



The SEMINOLE TRIBUNE

"Voice of the Unconquered"

www.seminoletribe.com

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50¢

What's Inside...



**Max Osceola Jr.,
Ernie Stevens, Hulk
Hogan Visit Lakota**

Page 32



**Youth Attend
Hollywood's Meth
Prevention Program**

Page 10



**Famed Gospel
Singers 'The Perrys'
Perform in BC**

Page 4

Letters	2
Education	9
Health	11
Sports	17
Tribal Fair	21
Announcements	25



Courtesy of Tampa Dept. of Elder Affairs

Tampa's Kavan Guzman, 7, in his class.

Tribal Citizen Takes on Tae Kwon Do

Submitted by the Tampa Dept. of Elder Affairs

TAMPA — Kavan Guzman, Panther Clan, at only 7 years old already holds an Orange Belt in Tae Kwon Do. He will soon be testing for the next level, a Purple Belt, with the help and teachings of Master Dae of Choe's Tae Kwon Do in Lakeland, Fla.

Kavan's interest in learning the skill and art of Tae Kwon Do started in 2006. Although he has only been involved with the sport for a relatively short time, he has already competed — and won — in form and discipline competitions.

Kavan is eagerly learning, and quickly becoming one of the top ranking students in his class. He will be traveling to Canada this summer to compete in an Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) sponsored event.



Chris Jenkins

Jarrod Smith (Bottom, Center) and family after FAU's win in New Orleans.

Jarrod Smith Closes Season, Football Career Victorious

By Chris Jenkins

By now, most have seen or possibly heard of Tribal citizen Jarrod Smith's football accomplishments in *The Seminole Tribune*. As one of the Tribe's most celebrated young adults, he is a success story on the gridiron as well as in college, with more to come in his future.

The Season

In the up and down world of college football in 2007, Smith, 22, accomplished a lot while playing for Florida Atlantic University (FAU). As a senior offensive lineman, and a team co-captain this season, his career couldn't have ended any better even if it was scripted.

FAU was one of 64 teams left standing for post season play in the National Collegiate Athletic Association's newly named Division I FBS (Football Bowl Subdivision), formerly Division I-A. With an 8-5 record on the season, over last year's 5-7 mark, the team would claim their first conference championship going 6-1 in conference play, splitting the title with the Troy State University Trojans and make their first bowl appearance.

As a model of consistency, starting in every game since 2005, his friends, family and parents Curtis Osceola and Camelia Smith-Osceola, have all been there in support. He says one great memory was hitting the road in week 10 to face the 2006 national champions and nationally ranked University of Florida Gators in "the Swamp."

This was the first ever match-up between the two schools but it held a great importance to Smith. At an early age he grew up

as a Gator fan, being first introduced by his grandfather and former President Fred Smith. Attending Gator youth camps would help further his love for the sport and the team.

"It was really great being there," he said. "It was, in a lot of ways, how I remembered it [in growing up] over the years."

"Everyone on the team was excited about it," he added. Coming in he said he felt that the task would be a tough one in pulling off an upset, but his squad gave it their best in a 59-20 loss.

"We lost because they were a better team, and whatever momentum we had [only down 35-20 at the half] we lost in the second half," Smith admitted.

It was on and upward the following week as the team rebounded nicely in an offensive explosion over Florida International University in the annual Shula Bowl, 55-23. The winner receives the Shula Trophy for the next year which is named after legendary former Miami Dolphins head coach Don Shula.

Next, was a showdown facing Troy for the Sun Belt Conference Championship on the road to end the regular season. Winless in three prior visits, FAU hung on in the waning seconds to pull off a dramatic 38-32 win.

Smith said getting the victory meant more to him than any other in the season because of the stakes involved.

"We were a better team this year than in years past," he explained. "I knew it was

◆ See SMITH, page 17

Tribal Council Meets in BC

By Chris Jenkins

BIG CYPRESS — The Tribal Council met on the Big Cypress Reservation on Dec. 19 for a special meeting. They passed 31 resolutions on the agenda including:

Resolution 16 - Service Line Agreement (100' x 20') between Glades Electric Cooperative and Sheila Bevenue - Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation;
Resolution 17 - Service Line Agreement (180' x 20') between Glades Electric Cooperative and Seminole Tribe Housing Authority - Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation;
Resolution 18 - Approval of Engagement Letter with McGladrey & Pullen, LLP related

to work performed relevant to the securitization of the settlement, recapitalization and clarification agreement with Power Plant Entertainment, LLC; Ratification of Execution by the Chairman of the Tribal Council;

Resolution 19 - Bamaco, Inc. contract for disaster services;
Resolution 20 - Museum of Florida History loan agreement;
Resolution 21 - Authorization to transfer the Big Cypress Rock Pit, Tampa Smoke Shop and Eastern Indian Rodeo Association from the Seminole Tribe of Florida to the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.;

Resolution 29 - Approval of Counseling Service Agreement

◆ See COUNCIL, page 3

Louise Gopher Honored for 28 Years of Service, Leadership

Party Held for Retiring Education Director

By Susan Etxebarria

BRIGHTON — Louise

Okeechobee County commissioner, and many more well-wishers.

Gopher was the center of everyone's attention, and focus of their admiration and affection at a retirement party held at Brighton Reservation in her honor on Dec. 5.

Surrounded by friends, family and staff from the Education Department, the former education director for the Tribe was shown appreciation for her years of service.

Gopher officially retired on Nov. 1, 2007, after 28 years as a Tribal employee. She left as one of the Tribe's most influential education leaders earning a place in Seminole and Florida history.

The Brighton gymnasium was the staging for a tribute and bestowing of gifts, speeches and song arranged by Seminole Tribe of Florida Education Department.

Guests included: Brighton Council Rep. Roger Smith, his wife, Dianne, and family, Brighton Board Rep. Johnnie Jones, former Tribal President Moses Osceola, State Board of Education member Phoebe Raulerson, and her husband, Charles, a former



Susan Etxebarria

(L-R) Acting Director of Education Emma Johns presents former director Louise Gopher with a plaque in recognition of her service.

Children gathered around Gopher's table where she sat and watched a "farewell" video presentation made by the Education Department. Gopher received individual taped messages from staff members as a keepsake.

Guests were told the story of her life, beginning with her having the courage to go to public school as a child, while living in a

◆ See GOPHER, page 9

Chairman Collects, Delivers Toys to Local Charities

Donations Collected for Chairman's 5th Annual Toy Drive

Submitted by Redline Media Group

In December 2007 Chairman Mitchell Cypress launched his 5th Annual Toy Drive with one mission — "Give a child a toy and put a smile on a child's face for the holiday" — the same as it has been for the past five years.

When asked what motivates him to do this, Chairman Cypress said he remembers his days as a youth when toys were a distant thought. He recalled being in school on gift exchange day and feeling bad because he had no gift to give and had to sit in the back of the room neither giving nor receiving.

The Chairman vowed that one day he would want to

be able to give every child a toy to put a smile on their face for the holiday.

Although it isn't possible to touch every child in the world, he has made a big difference in the lives of many of South Florida's children.

The Toy Drive took place near the grounds of the Hollywood Classic Casino on Dec. 12, 2007. Clear Channel Broadcasting assisted the Chairman's efforts by broadcasting the event location on all of their radio stations to encourage community members to donate.

Last year, his efforts touched lives of hundreds of children throughout South Florida as

◆ See TOY DRIVE, page 31



Photo Courtesy of Redline Media Group

The Chairman visits Joe Dimaggio's Children's Hospital.



Felix Doboz

Santa Claus welcomes donations from his high-traffic post on Stirling Road & State Rd. 7, near the Hollywood Classic Casino.

8th Annual Rez Rally
Big Cypress Reservation
Jan. 19, 2008
www.semtribe.com/rezrally

Battle of Okeechobee
Re-Enactment
Okeechobee Battlefield
Historic State Park
Feb. 2 & 3, 2008
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Tribal Fair Pow-Wow,
Rodeo, Lil Mr. & Miss
Hard Rock Live!
Feb. 7 - 10, 2008

Brighton Field Days
Brighton Reservation
Feb. 15 - 17

Big Cypress Shootout
2nd Seminole War Re-Enactment
Billie Swamp Safari
Feb. 22 - 24, 2008
(800) 949-6101, Ext. 12125

Langerado Music Festival
Big Cypress Reservation
March 6 - 9, 2008
www.langerado.com



Photo Challenge

Who are we?

Please see the Feb. 8, 2008 issue of *The Seminole Tribune* for the answer.

Letters · Naak-enchaok-hocheshfeek

Dear Editor,

On Dec. 5, 2007, we arrived for the second visit to your lovely Billie Swamp Safari. Last year around the same time we also drove from Palm Coast to experience airboats, alligators, etc.

This time we felt directly "at home" thanks especially to J.R., who captained the two rides we took. We learn so much about the Everglades, the wildlife, foliage and sounds. This man is so well

versed in all that nature has to offer and he needs to be congratulated for giving two older ladies from Denmark an experience of a lifetime every time he takes us out. The whole park is beautifully kept and we look forward to coming back next year.

Sincerely
Hanne Mortensen and Margit Pazmino
Palm Coast, Fla.

Tribune Submission Form

Attention Seminole Tribal citizens and employees: If you would like to submit an announcement (birthday, new baby, marriage, etc.) or story idea to *The Seminole Tribune*, and to insure correct spelling, please fill out the information provided below. If you have any questions about deadlines, etc., please call *The Seminole Tribune* at (954) 985-5702, Ext. 2, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Our fax number is (954) 965-2937, or e-mail tribune@semtrib.com.

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If you would like your photos mailed back to you, please include your mailing address.

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. 10725, fax (954) 965-2937, or mail to: The Seminole Tribune, 3560 N. State Road 7, Hollywood, Florida 33021

The following deadlines apply to all submissions for inclusion into *The Seminole Tribune*:
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♦ Issue: February 29, 2008
Deadline: February 15, 2008
♦ Issue: March 21, 2008
Deadline: March 7, 2008
♦ Issue: April 11
Deadline: March 28, 2008

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New Year, Food for Thought, New Outlook



As the New Year is upon us, we all tend to go through the normal cycle of resolutions. While this is common, I would like to offer the proverbial "Food for Thought" list of things to think about: thoughts become words, words become actions and actions become character. I encourage positive thoughts for positive end results.

You are the author to your book of life; make it one that you, your children, parents and most of all, the Creator, will be proud of. May the Creator continue to bless you and your families in all that you do and all that you say.

Remember that he, the Creator, is the reason for all seasons and without him we are not possible.

Have a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Myo

S.R. Tommie
Fort Pierce Liaison

Editorial

The Culture of Gallup, Part One

By Dr. Dean Chavers

[Editor's Note: This is Part 1 of a two-part series. Part 2 will run in the Feb. 8 issue. Dr. Dean Chavers is director of *Catching the Dream*, a national scholarship and school improvement organization in Albuquerque, N.M. He welcomes your comments on this column, inquiries about scholarships, and inquiries about *Catching the Dream* grants. His e-mail address is CTD4DeanChavers@aol.com. The opinions he expresses are his own. © Copyright 2008]

Gallup, New Mexico — the "Indian capital of the world" — is the leading border town in the U.S. It has five reservations, Navajo, Zuni, Ramah, Hopi and Acoma, all feeding into it. They bring in more than \$200 million a year.

The things that are applicable to Gallup are pretty much applicable to 150 or more towns that border on Indian reservations. They include: Flagstaff, Farmington, Page, Grants, Santa Fe, Holbrook, Winslow, Lumberton, Chadron, Rapid City and Scottsdale.

Gallup is the most successful of all. It has the most millionaires per thousand people in the world. New York City, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Boston and Singapore all have fewer millionaires per thousand than Gallup, with 350-plus millionaires in a population of just 20,000.

And how do they make their money? Off of other Indians. Gallup gets at least 60 percent of the money generated on the Navajo Reservation. It gets this money in the first cycle of spending. There is no slaughterhouse on the reservation, for instance. Families who do not have their own flocks, which is most families these days, buy almost all their groceries from Gallup.

The largest Ford truck dealership in the world, Gurley Motor Company, is located in Gallup. There are 80 Indian jewelry manufacturers in Gallup. Many of them pay wages below the federal minimum wage. They get away with it by paying piece rates.

The ring they buy from someone for \$15 dollars took the maker three hours to make, plus materials, meaning the person is making \$4 an hour. They then resell the ring for between \$30 and \$45.

I have been working in Gallup for 20 years, mostly recruiting scholarship students. But I also worked four years as the evaluator for the Indian Education Act program in the 1980s and 1990s. I spent several hundred hours and visited all 29 of the Gallup schools.

The dropout rate is 65 percent for Indians. When a young Navajo teacher said this at a school board meeting 25 years ago, she was promptly blackballed. She told me she could never get a job teaching in the Gallup schools, and I believe her.

When I said the same thing in a letter to the state of New Mexico in 1988, the deputy superintendent, Harry Hendrickson, called me on the carpet. He told me I was not authorized to make those kinds of statements. Only he and the Superintendent, Ramon Vigil, were authorized to make them.

"But Harry," I told him, "I got the data from the reports you send to the state!"
"It doesn't matter," he said. "Only Ramon and I are authorized to release that information."

I knew that he meant if I did not toe the line that I might never get a contract with the school district again.

The schools are not interested in improving. They want to keep Indians in a poverty condition. They do not want to admit they have any dirty laundry, and will go to great lengths to hide it.

One morning in 1989 I was headed to the district office after visiting a school. When I passed the jail I saw about 75 Indians walking out and heading back downtown. They were obviously hung over.

"What were those 75 drunk Indians I just saw walking down by the jail?" I asked my boss, Boyd Hogner.

"That's just the 10 o'clock let-out," he said. "They start about five or six in the morning. As soon as a group is sober enough, they start letting them out. The last one will be about noon."

I calculated that the Gallup police were arresting about 300-400 Indians a night. And that was on a weeknight. On weekends, the total is much higher.

The mayor, a Hispanic, was almost recalled a year or two later. He was cooperating with the Navajo Nation to raise money for an alcohol rehabilitation facility. He beat the recall petition by a few percentage points.

His sin? Admitting that Gallup had a problem with Indian drunks.

The school district, which is larger than the state of New Jersey, does not have a truancy officer. No one is there to try to get kids to go to school. Instead they have a Hearing Officer. His job is to kick kids out of school.

The school district policy is that students have to go to school 170 out of 180 days. If an Indian kid misses 11 days, they call a hearing and kick him out. They kick kids out as young as 12 years old, despite the state law that says they have to go to school until they are 16. The Tribal law says they have to go until they are 18 or are graduated from high school, but no one enforces that law.

When Frank Katting, who is half German and half Hispanic, was hired as the JOM Counselor at Tohatchi High School in 1984, he set out to do something about it. I know Tohatchi because my goddaughter Tina Benallie is from there. Tina said they college attendance rate in 1984 was about 10-20 percent.

Frank raised it to 55 percent the first year he was there. In another eight years he had raised it to 90 percent, and had the kids earning \$1.2 million a year in scholarships. He kept that up the whole 15 years he was there, and retired in 1999.

But the second year he was there he got fired. He was accepting collect calls from some of the students that were away at college. They were not getting adequate guidance from the colleges, and would call Frank for help.

He stayed fired for about two weeks, but the parents called a meeting with the school district and demanded that he be rehired, and he was. After that he was partly immune from firing.

Unfortunately, in the eight years since he retired, there have been about 10 people in that position. None of them would even talk to me until this year, when the new counselor, Rosa Gutierrez, called me to come to a Career Day she was having. One of the counselors was fiddling with a new computer program the whole time I was trying to talk to him. I knew he was not listening.

The six high schools put Indians into bonehead tracks. When I checked on the enrollment in Advanced Algebra at Gallup High School 18 years ago, there were only two Indian students in the two sections. Indians make up 65 percent of the total Gallup population, so if they had been adequately represented there would have been 40 Indians in those classes.

My hope is that we will see some improvement in the Gallup schools one day.

Photo Challenge Answer



Sisters Alice Doctor, Billie and Annie Tiger Jim

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Community News

Seminole Students Participate in Culture Awareness Program

By Tony Bullington, Program Manager, Brighton Education Office
OSKEECHOBEE, Fla. — On Nov. 16, 2007, 22 middle school students and several parents from the Brighton community, participated in a Culture Awareness Program at Yearling Middle School in Okeechobee.

The program's focus for the month was Native American culture, so the students put together an agenda that featured highlights of Seminole culture and history. The parents supported their students by



(L-R) Randy Shore, Tony Bullington of Family Services, Kirsten Doney and Emma Johns, acting director of Education, display arts and crafts.

bringing in Seminole favorites including pumpkin bread, fry bread, sofkee, Indian hot dogs, Indian Tacos and other samplings of food.

In preparation for the event, the students met as a group on Nov. 2 and brainstormed ideas with Pat Grant, faculty sponsor, and Tony Bullington, program manager for the Brighton Education Office. The group decided to focus on several areas of the Tribe's culture and history and assigned different parts to smaller groups of students. The students worked on the details daily in the morning tutorial period and with the guidance of Grant and Bullington developed the program agenda.

The students were buzzing around early on the morning of Nov. 16, making final preparations, viewing their parts and setting up the cafeteria for the 10:30 a.m. meeting. Several students were assigned to receive the parents as they arrived with their food dishes and escort them to the cafeteria. Others were assigned to set up the food and display tables, while the presenters huddled and went over their presentations.

At 10:30 a.m., Grant introduced Bullington who welcomed the group.

"We are the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the 'Unconquered,' and we are here this morning to celebrate the culture and history of the Seminole Tribe of Florida," he said.

He introduced a group of the students who led the assembly in the Pledge of the Allegiance and the Creek Pledge.

Bullington then called on Dylan Chalfant and Stormin' Youngblood, who gave a brief overview of the Seminole Wars. These young men, though nervous, stood and told about the Seminole warriors who paved the way for the Tribe today. Tommy Jackson and Josh Johns came forward and discussed the Tribal government. Tommy explained the Tribal Council and Josh described the role of the Board of Directors.

Kiylier and Kasandra Baker were then called forth by Bullington and the girls explained the Tribal clans. Kiylier read the names of the clans in Creek and English and the girls took turns discussing the uniqueness of each clan. The assembly was receiving the added treat of being served the samplings of Seminole food while these brave students made their presentations.

Bullington concluded the program by saying how proud he was of these students for their hard work and great presentations. He also thanked the parents for their contributions and support and called for a round of applause from the assembly.

Students who participated in the group, who are not named above included, Jessi Osceola, Acalayn Youngblood, Emery Fish, Raina Robinson, Frank Huff, Randy Shore, Jaide Micco, Maude Gopher, Kirsten Doney, Christopher Olivarez, Marshall Tommie, Everet Youngblood, Jaryaca Baker, Kane Bettelyoun, Alexander Buck, Rosa Urbina, Zachary Willie, Phillip Jones and Janet Smith.



(L-R) Cecelia Thomas, Stacy Jones, Emma Jane Urbina and Janelle Robinson offer up samples of traditional Seminole foods.

Parents who assisted in the program by setting up and directing food distribution were: Emma Jane Urbina, Joni Johnson, Cecelia Thomas, Stacy Jones and Janelle Robinson. Other parents sent in food but were unable to attend due to prior obligations.

✦ Council

Continued from page 1

with Wells Fargo Bank;

Resolution 30 - Issuance of a business lease between the Seminole Tribe of Florida (lessor) and Bobby Henry (lessee) for retail sales of Native American Clothing, Crafts and Jewelry - Tampa Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolutions 31 - Business sublease agreement between Jacob Osceola (sublessor) and Seminole Tribe of Florida (sublessee) for 2.4 acres including improvements - Hollywood Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 32 - Revocable permit between Jacob Osceola (permittee) and Bertha Davies d/b/a Bertha's Garden Center (permittee) - Hollywood Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 34 - Seminole Product Distributors Inc.;

Resolution 36 - Amendment of the Seminole Tribe of Florida Ordinance No. C-01-96, as amended, regulating the conduct of all passengers on school buses and vans used to transport the Tribe's school children;

Resolution 38 - Ford Motor Credit Company Indian Tribal Government Lease-Purchase Agreement No. 49990 as amended by schedule 4999056: limited waiver of sovereign immunity;

Resolution 39 - VFS Leasing Co. Master Lease Agreement as amended by schedule number 004; limited waiver of sovereign immunity - Big Cypress Rock Mining; and,

Resolution 40 - VFS Leasing Co. Master Lease Agreement as amended by schedule number 005; limited waiver of sovereign immunity - Big Cypress Rock Mining.

Tribal Council Holds Special Meeting

By Chris Jenkins

HOLLYWOOD — The Tribal Council met for a special session on Jan. 4. There were four resolutions passed including:

Resolution 4 - Approval of an amended and restated operating agreement for Seminole HR Holdings, LLC;

Resolution 5 - Approval of an Equity Appreciation Rights Plan for certain employees of Hard Rock International;

Resolution 6 - Appointment of additional managers Seminole HR Holdings, LLC; and,

Resolution 7 - Approval and ratification of Confidential Settlement Agreement by and among Live Front Row, LLC, a Florida limited liability company; The Seminole Tribe of Florida, a federally recognized Indian Tribe; Seminole Properties Retail LLC, a Maryland limited liability company and Power Plant Entertainment, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company.

Tribe Receives Special Visitor from Cherokee



HOLLYWOOD — Principal Chief Chad Smith of the Cherokee Nation (C) visited the Hollywood Tribal Headquarters on Jan. 4 and met with Chairman Mitchell Cypress (R) and President Richard Bowers Jr. (L). He was in South Florida for an All-American High School Bowl Game at the Orange Bowl later that evening. The quarterback for the All-American High School Team for the Western Division was Cherokee Tribal citizen Nathan Stanley from Sequoyah High School. He is ranked 88th in the nation.

Photo by Felix DoBoz



Chris Jenkins

(L-R) Seminole Broadcasting Director Danny Jumper, Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Michael Smith, CEO of AIFI and Broadcasting's Special Projects Manager Dennis Pellarin.

Tribe's 50th Anniversary Video Wins AIFI 'Best Industrial' Award

Film Fest Director Hand-Delivers Award to Chairman

By Briana Abittan, Seminole Broadcasting

SAN FRANCISCO — Bright lights, cheering fans, and a silver screen: all of the key elements needed to set the stage for a glamorous film festival. Only it wasn't the average movie celebration taking place Nov. 2-10, 2007 in San Francisco — it was the 32nd Annual American Indian Film Festival.

Innovative filmmakers representing various Native American Tribes from all across the U.S. submitted entries for the film festival. As anticipation for the announcement of the winners mounted, the results were finally real, and the Seminole Tribe was among the night's honorees receiving the prestigious Best Industrial award.

