

The Seminole Tribune

voice of the Unconquered

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January 30, 2009

Tribe Hosts PRCA Southeastern Circuit Rodeo Finals

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON—The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) Southeastern Rodeo Circuit finals took place the weekend of Jan. 2-4 at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena.

The finals consisted of a total of eight events, with the top 12 riders in each event competing in three go-rounds. Riders competed for the Circuit Finals Average Championship as well as the title as the Southeastern Circuit Champion. The Southeastern Circuit champions were awarded saddles for their wins.

Barbeck riders kicked the rodeo off, with most having successful 8 second rides. The competition was stiff with Matt Bright of Stephenville, Texas

taking both titles, Finals Average Champion and Southeastern Circuit Champion. Ryan Little from Lake Charles, La. wasn't far behind and snagged a second place title only two points shy of Bright.

Jermiah Diffe of Snackover, Ark. owned the Saddle Bronc Riding event, winning all three go-rounds and earning the Finals Average Championship title. Last year's Year End Champion Curtis Garton held onto the title and received the saddle branded with the title.

Brighton Tribal citizen Justin Gopher represented the Tribe in the rodeo. Cheers exploded in the stands all three nights as Gopher rode his bull out of the gate. Tribally-sponsored bull rider Chance Smart also proudly represented the Tribe, wearing the patch of the Seminole Hard Rock & Casino on his riding vest.

However, Justin Koon of Russellville, Ark., who snagged both championships, was the star bull rider in the competition.

The steer wrestlers, all warmed up by the third go-round, pinned their steers right out of the box, some in under 5 seconds. Tyler Pearson from Louisville, Miss. won the Average Finals and Steve Gaines from Brandon, Miss. took the Year End Championship.

Tie down ropers had some difficulty with their steers, with some ropers having to take re-runs. That didn't stop Brad Hartt of Sebring, Fla. from accomplishing his goal and taking both titles for the event. Hartt also received the All-Around Cowboy title for the rodeo. To be eligible for the award, riders must



Rachel Buxton
Please see PRCA ♦ Page 2
Carrie Thompson races around the barrel to complete the course.

Seniors Attend Miccosukee Christmas Party

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

TAMIAAMI TRAIL—Tribal citizens traveled from as far away as Brighton, Big Cypress, Immokalee and Hollywood to take part in the Miccosukee Senior Christmas Party. More than 200 people participated in the annual event on Dec. 9, 2008, at the Miccosukee Community Center on the Tamiami Trail.

Since many Seminole seniors were born in remote areas near the Trail, they look forward to the opportunity to visit with family members and reminisce about shared childhood experiences.

During the Christmas holiday season, thoughts often carry people on a journey to their roots and the strength of family ties brings them closer together. The Miccosukee and Seminole people are in essence one big family with clan, blood and heritage creating a bond that cannot be broken by circumstance.

Immediately upon arrival, the guests made their way into the arts and crafts marketplace adjacent to the party room. Racks of patchwork clothing and tables piled high with extraordinary beadwork, baskets, dolls, purses and cultural supplies lined the room during the Arts and Crafts Sale.

Many of the happy shoppers had been anticipating this opportunity for weeks, as they looked through the yards and yards of intricate patchwork patterns available.

Once guests entered the main auditorium, they were greeted by opening remarks



Judy Weeks
(L-R) Bureau of Indian Affairs Rep. Mary Umholtz, Rev. Bruce Pratt of the Big Cypress First Baptist Church, Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress, Rev. Salaw Hummingbird, Jonah Cypress, Fred Phillips and Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar officiate at the groundbreak for the Immokalee First Baptist Indian Church and Fellowship Hall on Dec. 11, 2008.

Citizens Realize Longtime Dreams of Church on Reservation

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE—The Groundbreaking Ceremony for the First Baptist Indian Church, which will be located on Dorothy Billie Way, took place on Dec. 11, 2008.

On the morning of the groundbreaking, a surprise rain storm descended upon the site of the event and dropped more than two inches of rain during the ceremony. However, this did not dampen the spirits of the community members who finally began to realize their dream of having a reservation church.

After an invocation from Mary Sanchez, Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar took the mic and expressed joy on behalf of her community.

"When it rained like this, my mom used to say that the angels were crying,"

said Liaison Aguilar. "She is in heaven and I believe that today she is crying for happiness."

"Seeing this church become a reality has been a long, hard struggle of many years," she said. "The seniors first met in a tin shed across the street and prayed for a church to guide their children. But there were no funds and it was only a dream."

Continuing, Liaison Aguilar emotionally said: "The seniors wanted this church first. Then the gym and now a sanctuary is becoming a reality." Today, their dream comes true. First we will build the church, and then the fellowship hall will follow."

Big Cypress Council Rep. David Cypress addressed the crowd after Liaison Aguilar.

"Ethel [Frank], Lena [Frank], Mary Watts [Billie] and the others were stalwarts of the community and they did

everything they could to provide for the next generation. Elaine and I were youngsters back then, but now we are seniors and we are getting the job done for them."

Rev. Salaw Hummingbird, former pastor of the Big Cypress First Baptist Church, journeyed from Oklahoma to participate in the long-awaited groundbreaking.

"I first came here in 2001 and we had church services in the old library building, then the gym and now a sanctuary is becoming a reality," Rev. Hummingbird said. "Jack Micco used to come all the way from Brighton to participate, but now he has passed. This is a great day for him."

Jonah Cypress, Fred Phillips, Rev. Bruce Pratt and a succession of speakers echoed the joy of the Immokalee citizens in realizing this important landmark in the

Please see CHURCH ♦ Page 2A

Tribal Council Passes 45 Resolutions

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

TAMPA—The Tribal Council met on the Tampa Reservation at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino on Dec. 16, 2008. They passed 45 resolutions on the agenda, including:

Resolution 26: First Amendment to the annual Work Plan 21 submitted to the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs to designate the Snake Road (AKA Josie Billie Highway) and bridge project as a high priority on the Big Cypress Reservation.

Resolution 28: Contract application to the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs for P.L. 93-638 funds to conduct the Snake Road (AKA Josie Billie Highway) and bridge project on the Big Cypress Reservation.

Resolution 29: A request to the Bureau of Indian Affairs Indian Reservation Roads Transportation Program adding Snake Road (AKA Josie Billie Highway) and bridge project to the priority list as the Tribe's highest priority project for FY 2009, 2010, 2011 and FY 2013 Tribal transportation funds priority lists.

Resolution 30: National Forest Foundation matching awards program application to fund the Seminole Tribe's Forested Habitat Enhancement Pilot Project for Tribal FY 2010.

Resolution 31: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant application to fund the Seminole Tribe's Watershed Management Program Clean Water Act, Section 319, non-competitive grant program base grant proposal, for Tribal FY 2010.

Resolution 32: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant application to fund the Seminole Tribe's Watershed Management Program Clean Water Act, Section 319, competitive grant program proposal, for Tribal FY 2010.

Resolution 42: Approval of a commercial lease between the Seminole Tribe (tenant) and Park East Development, LTD. (landlord) for the Naples Craft/Community Center.

Resolution 43: Approval of business lease between the Seminole Tribe of Florida (lessor) and First American Energy, LLC (lessee) for the construction, development and operation of a biodiesel fuel plant on the Hollywood Reservation;

Please see COUNCIL ♦ Page 2A



Judy Weeks
(L-R) Miccosukee Chairman Billy Cypress welcomes George Billie of Big Cypress to the Senior Christmas Celebration.

Team Seminole Walks 'The Beat' for Heart Health

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

FT. MYERS, Fla.—Dubbed "The Beat," this year's American Heart Association Heart Walk event was named for the steady rhythm of the healthy heart beating inside each of the thousands of participants.

Judy Jim, Charlotte Porcero, Anna Puente, Kai Setty, Leslie Rosado, Ricardo Rosado, Keniya Yzaguirre and Ray Yzaguirre of Team Seminole joined the more than 4,000 other walkers on Dec. 13, 2008 to participate in the 3.5 mile walk—the largest in the history of Lee County.

Team Seminole supplied pennants bearing the Tribal seal, advocating "The Beat" and encouraging the participants winners. The walkers waved their pennants while making their

way through the course.

The walk took place at Veterans Park, located at the base of the U.S. 41 Bridge over the Caloosahatchee River in downtown Fort Myers. Event organizers and participating organizations set up booths where participants completed registration, received healthy tips, snacks, water and T-shirts before the walk got underway at 8 a.m.

Awards were presented to the 15 Star Walkers of 2008 and winners of the Lee County "Biggest Loser" contest, named after the NBC network's reality weight-loss contest show of the same name.

Local merchants and organizations, including the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and Billie Swamp Safari, provided gift certificates which were raffled off at the event. Kai Setty from Brighton had the winning ticket in one of

the raffles and took home a \$100 gift certificate during the drawing.

