styrofoam egg cartons...rather; they look out a large picture window overlooking the tranquil Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Spectacular.

Following their radio debut, Richard and the group met up with the rest of the Museum staff at the Taos Pueblo. Marcy had taken them on a tour of their chapel and pueblo grounds. Most found it very comfortable inside of the small shops and galleries owned by Tribal citizens and open to the public.

Some vendors had oven bread, cookies, and of course hot chocolate and coffee to warm visitors up during their stay at the pueblo. The pueblos are more than a thousand years old and electric and solar power is not allowed. The pueblo people believe that the sun gives enough of its power to the earth and that it is not right to take or harness any more of its energy.

Upon filling up on cookies, bread and hot chocolate, not to mention spending plenty of money at the shops, Richard and Marcy led everyone out to the Pueblo's Buffalo Herd Pastures. The group was joined Naples Tribal Council Liaison O.B. Osceola Jr. and his fiancée, Angela Burger. The group filed out of the pueblo compound and headed straight for open pastureland.

The pueblo has approximately 120 head of buffalo in its herd and is frequently consulted about the traditional uses and care of the incredible creatures. The Museum's Development Coordinator Dorian Lange and the Museum's Executive Assistant Sheryl Mausen weren't afraid to get up front and per-

Wednesday was definitely a full day and was one to be remembered for a lifetime by all who were able to participate.

Museum Community Outreach Coordinator Brian Zepeda said, "We learned a lot from our host tribe about caring and what it means to still struggle with the things that we take for granted in our everyday lives. We go about our own business not giving much thought to the other tribes in the United States that are still fighting the fight for land, water and the right to be federally recognized."

Thursday, December 1, 2005: Thursday began a full day of intensive meetings and discussions. The staff was first tasked with reviewing the



Richard Archuleta standing addressing the staff. Tina Marie Osceola

current Mission Statement as established at last year's session. First, the staff decided upon revisions and then continued on to the review, edit and addition of new goals and objectives.

The revised Mission Statement of the Seminole Tribe of Florida's museum department is as follows: "The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum collects, preserves, protects and interprets Seminole culture and history—inspiring an appreciation and understanding of the Seminole people."

During the morning session, Richard showed up and passed on the word that the governor had invited the Tribal member staff and the academic staff to return to the pueblo and to appear before the Tribal Council. The staff was advised that the Seminole

Tribe of Florida was only the second outside group to be invited into the Tribal Council Chambers for a formal presentation.

For those who were able to attend, it was an incredibly humbling feeling.

Museum Community Outreach Specialist Karie Osceola said, "Being the second group invited into the council chambers during a meeting was such an honor, it made me feel proud. I am happy to have been a part of the museum staff and to bring the Taos pueblo people any kind of help I can't put any emotion or words that can describe it."

Five o'clock quickly descended upon the group, but the day wasn't over. Richard had arranged the group to tour a community kitchen established by the Taos Economic Development Board. As we arrived, the aroma of fresh apples enveloped the hungry group. The group was greeted by Marlene and Mercedes, two of the kitchen's administrative staff who were busting at the seams to tell the group their story and to share some of the food and apple cider produced in the kitchen.

The town of Taos and its surrounding communities are home to a large number of folks whose economic mainstay is a home-based business, known as a cottage industry. These individuals or families may use this kitchen to cook or produce large quantities of their goods for resale purposes.

The staff at this facility also offers services such as how to create a business plan and some marketing tips such as website development. This kitchen puts a lot of food on the table...in more than one way.

Friday, December 2, 2005: "T.G.I.F" doesn't even begin to describe the final day of training. Although most final days are abbreviated, the museum staff began at the usual 7:30 a.m. and ended at 5:30 p.m. Friday morning the Museum department was afforded the invaluable opportunity to talk to David Hurst Thomas, curator of anthropology, from



Richard Archuleta taking Dorian Lange and Sheryl Mausen's photograph while staff watches. . . some from afar. Tina Marie Osceola

sonal with the buffalo herd, standing only about 10 to 12 feet from one of the herd.

While out in the buffalo pasture, we began to hear a faint rumbling. No, it wasn't the buffalo about to stomp; it was the staff's appetites! The staff eagerly descended upon the Tiwa Kitchen, a restaurant owned by members of the pueblo, for a traditional feast day meal.

The owners prepared a beef stew and red chili with fry bread and oven bread to accompany the meal. Those who had a sweet tooth tried the choke cherry preserves on their fry bread. The dessert was also something different for most...prune pies.

Following the excursion to the pueblo, the Museum's Operation Manager Gene Davis took over the group and led them back inside the Kachina Lodge Meeting Room for an intense training session. Gene presented a team-building and group-think exercise called "The Abilene Paradox." The slogan at the end of the day was "Skip the Trip."

The purpose of the training is to teach people not to go with the flow, for whatever reason, in an organization and that the tendency to follow one another without open and honest communication will lead everyone down a path that is counter-productive and inefficient. The Road to Abilene is paved with complacency and resentment, both of which will prevent the Tribe's museum from accomplishing its goals.

During the afternoon training session, the Chairman's Legal Advisor Marcia Green arrived in Taos and began setting up the official presentation to the Pueblo's Governor Ruben Romero. In the Pueblo culture, the chairman of their Tribe is called the governor.

During the late afternoon the museum staff gathered together and returned to the Pueblo Government Offices and first met with the Tribe's traditional leaders: War Chief Leonard Archuleta and Lieutenant War Chief Joseph Concha.

The war chiefs manage and govern the pueblo's natural resources and gave Richard permission to allow the museum department to tour the 500 acre buffalo program.

Following the visit with the war chief, the staff was led into the Governor's Conference Room where they met with Governor Ruben Romero, Lieutenant Governor David Gomez, Secretary Lawrence Lujan and Second Sheriff Jeff Romancito. Marcia Green and Tina Osceola presented the governor with a letter from Chairman Cypress, read aloud for all to hear.



Left to Right: Marcia Green, Joseph Concha, Leonard Archuleta and Tina Osceola Tina Marie Osceola

the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

Thomas is also the author of a noted book entitled "Skull Wars." From the moment of his entry into the Kachina Lodge's meeting room, he had each and every person's undivided attention. His presentation was captivating, thought-provoking, and inspiring.

Thomas discussed the history of anthropology and Indian Tribes in the U.S. and also the impact of Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) on the relationship between the scientific world of anthropology and archaeology and traditional practices and beliefs of Indian Tribes.

This presentation was probably one of the

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Museum

Continued from page 6

most important opportunities afforded to the Museum department because not only did it arm staff with information but it also armed staff with the tools to become emotionally attached to the mission of the Seminole Tribe of Florida's historic and cultural preservation goals.

Friday afternoon was dedicated to how do we, the Museum department, get the word out about the Tribe's Museum and Historic Preservation efforts. Tribal Marketing Director Lucy Evanicki summarized the tourism and marketing efforts being accomplished by her office and what their marketing plan was for the upcoming year.

Gary Bitner, Partner, Bitner and Goodman, and public relations specialist for the Seminole Tribe of Florida and Seminole Hard Rock, taught the museum staff how to create a public relations calendar and what kind of information sells. Gary discussed packaging stories, writing news releases as well as the timing of stories.

The end of the day and the end of the session could not have culminated in a more culturally appropriate way; Richard Archuleta was joined by Tribal



Pueblo

Councilman Gilbert Suazo as they performed traditional round dance songs for the staff.

The Taos Pueblo is known for its round dance songs and it was very impressive to have two of the Tribe's most renowned composers perform. The mood was optimistic, yet riddled with emotion.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum at Okalee Village's

administrative Assistant Jean Amritt responded, "For me the trip was rather a humbling experience. I think we as a group had a lot accomplished and once we put them into action next year will be ahead of the game."

Saturday evening Governor Romero, Secretary Lujan, Lieutenant Governor Gomez and their wives invited Council Liaison OB Osceola, Jr. and Executive Director Tina Osceola to an appreciation dinner at a local restaurant, "Bravo!"

In addition to the wonderful meal, the governor made a presentation of gifts that were to be brought back to Chairman Cypress. These items will be presented to the chairman during an upcoming Council Meeting.

The Strategic Planning Session and Cultural Exchange Program was an overwhelming success. David Blackard, the Tribe's museum director summed up the staff's response to the cultural exchange

opportunity, "It was indeed a privilege to see the Taos Pueblo first hand and learn about their heritage and history. Even though they are separated by most of a continent, I was taken by some of the elemental similarities between the Taos people and the Seminole Tribe of Florida regarding their responses to the enormous past challenges posed to their sovereignty and way of life. Although the specifics are a times startlingly different, both peoples were [and are] resolute and persistent in preserving their language, culture and land. Both have been successful in these important endeavors. Both will also continue to face challenges concerning the preservation of their language and culture in the days to come."

Museum staff has suggested that with

the chairman's approval, this gift program will continue in the future and other Tribes in need may apply for consideration through the museum. The experience was definitely once in a lifetime and the friendships created between the two Tribes will be everlasting.

In response to the Strategic Planning Process and where the Museum Department is at this point in their journey, David Blackard states, "The Strategic Planning Conference was a profitable, rewarding and intense experience. Okay, I admit it. By the end of the day on Friday my brain was, well, fried. At the same time I came away re-motivated and highly enthused. It was indeed invigorating to meet at length with so many team members who had a common vision and desire to see the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum grow and thrive. It was inspirational to hear so many great ideas



Tina Marie Osceola

Richard Archuleta talks to the museum staff.

Upcoming Chickee Builder Workshop

By Alyssa Jacobs

BIG CYPRESS — A workshop for chickee builders will be held on Jan. 18, 2006 at 2 p.m. in the Big Cypress Family Investment Center Learning Resource Conference Room.

It will be hosted by the BC Councilman's Office and Water Resources department. Representatives from Bureau of Indian Affairs Forestry Division will also be in attendance.

This workshop is designed to discuss several upcoming matters that concern those who utilize natural

resources on the Big Cypress reservation for chickees. Refreshments will be served.

The Seminole Tribe will be starting an exotic nuisance plant removal program in designated areas of the "Native Area" on the Big Cypress reservation in February. The plant species that will be removed include melaleuca and old world climbing fern. This removal program is designed to improve the wetland habitat in the area.

Because chickee builders may use the "Native Area" to harvest cypress and palm fronds for their business, certain requirements will need to be met by chickee builders as this removal program gets underway. The Seminole Tribe will be reporting to several government agencies regarding the success of this exotic plant removal program.

The Tribal Council approved requirements designed to help the Tribe meet the success measures at its June 17, 2005 meeting. This workshop will address the exotic removal program and associated requirements. In addition, the workshop will discuss future possible changes to current harvesting practices.

It is recommended that chickee builders bring the head of their field crew to this meeting as well. Both Spanish and Miccosukee interpreters will be present.

If there are any questions that need to be addressed prior to the workshop, contact Alyssa Jacobs in Water Resources at (863) 902-3200, Ext. 1413.



Tina Marie Osceola

(L-R): Richard Archuleta, Marcy Winters, Marcia Green, Tina Osceola, Governor Ruben Romero, Secretary Lawrence Lujan, Lt. Governor David Gomez and Second Sheriff Jeff Romancito



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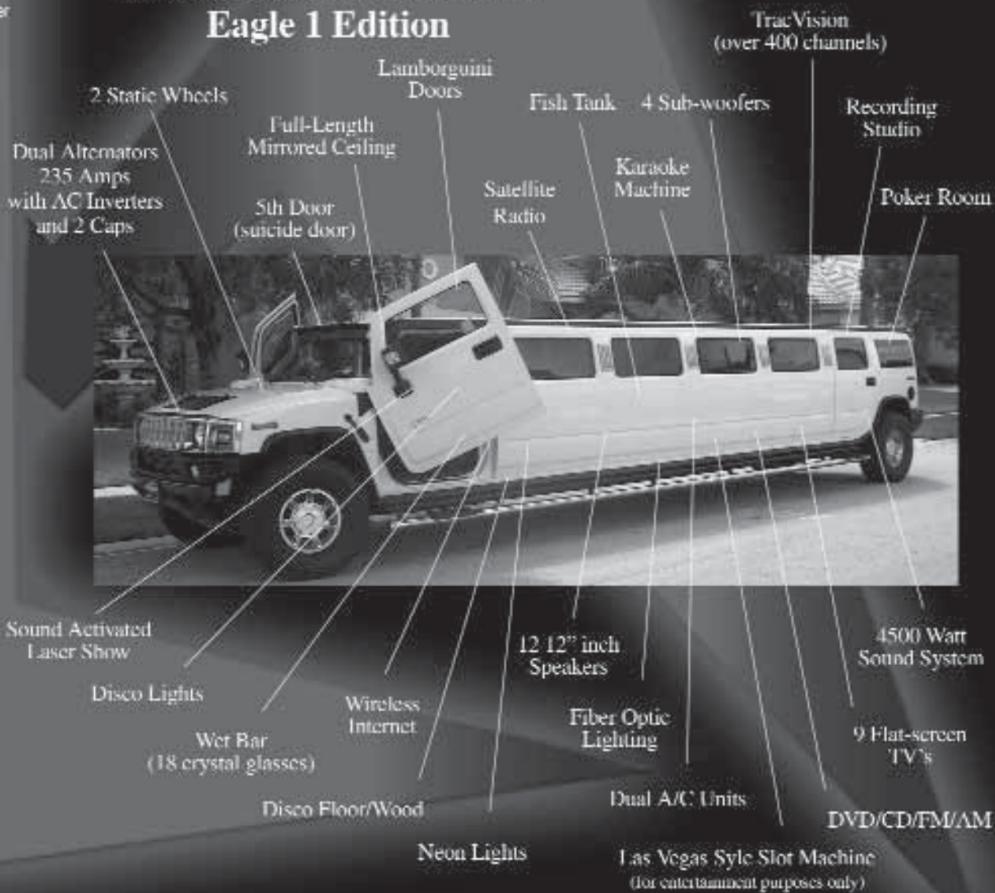
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- Leona Williams

Big Cypress:

- Cathy Cypress
- Candy Cypress
- Shelia Billie
- Rochelle Osceola

Brighton/Tampa:

- Michele Thomas
- Jodi King
- Lonnie Gore
- Richard Osceola
- Leroy Boyet
- Rita Gopher McCabe

Immokalee/Naples:

- Amy Yzaguirre
- Gary McInturff
- Anne Puente

Christmas Youth Basketball Classic

By Lila Osceola

HOLLYWOOD — Schools out for the Holiday season, let's play ball! On Dec. 19, 21, the Hollywood Gym hosts the Christmas Youth Basketball Classic. The gym was full of eager 17 and under youth basketball teams.

The 7, 10, and 14 under teams played Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 20, 21.

Brighton brought a school bus full of kids to compete in this one day tourney. As the big yellow bus came around the corner, the anticipation filled the air.

The 17 & under Boys championship came down to the young Hollywood Xtreme versus the big Brighton team. The game was very scrappy, and physical as the Hollywood Xtreme couldn't pull off the victory. The final score was Hollywood Xtreme 38 and Brighton 40. The big guys on the Brighton team were pulling down rebounds right and left.

The 17 & under girls championship game



Kaylan Osceola tries to steal the ball from a Brighton player.

onship. The final score was Lady Seminole's 25, Brighton 20.

Tuesday and Wednesday brought a whole new bunch to the gym scene. The days were long but very enjoyable. The games were very amusing, and exciting.

The 10 & under championship game brought Hollywood and Big Cypress back to the court for another rivalry match up. The full court press from Big Cypress put Hollywood into a frenzy. No one on the Hollywood team could rebound with the power-houses of Big Cypress. Big Cypress led at halftime 11, 20. Hollywood might have been down but they definitely weren't out. The prolific scoring of Hunter Osceola brought them within 4, but couldn't hang on and come back. The final was 21, 28.

The 7 & under games will never let you down. The comical, yet intensity of the games are so much fun to watch. It was a Brighton and Hollywood showdown. Hollywood had two teams and Brighton had one, but those three teams thought they were playing for the national championship. Hard work, hustle, and lots of smiles is the name of the game. All participants received a medal, because they are all winners.

The 14 & under girls brought two unfamiliar teams to the championship game. Brighton fought their way out of the loser's bracket to face the fast paced, Lady Canes. The game was scrappy, like diving on the floor for loose balls, fighting to get position for the rebound, you know the fun stuff. The Lady Canes led the whole way to a final score of 28, 38.

The fast paced up, tempo flow of the 14 & under boy's championship game was exciting. Big Cypress came out ready to go, led by 10 in the first couple of minutes. Coach Carlos Adamson called

a quick timeout, and gave the boys a wake up call. Put Hollywood Xtreme into a full court man to man press defense, and brought the team back. Hollywood Xtreme led at halftime 18, 16. Hustle plays and defense gave the Xtreme the edge to get by the big, scrappy Big Cypress team. The final buzzer went off and the Hollywood Xtreme won, 38, 25.

Vivian Delgado provided breakfast, lunch and dinner every day of the tournament, food was great. The visitors that came to the gym were very pleased, "hospitality is great," as some spectators said as they left the gym. "These Indians really know how to do it," were some other comments mentioned.

This week was perfect for basketball, kids out of school and ready for the Holidays. Antsy to do something, so they came to Hollywood for some good ol' healthy competition.