The Broadcasting Department was recognized for the video production they made to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the signing of the Constitution and Corporate Charter. The video received recognition because of its creative documentation of the history of the Tribe, from its origins in the Everglades to becoming a major player in the business world.

Michael Smith, president and CEO of the

American Indian Film Institute, flew cross country to the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino to hand-deliver the special sculptured award to Chairman Mitchell Cypress on Dec. 14, 2007.

Smith said: "The Seminole Tribe was up against four other Tribes for the Best Industrial award. But after celebrating 50 years of accomplishments, ordeals and triumphs, the Tribe was recognized by the jury."

"The Broadcasting Department, led by Danny Jumper, has really come a long way," he added.

The 50th Anniversary video, produced by Seminole Broadcasting, and written and directed by Dennis Pellarin, was originally created especially for Tribal citizens. After it debuted at the celebration for the Tribe's 50th Anniversary on Aug. 21, 2007, the American Indian Film Institute (AIFI) encouraged Seminole Broadcasting to enter the video.

The AIFI has given out Best Industrial awards for the past 12 years to honor Tribal enterprises and their business development. The esteemed award can be seen in the Chairman's Office for years to come.

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Tribe, 1st Baptist Church Helps Spread Holiday Cheer at Wounded Knee

By Susan Etxebarria

WOUNDED KNEE, S.D. — With less than a month till Christmas, church pianist Betty Luckey stood up at 1st Indian Baptist Church at Brighton and asked the members of her congregation to donate toys and clothes to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

"I told them I was setting up collection points in Sbering, Lake Placid and Okcehobee, Fla., and I invited anyone who wanted to help out and come



Alice Sweat (Far Right) stands near the Wounded Knee Community Center with (L-R) Bruce and Sylvia Hollow Horn, Pastor Stanley Hollow Horn and Little Bear.

along with me and my family to Wounded Knee I would appreciate their support," said Luckey. "Before I finished even speaking, Alice Sweat [Director of Community Care for the Elderly (CCE)] raised her hand and said she would help us ... She followed through and got everyone working with her."

Gifts, toys, clothes and monies were collected at the headquarters of CCE. The response from Tribal citizens, Tribal officials and many others was overwhelming.

The result was caravans of Tribal citizens, employees, and the Luckey family, who traveled to Pine Ridge to personally deliver truckloads of gifts to those in need.

Luckey said she was haunted for years by the poverty she saw at Wounded Knee when she traveled there many years ago with Alice Snow to teach a vacation bible class one summer. This year she got in touch with Pastor Stanley Hollow Horn, an Oglala Sioux.

There is only one small church at Wounded Knee amidst 60 homes but every year as many as 500



The staff and parents of Pematyetyv Emahakv, including (L-R) Charlotte Gopher and Michele Thomas, cooked and sold pumpkin frybread at the Christmas on the Caloosahatchee Festival in Moore Haven. They donated their funds to buy toys for the children at Wounded Knee on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

people will come to the small church to celebrate Christmas.

"He told me that in years past there had been some donations but this year the pastor didn't have one Christmas present for the children," said Luckey.

He told her that the people there have no winter clothing, no Christmas presents for their children, and no pantries filled with food.

The trip to Wounded Knee was an odyssey of love, prayers and hope. After many emails and flyers were posted about the reservation, CCE hallways and back porch began to fill up with donations. Monies were donated from many people including the Tribal Council, churches and private individuals, amounting to approximately \$12,000. It was used to transport all the gifts and pay for the travel expenses. Left over money was spent to help fill the pantries, with \$2,000 worth of food bought and 60 heaters purchased; one for each home.

The gifts were packed tight into a 35 foot trailer, a 20 foot trailer and a 5' by 8' moving truck. Some vans and trucks were also packed with gifts. More than 1,000 jackets and sweaters were distributed. The trip to Wounded Knee included traveling along roads that were icy and foggy and snow covered the ground.

"We had lots of prayers for our safety and we were granted traveling mercies," said Rhonda Goodman, assistant director of CCE.

The CCE caravan of trucks left on Dec. 15, 2007 at 10 p.m. and returned on Dec. 20. In that group was Alice Sweat with CCE staff including Rhonda and Scott Goodman, Justin Hill Robbins, Melanie Stremus, as well as three Seminole Police Department officers, Michelle Clay, David Walsh and Larry Payne.

Brighton resident Joe Lester and his wife Julie, left with loaded truck on the Dec. 17, 2007. On Dec. 20, Betty Luckey and her family left and stayed until Dec. 23. With her son, Justin Savacool, her daughter Sheri Bjorn and husband, Simon, grandson J.T. Luckey and granddaughter Tiffani Luckey. The Luckey family stayed for the celebration at the church on Dec. 21, 2007, where the gifts were given. They sang and played music for the people there.

In a phone interview with Pastor Hollow Horn on Jan. 2, the impact of such a heroic effort and generosity of the Tribe left an impression on him.

"Our people here sure did appreciate the gifts, and food and jackets and winter coats," he said. "The people here have no money. Everything was appreciated, especially the heaters. This was a big answer to a prayer. This is the only active church in Wounded Knee and at Christmas this year it became a lighthouse to the community. We are so poor here we are lucky if we end up with a \$10 donation on a Sunday."

Alice Sweat said she was shaken by the poverty she witnessed at Wounded Knee. "I came back and I didn't really want to buy Christmas presents for my family because we have such a better life. It is sad to see so much hopelessness and the despair," Sweat said.

Goodman said she learned a lot on the long journey.

"I think we got more of blessing than we gave. I was being tested by God," he said. "What was I doing there? I think the people at Wounded Knee need God in their lives."

Libby Luckey said: "These people are left alone in a lost place so for us to come along and say 'We love you' and reach out our hand is what we are supposed to be doing; we are helping others."

Her mother, Betty, said she has been affected by the tragedy of Wounded Knee and standing at the very place where hundreds were massacred made her feel the injustice of what took place there in 1890. But she was very touched by the joy of the children filling their bags with toys and gifts and watching the smiling faces of the elders grateful for the outpouring of love.

Rhonda Goodman and Alice Sweat have written a message to all who gave. It is: "We took items from all the generous people that donated them. When we were there we saw first hand how needy these people really are in Pine Ridge. We would like to be able to go again in April or March to take a crew to help build a playground. To raise funds for this we at CCE will start selling lunches each Friday starting Jan. 11. All the money will go to the Pine Ridge Fundraiser. Please call on or before each Wednesday with your order and we will even deliver."

The plight of the people at Wounded Knee has touched hearts. Many Brighton elders remember days of poverty and they are ready to help others, said Luckey.



The youth group participated in a powerful portrayal of the battle between good and evil.

Judy Weeks

BC Baptist Church Holds Bible Study in Immokalee

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — The Big Cypress 1st Baptist Church hosted a Bible Study presentation on Dec. 6-7, 2007 at the Immokalee Gym. The event saw members of the community attending activities including services, a youth presentation and two day revival.



(L-R) Billy Wolf Jr., Charles "Chubby" Hummingbird and Jamie Wolf traveled from Stillwell, Okla., to participate in a revival in Immokalee.

Ray Yzaguirre and Tony Sanchez spoke briefly about the past year and the obstacles that have been overcome with the promise of a bright future as they encouraged their fellow church members.

Donning costumes, 14 members of the youth group and their advisors, Josh and Andrea Jumper, participated in a powerful portrayal of "Set Me Free" by Casting Crowns. Black-cloaked demons descended upon a teenager and placed him in chains, signifying the peer pressure and temptation that leads people astray. Clinging to drugs and alcohol, he reaches depression and despair until he accepts the call of Jesus Christ and is set free. The audience filled the gym with applause following the presentation.

A trio of musicians from Stillwell, Okla. mixed Baptist hymns and contemporary music with a gratifying result. The group was comprised of Billy Wolf Jr., Jamie Wolf and Charles "Chubby" Hummingbird. Following several selections, they came forward individually and addressed the gathering. Jamie and Billy Wolf offered testimony as they recounted their childhoods and teenage years and recalled their dedication to spreading the gospel.

Chubby Hummingbird preached an arousing revival sermon that delivered a very powerful message to the assembly. A gifted speaker, he captured the attention of all age groups and appeared to have a series of impact upon his listeners.

On the second evening, Pastor Salaw Hummingbird conducted the opening services and led in the singing of a hymn accompanied by Jonah Cypress on the guitar. The Big Cypress 1st Baptist Youth Group gave an animated performance of "Waves of Mercy, Waves of Grace" and "I Want to Shout it Out."



The BC 1st Baptist Church Youth Group singing at the revival.

Judy Weeks

New Testament Baptist Church Hosts 'The Perrys' Well Known Gospel Singers Perform Concert in BC

By Judy Weeks

BIG CYPRESS — The congregation of the Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church welcomed The Perrys for an evening of old time gospel music and inspiration on Dec. 5, 2007.

The Perrys began their gospel tours 39 years ago from the home of Mother Perry in Xenia, Ohio. Originally traveling within a three state area, their fame spread quickly and their concerts soon became in popular demand across the country. What began as a family gospel troupe has broadened over the years into a tremendously successful group of very talented musicians and vocalists.

Following in her family's footsteps, 4 foot 8 inch tall Libbi Perry Stuffle is a dynamic driving force that carries on the tradition of her parents. Her husband, Tracy Stuffle, joined the ranks in November 1985 and together they have dedicated their lives to inspiring Christians and winning new converts.

In addition to the Stuffles, the Big Cypress performance included baritone Nick Trammel, lead singer Joseph Habedank and Matthew Halt on the piano and synthesizer. Their awesome presentation lasted for more than an hour and a half and included many old time favorites that span over a century of gospel music.

Each member of the troupe took a turn at the microphone giving a short biography spiced with humor and injecting their own specialty into the program. They are all multi-talented and extraordinary performers despite their young ages. For instance, 22-year-old Matthew Halt plays rhythm and lead guitar, drums, saxophone, organ and piano. He began his career at 4 years old and is a very accom-

plished musician.

The church walls vibrated music and the pews resounded with foot stomping and clapping as the audience responded to the joys of gospel. Toddlers could be seen hanging onto the seats trying to dance to the music and clapping their hands in joy. In between songs, Tracy Stuffle kept the audiences laughing with his jokes and imitations of people, animals and chainsaws.

The 2008 concert schedule for the Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church will begin on Jan. 27 with the Southern Sound and continue through the end of April with a variety of renowned performers. For further information please contact Rev. Arlen J. Payne at (954) 448-4431.



(L-R) Nick Trammel, Joseph Habedank, Libbi Perry Stuffle and Tracy Stuffle joined Matthew Halt on the piano for an evening of gospel music with The Perrys.

Judy Weeks

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Community News

Community, Employee Thanksgiving Luncheon

By Susan Etxebarria
BRIGHTON — On Nov. 21, the day before Thanksgiving, the holiday was jump started with a noontime meal served in the gymnasium to Brighton's residents and employees. Chef Cleve Baker of Renegade Barbecue provided a Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings, as well as traditional Seminole favorites including sofkee.

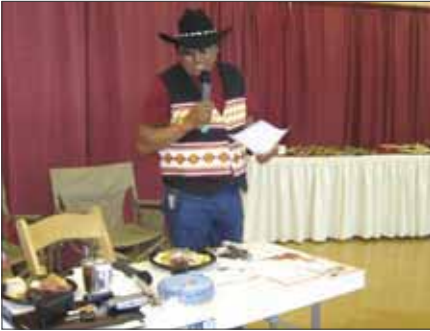
During a welcoming address, Brighton Council Representative Roger Smith wished everyone in attendance a safe and healthy holiday and expressed gratitude for all the hard work of the employees.

"You do such a great job keeping things going at the Brighton Seminole Reservation," he said.

Alice Snow was then asked to say the blessing. She and Jenny Johns also sang two songs, "Hallelujah" and "Sweet House of Prayer," in the Creek language.

Next President Richard Bowers Jr. spoke to the community in Creek and then translated what he said for those present that were not Creek speakers.

"I told our Tribal members that we owe a big debt of gratitude to our elders for all they did and all



Brighton Council Rep. Roger Smith welcomes everyone to the luncheon.

their sacrifices that made the Tribe what it is today," said Pres. Bowers, who also told everyone to remember to thank the elders during this special time. "This is a time for family togetherness and I want to remind you to give your children and your elders your attention during this long holiday."

Topping off the event were drawings for fabulous prizes. Each employee and resident received a ticket for prizes including DVD players and gift cards.

Housing Dept. Hosts Appreciation Luncheons

Big Cypress

By Felix DeBosz
BIG CYPRESS — On Dec. 7, 2007, the Seminole Tribe's Housing Department held an informal gathering and appreciation luncheon at the Big Cypress Gym for Tribal citizens, guests and employees.

"We are here today because the Housing Department's way of showing our appreciation to Tribal members," said Alyssa Pearson, Housing Dept. administrator and event coordinator. "We really appreciate the support from Tribal members that live here in Big Cypress and to show what we have done to turn the program around. We have had better open communications with Tribal members, listening and fulfilling their needs, and improving their lives."

Everyone agreed that the food

was delicious

and the decorated

cakes were really

sweet for everyone

to enjoy. The buffet

dinner was catered

by Renegade

Barbecue.



The Housing Dept. seal on one of the cakes at the luncheon.

Hollywood



Housing Director Troy Clay and JoAnne Micco.



Members of the Housing Dept. review and discuss Hollywood Reservation building plans.

Joel Rovics Named Hard Rock Marketing VP

Photo and Story Submitted by Bitner Goodman PR
HOLLYWOOD — Joel Rovics has been

named vice president of marketing of the Hollywood Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. Rovics will be responsible for strategic planning, research, direct mail and database marketing, as well as analysis, budgeting, and entertainment.

He holds a master of business administration in marketing from Saint Louis University and a bachelor of business administration from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas.

Rovics served as director of marketing for Morongo Casino Resort and Spa, run by the Morongo Band of Mission Indians. From 2004-2006, he was the executive

director of marketing at Fantasy Springs Casino run by the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians where he coordinated the grand opening festivities for the \$175 million expansion. Prior to that he was executive director for the Casino Aztar in Evansville, Ind., and from 1998-2001, he was the director of marketing for Harrah's St. Louis, where he oversaw 70 employees and was accountable for daily management of nine departments.

His community involvement includes serving as a board member for the Evansville Chamber of Commerce and involvement with the Indiana Casino Association and Missouri Riverboat Gaming Association.



Brighton

By Susan Etxebarria
BRIGHTON — On Dec. 6, 2007, the Brighton Seminole Housing Department hosted the Housing Appreciation Luncheon at the gym. Brighton residents who attended had the opportunity to chat with the staff of the Housing Department.

"The Housing Department just wanted to show our appreciation to the Tribal members for supporting our department," said Brighton's Housing Services Manager Jamie Loudbear, a member of the Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin.

Loudbear also manages housing services at the Ft. Pierce and Tampa reservations.

The dinner was catered by Renegade Barbecue. The Housing Department gave away gifts of T-shirts, mugs, flashlight key rings, magnets and other souvenirs.



(L-R) Housing Services Mgr. Jamie Loudbear and Jo Leigh "Boogie" Jumper.

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Community News

Seminole Hard Rock Hosts 9th Annual Harley-Davidson Bikers Bash

By Felix DoBoz

HOLLYWOOD — Guests rumbled in on all kinds of shiny bikes, but mostly Harley-Davidson's and custom choppers for the 9th Annual Ft. Lauderdale Harley-Davidson Bikers Bash, held on the evening of Dec. 7, 2007. The night of entertainment and fun was underwritten by the Seminole Tribe of Florida, with all proceeds from this event and auction benefitting the Boys & Girls Club of Broward County.

A big biker fan, Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. welcomed all the guests to the Bikers Bash festivities. "This Bikers Bash is great; it's a good cause for the Boys & Girls Club and a fun way to raise money," Osceola said. "I've been riding bikes since 1964 and have had a lot of fun with them, for the Toys in the Sun Run. I have a Triumph Rocket that I'm going to ride because my Harley is being serviced."

"As long as I'm on

bikes by Dave Perewitz, Aaron Green and Dale Parker were also auctioned off to the highest bidder to raise money for the local charities. There was a bit of suspense and controversy to see if Steven Tyler would even show up at the Bikers Bash, because he was determined to ride his new Red Wing motorcycle instead of the sponsor's customary Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

Tyler did make an appearance and signed autographs for some fans who bid on his guitars and assorted memorabilia collection that was up for auction. Tyler made a fashion donation of one of his famous outfits to the Seminole Hard Rock earlier that evening at a small ceremony inside at the Hard Rock Café.

A few celebrity guests also paid a visit to the Bikers Bash, including rock singer Lita Ford, super model Niki Taylor, legendary songwriter Richie Supa and drummer Vince Neil of the band Motley Crue, who turned into a big crowd pleaser. Later in the evening Neil jammed with Aerosmith's Steven

Tyler, and the reaction from the crowd was like being at a giant rock concert. The Biker Bash activities were just the beginning, leading up to the premier event held the morning of Dec. 9, for the South Florida Presidents Council 20th Annual Christmas Toys in the Sun Run. This was billed as the world's largest motorcycle parade, consisting of more than 30,000 riders. Each rider was asked to bring a brand new unwrapped toy for underprivileged children to be collected at the festivities at Markham Park in Sunrise, Fla.

The toys are distributed to needy children across Broward County every year by this wonderful group. Most of the money raised through the Toys in the Sun Run benefitted the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, a facility famous for successfully treating pediatric cancer patients.

More than 40 Seminole Tribal citizens and employees met in front of the main entrance of the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino at 7:30 a.m. on the morning of Dec. 9, 2007, for Toys in the Sun Run. Smiling



Custom bikes, signed by members of Aerosmith, were auctioned off.

two wheels, that's all that matters," he added.

Doc Reno, local radio personality from Big 105.9 FM, emceed the evening's festivities, as guests enjoyed

music, dinner, and a fun silent auction featuring rock and sports memorabilia. One of the interesting framed auction items on display was an autographed New England Patriots jersey belonging to quarterback Tom Brady. Osceola spoke to the biker fans gathered from the stage, welcoming all the guests to this worthwhile fun event.

He said, "I want to thank everyone here for your generosity for the Boys & Girls Club, for the children, because of you they're going to have a Merry Christmas. So I want to say a big thank you for that and let's rock on."

Dazzling custom designer



(L-R) Jeff and Harriet Bass pose with Gina and Chris Osceola in front of the guitars.



(L-R) Trail Liaison William Osceola and Chris Osceola.

Seminole citizens from different reservations brought unwrapped Christmas toys strapped onto their motorcycles. They took off with a mighty roar and in unison headed for I-95 north on their two wheeled machines to meet up with the main contingent of riders at the huge starting point for the world's largest motorcycle parade.



(L-R) Roy and Barbara Butera and Loretta Micco.

Toys in the Sun Run



Ollie Balentine's teddy bear takes a back seat for the ride on her Trike.



Kevin Osceola gives the international biker wave.



Max Osceola, on his Triumph Rocket, says "Lets ride."



Virginia Billie has toys strapped on the back of her cruiser.



Vida Redmayne says goodbye to a new fluffy toy.

Community News

Preparations Underway For Annual Battle of Okeechobee Re-Enactment

By Susan Etebarria

OKEECHOBEE, Fla. — Willie Johns of Brighton will be narrating the dramatic reenactment of the Battle of Okeechobee of the Second Seminole War at the new Okeechobee Battlefield Historical State Park. The re-enactment will run on Feb. 2-3.

Okeechobee Battlefield Friends, Inc., is coordinating the opening ceremony at 11 a.m. on Feb. 2.

On this battlefield, many legendary officers of the U.S. Army spilled their blood. The excitement of the battle is an educational opportunity; the two day event is a window into the past of how the white man and the Indians lived in these dangerous times.

The Okeechobee Battlefield Historical State Park is located on what was once cattle range that was almost lost to development. A team of dedicated individuals formed an organization to preserve the land and after several years of petitioning the State of Florida, the site was purchased for a park in 2006. When the park is ready for public use it will become a tremendous asset for Okeechobee County tourism.

"The vision and goal of the battlefield preservation would not have been a success without the dedication and support of the Seminole Tribe of Florida," said Henderson, a resident of Okeechobee who helped lead the preservation efforts. "We wish to thank Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Brighton Council Representative Roger Smith, Brighton Board Representative Johnnie Jones, current and former Tribal officials, and many other members of the Tribe who have been so committed."

Johns, Tribal historian and member of the Florida Seminole Wars Foundation, said he considers the Battle of Okeechobee to be one of the most important battles in Seminole history. He also said the preservation of this 145-acre battleground site of great significance for the Tribe. For him, this re-enactment is an opportunity to tell the story of this heroic battle from the Seminole perspective.

Seminole re-enactors and U.S. military re-enactors, many from Okeechobee, perform the re-enactment, including Okeechobee City Councilman Dowling Watford and resident, Jack Williamson. Among the Seminole performers will be Brian Zepeda and Moses "Big Shot" Jumper Jr. who have performed in many other exciting Seminole war re-enactments throughout the state.

Seminole artisans and period vendors with crafts, clothing, goods and arts of the 1830s will be featured, as well as entertainment, music, storytelling, historic and cultural demonstrations.

Special guests and speakers will include author Elizabeth Gentry Sayed, State Representative Richard Maychek and Seminole Tribal leaders. Sayed is the great-great granddaughter of General Gentry and relates fascinating facts about the history of her famous ancestor.

The state park is not yet officially open to the public as the grounds are in early stages of the planning and development process. Nevertheless, the re-enactment has received great support from Park Manager Mark Nelson and his staff who have prepared a portion of the grounds for the occasion.

There are many civic groups, businesses and private individuals who are sponsoring this event including the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Those interested being a vendor or volunteer, please call Shawn Henderson at (863) 634-9587.



Re-enactments, however, will be held both days. The Seminole Color Guard will also post the colors during the opening ceremonies.

"We are very excited to be organizing this upcoming event on the newly acquired Okeechobee Battlefield Historical State Park," said Chairwoman Shawn Henderson.

Gathered on the war fields will be a cast of re-enactors portraying fierce Indian warriors led by great Indian war chiefs such as Abiaka, Coacoochee, Halleck Tustenuegee and Alligator. Here they will show how the Seminoles, greatly outnumbered, battled the massive militia and U.S. Army troops led by the feared Colonel Zachary Taylor and General Richard Gentry.

This historic battle took place on Christmas day in 1837. It was the largest and bloodiest battle of the Second Seminole War. The brilliant maneuvers and bold exploits of the Seminole warriors made it possible for many Seminoles to escape and survive in Florida without surrender.



Shawn Henderson (L), chairwoman of the event, speaks with key personnel in preparation for the Battle of Okeechobee Re-Enactment.

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Community News



(L-R) President Richard Bowers Jr. with the top cattle owner from Big Cypress, Carl Baxley, Director of Natural Resource Don Robertson, and top cattle owner from Brighton, Timmy Johns.