The American Heart Association's Start Walking Program encourages people to walk for at least 30 minutes each day to help prevent heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity and other health related problems attributed to a sedentary lifestyle. According to a study by Harvard University, for every hour of vigorous exercise, such as brisk walking, a person will increase their lifespan by two hours.

Submitted by Charlotte Porcero
(L-R, Back Row) Kai Setty, Ray Yzaguirre, Judy Jim, Leslie Rosado, Ricardo Rosado, (L-R, Front Row) Charlotte Porcero, Keniya Yzaguirre and Anna Puente of Team Seminole join the more than 4,000 participants at the 2008 Lee County Heart Walk.





July Weeks

Artist's rendering of the Immokalee church facilities.

❖ Church

Continued from page 1A

growth and development of their community.

As one of the few elders to live to realize the dream, Louise Motlow, thanked God for the church. She spoke briefly about the history of the church, its benefit to the next generations and offered a prayer of thanks and the blessing for the banquet before ground officially broke for the construction of the Immokalee First Baptist Indian Church.

David Nunez Jr. of Seminole Design Build, Inc. is the contractor for the sanctuary and Project Manager Fernando Meza will oversee its construction.



July Weeks

Immokalee senior Louise Motlow explains she has prayed for a long time for a church to serve the needs of her community and teach the future generations about Christian values.



July Weeks

Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar discusses the struggle her community went through to get their own church.



July Weeks

Jonah Cypress talks about the rewards of fellowship in Christianity.



July Weeks

(L-R) Rev. Salaw Hummingbird and Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress rejoice at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Immokalee First Baptist Indian Church and Fellowship Hall.



July Weeks

(L-R) Happy Jones and Louise Motlow share cake at the Immokalee Church groundbreaking.

❖ Council

Continued from page 1A

Resolution 45: Approval of successor Seminole Tribe of Florida incarcerated members' per capita payment trust agreement;

Resolution 47: VFS Leasing Company Master lease agreement as amended by schedule number 006 - Big Cypress Rock Mining; and,

Resolution 49: Cancellation (write-off) of outstanding Tribal council loans of deceased Tribal members.

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❖ PRCA

Continued from page 1A

have competed in at least two events.

Header Jimmy Tanner of Tifton, Ga. and Heeler Manny Egusquiza Jr. of Madison, Ga. took control of their steer during the tie roping competition. Tanner and Egusquiza won all three heats, earning them both the Average Finals Championship and the Year End Championship.

The women were not forgotten in the competition. Carrie Thompson of Morton, Miss. barrel raced her way to the lead, winning the Average Finals Championship. Last year's Average winner, Sabra O'Quinn from Ocala, Fla., took the Year End Championship claiming her saddle.

Each day before the competition began, spectators got a musical treat from country music artist Chris MacArthur. MacArthur also sang the National Anthem to start things off. He also sang his rendition of the anthem at the National Finals Rodeo held in Las Vegas.

Brighton Field Day is right around the corner and the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena will hold a PRCA Rodeo, Feb. 20-22.



Rachel Banton

Tribal citizen Justin Gopher rides his way to 8 seconds in the PRCA competition.



July Weeks

(L-R) Ingraham Billie Jr. joins his brother, Frank, and niece, Wanda, for a game of Bingo.



July Weeks

Maggie Osceola traveled all the way from Hollywood to visit her friends on the Tamiami Trail.



July Weeks

Rachel Billie examines bundles of patchwork available at the Miccosukee Arts and Crafts Sale.



Rachel Banton

(Back L-R) Brighton/Tampa Board Rep. Johnnie Jones Sr. and Brighton/Tampa Tribal Coun Rep. Roger Smith with Miss Rodeo royalty (Front L-R) 2009 Miss Rodeo Arkansas Micki Musick, 2008 Miss Rodeo Florida Sydney Weber, 2008 Miss Rodeo Florida Princess Alison Jowers, 2008 Miss Rodeo Florida Sweetheart Carrie Ann Clements, 2008 Miss Teen Rodeo Florida Erica Lassiter and 2009 Miss Rodeo Florida Jessica Davis.



Rachel Banton

Chance Smart takes control of the bull.



Rachel Banton

Justin Koon rides for the championship.



July Weeks

(L-R) A wall laden with Christmas gifts forms the backdrop for Claudia Doctor and Lydia Cypress to capture a holiday photo.

❖ Christmas

Continued from page 1A

from Jasper Nelson. Following his warm welcome, Nelson turned the microphone over to Miccosukee Chairman Billy Cypress.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, Cypress recognized the importance of the seniors, who he said carry on Tribal cultural traditions. During his presentation, he generated happy smiles and applause from his appreciative audience.

After several games of Bingo and the drawing of raffle tickets, Betty Osceola from Hollywood spoke briefly and then

offered a blessing. A delicious luncheon buffet followed.

Micosukee school children supplied special entertainment for the event. Beginning their performance with "It Must Be Santa," they sang a medley of Christmas carols. Wearing bells and dressed like little elves, the kindergarten students entertained the seniors with their rendition of "Jingle Bells." The Head Start class completed the program with the Miccosukee Pledge of Allegiance.

Mounds of gifts in colorful wrapping paper lined the walls. The Miccosukee seniors cheerfully distributed the presents to their fellow partygoers along with bags of freshly ground corn, fruit and hanks of beads.



July Weeks

Betty Osceola talks about Seminole culture, Christianity and the blessings of the holiday season at the Christmas party.

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Community

A

Tribal Citizen Attends Presidential Inauguration

SUBMITTED BY TABITHA OSCEOLA
Contributing Writer

Sheyanna Osceola, 18, a student at Hollywood Christian Academy and the daughter of William and Tabitha Osceola, was accepted into the People to People Presidential Inauguration Program. She, and a hand-picked delegation, attended President Barack Obama's Swearing-In and Inauguration Speech on Jan. 20 in Washington, DC.

People to People has aimed to "bridge cultural and political borders through education and exchange, making the world a better place for future generations," according to the official website, peopletopeople.com. President Dwight D. Eisenhower founded the program in 1956 with a vision to help foster world citizenship.

Osceola and the rest of the student delegation witnessed history in the making at President Obama's Swearing-In ceremony as he officially became the first African-American president, and also the 44th president of the U.S.

In addition to attending the ceremony, the People to People group also gained insight into American leaders throughout history during discussions with political experts, had access to the U.S. Capitol and National Archives, explored the newly-reopened National Museum of American History and visited Washington's treasured monuments and memorials.

According to Osceola, she would not have had this opportunity without the assistance and guidance of Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. and Education Dept. Director Emma Johns.



Sheyanna Osceola

SEMINOLE PROFILE

Ciara Billie Guerue Assistant to Board President Richard Bowers Jr.

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — In July 2008 Ciara Billie Guerue filled the position of assistant to President Richard Bowers Jr.

Prior to her move into the headquarters building, she worked with the Tribal Career Development Program at the Seminole Hard Rock for four years; she was a part of the Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood original opening team. She also worked for the Gaming Commission as the lead commission officer five years prior, as well as serving as an education counselor assistant with the Tribe, and worked with the Micosukee Daycare Program and the Micosukee Gaming Resort as a TAD attendant.

She said she brings her experience with working in a training environment at the Hard Rock to her position as assistant, and all her other endeavors.

Billie Guerue names her great-grandparents, Cory and Juanita Osceola, her grandmother Mary Osceola Moore and her mother, Barbara Butera, as influences. She said her great-grandparents were Seminoles who raised their children under harsh circumstances and have always overcome obstacles throughout their lives.

"My mother, grandmother and great-grandmother are ... very strong, Seminole women," she stated.

Billie Guerue said the best parts of her job are the day-to-day interactions with Tribal citizens as well as interacting with other Native Americans around the country. She said she hopes to help out where she can while learning more about Tribal business operations.

Although she graduated from Clewiston High School in 1997, Billie Guerue admits, "You never stop learning."

She said she lives her life with the best of both worlds — traditional and modern — learning new Tribal traditions and implementing them in today's day and age.

Billie Guerue said she loves giving back to her Tribe with her work, and will continue to contribute time and effort to helping support Tribal youth. She said she has the dedication it takes to be a valuable Tribal employee and an asset to the Tribe as a whole.

Billie Guerue is the daughter of Barbara Butera, Panther Clan, and Colley Billie of the Micosukee Tribe, Bird Clan, and step-daughter of Roy Butera. She is originally from Naples.

She is married to Joseph Guerue of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe of South Dakota. They have one daughter, Melinda, 2, also of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe.

Personal goals for the future include being a wonderful mom to her daughter and a great aunt to her sister Samantha's son, Zaiden Frank.

In her spare time, Billie Guerue said she enjoys spending time with her daughter and family, and traveling.



Gordon Oliver Wareham

Representatives of the Seminole Tribe and the Seminole Hard Rock in front of the Tribe's parade entry, "Rockin' the Night Aweigh," a 112-foot long, 400 passenger yacht.

Tribe Celebrates Winterfest at Reception, Boat Parade

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

FORT LAUDERDALE — The weekend of Dec. 12-13, 2008 capped off several fun-filled festivities held in honor of the Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade 2008.