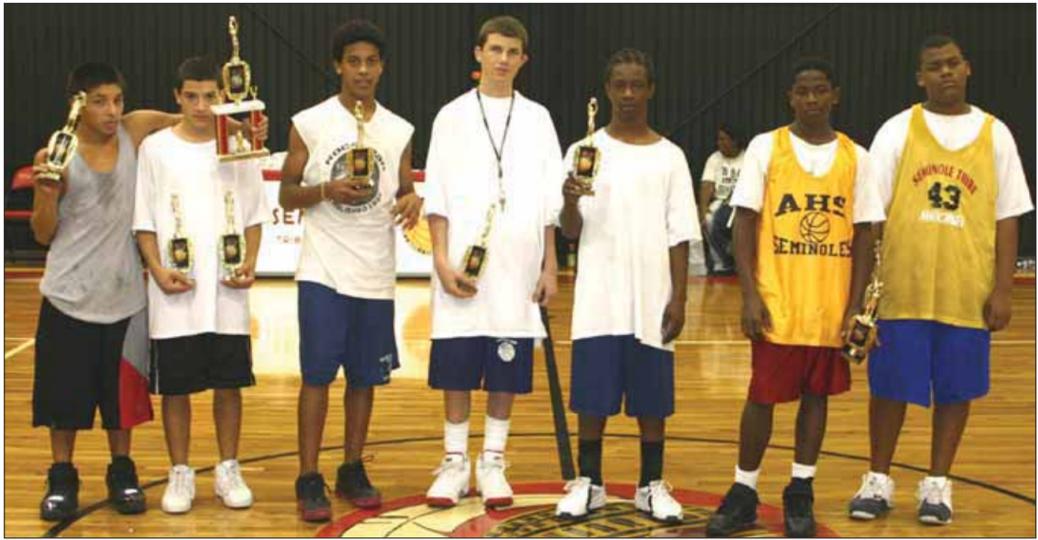
17 & under Boys: Champions: Brighton; Second Place: Hollywood Xtreme; All Tournament Team: Kevin Hincapi, Hollywood Xtreme, Joseph



The 7 & Under team; the stars of tomorrow.

Osceola, Hollywood, Jordan Jones, Brighton, Johnny Jones, Brighton, Kareem Roach, Hollywood Xtreme;

Sportsmanship: Tiesa Franklin, Brighton 14 & Under Boys: Champions: Hollywood



The 14 & Under boys all tournament team.

Mr. Hustle: Kevin Hincapie, Hollywood Xtreme Defense: Jasper Hunter, Brighton, Sportsmanship, Troy Billie, Brighton.

17 & Under Girls: Champions: Lady Seminole, Second Place: Brighton; All Tournament Team: Chelsea Mountain, Lady Seminole, Nicole Pope, Brighton, Evelyn Thompson, Brighton, Whitney Osceola, Lady Seminole, Meaghan Osceola, Lady Seminole; Ms. Hustle, Audrey Snow, Lady Seminole, Defense: Whitney Osceola, Lady Seminole;



The Lady Seminole won the 17 & Under girls championship.



The Brighton 17 & Under team won the championship.

was Lady Seminole versus Brighton. The story of the day, Lady Seminole had many girls missing from the team therefore some of the younger girls were brought up to play on the team like, Courtney Osceola 12, Whitney Osceola 12, and Chassidy Harjochee 10.

They held their own against the fierce Brighton team, who had brought a lot of players from Clewiston. Earlier that day, Brighton beat the Lady Seminole by 9 points. Lady Seminole fought to come out of the loser's bracket and won the champi-



The Big Cypress 10 & Under champions.

They held their own against the fierce Brighton team, who had brought a lot of players from Clewiston. Earlier that day, Brighton beat the Lady Seminole by 9 points. Lady Seminole fought to come out of the loser's bracket and won the champi-



(L-R) Phillip Jones and Ethan Cypress sprint down the court in a heat game.

Xtreme, Second Place: Big Cypress; All Tournament Team: Terrell Lane, Hollywood Xtreme, Hurley Jackson, Big Cypress, Kevin Hincapie, Hollywood Xtreme, Darios Redd, Big Cypress, Mike Gass, Hollywood Xtreme; Sportsmanship: Chris Penny, Big Cypress; Mr. Hustle: Josh Cypress, Hollywood Xtreme; Defense: Kevin Hincapie, Hollywood Xtreme.

14 & Under Girls: Champions: Lady Canes, Second Place: Brighton; All Tournament Team: Jewel Buck, Brighton, Whitney Osceola, Lady Seminole, Chanlir Segarra, Lady Canes, Kay Kay Livingston, Lady Canes, Olivia Richards, Lady Canes; Sportsmanship: Destiny Jones, Brighton; Ms. Hustle: Kay Kay Hunter, Lady Danes; Defense: Desiree Lopez, Brighton.

10 & Under Coed: Champions: Big Cypress; Second Place: Hollywood; All Tournament Team: Hunter Osceola, Hollywood, Michael White, Big Cypress, Malory Baker, Big Cypress, Ethan Cypress, Hollywood, Phillip Jones, Brighton, Tommie Jackson, Brighton; Sportsmanship: Terry Baker, Big Cypress; Defense: Michael White, Big Cypress; Mr. Hustle: Hunter Osceola, Hollywood; Ms. Hustle: Delaney Osceola, Big Cypress.

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Fourth Annual Michele Cypress Memorial Pool Tournament Results

17 and younger: Boys: 1. Pierson Hunsinger, 2. Anthony Hernandez, 3. Darren Bert, 4. Anthony Cypress; Girls: 1. Deidra Hall, 2. Rosa Urbina, 3. Lily Mora, 4. Demi Garza.

Seniors 50 and older: Men: 1. George Grasshopper, 2. Joe Billie Jr., 3. David Cypress, 4. Billy Brown, 5. Russell Osceola; Women: 1. Dale Grasshopper, 2. Rosie Billie, 3. Diane Peters, 4. Juanita Osceola, 5. Louise Osceola.

Seniors Scotch Doubles: 1. Billy Brown and Diana Peters, 2. Parker and Rose Jones 3. Jane and Alice Sweat, 4. Russell and Juanita Osceola, 5. Sammie Gopher and Rosie Billie

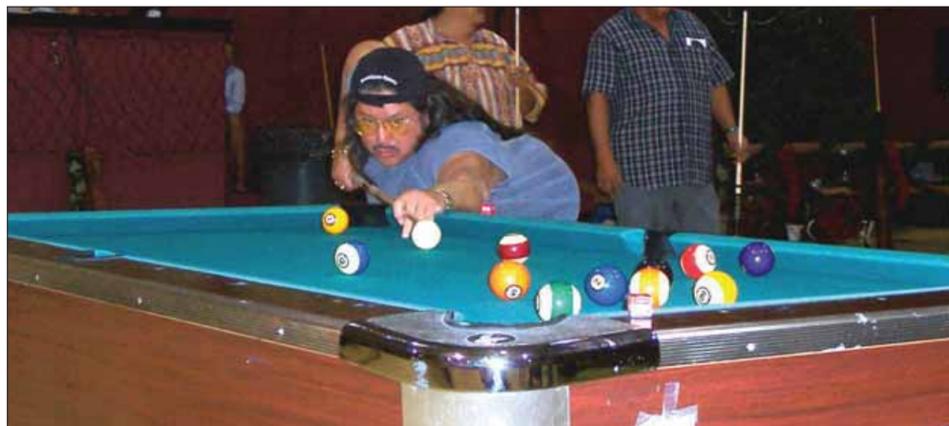
18 and older Scotch Doubles: 1. Charles and Phalyn Osceola, 2. Boogie and Theresa Nunez, 3. David Cypress and Dale Grasshopper, 4. George Grasshopper and Tonya Jumper, 5. Russell and Juanita Osceola

18 and older 8 Ball: Men: 1. Randy Clay, 2. Roy Snow, 3. Daniel Gopher, 4. Boogie Nunez, 5. Jack Billie; Women: 1. Teresa Nunez, 2. Nina Frias, 3. Charlotte Porcara, 4. Dale Grasshopper, 5. Donnie Antuna.

Overall: Men: 1. Team Ram Rod: Nick Tiger, Ildy Garcia, Glen Olsen, Billy Brown, Tony Bert; 2. Team All In: O.B. Osceola, David Cypress, George Grasshopper, Charles Osceola, Troy Frank; 3. Team Seminole: Derrick Smith, Daniel Gopher, Randy Clay, Russell Osceola, Shaun Fortia; 4. Team Hustler: Raymond Garza, Roy Garza Sr., Josh Garza, Roy Garza Jr., Steve Frost; 5. Team Boogie Knights: Boogie Nunez, Jack Billie, Roy Snow, Jessie Urbina, Jeremy Smith;

Women: 1. Team Stokers: Phalyn Osceola, Krissy Frank, Diana Peters; 2. Team Triple Play: Virginia Billie, Nina June Urbina, Charlene; 3. Team 3 Way: Theresa Nunez, Nina Frias, Boogie Nunez; 4. Connie's Team: Connie Williams, Charlotte Porcaro, Donnie Atuna; 5. Team Different Strokes: Esther Buster, Delores Jumper, Anne Puente.

9 Ball open: Men: 1. Glen Olsen, 2. Troy Frank, 3. Shawn Fortin, 4. Jose Martinez, 5. Willie Martinez, 6. Ildy Garcia; Women: 1. Donnie Antuna, 2. Virginia Billie, 3. Phalyn Osceola, 4. Dale Grasshopper, 5. Sherry King, 6. Krissy Frank.



David Cypress takes aim for the corner pocket.

Susan Etxebarria

All Indian Pool Tourney Draws the Best

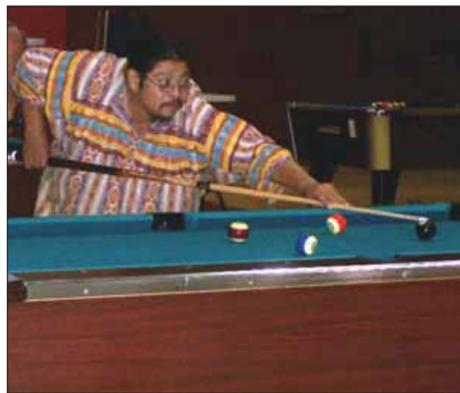
By Susan Etxebarria

BIG CYPRESS — The parking lot of the Herman L. Osceola Gym was full on Dec. 17 as pool players arrived from all corners of Seminole country to compete in the All Indian Christmas pool tournament.

Women 18–50.

There were many seniors present who play more often now at the Big Cypress Senior Center and the competition among them is good-natured but tough. The younger players learn much from them. Players also came from the Trail, Brighton, Immokalee, Big Cypress and Hollywood. Plenty of catered food from Sonny's BBQ in Clewiston, Fla. kept the energy level going as the level of competition increased.

Keeping score was Steve Frost and Cissy Cook of the Big Cypress Recreation department. Recreation Director George Grasshopper watched over the event as well as played in the tournament.



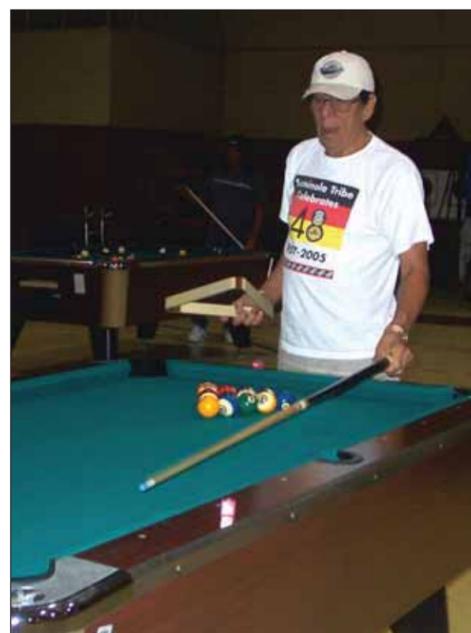
Andy Cypress takes his shot.

Susan Etxebarria

The huge gym became a live stage set where eight billiard tables were being kept in constant play by some of the Seminole Tribe of Florida's best pool players. It was a very long day starting at noon and winding up at 11 p.m. but the differing styles of excellent pool playing were a constant attraction.

Players and casual observers came and went and came back again throughout the event. Special bleachers were set up on the gym floor so players could sit and watch with ease. There was an interesting booth set up by Mike and Lisa Dewitt of Naples offering their handcrafted cue sticks with custom designs, leather cases and other pool accessories.

Big Cypress Representative David Cypress and the Big Cypress Recreation department sponsored this exciting yearly event where lucrative cash prizes bring out the sharpest player in all four categories: Men and Women 50 and older; Men and



Keno King racks up the balls.

Susan Etxebarria

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Sports ♦ Ham-pa-leesh-ke ♦ Vkkopvkv

Randall Huggins 'Big Ballers' Tournament

By Tony Heard
HOLLYWOOD — Teams came down to south Florida the weekend of Dec. 8 through the 10 from Arizona, New York, Mississippi, North Carolina, and other places for the Big Ballers Basketball Tournament.

This is the second year this tournament has taken place in honor of Randall Huggins, who is greatly missed and remembered by his family and friends. With the preparation and effort that is put forward to try and make this tournament a great success one can easily see Randall's love for the game will live on through his family and his annual tournament.

The men's side ended up with twelve teams eager and intense about the level of competition that had been brought together. One could easily sense the competitive juices that were in the air on that first night of the tournament. Brighton and Big Cypress men kicked off the tourney at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday evening with Big Cypress capturing the first win of the tournament.

Considering the ratio of men's teams to women's teams the first day consisted of all men games. The Canes pulled out a convincing victory against the Kal Skins. The Trail Kings got a forfeit victory thanks to the Cherokee team that was a no show. But a win is still a win regardless if it comes by forfeit or if it comes down to a buzzer beat-er.

The final game of the night was the Seminole Rec team versus a tough I.A.C. team from New York, and Seminole Rec team came away with a victory over an I.A.C. team that couldn't seem to keep up with the fast paced play Seminole Rec. had brought to the table.

The women's side of the bracket finished with seven teams all ready to hold their own and claim the championship. The Miccosukee women and Seminole Rec. started the action at 5 p.m. the second day of the tournament. Miccosukee gave a valiant effort but were no match for the size and defensive pressure of the Seminole Rec. team.

Arizona women's team and F.R.O.G. from

South Dakota had the court next and gave everyone a high octane game filled with three pointers, fast breaks and hard defense. Both teams battled hard to stay on the winner's side of the bracket, but the ladies from Arizona had what it took to pull out the 49-44 victory.



Women's championship team: Arizona.

Lila Osceola



Men's championship team: Mississippi Flights.

Lila Osceola

the guys to hit the hardwood again. The first game for the men on the second night was Mississippi Flight versus the Canes.

This was a highly anticipated match-up of athletes. But in the end the Mississippi team proved to be a bit much for the Canes to handle on this day. The Canes were handed a 60-80 loss by a team that simply got more stops and made more shots than they did.

Next to hit the court was the men's team from Arizona and the Big Cypress team. Arizona came ready to play and handed Big Cypress their first loss in the tourney by a large margin. Minnesota represented by bringing down their men's team, the 2005 National Champs, Razorsharp. It was now their time to show how they matched up against the Trail Kings.

This game started out good with Trail Kings keeping it close, but ended ugly, with Razorsharp get-

ting stops and converting on fast break points. The final was, to put it best, Trail Kings a little and Razorsharp a lot.

The ladies took control of the court again with Sundown and Arizona ready to battle it out. This was Sundown's first game and the rust showed by mishandles of the ball, and miscommunications. The Arizona team couldn't take advantage of that and only led at the half by 6 points. The second half proved to be different with the Arizona team turning up the heat defensively and picking up the tempo of the game. This worked because they came away with another victory over a scrappy Sundown team.

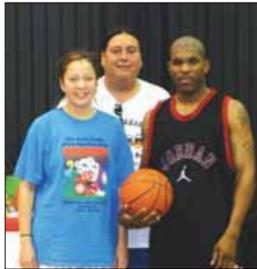
The final game of the night was Quickfire against Miccosukee. The game began around midnight and Quickfire played as if they were ready to get it over with. They came out and jumped on the Miccosukee team quick and never let up. The game ended and Quickfire had come away with a victory and a chance to try and fight back for the championship.

Saturday was a day everyone who attended this year's event will always remember. There was a Free-Throw contest, which was won by Tony Heard, Seminole Rec. and Dionne Jacobs, Quickfire. A dunk contest and three pointer contest, which Arizona's Vegas Davies grabbed top honors in both events for the men. Flo Curley, from Arizona, took honors of winning the women's three-point contest.

The car show that coincides with this wonderful tournament every year was mind blowing.

The most mind blowing things came in the first half of the Kal Skins versus Arizona game, when Arizona's big man Josh Williams, pivoted, dunked the ball, and shattered the backboard on the north end of the gym. Play was paused for about two hours while recreation staff workers cleaned up and tried to fix this situation.

Luckily there was an extra backboard at the disposal of the recreation coaches and directors. With the help of many staff members a lot of patience from players and spectators, the new backboard was hoisted, attached, secured, and the games continued.



Free throw champions.

Lila Osceola

The tournament was creeping into the wee hours of the morning and still going full strength. Teams were still diving on the floor for loose balls, playing up tempo, and doing everything to try and bottle up another win.

Throughout the entire tournament the atmosphere was great. The intensity, excitement, and sportsmanship were wonderful. Well due to competitive impulses the sportsmanship was not so great at times. But that is to be expected when everyone is playing hard and the prize money doesn't hurt either!

In the end of the night, or should I say morning around 1:30 a.m., Quickfire and Arizona women ended up in the championship game going head to head. Arizona had a one point lead at halftime and tried to hang on to it. But the Quickfire team was determined to give them a fight.