Cattle Owners Gather For Annual Meeting

Carl Baxley, Timmy Johns Take Top Honors from BC, Brighton

By Susan Ettebarria
CLEWISTON, Fla. — The Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.'s 2007 award winning cattle owners were announced at the Cattle Owner's Annual Meeting and Dinner, held Nov. 30, 2007 at Sonny's BBQ.

Carl Baxley won the award for 2007 Big Cypress Beef Producer of the Year with 148 pounds of beef per acre. Timmy Johns was named 2007 Brighton Beef Producer of the Year with 223 pounds of beef per acre.

The meeting also included an hour-long session discussing the published summary handed out to each cattle owner regarding their profits and losses, expenses and inventory for the 2007 year.

"We have summarized the whole year and put it in a book-form for each cattle owner," said Natural Resources Director Don Robertson. "I think it will be very beneficial and helpful to you."

Assistant Natural Resources Director Alex Johns told the cattle owners that there is better and more detailed business analysis available now since the Tribe adopted its Electronic Identification (EID) program. With three years worth of data collected by the EID software about the herds, the own-

ers are getting reliable figures that can aid forecasting.

With the use of a PowerPoint presentation on a wide screen, Johns explained to the cattle owners how to assess individual operating costs in every aspect of the production cycle. He said they can see their individual profits or losses. There are charts that analyze pasture productivity to help each cattle owner develop their future business plan.

This year the cattle owners and cattle managers also discussed matters of concern affecting the cattle operations. At the top of the list was how the present drought affects cattle weights. A serious discussion followed about the need for activating wells on individual pastures. The cost to buy pumps would be the individual cattle owner's responsibility. However, loans or grants are available, said Johns.

Brighton Water Resource Manager Roy Herrera said he is already mapping and detecting wells on Brighton pastures. He said wells need to be dug about 120 feet deep to assure they won't go dry if the drought worsens. According to Herrera, some of the costs can be funded by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Seminole Tribe Extension Agent Michael Bond spoke about the information available to cattle owners through the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) at the University of Florida in Gainesville. He is also available for soil testing. Cattle production is dependent on good nutrition that is related to the quality of nutrients in grasses, he said.

"This is the third annual cattlemen's meeting," said Pres. Richard Bowers Jr. "This meeting helps us to be better cattle owners and shows us how we can improve."

Part of the excitement of the meeting was the generous gifts from donors that had everyone checking their tickets throughout the night.

Pres. Bowers donated the top prize, two red heifers purchased from a South Florida rancher, and won by Louise Gopher and Jimmie Smith. A roping saddle with the Board's emblem on it was donated by BC Board Rep. Cicero Osceola. The winner was Mondo Tiger. Other door prizes were donated from Board Reps. Johnnie Jones of Brighton and Gloria Wilson of Hollywood, as well as Brighton Council Rep. Roger Smith.

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❖ Gopher

Continued from page 1

chickee near Ft. Pierce. At the time she spoke only Creek, but eventually Gopher went on to be the first woman in the Tribe to earn a college degree. Gopher would end up making a lifelong commitment to help others in the Tribe obtain public education and go to college.

The presentation also included information on how she led the Tribe to create language education programs that resulted in the 2007 opening of Pemayetv Emahavk Charter School.

The guests were told that Louise Gopher was picked by the Palm Beach Post as one of 100 outstanding women who made a difference in Florida during the 20th Century.

Many people gave speeches about Gopher.

"It has been an honor to work



(L-R) Seminole Princess Jennifer Chalfant presents a quilt to Louise Gopher.

alongside you," said Emma Johns, acting Education Department director. "I learned from you and I hope now you have confidence in the staff that follows you."

"I want to thank you for what you have done for our kids in education and for our culture," said Council Rep. Roger Smith, who presented Gopher with a plaque.

A traditional Seminole dress, made by Virginia Osceola of Hollywood, was unveiled as another gift from the Councilman's office.

Florida Chairman Mitchell Cypress was not able to attend but he sent a surprise. He offered Gopher a trip to

any place in the world she wants to go.

"It is good to see Louise is being honored for her achievements in education," said Board Rep. Johnnie Jones. "She sacrificed a lot. She wasn't home a lot. She was always having to travel to Hollywood; back and forth."

He then presented her with a check from the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc., saying she could use that gift during her other gift — the vacation the Chairman gave her.

There were also very nice gifts from her education staff, and from



Louise Gopher accepts a plaque from Brighton Council Rep. Roger Smith.

the children of the charter school. Jennifer Chalfant, her former student and Miss Florida Seminole, presented her with a large colorful quilt on behalf of the Tribe.

Gopher did speak to all the guests. First she introduced her former education staff and all educators who had helped her and supported her along the way.

"I want to say thank you to all the staff. I wouldn't be up here on this stage without your support," she said. "Many things could not have been accomplished without the dedication of many others. I may have opened doors and initiated meetings but it is the parents and the staff that followed through and accomplished the job."

Gopher said she is ready for a change. She plans to continue helping the Tribe preserve its culture and language in other ways, but she said for now she is also looking forward to going fishing with her grandchildren.

Pemayetv Emahavk Charter School Honors Students of the Week

Students Recognized for the Week of Dec. 3-7, 2007



Kindergarten
Miss Robinson's class: Laila Bennett; Mrs. Webber's class: Waylynn Bennett

First Grade
Mrs. Davis's class: Alicia Fudge; Mrs. Ringstaff's class: Gage Riddle

Second Grade
Mrs. Hudson's class: Sunni Bearden; Mrs. Ball's class: Camryn Thomas

Third Grade
Mrs. Clements' class: Lanie Sedatol; Mrs. Pryor's class: Rylee Osceola

Fourth Grade
Mrs. Tedders' class: Elizabeth Johns; Mrs. Williams' class: Harley Johns

Fifth Grade
Mrs. Finney's class: J. T. Smith

Museum Debuts Exhibit, Holds Essay Contest

Submitted by Diana M. Stone, Education Coordinator Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

[Editor's Note: The following winning essays are re-printed here verbatim.]

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum will debut their newest exhibit, *Osceola Remembered*, on Jan. 27. The exhibit shows the many perspectives of Osceola as the man, the myth, and the legend. In conjunction with the exhibit, the museum's Education Division organized an essay contest asking fourth graders from

all across Florida to write about Osceola. The top four essays writers from this year's contest were Kristina Capeles, North Miami, Julienne Silvius, North Miami, Renaude Ceus, North Miami, and Katherine Harper, Weston. The winning essays will be featured in the *Osceola Remembered* exhibit.

If you would like your class or homeschoolers to participate in next year's essay contest, please send your name, address, and email address to dianastone@semitrbe.com to be added to next year's contest mailing list.

A Tragic Death

By Renaude Ceus

Osceola was a very productive man, a very great leader, and a very important part of Native American Florida history.

When Osceola was a teenager he fought in the First Seminole War. The United States started the First Seminole War because they considered the Native Americans enemies.

In 1823 some of the Seminole leaders signed a treaty. According to the United States, the Seminoles had not complied with the treaty. The Indian Removal Act of 1830 called for the relocation of Osceola's Tribe.

Osceola was known by his tribe as a skillful hunter, warrior and stickball player. He was not a chief brought to prominence because of his stand against relocation. He traveled to every Tribe urging for them to stay on their ancestral land.

In April 1835, in Fort King on the Seminole Reservation, and Indian agent named Wiley Thompson forced a treaty on the Seminole, confirming terms of removal. Osceola was so furious he slashed the document with a knife and quarreled with the agent. The agent had Osceola seized and put in jail. He angrily protested, but actually agreed to sign. When Osceola was released from jail he escaped into the woods.

On December 28, 1835, Osceola led another war party in ambush to the Indian agent, Wiley Thompson, killing him along with six other people. That same exact day Osceola was wounded during a battle between Seminole warriors and the United States army, but escaped.

A general named Thomas Sidney Jesup resorted to trickery to capture Osceola. Someone named Wild Cat agreed to help him trick Osceola. Osceola was weakened by malaria and agreed to go to a peace council at Fort Peyton in October 1837. When Osceola got to the meeting he was struck in the head, tied up and imprisoned.

There were many reasons how Osceola could have died: mistreatment or poison from guards, disease (malaria or quinine), or loss of will to live. A man named George Catlin painted a portrait of Osceola while he was in jail. After putting on his battle dress and painting himself with war paint, Osceola died on January 30, 1838.

they would not move without a fight.

Second, Osceola was a great warrior. He led attacks on the military men who came to remove the Seminoles. On December 28, 1835, he and a handful of warriors killed Wiley Thompson, who came to move the Seminoles, and this sparked the Second Seminole War. Osceola became the Seminoles' leading war chief. He showed great courage in battle. He skillfully and bravely guided his warriors into battle. He taught them the skill of ambush.

Third, Osceola was a great Seminole. He was never defeated and died undefeated. He and his people never surrendered. He gave his people independence. Because of Osceola's leadership and determination, the Seminole people got to control their own lives and destiny.

All in all, Osceola should be honored because of all the great things he did and the courage he had. From the lessons we all can learn from him to the respect his people gave him. Osceola was a man who helped his people.

took his sword and stabbed the document, while saying: "This is the only way I will sign!"

In the month of November the Second Seminole War started. The United States tried to make the Indians leave their homes in Florida, but the Indians were ready for war. This war lasted from 1835 to 1842.

In the year 1837 General Thomas Sidney Jesup asked Osceola to meet with him so they could come to an agreement. Osceola accepted the invitation, but when he got to the place to meet Thomas Sidney Jesup he was attacked and put in prison. He died shortly in 1838.

Osceola showed great bravery, leadership, and integrity, this is why he was such a great leader.

a won a battle against the United States army.

Osceola battled through the Seminole War. With his team, he tried and tried to win, but instead he lost. So then, he had to go to the Second Seminole War. Osceola encouraged the Native Americans to have strength and faith to fight in the Second Seminole War. When the war started many people died. Osceola had many friends that died. But Osceola still tried his best and never quit. He fought a long seven years protecting Native American land from the United States.

The United States army said "I quit." But they were lying. They were

just trying to trick Osceola. When he went to Jefferson's house to discuss peace a group of people took him and shut him in prison. He stayed there until he died.

Many people went to visit Osceola in prison because he had fought so hard for the Seminoles. Osceola had become so famous that newspapers across the United States were writing about him! He showed people that the Seminoles were strong and would not leave Florida without a fight. In January 30, 1838, Osceola died in prison. He died with faith, courage, responsibility, caring, and honesty in himself.

Pemayetv Emahavk Students Collect Donations for Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and Toys For Tots



The emayetv Emahavk Charter School's parents, students and staff collected donations to send to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota during the holidays. Ms. Robinson's kindergarten class poses with the donations.

(L-R, Front Row) Richard Harris, Dalence Carrillo, Tanner Shore, Hunter Howard, Tucker Johns, (L-R, Center Row) Sage Motlow, Araya Youngblood, Alyssa Gonzalez, Mallorie Thomas, Rubie Osceola, Aleah Turtle, (L-R, Top Row) Laila Bennett, Edward Gaucin, Jaylen Baker and Myron Billie.



The fifth grade Pemayetv Emahavk Charter School students pose with the schools' Toys For Tots donation collection. This was a PTSO, or Parent, Teacher, Student Organization, project.

Students in photo are: (L-R) Lindsey Sampson, J.T. Smith, Brooke Osceola, Toby Gopher, Deveen Jones, Braxton King, Breanna Billie, Dalence Carrillo, Jennifer Tommie, Cameron Youngblood, Anthony Johns, Layton Thomas, Corvette Billie, Delaney Osceola and Justice Baker.

A Message from Seminole Police Department Chief Charlie Tiger

Since I became police chief I have been dedicated to raising the level of professionalism and educational opportunities for the members of the Seminole Police Department (SPD).

In furtherance of this endeavor, I have been assembling a command staff of highly qualified law enforcement professionals who have numerous years of law enforcement experience and expertise. These include Deputy Chief Michael Browne, Major Robert McDaniel, Captain Jerry Meisenheimer, Captain John Wilson, Captain John Auer and Captain Ed Taylor. This management team will solidify the goals and objectives set forth in SPD's strategic plan.

In an effort to enhance community insight and input into the inner working of SPD, I will be implementing a meet and greet session once a month with myself and my entire command staff. Any Tribal citizen is invited to attend a monthly command staff meeting. There they will meet the command staff and address any concerns, suggestions or comments to them.

Those persons who would like to be selected to attend a command staff meeting may call the Seminole Police Department Chief's Office at (954) 967-8900 to sign up. Persons must be residents of the reservation they are signing up for.

The Indian Hero!

By Julienne Silvius

Osceola was born in 1804-1838. Osceola lived near the Tallapoosa River in Alabama. He was important because he was an Indian immigrant to Florida and became a Seminole chief.

Osceola fought in a war called the Seminole War. He moved to Florida as a youth and was just a teenager when he fought in the First Seminole War. Osceola and the Seminoles fought against the United States over Florida. The United States was also angry that black slaves were being set free in Florida. He led 250 warriors against 720 soldiers and

Education · Emahaayeeke · Kerretv

Basic Rules of Safety for Children

Submitted by SPD Chief Charlie Tiger

As soon as your children can articulate a sentence, they can begin the process of learning how to protect themselves against abduction and exploitation. Children should be taught the following basic safety rules:

If you are in a public place, and you get separated from your parents or guardians, don't wander around looking for them. Go to a uniformed law enforcement or security officer, store salesperson or person in the information booth with a nametag, or a neighbor with children and quickly tell the person you have lost your family and need help finding them.

You should not get into a vehicle or go anywhere with any person unless your parents or guardians have told you it is okay to do so on that day.

If someone follows you in a vehicle, stay away from him or her and turn around and go in the opposite direction. You should not get close to any vehicle, unless your parent, guardian, or a trusted adult accompanies you. If someone is following you on foot, run away as fast as you can and tell a trusted adult what happened.

Grownups and others who need help should not be asking children for help, they should be asking older people.

No one should be asking you for directions, asking you to help look for something like a "lost puppy," or telling you your mother or father is in trouble and he or she will take you to them.

If someone tries to take you somewhere, quickly get away from him (or her) and yell or scream, "This man (woman) is trying to take me away" or "This person is not my father (mother)." If someone tries to grab you, make a scene and make every effort to get away by kicking, screaming, and resisting.

You should try to take a friend with you, and never go places alone.

Always ask your parents' or guardians' permission to leave the yard or play area or go into someone's home.

Never hitchhike. Don't ride home with anyone unless your parents or guardians have told you it is okay to do so on that day.

If someone wants to take your picture, tell him or her no and tell your parents, guardians, or other trusted adults.

No one should touch you in the parts of the body that would be covered by a bathing suit, nor should you touch anyone else in those areas. Your body is special and private.

You can be assertive, and you have the right to say no to someone who tries to take you somewhere; touch you; or make you feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused in any way.

What You Can Do to Prevent Child Abduction and Exploitation

Know where your children are at all times. Be familiar with their friends and daily activities.

Be sensitive to changes in your children's behavior; they are a signal you should sit down and talk to your children about what caused the changes.

Be alert to a teenager or adult who is paying an unusual amount of attention to your children or giving them inappropriate or expensive gifts.

Teach your children to trust their own feelings, and assure them they have the right to say no to what they sense is wrong.

Listen carefully to your children's fears, and be supportive in all your discussions with them.

Teach your children that no one should approach or touch them in a way that makes them feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused. If someone does, they should immediately tell you.

Be diligent about babysitters and any other individuals who have custody of your children. Obtain references from people you trust and see if you can access background screening information about these individuals. Many states provide access to sex offender registries and criminal histories.



Children's Internet Safety: A Message from SPD Chief Charlie Tiger

Before spending valuable learning time on activities to reduce child victimization online, it is important to understand the need for this information. Children of all ages are flocking to the Internet. Statistics reveal that 45 percent of children in the U.S. — more than 30 million of those younger than 18 — use the Internet.

Here are some Internet safety tips to help keep children safe when online:

Clear, simple, easy-to-read house rules should be posted on or near the monitor. Create your own computer rules or print the Internet Safety Pledge from www.netismartz.org/resources/pledge.htm. The pledge can be signed by adults and children and should be periodically reviewed.

Look into safeguarding programs or options your online service provider might offer. These may include monitoring or filtering capabilities.

Always read a web site's privacy policy before giving any personal information. Also make sure that a web site offers a secure connection before giving credit card information.

Web sites for children are not permitted to request personal information without a parent's permission. Talk to children about what personal information is and why you should never give it to people online.

If children use chat or e-mail, talk to them about never meeting in person with anyone they first "met" online.

Talk to children about not responding to offensive or dangerous e-mail, chat, or other communications. Report any such communication to local law enforcement. Do not delete the offensive or dangerous e-mail; turn off the monitor, and contact another open area of your home.

Get informed about computers and the Internet. Let children show you what they can do online, and visit their favorite sites.

Have children use child-friendly search

engines when completing homework.

Be aware of any other computers your child may be using.

Know who children are exchanging e-mail with, and only let them use chat areas when you can supervise. Net Smartz, www.netismartz.org, recommends limiting chat room access to child-friendly chat sites.

Internet accounts should be in the parent's name with parents having the primary screen name, controlling passwords, and using blocking and/or filtering devices.

Children should not complete a profile for a service provider and children's screen names should be non-descript so as not to identify the user as a child.

Talk to children about what to do if they see something that makes them feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused. Show them how to turn off the monitor and emphasize that it's not their fault if they see something upsetting. Remind children to tell a trusted adult if they see something that bothers them online.

Consider using filtering or monitoring software for your computer. Filtering products that use white listing, which only allows a child access to a preapproved list of sites, are recommended for children in this age group. Net Smartz does not advocate using filters only; education is a key part of prevention.

If you suspect online stalking or sexual exploitation of a child, report it to the Seminole Police Department or other local law enforcement agency.

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children has a system for identifying online predators and child pornographers and contributing to law enforcement investigations. It's called the Cyber Tip Line. Leads forwarded to the site will be acknowledged and shared with the appropriate law enforcement agency for investigation. Access the Cyber Tip Line by calling (800) 843-5628 or going to www.cybertipline.com.

Tribe Commemorates Meth Awareness Month Youngsters Get Educated About the Deadly Drug

By Sandy Hamilton

HOLLYWOOD — It seems out of the question to most people to inhale acetone, break fluid, lighter fluid, lye and/or fertilizer. However, those addicted to methamphetamine, or meth for short, inhale, smoke and/or inject these chemicals to get a temporary high.

Meth is a powerful, highly addictive man-made synthetic drug that resembles tiny shards of blue-white glass of different sizes. According to Wikipedia, methamphetamine use is the highest in the U.S. amongst Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, with 2.2 percent of the total population using the drug, and Native Americans with 1.7 percent.

In late November 2007, National Meth Awareness Week was observed throughout the U.S., with some of the Tribe's youngest members at the Hollywood Preschool receiving valuable education on the harmful effects of this drug. Their activities began with a poster contest held at the Preschool on the morning of Nov. 27.

Later that afternoon the middle school-aged children and adult community members watched a slide show presentation with vivid images depicting the effects of meth. SPD canine officer Carlin Coleman and his partner, Apollo, were present to help educate the children on how drug dealers are caught by law enforcement.

Training for drug dogs is

an initial 185-hour course, and continues with day-to-day training. Apollo has been with SPD for three years and is trained to sniff out marijuana, cocaine, heroin and methamphetamines.

The students were treated to food and raffles along with a slide show of the effects of meth on a person's appearance. Hollywood Board Rep. Gloria Wilson was on hand to address the children with the message to "stay drug free and be good leaders for us." The evening was then capped off with a night

screening of *Shrek the Third* under the stars on the baseball field.

A class on meth was held at the Boys & Girls Club two days later, on Nov. 29. The class enlightened those who attended about what drugs like marijuana, crack and alcohol do to the body. Presenters encouraged the youth to stand above the influence of peer pressure. The children participated in various activities including role playing of real life situations to gain experience on what to do to avoid peer pressure, and to just say no.



(L-R) Katelyn Young practices her "Just Say No" refusal technique in front of Jilly Bennett-Barrows of Family Services and Tommy Doud of the Boys & Girls Club.

Sandy Hamilton

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Healthy Seminole

On the Road Again...

Submitted by the Seminole Health Department

[Editor's Note: This article is written by Suzanne Fundingsland, a Licensed Registered Dietitian, who is the nutritionist at Big Cypress and Tampa. She worked for many years at North Dakota State University where her nutrition program was delivered to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, the Three Affiliated Tribes (Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara), the Spirit Lake Nation and United Tribes Technical College. Before coming to Florida she was the dietitian for the Prairie Island Indian Community at Welch, Minn.]

Dear Nutritionist,

Every time I look at my calendar and see the trip my family has planned over spring break I feel badly. I can only think of my last vacation and how much weight I gained. Please give me some realistic suggestions to help me come home without the extra pounds.

Sincerely,
Packing My Saddlebags

Dear Packing My Saddlebags,

This is a question that many people ask because vacations can be hard on our health habits. Part of the fun of traveling is trying new foods plus sitting down to eat with our family. You simply need a strategy because if we fail to plan on vacations – we usually plan to fail!

Let's plan for your success. First, when you pack bring along the

following: comfortable walking shoes and socks; snacks that you know are healthy, and a cooler if possible; plastic zip bags to portion control snacks for you and your family – they need this too!; and a mini picnic kit, with little cutting board, paring knife (store in a piece of Styrofoam to avoid accidental cuts), hand wipes, surface wipes, paper towels and liquid soap.

While traveling do the following: Each day invite your family to take a 15 minute walk with you; buy low sugar, low fat snacks in portion sizes that will satisfy you but not stuff you; avoid vending machines and convenience stores; if you buy a bulk-sized food item, such as a bag of pretzels, divide it into single servings by putting the pretzels in zip bags and don't be too hungry or too full after you eat. Having little snacks can keep you from eating more than you should at meal time. Try the individually packed 100 calorie snacks for portion control; at restaurants it is OK to order from the children's menu. At buffets, walk around and choose carefully before you even pick up a plate; and drink plenty of water. Whether you're driving or flying, keep hydrated.

Have a happy, healthy and safe vacation. I know you can do it, and if your family knows the plan they can do it too!

Bon Voyage,
Your Nutrition
Staff at Allied Health

Hollywood, Toma Hunter, (954) 965-1300, Ext.10311

Brighton, Beth Morlang, (863) 983-0271, Ext. 15344

Immokalee, Charlotte Porcario, (239) 867-3408

Big Cypress, Suzanne Fundingsland, (863) 983-5798, Ext. 12318

Ask The Counselor

Basil Phillips
M.S. Mental Health Counseling

All letters should be sent to
pmcshvator@aol.com

Dear Counselor:

I have a problem that I need help with. I always make promises to myself that I never keep. How do I stay motivated and fulfill my promises to get ahead?