On Dec. 12, movie and television industry heavy hitter James Belushi helped kick off the weekend, entertaining guests and fans in grand style as the Grand Marshal host for the 37th annual event.

As the major attraction on and off the stage, Belushi was honored at a private VIP reception with a heavy dose of gifts, including the key to the city from Hollywood Mayor Mary Giuliani. The primetime Emmy Award-nominated actor, comedian and musician showed off his dance moves and singing chops as well, at the reception held at the Hard Rock.

He performed with his popular singing group "Sacred Hearts." The 10-person band has been performing together for years with a mix of blues and soul influences. It was their fourth appearance at the Hard Rock.

Belushi said his relationship with the Tribe has always been very strong, dating back many years. He said it was an honor to represent the Tribe when asked to be the Grand Marshal.

"I have absolutely loved watching the success of the Tribe and their continued growth," Belushi explained. "They have created an atmosphere that is fun. It is a great place to be."

Brother of the late Saturday Night Live comedian John Belushi, James joined the show's cast from 1983-1985. He has also starred in feature films including, "K-9," "The Principle," "Curly Sue" and "Gang Related."

Belushi currently stars in the hit sitcom "According to Jim" on the ABC network. He also has a new film entitled "Dorothy of Oz" coming out this year in which he plays the role of the Lion.

On Dec. 13, Tribal citizens, employees and invit-



Chris C. Jenkins

Grand Marshal James Belushi (Second from Left) smashes the ceremonial guitar as part of the Winterfest activities.

ed guests enjoyed the tradition and grandeur of the Winterfest Boat Parade from aboard a custom 112-foot long by 45-foot wide, 400 passenger yacht, with an Elvis Presley theme. The Seminole vessel's theme coincided with the theme for this year's boat parade, "Rockin' the Night Aweigh."

In its 37 years, Winterfest had become the seventh largest spectator event in the U.S., and a top 20 parade in the world, according to its official website, winterfestparade.com.

The celebration helps promote the dual goals of providing a unique event for the local community to enjoy, as well as attracting positive national attention to the Fort Lauderdale area as a tourist destination. The Winterfest

organization is comprised of a huge number of volunteers, supporters, sponsors and a Board of Directors, which includes Chairman-Elect Max B. Osceola Jr.

The parade offers an exhibit of local talented artists that spend hundreds of hours from conception to inception transforming boats into canvases of color and lights depicting the parade's theme.

The grandstand viewing area, which is the largest location open to the public to see the parade, hosts the Seminole Outpost and is inside Hugh Taylor Birch State Park. The area also offers complimentary space to many charities so they may promote public awareness and host fundraising opportunities.

The Tribe continued its tradition as a major supporter of Winterfest as the event's title sponsor again in 2008.



Chris C. Jenkins

Winterfest 2008 Grand Marshal James Belushi accepts a custom guitar as a gift presented by the Hard Rock.



Gordon Oliver Wareham

"Rockin' the Night Aweigh" is all lit up and ready to make its way down the Winterfest parade route.

Aspiring Tribal DJs Attend ‘Scratching’ Class

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Education Dept. joined forces with the Scratch DJ Academy of Miami for a scratching seminar, which outlined the techniques used in this DJing art form, at the Hollywood Community Center Jan. 7.

Tribal citizens Joey Tigertail, Amanda Dicarlo, Elizabeth Frank, Justin Frank, Jonathan Frank, Richard Primeaux and Kenny Descheene all came out to experience the hands on training of the seminar.

Director of the Scratch DJ Academy of Miami and lead instructor Jamie Keogh, known to many as DJ Immortal, taught the students the basics of a vinyl record and the scratching recording equipment.

“Scratching is definitely an art form,” Keogh said. “I live and breathe scratching.”

Keogh said Scratch DJ Academy was founded in New York in 2002 with the help of Jason Mizell, also known as Jam Master Jay of the group Run DMC. He said the academy is the first official DJ school in the world.

Classes take place in six week semesters, and the Scratch DJ Academy has taught students of all ages, even as young as 8, Keogh said.

At the beginning of the semester each student receives a curriculum outlining the basis of DJing. Once they finish their classes, Scratch DJ Academy helps the graduates get started in the business by scheduling their first DJ gig.

For more information about Scratch DJ Academy, please visit scratch.com.



DJ Immortal (R) teaches Richard Primeaux (L) how to scratch the record.



Jamie Keogh, aka DJ Immortal, from the Scratch DJ Academy of Miami, explains the various scratching techniques.

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Marisol Gonzalez

Known as the “Horse Whisperer,” Paul Daily saddles the horse after taming him in less than an hour.

‘Horse Whisperer’ Holds Clinic for Seminoles

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Recreation Dept. sponsored a wild horse taming session on the Hollywood ball field Jan. 6.

Recreation Dept. Director Moses “Biggs” Jumper Jr., a horse owner himself, emceed the event and provided the untamed horse which Paul Daily, known as the Horse Whisperer, tamed at the event.

Daily, of Wild Horse Ministries in Trout, La., has performed horse taming in 28 states, as well as Canada, Uruguay and other parts of South America. He has done more than 2,000 demonstrations since 1997. He said he rarely knows the horse’s owner and generally works with horses that have never been saddled or ridden.

Calling it his “gentle method of training,” Daily focuses on three key factors, attention, trust and submission, when training. Daily said he relates horse training to the teachings of God, and bases his instruction on trust, faith, obedience and love.



Marisol Gonzalez

Moses “Biggs” Jumper Jr. looks on as Paul Daily tames the wild horse.



Marisol Gonzalez

Recreation Dept. Director Moses “Biggs” Jumper Jr. prepares to release the wild horse into the ring.

“This is the first day of the rest of his life,” Daily said about the horse he would work with.

Daily enters the horse ring area and makes various body language movements to get the animal’s attention and gain its trust. In less than two hours of working with the horse, he successfully saddles it so it can be ridden.

Although Daily has performed this feat for more than a decade, he said he learns more about horses each time he works with them.

“There is more about a horse that you don’t know, than you do,” Daily said.

Last year Daily tamed 119 horses, but said he set a goal for himself to train more this year than last.

Daily, who has conducted similar seminars at Tribal functions throughout the years, said he will come back anytime anyone from the Tribe invites him. According to Jumper, he will have Daily back for more seminars in the future.

“This is a gift for the horses, and a good opportunity to get the horses broken,” Jumper said.

Jumper has approximately 20 Seminole Spanish Blood horses, commonly known as “cracker horses.” He said he uses them for war reenactments including Big Cypress Shootout, held annually in February.

For more information about Wild Horse Ministries, please visit wildhorseministries.com



Marisol Gonzalez

Paul Daily gains the horse’s trust as part of his training methods.

Board Members Attend Regular Meeting

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Tribal Board of Directors met on the Hollywood Reservation Dec. 15, 2008. They passed five resolutions on the agenda, including:

Resolution 5: Approval of the amended and restated supplemental executive retirement plan;

Resolution 6: Agreement for the release and return of the facility of Nancy Motlow on the Immokalee

Reservation used by the Board as a smoke shop;

Resolution 7: Approval of release of property on the Big Cypress Reservation for the construction of the Ecological;

Resolution 8: Approval of business lease for a portion of the premises at 3351 N. State Road 7 on the Hollywood Reservation; and,

Resolution 9: Approval of operating agreement for Sempar, A Seminole Company, LLC, and the limited waiver of sovereign immunity contained therein.

Special Council Meeting Held in Big Cypress

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Tribal Council met on the Big Cypress Reservation Dec. 23, 2008 for a special meet-

ing. They passed one item on the agenda.

Resolution 4: Resolution for an extension of the approved Forest Management Plan for the Seminole Reservations for a nine month period.

S.W.A.M.P. Youth Honor Seniors with Appreciation Dinner

BY VALERIE MARONE
Family Services Dept.

BRIGHTON — S.W.A.M.P., Seminoles Without Addictions Make Progress, club members joined forces with the members of the Seminole Police Department's Mentoring Program to show their appreciation for Brighton's community seniors by serving a spaghetti dinner on Dec. 4, 2008.

After dinner, the Karaoke machine warmed up and youth and seniors sang some Christmas songs in Crook, followed by contemporary songs. Later during the evening, the youth called Bingo numbers, verified the winners and passed out the prizes to the seniors.

Judging by the smiles on the faces of

both the youth and seniors in attendance, everyone had a great time; in fact, one senior exclaimed: "We should do this again sometime."

S.W.A.M.P. youth raised money for the event by having a car wash, bake sale and booth at the Brighton Halloween carnival. The SPD Mentoring Program provided baskets with cookies for the seniors to take home, while S.W.A.M.P. parent volunteers including Ethel Gopher also assisted in making the event a success.

The idea for the dinner came from the S.W.A.M.P.'s Youth Prevention Committee. They wanted to do something for their community and are planning other future projects.