This game had everything but a physical altercation, with three pointers flying in from both teams, hard fouls from both sides and clutch baskets being made no one dared to look away for a second or a piece of action would be missed.

It was close down to the last few seconds, and then the Arizona team took control. Sinking crucial free throws, getting big defensive stops, and taking care of the ball turned out to be the recipe for success for the Arizona women who won the championship game 62-57.

Around 2:30 a.m. the Seminole Rec. found themselves in the championship game facing the Mississippi Flight who had fought back through the loser's bracket. With a 33-29 lead at the half, Mississippi team was clearly the fresher and deeper team.

Making just about everything they shot and not giving the Seminole Rec. team any second shots, the guys from Mississippi seemed ready to take home the trophy. The athletic Mississippi team subbed players in and out periodically to make sure they had fresh



Recreation department staff fixes the backboard.

Lila Osceola



Josh Williams breaks backboard after dunking in game on Saturday afternoon.

Lila Osceola

legs on the court to keep the pace fast and intense. The Seminole Rec. team played with only six players the whole tournament and it showed in the second half.

Trying to slow the tempo a bit to conserve energy seemed to be the plan for the Seminole Rec. team. This plan did not work, and even though the Seminole Rec. team made one final push. The Mississippi Flights proved to be the better team and were crowned the champions of the Second Annual



Three point champions.

Lila Osceola

Randall Huggins Big Ballers Memorial Tournament.

This tournament is growing every year and more teams from everywhere are hearing about it. Norman Huggins does an outstanding job getting in touch with different tribes and coaches to get them here to participate in the tournament. The recreation staff did a wonderful job maintaining the gym, and a special thanks to the Seminole Police Department and all the volunteers pitched in to help. The Second Annual was great and full of memories, but I bet there are a lot of "Big Ballers" out there who can't wait until next year.

Men's Division: 1. Mississippi Flights, 2. Seminole Recreation, 3. Arizona; Women's Division: 1. Arizona, 2. Quickfire, 3. Seminole Recreation; Three Point Contest: Flo Curley, Arizona, Vegas Davis, Arizona; Dunk Contest: Vegas Davis, Arizona; Free Throw Contest: Tony Heard, Seminole Rec., Dionne Jacobs, Quickfire.



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- January 18th, 2006** Hollywood, Betty Jumper Complex, from 10-2 pm.
- January 19th, 2006** Immokalee, Gymnasium, from 10-2.30 pm.
- January 20th, 2006** Hollywood, DSO Building, 3100 N. 63rd Ave., room 319, from 10-12 pm and 3-5 pm.
- January 24th, 2006** Brighton, Family Services Department, from 10.30-3 pm.
- January 25th, 2006** Big Cypress, Family Investment Center, Lobby, from 10-3 pm.

Please contact Jasmine Porter, Adult Education Administrator, Family Services Department, at (954) 989-6840, ext. 1313.

Results from 'Big Daddy' Car Show

- Sport Bike: 1. Lonnie Wright, 2. Carlene DiCarlo, 3. Robin Rilex
- Motorcycle: 1. Ronnie Bille, 2. Ronnie Billie, 3. Ronnie Billie Sr.
- Classic Mild: 1. Omar A. Eraso, 2. Carlos Cruz, 3. Thomas Lerrera
- Domestic Mild: 1. Jason Ralyea, 2. Jason A Weaks, 3. Robert Hill
- Domestic Wild: 1. Joe Osceola, 2. Damian Darty, 3. Oscar Olivaros
- Best of Show Bike: Jacob DeMayo
- Best of Show Motorcycle: Ronnie Billie
- Best of Show Old School: Jacob DeMayo



A customized Caddy.

Lila Osceola

Best of Show Car: Amado Claderon

- Best Stereo: Vergeng Brown
- Foreign Mild: 1. Craig Hol Pung, 2. Mario Pendoza, 3. Alex Paul
- Foreign Wild: 1. Mack F., 2. Rob McManus
- Stock: 1. Natashia Osceola, 2. Stephanie Huggins, 3. Lucan Frank
- SUV: 1. Christy Campaneno, 2. William Jim, 3. Jose Solano
- Truck Mild F150: 1. Danny Goldstein, 2. Almira Billie, 3. Robin Osceola
- Truck F250: 1. Erin Osceola, 2. Ronnie Billie, 3. Ronnie Billie Sr.
- Low Rider Bike: 1. Darryl Fuentes, 2. Pedro Fuentes, 3. Anthony Melinada



Natashia Osceola's Dodge finished first in the stock division.

Lila Osceola

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

Seminole Rodeo Queen Contest Friday Feb. 17, 2006

Submitted by Jo "Boogie" Jumper
This year's contest will be held in conjunction with the Brighton Field Day & Rodeo. February 10, 2006 is the deadline for applications. The contest will start at 9 a.m. on Friday Feb. 17, with horsemanship followed by an interview during lunch at the Brighton Casino.
Any one interested in applying can pick up an application from the Brighton Field Office or Cattle & Range, Hollywood President's Office and BC Cattle & Range.



2004-2005
Seminole Rodeo Queen
Shelby Osceola

For more information please contact Jo "Boogie" Jumper at (863) 763-4128, Ext. 124.



2004-2005
Jr. Seminole Rodeo Queen
Sheyanna Osceola

Please mail back the completed application to:
Chairman's Office,
Rt 6 Box 666
Okeechobee, FL, 34974.

SEMINOLE RODEO QUEEN PAGEANT APPLICATION

Personal Information:

Name: _____ Age: _____
Address: _____
Home Phone: _____ Date of Birth: _____
Mother's Name: _____ Degree of Indian Blood: _____
Father's Name: _____ Degree of Indian Blood: _____
Number in family: _____ Brothers: _____ Sisters: _____

Sports & Hobbies:

Education:

Name of school attending: _____

Scholastic achievements and aspirations: _____

Club memberships and honors: _____

Statistics:

Height: _____ Blouse Size: _____ Boot Size: _____ Pant Size: _____
Belt Size: _____ Hat Size: _____ Jacket Size: _____

Complete application which includes: application, one (1) 5X7 black and white photograph (head and shoulders only), essay and 40 word biography must be received no later than Friday, February 10, 2006.

Application Checklist

1. Application form, please type or print.
2. One (1) 5x7 black and white photograph, head and shoulders only. This photo will be used in the program.
3. Essay - 200 words, typed or written in ink.
Essay Topic: "How do you feel Indian rodeos build family values and unite?"
4. Biography - 40 words
To be used during introductions at the Indian Rodeo.

All applications (which include the application form, photograph, essay, biography and statement of participation) must be turned in by Friday, February 10, 2006, at 5 p.m.. Applications can be mailed to: Seminole Rodeo Queen Pageant, Brighton Chairman's Office, Rt 6 Box 666, Okeechobee, FL 34974. Any questions you may call Jo Jumper at 863-763-4128.

Statement of Participation

I, _____, have completed the application for participation and have read the rules of the Seminole Rodeo Queen Pageant. I understand that if named "Seminole Rodeo Queen", I will be required to make my time available to the Seminole Tribe upon request. All information in the application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

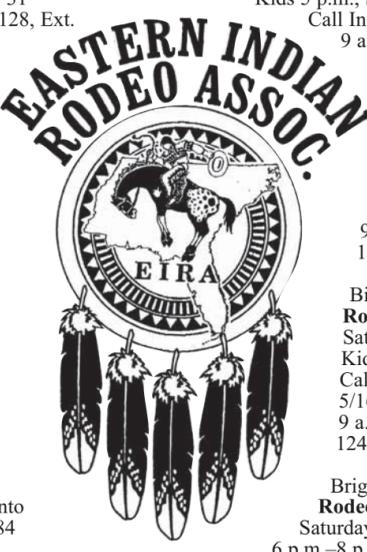
Parent Signature _____ Date _____
(if applicant is under 18 years of age)

Eastern Indian Rodeo Association 2006 Schedule

Big Cypress - Bill Osceola Memorial Rodeo
Tour Rodeo - Long Go & Short Go Format
Saturday Feb. 4 - Long Go
Sunday Feb. 5 - Short Go
Top 15 make it to short go
Kids 5 p.m., Sanctioned at 8 p.m.
Call in for non-sanctioned events only:
Monday Jan. 30 Tuesday Jan. 31
9 a.m.-4 p.m. @ (863) 763-4128, Ext. 124
Sanctioned events must call into INFR Office at (406) 338-7684

Saturday March 25
Kids 5 p.m., Sanctioned 8 p.m.
Call in Monday March 13 & Tuesday March 14
9 a.m.-4 p.m. @ (863) 763-4128, Ext. 124

Brighton, Fla.
Saturday April 8
Kids 5 p.m., Sanctioned 8 p.m.
Call In Monday April 3 and Tuesday April 4
9 a.m.-4 p.m. @ (863) 763-4128, Ext. 124



Immokalee - Cinco De Mayo Rodeo
Saturday May 6
Kids 5 p.m., Sanctioned 8 p.m.
Call In Monday May 3 & Tuesday May 4
9 a.m.-4 p.m. @ (863) 763-4128, Ext. 124

Big Cypress - Memorial Weekend Rodeo
Saturday May 20
Kids 5 p.m., Sanctioned 8 p.m.
Call in Monday 5/15/06 & Tuesday 5/16/06
9 a.m.-4 p.m. @ (863) 763-4128, Ext. 124

Brighton - Josiah Johns Memorial Rodeo
Saturday July 1
6 p.m.-8 p.m.
Call in Monday June 26 and Tuesday June 27
9 a.m.-4 p.m. @ (863) 763-4128, Ext. 124

Big Cypress, Fla. - Hollywood Rodeo
Saturday August 12
Call in Monday Aug. 7 & Tuesday Aug. 8
9 a.m.-4 p.m. @ (863) 763-4128, Ext. 124

Brighton - Brighton Field Day Rodeo
Tour Rodeo - Long Go & Short Go Format
Wednesday, Feb. 15 - Long Go
Friday, Feb. 17 - Short Go (top 15 make it to short go)
Kids 6 p.m., Sanctioned 8 p.m.
Call in for non-sanctioned events only:
Monday Feb. 6 and Tuesday Feb. 7
9 a.m.-4 p.m. @ (863) 763-4128, Ext. 124
Sanctioned events must call into INFR Office at (406) 338-7684

Labelle, Fla.
Friday Feb. 24
Kids 6 p.m., Sanctioned 8 p.m.
Call in Monday Feb. 20 & Tuesday Feb. 21
9 a.m.-4 p.m. @ (863) 763-4128, Ext. 124

Big Cypress - Junior Cypress Memorial Rodeo

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Immokalee Employees Complete Weight Loss Contest

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — The final weigh-out for the employee weight loss contest took place on Dec. 7, 2005, at the new clinic facilities in Immokalee. The contest, which had been initiated by a weigh-in on Sept. 28, 2005 was sponsored by the Chairman's Office.

During the 10 week program, Nutritionist Charlotte Porcaro was on hand to counsel the participations and help them develop a healthy responsible program to alter their eating habits. She stressed that exercise in moderation was a very important tool in attempting to achieve their goals, but should be monitored to suit their individual needs. No exercise is bad, but too much of the wrong exercise after years of inactivity is worse than none at all.

Each person should have their medical condition evaluated prior to making drastic changes in their daily routine. This means that healthy changes should be welcomed into your lives, but responsibly with moderation, in order to help enhance future.

Community Health Representative Anna Puente made her-

gize for my tardiness this morning. I can't blame it on traffic but rather my own foolishness. As you all know, I have a diabetic condition and for years did not take care of myself. Finally after a serious wakeup call, I looked for help to correct all the damage I had done to my one and only body."

"With the aid of my doctors and a personal trainer, I turned my life slowly around. I had to develop self-discipline and entirely change my eating habits. As the gradual changes took place, I subjected myself to regular examinations. Tests are not for criticism, but should be motivational. I developed a daily routine that included morning walks, careful selection of the right foods and reasonable portions. In a short time I began to see positive results and within a few years I had successfully altered the condition of my body and my entire lifestyle had come full circle.

"Fortunately we are creatures of habit and can develop self-discipline.

Unfortunately, we can become lazy and make excuses for putting things off. I was due for a testing this morning and had a very rude awakening. In the past three months I have been cheating a little here and there in my eating habits. I have made excuses for why there wasn't time for my morning walks time and time again. My sugar and blood pressure levels were slightly off and I had experienced a slight weight adjustment.

"My immediate reaction was to want to give my body a tune up. There was no time like the present to start so I stopped making excuses, put everything on hold and went for a mile long walk. Life is full of schedules and problems, but when we are healthy we can deal with them. Everything comes full circle. We need to love our bodies—Don't throw them away!

"When you don't take care of yourself, there is no proper explanation. It all boils down to one thing—Excuses."

After taking a group photograph, Cypress congratulated the winners and handed out their awards: Tribal employees: 1. Sylvia Marrero, 2. Jennie Martinez; Non-Tribal employees: 1. Elva Montez, 2. Jarixsa Yslas, 3. Anna Puente, 4. Rosa Garcia.

In conclusion Cypress remarked, "Developing a healthy lifestyle doesn't happen overnight. In order for it to become a habit, you must constantly reinforce your daily routine. I want to continue these contests in an effort to motivate all of you. As employees you are a portion of the Seminole Tribe and as you strengthen yourselves, we all benefit. My ultimate goal is that we all stand strong."



Health Department

Brighton pedometer contest participants.

2005 Pedometer Contest Participants Walk to Walmart®

Submitted by the Health Department

Walk to Walmart®? That might sound hard to do. How about walking to 10 Walmart®'s starting in Hollywood and ending in Gainesville, Fla.? That is exactly how far some participants walked in the Seminole Health Department 2005 pedometer contest.

Over the course of 10 weeks, Dec. 3-12, participants from Hollywood, Brighton, Big Cypress, and Immokalee took up the challenge to walk as many miles as possible in order to reach their Walmart® destinations.

The contest was open to Tribal citizens and their spouses, as a means to increase physical activity among the whole family. Participants competed against one another in one of the following four categories: senior regular, 200 miles, senior advance, 300 miles, adult regular, 300 miles and adult advance, 400 miles. All participants were rewarded for their efforts.

The true reward, however, was the satisfaction of participating and the great health benefits achieved from walking. Walking is a great way to reduce stress, maintain or lose weight, lower your blood sugar, and keep your heart healthy.

Congratulations to all of the participants and to the following winners:

Hollywood: Adult Regular: 1. Amy Osceola, 2. Esther Gopher, 3. Tammy Osceola; Adult Advanced: 1. Francine Osceola, 2. Marl Osceola, 3. Happy Jumper; Senior Regular: 1. Dorothy Tommie, 2. Coleman Josh, 3. Cornelia Osceola; Senior Advanced: 1. Mary Gay Osceola.

Brighton: Adult Regular: 1. Judy Snow, 2. Dallas Nunez, 3. Albert Snow; Adult Advanced: 1. Emma Brown, 2. Loretta Peterson 3. Liz Johns; Senior Regular: 1. Polly Hayes, 2. Agnes Bert, 3. Addie Osceola; Senior Advanced: 1. Mable Haught, 2. Martha Jones, 3. Connie Whidden.

Big Cypress: Adult Regular: 1. Danny Tommie, 2. Brenda Henry, 3. Judy Jim; Adult Advanced: 1. Almira Billie, 2. Jeanette Cypress; Seniors Regular: 1. Rudy Osceola, 2. Sally Tommie, 3. Betty Tigertail; Seniors Advanced: 1. Harley Roberts, 2. Edna McDuffie, 3. Mary Tigertail.

Immokalee: Adult Regular: 1. Michele Alvarado, 2. Susan Davis, 3. Victor Frank; Adult Advanced: 1. Leonora Roberts, 2. Noemi Escobar, 3. Mario Posada III; Senior Regular: 1. Rachel Billie, 2. Elizabeth Olea; Senior Advanced: 1. Elaine Aguilar, 2. Tony Sanchez.



Judy Weeks

The chairman presented awards to the winners.

self available to monitor the contestants' blood pressure and blood sugar levels during the competition in an effort to make this a healthy and rewarding experience.

Contest results were tabulated and on Dec 9, 2005, Chairman Mitchell Cypress met with the group at the Immokalee Clinic to distribute their awards and offer encouragement and wisdom.

Arriving a few minutes late, the Chairman began, "I have to apolo-

Ask The Counselor

Dear Counselor,

I am frustrated with my inability to make my girlfriend happy. I go out of my way to plan a nice evening with her.

I am 29 years old, college educated and I plan to marry my girlfriend one day. My girlfriend is 24 and is hard for me to figure out. My girlfriend told me I was not creative and I should know after 6 years of dating what makes her happy. My girlfriend said our romance is OK, but a relationship is more than romance. Please help me. Signed, Confused Lover

Dear Confused Lover,

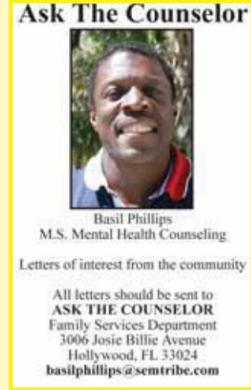
Your girlfriend wants you to fulfill her fantasy. A common fantasy among many women, aside from being asked for their hand in marriage is to be treated with respect and honor. To be treated with respect and honor should not be a fantasy but an obligation by every man towards his woman. The happiest place for a woman should be in the arms of her man. The safest place for a woman should be in the arms of her man.