Signed:
Need Help

Dear Need Help:

If you are unmotivated, ask yourself what being unmotivated is costing you in terms of achievements, work, health and relationships. Thoughts are things that possess the power to affect your behavior. To harness your power and get what you want, you need to take responsibility.

Look at your choices and ask how they have brought you to where you are. Self-motivation means not blaming anyone or anything for your situation. Self-motivation means controlling your reaction to

situations, people, and events in order to shape the best possible outcome.

It is your choice whether or not to let someone's criticism or something in your life affect you. In the book entitled *The Road Less Traveled*, author M. Scott Peck writes in the first sentence, "Life is difficult;" however, I encourage you not to let that keep you from your vision. You should try to acknowledge your excuses then stop using them each day.

Need Help, when you wake up in the mornings repeat these words of wisdom from the Counselor: Things will not get better until I get better; Things will not improve until I improve; Things will not change until I change.

Signed:
The Counselor



The Healthy Senior

By Fred Cicetti

[Editor's Note: Fred Cicetti is a syndicated columnist who writes about issues concerning senior citizens' health. The opinions he expresses are his own. If you would like to ask a question, please write fredcicetti@gmail.com. All Rights Reserved © 2008 by Fred Cicetti.]

Q: I remember having lots of fevers as a kid, but now that I'm older, I don't get them like I used to. What gives?

A: The immune system doesn't function as efficiently in older adults as it does in younger people. The body's fever response to infection is not always automatic in elderly people. More than 20 percent of adults over age 65 who have serious bacterial infections do not have fevers.

This brings us to germs, which are defined as microbes that cause disease. Infectious diseases caused by microbes are the leading cause of death.

Microbes are microscopic organisms that are everywhere. Some microbes cause disease. Others are essential for health. Most microbes belong to one of four major groups: bacteria, viruses, fungi, or protozoa.

Bacteria are made up of only one cell. Less than one percent of them cause diseases in humans. Harmless bacteria live in human intestines, where they help to digest food. Foods such as yogurt and cheese are made using bacteria.

Some bacteria produce dangerous poisons. Botulism, a severe form of food poisoning, is caused by toxins from bacteria. However, several vaccines are made from bacterial toxins.

Viruses are among the smallest microbes. They consist of one or more molecules that contain the virus's genes surrounded by a protein coat. Most viruses cause disease. They invade normal cells then multiply.

A fungus is a primitive vegetable. There are millions of types of fungi. The most familiar ones are mushrooms, yeast, mold and mildew. Some live in the human body, usually without causing illness. In fact, only about half of all types of fungi cause disease in

humans. Penicillin and other antibiotics, which kill harmful bacteria in our bodies, are made from fungi.

Protozoa are a group of microscopic one-celled animals. In humans, protozoa usually cause disease. Some protozoa, like plankton, are food for marine animals. Malaria is caused by a protozoan parasite.

You can get infected by germs from other people in many different ways, including transmission through the air from coughing or sneezing, direct contact such as kissing or sexual intercourse, and touching infectious material on a doorknob, telephone, automated teller machine or a diaper.

A variety of germs come from household pets. Dog and cat saliva can contain any of more than 100 different germs that can make you sick.

Mosquitoes may be the most common insect carriers of disease. Mosquitoes can transmit malaria. Fleas that pick up bacteria from rodents can then transmit plague to humans. The tiny deer tick can infect humans with Lyme disease.

We become immune to germs naturally and artificially. Before birth, we received natural immunity from our mothers. Once we are exposed to a germ, we develop natural immunity to it from special cells in our immune systems. Artificial immunity can come from vaccines.

Most infections caused by microbes fall into three major groups: acute infections, chronic infections and latent infections. The common cold is an acute infection. Hepatitis C, which affects the liver, is a chronic viral infection. Chikenpox is an example of a latent infection that can emerge many years later and causes a disease called shingles.

Hand washing is a simple and effective way to stop the transmission of germs. Health care experts recommend scrubbing your hands vigorously for at least 15 seconds with soap and water.

It is especially important to wash your hands before touching food, after coughing or sneezing, after changing a diaper and after using the toilet.

Health Dept. Evaluates Hot Meals Program BC, Immokalee Recognized for Excellence

By Judy Weeks

As the year 2007 drew close to an end, the Health Department reviewed its inspections for the Senior Citizen Hot Meal facilities and took a final examination of each one. The operation and maintenance of any facility of this magnitude requires daily vigilance of a dedicated team of employees, who strive to provide the necessary services for the seniors in their community. After careful consideration, Health Department Director Connie Whidden announced in a letter to the Hot Meals Director Leah Minnick: "The Big Cypress Senior Hot Meals has been selected to receive this year's Environmental Health Award for Food Safety Excellence. This award is given to exceptional facilities that have gone above and beyond the satisfactory standards of the Seminole Tribe Food Ordinance. In particular, we would like to recognize Cecilia Solano and her staff for their outstanding contribution to the food sanitation of Senior Citizen Hot Meals."



Judy Weeks

Immokalee Hot Meals Site Manager Gail Greer (third from left) and her staff display their Certificates of Excellence for food service.

Whidden's letter continued: "Your proactive food safety measures and leadership proficiency have been consistently maintained at a superior level throughout the year. Your actions have had and will continue to have a positive public health impact for our community. We thank you for your efforts."

The Seminole Tribe's Environmental Health Program Manager Patrick Peck joined Whidden in recognizing the staff of the Immokalee Senior Hot Meals for their diligent effort in maintaining and striving for excellence in the management and care of their kitchen facilities.

The Immokalee Senior Hot Meals is a relatively new program, which has been in its location for less than two years. In that length of time, a staff has been implemented to meet the needs of their community and under the direction of Gail Greer, they look forward to another year of service.



Judy Weeks

Big Cypress Senior Hot Meals Manager Cecilia Solano and a portion of her staff who have earned a Certificate for Outstanding Leadership in food safety.

New and Improved Tribal Mosquito Control Program

By Patrick Peck, RS/REHS

The "buzz" around the reservations is that the Seminole Tribe of Florida will enhance its Mosquito Control Program for 2008. The Seminole Tribe of Florida Health Department has approved administrative changes to the current mosquito control program.

In short, the Seminole Tribe has internalized its mosquito monitoring, surveillance and spraying program.

Starting January 2008, the changes will include: Increased local programmatic control and oversight; better interaction with the Aviation Department spraying program; greater detailed reporting requirements; more effective quality control of program; expansion of services to include Avian flu testing and surveillance; improved customer service; and enhanced response time to mosquito-related complaints.

As in past years, Tribal citizens shall see steady and continued reduction of the mosquito population on the reservations. The Health Department has learned a lot since the inception of the Tribal Mosquito Control Program in 2004. The department has resolved the operational challenges and technical glitches that come with such a large program.

In 2007, the mosquito counts were maintained at very low levels. The combination of ground, barrier, and aerial treatments has had the effect of a one-two punch on the mosquito population. Anecdotally, the word around the reservations is that the mosquito problem of past years has gotten a whole lot better.

Departmental control traps located outside of the reservations have routinely noted much higher

counts. This fact indicates that much of the mosquito control activities taking place within the reservations have had a significant and positive effect on the mosquito population.

The Seminole Health Department and its Mosquito Control Program have and will remain vigilant to the potential for mosquito borne diseases around the reservations. This year, the Health Department saw no positive cases of mosquito borne diseases on the reservations and we would like it to remain that way.

At the end of 2006, because of the quick intervention of the Mosquito Control Program, the Seminole Health Department was able to effectively contain a positive case of St. Louis encephalitis on the Big Cypress Reservation. In November-December 2006, the Seminole Health Department had been advised of a positive blood sample from a sentinel chicken in Big Cypress for St. Louis encephalitis, or SLE.

This SLE episode was quickly knocked down through an effective spraying and barrier treatment regimen on both the Big Cypress and Immokalee Reservations. A series of targeted treatments covered almost all the homes and public facilities in the suspected areas. Unimpeded, the SLE could have affected the human population on the reservations and caused a greater public health nightmare.

Should a Tribal citizen want to report a mosquito-related complaint or have experienced mosquito problems at their residence or place of business within the jurisdiction of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, please contact the Health Department at (954) 965-1300, Ext 10326.



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Community News

A Look at Noir, Hemmingway and Extreme Adventures

A Conversation with Novelist/Professor Vicki Hendricks

By Elgin Jumper

MEMPHIS, PINE, Fla.—The transition from one specific direction to another requires an adjustment. Recently, on a sun-drenched afternoon, Novelist/Professor Vicki Hendricks sat in her office in the English Dept. at Broward Community College's South Campus. She's working on a new novel, she says, one in which she is consciously avoiding the noir genre.

"Everything that you write, once you get placed in a genre, kind of gets dumped into that genre," she explained. "Unless you do something really different, which is what I'm hoping to do next. I'm writing a novel that is not noir, and I have to keep telling myself all the time not to go in that direction."

I'm really working hard on having someone in the story who has a real possibility of finding redemption."

Redemption does have its place. Prof. Hendricks has been writing noir since 1990, when she began her first novel, *Miami Parity*, a novel that explores obsessions and passions. The novel also turned out to be her thesis for a degree from Florida International University. Her dark and ironic neo-noir characters are reminiscent of the characters in James M. Cain's *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, and rightly so, for Cain's work was the model and inspiration for Hendricks debut.

Since that time, Hendricks has been more or less consistent with her writing.

"I'm always in the middle of a short story," she said. "There might be a month in between, like when I have too much work to do that I can't possibly write anything. Normally when I finish a novel, I have another idea and I'm ready to get started again."

For a couple of those years, however, Hendricks only wrote short stories, because of a growing demand for them. "I thought I better just take this, because then nobody else will ask me, and I'll have turned them down," recalled the novelist, "but as it turned out, I think I wrote about eight short stories within two years, so now I'm laying off those for awhile so I can do another novel."

Reviews for Hendricks work have been amazing. Writer Dennis Lehane applauded her, saying she is "the authentic heir to James M. Cain" and calling her "the high priestess of neo-noir... a fierce and fearless talent." And Maxim Jakubowski, in reviewing Hendricks' recent noir offering, had this to say: "No one writes like Vicki Hendricks ... Truly the Queen of Florida noir."

Her titles include: *Miami Parity*, *Iguana Love*, *Voluntary Madness*, *Sky Blues*, and *Cruel Poetry*. "Rebecca," a short story, appeared in *Best American Erotica 2004*, in 2001, while "Gators" another short story numbered among the collection known as *Flesh & Blood*, and in 2002, "Stormy, Mon Amour" was included in the collection, *Tart Noir*.

Hendricks spoke on the length of time it takes her to write a novel.

"Usually it takes me about a year," she pointed out, "and then another year to just go back and work it over and over again. But the last one, *Cruel Poetry*, took about three years, because it was longer. But normally, I would say about two years." She doesn't outline her stories or know in advance exactly what she is going to write, but, as she indicated, sometimes she does have ideas of where she

wants to end up.

"Generally, my writing process is to wake up in the morning, think about my characters, what I want them to do next, and then go to the computer and write," she explained. "I try to do some writing before I come to school, but I don't always manage to work it in, because I have so many papers to grade. Sometimes I miss a day here and there."

"But to me, I have to think when I'm not sitting in front of the computer," she continued. "Think about it, and then sit down, and once I get into a scene, then I

me to Hemmingway."

Hendricks has been to the Hemmingway House in Key West "at least a dozen times."

"They used to let you wander around upstairs without a guide," recalled the Hemmingway-enthusiast, "and I actually sat on the Hemmingway bed and got my picture taken. And then, later on, I created a scene in my novel, *Voluntary Madness*, from that."

Insisted Hendricks: "See, it's still that immature longing to be as tough, and as crazed as Hemmingway was."

Interestingly enough, Hendricks has an obvious passion for extreme hobbies and adventures that includes: Scuba diving, rock climbing, bird watching, sailing, and sky diving. She has also swam with the pink dolphins in the Amazon, climbed volcanoes in Guatemala, sailed the Devil's Triangle, dog-sledded in Finland and Alaska and has even participated in shark diving in South Africa.

She also commented on the time she was returning from Spain—which, incidentally, is the setting for several Hemmingway's stories—and she had her purse stolen in the Barcelona Train Station.

"I hoped to find out the true ending of Hemmingway's short story, *Hills Like White Elephants*, whether they went for the surgery or not, because I expected to see which direction the trains were moving, which would've given me that clue."

"But the Barcelona Train Station is immense; it has so many tracks moving in different directions. It was a silly idea, but I was sitting there reading the guide book, and my purse just disappeared with all my money, my Passport, my plane ticket, my language translator, everything. I had no money. I hadn't made a copy of my Passport like you're supposed to. So I had to spend the night there, sleeping on the benches in the train station."

As for other creative members in her family, Hendricks said, her sister writes for medical companies, and as the novelist noted: "She enjoys writing, but she doesn't do anything creative."

Commenting further, she added: "My father and a couple of uncles can draw really well."

And although she indicated that she is not an artist in the traditional sense, she does enjoy art very much.

"I think the process is interesting," she said, "because it is so much like writing. I can look at art, and even though I don't know much about it, still, I can see from talking to artists, that they go through the same kind of processes as somebody writing a novel. It's very similar, and it allows me to understand art through writing. I think all of the arts have some kind of process in common."

Hendricks also emphasized the great importance of reading for anyone desiring to be a writer.

"Reading is very important," underlined the professor. "That would be my advice to anyone who wants to be a writer. You have to read to really soak up the things that people can't really tell you."

Prior to writing fiction, Hendricks had been teaching English, that is, literature, short stories, etc., while reading fiction most of the time. Yet, at some point, she recalled, she had had enough of it.

"I don't know why, it just seemed all the same," she revealed. "I said 'I'm tired of it,' and I started reading non-fiction. So I read that for a couple of years."

That was when she became involved with a Creative Writing Program.

"And when I started into that," said Prof. Hendricks, "then I started to enjoy fiction again, because now instead of just looking for the theme of the story, or the foreshadowing, or the symbolism, or whatever, now I was looking at how this person put this story together, and so I now had a whole new interest to pursue."

"And I'm still doing that," she

remarked, "because every time I read something new, I see some technique or something that somebody did, and I have to stop and say, 'Wow! Look at that!' So I don't read for story anymore. I read for technique. I recommend you read whatever it is you're interested in, what you'd like to write."

In 2005, Hendricks was diagnosed with breast cancer, and underwent months of chemotherapy.

"There's not much you can do, as far as overcoming that. You just do it and then you go back to work."

Yet she did mention wanting to stop writing, in order to pursue sky diving full-time.

"It's not very traumatic," she said, "but I wanted to just move away, and live in a tent or something, and sky dive all the time." And when she was undergoing the chemotherapy, Hendricks reflected, she merely considered the idea of stopping, but never took it any further than that.

Discussing the workshop approach to the teaching and learning of fictional techniques, Hendricks said: "I do a lot of work-shopping in class, because, to me, that works better than to break everything down. Like one day we do a dialogue, one day we do a paragraph of description, one day we create a character. To me, when you do all those things separately, you don't really get any feel for how it is to put it all together."

"I think the only way to learn that non-linear thinking, where you have everything coming together at once is to just write, and hear from other people what's missing or what's good, what you need to fix. I think you learn faster that way. Most of what I did in the creative writing master's [program] was work-shopping."

You're critiquing individual pieces, but you're also bringing out knowledge about how to write and about technique. And so instead of just lecturing and standing there and talking about it, it's all just combined throughout the course. So I start out with a few classes of talking about technique, but, as you know, I don't talk it

Then, considering the point further, she acknowledged, "I suppose a character could be obsessed with money, but I tend to think obsession has more to do with people."

The noir genre, informed Hendricks, requires that the main character is the person who commits the crime, rather than solving the crime.

"And that's what I really enjoy about it," she said. "I'm not interested in detective fiction or a mystery. I'm more interested in what drives characters, and what extremes they'll go to."

Although the novelist's characters appear different from the more classic noir genre, there are some similarities.

"It depends on your definition of noir," she explained. "If you're considering *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, I don't think my characters are all that different from the Cora-type in the book. She's not really a stereotype, but she's not the main character. She does lead the main character astray, so she's definitely making things happen for a lot of the novel."

"The difference is, in the old days, the women couldn't be the main character in the noir novels or they might be a femme fatale, but they always got the men to help them out, whereas in my novels the women pretty much do it all on their own."

Addressing the significance of conflict in fiction, Hendricks stated: "You can't really have a short story or novel without conflict. That's one of the basic ingredients. Usually there's conflict lurking right from the beginning. The character has to have a psychological need, and want or yearning for, in order to make a plan which drives the novel. You have to have a conflict to make it interesting." Interesting, too, are the novelist's gritty and dangerous South Florida settings.

"It's not for the sake of accuracy," she allowed, "but, to add detail of South Florida terrain and atmosphere and everything really fills out a story or a novel. I know more about Florida than I do anywhere else, so I really feel confident in setting things in various parts of the state."



Author and Professor Vicki Hendricks shares a laugh with Elgin Jumper during the interview at her BCC office.

much after that."

Getting back to the noir genre, Hendricks described the motivations of her characters.

"Generally, obsessions and passions are what drive my characters," she revealed, "and to me this is the perfect motivation, because I can understand it. I can understand psychological reasons, like when a character might kill someone because of obsession or passion, but I can't understand killing for money, so usually everything I write has some kind of obsessive or passionate basis to it. To me, that's just more real."

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Community News

Brighton Takes Home Trike Fest Trophy

By Judy Weeks

BIG CYPRESS — Tribal seniors representing each of the reservations converged at the Aviation Hanger in Big Cypress on Nov. 29, 2007, for the Annual Senior Trike Fest. This year's event was dedicated to the memory of Tribal icon Jack Micco of the Brighton Reservation.

A strong-willed determined individual, he had a very positive impact on his family, community and

business associates throughout his life time. Always striving to bring out the best in every situation, he was a driving force in helping to develop a sense of responsibility in his fellow man and touched the lives of many people.

Micco never asked anyone to do something he was not willing to do himself. This was evidenced by his determination, despite failing health, to take two or three times a day. He would call out to his friends and neighbors to join him, not only for companionship, but to encourage them to exercise.

Rusty, was like a son to him and was constantly at his side. Loading his faithful companion in the basket on the rear of his trike, they were a familiar sight pedaling around the Brighton Reservation as often as two or three times a day. He would call out to his friends and neighbors to join him, not only for companionship, but to encourage them to exercise.

Little Rusty was the guest of honor at this year's Trike Fest and assumed his favorite position in the trike basket for the duration of the competition. Jack Micco was a frequent topic of conversation throughout the day, as people traded memories and told short anecdotes about his life.

Big Cypress Council Rep. David Cypress remarked: "Jack Micco worked cattle for many years at Lykes Brothers and managed his own herd. Whether on the fence line, in the cattle pens or on horseback, he did his job and did it well. In later years, he would laugh and climbing onto his bike say, 'At least this won't buck me off.'"

Chairman Mitchell Cypress said: "Jack Micco reached for the prize in both health and spirit. He put 110 percent into everything he did. As a Tribal organizer he was low key, doing everything because it was the right thing to do. As seniors, we should follow his example. Eat right and stay active. You will find it easier to control your blood sugar and you'll feel a whole lot better."

Changing subjects, Chairman Cypress said: "As Tribal members and seniors we are exposed. The economy is bad and there are desperate people out there who have lost their jobs and are looking for targets as they attempt to survive. Don't become a victim! I want you to take a few minutes to listen to some very important information that could save your life."

Seminole Police Department Lt. Doug Zamora came forward and addressed the assembly. During the ensuing 10 minutes, he offered safety tips about traveling or shopping in groups, remaining alert at all times, parking close to entrances in well-lit areas, walking with confidence and holding personal items close.



Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Brighton Council Rep. Roger Smith congratulate the Brighton seniors on their first place Jack Micco memorial trike.

In a very short period of time, Zamora covered numerous topics. He stressed that it is important to limit cash exposure at check out counters, avoid ATM machines and watch purses and wallets carefully when using public restrooms or dressing areas. Household security and child protection were key subjects.

Representatives of departments including Health, Fitness, Recreation, Community Elder Care and Senior Services worked together to make this year's activity a success. Weeks had gone into organization and the seniors had been practicing diligently in preparation.

Upon arrival, a healthy breakfast was available and commemorative T-shirts were provided at the time of sign up. Following a short presentation by Rev. Salaw Hummingbird and a Best Dressed Triker Contest, the rules for the competition were explained. This year's course included The Maze, Cone Race, Ball Toss and Double Figure 8.

Dividing the group by age and gender, the scores were computed to determine individual winners and reservation teams. When the dust had cleared and the scores were tabulated, the Brighton Team had earned the honor of taking home the Trike Fest Trophy.

As in the past, each reservation decorated a Trike for the occasion and submitted it in a competition. The winners were as follows: 1. Brighton's Jack Micco Memorial Trike, 2. Tampa's Seminole Christmas, 3. Hollywood's Casino Extravaganza.

If there is one lesson to be learned at the Trike Fest, it would be to never underestimate the competition. For example, Alice Snow and her electric wheel chair have two speeds — Stop and 90 mph! This granny's reflexes should not be underestimated and she wowed spectators and fellow competitors meandering her way through the Maze and Double Figure 8's.

Standing beside her, Brighton Council Rep. Roger Smith laughed, "My aunt comes from strong blood. It's in our genes."



Tampa may be a small reservation, but they put their heart and soul into the Trike Fest competition, taking second place for their trike.



Chairman Mitchell Cypress (L) and the Hollywood seniors with their third place Casino Trike.



(L-R) Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Rudy Osceola size up the competition.

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Community News

Native Book Review

How It Is: The Native American Philosophy of V. F. Cordova

By Ramona Kiyoshek

Doctor Viola Cordova (Jicarilla Apache/Hispanic) has dedicated her career to interpreting a Native American "world-view." According to her, all philosophies and religions derive their legitimacy from the point of view of the dominant culture, i.e., White North American, which itself derives from the European and Western points of view.

Throughout this book, she demonstrates that the "dominant" culture defines other cultures, peoples, languages, intellect, and spirituality. It is the benchmark by which all indigenous peoples on the planet are judged. Even other ancient cultures, such as the Chinese, must be legitimized by the standards of the white European male, who claims to be the apex of cultivation, spirituality, refinement and intellect. Cordova hints at the arrogance.

"I ... decided to study white people," she is quoted. "I wanted to be a 'White Expert.' Survival required that I know the enemy."

Cordova boldly tackles the problematic issues that her peers and numerous scholarly predecessors consistently and diplomatically avoided. Even before she received a Ph.D. in classical Western philosophy, Cordova was reading the works of the great thinkers from history. She writes that before signing up for college, she had already read more books than on any recommended reading list. She dedicated her career, as a teacher, writer and scholar, to defining a Native American philosophy.