Valerie Marone

Kayla Nelson hands out cookie baskets to the seniors.



Valerie Marone

S.W.A.M.P. parent volunteer Ethel Gopher serves dinner.



Valerie Marone

(L-R) S.W.A.M.P.'s Erena Billie cheers on Thomas Bearden and Timothy Bearden as they call out Bingo numbers.



Valerie Marone

Chastity Harmon and Mary Jo Micco sing together.



Valerie Marone

(L-R) Shirley Sampson and Mary Jo Micco sing Karaoke.



Valerie Marone

Shule Jones enjoys her dessert.



Valerie Marone

(L-R) S.W.A.M.P. Vice President Chastity Harmon (L) and S.W.A.M.P. President Thomas Bearden (R) serve the seniors their dinner.



Valerie Marone

The seniors received a variety of Bingo prizes during at the S.W.A.M.P. Appreciation Dinner.



Valerie Marone

The seniors prepare for a spirited game of Bingo as a part of the appreciation dinner hosted by the S.W.A.M.P. club members.



Valerie Marone

Senior Billie Micco shows off his Bingo prize.



Valerie Marone

Lorene Gopher enjoys her dinner.



Valerie Marone

(L-R) Timothy Bearden, Erena Billie and Chastity Harmon serve dinner to the seniors.

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(L-R) Dennis Gonzales and Taylor Osceola put their hogs through the showmanship exercises being taught at the swine clinic in Immokalee.

4-H Club Members Attend Hog Weigh-In

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Immokalee's 4-H Swine Program participants attended a showmanship clinic and the initial weigh-in for their hog projects on Jan. 3. Agricultural Extension Agent Michael Bond conducted the clinic with the assistance of 4-H Swine Leader Donnie Hayes. Dividing the 4-H'ers into manageable segments, they took four to six youngsters and their swine into the exercise arena at a time. "A million dollar smile will be the most valuable tool that you take into the show ring," said Bond. "Always keep your eye on the judge and never walk between him and your hog. Dress appropriately, be prepared for the unexpected, and exercise courtesy at all times."

Each of the potential exhibitors received individual attention in the proper handling of their hog. They were coached on possible inquiries from the judge, parts of their animal and cuts of meat.

The initial swine weigh-in took place following the clinic, with the youngsters driving their animals to and from the scales. Crowding around the operation, the youngsters attempted to guess the weight of each animal and were given tips concerning weight gain, muscle tone, exercise and feed selection for various growth stages.

"The judges will be looking for hogs with finished weights between 230 and 300 pounds this year," said Bond. "The average weight gain is two to three pounds per day and you have 82 days until show time. You need to evaluate your animal and use this time wisely."



Ethan Aguilar urges his pig, M&M, toward the scale in the Immokalee Hog Barn.

Fort Pierce Community Celebrates Red Ribbon Week

BY VALERIE MARONE
Family Services Dept.

FT. PIERCE — Members of the Ft. Pierce community attended a Red Ribbon Week celebration on Dec. 2, 2008 at the Ranch's Chickee.

Although the weather turned chilly, it was heart warming to see the adults and children who came out to take a stand against drug abuse in their community.

The evening started with a welcome from Family Services Dept. staff members Jodi King and Val Marone, who also handed out information on the purpose behind Red Ribbon Week.



Shmerion Tommie and grandfather, Shamy Sr., work on a "Say No to Drugs" poster.



(L-R) Quentin Tommie, Fletcher Sanders and Sylvia Tommie enjoy the Ft. Pierce Red Ribbon Week celebration.

First taking place in 1985, Red Ribbon Week honors Drug Enforcement Administration Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, who was murdered in Mexico while fighting the war on drugs. Friends, family members and co-workers began wearing a red ribbon in his honor, and before long, the entire country joined in.

During the event, the attendees also made "Just Say No to Drugs" posters and watched the movie "Righteous Vendetta," which is based on Camarena's work in Mexico.

Community members will judge the posters and the top two will be immortalized on Red Ribbon Week T-shirts in 2009.

Family Day Highlights Importance of Parent Involvement

BY VALERIE MARONE
Family Services Dept.

FT. PIERCE — Members of the Ft. Pierce Seminole Community celebrated Family Day under the chickee at Chupco's Ranch on Dec. 29, 2008.

Representatives from the Family Services Dept. highlighted the importance of Family Day at the event. The main reasons for the event included reminding parents about the importance of staying involved in their children's lives, and encouraging families to talk with their children while eating together.

According to research conducted by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, the more often a family eats and talks together, the less likely the children will have friends who use illegal drugs or abuse prescription drugs. Also, these children tend to get better grades in school and are less likely to smoke, drink and use drugs.

Representatives from various Tribal departments were also on hand to share valuable information with the community.

Barbara Boling, health educator for the Allied Health Dept., shared healthy eating tips and gave examples of easy and delicious menus that families can cook together. Sgt. Angela Comito, Theresa Bass and Holly



Marty Tommie enjoys the Family Day dinner.

Ramsey of the Seminole Police Dept. came prepared with games fashioned after the NBC reality TV show "Fear Factor" to help keep the family-themed dialogue flowing while allowing everyone to have a fun time.

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA AH-TAH-THI-KI MUSEUM A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is pleased to announce Jessica R. Cattellino, author of "High Stakes: Florida Seminole Gaming and Sovereignty" will be on hand to autograph books and meet the public from 1-3 p.m. daily at the Museum Booth during the Seminole Tribal Fair in Hollywood, February 13th and 14th.

The Museum will host a half hour talk with Jessica at 3:30 p.m. each day at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum at Oklawaha, located on the Seminole Hard Rock grounds between Renegade BBQ and the improv.

Admission is FREE

For questions or more information, please call (954) 797-5570



Three generations of the Tommie family, (L-R) Shmerion, Jarvis Jr., Shamy, Tania, Tammy and Wanda, spend time together at the Family Day event.

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SEMINOLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Know the Rules for Children Staying Home Alone

SUBMITTED BY SEMINOLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

In today's busy society, many children care for themselves before or after school, and at other times throughout the year.

Although the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends adult supervision for children until the age of 11 or 12, for many families this isn't possible. When faced with this situation, maturity should be the determining factor in whether a child should be left alone.

There are a number of important points families should consider prior to allowing their children to be self-supervised.

Parents and guardians need to assess their children. Does he or she have the personality, self-confidence, and judgment skills to accept this responsibility? Will the experience be positive and help build and enhance the child's self-image, or will the experience promote additional anxiety in the child who may be afraid to stay alone?

Having a family conference to discuss the arrangement is a good place to start. House rules, expectations of each family member and a daily routine should be defined. At the end of the day, parents and guardians may also use the experience to have regular family meetings to help ensure the arrangement is still working and identify any alterations needing to be made.

Here are some steps your family may take to help ensure a positive afterschool experience.

Before allowing your child to go home alone, you should...

Determine if there are other community resources or organizations providing care and support for children who are home alone.

Ask your child how he or she feels about being alone. Is your child afraid to be left alone, or does he or she have the maturity and initiative to assume that responsibility?

Decide if you feel your child is able to follow directions and solve problems on his or her own.

Determine how long your child will be alone, how accessible you or another trusted adult will be in case of an emergency, and how safe the neighborhood is by contacting your law enforcement agency and checking the incidence and types of crime in your neighborhood.

Make sure you've set specific rules to be followed by your child while he or she is alone, and give your child specific instructions about how to reach you at all times. This should also include information about what to do if a child needs assistance and can't reach you right away.

Remember you're in charge, even if it is from a distance.

Once you've decided to proceed, you should check to make sure your child knows...

His or her full name, address and telephone numbers.

Your full name, the exact name of the place where you work, your work telephone number, and any cellular telephone numbers you may have.

How to make a telephone call to request help in an emergency using 911 or appropriate number(s) in your area.

How to carry his or her house key so it is hidden and secure. Your name and address should not be on the key, and it may be wise to leave an extra key with a trusted friend or neighbor.

Not to walk or play alone on the way home, and never take shortcuts home.

What to do if he or she is being followed. If that happens your child should turn around, run in the opposite direction to a designated place to get help, and tell a trusted adult what happened.

To always check out the home before entering looking for such things as open, ajar, or broken doors and windows or anything that doesn't look right. Go to a designated safe place to call for help if something doesn't seem right.

To always lock the door after entering and make sure the house is secure.

To immediately check in with you upon returning home to let you know he or she has arrived safely.

To tell callers you can't come to the telephone and offer to take a message instead of letting people know he or she is alone.

Not to open the door for or talk to anyone who comes to the home unless the person is a trusted family friend or relative, he or she feels comfortable being alone with that person, and the visit has been pre-approved by you.

To stay alert for true emergencies such as a fire or gas-main leak that would require the need to leave the home.

Check with you or another trusted adult if he or she is in doubt about anything.

As a parent or guardian, you should make sure you have...

A daily schedule of homework, chores, and activities for your child to follow.