When you handle yourself use your head, when you handle your girlfriend use your heart. Some women want to be seduced by flowers, satin sheets, and extended stay at a lovers' resort, but others would quickly trade in a night of passion for a lifetime of security. There's an old adage that romance is 99 percent mental, and it's true. Confused Lover, your girlfriend wants a meeting of the heart.

Your girlfriend wants to be properly courted, and wooed by you. She wants you to stimulate her spiritual and emotional sides; because, generally speaking, women equate romance with a demonstration of unconditional love. Contrary to popular belief, all fantasies are not sexual in nature.

It doesn't matter if you've been dating your lady for 6 months or 6 years she still needs to be reminded that you

appreciate her. Most women feel overwhelmed, overburdened and unappreciated. Many times the resentment doesn't come from their work load or responsibility, but from feeling as if they're not valued or appreciated by the man in their lives.



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 Jessie Billie Avenue Hollywood, FL 33024 basilphillips@seminoletribe.com

It is important for you to show her that words of eloquence without love is just noise. It is important for you to show her that you know that a person's heart beats thirty one million five hundred and thirty six thousand seconds in one year. You must prove to her that she is in every beat of your heart.

You can do this by giving her what every woman wants time; quality time is the secret recipe for a good relationship.

You can do this by preparing a dinner while she is at work, if you happen to be a little lacking in the kitchen, have your girlfriend favorite restaurant cater the meal.

You can do this by giving your girlfriend a facial and foot massage.

You can do this by rejuvenating her weary eyes with the sight of a sparkling clean house

You can do this by giving your girlfriend a thank you gift.

You can do this by planning a getaway for the two of you, choosing a place or event that she's always wanted to visit.

You can do this by purchasing a love card and hiding it somewhere in the house.

You can do this by finding a name of endearment that only you know, and call her when the time is right.

Showing the woman in your life that she's loved, honored and appreciated has its just rewards, not only will she experience the unconditional love and happiness that only you can give, she'll also be inclined to return the favor

Signed, Counselor



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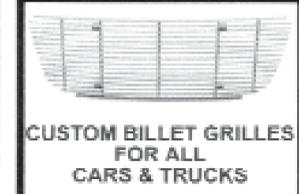
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Health Corner

Tips for Staying Calm in the New Year

By Cathrine Robinson, LCSW, Immokalee

[Editor's Note: Cathrine Robinson is a licensed clinical social worker employed as a senior counselor in the Family Services Department. She earned her master's degree at the University of Georgia and has been a therapist for 15 years. Her article will address women's issues and concerns and appear monthly in The Seminole Tribune. Questions and comments can be e-mailed to her at CatherineRobinson@semtribe.com. The opinions expressed here are her own.]

As we ponder upon the upcoming 2006 year, we find that we are beginning the New Year with the same problems and issues we had last year. As we dig a bit deeper, beyond life's complications, we then recognize we also have the same blessings.

When we remember what we have, rather than what we lack, we somehow feel better. We can build on the positives. Even though other people and situations appear to remain the same, we can thankfully change ourselves and learn to be creative in each impending moment.

This is why many of us may choose to commit to a New Year's resolutions. Some of us may strive to accomplish various positive goals, and others may choose to just maintain the status quo; After all, there is indeed comfort in familiarity. However, no matter how we approach our choices this New Year, let us try to begin it with a sense of calm.

To begin the New Year with calmness means one should approach life without disturbance, fear or agitation. Calmness means we understand that worrying solves no problems, but rather wastes mental energy and time.

Faith gives birth to calmness. Faith means we trust that divine intervention can calm the harsh winds of change and subdue the things we have no control over. With faith, we trust that despite the varied situations life presents, things always work out.

The calm of faith is often impeded upon by the clamor of emotional baggage, toxic relationships, guilt, resentments, restlessness, and other issues that often clog the spirit. Serenity is

more accessible if we avoid people and activities which are morally and emotionally compromising.

Disappointments can distress the heart. However, disappointments are more tolerable if we abandon expectations that others should elevate to our standards. If we accept our own limitations, then we can accept the limitations of others. We learn patience with ourselves and the world around us.

Research has repeatedly linked a poor emotional state to declining physical health. It is important to stabilize ourselves emotionally so that we can feel physically healthy and grounded. The anesthetic properties of substance abuse, compulsive behaviors, and frenzied emotions dull our senses and inhibit our ability to be physically connected.

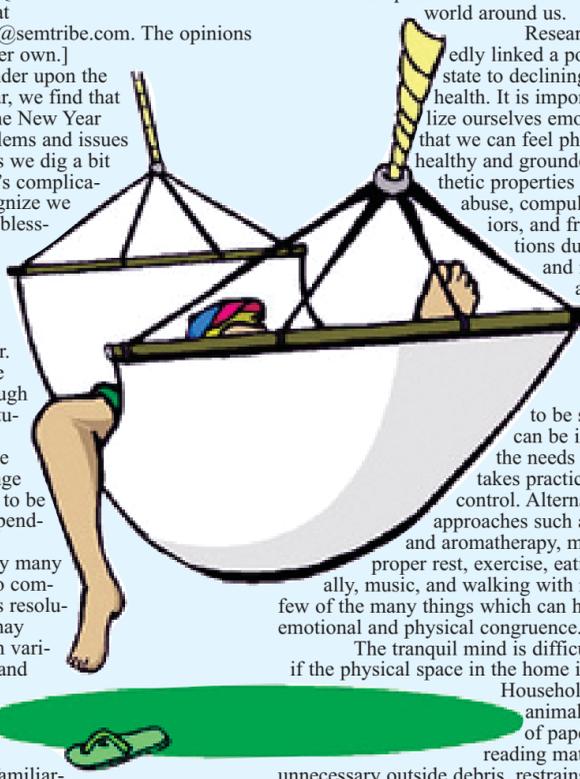
Learning to be still so that we can be in tune with the needs of the body takes practice and self control. Alternative approaches such as massage and aromatherapy, meditation, proper rest, exercise, eating nutritionally, music, and walking with nature are a few of the many things which can help establish emotional and physical congruence.

The tranquil mind is difficult to achieve if the physical space in the home is restrictive.

Household clutter, dust, animal dander, piles of paper and old reading material, and unnecessary outside debris, restrains movement and the flow of creative energy.

We spend roughly one third to one half of our lives in our homes. Emotional calmness is short lived if one can not move freely within one's home. Moving unnecessary clutter, using natural sunlight, minimizing mechanical noise, using an air purifier, and using relaxing colors and scents within the home, can promote a more soothing atmosphere.

Calmness is not an easy pursuit in our world which is competitive, busy, and often stressful. Thankfully, we can choose not to be reactionaries. We can be grateful that despite what chaos might be going on around us, peace has its home within—if we nurture it. Each moment gives rise to a new opportunity for us to tap into our inner and timeless reservoir of potential.



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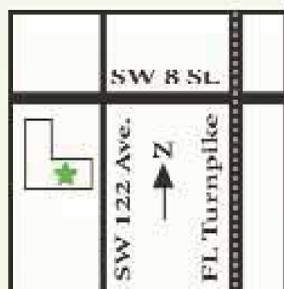


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Wondrous Works: Contemporary Art by Native American Women

The Art of Storytelling Featured In New MIAC Exhibition

Submitted by Museum of New Mexico

Santa Fe, N.M. — Beaded high-tops and a weaving called "September 11, 2001" are among the diverse story-laden pieces that will be on display at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture. "Wondrous Works: Contemporary Art by Native American Women" highlights dynamic works of wonder by Native American women artists who bring their stories and creativity to life in a variety of medium.

The opening reception, free to New Mexico residents, will be held Feb. 12, from 1-4 p.m. The exhibition will be on view through Jan. 14, 2007.

Whether woven into tapestries and baskets, or beaded on a variety of materials, the stories told through the pieces provide graphic examples of reservation life and past events. Combining utility with beauty, through their stitches and designs, these women express their unique heritage and traditions that connect them to the places they come from.

While several works fall within the ongoing traditions important to the communities, other pieces express the creative imagination of the artist in brilliant colors and designs.

In American Indian culture, beadwork has been revered as both ornamental and sacred. It is also an important means of cultural and artistic expression. The extraordinary beadwork by Kiowa artist Teri Greeves continues this expression through the use of contemporary materials.

Famous for her beadwork on a variety of objects, the exhibit features "Indian Parade Umbrella," which won Best of Show at the 1999 Santa Fe Indian Market. Each beaded panel on tanned deer hide includes people she grew up with and watched at Indian parades. This is the first time this piece has been in a public exhibition.

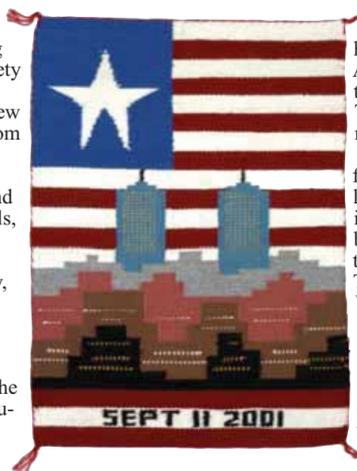
Recently acquired by the museum, Greeves's "Kiowa Ceremonial Dance: A Beaded Book" will also be on view, along with the complete story that goes with it. The six-page book of beaded designs on tanned deer hide provides a glimpse into a series of ceremonial dances, including the Kiowa Feather Dance and the Sundance.

Other beaded depictions include the Kiowa Black Leggings Society Dance, which is made up of Kiowa veterans and active duty servicemen, and the Kiowa Scalp Dance, in which Kiowa women dance in honor of a relative who has fought in a war.

On a more serious note, visitors will have the opportunity to contemplate two large Navajo basketry trays by Peggy Rock Black that illustrate a painful time in the history of the "Navajo: The Long Walk and The Coming Home."

The Navajos were removed from their homes in Arizona in 1864 and forced to travel by foot over three hundred miles into eastern New Mexico. Upon their arrival, the U.S. government incarcerated more than 9,000 Navajos and 400 Mescalero Apaches and attempted to forcibly convert this semi-nomadic group of people into farmers.

The experiment failed miserably and in 1868, the Navajo were released to return to a reservation that had been established for them in what is now part of Northwestern New Mexico, Eastern Arizona and Southern Utah.



Several Navajo tapestry weavings include scenes of sheep, hogans, mountains, trains and trucks. A weaving by TahNibaa Naat'aanii tells the story of the Navajo Code Talkers from the time they left the reservation to their return.

The weaving includes colorful imagery that depicts reservation life, boot camp, palm trees and a ship in the Pacific Theater. A large coiled basket by Sally Black also illustrates the importance of the Navajo Code Talkers to our Nation's history during World War II.

Examples of ongoing traditions are represented as well, such as embroidered kilts and finger-woven sashes worn during Pueblo social and ceremonial dances. Recent works by well-known artists Bea Duran of Tesuque Pueblo and Ramoncita Sandoval of Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo

(San Juan) remind us of how connected these women are to their communities and the traditions that make them unique in a world that is becoming increasingly homogenized.

More than 30 works by twenty different contemporary Native American women artists are presented in this exhibition that includes several works from the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture's permanent collection, as well as borrowed pieces from the artists, the School of American Research, and private collections.

The opening on Feb. 12 will include a reception, artist demonstrations, a performance by the San Juan Tewa Women's Choir, storytelling, puppet shows, and hands-on activities for children.

Located on Museum Hill™, the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture shares the beautiful Milner Plaza with the

Museum of International Folk Art. Here, Now and Always, a major permanent exhibition at the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture, combines the voices of living Native Americans with ancient and contemporary artifacts and interactive multimedia to tell the complex stories of the Southwest.

The Buchsbaum Gallery displays works from the region's pueblos. Five changing galleries present exhibits on subjects ranging from archaeological excavations to contemporary art. In addition, an outdoor sculpture garden offers rotating exhibits of works by Native American sculptors.

For more information call (505) 476-1269 or visit www.miaclab.org.



Nation's Best Dancers Focus On World Title

Submitted by the Heard Museum

PHOENIX, AZ — The 16th annual world championship hoop dance title is at stake and the finest Native American hoop dancers will face off at the world famous Heard Museum, Feb. 4-5.

More than 40 Native hoop dancers of all ages will display their athleticism, speed and grace to an expected crowd of 10,000. The world championship hoop dance contest is generously sponsored by Casino Arizona.

The current and three-time world champion, Alex Wells, Salish, from Morley, Alberta, Canada, is expected to return to the Heard Museum to defend his title. Wells' opposition will include former champion Derrick Suwaima Davis, Lisa Odijig and Daniel Tramper as well as former teen champion Tony Duncan.

Being such a unique event, interest from dancers increases each year—this year an expected 50 dancers will compete—as the talent looks forward to impressing crowds. Dancers from the age of 2 through 70 display their best routines while expressing their

cultural pride.

"This is it, if you are a hoop dancer, this is the world championship," said Wendy Weston, Navajo, event organizer. "If you win this title you are the best in the world."

Originated in Taos Pueblo, the hoop dance symbolizes the Circle of Life and the continuous cycle of life's constant renewal. Hoop dance has become more popular in dance circles, powwows and contests throughout North America.

Today it incorporates speed and agility as dancers manipulate their body through one to more than 50 hoops. Some dancers also use creative designs and difficult manipulations to present a unique variation of the dance. Each dancer expresses his or her distinct cultural traditions as the sounds of Northern and Southern Plains drums beat in the background.

The contest gets underway with a grand entry at 9:30 a.m. At this time all contestants will dance through the crowds, winding their way down to the dance circle in the museum's grass amphitheater, allowing spectators to view the



dancers together.

Judges from each region of the U.S. and Canada critique the dancers on a variety of criteria in several divisions which include: senior, 40 years and older, adult, 18-39, teen, 13-17, youth, five-12 and tiny tot, four and younger.

Tickets are available at the gate \$10 for adults, \$3 for children four-12 years old, \$7 for museum members and Native Americans and free for children younger than four. For more details, please visit www.heard.org or call Dana McGuinness at (602) 252-8848.

Art by Renowned Hopi Jeweler Charles Loloma At Heard Museum

Submitted the Heard Museum

PHOENIX, AZ — Hopi artist Charles Loloma influenced generations of jewelers by incorporating non-traditional materials—such as gold set lapis lazuli, fossilized ivory, pearls, malachite and ironwood—into masterful jewelry designs.

On loan from the Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian in Santa Fe, N.M., the new exhibit "Loloma: Beauty in Hopi Jewelry" will offer a comprehensive look at Loloma's life's work when it opens at the Heard Museum on Feb. 18 and will run through May 28.

Loloma is arguably the most influential Native American jeweler of the 20th century. An artist of astonishing creative energy, he found fame as a jeweler and ceramist. He traveled extensively and was comfortable among people from all walks of life including affluent art connoisseurs.

His bold, innovative designs departed dramatically from Hopi cultural beliefs, yet he was intensely traditional and served as a religious leader in his native community of Hotevilla, Ariz. He has a long and close associa-

tion with the Heard Museum through exhibition and collection of his work and the Heard reputedly holds the largest museum collection of his jewelry.

Loloma was a powerful artistic force, an undisputed master who personally broke down the barriers of regionalism and helped give contemporary Native American art worldwide recognition. He was also a gentle man who enjoyed people and cared deeply about their responses to his jewelry.

When asked how he would want to be remembered, he simply remarked, "What I'd like to be known for is beauty."

The exhibit includes a comprehensive grouping of Loloma's jewelry from the earliest documented pieces of the 1950s to the closing of his studio in 1988, and focuses on the early influences of Loloma's development into an artistic force.

The fine art catalogue "Loloma: Beauty Is His Name" by Martha Hopkins Struever, guest curator at the Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian, is available at the Heard Museum Shop & Bookstore for \$75 in hardcover and \$45 in soft cover.



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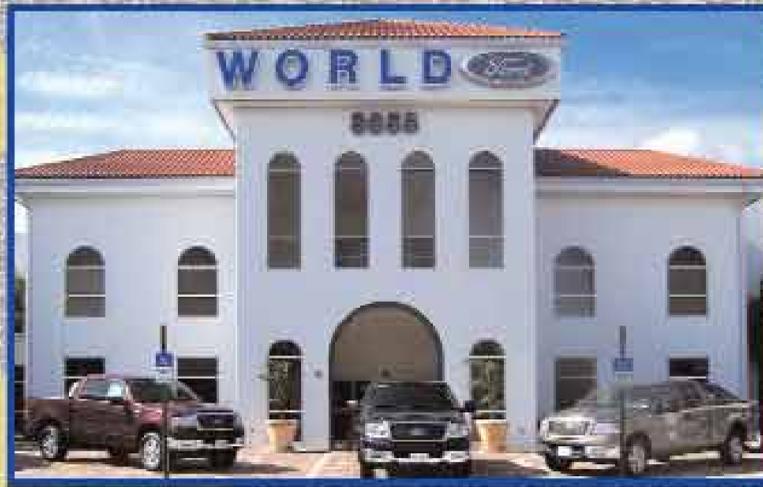
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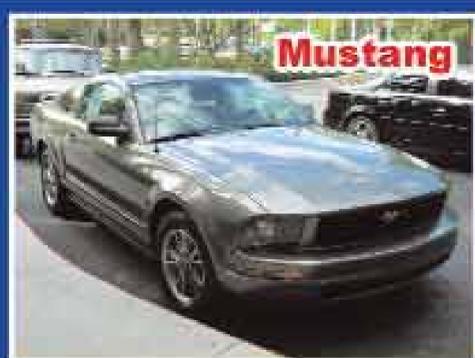
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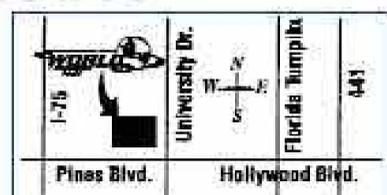
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Lila Osceola

The Board staff gathered together after lunch for a picture together.