In 2002, before she could complete her life's work, she died of a brain aneurysm. This book, *How It Is: The Native American Philosophy of V. F. Cordova*, is a loving tribute by some of her colleagues, who attempt to organize her work.

The editors/authors have arranged Cordova's essays, poems, and papers in three sections that they hope will answer the three questions she insisted were essential to understand Native American thinking: What is the world? What is a human being? What is the role of a human being in the world?

According to Cordova's research and beliefs, the world through Native American eyes, is a living organism that sustains all life, including its human inhabitants. They are neither better nor less than the Earth. Each is dependent on the other to continue to live. All creatures on the planet are part of this net or matrix of interdependence. Human beings become human when they learn their roles as

inhabitants of their locale or place, and their group or community. Language is the binding glue.

Just as there are many geographic locales, there are many languages. Diversity and harmony in all things will ensure continued prosperity. Human beings, by their actions, can preserve the 'balance' or they can destroy it by being greedy, cruel and acquisitive. Native Americans view the Earth as friendly and nurturing. She is often referred to as Mother. She sustains, but is subject to misuse and abuse. The thinking inhabitants

The Native Americans are at peace with a benevolent, universal power that guides all life. Native Americans have not fallen from grace and do not have to spend their Earth walk doing penance. Westerners have problems accepting a sustaining, but very abstract, power that has no beginning or no end and is present everywhere, all the time, in everything.

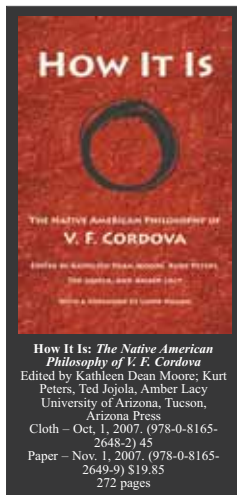
Time, space, and belonging are other issues discussed. When Cordova writes about diabetes, alcoholism and suicide rampant in Native American communities, I was drawn to the discussion of the individual in the group. When a Native American in the city meets another Native, the first question is: where do you come from?

A Native American defines himself by his community, his Clan, his role in the group and his contributions to the others in his circle. Even when language is forgotten, the ties to the group are strong. Blood memories, I have heard it called.

When a Native American goes to a mainstream school and is socialized in mainstream lifestyles, conflicts happen. Health is threatened, identity becomes clouded and loneliness often becomes overwhelming. "Where do you come from?" is an unconscious attempt to reach out to the community-family. When one belongs to the Earth, and the animals, rivers, rocks and forests are your relatives and sustainers, how can you be lonely? For me, especially at this time as I was saying good-bye to a beloved nephew who died from cancer, this was comforting.

How It Is is a challenging read filled with poetry and warmth. Scholars of philosophy and religion will find much here to mull over. Economics and business students will be cautioned about their responsibilities toward the planet. The consequences of overdevelopment, misuse of resources, political arrogance and unbridled population growth are discussed. The philosophies of which Cordova writes so eloquently also serve as a caution to slow down and maybe save the Earth — if there is still time.

About the Authors/Editors: Kathleen Dean Moore is Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Oregon State University. Kurt Peters is Director of the Native American Collaborative Institute and Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies at Oregon State University. Ted Jojola is Regents Professor at the University of New Mexico in the Community and Regional Planning Program. Amber Lacy is a graduate student at Oregon State University.



How It Is: The Native American Philosophy of V. F. Cordova
 Edited by Kathleen Dean Moore; Kurt Peters, Ted Jojola, Amber Lacy
 University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona Press
 Cloth — Oct. 1, 2007, (978-0-8165-2648-2) \$45
 Paper — Nov. 1, 2007, (978-0-8165-2649-9) \$19.85
 272 pages

must take care of her. The dominant culture views the Earth as something hostile, threatening and not alive.

They clear the forests, dam the rivers, pave the ground and build fences. They remove resources, not thinking of the lives they are disrupting or how they are damaging the planet. Other points of view discussed include religion.

How to Select the Right Tax Return Preparer

Submitted by RSM McGladrey, Inc.

The U.S. Treasury publishes several bulletins warning taxpayers against tax preparers who may take advantage of them. The U.S. Treasury has published a list of helpful hints you should keep in mind when choosing a tax return preparer. They suggest: avoiding tax preparers who claim they can obtain larger refunds than other preparers; using a reputable tax professional that signs your tax return as a paid preparer and provides you with a copy for your records; and considering whether the tax professional offers electronic filing options and other payment options that you want.

Other considerations include:

Considering whether the individual or firm will be around to answer questions about the preparation of your return, months, even years, after the return has been filed, and considering whether the tax professional can represent you if the IRS audits your return.

As members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, please be aware of tax issues specifically relating to you. The Kiddie Tax, for instance, affects all members under the age of 19, or a full time student, under age 24 and is a complex tax matter that is not fully understood by many tax preparers. If a tax preparer files your return incorrectly, you could personally face a large bill from the IRS requesting repayment of any refund received, plus interest and penalties.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida has arranged for RSM McGladrey, Inc., to assist Tribal citizens in the preparation of their 2007 Individual Income Tax Returns. Those with questions regarding the date we will be at your location or who need any other additional information can contact Marie Traubel or Joseph Esposito of RSM McGladrey, Inc. at (561) 697-1785.

RSM McGladrey, Inc. estimates that the majority of returns will be

completed, reviewed and electronically filed, within three to five business days.

Please bring the following information that pertains to your tax return with you when you meet with the accountant: Copy of your 2006 tax return (Form 1040) if we did not prepare your 2006 tax return; any correspondence received from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) during 2005, 2006 and 2007; Form W-2 and related receipts; list of children (dependents) with their birth dates and social security numbers; Form

1099-Misc showing income received during 2007 from the Seminole Tribe of Florida; Form 1099R, if you are receiving any funds from a pension plan; name, address, and tax identification number of the person or company to which you paid child care expenses;

Form 1098 showing the amount of interest you paid to a bank or mortgage company; social security statement, if you are drawing social security; list of charitable contributions; property tax bills; and any additional documentation you feel is pertinent to the preparation of your return.

Those who decide to have their tax return prepared by someone other than the Tribally-sponsored preparer, please make sure they meet all of the qualifications mentioned.

Why you should use tax preparers sponsored by the Tribe:

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Osceola Rings in the Holidays with Annual Pool Tournament

By Lila Osceola-Heard
HOLLYWOOD

— Richard Osceola, Peniter Clan, hosted the annual Hollywood Rez 8-Ball Shootout and Iron Toss at his residence on the Hollywood reservation. This year's event took place on Dec. 8.

The morning included entertainment by the Cowbone Band featuring Paul Buster and his son, "Chunky" performing traditional country music including Merle Haggard and Hank Williams, while people enjoyed a traditional breakfast over the open fire. The smell of the burning oak set the mood for the day. It was a smell that brought back fond memories of days spent at the camp.

Registration for the tournament began at 8 a.m. The tournament drew pool sharks of all ages from the Hollywood area. The players prepared



Lila Osceola-Heard first place, Juanita Osceola, second place and Betty Osceola, third place.

themselves for the tournament play with exhibition games.

At about 2 p.m., spectators and competitors began to hear the familiar breaking sounds, as game play got underway. With a double elimination bracket set up for six men and five women, the players displayed their competitive skills during tournament racks. Throughout the evening Grand Prix Band of Ft. Lauderdale performed.

The event was a big success and everyone in attendance left with a feeling of contentment and holiday joy. The cooks for the event were Jenny Billie, Juanita Osceola, Madeline Osceola and T.J. Osceola.

Results: Men: 1. Bruce Lewis, 2. Charles "Chaz" Osceola, 3. Eric Osceola; Women: 1. Phalyn Osceola, 2. Juanita Osceola, 3. Betty Osceola.



Lila Osceola-Heard (L-R) Brillo Frank, Harjo Osceola and Chale Osceola show off their skills.

All-Indian Christmas Pool Tournament

By Judy Weeks

BIG CYPRESS — Pool enthusiasts gathered at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium on Dec. 22, 2007 at 11 a.m. for an All-Indian Christmas Pool Tournament.

Sponsored by Big Cypress Council Rep. David Cypress and the Big Cypress Recreation Dept., the winners placing first through fifth were as follows:

Women's 8 Ball: Rena Blissett, Donna Antuna, Theresa Nunez, Pauletta Bowers and Beverly Billie; Men's 8 Ball: Randy Clay, Roy Snow, Raymond Garza, Bronson Hill and Gary Clay.

Scott Doublets: Roy Snow and Theresa Nunez, Jack Billie and Jamie Onco, Raymond Garza and Virginia Billie, David Cypress and Laura Clay, Gary Clay and Donna Antuna.



Elizabeth Leiba Faye Frank spars with her partner during the testing for her Second Degree belt.

Tribal Citizen Awarded Second Degree Black Belt

By Elizabeth Leiba

GREENACRES, Fla. — Faye Frank, from the Trail Reservation, was awarded her 2nd Degree Black Belt at a graduation ceremony held on Dec. 21, 2007 at the Karate America School in Greenacres, Fla.

Frank was among 15 students who tested for various degrees of Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do. The Otter Clan member has been practicing the art for four years and was ecstatic to receive her belt.

Frank is also one of four Tribal citizens on the karate team, who will be competing in the North American Indigenous Games in August. She is also the only female. When asked how she felt about this challenge Frank stated confidently, "I'm ready."

Her Indigenous Games coach Mingo Jones, her son Tyler, 14, and daughter Lacey, 6, were also in attendance cheering

her on. Her children have also been practicing Tae Kwon Do for seven years and four years respectively. They were proud to see their mother step up to the challenge and attain her belt.



Elizabeth Leiba (L-R) Faye Frank and her children Lacey and Tyler McBride.

Big Cypress Hosts Holiday Fishing Tournament

By Judy Weeks

BIG CYPRESS — The Big Cypress Recreation Department, under the direction of George Grasshopper and Big Cypress Board Rep. Cicero Osceola, sponsored a Holiday Fishing Tournament on Dec. 8, 2007, from daylight until 3 p.m.

Limiting the fishing to the main canals, there were categories for the biggest bass, gar and mud fish. In the total weight division, contestants were allowed up to five bass exceeding 14 inches in length or a limitless amount of brim.



Judy Weeks Tyrone Cypress took first place in the Big Bass Contest.

❖ Smith

Continued from page 1

going to be a close game even while we were ahead throughout, they were too good of a team not to come back in that game."

Their victory would earn them an automatic bid into the post-season in the seventh R-L Carriers New Orleans Bowl in the "Big Easy" New Orleans, La., facing the Conference USA's University of Memphis Tigers coming in with a 7-5 record.

In a dominating 44-27 blowout victory to end the 2007 season, Smith says it was all he could have hoped for.

"It was a great experience," he said. "The whole week was great, practicing at the Saints facilities; the night life of New Orleans, but (celebrating) after the game was the best."

Smith garnered individual recognition in the season as well. As a pre-season all-conference selection he was also nominated as one of 10 finalists for the Awards and Recognition Association (ARA) National Sportsmanship Award.

Given annually to the Division I football player who is a starter or significant contributor on his team, the candidate must demonstrate respect for their competitors and school. Volunteering for the Jim Thorpe Native American All-Star Game and teaching football to kids through his work with the Chaka Stars Foundation are some of his off the field activities.

He has also blazed new paths in other areas of his playing career. He was FAU's first to graduate and seek a second degree within the football program. He is



Chris Jenkins Smith (C) and teammates kiss the championship trophy in celebration of their victory against Memphis.



Chris Jenkins Smith (R) with family and legendary college Head Coach Howard Schnellenberger (Second from Left).

Unfortunately, it proved to be a poor day for anglers and there was a wide variety of opinions concerning the reason.

While some blamed cooler weather, others talked about cloud cover and wind; but regardless, the general consensus leaned toward an improvement within a few weeks as the fish begin to spawn.

George Grasshopper expressed the thoughts of most true fishermen when he said: "There are no bad fishing days. Any day is a good day when you have the chance to throw a line in the water."

It was a first fishing experience for 12 year old Quentin Cypress and he was hooked before they had hardly left the bank.

While Cicero Osceola was getting organized, Quentin cast his first line in the water and bang!

Immediately he felt a tug on the line and reeled in a bass that weighed in at 3.24 pounds. He was all smiles when he brought his prize to the scales at the end of the day.

An avid fisherman, Rev. Arlen Payne caught six bass, but they did not meet the 10-12 inch length requirement and were disqualified. However, he was able to snag first place in the garfish competition with a 3.4 pounder.

Local fishing legend Tyrone Cypress didn't let the fact that his arm was in a sling slow him down. He took first place with a large



Judy Weeks It was catch and release for Quentin Cypress as he lowered his first catch into the water following the weigh in.

mouth bass weighing 5.5 pounds.

In the total weight category for bass, Kaseen Stockton's 13.57 pounds took first place, while Tyrone Cypress earned second place and Leon Wilcox Jr. came in third. Everyone got a good laugh out of Stockton's fish tale when he related how one of his catch weighed in less after coughing up a small turtle in the bait well.

Brim are usually plentiful, however, they were in short supply during this particular tournament with George Grasshopper taking first place with only a half pound total. Leon Wilcox Jr. was only a hundredth of a pound behind him for second position.



Chris Jenkins Smith takes a second to pose so his mom Camellia can take his after the Florida game.



Chris Jenkins A happy Smith with mother Camellia Smith-Osceola after winning in Troy.



Chris Jenkins Smith and offensive lineman and teammate Zachary Wichner show their support before kick-off.

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Hard Rock Live Hosts Holiday Boxing Event

By Chris Jenkins
HOLLYWOOD — Just in time for the holiday season, there was a lot of giving in Hard Rock Live Dec. 5, 2007. The aptly titled, "Season's Beatings" gave fight fans the chance to get into the spirit as Seminole Warriors Boxing and DeGuardia's Star Boxing sponsored seven bouts featuring two major players in the junior middleweight division.

Southpaw Sechew "Iron Horse" Powell (22-1, 13 KOs) faced fellow southerner "Heat" Cauthen (32-4-9 KOs) in an elimination bout with the victor becoming the number one contender for a shot at the International Boxing Federation title.

Coming in, both were known for going the distance. Powell, the newest addition to the Warriors stable of fighters, picked up his last win in February 2007 in a 10-round decision over Ishe Smith. Cauthen came in off a no-decision facing Raul Frank in January 2007. Both were also making their first appearance at the Hard Rock.

In the true spirit of giving, a beating took place, without going the distance.

At the opening bell both wasted little time slugging it out with high-intensity and action. Trading shots back and forth led to a Cauthen knock-down in the first from a strong right hook by Powell. This would be useful for him again later in the bout.

Cauthen seemed to shake it all off and remained in attack mode through the next few rounds pushing the tempo. The turning point, however, came at the 2:19 mark in the



Submitted by Redline Media group
Juan Urango (L) prepares to unleash another powerful right.

fourth when Powell unleashed a right cross/left hook combo sending Cauthen down again where he was unable to beat the count.

"I really wanted to come out and bring one home for [Warrior's Boxing]," Powell said. "[Cauthen] fell right into my trap."

"I give him a lot of credit, however, for being a man of his word and standing and fighting with me," Powell continued.

Warriors Executive Director Leon Margules was also caught off



Chris Jenkins
Visiting NCAA college football head coaches Frank Beamer (L) of the Virginia Tech University Hokies and Mark Mangino (R) of the University of Kansas Jayhawks pose with Obie the Orange for the media at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel during press conference festivities to promote their Orange Bowl matchup, held Jan. 3 at Dolphin Stadium.



Submitted by Redline Media group
Powell (R) measures his next shot on a defensive Cauthen (L).



Submitted by Redline Media group
A battered Cauthen (R) fends off power shots by Powell (L).



Submitted by Redline Media group
Urango tries to land his right jab on Marty Robbins.



Chris Jenkins
Jason Taylor (R) greets the audience as Power 96 FM's DJ Laz plays the music.



Chris Jenkins
Big Cypress Board Rep. Cicero Osceola practices.



Chris Jenkins
Tribal citizen Mitch Osceola warms up before competition.



Lila Osceola-Heard
The Men's All Star Team



Tony Heard
The Women's All Star Team



Lila Osceola-Heard
The second place 5th Element was all smiles after the tourney.

Big Ballers Basketball Tournament Honors Randall Huggins

By Lila Osceola-Heard
HOLLYWOOD—The Randall Huggins Memorial Basketball Tournament is respectfully gaining nationwide prestige and has the Indian basketball world looking forward to coming to sunny South Florida. The Huggins family hosted the annual memorial tournament on the weekend of Nov. 30-Dec. 1, 2007.

As usual, teams and players flew down from all over the Indian country for a chance at this year's bragging rights. The tournament hosted 18 men's teams and 11 women's teams.

The tournament always gives a down home feeling to visiting teams and the Huggins family facilitates not only a great tournament, but gives great hospitality as well. They provided T-shirts and food throughout the tournament free to the teams, players, fans and the community.

This year the championships went to Tribal Trophy for the women, who were perfect throughout the tournament with no losses, eventually beating 5th Element.

Outlaw Women came in third with Redskins coming in fourth. State 2 State pulled out the victory over Big Town after going through the loser's bracket.

Men's Results: 1. State 2 State, 2. Big Town, 3. Flights, 4. Black Ice
Women's Results: 1. Tribal Trophy, 2. 5th Element, 3. Outlaw Women, 4. Redskins



Lila Osceola-Heard
State 2 State pulled out a hard-earned victory.



Lila Osceola-Heard
Tribal Trophy took first place in the Women's Division.



Lila Osceola-Heard
Rayanne West plays tough defense.



Lila Osceola-Heard
Marl Osceola drives hard to the basket.



Lila Osceola-Heard
Tournament Dunk Champ Brian Wetzel

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Go Dragon Corner



Submitted by Irena Loleksi

Newly promoted Yellow Belt GraySun Billie proudly displays his Board Award with Master Rob.



Submitted by Irena Loleksi

Team Dragon Yellow Belts Savannah Tiger, Justin Roff, and Katie Bert practice roundhouse kicks during class.

Little Warriors I
Ages 3 - 5
3:30 p.m.

Little Warriors II
Ages 6 - 7
4:00 p.m.

Team Dragon
Ages 8 - 13
4:00 p.m.

Adults
14 +
5:30 p.m.



Big Cypress

The Game of Basketball Teaches the Game of Life



Lacey Jordan



Deforest Carter



Jonathan Robbins



Audrey Osceola



Ariel Osceola



Jewel Buck



Aimee Osceola



Tyler Harjoche



Krystle Young



Lacey Jordan



Deforest Carter



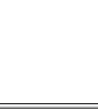
Jonathan Robbins



Audrey Osceola



Ariel Osceola



Jewel Buck



Aimee Osceola



Tyler Harjoche



Krystle Young

By Lila Osceola-Heard and Tony Heard

Why do you like basketball?

Lacey Jordan, 17
Competition ... when it's good.

Deforest Carter, 14
It's fun!

Phillip Jones, 13
It gets you in shape.

Jewel Buck, 15
Everything!

Gianna Garcia, 11
I get to play with my friends and get to go to new places.

Krystle Young, 17
It's my life; I eat, breathe and play basketball, and when I play, I forget about everything and just play.

Mike Harjo, 14
It's fun to play, builds character and I'm good at it.

Richard Butler, 14
Competition and the thrill of the game.

Sydnee Cypress, 9
Diving on the floor for loose balls.

Michelle Jimmie, 11
Fighting for the ball.

What kind of skills have you learned through basketball that you can use on and off the court?

Deforest Carter, 14
I've learned about leadership and respect for other people and that there is always someone better than me, and that's what makes me work harder to get better everyday.

Jonathan Robbins, 14
Basketball keeps me out of trouble and gave me confidence.

Audrey Osceola, 16
Basketball helps me meet people and have a good attitude. I look up to people who know the game and learn

from watching them.

Ariah Osceola, 14
Basketball taught me leadership, and how to play with different people.

Jewel Buck, 15
I learned if you want something really bad you got to work for it. I want to go to play in college on a scholarship.

Aimee Osceola, 15
Gives me a feeling of accomplishment.

Tyler Harjoche, 15
Playing against other people.

Krystle Young, 17
I learned that teamwork wins games.

Lariah Balentine, 14
We play for fun! I learned to have fun with sportsmanship and how to have fun.

Terinna Cypress, 15
Basketball has taught me about discipline and not to quit. But I'm still working on my attitude.

Alonzo Warglet, 9
I learned teamwork

Vceny Bowers, 14
Basketball taught me that no matter what size you are, it's how hard you play that matters.

Mike Harjo, 14
It helped me to control my anger, gain experience. Allen Iverson is his hero.

Richard Butler, 14
Basketball has taught me how to work with people to get experience with teamwork.

Whitney Osceola, 14
Basketball teaches me self control and by thinking before you act.

Alyke Baker, 6
I like wearing my J's [Jordan's].

Lahna Baker, 9
I learned sportsmanship

Sydnee Cypress, 9
Basketball teaches me sportsmanship.

Michelle Jimmie, 11
I learned teamwork.



Terinna Cypress



Lariah Balentine



Vceny Bowers



Alonzo Warglet



Mike Harjo



Richard Butler



Alyke Baker



Whitney Osceola



Sydnee Cypress



Lahna Baker



Michelle Jimmie

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The hiring of an attorney is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisement. Richard Castillo worked as a Public Defender in Broward County from 1990-1996 and has been in private practice for nine years. In 1995 he was voted the Trial Attorney of the year. He graduated from Capital University in 1989 and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1990, Federal Bar in 1992, and the Federal Trial Bar in 1994.

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Photos by Lila Osceola-Heard



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Enrollment Number : _____ Date of Birth _____

Tribal Member (circle one) Print Name
Parent or Guardian Signature

Contestants must be an enrolled Tribal member, between the ages of 5-7 years old and reside in the state of Florida by February 2008. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Registration Deadline is Wednesday, January 30, 2008, at 5 p.m.
All contestants must be pre-registered.
There will be no applications taken on the day of contest.

To confirm that your fax or walk-in applications have been received by Secretary's Office, please call (954) 966-6300, Ext. 11468 or 11463, and ask for Wanda or Nikki. You may turn completed applications in to your local Princess Committee Member. Please call in to confirm that they were received and who received them.