A list kept close to the telephone including numbers for you, law enforcement, the fire department, your doctor, a poison control center, and a trusted adult who's available in case of an emergency.

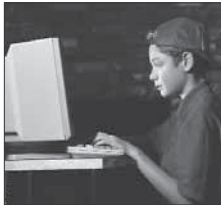
Written instructions about which, if any, appliances may be used; what to do in case of fire; and how to get out of the house if there is a fire.

A plan if you are detained and what to do if your child's plans change.

Instructions about watching television, using a computer, talking on the telephone, and inviting friends over when you aren't home.

Time to discuss the day's events with your child. Make sure he or she knows it is okay to discuss anything with you, especially something that may have made him or her feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused in any way.

For more information about child-safety topics, please contact the Seminole Police Dept. at (954) 967-8900, or visit the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's website, missingkids.com.



Meet SPD Sergeant Thomas Hopkins

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Seminole Police Dept. Sergeant Thomas Hopkins has worked for the department for nearly five years.

Hopkins, originally from Hayward, Wis., moved to South Florida in 1966. Prior to joining SPD, Hopkins retired as a police officer/K-9 officer from the city of Hollywood, where he worked for 32 years.

"My experience working with the Tribe is different than when I worked with the city," said Hopkins. "I have developed some relationships within the Tribe."

He currently works the night shift, patrolling the



Thomas Hopkins

Hollywood Reservation, but has also helped out with Hard Rock Hotel & Casino surveillance and currently serves as his squad's supervisor. As supervisor, Hopkins passes on his experience and knowledge of training methods to the younger members of his squad.

Hopkins' co-workers say he demonstrates leadership qualities with those he comes in contact with. He is also known to go out of his way to facilitate the needs of those who reside on the Hollywood Reservation.

Along with his wife, Suzan, and one of his six children, Hopkins resides in Pembroke Pines, Fla. Two of Hopkins' sons followed in his law enforcement footsteps; one works with the city of Hollywood and the other with the Cook County Sheriff's Office in Georgia. One of his daughters is a security specialist with the federal government and his daughter-in-law, Wendy, is a communications supervisor with SPD.

In his free time, Hopkins said he enjoys freshwater fishing.

SPD is proud to introduce its members who truly "Care for the Community," as the slogan displayed on all departmental police cars reads.

Why Women are Targeted for Crimes

SUBMITTED BY SEMINOLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Conventional stereotypes, outdated and untrue concepts about women may still be predominant in the minds of many criminals. They continue to view women as the weaker sex, and therefore as people who may be easily overpowered and dominated.

When given the choice between assaulting a man or a woman, most criminals admit that they would choose the female every time. But women are fully capable of fighting back.

Muggings And Robberies
Men are often subjected to being robbed or mugged, but women remain the most common victims of these crimes. Assaults tend to assume that women will be more passive and give up without a fight. When a predator is armed, and yet, non-threatening, the best thing to do is comply and be as cooperative as possible. However, these incidents can sometimes take a turn for the worse and become violent.

Sex Crimes
Women are often targeted by predators for sexual assault, but not necessarily for the reason most people would imagine.

Usually it is less about the physical act, and more about attaining a level of control over another human being. Certain depraved individuals seek to hold power over others and view rape as the ultimate form of domination.

Avoidance
The best possible resolution to crimes against women is to do anything possible to prevent them from happening. Criminals look for women who are alone, and in areas that are poorly lit. This gives them the chance to stay hidden and gain the element of surprise during an attack.

To avoid this possibility, women should park in public places with good lighting, walk with others

whenever possible and not linger in dark areas.

When walking alone, women should realize they may give off the impression of being timid or afraid. This can be avoided by walking quickly and holding your head high in a self-assured manner. Stay alert and be aware of everyone and everything in your general vicinity. A predator that is looking for easy prey will less likely attack someone who looks confident and capable of putting up a fight.

Whether driving or walking by themselves, women should be aware they may be being watched or even followed. Pay close attention to the people and vehicles that are around you, and if you believe someone is trailing you, do not go home.

Drive to a police station or walk towards a public location. Get to a spot that is safe and has other people around, which will cause the stalker to back off. Never lead someone to your residence because you don't want a predator to know where you live.

Fight Back!
Modern women do not fit the old stereotype that females are mousy and weak. When there is no way to avoid a criminal, the goal becomes basic survival.

Fight back in any way you can; use your purse, hands, feet and anything else as a weapon. You may wish to take a self-defense class that will leave you better equipped to subdue an assailant, but the important thing is to strike hard, strike quickly and get away safely.

Another effective method of self-defense involves carrying a non-lethal weapon. Security devices like pepper spray, stun guns and Tasers will give you the upper hand, and allow you to subdue any assailant.

Always be ready for anything when you are in public, and if you are assaulted, put up a strong fight that will make your attacker wish he hadn't targeted a woman for a crime.

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Independence Edition | Pewter, H2, 2008, 25 Passenger



SoBe Edition | White, Cadillac Escalade, 2008, 20 Passenger



Freedom Edition | Black, H2, 2008, 26 Passenger



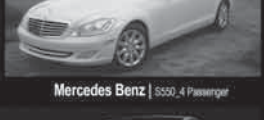
Chrysler 300 Limbo | White, 300, 2008, 12 Passenger



Tribal Edition | White, H2, 2008, 22 Passenger



Bentley Edition 2008 | Silver & Black, 300, 12 Passengers



Mercedes Benz | 5500, 4 Passenger



BMW 650 CI | Black, 2008, 5 Passenger



Lamborghini | Yellow, 2008, 2 Passenger

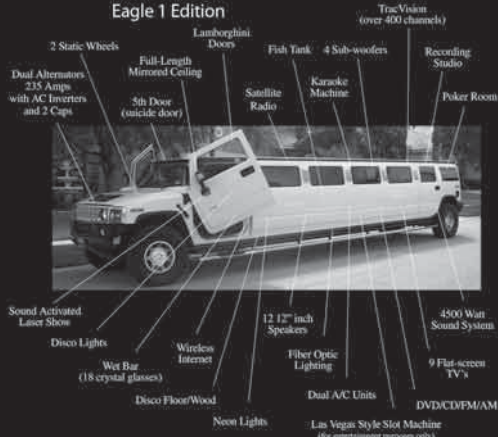


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Princess Pageant Committee Creates Workshops

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Princess Pageant Committee will begin a series of Seminole history workshops this year in what committee members hope will become a new tradition for pageant contestants.

The workshops will enhance each young lady's knowledge of Tribal heritage, history, and customs, as well as their etiquette and public speaking skills.

The first four hour gathering took place in November 2008 at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. Everett Osceola from the Hollywood Reservation and Marty Bowers from Big Cypress served as guest lecturers, and workshop attendees learned about topics including the First and Third Seminole Wars.

Princess Pageant Committee Chairwoman Wanda Bowers said the workshops will help to educate the contestants and also bring in more of them, as the 2008 pageant had the most entrants in the event's 51 year history. In the 2008 pageant, 11 ladies competed for the Jr. Miss crown, and five for the Miss Seminole title.

"We want to start working with them to give them different presentation ideas, if nothing else," Bowers, the 1968-69 Seminole Princess, explained. "We want to prepare them in advance, and the committee decided that we need to get these girls ready and prepared and not just leave them to handle it all themselves."

She said workshop attendees, which included current and past Seminole royalty, got the chance to hear information about their history that came directly from the sources — fellow Tribal citizens.

"It was pretty interesting because the things we learned about we never knew," said 2008-09 Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Amber Craig. "It helped teach us about who we are, and where we came from."

Bowers said those who attend the workshops, including Miss Florida Seminole 2006-07 Brittany Yescas, not only receive valuable information, but they can also provide it to the other attendees.

"[Yescas] gave the class some good information, and it was not just from the history books, but it actually came down from her family," Bowers said.

Bowers said the most important pageant traditions and expectations have not changed over the years, even dating back to the early days with some of the first princesses, Laura Mae Osceola, and the first-ever princess, Connie Frank Gowen.

However, the experiences and opportunities of those crowned have changed. She said custom-made outfits, prize money, a car and traveling now come with the territory of wearing the crown.

One memorable opportunity came recently in September of 2008 for Miss Florida Seminole D'Anna Osceola. The princess attended the 40th annual Semi-



Wanda Bowers
Special guest Idaho Miss Shoshonee Bannick Princess Leela Abrahamson (L) and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Amber Craig (R) together during the intermission of the workshop.

nole Nation Days in Seminole, Okla. Osceola along with Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Jr. Miss Seminole Amber Craig, represented the Tribe participating in a parade and other weekend festivities.

Bowers said she hopes the workshops continue to grow and become a monthly event, with the first meeting of the New Year held Jan. 24; she said the workshops will be at the Clewiston Inn in Clewiston, Fla. All the work, of course, will continue to be in preparation for July's pageant.

"I always say you're never too old to learn," Bowers said. "I even picked up some information about our history while I listened."