Board Christmas Party Held at Hard Rock

By Lila Osceola
HOLLYWOOD — On Dec. 22 around lunch time, the Christmas buzz was in the air. The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino hosted the Board Christmas party for 2005. With the beautiful Christmas music playing in the background everyone was ready for the Christmas festivities to be near.

The decorations were beautiful, the



Lila Osceola

(L-R) Executive Administrator, Jim Talik, Executive Adm in Big Cypress, Delores Alvarez, and Business Development Manager, Cheryl Bolton.



Lila Osceola

The Osceola Family

Hard Rock set up a beautiful array of food for the holiday. Much of the staff was there to enjoy the beautiful lunch.

Family and friends came out to eat and enjoy the party with the board staff. It was definitely a time for sharing and caring. A holiday greeting, followed by hugs and wishes for everyone, was the recipe for happiness in that banquet room.

Brighton Celebrates Christmas

By Emma Brown
BRIGHTON — On Dec. 22 the Brighton Council office, Board office, and Chairman's office put on one of the best community Christmas parties ever. Everyone gathered together around noon to feast on prime rib and all the fixings, while most of the children enjoyed the bounce houses and face paintings that were provided for their enjoyment.

The children of the 4-H program entertained everyone with some Christmas carols while dinner was being served. At about 1:30 p.m. Santa Claus, Mrs.



Emma Brown

Everyone lined up to feast on the prime rib buffet.



Emma Brown

Kids line up to get their face painted.

Claus, and their elves arrived on a fire truck, since there was no snow to glide in a sleigh they had to find alternate transportation. Children gathered around them to greet them with hugs and smiles as they were overjoyed to see them arrive.

Wonderful door prizes were given out to the adults while each child received a wrapped gift. Santa was available for pictures and had a line a mile long to spend with the boys and girls of the Brighton community. It was a time for family and fun, while enjoying the holiday spirit.

It is a wonderful thing to host a Christmas celebrations as a community, which is essentially one big family. Great job to all of those who helped in making the party a success.



Emma Brown

Brighton Junior Miss



Emma Brown

4-H program kids sing Christmas carols.

John Billie Sr. & Family Christmas Party

By Lila Osceola

BIG CYPRESS — The place to be on a Sunday afternoon a week before Christmas, celebrating an occasion that will bring people near and far. The much anticipated party that the Billie family has spent months preparing for was finally upon us.

Many friends and family members gathered at the camp of John Billie Sr. on Dec. 17 from 8 a.m.-11 p.m. in Big Cypress to celebrate and have a great time this Christmas holiday.

The family provided breakfast, and an early dinner, with beautiful sounds of the band playing in the background. Two bands came to entertain, the early morning band was Andy Buster's Band, and around 2 p.m. James Billie and his band got on stage and finished off the party with some Christmas music.

Under the tents, tables were decorated with lovely Christmas table cloths. Christmas tree and many ornaments lined the tents to give it the Christmas party look.

Bounce houses, rides, basketball, horseshoes, and lots of food brought more than 250 people to spend the day with the family. The day was beautiful, not too hot and



Lila Osceola

Louise Billie prepares the fish to be cooked.



Lila Osceola

Carol Osceola and family hand out gifts.

not cold, your typical fall day in Florida. But when the sun began to set the mosquitoes came out, which did not interfere with the joy that was being spread among the friends and family.

After the kids got their share of riding rides, jumping in bounce houses, and playing basketball the time was near. The highlight for the kids came right after dinner around 4:30 pm, when they unveiled the pile of toys and gifts to be given to friends and family.

Carol Osceola was the ring leader of this circus. She lined the kids up around the pile, and her and family members handed toys out to the crazy mob of kids.

Kids of all ages waving and moaning ooh's and awe's as they distinguished who to give boy and girls toys to. Barbie™ dolls, Batman, Spiderman, cars, trucks, dolls, baby toys, foot balls, basketballs—so many decisions and so many kids. All the kids seemed more than pleased when it was over.

After the mad rush was over, the family then brought the rest of the gifts to the older kids, the adults. Pots and pans, pillows, fishing poles, tool boxes, Tupperware®, kitchen accessories, flashlights, makeup, etc., needless to say the adults were just as excited and thankful to receive gifts as well.

The horseshoe tournament went well into the

night, long after the sun had set. Flash lights, mosquitoes, and full bellies played a major role in this tournament. Winners were: Ladies: 1. Betty Larkin-Osceola, 2. Jennie Osceola, 3. Juanita Osceola; Men: 1. Ray Kennedy, 2. Ronnie Billie and 3. Darrin Osceola.

As the night went on, Esther Gopher stood on the band stand and read out numbers for the raffle they were having. The family gave microwaves, play station, batman toys, scooters, saws, gift certificates, money, etc.

Everyone walked away with something, full bellies, to go plates, gifts galore, plenty of mosquito bites; and a bundle of Christmas cheer. At night in the swamp is not good if you are a mosquito magnet. The party was a beautiful success. Everyone who came had a great time, one could easily see by the looks on

the faces of kids and adults alike.



Lila Osceola

Chelsea Mountain asks Santa for a ride.

Hollywood Seniors Christmas Bash



Lila Osceola

Seniors waited patiently after Rod Stewart and lunch from Shorty's for the Beatles to rock the house.

By Lila Osceola

HOLLYWOOD — Who said the elders don't know how to party? The party was just getting started, on Dec. 22 at 11 a.m. at the Senior's Center. A Rod Stewart impersonator opened up the party with some oldies but goodies. He and the band played for a few hours, of course to save the best for later.

Barbeque lunch was catered by Shorty's Barbeque for everyone to eat. The food was excellent, along with the entertainment. Then later on the Beatles came on and had the women and men bobbin' their heads and tappin' their feet to the music. The party finally came to a close around 4 p.m.

The room was packed full of Christmas spirit for the elder's and family members to enjoy. Everyone was rockin' to the music and remembering the good ol' days.



Lila Osceola

Pat Gopher and Maggie Osceola.



Judy Weeks

Holiday Activities Abound In Immokalee

By Judy Weeks
IMMOKALEE — There was no shortage of activities for the Immokalee community members this holiday season. In addition to the Seminole Tribe's annual Christmas party, held at the Hollywood Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, there were festivities planned throughout December. (see page ____ for photos)



Judy Weeks

The Immokalee Casino conference room was transformed into a winter wonderland.

Immokalee Community Christmas Party

This year's community Christmas party was held in the conference room at the Immokalee Casino on Dec. 20, 2005. The room had been lavishly decorated for the occasion as a winter wonderland. A snowy scene was the backdrop for the generous buffet while the remainder of the room was draped with blue and white.

Art lighting highlighted the ceiling giving the illusion of snowflakes and stars. Blue and white table cloths and numerous snow flocked Christmas trees created a wintery atmosphere, enhanced by subtle, hazy lighting. Mounds of presents in colorful wrapping paper covered the stage area at the front of the room.

Two buffets were provided featuring both adult and child friendly menus. For the grownup appetites, there was roast beef and pork tenderloin with numerous side dishes, fry bread and a variety of salads and relish trays. A short trip across the room provided an opportunity for buffalo wings, jumbo hot dogs, sausages, hamburgers and French fries. For the sweet tooth in all of us, there were pies, cakes, candies and nuts.

Immokalee Council Liaison Ralph Sanchez welcomed the gathering.

"It gives me great pleasure to share my holidays with you here this evening. I have enjoyed very much the opportunity of working with you this past year and look forward to a very happy and prosperous New Year."

Following the banquet, Christmas presents were distributed to everyone. During the previous weeks a wish list had been compiled and every effort had been made to satisfy individual desires. Santa Claus Raymond Mora called out names while his helpers worked frantically to keep up with the distribution of the mountain of gifts.

Shouts of laughter and joy filled the room as packages were opened to reveal a vast variety of items. There were bicycles, skateboards, moon shoes, Barbie® with accessories, iPods, boom boxes, DVDs, lap top computers, portable beds, cookware and tools to name just a few of the presents.

A nostalgic touch was the distribution of items that brought back memories of days gone by. Many of the tribal members remembered past holidays in the villages and camps when Christmas meant a truckload of oranges, shanks of beads, yards of fabric and rick-rack.

As she walked around the room giving out beads and fabric, Nancy Motlow said, "It's moments like these that take us back to our roots and produce a warm holiday feeling. Many of the elders have expressed their gratitude and commented on what it means to them as they are reminded about family, friends

and a past lifestyle that is slowly slipping away. We hope that by giving the children beads, we can spark their interest in our arts and crafts program where they will learn to carry on their heritage."

Entertainment included the Latin



Judy Weeks

Michelle Ford shows Toni Martinez and her son Carlos Bermuda her new DVD player.

Explosion, a disc jockey and karaoke. Door prize tickets were distributed according to age groups. The winning number provided an opportunity to reach into the jar to draw a numbered chip which corresponded to a wrapped gift beneath the tree.

A highlight of the evening was a pile of Seminole patchwork clothing that included skirts, jackets, vests, capes and dresses in all sizes. As the winning tickets were announced, the thrilled recipients rushed forward to collect their prizes.

Holiday Decorating Contest Illuminates Immokalee

Immokalee community residents went all out in an effort to create the most original and extraordinary displays for the holidays. Days were spent hanging thousands of lights, decorating trees and installing scenes on roof tops and lawns.

Traveling throughout the reservation, one could find whole streets a blaze with holiday cheer. Word spread quickly throughout the city of Immokalee and carloads of people would drive slowly around each evening to enjoy the beautiful sight.

The contest was a closely guarded secret. It was impossible to know when your handy work would be judged or by whom. The only information available was that the work needed to be completed as soon as possible to be included in the contest and needed to remain in place through the holidays.

An unbiased panel of judges from outside the community made the winning decisions: 1. Becky Martinez, 2. Dorothy Benson, 3. Susan Davis, 4. Elsa Zamora, 5. Ray Alvarado Jr.

Employee Christmas Party

By Judy Weeks
IMMOKALEE — An employee Christmas party took place at the Immokalee gym on Dec. 13. In the preceding weeks, employees had drawn names to learn for whom they were going to be a secret Santa.

Following a blessing by Family Services' Beverley Rose, a delicious luncheon was served with a festive holiday cake for dessert. Secret Santa packages were distributed from beneath the tree before the afternoon's activities



Judy Weeks

Jennifer Ramos holds up the coveted blue box while Elsa Tamora tears into her package.



Judy Weeks

ISY & LR Employees Gabriel Acosta and Carl Presley are ready to make lunch with their prizes.

After an hour the last of the gifts had been claimed. The winners were called by tables to the front of the room where they opened the prizes. Jennifer Ramos wound up with the coveted blue box which contained a holiday serving platter.

Charlotte Porcaro was shocked when she opened the red gift bag and pulled out a pair of red and black satin panties and bra which she good-naturedly modeled over her clothing. That bag had been owned by at least a dozen men before the game was over.

A gift lottery had been organized with each player drawing five numbers. Matching numbers were then drawn and called out over the microphone by Susan Davis. Each corresponding winner would select a gift from the table at the front of the room. There were over one hundred items ranging in size with the large ones disappearing quickly.

Winners had the option of selecting a new gift or relieving someone else of the one that they had chosen. A large heavy blue package and a red gift bag circulated around the room over and over again as it changed owners.

Soon things became hilarious as people resorted to hiding the packages under their jackets or balancing them on their knees beneath the table to protect them from being confis-



Judy Weeks

Nutritionist Charlotte Porcaro models her prize from the gift lottery game.



Judy Weeks

Cecilia Pequeno and Juanita Martinez prepare to open gifts

Christmas Cookie Decorating Party

Story by Judy Weeks
IMMOKALEE — On Dec. 21, 2005, Family Services took over the gym for an afternoon of old fashioned fun. All of the children of the Immokalee community were invited to decorate Christmas cookies.



Judy Weeks

Nutritionist Charlotte Porcaro and Family Services' Cathrine Robinson check out Alexis Jimmie's cookies.

Tables were laid out with more than 250 freshly baked cookies which had been cut into numerous holiday shapes. Frosting bags had been prepared with icing in red, blue, yellow, white and green. Bowls of sprinkles, chocolate chips, cinnamon hearts, M&M's and colored sugars awaited the youngsters as they streamed into the building after school.

Immokalee Family Services employees Louise Pellitier, Cathrine Robinson, and Maria Asceno were joined by Nutritionist Charlotte Porcaro and Education Intervention Representative Diana Rocha as they worked their way around the tables assisting with the cookies.

Over 35 happy children participated ranging in age from toddlers to teenagers.

Squeezing the colored icing onto the cookies, they made beautiful Christmas trees, stars, Santas, angels, snowmen, teddy bears, bells and snowflakes. The proud artists exhibited their cookies on green doilies covered plates to transport



Judy Weeks

Family Services' Cathrine Robinson assists with the cookie decorating.



Judy Weeks

Family Services Louise Pellitier helps Suhey Lagunes apply her frosting.

To the delight of the youngsters, several parents and two SPD officers joined in the fun creating their own works of art and helping the children sample what they had done. Family Services provided Gatorade, water and fruit juice for refreshment.

Several adults commented on how well behaved and appreciative the children were. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and several inquired about next time. Family Services representatives are looking forward to future opportunities to interact with the children in the community.



Judy Weeks

Destiny Jimmie is all smiles as she shows off her handiwork.

Special Immokalee Recreation Activities

By Judy Weeks
IMMOKALEE — On Dec. 23, 2005 the Recreation department sponsored a bowling tournament at the lanes in Lehigh Acres. The turnout was very good and the competition was brisk with winners having to put up a good fight for their rewards.

Horseshoe enthusiasts gathered at the ball field on Dec. 24 for a Christmas Eve tournament. After several exciting hours of play the winners were: Men: 1. Kenny Joe Davis, 2. Gary McInturff, 3. Mario Posada; Women: 1. Susan Davis, 2. Laura Herran, 3.

Louise Howard; Men's Doubles: 1. Kenny Joe Davis and Ray Yzaguirre, 2. Homer Villareal and Eric, 3. Justin Villareal and Bobby Joe Hudson; Women's Doubles: 1. Laura Herran and Louise Howard, 2. Cecelia Pequeno and Juanita Martinez, 3. Susan Davis and Jennifer Ramos.

Recreation organized a field trip to the Miccosukee Festival on Dec. 30, 2005. Approximately 30 youngsters were transported to the Trail for a day of discovery. The group enjoyed the dancers, vendors and storytellers, but had a special affection for

the alligator wrestling which captivates both young and old. To top off a fascinating afternoon, the youngsters climbed aboard an airboat and took flight across the River of Grass.

Recreation's Gary McInturff said, "We all had a great time, but I had to ask myself what I was doing down there with all those children. I guess it was a momentary lapse of sanity. Seriously, they all behaved very well and I wouldn't hesitate to take them anywhere. In fact, we are planning a trip to a football game next."

Immokalee Preschool Christmas Party

By Judy Weeks
IMMOKALEE — The holiday season in Immokalee got underway on Dec. 12, 2005, when the pre-

sters, one infant and three toddlers in the two year old category. All of them looked like Santa's little elves in their white fur trimmed stocking caps adorned with their names in gold glitter.

Santa's Head Elf, Preschool Manager Michelle Ford, delighted the children with her outfit that included elfin shoes with turned up toes while teacher Rosa Garcia wore Mrs. Santa Claus' apron.

Maria Castro's class gathered in front of the Christmas tree and performed several carols for the audience of 50 family members and friends who had come to share in the occasion.

Following the entertainment, Elaine Aguilar offered the prayer prior to the line forming for the luncheon. A wonderful Mexican buffet had been catered by Lazano's Restaurant which included several outstanding dishes.



Judy Weeks

Jack Aguilar is all smiles as he drags his present across the floor.

rounded by presents, he greeted each of the children who climbed upon his knee and shared a photographic moment with them before distributing their gifts.

Wrapping paper flew in all



Judy Weeks

Santa helps James Mora collect his gifts.

school held its annual Christmas party in the gym. The children had helped with the decorations by preparing a large wall hanging that included snowmen, wreaths, reindeer and Santa's elves surrounded by a red garland.

This year's preschool has ten students comprised of six young-

Preschool Director Leona Tommie Williams had traveled from Hollywood for the occasion with Education Coordinator Amber Giehtbrock and

Disability Coordinator Hilary Denerstein. All three volunteered their services in the buffet line

which was served by the Preschool staff members.

A festive holiday cake decorated with a small child surrounded by lambs was served for dessert. It was not only beautiful but delicious with strawberries hidden between the layers.

Suddenly there was a knock at the door and who should appear but Santa Claus. Taking a chair beside the Christmas tree which was sur-



Judy Weeks

Luncheon Buffet

directions as the children opened their presents and yelled with joy. However, no one could out do the exclamation of pleasure from Santa Claus when he received his surprise package.

Skie Olesky, with his long white beard and jovial personality has volunteered his services to the community for several years and was rewarded with a Seminole jacket in traditional tribal red, white, black and yellow. It was a wonderful conclusion to a very happy occasion.



Judy Weeks

Santa was thrilled by his Christmas gift.