Princess Committee Members by Reservation:

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Brighton - Salina Dorgan, (863) 763-3866
BC - Alice Billie, (863) 902-3200
Immokalee - Crystal Salinas, (239) 867-5300

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Tribal Fair Clothing Contest

Saturday, February 9, 2008 • Hard Rock Live

8AM - 9:30 AM - Register • 10 AM - Contest Starts

Categories for Tribal Fair Clothing Contest

1800's Old Traditional / Self Made Contest

1. All Cotton
2. No Patchwork
3. No Rick Rack

1900's Old Traditional / Self Made Contest

1. All Cotton
2. Must have Patchwork with Short Cape
3. No Rick Rack Allowed
4. Men - Long Shirt Style with Patchwork all cotton

2000 Contemporary

1. Satin, Metallic, Silk, Velvet, etc.
2. Any & All Shiny Material
3. Must have Patchwork

4. Rickrack Allowed
5. Long Sleeve capes may be made out any type of material.

Jackets

1. All Seminole Jackets
2. Any Material

Modern Day Fashion

1. Must have Patchwork
2. Rick Rack Allowed
3. Any & All Shiny Material

4. Long/Short Sleeve Shirts
5. Long/Short Sleeve Blouses
6. Corsets/Pants/Slacks/Vest etc.

Seminole Clothing Contest Registration Form
Saturday, February 9, 2008 8am-12pm
Hard Rock Live

Location: SELF MADE Category: Made By: _____

Name: _____ Mon Women Youth Baby

Member # _____ Phone # _____

Hollywood Brighton Bix Cypress Immokalee Tampa Ft. Pierce Sanibel

Circle Category & Age Group

1800's Old Traditional	1900's Old Traditional	2000 Contemporary	Jackets	Modern Day Fashion
65 & up 55-64 46-54 36-45 26-35 18-25	65 & up 55-64 46-54 36-45 26-35 18-25	65 & up 55-64 46-54 36-45 26-35 18-25	65 & up 55-64 46-54 36-45 26-35 18-25	65 & up 55-64 46-54 36-45 26-35 18-25
Youth Division	Baby Division	Self Made 1800's Men/Women	Self Made 1900's Men/Women	
13-17 yr old 9-12 yr old 5-8 yr old 2-4 yr old	0-12 months	65 & up 55-64 46-54 36-45 26-35 18-25	65 & up 55-64 46-54 36-45 26-35 18-25	

Clothing Contest Committee
Alter John Street 863-763-3941 Edna Tammie 863-824-0644 Duffin Nancy 863-763-3020

Self Made Registration Form

Must register by Friday, February 1, 2008

Name _____ Reservation _____

Category: 1800's Men/Women or 1900's Men/Women (Circle which category)

Made by: Name: _____ Relation: _____

Attach Documents Here: Picture or Video (Circle one)

Tribal Fair Clothing Contest Rules

1. All clothing must be made by a Seminole or Miccosukee Tribal member
2. All clothing must be made with in the last 6 months
3. Re-entering clothing from a past Tribal Fair will **NOT BE PERMITTED!** Pictures will be posted from past years' contests to make sure this does not happen. If you have bought your items from a store, yard sale, etc., you will be responsible for knowing when these items were made. If the Clothing Committee recog-

- nizes the outfit and makes a call that your outfit has not been made with in the past six months, you will be asked to exit the contest. This will be strictly enforced!
4. Outfits are permitted in one category only. Giving an outfit to another person for another category or different age group will not be permitted. This action may result in a disqualification.
 5. This year, the committee will have a self-made category for the 1800's Old Traditional and 1900's Traditional men's and women's

18 and older categories. Contestants must pre-enter this contest by Friday, Feb. 1. Your outfit must be documented by photos and/or video of you making it from scratch. For the 1900's Traditional outfit category, your patchwork must be made by you and documented. Men's outfits may be made by your Tribal member wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, etc. as long as it is documented. You may model your own clothing or have a designated person model it for you. If you are not pre-registered through the Tribal Fair Committee for the self-made outfit, you will not be eligible to enter the contest on the day of the event.

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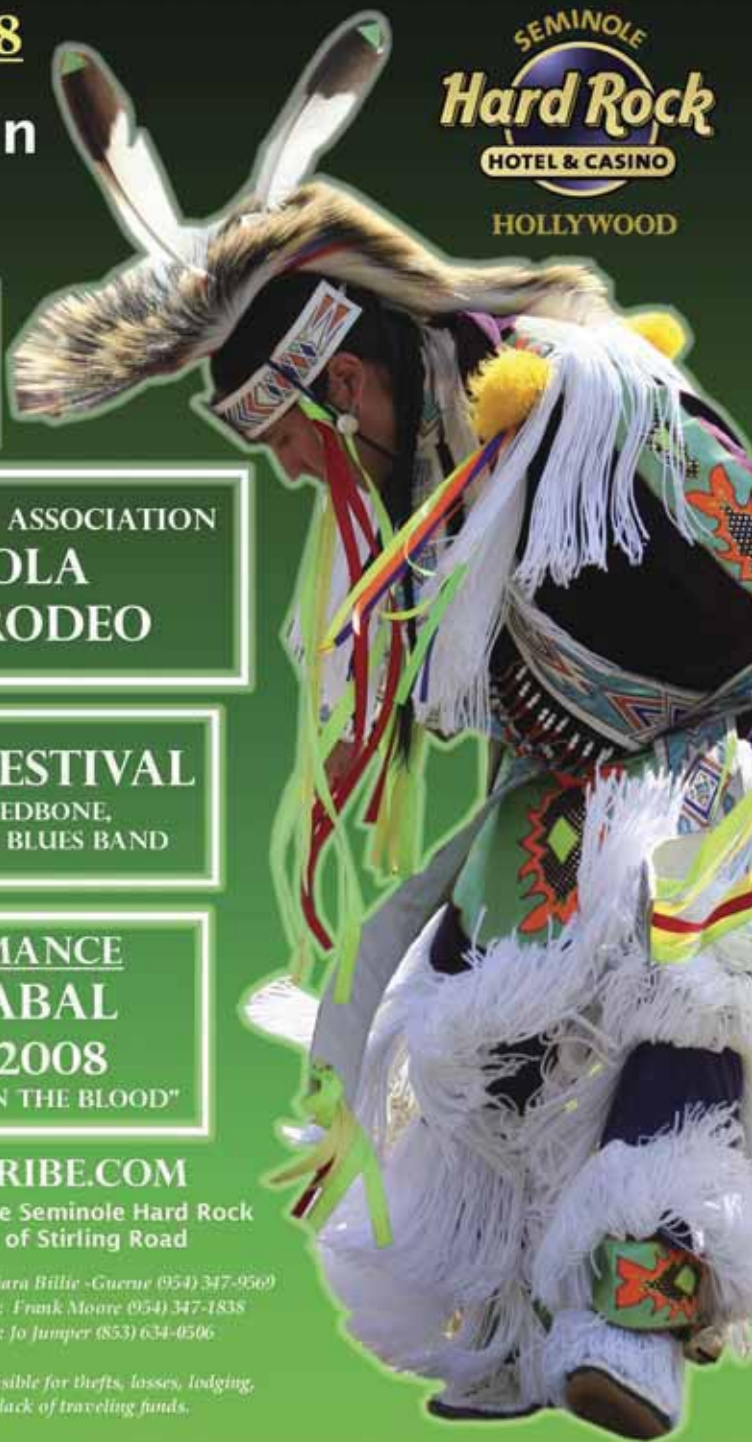


PowWow Information: Ciara Billie -Guene (954) 347-9569

PowWow Information: Frank Moore (954) 347-1838

Rodeo Information: Jo Jumper (853) 634-0506

*Committee is not responsible for thefts, losses, lodging,
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Announcements · Ahaaheekē · Nak-ohkerkēcetv

Happy Birthdays



Happy birthday Charlie Osceola!
From,
Mom, Daddy, Chauncey, Randece, Gherri, Randece and Jordan

To Miss Denise E. Osceola,

Happy, happy birthday to you my beautiful little Otter! I do love you with all my heart and soul. I hope you have a wonderful day on Jan. 12.

I love you and I miss you lots and lots,
Mom (Kim)

Happy belated birthday Terrijo D. Nelson on Dec. 12, 2007. Wow mom, you amaze me every single day I am proud to call my mother and my sole companion you always have my back and your love is unconditional not to mention you're the best grandma ever to "Ricky." We love you so much. Have fun on your day and may God continue to show you the way.

Love,
Carolee J. Anderson, Gary Anderson, Dar Rick Williams AKA "Ricky"



Happy belated birthday to Patsy Veliz, who celebrated on Jan. 7!
From,
Mom (Tammy Billie), Daddy, Kennedy, Samantha, Allegra, Mari and Lola

Happy belated birthday little man Joel R. Puente on Dec 16, 2007. I remember your little face as a baby to this day. I am so proud to call you my nephew. Whether you know it or not you and your brothers bring me so much joy. I love you my lil man continue to be the best. Follow your dreams cause you are gonna do something great. Have fun on your day.

Love,
Aunt Lee, Gary and D-Rick

Happy belated birthday to my Princess Zoey Shae-Ree Puente on Nov. 2, 2007. Hey my beautiful sweet princess, you're 7 years old now and growing so fast. I am so proud of you. You are my baby girl. Anything you need or want always call me and you got it. You're also my best friend. Thanks for always loving me even when I was doing bad things. Your smile and hugs got me through the tough times.

I love you,
Aunt Lee

To Aaliyah Billie and April Billie,

I love y'all girls! April, keep your head up, keep doing what you're doing and everything will be better after everything is done.

Love always,
Momma Panther (Marla)



Messages to Loved Ones

To Marlon and Maylon Foster,

I love you two so much and I want you, son, to know that you've made me so happy with giving me a grandbaby and a daughter-in-law who are so beautiful. Just know you are all always in my thoughts and prayers. Please know I love you all and want to see you all.

Loving you always,
Mom (Kim)



To Russell, Christina and Erik my little Panther,

I want to say how much your love and support mean to me during this

difficult time in my life. I love you all.
Love always,
Momma Panther (Marla)



26th Annual National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect: 'Protecting Our Children'

Date/Location

April 20-23, 2008
Sheraton Bloomington Hotel,
Minneapolis South
7800 Normandale Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55439
Reservations: 1-800-325-3535
\$121 Per Night, Plus Tax

Registration

Early-bird: \$360, Before March 28
On-site: \$425
Presenters: \$100
Registration Form Can Be Downloaded at
www.nicwa.org/conf:erence

Questions?

Isla Dane, Event Manager
(503) 222-4044, Ext. 144

About the Conference

With the passage of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) almost 30 years ago, Tribal sovereignty began to be recognized not only on Tribal lands, but also in state offices and courts. Congress began to accept the important role that tribal governments play in ensuring the well-being of their children and families, and ICWA provided the opportunity to make those tribal resources available.

While ICWA is well known for the role it plays in helping individual Indian children and families, what is not always recognized is the role it plays in strengthening Tribal communities. ICWA has sparked countless grassroots efforts in Tribal communities across the country and continues to be a catalyst for the resurgence of traditional methods of protecting and nurturing Indian children.

Tribal governments have also experienced increased opportunities to pur-

sue agreements with and better services from state and private agencies that serve Indian children and families. As a result of ICWA, promising practice and relevant policies continue to emerge from related services, including juvenile courts, mental health and substance abuse treatment, juvenile justice, and resource and training centers.

This year's conference will focus on the future of Indian child welfare and how each of us, Tribal leaders, Indian child welfare workers and other stakeholders, share the important responsibility in continuing this work.

Workshops and presentations will feature innovative strategies to effectively meet the needs of our children and families through strong, collaborative partnerships. Please join us as we gather in beautiful Minneapolis, Minn., to learn from each other and build positive outcomes for Indian children and families.

Classified Ads

Actors/Models Needed

Pyramid Studios is producing a show about first contact between Florida Tribes and Spanish Conquistadors for the Tampa Bay History Center. Seeking Native American men, women and children to portray various Tocobaga peoples for STILL photo shoot in Tampa Bay in March. Please send photograph along with height, weight and contact number or email to Pyramid Studios, 1710 Altamont Avenue, Richmond, Va. 23230. All actors paid.

For rent: 1 bedroom/1 bathroom/kitchen. \$400. Great for a single person/child. Located in Lakewood area near Brighton Reservation. Please call (863) 634-4384 for more info.

For sale: Single trailer. 12 feet x 60 feet. 3 bedroom/2 bathrooms. Near Canal. Please call (863) 634-4384 for more info.



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Announcements • Ahaaheeke • Nak-ohkerkēcetv

Poems

Dear Momma

Dear Momma the Pride & Joy of my life, because of you I am able to withstand the tests of time in this land of strife.

I must say thank you to our ancestors, Grandma & my big sis as well, I sure appreciate you all because throughout my life you didn't turn your back when I failed.

Not only do I have you Momma I have Pops there too, I know my niece Deila will continue to make you proud just as Jr. & Darryl my nephews.

As I have said you raised me proper I chose to live that life of crime, it's no one's fault but my own for having to do all this time.

One thing & two for sure I respected my Tribe, I'm a roaming warrior so my jackson I did to the outside.

My respect & love for our people will always be, but it goes without saying I don't respect those that do wrong just like me.

Dear Momma thank you for being that loving, caring, intelligent woman that's very strong, I love you with all my heart & that's well known.

— Ike T. Harjo
Panther Clan

Love

I love you for so many reasons, large and small, and all of them are wonderful. I love you for all the special qualities that make you "you" one of a kind, the only one in the world for me.

I love you for the things you say that bring such special meaning to my life, and I love you for the silent times when your eyes and your arms tell me all I want to know.

I love thinking of all the adventures we may share, the places we may go, the discoveries we may make together.

I love you because you know how to bring out the best in me.

I love you ... just because I do ...

Because now, in a place where there was nothing before, in the deepest part of my heart ... there is love.

Always yours,
— Alex Tucker
Otter Clan

Indian Pride

Indian Pride I will always represent till the end of time, our race is superior we are one of a kind.

Our ancestors stood tall in the Everglades & gave them hell, on the Great Western Plains Custer died for their sins as well.

We Seminoles of Florida are unconquered no peace with their government of hate, hats off to the Sioux & Cheyenne for their victory in sending the 7th to their fate.

So many victories for our race they don't teach in schools, they don't mention the treaties they made with Tribes only to break to those rules.

One thing & two for sure they couldn't break our will to survive, we natives been fighting terrorism since the 1400s when those snakes arrived.

Once we were many but now we are few, honor & always give thanks to our ancestors for the hardships they went through.

In time the Great Spirit will bring it back to those snakes in full, we must continue to multiply keep unity for Osceola, Geronimo, Crazy Horse & Sitting Bull.

Each Tribe will rise out of poverty one day, the doors to wealth were opened by the Seminoles of Florida be persistent & find a way.

Don't forget the past & always remember the struggles in life, it'll make you a stronger & better person in this land of strife.

Indian Pride always remain proud & hold your head high, learn from those Tribes mistakes & be skeptical because those broken treaties don't lie.

— Ike T. Harjo
Panther Clan



SEMINOLES IN RECOVERY

Local Support Meeting

Tuesday Brighton Sober House 7:30 PM

Wednesday Hollywood Tribal Office Auditorium 8:30 PM
The last Wednesday of the month is Celebration night

Thursday Big Cypress Sober House 7:30 PM
Last Thursday of the month is Celebration and Dinner night

Please Contact Jodi King at 863-634-2763
or you're local Family Service Department for more Information

Hollywood – 954-964-6338
Big Cypress – 863-902-3200
Brighton – 863-763-7700
Immokalee – 239-867-3480
Tampa – 813-246-3100
Ft. Pierce – 772-461-7360

Everyone Welcomed

Attention Tribal Citizens:

Seminole Broadcasting is seeking a self-motivated & energetic Tribal citizen to take on the responsibilities of assistant director in the department. This great opportunity is open to any Tribal citizens with a four year degree in business, media arts, video production, broadcasting, communications or any other related field. Applications Available in Human Resources Department or at www.semtribe.com

WEEKLY RECOVERY MEETINGS SCHEDULE

MONDAYS

12:00 Noon Every Week

Big Cypress
Sober House

TUESDAYS

7:30PM Every Week

Brighton Sober House

WEDNESDAYS

12:00 Noon Every Week

Big Cypress Sober
House

8:30PM Every Week

Hollywood Admin.

THURSDAYS

7:30PM Every Week

Big Cypress Sober
House

2007 UPCOMING EVENTS

October - Annual 12 Step Retreat

November - Native American AA Conference

December - Attitude of Gratitude Banquet

For information contact Family Services-239.867.3480

ATTENTION:

The Seminole Housing Department is announcing
an after hours emergency contact number.

800-617-7517

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Press 1 for Hollywood & Trail

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MYRNA LOY



2008
Seminole Rodeo Queen Contest
February 7-9, 2008

This year's contest will be held in
conjunction with the
Seminole Tribal Fair
&
Bill Osceola Memorial Rodeo.

Saddles & Crowns to winners!

February 1, 2008 is the deadline for applications. The
contest will start at 10AM on Thursday, February 7,
2008, with horsemanship followed by an interview
during lunch at the Hard Rock Cafe.

Any one interested in applying can pick up an application from
the Brighton Field Office, Brighton Cattle & Range, Hollywood
President's Office, and Big Cypress Cattle & Range. Please mail back
the completed application to Chairman's Office, 500 Harney Pond Road,
Okeechobee, FL 34974. For more information please contact Jo
Jumper at 863-824-6044.



2007
Jr. Seminole Rodeo Queen
Heather Peterson



2nd Annual Tribal Fair Pool Tournament

February 8-10, 2008



Hollywood Seminole Hard Rock Ballroom B

Event includes

- ▲ Trophies and Participation Fee for Winners 17 and Under
- ▲ Open to all Native Americans (CDIB Cards will be checked)
- ▲ Entry fee is \$10.00 per event for Adult Divisions
- ▲ Doors open Friday, February 8, 2008, 4:00 pm
- ▲ Senior Division (55 and Older)
- ▲ 8-Ball, 9-Ball, and Scotch Doubles Tournaments
- ▲ Highest Prize Winning Seminole Tribal Member Man and Woman
of the 8-Ball Tournament will receive Sponsorship to One (1)
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This event is sponsored by Chairman, Mitchell Cypress
In conjunction with Seminole Sports Management, Big Cypress and Non-Resident Recreations

QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL 954-966-6300 EXTENSIONS: 11125 & 11160

37th Annual Seminole Tribal Fair
Eastern Indian Rodeo Association

BILL OSCEOLA MEMORIAL RODEO

Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino
FEB. 7 - 9, 2008

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Long Go: Thursday, Feb 7th,
8:00 pm

Long Go: Friday, Feb 8th,
8:00 pm

Short Go: Sat., Feb 9th,
8:00 pm

Top 10

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* EXCLUDING JANUARY 27 & JANUARY 31

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\$15,000 GIVEAWAY

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Felix DoBosz

All the youngsters had an opportunity to sit on Santa's lap.

Santa Claus Visits with the Kids at Billie Swamp Safari

By Felix DoBosz

BIG CYPRESS — On Dec. 7, 2007, Billie Swamp Safari was beautifully decorated with Christmas colors, lights and hosted by Santa Claus. Kids were eager to tell Santa how good they were this year. They took turns sitting on his lap and telling him what they wanted for Christmas. The excited smiles from the young schoolchildren got everyone in a good holiday mood.

About 50 children enjoyed a catered meal at the Swamp Water Café and then lined up for the chance to meet the famous Christmas icon Santa Claus.

For the second year in a row Santa Claus was played by good-humored Butch Harrison. Harrison, when not performing as Santa, bills himself as Florida's wild storytelling guide and a "real Florida Cracker."

"During Christmas holidays I

enjoy playing Santa Claus for the children, I appreciate the opportunity and am honored to be the Santa Claus for the Seminole Tribe of Florida," Harrison said.



Felix DoBosz

Santa and his Elf at Swamp Safari.

Seniors Attend Annual Christmas Party



Submitted by the Tampa Dept. of Elder Affairs

(L-R) Standing: Peggy Cubis, Nancy Frank, Susie Doctor, Maggie Garcia; Sitting: Linda Henry, Bobby Henry, Annie Henry, Jane Osceola

Submitted by the Tampa Dept. of Elder Affairs

TAMPA — The seniors celebrated at their Annual Christmas Party, held at the Tampa Hard Rock on Dec. 3, with fun, food, music, gifts and more. The Tampa Tribal Field Office

employees also joined in the celebration of the season.

Everyone had a great time being together, eating too much, opening gifts, and playing Bingo. The big smiles and laughter on their faces tell it all!



Lila Osceola-Heard

Five little angels sing for the audience during the annual Christmas Program.

Seminole Preschoolers Give an Awesome Performance

Annual Hollywood Preschool Christmas Program

By Lila Osceola-Heard

HOLLYWOOD — On Dec. 20, 2007, the Hollywood Preschoolers stepped on stage for their annual Christmas performance in the Hollywood Tribal Auditorium. Holiday carols were sung in Seminole style with performances by the 3- and 4-year-olds singing: *All I Want for Christmas, Santa Claus is Coming to Town, Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, Twelve Days of Christmas, Jingle Bells* in English, and *Silent Night* in Mikasuki. Lunch was catered by Renegade Barbecue in the lobby of the

Hollywood Auditorium. Following lunch, youngsters enjoyed a visit from Santa Claus and distribution of gifts to all the good little boys and girls on the Hollywood Reservation.

All of the Seminole Preschools teamed up in a competition to see which preschool could raise the most money with all the proceeds going to St. Jude Research Children's Hospital. Brighton came up as the reservation winner, but more importantly St. Jude's received an impressive \$43,387.75 donation.

Santa Comes to Town in Christmas Parade

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — When the Seminole Tribe Aviation Dept. helicopter landed on the Immokalee High School football field on the evening of Dec. 8, 2007, it was carrying a very important person — Santa Claus. Children and their parents from all over the town of Immokalee were anxiously awaiting his arrival, which signaled the beginning of the annual Christmas Parade.

Although Immokalee has a small population by most standards, its citizens are very community oriented and unite in great numbers for such occasions as the holiday parade. Weeks of hard work and a wealth of ingenuity go into the preparation of the multitude of floats that eventually travel down Main Street. There were so many entries in this year's parade that it took more than 45 minutes to cover the short distance from the casino to the football field.

Tracy

DeLaRosa from the Fitness Dept. was in charge of decorating the Immokalee Seminole Ranch horse drawn carriage for the occasion and transformed it into a holiday fairytale coach.

On the night of the big event, the Grinch (Tim Howard) drove the ranch team of white draft horses down the thoroughfare with the Candyland Princess (Nikki Davis) riding shotgun. While surrounded by Christmas lights, evergreen garlands and beautiful ornaments, the Immokalee seniors waved to the crowd from their wonderland coach as they made their way down the parade route. The Hot Meals transportation cart, wrapped in holiday finery, followed closely in their wake, throwing handfuls of candy to the bystanders.