Other special guests who attended included Miss Florida Seminole 2005-06 Christine McCall and Idaho Miss Shoshonee Bannick Princess Leela Abrahamson.

For more information, please call Wanda Bowers at (954) 966-6300, Ext. 11468, or Mercedes Osceola-Hahn at Ext. 11162.

Princesses Attend Seminole Nation Days

Photos submitted by Lorene Gopher

At Right: Miss Florida Seminole D'Anna Osceola attended the Seminole Nation Days in Seminole, Okla. during the weekend of Sept. 19, 2008. She, along with Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Amber Craig and Chairman Mitchell Cypress, participated in numerous activities throughout the weekend, including the annual parade. Lorene Gopher, Miss Seminole D'Anna Osceola's grandmother, drove her through the parade route in a convertible car, as she represented the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Osceola said she enjoyed visiting the Seminoles in the state of Oklahoma.

Below: Jr. Miss Amber Craig and Miss Seminole D'Anna Osceola (C) with members of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Color Guard and the Tribal princess.



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For more information and applications, please contact:

Hollywood - Wanda Bowers - 954-966-6300 ext. 11468

Big Cypress - Alice Billie - 863-902-3200 ext. 11461

Brighton - Salina Dorgan - 863-763-2402

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Savanna Billie and Brannon Bowers

2008-2009 Little Mr. and Little Miss



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Hard Rock Live

Contestant # _____

(check one) Little Miss Seminole _____ Little Mr. Seminole _____

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Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Enrollment #: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Signature (circle one)

Print Name

-Tribal Member Parent

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Contestants must be an enrolled tribal member,
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NO EXCEPTIONS.

Registration deadline is
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Contestants must be preregistered.
Absolutely NO applications will be
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Confirm that your applications have been received by
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Call (954)-966-6300 ext. 11468 to Wanda or
Leila at ext. 11463
or your local princess committee member.

CONTACTS: FAX NO. (954) 967-3488

Hollywood - Wanda Bowers (954) 966-6300 ext. 11468

Brighton - Salina Dorgan (863) 763-3866

Big Cypress - Alice Billie (863) 902-3200

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For further information: 863-634-9587 or 863-494-0998

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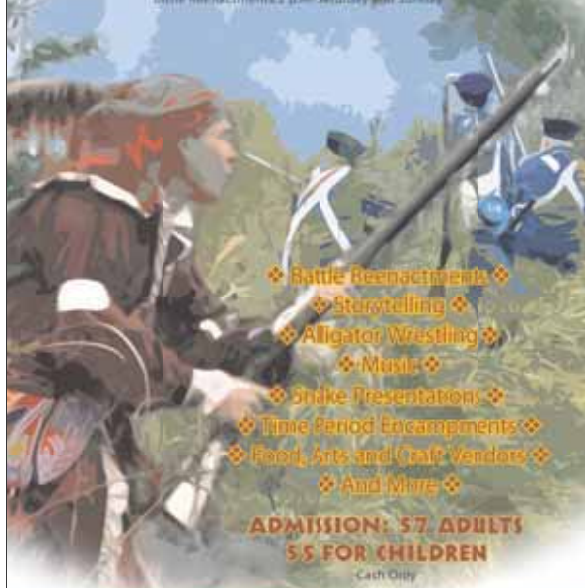
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Education B

Lecture Series Highlights Work of Christian Missionaries

Brian Zepeda Discusses How Groups Came to Seminole Country During Museum's Ongoing Lecture Series, 'Seminole Moments'

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The topic of Christian missionaries in Seminole Country held Tribal citizen's and employee's interest on Dec. 17, 2008 in the latest presentation of the ongoing Seminole Moments lecture series.

For centuries, the religion has been a fixture within the Tribe.

"Oftentimes we talk about Seminole history, tradition and culture, but we forget there is a time when missionaries began to influence the culture as well," Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Chief Historic Resources Officer Tina Osceola said. "The value systems are also important to understand in explaining this process."

Museum Operations Manager Brian Zepeda spoke to those in attendance about its historical origins.

"My role was to not tell whether it was good or bad just to give them the history," Zepeda explained. "It all depends on your point of view."

Zepeda said many Tribal citizens embrace both Christianity and traditional beliefs. He said the Baptist and Methodist faiths are the most popular Christian sects amongst Seminoles. However, many Seminole Christians also participate in the Stomp Dance, Green Corn ceremonies, traditional fasts and other rituals.

Please see MOMENTS • Page 3B



Rachel Buxton

The first graders at Pemayetv Emahaky perform their physical fitness at the P.E. showcase, held Dec. 19, 2008 in the school's breezeway, using a colorful parachute.

Charter School Students Perform in Physical Education Showcase

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Parents and teachers gathered in the breezeway at Pemayetv Emahaky Charter School Dec. 19, 2008 to watch a physical education showcase put on by students.

Each grade performed a different physical routine to music.

The kindergartners put on a parachute routine to the song "If We Didn't Have Colors." The school's first graders also performed a parachute routine, and performed more advanced tricks including one where they all crawled under the parachute to make a big bubble.

The second graders mixed things up, performing a routine that incorporated hand clapper noise makers. The third graders dropped the hand clappers, and instead painted their

hands different colors and performed a hand routine with a partner.

The fourth grade students got down with a jump rope performance to rap music where the students took turns doing solo jump rope acts. The fifth graders dressed in jerseys for their basketball routine, performing different dribbling skills.

Throughout the showcase, the different classes also performed holiday songs for the crowd. The first graders wore antlers and sang "Up on the Housetop," while Ms. Webber's kindergarten class sang "Jingle Bells" and Ms. Duncan's kindergarten class performed to a holiday Walt Disney song sung by Mickey Mouse.

Principal Russell Brown ended the program with closing remarks congratulating the students on completing their first full semester.



Rachel Buxton

Students from the third grade class clap to the music during their performance.



Chris C. Jenkins

Brian Zepeda discusses how Christianity made its way to the Seminole Tribe.

Prospective Students Learn About Tribal Education Opportunities at College Career Fair

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Education Dept. hosted the annual College Career Fair in the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino ballrooms Jan. 12.

Colleges, universities and various Tribal departments shared information pertaining to different fields of interest with an audience of prospective students, Tribal youngsters and their parents.

Some of the participants in attendance included Florida State University, the University of Central Florida, Johnson & Wales University, Broward College and the Classic Cooking Academy in Scottsdale, Ariz. Representatives from Tribal departments, including Information Technology, Human Resources and Seminole Media Productions, also provided jobseekers with information on opportunities within their departments.

Those at each organization's booth shared information and answered questions from the event attendees.

Amelia Nunez attended the event with her father, David, and

sister, Alicia. Nunez said she wanted to get as much information as possible to figure out what classes she needs to take in order to be prepared to attend college. She said she hopes to attend either the University of Florida, Florida State or Duke University.

During the fair, speakers highlighted the importance of completing a higher education program.

President Richard Bowers Jr., Tribal Liaison William Osceola and Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. spoke to the crowd and urged the youth to continue their education beyond high school. The three emphasized that the youth of today will run the Tribe of tomorrow.

Guest speaker and former Miami Dolphins player Nat Moore spoke to the fair attendees about the importance of higher education.

"Knowledge is the only thing you can ever get that no one can take away from you," Moore said. He added that no one is too old to educate themselves, and said the Tribe provides endless opportunities for students to get the best education possible.

The Broadcasting Dept. from Seminole Media Productions assisted the Education Dept. in creating a video that focused on Tribal citizens and their education. The video was shown at the event, and Education Dept. Director Emma Johns said the video would be shown at Career Fairs in the coming years.

She read a letter of gratitude to the Director of Seminole Media Productions Danny Jumper. In the letter she recognized three department employees, Roberta Schicchi, Dennis Pellarin and Celso Contreras from Broadcasting, for their hard work, dedication and professionalism from start to finish of the project.

Johns also recognized parent volunteer Virginia Osceola and thanked her for all her help throughout the years. She also acknowledged the Education Dept. staff for their efforts with the fair, as well as generally going above and beyond in their daily job responsibilities.

Johns urged Tribal citizens not to hesitate to contact her employees for assistance with all their education-related questions and needs.



Marisol Gonzalez

Former Miami Dolphins player Nat Moore speaks to the students about the importance of continuing their education.



Marisol Gonzalez

(L-R) David Nunez and daughter, Amelia, stop at the Florida State University booth for more information.