Brighton Employees Get a Special Gift

By Susan Etxebarria

BRIGHTON — Brighton Seminole reservation employees were given a very special Christmas present. A party was held at the bingo hall at Brighton Seminole Casino on Dec. 19 from 3-6 p.m. but what they never expected was to be individually honored in a very special way.

They each received a beautiful wall plaque and letter of appreciation with an award of money because they went above and beyond the call of duty in the aftermath of Hurricane Wilma.

Devoted to their jobs, and willing to work more hours than required, Brighton Council Representative Andy Bowers expressed his deep gratitude for the employees of many departments.

"Unless you were living under a rock you all know what we went through at Brighton Oct. 23-30 this year," he said. "You can try to prepare for a hurricane but what you have to put up with afterwards is a lot. But we had your support."

"Even though the Tribal operations were shut down all week some of you worked because it was your job, and others among you helped us because you wanted to help. We believe we should recognize those who helped us get through this time. Your contribution was valueless," Bowers concluded.

One by one Bowers and Board Representative Johnny Jones called forward employees from 17 departments. Bowers gave special mention to the employees of the Department of Elder Affairs where the Hot Meals Director Leah Minnick made sure everyone was fed nutritious meals throughout the week. It was the unofficial command center.

"These folks kept us going and this is where everyone came to find out what was going on," said Bowers.

He also recognized Jodi King and her Building and Grounds crew who did the bulk of cleanup after the storm. He praised Fire



Susan Etxebarria

Board Rep. Johnny Jones (L) and Council Rep. Andrew Bowers with Building and Grounds (L-R) Michael Phillips, Charlie Ford, and Judy Goodman.

Rescue because they stayed on duty throughout the storm. And he complimented Kevin Osceola, manager of the Brighton Trading Post.

"He had the foresight to get generators at the gas pumps before the storm," he told the employees.

For several days the only place anyone for many miles around could get gas was at Brighton. With no electricity the workers at the store did a great job of collecting the cash without the aid of their computers, said Bowers.

The employees were also shown appreciation by other Tribal leaders. "You are doing a

good job for the Tribe and making everything work for us a little easier," said Board Representative Jones.

President Moses Osceola made a special trip from Hollywood to thank the employees.

"This has been a long year but a good year. It is time for you to enjoy yourselves here today and party hearty. Thank you for all your good work," Osceola said.

Some of the most fun at the Christmas party was having a chance to win one of the awesome door prizes. Among the many prizes there were: a 15 inch flat screen TV, a Kodak digital camera, an electric deep fryer, a George Foreman cooker and many \$50 gift certificates to Outback Steakhouse.

Every employee also received a very nice gift, a lined windbreaker jacket with the Seminole Tribe's logo on it.

All About Food of Boca Raton, Fla. catered the dinner and every table was decorated beautifully. Council Representative Bowers thanked his staff including Michele Thomas and Jessica Billie for organizing the wonderful event.



Susan Etxebarria

(L-R) Michele Thomas, Andrew Bowers, and Johnny Jones hand out door prizes.



Susan Etxebarria

Santa and his helpers; (L-R) Michele Thomas, Jessica Billie, Johnny Jones, and Andrew Bowers.



Judy Weeks

Group shot at employee appreciation luncheon at the Casino.

Chairman Reviews 2005 at Luncheon

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — Chairman Mitchell Cypress invited all of the Immokalee employees of the Seminole Tribe to a Christmas luncheon at noon on Dec. 23, 2005 at the Immokalee Casino. Approximately 75 employees gathered for the occasion in the dining room.

While waiting for lunch to be served, the chairman took advantage of the opportunity and addressed the group.

"I am pleased to be able to stand here today and thank all of you for your valuable contributions to the vast progress that has taken place in Immokalee this past year," he said. "So much has happened in such a short time."

"Your new administration building is nearing completion and I am looking forward to the ribbon cutting ceremony within a few months. The field office has been bursting at the seams as your community and its needs have grown. Finally you will have the facilities from which to carry out your duties.

"Recreation has been remodeling the gym and creating a healthy atmosphere in which to implement a fitness program. A personal trainer has joined the staff, new equipment has arrived and before long we hope to have a fitness trail for everyone's walking pleasure. Our nutritionist and community health representatives have done a great job of putting together a lifestyle balance program, organizing walking and bike marathons and weight loss contests.

"As you all know, good health, exercise and basic physical fitness are very important programs on my agenda and I am very pleased that Immokalee is going to have the facilities to help everyone create a better lifestyle for themselves. As employees your fitness is just as important as the people you serve because you will be better able to perform your duties and set an example for them.

"The opening of Immokalee's first clinic is just a few days away and I see here in this room a wonderful group of people who will make up its staff. The seniors' Hot Meals program has a home at last. This past year, its services have expanded to include bicycles, ceramics, arts and crafts and a record number of recreational trips."

"The Immokalee Educational department was at an all time high during 2005 with more high school graduates than ever before. The library has enhanced the learning programs with the aid of a tutor and after school study groups. Our future lies with our youth and it is very important that we prepare them for the responsibilities that lie ahead if we as Seminoles are to stand strong!

"Immokalee's Family Services department has grown and is actively reaching out into the community. Their meetings, contests and youth oriented activities are establishing a valuable link with the people they are here to assist. You have tried something new this year with all departments joining together to produce two community block parties, which I am told were a fabulous success. By working together you have proven that there is no limit to what can be achieved.

"This past year Immokalee's Comprehensive Plan for Development was approved. This has laid the ground work for new projects to begin which will include a church, preschool, youth center, income properties, new housing and much, much more."

In conclusion, Cypress said, "There is no way I can summarize the events of this past year without thanking everyone of you for the terrific job you performed during the crisis created by Hurricane Wilma. From the Seminole Police Department, Fire and Rescue, Utilities, Housing, and Maintenance to every other department on the Reservation, you did an extraordinary job and coordinated your efforts as you rushed to the aid of your community. I thank you all for a job well done and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!"

Before returning to his chair, Cypress inquired if anyone else would like to speak. Nutritionist Charlotte Porcero thanked the chairman for his wonderful commentary before making her comments.

"It has truly been a great year and I have enjoyed very much working with all of you. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year," she said.

Because of a prior commitment Registered Nurse and Clinic Administrator Debbie Haywood asked if she could speak next.

"I am proud to announce that we have set the grand opening for the new clinic for Jan. 9," she said. "This has been a long time coming and as you know we have encountered numerous obstacles along the way, but nothing that couldn't be overcome. I joined the staff of the Seminole Tribe this past year and have to admit that I am enjoying this position more than any other job I've had in my thirty three year nursing career. Unfortunately, I have to leave you now, but I wish you a Merry Christmas and if I don't see you again, Happy New Year."

Immokalee Events Coordinator for Nancy Motlow remarked on how much she had enjoyed working with everyone and looked forward to the coming year.

"Your Council Representative Ralph Sanchez could not attend today because he is out of town, however, he asked me to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year," she said.

Community Health Representative Anna Puente spoke on how much she enjoyed her co-workers and the people of the community.

"I want to thank all of you and especially the Seminole Tribe. Merry Christmas," Puente said.

Angie Arreguin replied, "I can't thank the Seminole Tribe enough for all of the wonderful opportunities they have given me and I am looking forward to a wonderful new year."

Immokalee Casino Manager Tony Sanchez expressed his thanks to everyone for a job well done and offered holiday greetings.

Curtis Weeks gave the invocation prior to the serving of the meal, offering thanks for a wonderful year and asked for God's blessing for each and everyone in the year to come.

New Year's Eve Party at Recreation

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — The Recreation department opened the gym on New Year's Eve to the community to provide a safe environment in which to welcome in the New Year. A disc jockey kept the building rocking while the partygoers danced, played volley ball and basketball.

Refreshments were served.

Gary and Vince McInturff, Raymond Mora and Dennis Gonzalez lit up the parking lot with a beautiful fireworks display that lasted for over an hour. And of course, the evening would not have been complete without sparklers, which are a favorite with everyone.



Susan Etxebarria

First Indian Baptist Academy (FIBA) students bring Christmas cheer through carols.

FIBA Celebrates Christmas

By Susan Etxebarria

BRIGHTON — The students at First Indian Baptist Academy (FIBA) performed in a special Christmas show for the parents and faculty on Dec. 16. It was their last day of school before the holiday season began.

Accompanied by pianist and third- fourth grade teacher, Mike Zeirden, and the saxophonist, Luis Maisonet, the first-second grade teacher, the students sang traditional songs such as "O, Come All Ye Faithful," "Joy to the World," "Go Tell It On The Mountain" and "Silent Night."

Codene Jumper sang "Breath of Heaven"

in her beautiful soprano voice.

Acting Principal Darlene Holmes spoke to the guests about the importance of remembering the reason for the season and keeping Christ in Christmas and Pastor Wonder Johns reminded the children to always say "God bless you" whenever someone wished them a Merry Christmas.

A Christmas party was held after the show in the school cafeteria where refreshments were served and each child and the teachers were presented with a Christmas present from under the Christmas tree.

Education ❖ Emahaayeeke ❖ Kerretv



Emma Brown

The 2nd graders posed with Santa at the annual Pull-Out Christmas party.

Pull-Out Program Celebrates Christmas



Emma Brown

The 4th and 5th graders and Mr. Claus.



Emma Brown

Santa and the Pull-Out 3rd graders.

By Emma Brown

BRIGHTON — On Dec. 16 Santa arrived by four-wheeler, due to the lack of snow on the ground to pull his sleigh, to greet the students of the Brighton Pull-Out Program. Students were so excited to see Santa ride up on his four-wheeler they could barely wait for him to stop to give him a great big hug.

Each student received a stocking filled with goodies from Santa and spent the afternoon enjoying their Christmas party. They filled up on candy and cookies, played games in the school



Emma Brown

Santa and the kindergarten class.



Emma Brown

The first grade students at the party.

yard, and enjoyed their day celebrating the Christmas season.

The students of the Pull-Out Program never miss out on celebrating the holidays, the staff always provide them with lots off goodies and fun for each holiday.

Education Dept. Celebrates Christmas

By Emma Brown

CLEWISTON, FL — On Dec. 13 the Education department gathered together at the Clewiston Country Club to celebrate the Christmas holiday. There was a wonderful lunch served buffet style, with succulent cakes for dessert that had everyone asking if they could have dessert first.



Emma brown

Shelly Walker opens her gift.

The Language department staff provided their always entertaining gift exchange game. This game always provides a great deal of fun and laughter as you never know what will be inside your gift. It could be a heavy box filled with rocks or filled with chocolates. Of course there was the real gift exchange that took place where everyone that brought a gift walks away with one.

Brighton Intervention Specialist Tony Bullington brought along his guitar and provided music for some of the staff to provide



Emma Brown

(L-R) Shirley Sampson, Jenny Johns and Shelly Walker.



Emma Brown

Willie Johns can't wait to see.

some singing entertainment. The carol had the "Jingle Bells" tune and with comical verses of Hurricane Wilma. Most of all the day was for the staff to get together, unwind, and appreciate themselves and each other for the hard work they do throughout the year.

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High School Students Receive Higher Education 101 Prepping them for College

By Emma Brown
BRIGHTON — Higher Education Advisor Erlinda Iley, Brighton Education Advisor Emma Brown and Brighton Intervention Specialist Tony Bullington visited Brighton high school students in the month of December. They made stops at the Okeechobee Freshman Campus, the Okeechobee High School and The First Indian Baptist Academy to speak to the students about college preparation.

It is the goal of the Education department to familiarize students with the idea of college and preparation for getting into a college as early as possible. Each student was given a college time line which explained how early parents and students should start planning and preparing to take things like college entrance exams such as the SAT and ACT, how important GPA's and credits are, about dual enrollment classes, etc.

The students were also given tools to find what careers they may be interested in by being referred to certain websites that survey the students and give them lists of career compatibilities.

The students were also given a folder with tons of information for them to refer to throughout high school to stay on track for entrance into college along with business cards of the Education department staff to call at anytime for questions and assistance. Each packet also contained a hand book for parents that will also be mailed to the parents from the Brighton office. This hand book is a guide for parents on the types of ways they can assist their student in preparing for college.

The Brighton Education department plans



Emma Brown

Higher Education department meeting with students.

on making these visits to the high school students at least three times a year, so hopefully a student in ninth grade will have heard how to go about getting into college at least 12 times formally before he/she graduates. Not to mention what they get at their local schools from guidance counselors, career fairs, and from the Brighton Education staff on an individual basis.

Parental support and guidance is the primary factor in student success; so parents please feel free to ask for help for the school or the Education department when needed. We are here to help throughout the entire process. If you are in need of any educational support please call your respective reservation Education department.



Emma Brown

Moses "Big Shot" Jumper Jr. (back, right) with the students.

Library Hosts After School Christmas Party

By Emma Brown
BRIGHTON

— On Dec. 15 the Brighton library staff hosted an after school Christmas party for the Brighton reservation children.

Most of the children received parental permission to get off the bus at the library to join in on the fun. The children played games, watched movies, and filled up on lots of goodies.

It was a great idea to host a party at the library, because at the same time the staff could promote reading to the students as well.

The children seemed to have enjoyed the party and the staff did a great job putting it together for them.



Emma Brown

(L-R) Aiyana Tommie, Camryn Thomas and Chloe Chalfant at the party.

Ahfachkee Students Sing in Christmas

By Susan Etxebarría

BIG CYPRESS — A sea of faces at the Herman Osceola Gymnasium didn't seem to faze the well-rehearsed children who ably performed from the beautifully decorated stage during the Ahfachkee School's Christmas Program.

The gym was wrapped in glittering Christmas décor and sparkling lights on Dec. 20. Parents sat comfortably at round tables waiting anxiously to see if their kids would be up to the challenge. They needn't have worried.

What wonderful composure most of the children exhibited as they performed with their individual classroom singing songs, playing musical instruments or performing solo.

As parents took turns crawling forward to the front to take pictures and with many cameras flashing all around, it was obvious the parents were as excited as the children, the teachers were pleased and the kids were enjoying their 15 minutes of fame.

Acting Principal Lenora Roberts welcomed all the families and guests and congratulated the children for all their hard work.

From the beginning to the end each class sang popular holiday songs with enthusiasm. Some of the presentations offered unique twists. Every class performed well but here are some of the highlights of the successful Christmas program.

and white Santa hats as they sang their rendition of "Jingle Bells."

The second graders introduced a new instrument to the annual concert as a quartet of the students played traditional hand bells to the song "Jingle Bells." The third graders received a round of applause



Susan Etxebarría

The 2nd graders performed with handbells.

as several children played a recorder, a flute like instrument. The fourth graders sang "Feliz Navidad," which means "Merry Christmas" in Spanish.

The traditional 10 minute video produced by the Seventh and Eight grade classes was a big hit. The story entitled "Holiday Insanity" was written by the students, directed by the students and acted by the students.

Johnathon Harto and Denny Hernandez acted as emcees who kept the pace of the program moving along smoothly so afterwards the hungry crowd could eat a sumptuous banquet while visiting with friends and family. Santa visited with children and their pictures were taken.

This was how Ahfachkee's last day of school ended before the holidays where everyone had a chance to wish each other a Merry Christmas at this special Christmas party.



Susan Etxebarría

The 5th grade boys sang "Nothing But Bad."

The kindergarten class was dressed in white costumes with big black buttons matching their song "Frosty, the Snowman." The first graders wore red

ended before the holidays where everyone had a chance to wish each other a Merry Christmas at this special Christmas party.



Susan Etxebarría

The kindergarteners entertained the crowd singing "Frosty the Snowman."

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Last Surviving child of Jack Tommie & Sallie "Chupco" Tommie Receives Home

Bessie Tommie, the last surviving child of thirteen, moves into Chupco's Landing Home

Submitted by Chairman's Office

FT. PIERCE — On the morning of Dec. 28, 2005, four more dreams became a reality. Tribal citizens Bessie Tommie, Leona Tommie-Williams, O'Hara Tommie and Antillis Stockton received keys to their new homes in Chupco's Landing.

The weather was crisp while the sun shone brightly on this auspicious day. The new homeowners and representatives of various departments of the Seminole Tribe assembled for the ceremony at hand.

Utilities Director Susie Kippenberger initiated the proceedings with a request of Leona Tommie-Williams for the invocation. After the prayer Kippenberger welcomed all the attendees and congratulated the recipients.

She explained a little history of the project to illustrate the journey of this momentous project. The construction design began in 1997. The actual groundbreaking for civil structure was on July 1, 2003, culminating in the completion of the first group of homes in Sept. 2005.

Kippenberger acknowledged Ft. Pierce Council Liaison Sally R. Tommie's strong commitment to the Seminole community. She thanked the

members of the Tribal Council for their long-term support and dedication for seeing this plan through. In concluding her comments Kippenberger shared in the excitement the recipients felt.

"I'd like to congratulate you," she said. "I'm very happy for you. I know this is like the biggest Christmas present you will have."

After an introduction by Kippenberger, Tommie gave an eloquent and informative speech thanking the Chairman and the Tribal Council for their continued support and detailing the family lineage of this Seminole community. She spoke of the strength of the family matriarch and Bird clan member, Sallie Chupco Tommie "Grandma was a VERY strong woman that stood tall and confident with pride and determination to work hard and provide for her family".

"Hardwork, dedication and a tremendous love for the Lord went hand in hand with the way that Grandma lived and that attributed to her long life on this earth". According to tribal records she was ninety nine at the time of her departure from this world but we believe that she was well over a hundred years old.