Family Services' Fred Mullins joined the Recreation and Education Departments in helping the Boys & Girls Club put together a beautiful float with a gingerbread house, surrounded by Christmas trees, snow and icicles. Donning fantasyland attire, the youngsters became part of a storybook world for the evening.



Judy Weeks

Immokalee Seminole Boys & Girls Club donned fantasyland attire for their Christmas parade float.



Judy Weeks

The Immokalee Seminole Ranch team of white draft horses pulled the coach filled with seniors in the Holiday Parade.

Small children in the crowd waved and shouted in delight when they saw Thomas the Tank Engine, being driven by Jennifer Ramos of the Immokalee Seminole Ranch, come into sight. Thomas was pulling three cars loaded with boys and girls from the reservation and the gingerbread man, Susan Davis.

Following the ROTC Color



Judy Weeks

The Grinch (Tim Howard) and Candyland Princess (Nikki Davis) drove the Immokalee Seminole Ranch coach in the Christmas Parade.



Judy Weeks

Immokalee seniors threw candy to the crowd from their holiday coach.



Judy Weeks

Engineer Jennifer Ramos of the Immokalee Seminole Ranch drove Thomas the Tank Engine loaded with reservation children.

Party Held for Management Training Program

By Lila Osceola-Heard

HOLLYWOOD — The Tribal Career Development Program, which is a three-phase program that prepares Tribal citizens for careers in management, held their Christmas party on Dec. 19, 2007, at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. The evening's program included a dinner, guest speakers and an award and gift presentation.

Ella DeHass and T.J. Koenes received awards for passing Phase I of the program. They both acknowledged everyone for helping them through in tough times. Phase I of the program involves work with entry level positions, including floor attendance, maintenance and security.

Phase II of the program involves working alongside department directors and general managers. Finally, Phase III is the most advanced, as the interns work

directly with the highest level of management, including senior vice presidents.

"I'm so excited to see the Tribal citizens take ownership in this program," said Tribal Career Development Program General Manager Jean Fontana.

Among the speakers in attendance were Hollywood Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. and Hollywood Board Rep. Gloria Wilson. They offered congratulations to the interns, commending them on all their hard work.

"I am proud to be here with the [Tribal Career Development Program] people; they are the future of the Tribe," Rep. Osceola said. They

have the opportunity to manage a great commodity.

"The vision of our elders ... you are fulfilling that dream," he added. "People are looking up to you."

Rep. Wilson echoed Osceola's pride and sentiment.

"I'm so proud to be part of this progress and the progress of the Tribe. I've taken every opportunity to learn from someone else and you always need to keep an open mind. Much success to the participants," said Rep. Wilson.

During the month of December, the interns in the Tribal Career Development Program collected toys and non-perishable food items for the Sunshine Fund, to be donated to families in need.



Lila Osceola-Heard

T.J. Koenes receives certificate of completion of Phase I in the TDC program.



Lila Osceola-Heard

Tribal Career Development Program participants and staff.

Tampa, Ft. Pierce Citizens Attend Holiday Celebration

Submitted by Redline Media Group

TAMPA — While 2007 saw a lot of "firsts" for the Tribe as a whole, the Tampa and Ft. Pierce communities also joined forces to hold their first ever Holiday Celebration at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Tampa on Dec. 22, 2007.

After a few months of planning and discussion, Ft. Pierce Liaison S.R. Tommie and Tampa Liaison Richard Henry expressed excitement for what the night would bring.

Rep. Henry expressed pleasure in seeing the transformation of the grand ballroom underwent since he saw it last while delivering the grand prize, a brand new, shiny, red ATV. This prize was later raffled off during the celebration, along with hundreds of other gifts for the infants, children and adults in attendance.

As the guests arrived and entered the room they were welcomed by the sounds of a live, seven-piece band playing a variety of holiday songs. That, coupled with the lights throughout the room and the beautiful centerpieces that adorned each table, made this a night that everyone would not soon forget.



(L-R) Liaisons S.R. Tommie and Richard Henry.

line for dinner, others gathered their families for family portraits in front of a Winter Wonderland backdrop.

As the guests finished their desserts, Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Brighton County Rep. Roger Smith took the stage with Reps. Henry and Tommie to begin the gift giving.

Before moving forward, Chairman Cypress and Rep. Smith thanked the two liaisons for organizing this joint event and said they were very pleased to be a part of it. Rep. Henry thanked the Fort Pierce Community for joining in and in return S.R. Tommie thanked the Tampa community for their wonderful hospitality.

Sherree Sneed of Ft. Pierce received the lucky raffle ticket for the ATV from Jackie Smith, assistant to Tampa Liaison Richard Henry.

The party would continue with an interactive DJ that would get the crowd moving and out of their seats. Tribal citizens Nancy Frank, Peggy Cubis and Maggie Garcia took the DJ's challenge and made their mark on the dance floor. Later the crowd would go crazy to the delight of hearing that a special guest performance was about to take place by the likes of the multi-platinum, Grammy Award winning artists Three 6 Mafia.

Three 6 Mafia took the stage and began their show. They invited members of the audience on stage with them to participate in dancing and singing along with some of their hit songs that the crowd seemed to know every word of.

After the show, members of the group wanted to show their appreciation for the invitation to perform at the Tampa/Fort Pierce Holiday Celebration and posed for photographs with members of both communities.

The night ended with partygoers carrying out gifts big and small. However, most of all, attendees left the party talking about what a great time they had.



Redline Media Group

The Chairman welcomes attendees to the party.

The night began with opening remarks from Reps. Henry and Tommie. A buffet dinner followed a traditional prayer offered by Tampa Tribal citizen Bobby Henry. While some waited in



Felix DuBois

The Chairman's Toy Drive donations brought holiday cheer to many in the South Florida community.

❖ Toy Drive

Continued from page 1

toys were distributed at locations including the

Holz Children's Hospital, Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County, migrant camps at Belle Glade, Pahokee, Canal Point, Fla., and the Overtown Youth Center, just to name a few.

This year, the Chairman revisited Joe DiMaggio's Children's Hospital and also took a trip to the west coast of Florida to Immokalee's Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA) on Dec. 20.

He rode up to the event in his 21st Century sleigh — a fire truck — and the excitement grew from there. The children were grouped by classes and they could hardly keep themselves composed as the fire truck turned the corner, with lights flashing and sirens roaring. When the truck came to a stop in the school yard, Chairman Cypress jumped down and was greeted by the children's cheers.

As the Chairman took the stage and faced the sea of smiles, he spoke to the children, their parents and teachers, telling them about his days as a child and how giving became important in his life.

"It is never about receiving to me, it is always about giving. I

live to give," said Cypress.

While there, he physically handed a toy to each of the 264 children in attendance. The children at the RCMA showed their appreciation by singing "Merry Christmas" for the Chairman.



Felix DuBois

Chairman Mitchell Cypress discusses his charity work with Seminole Broadcasting Reporter Briana Abittan.

Tribal Citizens Celebrate at Traditional Seminole Christmas Festivities

By Judy Weeks

Traditions become established over many years and eventually become a part of culture with the passage of time. With the arrival of Christianity well over 100 years ago, the Seminole Tribe's ancestors slowly began to establish such a tradition with the annual Christmas camp gatherings.

Initially, family members and their spouses would return to the camp of their clan or family matriarch in observance of the holiday season. Being very poor, they had to be content with

forward to this annual social event and prepare for months in advance to accommodate their visitors. What began as small family gatherings became reunions that eventually included friends and neighbors. By the 1940s and 1950s a schedule of these planned events began to take place annually with the timing established to allow people to participate in more than one party.

Because of very limited resources the host camp would accumulate as much as possible to feed and provide for their guests. The women would contribute whatever they could to the meal and help in its preparation, while the men would gather truck loads of oranges and purchase a few bags of tobacco and hard candy to pass around as gifts.

Since many of the villages earned their income through the tourist industry, some of the more fortunate camps were able to hand out cherished gifts of a few yards of cloth, rickrack or strands of beads. Although times and the economy have changed, the basic reason for the reunions remains the same. The holidays are a time to bring families together, renew old friendships and share our good fortunes. In the older, more established Seminole communities, some of these events have been in existence for more than 50 years. While in more recent

become customary to set aside a portion of the family income and gather donations to provide not only food, but entertainment, and a gift distribution to everyone in attendance. Once having participated in one of these events, it is easy to see how much personal satisfaction comes from sharing with others.

During this year's holiday season, seven of these traditional gatherings took place in Big Cypress alone. They only represent a few throughout the Seminole and Miccosukee communities.

The year 2007 marked the second annual memorial event for Frances B. Willie, Tommie R. Jumper and Grandpa Henry Jumper. Each of these Tribal elders spent a lifetime giving generously of themselves and helping their friends and neighbors whenever in need. Raising their own families and opening their arms to the children of others, they have done their part to shape the communities in which they lived. Each of them has countless descendants

building and re-batching chickens and accumulating piles of personal and household goods, toys and door prizes to pass out among their friends.

With the passing of the elders and fast paced lifestyle of the younger generations, families tend to drift apart and people like Sue Jane Bert and the members of the Wind Clan have become the glue that bonds them together. Clinging to the traditions of their ancestors, they are doing their part to build a future for the Seminole people.

This year's camp festivities included carnival rides, cake contests, bands and an Elvis impersonator, in addition, to the usual wonderful home cooked meals prepared over the campfire. Long lines formed as people awaited their chance to taste again the traditional foods of their ancestors. Raffle tickets provided a chance to win some fabulous prizes; however, money could not buy the most important gift of all — family and friends reunited for another year.

The family of Mary R. Billie organized a reunion and celebration of her 88th birthday at the Miccosukee Resort on the Tamiami Trail, held the last weekend before Christmas.

Drawing a crowd of several hundred people, they were surprised to have more than 400 children's gifts remaining after the event.

Following a short conference, it was mutually decided that these presents should be distributed among the less fortunate. Donations were quickly collected for additional purchases to even out the number of boy and girl gifts.



Judy Weeks

Just a few of Tommie Jumper's descendants gather in front of her house at the memorial Christmas party.

Christmas Eve found Tammy Billie and her husband, Solomon Veliz, dressed like Santa Claus and traveling down the back streets of Immokalee seeking out the secluded migrant camps hidden throughout the community. Stopping amid the small houses and



Judy Weeks

Tammy Billie and her husband Solomon Veliz, AKA Santa Claus, handed out Christmas gifts to the migrant children in Immokalee on Christmas Eve.



Judy Weeks

As the time to pass out gifts arrives, the children wait patiently for their presents.

sharing what little food they had and enjoying each others companionship.

Despite the hardships involved, the Seminole people began to look

generations are establishing memorials to their elders who worked so hard to be able to share with others.

In the last few years, it has

who appreciate the sacrifices that were made to insure the livelihood of future generations.

Enjoying the hospitality of Louise and John Billie or Nancy and Michaelene Billie has become an annual function that no one would want to miss. Months go into preparing their camps,



Judy Weeks

Virginia Garcia holds up a T-shirt prepared for her grandmother Tommie Jumper's memorial.



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Linda Beletso models the Seminole jacket she won at the Tommie Jumper memorial for the jacket's seamstress Dolores Jumper.

Hulk Hogan, Max Osceola Spread Holiday Cheer to Lakota Reservation Duo Brings Donations to Tribe's Annual Invitational Tournament

By Felix DeBoez

RAPID CITY, SD — On Dec. 21, 2007, the self-proclaimed "greatest professional wrestler of all time," Hulk Hogan, joined Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. on a gift-giving trip to the Black Hills of South Dakota. "The Hulkster" led his small entourage to the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center where the 28th Annual Lakota Nation Invitational Tournament was taking place.

This basketball tournament began 28 years ago on the Pine Ridge Reservation with only eight teams competing. Since then, it has grown to 32 teams, and is one of the largest gatherings of students in the nation. Last year alone, more than 5,000 people attended, about half of which were high school students.

By the reaction of those in attendance, "Hulkamania" is still alive and well in this part of Indian Country. Kids of all ages immediately recognized the former World Wrestling Federation



Hulk Hogan signs autographs for one of his fans at the Lakota Invitational.



Hulk Hogan (C) receives many gifts of appreciation from the Lakotas.

great as many made gasping sounds at the sight of the icon before shouts of his name spread like wildfire.

Representing the Seminole Tribe, Hollywood Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. and Hulk Hogan presented donation checks to several nonprofit organizations including the Ojibwe Lakota College, SuAnne Big Crow Boys & Girls Club, and of course, the Lakota Nation Invitational, among others.

The checks were presented on behalf of the Dreamseekers Foundation, which Hogan co-founded with National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) Chairman Ernie Stevens Jr. in late November 2007. The goal of Dreamseekers is to create healthier Native youth and Native communities through leadership development, improved health services and education, according to the NIGA website.

At a preliminary event before the check presentations, several hundred children and their parents lined up for an autograph from the Hulkster. In only a couple hours, Hogan signed more than 500 photos, basketballs, dolls and even forams for his devoted fans. He also answered countless questions from the local media and groups of well wishers.

Ernie Stevens, Max B. Osceola Jr. and Hogan were then escorted by officials to the center court of the Civic Center for gift presentations. Brief messages of welcome and thanks were sent to the thousands of fans, before hand-made craft items were presented to the

three on behalf of representatives from various Tribes and Tribal organizations.

Chairman of NIGA, and emcee of the event, Ernie Stevens Jr. spoke first, explaining Dreamseekers' mission.

"What Dreamseekers foundation is all about ... is making a difference in

Indian country; we're promoting education, we're promoting healthy lifestyles and we're anti-drugs," he said. "We believe that you folks are all leaders. You folks are not our future leaders, you are our leaders today."

"Every time I've called on the Seminole Tribe, they've been there for us, whether it was in California, whether it was fires in Arizona, floods, whether it was a tragedy, the Seminole Tribe's been there for us. That's what it's all about Tribes helping one another."

Dreamseeker patron Max B. Osceola Jr. addressed the gathering next. Among several inspirational messages in his speech Osceola encouraged the youth to keep participating in sports, as he did, to attain a "natural high" so they don't crave the drug and alcohol high.

"When you're strong you make your family strong, and when you're strong you make your Tribe strong, and when you make your Tribe strong you make the world strong," he said. "I can't tell the future, but I can tell you I'm with the future, because you are the future of all Native Tribes," he added.

Hulk Hogan followed, and in his unmistakable voice said "What 's up Hulkamania's?" to loud cheers from the thousands of fans gathered inside the arena.

"One of my good friends [Ernie Stevens Jr.] said it better than me a few minutes ago," he said. "You guys are the leaders now, not in the future. Make the right choices. Life is about choices, so make the right choices and be a leader."



(L-R) Hollywood Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., NIGA Chairman Ernie Stevens Jr. and legendary wrestler Hulk Hogan addressing the gathering.

Tribe Helps Head Start Children with Gift Giving

By Susan Etxebarria

OKECHOBEE — Santa Claus made a lot of children happy at the North Side Head Start Center on Dec. 13, 2007. It was Tribal citizen Daniel Nunez who wore the disguise.



(L-R, Front Row) Samuel Tagle, Austin Garcia, Christian Morales, Au Kereya Hardy, Ana Eriza, Natalia Ochoa, Savannah Brown, (Second Row) Daniel Salazar, David Burns, Lynndy Johnson, Christopher Yates, Lidia Arriaga, Third Row: Alice Sweat, Santa Claus, AKA Daniel Nunez and Rhonda Goodman. Sitting on Santa's lap is Estreya Gonzalez.

The Director of Community Care for the Elderly Alice Sweat, and Assistant Director Rhonda Goodman, helped Santa Nunez give toys to 94 children. Many of the children come from

families who would not otherwise receive Christmas gifts.

Sweat was responding to a request to the Seminole Tribe of Florida from Toni Nunez and Manda Ganceras, the North Side Site Managers.

They had sent a letter stating: "Our goal is to provide Christmas to our children that otherwise may not receive anything for the holiday season. It would be greatly appreciated if you could help us achieve our goal. If you are able to donate, we are in need of new unopened toys for the children in the center."

Each child came forward to say hello to Santa and receive a bag of toys. All were in awe to see a real Santa.

Some were shy. Many gave Santa a hug. "We appreciate so much what you are all doing for the children," said Patricia Jackson, a board member and volunteer for Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County that runs the Head Start program in Okeechobee.

"Some of the children are not going to have a Christmas and this is a wonderful thing you are doing," said Toni Nunez, as Gancerey echoed: "We appreciate everything you did for us."

The funding and organizing for the gift giving was undertaken by Brighton's Community Care for the Elderly and the Brighton Chairman's Office.



Seminole Ranch Director Kenny Joe Davis and his assistant Gabriela Acosta (Both in the Back Row) join Santa Claus and his elves with the Special Education Class at Pincerest Elementary School.

Chairman, Youth Ranch Spread Holiday Cheer

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — During November 2007, the public schools were observing National American Indian Heritage Month and the Immokalee Seminole Youth Ranch hosted a cultural exchange day with some of the students from the Village Oaks Elementary School. Pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and the Special Education Students enjoyed a miniature rodeo, alligator wrestling and rides in a horse drawn carriage.

Ranch Director Kenny Joe Davis and his staff had a wonderful time entertaining the children and came up with an idea that would further impact the Special Education Classes at all four elementary schools in the Immokalee area. Spreading the word among the Tribal departments and their employees, a plan quickly developed for a Christmas present distribution.

In less than a week's time, donations came pouring into the Seminole Youth Ranch office with Tribal members and departmental staff wanting to sponsor these children.

Contacting the Special Education teachers at Highlands, Village Oaks, Pincerest and Lake Trafford Elementary Schools, they requested a wish list from the 85 students in the program and were surprised to find that their desires were quite simple.

The response from the Seminole community and Tribal offices was so generous that they were able to divide their available funds into an equal portion per child and supply nearly everything on the lists.

Gabriel Acosta, Tracey DeLaRosa, Susan Davis, Alicia McIntire, Victoria Presley and Elsa Zamora visited the classrooms. Each child had an opportunity to sit on Santa or the Grinch's knee before his elves presented them with wrapped presents that contained a wealth of items that included remote control toys, skateboards, LEGOs®, games and much more.

"Watching the excitement build in each of their little faces as they awaited their turn and then the joy they expressed at receiving their presents, had an overwhelming impact on all of us," said Kenny Joe Davis. "They would become wide-eyed and then yell,



Seminole Ranch Director Kenny Joe Davis (C) and his assistant Gabriela Acosta (L) join Grinch Gilbert Davila with the Special Education Class at Highlands Elementary School.

"Santa, how did you know?", "Thank you, thank you, thank you," or "This is what I always wanted!" It had a heavy emotional effect on all of us and there was more than one tear of happiness shed."

Chairman Mitchell Cypress had already spent weeks making Christmas plans of his own. "When I was growing up, the children in our camps had to be content with presents of oranges, a little hard candy or homemade toys; such as a dump truck made out of a corned beef can with wooden wheels or dolls made from scraps of cloth. Although we spent many happy hours playing with these around the campfire, we knew about the other toys out there that were beyond our grasp."

"During the last 25 years, the Seminole Tribe has experienced many economic changes for which we are very grateful," continued Chairman Cypress. "As we enter the holiday season, we begin to think of family,



Elves of the Seminole Tribe in Immokalee: (L-R, Back Row) Gabriel Acosta, Jennifer Ramos, Kenny Joe Davis, Victoria Presley and Cris Marrero, (L-R, Front Row) Alicia McIntire, Santa Gilbert Davila, Rosa Torres and Diana Rocha.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress learned about their efforts and quickly sponsored each child with an additional gift certificate that would make a shopping spree with their parents possible.

On Dec. 17-18 and 21, 2007, the Grinch, Santa Claus and his numerous elves in the form of Gilbert Davila, Jennifer Ramos, Kenny Joe Davis,

friends and our neighbors. It is a time of sharing and giving thanks for our many blessings. We need to take time out of our lives, set aside our differences and remember that we are all brothers and sisters in the human experience. The best present I have ever received is knowing that I have helped to provide happiness for others."



Students from the Special Education Class at Village Oaks Elementary School interact with the Grinch, his chief elf and representatives from the Seminole Tribe.

Big Cypress Commemorates Christmas Throughout Reservation

By Judy Weeks

BIG CYPRESS — Big Cypress Council Rep. David Cypress said it all when he reflected on the holiday season.

"This is a time for family, friends and memories to abound," he said. "We spend all year wrapped up in the business of survival and our daily occupations, rarely taking time to think about how fortunate we are to wake up to a brand new day in which we have the opportunity to make our lives meaningful."

Joining him, Chairman Mitchell Cypress said, "I look forward to the holiday season when I renew old friendships as I travel from one gala event to another. For me, this is the most important part of the season and reinforces my bond with the past while giving me the strength to face the future."

"As a child, I looked forward with anticipation to receiving whatever little gift my family could provide and the many visitors that came to our camp. As an adult, I derive my greatest pleasure in seeing all the happy faces enjoying the holiday."

"There is a wise old adage that states, 'It is better to give, than receive.' It is important to give thanks for our many blessings and remember where we have come from in order to pave the way for a bountiful future."

Big Cypress Preschool

On Dec. 13, 2007, the walls of the Big Cypress Preschool were lined with holiday decorations providing the typical Christmas atmosphere. However, none could compare with the multitude of drawings, snow flakes and art projects created by the little students as they prepared for Christmas. Using a wide variety of media, they expressed themselves in an extraordinary manner.

As the room quickly filled with parents and grandparents, the teachers seated the children close to the Christmas tree. Wide eyed, they found it difficult to refrain from checking out the mountain of presents surrounding the tree and passed the time playing with the train, elves and reindeer that filled the room.

President Richard Bowers Jr. traveled around the room talking and interacting with the children. Sharing their hopes and encouraging their imagination, he told them about the old days when they enjoyed Christmas around the campfire and often traveled great distances to visit friends and relatives in other villages. They listened intently as he talked about the simple games they used to play with their brothers, sisters and cousins.

"These little ones are in your capable hands and it is important that you teach them about their past," President Bowers said to the teachers. "They are the future of the Seminole Tribe and I am confident that you will prepare them. A teacher's job is one of great responsibility and I appreciate the hard task that you have undertaken."

Following a festive luncheon, Santa Claus entered from an obscure corner of the room and surprised the children. Taking a seat next to the Christmas tree, he read a book as his young listeners hung on every word, before delivering the presents.

For some, this was the first Christmas they could remember and they eyed the funny man in the red suit and white beard with suspicion. Avoiding a major melt down, they clung to the security of their parents' arms and were content to experience Santa Claus from a respectful distance. However, this reticence didn't prevent them from quickly tearing the wrapping paper off their presents and beginning to enjoy what was inside.

Preschool Director Leona Tommie Williams, and employees Dawna Bell and Michelle Hyatt, traveled all the way from Hollywood for the event and joined Big Cypress Preschool Manager Shirley Clay and her staff in wishing the parents and children of the community a very happy holiday.