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School Students Honored

Awards for October 13-24, 2008

Kindergarten

Mrs. Duncan - Alonnie Gore
Mrs. Webber - Ramone Baker

Second Grade

Mrs. Ball - Conner Thomas
Mrs. Moss - Lance Howard

Fourth Grade

Mrs. Tedders - Rylee Osceola
Mrs. Williams - Martina Herrera

First Grade

Mrs. Davis - Tucker Johns
Mrs. Ringstaff - Keira French
Mrs. Hudson - Robert Harris

Third Grade

Mrs. Clements - Richard Harris
Mrs. Pryor - Brady Rhodes

Fifth Grade

Mrs. Dobbs - Keyana Nelson
Mrs. Finney - Michael Garcia



Awards for October 28-November 11, 2008

Kindergarten

Mrs. Duncan - Dathen Garcia
Mrs. Webber - Morgan Yates

Second Grade

Mrs. Ball - Tyler Howard
Mrs. Moss - Andrew Fish

Fourth Grade

Mrs. Tedders - Lanie Sedatol
Mrs. Williams - Odessa King

First Grade

Mrs. Davis - Tanner Shore
Mrs. Ringstaff - Alexis Gore

Third Grade

Mrs. Clements - Bly Davidson
Mrs. Pryor - Layne Thomas

Fifth Grade

Mrs. Dobbs - Elizabeth Johns
Mrs. Finney - Harley Johns



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Emma Johns
Director of Education
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FAX: 954-893-8856



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Close-up Washington, DC trip for 9th - 12th Grade Students



The Close Up program in Washington D.C. will be held from **February 8th - 14th, 2009**.

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NATIVE BOOK REVIEW

BY RAMONA KIYOSHK

[Editor's Note: Ramona Kiyoskh is a freelance writer and member of the Ojibway First Nation of Walpole Island, Ontario. The opinions she expresses are her own. She can be reached at satin-moccasins@gmail.com.]

Will Bird, a former bush pilot and renowned Cree adventurer, lies comatose in a Mooseenose hospital, hooked up to a life-sustaining monitor. From the inside of that misty dream world, he recalls his journey from boyhood to the present.

At his bedside is Will's young niece who is narrating another side of the story. Annie reluctantly visits Will every day, talking to him, hoping her voice and stories will reach him, waken him and bring him back. The story switches back and forth between these two voices.

Early in the story author Joseph Boyden mentions a parallel universe. That reference is more than a metaphor for the two central characters whose actions connect all the players in this tale of mystery, adventure and mysticism set in Ontario's Far North and in Toronto, the province's glittering Mecca.

Boyden is of Canadian Metis descent who teaches at the university in New Orleans and who recently ran creative writing workshops in James Bay, Ontario, where this story is set.

Reviewers have already written myriad words about this novel, the follow-up to another stellar work, *Three Day Road*, both books exploding onto the popular literary scene like twin shooting stars. It has all been said or written: Praise for a skilled storyteller with a grasp of the narrative, an affection for the terrible beauty of the tundra, the constant battle of wits with the land and weather to stay alive. That is the backbone of an Arctic adventure.

The other more subtle side of this story is the way Boyden captures the spirit of the people and their ties to the land. The writer, a professor at a Louisiana University who was raised in the Toronto suburbs and who has only tenuous Metis ties to the north where he once taught briefly, manages to grasp and articulate the essence of being Cree, the people who thrived in Canada's challenging Hudson Bay area centuries before Europeans found them.

Perhaps it is Boyden's gift as a storyteller that enables him to see the beauty in the poverty, the struggle and the daily enmity. The community that most visitors would look down on with pity bustles with warmth, energy and families who care about each other.

Boyden writes about people celebrating a successful hunt, nurturing a new baby or experiencing the thrill of a teen crush. We see people dealing with disease, death, heartbreak and disappointment, a people living in the fallout of misguided government policies,

officially sanctioned lies, broken by cruel colonial attempts to "civilize" them. Boyden writes passionately, with an eye for detail, texture and sensations.

Greed brings evil to the community. A bootlegging family named the Netmakers conspires with biker dope dealers to transport the worst of city street drugs to the town. While kids are dying from chemical abuse, the Netmakers are living high. Someone becomes an informer and Will is blamed, making him the target of violence. He is also blamed for a missing member of the Netmakers, who left town with Will's other niece Suzanne. Neither has been heard from for months.

The drama of being young in tundra country is played out in Annie's varied roles as rebellious daughter, skilled trapper, seasoned snowmobile driver, torn sister, best friend and devoted niece. In this closed world, family and friendship are everything. During what is supposed to be a relaxing trip to Toronto with

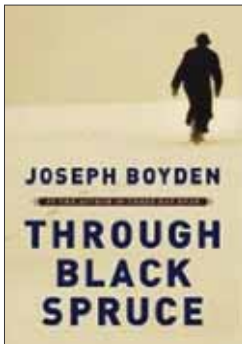
her best friend, Annie meets people who knew Suzanne but are afraid to share what they know. Annie suspects that her sister is in danger and abandons her vacation to find her.

Their separate odysseys take Annie and her uncle to startling levels of self-discovery. While the Netmakers harass and intimidate Will, forcing him to go into hiding before a final brutal beating, Annie searches for her missing sister who worked as a popular fashion model before she disappeared. Young Annie gets a first hand taste of the glamour, corruption and treachery of life in the high fashion worlds of Toronto, Montreal and New York City. Both Annie and her uncle will learn about loyalty and the power of friendship and family.

Through Black Spruce is exceptional for its revealing portrayal of the Crees of Mooseenose and for its tangible depiction of life in the North, as well as for the storytelling acumen of the author.

The book is a wild and crazy ride until the end, where the final scenes are endearing but lack the potency of the rest of the story. Some reviewers had a problem with this, calling the ending anticlimactic. Personally, I don't think I could have handled any more suspense and drama.

Boyden writes in a fast-moving macho style. His refreshing perspective in this novel and its predecessor, *Three Day Road*, will do much for a misunderstood part of our country. It is definitely a worthy winner of the prestigious and coveted 2008 Scotiabank Giller Prize.



Title: *Through Black Spruce*
Author: Joseph Boyden
Published: September 2008 by Viking Canada
Adult Fiction
Hardcover: \$35
Pages: 256

✦ Moments

Continued from page 1B

He also discussed influential figures in the Tribe's history with Christianity including Seminole Medicine Man Josie Billie who played a crucial role in the mid-1940s, and Dr. Irenaeus Trout, rector of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, who acted as an appointed missionary to the Seminoles.

"The thing that I found the most interesting was the early history of the missionaries," Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church Pastor Arlen J. Payne said. "A lot of the information is not in print and is difficult to find."

According to information found on the Tribe's official website, seminoletribe.com, the Episcopal Church established the Glade Cross Mission in Big Cypress in the 1890s. A second mission of the same name was established in Everglades, Fla., lasting from 1933-1960.

In 1907, the first Indian missionaries came to the Florida Seminoles living near Indian town east of Lake Okeechobee. The missionaries were Creek Baptist Indians from Oklahoma. The northern groups of Seminoles were their main target and like

the missionaries, they also spoke the Creek or Muscogee language.

For more information and reading material, Zepeda recommended the following books: "The Seminoles of Florida" by James W. Covington, "Missions to the Calusa" by John H. Hann and "And with the Wagon Came God's Word" by Betty Mae Jumper, which is available at the Tribe's online Marketplace, <http://stores.ebay.com/Seminole-Tribe-of-FL-Marketplace>.



Brian Zepeda

Timeline of Important Dates

1936

First Seminole Indian Baptist Church dedication on the Dania Reservation, now known as the Hollywood Reservation

1948

Big Cypress First Baptist Church established

1949

Mekuskey Independent Baptist Church established

1951

First Indian Baptist Church and the Seminole Bible Baptist Church of Brighton opened

1966

New Testament Baptist Church established

1984

Chickee Baptist Church established

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Pemayetv Emahakv Students Receive First Semester Awards at School Ceremony

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Staff at the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School held an awards ceremony in the breezeway of the school Jan. 8 to celebrate the success of the students during their first semester.

Students received certificates for their accomplishments in their Creek language, arts and crafts and academic classes. Many students also received effort, citizenship and improvement awards at the ceremony.

Effort Awards went to the students who gave it their all in every subject area, while students who showed kindness to others received the Citizenship Award. Those who showed improvement in their studies received an Improvement Award.

Students who maintained a high grade point average, or GPA, received awards based on the level of academic

achievement they attained. Those with a 4.0, a perfect GPA, received the Gold Award, while students with a 3.5-3.9 GPA received the Silver Award, and those who maintained a 3.0-3.4 GPA took home the Bronze Award.

Medals went to students who completed 100 steps in the 100 Book Challenge, a program where students earn steps for every 15 minutes of reading they complete.

Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith congratulated the students on their accomplishments at the ceremony.

"It's good to see you all getting these awards," Rep. Smith said. "All the good work you've done, that's what it takes to be the best you can be. Keep it up."

School Principal Russell Brown then invited parents to stay on campus and visit their children's classroom and see what the students are working on.



Marci Osceola receives her Bronze Award for achievement.

Award Recipients

Kindergarten

Effort: John Beck, Aubie Billie, Hyatt Brugh, Destiny Elliott, Norman Osceola, Davin Camillo, Ruby Osceola, Kobe Jimmie, Kyandra Harris, Daven Buck, Dathen Garcia, Citizenship: Jaydon Baker, Karyann Billie, Tayla Burns, Haylie Huff, Shaels French, Alonnie Gore, Caylie Huff, Heith Lawrence, Kobe Jimmie, Ruby Osceola, Improvement: Ramone Baker, Jagger Gaucin, Pyanna Osceola, Morgan Yates, Mariah Billie, Justin Gopher, Caylie Huff, Heith Lawrence, Kyandra Harris, Daven Buck.