She shared that the sons of this family—Walter, Buck, Fred, Cleve, George, and Buster—passed on before the sisters. It was the sisters—Rosalee, Hope, Marie, Minnie, and Bessie—that lived to carry on a legacy of perseverance and fortitude.

Tommie stated "It is because of those daughters that we are here today as the daughters, sons, granddaughters and grandsons of those women that have gone before us it is not because of us it is because of them and we owe them all the respect in the world by giving it to each other for a greater community". For those of us who will be residents of Chupco's Landing, we will live there with the respect that our elders has instilled within us. We know that everything we do in that residence and outside the residence be it Hollywood, Brighton, Big Cypress, Immokalee, Tampa, Naples or Trail represents the Chupco Tommie name and of course The Seminole Tribe and we must represent in a way that would make our elders proud. It is important that we put our best foot forward in all that we do."

Tommie gave recognition and thanks to Kippenberger and the various departments in attendance including Utilities, Seminole Police Department,

Seminole Broadcasting and Communications.

The program continued with Tommie reviewing some of the attributes of the homes, services provided by Seminole Police and other departments. She read parts of the homeowner's manual and reiterated the importance of this manual in reference to maintenance, rules and regulations, warranties and insurance information. "These rules and regulations are here to protect and serve the members and guest of this community, there is nothing contained within this manual that is designed to hurt anyone only to insure their safety"

The time came to present the keys and the manual to the four new homeowners. Whereas all the previous occasions of presenting these homes in Chupco's Landing were special this day was unique.



New homeowner O'Hara Tommie (right).

Janice Billie



Bessie Tommie (center) stands in front of her new Chupco's Landing home.

Janice Billie

Both women and others in attendance wiped away tears as Sally hugged her "Mama Bessie" and "Grandma Bessie" to all the kids in the community as all the other Mamas and Grandmas has completed their earthly journey. Tommie presented her with her keys and manual she smiled and quietly said "Mvto!". Tears were still present as Leona Tommie-Williams

came up to receive her keys and expressed her joy. Leona applied for a home in the Fort Pierce community in hopes of living next door to her mom Minnie Tommie Howard and next door to her Aunt Bessie but as fate would have it on January 26, 2005 Minnie went home to be with the Lord. The two gentlemen in the group received their keys with smiles.

Following the presentations the ceremony wrapped up with a luncheon. After lunch a walk through of the new

homes was conducted with the new home owners and staff.

Bessie Tommie said she looked forward to sitting on her back porch and looking out over the lake in her backyard. The dream of owning her home on the Ft. Pierce Seminole reservation has finally come true.



(L-R) Sally Tommie presents Bessie Tommie with her keys.

Janice Billie



The new homeowners pose with Tribal employees who will work with them.

Janice Billie

On this day the only living child of Sally Chupco and Jack Tommie, Bessie Tommie received the keys to her brand new home. In a voice brimming with emotion Tommie reminisced how Bessie had always been a strong and loving influence in her life. Tommie also stated that this was a bitter sweet moment in time bitterness in that the other brothers and sisters never got to see the beautiful homes and the beautiful community named in Grandmas honor "Chupco's Landing"

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Chairman Brings Christmas Cheer to Kids at Joe DiMaggio's Hospital

By Felix DoBosz
HOLLYWOOD — On Dec. 22, 2005, the Chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida visited the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital. Along with the Chairman was Ft. Pierce Liaison Sally Tommie and members of the Chairman's team.

A small group of hospital media staff followed Chairman Mitchell around the children's ward as he spread Christmas joy and handed out brand new stuffed toys to the bedridden children spending their time in the intensive care unit for the holidays.

The kids were so happy to see the chairman smiling in his Santa hat giving out toys to them. Incidentally, this is the third year in a row that the Tribe has participated in this annual chairman's Christmas visit.



Felix DoBosz
 Chairman brought gifts and joy to many infirmed children.



Melissa Sherman
 Kids anxiously line up as Chairman Cypress drives up in the fire truck loaded with toys.

❖ Gifts

Continued from page 1

center called for each group of kids to line up by age group, one by one they waited patiently for their turn to receive their present.

Winston Churchill once said "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." Mitchell Cypress touched so many young lives that day, each face filled with joy.

"You must be a really good boy this year," Cypress said as he hand one child a huge box, he was so excited he barely touched his finger tips when he ran off to show his friends.

Time after time each instance was almost the same as he gave out gift after gift from the fire truck that seemed to have an endless supply of presents.

After the last child received a gift Boys & Girls Club Service Director Brown thanked Mitchell and the Seminole Tribe for their generosity.

"We are so glad to receive that phone call," Brown said. "We were just going to have pizza."



Melissa Sherman
 Chairman Cypress hands off a gift to a happy child.



Melissa Sherman
 Two girls smile as Cypress arrives.



Melissa Sherman
 After receiving their gifts kids gathered in the gym for the pizza party.

Happy New Year! Begin 2006 with a Healthy New Routine

Please join us for a Weekly Walk in the Park
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 Every Thursday at 12:00, John Williams Park, Hollywood.
 Prepare for the Rez Rally on Jan. 21 and then keep on walking!

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First time film screening of The Role of Seminole Women in Tribal Government by Haskell Indian University.

Please join the Family Services Department
 Saturday, January 14th, 2006 from 11-3 pm.
 Lunch will be served. Old Hot Meals Building.

Interested? Please contact Jasmine Porter, Adult Education Administrator, Family Services Department, Seminole Tribe of Florida, 954.989.6840, ext. 1313.

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Felix DoBosz

Scott Weiland of VR sings and slithers in the limelight.



Felix DoBosz

Slash jams on his guitar while breaking into a sweat.



Felix DoBosz

Scott Weiland belts out the vocals to his legion of fans.



Felix DoBosz

Scott Jumps high into the air as Velvet Revolver plays it hard with Slash jamming away on lead guitar.

Velvet Revolver Brings It to Hard Rock Live

Story and Photos By Felix DoBosz

HOLLYWOOD — It was a balmy Jan. 2 evening when hard rock group Velvet Revolver finally hit the stage more than an hour-and-a-half late to the nearly sold out crowd. This was quite a way to bring in the New Year at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

The five-member group, Velvet Revolver, formed in 2002 and consists of: Scott Weiland, vocals (ex-Stone Temple Pilots), Slash, guitar (ex-Guns N' Roses, Slash's Snakepit), Dave Kushner, rhythm guitar (ex-Dave Navarro, Wasted Youth), Duff McKagan, bass guitar (ex-Gun N' Roses, Neurotic Outsiders), Matt Sorum, Drums (ex-Guns N' Roses, The Cult, Neurotic Outsiders).

These aggressive rock musicians formed this new group when their old and hugely successful groups, Guns N' Roses and Stone Temple Pilots, faded out. These guys had the right chemistry to play together and un-harness the raw

power of their creative energies to generate a unique blend of rock music.

Weiland's former band Stone Temple Pilots.

They played most of their hits, namely "Slither" and "Fall to Pieces" from their 2004 hit album "Contraband."

One enthusiastic young woman ran in swiftly from the side of the stage during Scott Weiland's vocals and pranced on the stage. She wrapped her arms tightly around her rock star idol and wouldn't let go. Suddenly, burly security men quickly surrounded her and pried her loose from the skinny contortionist dancer/singer.

She was immediately escorted off the stage after thrusting both arms high in the air with victory signs and flashing a huge grin to the amused crowd. The band played on as though nothing had happened or it may just be something that happens every time they perform for their legion



Felix DoBosz

Slash wearing his lucky trademark black leather top hat.

The original name for the super-group was Black Velvet Revolver, but lead guitarist Slash felt it was too long a name, like singer

of fans. VR has a new exciting album due out this spring while mixing in new songs for their 2006 tour.

Southeastern Professional Bull Riders Compete at Hard Rock

Submitted by Alina Viera, Bitner Goodman PR

HOLLYWOOD — As the 2005 Southeastern Bull Riding Series (SBRs) comes to a close, contenders throughout a six state area begin preparing for the series finals to be held at the Hard Rock Live, Feb. 3-5.

"With over \$25,000 in total prize money for this year's event, we expect to have over 40 bull riders come down and put on a terrific show" said Jerry Byrd, an officer and founder of the SBRs.

Nashville recording artist Memarie and her band are scheduled to open the day's bull riding activities and perform throughout the competition.

The event schedule is Feb. 3 from 7-10 p.m. and Feb. 4-5 from 2-5 p.m. Tickets are \$20; seats are reserved and will be available at the Hard Rock Live Box Office, opened Monday to Sunday from noon until 7 p.m. To reach the box office by phone, call (954) 797-5531.

Tickets are unavailable for purchase over the phone through the Hard Rock Live Box Office. Tickets purchased in-person at the box office will not incur a service charge. Tickets also are available at all Ticketmaster outlets online at www.ticketmaster.com or charge by phone: Miami-Dade (305) 358-5885, Broward (954) 523-3309, and Palm Beach (561) 966-3309. Doors open one-hour prior to show start time.

Bull riding has become one of the fastest growing sports in the country in the past 10 years and has quickly climbed to over the \$250 million mark in combined sponsorship dollars and over 100 million in live event attendees. The SBRs is one of a select few professional bull riding organizations which compete exclusively in the Southeast U.S. and is headquartered in Robertsdale, Ala. The SBRs sanctions more than 100 SBRs qualifying bull rides throughout the Southeastern U.S.



The Adult Basic Education Program presents: Computers 101: Fundamental Program Skills

This course is designed for new computer users. The objective of this course is to provide fundamentals of all basic computer programs including word processing and spreadsheet, etc. Many fundamental skills will be covered in this class including the foundation to accessing emails, and keyboard skills. This is the first class offered in this series and will build upon the knowledge gained in the first class. This class is required for future classes that will be offered in advanced Word Processing, Excel Spreadsheet, Charting, PowerPoint, and Outlook.

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Or fax to 954.893.8856. For further information, please call 954.989.6840 ext. 1313.

Annual Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade

By Felix DoBosz

FT. LAUDERDALE, FL — Fireworks exploded high above the tugboat to announce to the massive crowd gathered impatiently for the start of a spectacular holiday celebration.

Who's got the brightest and best parade in America? Is it New York City's Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade? Or maybe the Pasadena Rose Bowl Parade? Or the Orange Bowl Parade? What? None of these. Why it's the Fort Lauderdale Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade.

This is the first year of hosting this grand event for the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casinos. They were the proud sponsors of this premier South Florida celebration. American Idol Judge Randy Jackson from Fox TV's hit show was grand marshal of this Christmas shimmering extravaganza up and down the Intracoastal waterway.

This year's festivities got underway around 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 17, at Port Everglades. The procession of almost 100 brightly decorated boats traveled the 10 mile long stretch ending at Lake Santa Barbara near Pompano Beach, Fla. and then returned back to port.

The theme of this year's boat parade was "Jewel of the Nile." The theme helped promote the new exhibit at the Museum of Art in Fort Lauderdale, called "Tutankhamen and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs."



Wanda Bowers

Little Mr. Seminole Mathew Osceola Jr. and Miss Seminole Christine McCall on the boat.

A small army of buses was used to transport most of the public to the small area park between the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal waterway. At Hugh Taylor Birch State Park spectators were thick with lawn chairs and blankets, so were the insects that stung those gathered without mercy along the woods leading to the viewing areas. A community stage was setup in a central clearing area to entertain the festive crowd waiting for the parade to get underway. Booths and tents sold all kinds of snack foods, drinks and crafts.

The Seminole Tribe was well represented with Big Cypress's Billie Swamp Safari, bird expert Rey Bacerra and his group was on hand to show off to the public three large birds and promote BC as main tourist attraction. Crowds gathered to hear Bacerra speak about his beautiful hawks, falcons and bird of prey.

He answered all their questions with his easy going style and invited all of them to visit Billie Swamp Safari and the museum with their families and friends to enjoy taking an educational Everglades eco-tour less than an hour from where they the crowd stood.

Hollywood Representative Max Osceola was interviewed by WSVN-Channel 7's, gorgeous Elita Loresca. He said he could remember 30 years ago sitting on the side of the Intracoastal with his little niece, wishing he could participate.

Max was quoted, "This time as a Seminole Tribal leader and because of the blessings we have received we are able to support and participate in the best event in Southern Florida."

The Seminole Tribe of Florida held their festive holiday party on the mega yacht called Biscayne Lady. The Jewel of Florida was also decorated in purple lights, while on top in big red and black letters was Seminole Tribe of Florida and to the right an illuminated Seminole Hard Rock Casino & Hotel logo.

On the bow of the ship standing majestically and waving to the huge crowds

was Seminole Princess for 2005 Christine McCall enjoying the fun festivities with the rest of VIP guests.

The Hanneford Family circus performed on a barge that floated slowly by displaying trapeze artists swinging around in unison, clowns, jugglers, and show girls in costumed outfits. Motorcyclist stuntmen went round and round on spherical ramps. It was a magnificent night to behold the spirit of the holidays that only South Florida could deliver.



Wanda Bowers

Miss Miami, King Tut and 2005 Seminole Princess Christine McCall on the Seminole Boat, "Jewel of Florida."



Felix DoBosz

Speedboat with two plasma TV's.



Felix DoBosz

Rey Bacerra shows off bird of prey.



Felix DoBosz

Hawaiian Canoe moves rapidly down the Intracoastal waterway.



Felix DoBosz

Santa's helpers on Merry Boat.



Felix DoBosz

Santa's helpers dance with spirit.



Felix DoBosz

A fan favorite was the Wooden Soldiers, a fixture at Winterfest boat parade for the past 28 years. Nine toy soldiers collapse when a cannon is fired, then they set up again; this is repeated more than 200 times along the 10 mile route.



Felix DoBosz

"Jewel of Florida" is brightly decorated with colored lights floats by as thousands of holiday spectators enjoy reviewing the boat parade along the shoreline of the Intracoastal Waterway in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Small boats, canoes, kayaks and Mega yachts were decorated with brilliantly lighted sphinxes, hieroglyphics and other Egyptian symbols that also represented this current theme, some boats played The Bangles' hit "Walk like an Egyptian."

Other vessels preferred the more traditional Christmas décor such as Santa and his reindeer. Many boats broadcasted holiday songs to the enjoyment of hundreds of thousands of spectators lined up along the shore.

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Memorial

Memorial Luncheon for Debbie Haywood

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — Employees of the Seminole Tribe and Immokalee community residents gathered at the Immokalee Casino on Dec. 30, 2005, for a memorial luncheon for Debbie Haywood. The community suffered a tragic loss when their clinic administrator became involved in a fatal traffic accident on Dec. 28.

Deborah Kay Haywood was born in Havre De Grace, Md. in 1951. She met and married long-time Florida resident James Haywood in 1971. She made South Florida her home for the next 35 years.

A graduate of the Sacred Heart School of Nursing in Allentown, Penn., she received her bachelor's degree from St. Joseph's in North Windham, Maine. For 33 years she pursued an exemplary career

like a part of her family.

"She then said 'I'm sorry that I have to leave you now, but I must go.' I don't recall if she said she had an appointment or if she had to go home. As she left the room, she waved and said, 'Goodbye, Merry Christmas and if I don't see you again, have a happy New Year.' Life is not planned and no one knows what the next minute will bring. My interpretation of her statement was that she was telling us something that she didn't know herself.

"I wish to think that she was telling us that she had an appointment with God and would be going home. Many times during our lives, things of this nature happen and we never realize the significance of the moment."

Cypress concluded by saying, "I think of us all as a happy family here and a part of the Seminole Tribe. Debbie was one of our family members and we will miss her very much. Please remember her and her family in your prayers as I surely will. In a big part of the world, people say goodbye when they leave each other. It is in our tradition we never say goodbye as we depart. Instead, we say 'I'll see you later, I've enjoyed seeing you or I'll catch you next time.' Never say goodbye because we never know."

Jarixsa Yslas stood up and with tears in her eyes said, "I don't

feel that Debbie is really gone. She wasn't my supervisor, she was my friend. My daughter was very sick and she helped me through some very rough times. I don't know how I will manage now without her, but I know she would want me to be strong.

"There were so many problems trying to get the clinic open and she worked so hard to overcome them. She would always say, 'We're in a soap opera.' Now as I try to make sense out of what happened in the last two days, I feel like I hear her voice but can't hear what she is saying. I want to believe that she is telling me that everything will be okay."

Taking the floor Judy Weeks remarked, "Debbie had a wonderful quality in which she made everyone feel special. She was the most optimistic person I have ever known and would always turn adversity into something positive. I would ask about the progress at the clinic and she would say, 'Not good at all, but I have a wonderful new person on staff that I can't wait for you to meet.' When accepting responsibility for a department it is so easy to say

'I took care of it or I did it.' Debbie never said 'I,' everything was 'We.' She was a real team player and recognized that through a combined effort, great things can be accomplished."

Weeks finished by saying, "When the clinic is finally up and running, she will be there with us in spirit opening its doors. Although the Seminole Tribe will undoubtedly find some very capable individual to carry on where she left off, no one will ever fill Debbie

Haywood's shoes or the place she holds in our hearts."

Charlotte Porcaro said, "She was very professional and dedicated to the people she served. I

remember her driving all the way from Clewiston on Saturday to check on a tribal member who wasn't feeling well even though it was her day off. She didn't take her job as a position, but rather a responsibility."

Angie Arreguin fought with emotion to say, "I'm finding it so hard to speak. She had so much enthusiasm and we all loved her. Anna Puenta couldn't be here because she is on a trip, but asked me to tell you that she feels as though she has lost her best friend or sister. She will miss working with Debbie very much."