Big Cypress Senior Christmas Party

It is always a party atmosphere when more than three or four Big Cypress seniors gather together in one place. This is especially true when they are joined by friends and relatives from each of the other reservations and the Tamiami Trail.

On Dec. 13 the Senior Center in Big Cypress was packed with holiday revelers for one of the biggest social events of the season. Entering the building, the first thing to greet your ears was the sound of Joe Billie, Teresa Jumper

and Linda Beletso rocking the hall with "Merry Christmas, Baby" and "Precious Memories."

Not quite ready for the Native American Grammys, they still put on a magnificent show. Virginia Tommie soon joined their ranks and before long they were taking requests and doing encore presentations.

With the entertainment echoing in the background, the seniors enjoyed one of their favorite pastimes — a Bingo



Tristan Osceola (C) shakes hands with President Richard Bowers Jr. (L) while sitting on the lap of BC Preschool Manager Shirley Clay (R).

competition. The winners were: Single Bingo: Eddie Billie, Esther Buster, Eugene Tommie and Edna Bowers; Double Bingo: Tommie Billie; Big X: Alice Billie and Cover-All: Ruby Osceola.

Gift cards went to raffie ticket winners: Sally Tommie, Esther Billie, Virginia Tommie, Peggy Osceola, Eugene Tommie, Jane Billie, Gabe Tommie and Sheila Jones.

Rev. Salaw Hummingbird presented a brief bible story appropriate to the occasion before offering the blessing. A delicious luncheon was served, while Big Cypress Board Rep. Cicero Osceola conducted the drawing for door prizes. Jonah Cypress provided background music for the dinner, playing both gospel and Christmas carols on his guitar.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress and President Richard Bowers Jr. circulated around the room spending time at each table visiting with old friends and catching up on the recent gossip in each community. Laughing and joking, it was a reunion filled with good memories and warm wishes.

Groups gathered in the entry hall to take advantage of a photo opportunity that would permit them to take their memories home for safe keeping.



Chairman Mitchell Cypress helps Juanita Osceola stamp her Bingo cards.

Ahfackee School Christmas Program

Weeks of preparation went into the fabulous Christmas program performed by the students at the Ahfackee School. Playing to a packed audience on Dec. 18, they were congratulated by one round of applause after another.

The evening began with an invocation by Rev. Hummingbird of the Big Cypress 1st Baptist Church and a welcoming address by Eileen Hager, Ahfackee School Acting Principal.

Event emcee Keeno King introduced each presentation and gave some background into the work that had gone into its preparation. School music teacher, Lana Payne orchestrated the program and conducted each of the performances.

Throughout the evening, a puppet show took place on the right corner of the stage using characters from Sesame Street, Disney and the Educational Channel. Popping up during the presentations, they mimicked the singers and added a humorous note.

The pre-kindergarten and first grade gave an adorable rendition of "Away in the Manager" and "Baby Jesus, We Love You." Dressed in their holiday best, they appeared like a chorus of little angels on the stage and put their hearts into their songs. Using sticks for musical instruments, they tapped out "Pat-A-Pan."

Kindergarten, second and third graders combined for an animated production of "The Elves are in the Workshop." Then rotating with the second, third and fourth graders on the stage, they sang "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer," "Jingle Rap" and "It Happened in the Country." The third graders spiced up "Ode to Joy" with keyboards and recorders.

A hush fell over the room as the sixth graders sang "Silent Night" and were followed by the fifth and sixth

grade bell ringers for "Christmas Time's A Coming."

With the assistance of their teachers and sponsors, the high school students were, performed and directed a skit entitled "The Nightmarer Before Christmas." Although meant to be serious, it provoked rounds of laughter and then applause from the audience who appreciated the hard work that went into the production.

The seventh graders had written, acted and produced a video called "The Civil War at the North Pole," which they projected onto the wall of the Gym. The eighth grade class read a Christmas poem especially prepared for the occasion.

Eileen Hager and Keeno King discussed the dedication and effort of the various student groups who performed for the event. Meeting almost daily for practice, they put their hearts and souls into their presentations and anxiously awaited the opportunity to perform for their parents and community.

Pastor Arlen Payne of the Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church offered the benediction at the close of the production and was joined in the blessing by Rev. Hummingbird prior to the serving of the dinner.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress took a few moments to address the audience.

"Entering the auditorium this evening, I could feel the spirit of Christmas in the air and feel the love and dedication that went into the program that our fine young people have worked so hard to prepare for us. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate them and their teachers on a job well done."

President's Christmas Party

President Richard Bowers Jr. hosted a Christmas party for the residents of Big Cypress, Immokalee and Naples at the Big Cypress Gym on the morning of Dec. 6.

President Bowers welcomed the community and thanked them for their support.

"2007 has been a wonderful year for the Seminole Tribe on many levels and the prospects for 2008 are very bright," he said. "As I look around I see changes in the overall appearances on each of our reservations with improvements taking place on many levels. I have attended open houses and ground breakings for an assortment of projects that benefit not only individuals, but in some cases, the entire community."

"Reservations, plus construction and house pads are popping up all around us with the drawing boards full of new projects," continued President Bowers. "Natural resource programs, such as the Rock Mine, are helping to implement these improvements and make these projects affordable. I am very happy to have been a part of these enhancements and look forward to working with you as we help construct a sound foundation and bright future for the Seminole Tribe."

An appreciation luncheon followed a social hour. Age appropriate gifts and cash awards were raffled off throughout the event with the seniors receiving some coveted George Forman® Grills, and appliances and accessories.

Dressed in a holiday Seminole patchwork shirt and Santa cap, President Bowers drew the winning ticket for the grand door prize — a deluxe model, hard top golf cart with accessories. Anticipation built as he slowly reached into his pocket for the keys and then asked Linda Billie to please come forward.

Big Cypress Community Christmas

It was a very jolly Christmas, when Big Cypress residents converged onto the ball field for a Christmas carnival that included a snowy wonderland. Big Cypress Council Rep. David Cypress put in a good word with the old man at the North Pole, who, with a flick of his magic wand and the infamous words "Abra Kadabra," transported a real mountain of snow for the delight of the younger set.

Climbing and sliding down the

25 foot slope brought long hours of happiness to many boys and girls of all ages. Their shouts of laughter and screams of indignation, when bombarded with snow balls, could be heard for a great distance.

When their clothing became soaked and their teeth chattered from the cold, they would take a time out and play on the Ferris wheel, flying swings, bungee jumps and super slide. Taking turns on the mechanical bull, snacking on popcorn and cotton candy, they were soon ready for the numerous bounce houses or the plastic bubble, provided by Recreation Director George Grasshopper.

Still obviously young at heart, Asst. Recreation Director Stan Frischman sacrificed himself on the snow slide and wound up with a boo-boo that required a large bandage.

The snow slide may have taken first place in the popularity contest, but the pony rides were definitely a close second. Josh Jumper and his staff from the Big Cypress Entertainment Complex walked for hours, leading little cowboys and cowgirls around a small portable arena, which had been built for the occasion.



Kindergarten, first, second and third graders took their turn on the stage at the Ahfackee Christmas Program.

As darkness settled upon the reservation, things took a new twist. Play clothes were traded for holiday attire and the community began to converge upon the Gym. Lights were turned down low to enhance the starlit ceiling. 18 brightly lit Christmas trees, wreaths and floral centerpieces and candles filled the air with the smells most frequently associated with Christmas.

The Big Cypress 1st Baptist Church Choir accompanied by Jonah Cypress on his guitar crowded onto the stage and filled the gym with Christmas carols and hymns. Rev. Salaw Hummingbird gave a short presentation and blessing prior to the serving of a fabulous catered buffet.

Big Cypress Council Rep. David Cypress welcomed everyone to the Christmas Gala and remarked how happy he was to see so many families gathered together for the occasion.

"In this day and age everyone is on the go and few people have the opportunity to sit down and enjoy a meal with their families like we did every day when

we were growing up. It is great to have holidays like this that bring us together and provide an opportunity to see what things are really important in our lives. Family and friends cannot be replaced."

The Missing Pieces Quartet entertained with inspirational, gospel and rhythm and blues selections throughout the dinner.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress arrived a few minutes late because he had just spent the day delivering Christmas presents to the less fortunate migrant children in Immokalee. Then he sped across the state to visit the Joe Dimaggio Children's Hospital, where he helped to provide a Merry Christmas for those youngsters who were going to be spending the holidays away from home.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress said, "When the holidays come around each year, I can't help but remember what it was like when we were growing up so poor and grateful for every little thing that came our way. Times have changed and we have been blessed with prosperity. They say this is a sentimental time of the year and seeing all those happy little smiles today, touched my heart and was the best Christmas present I could ever receive."

Chairman Cypress concluded by saying, "As you go home this evening and travel over the highways throughout the year, please be careful and remember that each and every one of you are important to your families and the Seminole Tribe."

With the serving of dessert, the moment

arrived that everyone had been anticipating. Big Cypress Board Rep. Cicero Osceola asked all of the younger children to gather beside the Christmas trees at the rear of the room. Dividing the group into age and gender categories, wrapped presents were distributed. Ahfackee students received gift cards, while the high school group was presented with mall cards.

Returning to the stage, it was time for the adults to get their tickets ready. Rep. Osceola's helpers held up items like laptop computers, tool sets, vacuum cleaners, iPods®, appliances, televisions of numerous sizes and household goods of many descriptions. With a shake of the jar, numbers were drawn and winners collected their gifts.

Finally, they arrived at the grand prizes for the evening. Shaking the jar and flipping it over several times, Rep. Osceola asked a bystander to draw out the winning tickets. The 50 inch plasma television went to Louise Billie and much to his chagrin, Osceola himself won the 4-wheeler, sponsored by the Chairman's Office.



Jonah Cypress (R) accompanies the BC 1st Baptist Church Choir at the Community Christmas Party.

Hollywood Seniors Christmas Luncheon



Betty Mae Jumper (L) opens her gift, which all the seniors also received.



The seniors, including Mary Gay Osceola (L), enjoyed several games of Bingo at the luncheon.



Chelsey Ford (C) finds hip hop dancing energetic and lots of fun.

Judy Weeks

Youngsters Shine in Holiday Dance Productions

By Judy Weeks

The holiday season was a busy time for five young Immokalee community members. Attending Patty's Dance Studio in Lehigh Acres, these youngsters have worked many hours learning various styles of dance in preparation for local recitals. In fact, some of them are in their third year of lessons.

Larissa DeLaRosa, Chelsey Ford, Jillian Rodriguez, and Willie and Janessa Smith performed at St. Raphael's Church in Lehigh on Nov. 10, 2007. Towne Center in Lehigh on Nov. 30, Lehigh Regional Hospital Tree Lighting Ceremony on Dec. 1 and completed their tour at the Edison's Home in Fort Myers on Dec. 28, 2007.

The seasonal lineup included 20 classic Christmas songs that had been choreographed for dancers ranging in age from 2 to 17 years. Wearing a different costume for each song, the dancers appeared as angels, ballerinas, reindeer, hip hop dancers, tiny tots in their pajamas, Christmas fairies, teddy bears, snowmen, flowers and more.

Surrounded by Christmas trees, wreaths, gar-

lands, twinkling lights and beautiful floral arrangements, the dancers appeared to be characters from magical story books. Putting their hearts and souls into their performances, they did an outstanding job and spread holiday cheer to each of their audiences.



Jillian Rodriguez dances in the holiday line up at Edison's Home in Ft. Myers.

Judy Weeks

Preschoolers Enjoy Christmas Party

By Susan Etxebarria BRIGHTON

—The Brighton Preschool invited Santa Claus to their Dec. 18, 2007 Christmas Party and Luncheon.

As parents and excited children assembled under the school's chimee, they were serenaded with Christmas songs sung in Creech by the 3 and 4 year old classes. Then Santa appeared and sat by the Christmas tree surrounded by a pile of wrapped gifts. Parent James Billie played a



Hyatt Brough gets a Christmas present from Santa Claus, AKA James Billie.

Susan Etxebarria



Parent Joni Johnson and her daughter, Jana.

funny Santa Claus whose glued-on beard kept slipping down but the children didn't seem to notice as they rushed forward when their names were called to get their presents.

Each child also received a red stocking filled with some trinket and small toys and a big box to open or put under their Christmas tree. Then the staff, parents, teachers ate a wonderful meal and wished everyone a happy holiday.



Dad Eric Puente holds son, Eric Puente II.

Susan Etxebarria

Festivities Abound During Immokalee Christmas

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — The month of December was extremely busy for the residents of the Immokalee Seminole community. The Christmas holidays are a time for the renewal of old friendships and family reunions everywhere, with sharing and rejoicing in the blessings of the previous year.

Like all Seminole communities, Immokalee residents look forward to this time of year when they are engulfed with the holiday spirit and wistfully remember the many Christmases in their past and the loved ones with whom they shared these precious moments.

Immokalee Preschool The Immokalee Preschool kicked off the holiday season with its annual party on Dec. 7, 2007, at the Senior Center. Inviting all departments to join in the festivities, Site Manager Michelle Ford and her staff had prepared a short program for the youngsters to perform for their audience.

Parents and friends gave a round of applause as the Preschoolers sang "Jingle Bells" and "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer." Intrigued with the microphone, the children took advantage of the opportunity to do an encore performance.

Admitting that the youngsters were a hard act to follow, Gilbert Davila gave an extraordinary presentation of "I Can Only Imagine" and "O Holy Night." A reverent silence descended upon the

ful banter with the seniors and soon had the room roaring with laughter. Calling each one to come forward, he insisted on having them sit upon his knee for a photo before helping them select a wrapped gift from beneath the tree.

Some package recipients made a quick selection, while others spent time contemplating the package size and weight before making a final decision.

Playing into the moment, many of the ladies returned

Santa's teasing, much to the delight of their fellow partygoers. Following a delicious luncheon, the visitors from the Tamiami Trail joined their friends for a ride in the Immokalee Seminole Ranch carriage, which had been decorated for the holiday season. Traveling around the Reservation in the horse drawn carriage brought back memories of days gone by.

Immokalee

Recreation & 4-H Christmas Parties

Under the new direction of Johnny Boone and his assistant, Virginia Garcia, Immokalee Recreation staged its very first Christmas party on Dec. 19. The Gym had been beautifully decorated for the occasion with a large Christmas tree in the center of the floor.

Approximately 100 children flooded the Gym as they returned from school for the afternoon party. The Recreation Dept. staff spent an hour playing organized games with the boys and girls prior to the arrival of Santa Claus.

Taking a seat in his easy chair beneath the Christmas tree, he talked to each of the youngsters, gave them a photo opportunity and then they received an athletic ball that was age appropriate. The mountain of footballs, basketballs and sporting equipment that surrounded the tree was quickly dispersed.

The Recreation and 4-H Departments combined their efforts and supplied an enormous holiday buffet supper for the children and their parents, following a community blessing by Louise Motlow.

As the evening progressed, 4-H Coordinator Moleana Mora was assisted by parent advisors in distributing wrapped presents to each of the participants in this year's program. 4-H stresses the building of strong family ties, responsibility and cooperation. The Christmas holidays bring families together and tend to strengthen these values.

Immokalee Community Christmas

On the evening of Dec. 21, residents of the Immokalee Reservation Community crowded into the Gym for an evening of fun, companionship and gift distribution. The white tables and chairs had been decorated with green, red and silver sashes and table scarves offset with evergreen and floral centerpieces with a seasonal flare. The walls took on the appearance of large foil wrapped gifts, lending a backdrop for the multiple Christmas trees.

The rear wall of the Gym was an embankment of Christmas gifts for every imaginable age group which encircled a red throne awaiting Santa Claus' arrival. Following a week long spending and wrapping spree, Santa's helpers in the form of Tracey

DeLaRosa, Jennifer Ramos, Susan Davis, Maria Billie and Crystal Billie were still hard at work handling administrative duties and raffle tickets for the gift distribution.

Immokalee Seminole Ranch Director Kenny Joe Davis and his assistant Gabriel Acosta provided the musical background and master of ceremonies for the evening's activities. Tribal citizen Edward Aguilar

catered the event with an enormous assortment of appetizers, salad bar, side dishes and desserts to complement the entrees. Mary Sanchez provided a very thoughtful blessing for the occasion.

Immokalee Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar briefly addressed the gathering and remarked: "This has been a long, but productive year for Immokalee as our reservation has slowly



Santa gets a Christmas list from Willie Smith as he caresses his new basketball.

Judy Weeks

begun to take on a new appearance and many changes are in the works for the New Year. Also, it has been a difficult time for many of our seniors because of illness and surgeries, but we can be thankful that they have all enjoyed recovery and hopefully will have continued good health along with the rest of our community."

Speaking in Mikasuki, Immokalee Board Liaison Delores Jumper thanked everyone for their support and reminded them of the importance of keeping the Christmas spirit alive all year long.

"Everyday is family day, not just Christmas," she said. "You can never give too much of yourself to the ones you love and cherish."

At last the door opened just a crack to admit the sound of sleigh bells and ho, ho, ho from the long anticipated visitor from the North Pole. Children began to shout, "Is Santa Claus, I know it, I know it!" Suddenly the door flew open and he entered the room with a big laugh as a mob of youngsters crowded around him. Making his way to his chair, he stopped to greet many of his old friends among the seniors and exchange holiday greetings.

Requesting that the children come forward by age group, they anxiously awaited their name to be called.



Immokalee 4-H Coordinator Moleana Mora begins handing out Christmas presents.

Judy Weeks

Then stepping up, they drew a number from one of the sacks designated for either boys or girls and received their present.

The adults also played a game of chance as they listened for their raffle number to be called and then reached into the bag for their opportunity to acquire one of the many coveted gifts.

Having been instructed to retain their tickets, everyone waited on pins and needles at the end of the evening for the grand prize drawing. The winners were: 42 inch Plasma TV; Jack Spencer; 37 inch HD TV with surround sound; Cleofas Yzaguirre; 42 inch HD TV; Katira Santana; HP Touch 2008 Smart PC; Shiela Aguilar; 50 inch Plasma HD TV; Isabel Garza; 58 inch Plasma TV; Raymond Garza Sr.; Kenneth Gas Grill; Pete Aguilar Jr.; 58 inch Panasonic TV; Larry Motlow; Gas Grill; Amy Yzaguirre; Bahamas cruise for two; Mary Lou Alvarado.

Last, but not least, was the much sought after 4-wheel motor of the Chairman Mitchell Cypress. Following a hard shaking of the tumbler and digging deep into the bottom for a number, the suspense in the room mounted. A drum roll finally preceded the announcement that Cecilia Pequeno held the winning ticket.



Agnes Cypress gives Santa Claus a hug.

Judy Weeks

Naples Community Hosts Christmas Party

By Judy Weeks

NAPLES — Members of the Naples community met on the Collier County Museum grounds on the evening of Dec. 9, 2007, to celebrate their annual Christmas get together. A party tent had been erected beside the chickee pavilion and was decorated for the holidays.

A beautiful Christmas tree surrounded by wrapped packages awaited the younger members of the community and provided a beautiful background for family portraits. A clown roamed around the lawn making balloon animals and toys for the younger children and playing games.

Suddenly a tall, thin man appeared from the shadows with a black satchel and began setting up a small table on the stage in front of the chickee. Catching their interest, the children gathered around him and began asking questions. His response was to pull up a bench and watch closely.

Performing several slight of hand tricks, magician Dyke Stabler captivated his young audience. Before long he had four benches of children closely watching his every move and attempting to determine how he managed to transport coins through glass and sealed boxes. Asking for volunteers, he allowed the children to assist him in his deception techniques.

While the youngsters were entertained, the adults enjoyed an elegant dinner and brought each other up to date on the current activities in their lives. Since the previous year, graduations had taken place and new babies had been born.

Tahama Osceola and Ingraham Billie Jr. reminisced about

growing up in villages along the Tamiami Trail on the meager income their families had derived from the tourist trade and labor in the farm fields. The Christmases of that era were no comparison to the gala events of the present day.

Naples Liaison O.B. Osceola Jr. recalled the Christmas parties in the village of his grandfather, Cory Osceola.

"Family members and friends would come from far and wide to attend his gatherings," he said. "My grandmother, her sister Annie, and my Aunt Tahama would spend all day cooking over the fire to prepare a feast for the annual event. If I close my eyes, I can hear the grinding of the corn for sofkee and smell the wood smoke from the fire."

OB Sr. remarked: "My father used to travel to the trade stores in Miami and buy cloth, beads and rickrack to give away as gifts. On the day before the party, he would go for a truck load of oranges, bags of hard candy and nuts for the children to shell. I would spend all afternoon running around with my brothers, sisters and cousins, playing ball and waiting for night time and the simple gifts that our parents had made for us. The best part was gathering around the fire at night and listening to our elders talk. Those were wonderful times."

The children enjoyed a kid friendly buffet and then, upon hearing that Santa had arrived, they ran for their seats in front of the present laden tables next to the chickee. As OB Osceola Jr. called out their names, they stepped forward one by one to claim their packages and take a turn on Santa Claus' knee.

Adults received raffle tickets



Posing with Santa Claus, (L-R) OB Osceola Sr., OB Jr. and OB III, represent three generations of the Osceola family.

for the occasion and waited patiently for their number to be called. Tools, appliances, household goods, iPods®, jewelry, camcorders, DVD players, cameras and luxury items were dispensed.

Returning the raffle tickets to the jar for another drawing, the lucky winners of the door prizes were: 37 inch plasma TV: Naomi Waldron; 42 inch plasma TV: Tina Osceola, a 37 inch TV: Wanda Zepeda.



Santa Claus turns the tables on Brian Zepeda when he climbs on his knee.



The boys and girls were captivated by the magician.

Chairman's Office Holiday Luncheon



(L-R, Back Row) Executive Assistant S.R. Tommie, Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Assistant Debbie Johnson, Interior Designer Philip DeFrancesco (L-R, Front Row) Reception/Office Assistant Patricia M'Sadoques and Office Coordinator Renee Morales.



The Chairman displays a gift he recieved from his staff.



The staff enjoyed lunch at Ruth's Chris Steak House in Ft. Lauderdale.

President's Christmas Luncheon



President Richard Bowers Jr. welcomes guests to his Christmas luncheon.



T-shirts were distributed to commemorate the Christmas luncheon.



(L-R) Hollywood Board Rep. Gloria Wilson and special guest Eleanor Sobel, Democratic candidate for State Representative.



William Osceola Hosts Trail Party



(L-R) Zach Battiest, Trail Liaison William Osceola and Spencer Battiest.



(L-R) William Osceola and Holly Tiger-Bowers announce the winners of the door prizes.



The Andy Buster Band plays some holiday favorites for the audience.



Connie Gowen in line with the youngsters to see Santa Claus.



Non-Resident Liaison Holly Tiger-Bowers and son Jarred Cypress.

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