The room was charged with emotion as Hazel Gergencer stood up. "I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you on behalf of our family for your kind words. It would have meant so much to Debbie to hear what kind of an impact she had on the people around her. My brother and my nephew have both told me that she said the time she has been with the Seminole Tribe were the happiest days in her nursing career. We deeply appreciate your sympathy."

Nancy Motlow put the community's feelings into words when she said, "I was very proud that we were about to achieve the long awaited goal of our own health facilities and clinic. From the time of Debbie Haywood's arrival she strived to fulfill our needs, while struggling daily with the many obstacles that arose in her path. She spent months dealing with occupancy permits, utilities malfunctions, lack of communications and office equipment, while continuing to serve the community well. It will be very difficult to find anyone as capable and dedicated to carry on her work."

Gary McInturff said, "She was a people person and I have never known anyone as happy and upbeat as she was. She had a fabulous sense of humor, while being strong and capable."

A memorial service was held on Tuesday evening at the Akin-Davis Funeral Home in LaBelle. Teresa Reynolds led the proceedings by reviewing Debbie's lifetime of achievements which she packed into 54 wonderful years. Her life's ambition was helping others in their times of need. Her endless compassion could be found at Hospice or the bedside of a child dying from cancer. She was there for it all. She hated turmoil and conflict. She would say there wasn't enough time for such things.

Debbie's love for her family held no boundaries. She cherished every minute of her life with her husband and friend, Jim, and was extremely close to all three of her sons. She doted upon her grandchildren and looked forward to the ones she will never know. Her door was always open; she made others



Debbie Haywood

Judy Weeks



Judy Weeks

Sister-in-law Susan Keener, Mother-in-law Peggy Haywood, Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Sister-in-law Hazel Gergencer.

as a registered nurse before taking the position of administrator for the new Immokalee clinic.

She and her husband made their home in the Okeechobee/Clewiston, Fla. area where they raised three sons, James, Joseph and Joshua. At the time of her passing, she had five wonderful grandchildren who meant the world to her.

A beautiful floral wreath in Tribal colors of red, black, yellow and white encircled a photograph of Debbie seated at her desk in the clinic. The same facility she was working so hard to get opened for the community.

Her devoted mother-in-law and friend, Peggy Haywood, attended the luncheon with her sisters-in-law, Susan Keener and Hazel Gergencer. Nutritionist Charlotte Porcaro led the group in prayer.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress gave a heartfelt speech.

"When someone leaves us, I try to think back to the last time we were together and what conversation we had," he said. "Debbie was here with us last



Judy Weeks

Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Nancy Motlow pay tribute to Debbie Haywood.

Friday for the Christmas luncheon and addressed the gathering. I recall her saying how much she enjoyed working for the Tribe and the community. They had made her feel so welcome and her staff had become

Haywood's shoes or the place she holds in our hearts."

feel like her extended family.

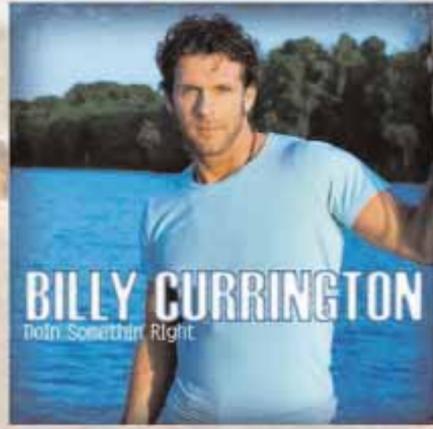
Whether riding through the woods on a swamp buggy, holding a fishing pole in her hands, digging in the garden, painting the house or nursing the community, she was always laughing and happy.

Tribal member Michelle Ford read a wonderful and appropriate poem entitled "A Message from Heaven."

Her mother-in-law, Mrs. Peggy Haywood, said Debbie was a woman of endless talent. "My living room is filled with the many things she has made for me. A duck lamp, a gold bird over the mantle, and decoupage plates of family and friends. Her most recent accomplishment was a plate with the pictures of the Immokalee Tribal seniors which she planned to hang on the clinic wall."

Her mother, Virginia Davis-Giordano, from Baltimore, Md., and her sister, Sheree Waddell of Wichita, Ks., were guests of the Seminole Tribe on a tour of the clinic which Debbie had so looked forward to opening.

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Location:
At the Hard Rock Live
Friday February 10, 2006, 5:00 p.m.
Contestants must be:
1. Enrolled Tribal Member
2. 5-7 years old
3. Florida resident
For more information and applications, please contact the following: Hollywood: Wanda Bowers (954) 966-6300, Ext. 1468, Priscilla Sayen (954) 966-6300, Ext. 1461, Big Cypress: Alice Billie (863) 902-3200 and Brighton: Salina Dorgan (863) 763-2402
Application Deadline:
Thursday February 9, 2006, 5:00 p.m.
Fax to (954) 967-3488 (call to confirm fax received) or carry it into the Secretary's Office.



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Contestant Application
Contestant # _____

(check one)
LITTLE MISS. ___ or LITTLE MR. ___ SEMINOLE - 2006

Date: _____

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Enrollment Number : _____ Date of Birth _____ Res: _____

Parent or Guardian Signature _____ Print Name _____
(circle one)

Contestants must be an enrolled tribal member, Florida resident between the ages of 5 to 7 years old by Feb. 10, 2006.
NO EXCEPTIONS.

Registration Deadline is Thursday, February 9, 2006 at 5 p.m.
All contestants must be preregistered.
There will be no applications taken on the day of contest, Friday February 10, 2006.

Please confirm that your fax has been received by Secretaries Office. 954-966-6300 ext. 1468 or 1463 (Wanda or Nicki)

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Trail Seminoles Celebrate Christmas



By Adelsa Williams

HOLLYWOOD — On Dec. 6, Trail Liaison William Osceola held his annual Christmas party for the enjoyment of the Trail Seminole community. The grand event took place at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino's ballroom—a first from the usual annual party which is usually held at Miccosukee Hotel and Casino in Miami, Fla.

The party was emceed by Junior Battiest, who made his way to the tables in search for Tribal officials who got a chance to attend the event, so they could each take turns at the microphone to wish the crowd a Happy Holidays.

Battiest also assisted Liaison William Osceola handing out prizes to the winners of the raffles, as their number were called. Battiest did a great job humoring the winners with his witty comical remarks.

Along with the raffle, every child in attendance received a gift from Santa Claus himself who surprised everyone with an unexpected entrance and also posed with the children for a Polaroid picture as they received their Christmas present.

Santa's helpers included Seminole Tribe of Florida employees who helped coordinate serve as photographers for Santa's photos and distribute raffle tickets to everyone who attended the party including the adults and children. They also assisted with the guest list check at the entrance door. Special thanks to Santa's helpers, Glenda Weiser, Yvonne Waters, Laura Sa, Tasha Derienzo and Nikki Derienzo.

After a fabulous buffet style holiday dinner, the holiday party got going with music entertainment by Nanny award winner Micki Free, who played his guitar along with Derek Miller and Keith Sceola with the band of wild Indians who played the crowd's favorite fry bread song.

Music performances also included Matt Kramer, formerly lead singer of the Saigon Kick band and last but not least Tribal citizen Spencer Battiest delighted the crowd with his solo performance of a Christmas song.



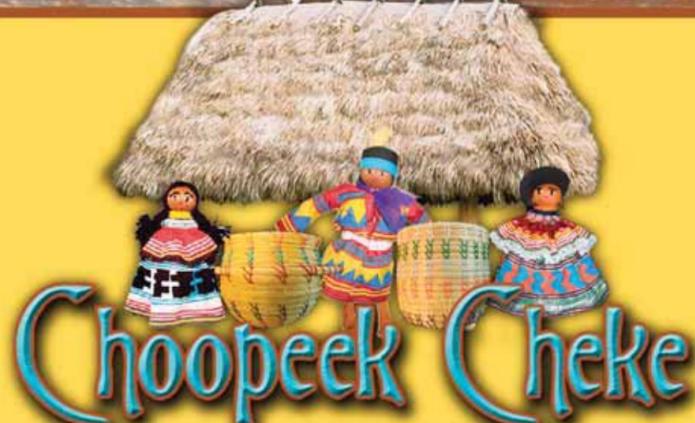
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Pageant to be held on Thursday, April 27, 2006

Christine E. McCall, 19 yrs old, Hollywood Florida
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Announcements ❖ Ahaaheeke ❖ Nak-ohkērkēcetv

Birthdays

Birthday wishes to my one and only precious daughter, **Valerie**. We have encountered a lot together and still more coming, I will be there when you call. Calm down keep the faith and always laugh.

We love you, **Mom (Virginia Mitchell) Daddy (Ed), Dad (Michael Frank) Jesse, Victor, Shelli, Jewel, Collin, Vinson, & Family, Wanda, Myra & Kids, Aunties, Uncles, Cousins, the Mitchell's (in Tennessee) and Barnards.**



Mckenzie Rose Sherman, what happened to my little baby? In three short years you can put on your shoes, dress your baby dolls, ride your scooter, change your mind and tease your brother in less than five minutes.

Even when you turn 30 you will still be my little baby. Baby girl, never stop having the courage to be just the way you are. I love you and may God bless you in all your new adventures.

Love always, **Mommy (Melissa), Daddy (Michael) and big brother Robbi Sherman.**

Poems

A Special Daughter

No daughter in this world is entitled to more love, more sunshine, more laughter more bluer skies above

I miss you so much, since I've been away each moment you're on my mind and I hope that you're okay

No daughter in this world is qualified to take your place

My angel you're one of a kind and I can't wait to see your face

You are special to me and I really must add

Words can't explain, how much you mean to your Dad

No daughter in this world has the kind of smile that makes a father happy to have you as his child

I must admit that it's hard being so far apart

But I know that you're grieving and hurting in your heart

No daughter in this world deserves to have your traits

We have some catching up to do when I walk outside these gates

You mean more to me than mere words can define

The poem is just for you and I mean every line

It's hard not being able to do things with you

But when this is all over we both can start brand new

No daughter in this world could come close to compete

You're my lovely daughter, so kind, so sweet

Christmas is around the corner and then a brand new year

So I want to start early sending out my holiday cheer

You're special to me and that's well known

You're my sweet angel I'm glad to have you as my own

There's so much that we're missing like movies, pizza and such

This poem to you is meant to keep our hearts in touch

Your name stands for gentle care, for pride and good advice

Larissa you are everything that's wonderful and nice

All my love,

Dad

Alex Tucker

Look Who Tied the Knot!

We Finally Did It!

Mr. Chris Allen Sanchez, Panther clan, of Immokalee and Ms. Corinna Frank, Bird clan, of Big Cypress took their vows of matrimony to become husband and wife on Nov. 19, 2005 at the Hollywood Seminole Hard Rock & Casino at 3:30 p.m.

The groom is son of Antonio and Mary Sanchez of Immokalee. The bride is the daughter of the late Bobby Frank and Edna Frank of Hollywood.

Many family and friends were there to witness this long awaited union of these two souls!!

Many thanks are owed to the staff of Seminole Hard Rock, Catering Director Mark Tascione and Coordinator Heather, for making this day a wonderful one! Many thanks also to Cousin Oliver Wareham, Panther clan, for being our wedding photographer on this special day.

A special thanks goes out to our wedding party; who are as follows: Best Man Ralph Sanchez Sr., groom's brother, Maid of Honor Judy Jim, longtime friend of bride, Robert Frank Jr., brother of the bride who gave her a way, Flower Girl



Elizabeth Frank, bride's niece, Ring Bearers Jonathon and Justin Frank, twin nephews of bride.

Bridesmaids: Tracy Stitts, childhood friend of bride, Diane Sanchez, groom's daughter, Ann Tucker, bride's sister.

Groomsmen: Andy Sanchez Jr., groom's cousin, Frank Sanchez III, groom's cousin, Eric Sanchez, groom's cousin.

Officiating: Minerua Sanchez, groom's cousin.
Always and Forever,
Mr. & Mrs. Sanchez

57th Homestead Rodeo Busts Out

Homestead, FL — Rope off the last weekend of January, 2006, for the Annual Homestead Championship Rodeo and Frontier Days, featuring a Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association sanctioned rodeo presented by the Homestead Rodeo Association and Presenting Sponsor TIB Bank.

For the third year, the Homestead Rodeo Association will present a Cowboy Poetry Gathering on Thursday, January 26th. This year's cowboy poet will be Charley Hendren.

The three-day event will be held in the 'Doc' DeMilley Rodeo Field, corner of U.S. and SW 312 Street in Homestead, on Friday night, January 27th, Saturday and Sunday afternoon, January 28th and 29th.

Prior to the kick off of the rodeo, there will be a free Kids' Day sponsored by TIB Bank at the Rodeo

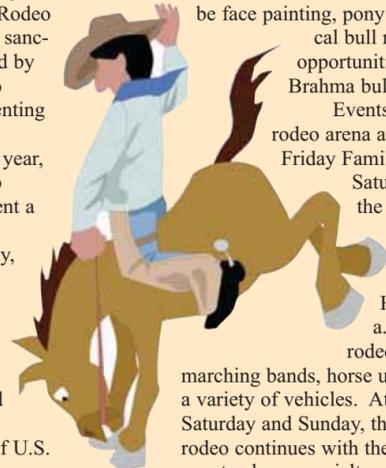
Arena from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday, January 26th. The rodeo clowns, bull fighters and cowboy poet will be there to entertain, and there will be face painting, pony rides, mechanical bull rides and photo opportunities with a real Brahma bull.

Events begin in the rodeo arena at 8 p.m. on Friday Family Night.

Saturday morning the free Rodeo Parade, steps off in downtown Homestead at 11 a.m featuring the rodeo queen, flats,

marching bands, horse units, clowns and a variety of vehicles. At 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, the championship rodeo continues with the seven rodeo events plus a specialty act.

The rodeo is made possible thru the efforts of the Homestead Rodeo Association, a group of volunteers who donate their time and talent, and the Presenting Sponsor, TIB Bank.



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❖ Basketball

Continued from page 1

in JoJo and Tasha Osceola, the program still has a potential star in the mist. The potential star in question is Katie Tiger. The five foot 10 inch sophomore is



Meaghan plays defense on Demetria Tigertail.

Lila Osceola

beginning to come into her own and learning the game more everyday.

Katie gets significant minutes at the forward position and is a force defensively and on the boards. I



Lila Osceola

Chelsea Mountain plays defense on Meaghan Osceola.

am sure she would enjoy support from friends and community members at any games during the season.

From private to public school the Seminole youth are making their mark on their school basketball programs.

Another public school student who made her varsity basketball team is Lacey Jordan. She was one of the dedicated athletes who came to the gym on a daily to work on her skills so she would be ready to play as a freshman for Hollywood Hills.

Unfortunately, time management and academic scheduling was something Lacey was having a hard time adjusting to. Therefore, she decided to wait until next year to participate in sports so she would not fall behind in her studies. Once next year rolls around and she is comfortable with the high school lifestyle we will see her on the court giving her opponents all they can handle.

This next student athlete stands out on her high school basketball team. She attends Hollywood Christian Middle School. Yes, you read it right, middle school. Ariaiah Osceola is just in the sixth grade, yet she is the starting point guard on the Hollywood Christian High

School basketball team.

For those who know Ariaiah and how hard she works on her game this comes as no surprise. But for those who don't know, during the summer Ariaiah was in the gym constantly working on her ball handling, shooting, passing skills, and defense. When you first look at her, in no way will you be intimidated by her size, but don't leave her open, three pointers, passing and the one dribble pull up are her specialty moves.

Once she makes a few threes you'll think twice about judging a book by its cover. Don't let her small frame fool you; she has a tremendous amount of heart and determination. That comes from being one of the youngest players on the Lady Seminoles, traveling team.

She has been playing against older and bigger girls for a few years now. She manages to hold her own and is considered by her teammates to be one of the best shooters on the team. If her game keeps developing and she keeps working to improve, she is definitely someone we will be hearing about for a while.

We are in full support of all our student athletes. It is not easy to do what these young ladies are doing; it takes great dedication and discipline to put your body and mind through all the different obstacles that a season presents. It is good to have the tribe represented through our young ladies, not only in athletics but also in the classroom.

Regardless of athletic ability, these student athletes must be a good student before they can get on the court to compete. This lets us all know that we don't only have tribal kids who are athletic and talented, but also handle their business in the classroom.



Emma Brown

Family and friends pose after Pete's graduation ceremony.

❖ Hahn

Continued from page 1

American and having reached the goal of earning a college degree. They are a minority by race, but an even bigger minority by their achievement.

As Pete walked across the stage to receive his bachelor's degree in business administration/Tribal management, I think he received the loudest roar of applause. He had obviously made an impact and lots of friends at the university.

During her speech, the president of HINU also recognized the Seminole Tribe by name and thanked everyone for coming from

Florida to join them, which was definitely an honor.

Pete has made many accomplishments while at HINU like being football captain and starting quarterback, earning MVP honors in 2001 and 2003, making the president's list, and most import, earning his degree.

While staying busy with school, Pete also managed to meet his future wife Mercedes Osceola, daughter of Joe Dan and Virginia Osceola of Hollywood. The two were wed on Jan 7.

The dream of having a career and a family is now Pete's reality, and his journey of life is just beginning. His family and new family wish to let him now how proud they are of him. We look forward to wonderful things from Pete Hahn.



Lila Osceola

Krystle Young plays defense on Chelsea Mountain while she looks for someone to pass to.

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