First Grade

Effort: Kamani Smith, Keira French, Marci Osceola, Katie Beck, Ozzy Osceola, Rubie Osceola, Jacee Jumper, Echo Billie, Bevin Billie, Anyia Gore, Sage Moltow, Dante Thomas, Silas Madrigal, Mallorie Thomas, Citizenship: Myron Billie, Edward Gaucin, Callio Smith, Tanner Shore, Waylenn Bennett, Araya Youngblood, Tucker Johns, Malcolm Jones, Bevin Billie, Kai Osceola, Echo Billie, Katie Beck, Aleah Turtle, Improvement: Nyah Davidson, Redheart Billie, Alexis Gore, Jahbain Arnold, Kai Osceola, Laile Bennett, Hunter Howard, Jaylen Baker, Bronze Award: Marci Osceola, Nyah Davidson, Myron Billie, Redheart Billie, Robert Harris, Sage Moltow, Malcolm Jones, Tucker Johns, Silver Award: Keira French, Jacee Jumper, Echo Billie, Gold Award: Kamani Smith, Madlyn Osceola, Katie Beck, Ozzy Osceola, Mallorie Thomas, Dante Thomas, Dante Thomas, Anyia Gore.

Second Grade

Effort: Billy Yates, Alicia Fudge, Satie Rico, Raelynn Matthews, Oscar Yates, Blake Baker, Lance Howard, Aleina Micco, Krysta Burton, Keely Billie, Kano Puente, Kyle Palmisano,

Joey Nichols, Lucas Osceola, Andrew Fish, Citizenship: Tyler Howard, Conner Thomas, Aidan Tommie, Alyke Baker, Aleina Micco, Keely Billie, Kano Puente, Kyle Palmisano, Krysta Burton, Joey Nichols, Improvement: Jarrett Bert, Billy Yates, Gage Riddle, Lucas Osceola, Andrew Fish, Blake Baker, Lance Howard, Oscar Yates, Bronze Award: Andrew Fish, Aidan Tommie, Silver Award: Krysta Burton, Aleina Micco, Kyle Palmisano, Oscar Yates, Keely Billie, Joseph Nichols, Kano Puente, Raelynn Matthews, 100 Book Challenge: Krysta Burton, 240 steps

Fourth Grade

Effort: Jermaine Bennett, Lanie Sedatol, Robert Fudge, Sean Osceola, Diamond Shore, Trevor Thomas, Drayton Billie, Demetrius Clark, Odessa King, Joshua Madrigal, Jaden Puente, Citizenship: Andrew Dobbs, Ruben Burgess, Rylee Osceola, Samuel Osceola, Bethany Billie, Bailey Tedders, Crysten Smith, Kelton Smedley, Martina Herrera, Courtney Gore, Erik Garcia, Bronze Award: Robert Fudge, Ruben Burgess, Diamond Shore, Drayton Billie, Demetrius Clark, Courtney Gore, Martina Herrera, Crysten Smith, Silver Award: Andrew Dobbs, Sean Osceola, Odessa King, Kelton Smedley, Gold Award: Trevor Thomas, Bailey Tedders, Jaden Puente, Erik Garcia, 100 Book Challenge: Robert Fudge, 116 steps, Erik Garcia, 120 steps.

Fifth Grade

Effort: Coz Ortiz, Royce Osceola, Chastity Harmon, Richard Smith, Yopalakiyo Osceola, Dezmon Shore, Citizenship: Imilakiyo Osceola, Joyce Smith, Thomas Bearden, Michael Garcia, Bronze Award: Tyra Baker, Allison Gopher, Elizabeth Johns, Rumor Juarez, Rayven Smith, Tamea Allen, Harley Johns, Brydgett Koonz, Trista Osceola, Lehma Sedatol, Silver Award: Keyana Nelson, Cheyenne Nunez, Donovan Osceola, Boyd Brown, Jaron Johns, Kalgary Johns, Zeke Matthews, Gold Award: Josh Greenbaum, Zach Hudson, Malony Williams, Kallin Brown, 100 Book Challenge: Joshua Greenbaum, 206 steps.



Kindergarten Caylie Huff receives her award for improvement.

Third Grade

Effort: Cady Osceola, Cyrus Smedley, Sunni Bearden, Logan Ortiz, Elijah Billie, Ivess Baker, Reed Gopher, Richard Harris, Camryn Thomas, Easton Moss, Dyan Nelson, Brady Rhodes, Rudy Juarez, Layne Thomas, Citizenship: Michael Girtman, Sunni Bearden, Cyrus Smedley, Logan Ortiz, Bly Davidson, Aiyana



Ms. Cindy Ringstaff's first grade class snuggles up as they listen to the story of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

Charter School Hosts Guest Reader Day

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School opened its

doors Dec. 11, 2008 to visitors for a guest reader day where volunteers came in and read to all grade levels. With students snuggled up in their pajamas and sleeping bags, 30 guests from the Tribal community,

Seminole Tribe Depts. and other community members braved the stormy weather and visited the school to read holiday-themed books to the school's classes.



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Health

Weight Loss Contest Awards Honor Hard Work

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Tribal citizens and employees gathered to celebrate shedding those extra pounds Dec. 19, 2008 at the Big Cypress Community Center for the Community Weight Loss Awards.

Event organizers intended for the event to provide encouragement for those striving to meet their goals, and took place just in time for the holidays. Attendees enjoyed Bingo, food games, lunch and a raffle at the event.

"What we are all about is sticking to the program," Community Outreach Coordinator Edna McDuffie said. "Do not just lose then gain; stay with it."

Tribal citizen and weight loss winner Michael Onco Jr. said he decided to change his routine and lifestyle while supporting

wife, Jamie's, struggles with high cholesterol.

"I told Jamie I will support you and we will both do it together," he said. "I am proud of myself and so is she, but we mostly did it all for our kids and we just believed in ourselves."

He said some of the keys to his success also included walking consistently, drinking less fruit punch and juices, and heavy use of the treadmill.

Bruce Hale of the Seminole Police Dept. said walking also helped him on his weight loss journey, but admitted that was only half the battle.

"I also changed my eating habits and began going back to the gym," Hale said. "It is all about lifestyle. Once you change that, then that is the key."

The event highlighted the accomplishments of the weight loss contest winners from September through November 2008.



Chris C. Jenkins

Michael Onco Jr., first place winner in the Tribal Men's Division, talks to those in attendance about the weight loss success he experienced as a result of lifestyle changes and dieting.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal Men's Division winners: (L-R) Eric Cypress, Lenny Jim and Michael Onco Jr.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal Women's Division winners: (L-R) Jamie Onco, Wanda Billie, Linda Billie and Cherelle "CJ" Hall.

THE HEALTHY SENIOR BY FRED CICCETTI

[Editor's Note: Fred Ciccetti is a syndicated columnist who writes about issues concerning senior citizens' health. The opinions he expresses are his own. This is the third part in a three-part series on breast cancer. If you would like to ask a question, please write fred@healthywomens.com. All Rights Reserved ©2009 by Fred Ciccetti.]

Breast cancer strikes most often when men are in their 60s.

Male breast cancer? Men do have breast cells that can become cancerous. The disease is uncommon in men. It represents only 1 percent of all breast cancers. Because of its rarity, many men aren't aware it exists. And that's a problem.

For unknown reasons, the incidence of male breast cancer has been increasing. About 2,000 men in the U.S. are diagnosed with breast cancer annually.

Young boys and girls have a small amount of breast tissue made up of a few ducts. At puberty, female hormones in girls make breast ducts grow, milk glands form and fat increases. The male hormones in boys prevent further growth of breast tissue. Men's breast tissue contains ducts, but only a few if any lobules.

The most common symptom of male breast cancer is the same as it is for women — a lump. Other signs include: skin dimpling, a new indentation of the nipple, redness or scaling of breast skin, a clear or bloody discharge from the nipple.

Some risk factors for male breast cancer include age, family history, genes, obesity, excessive use of alcohol and exposure to radiation.

Age: The average age for a man diagnosed with breast cancer is 67.

Family: About 20 percent of men with breast cancer are related to someone with the disease.

Genes: About seven percent of breast cancers in men are inherited.

Radiation: There's a higher risk to men

who underwent chest radiation treatments when they were younger.

Klinefelter Syndrome. Men with this syndrome make lower levels of male hormones, called androgens, and more female hormones. This can cause gynecomastia, benign breast enlargement. Men with this condition may be at greater risk of breast cancer. Many medicines used to treat ulcers, high blood pressure, and heart failure can cause gynecomastia, too.

Estrogen. The risk is small for men who take estrogen, the main female hormone. Estrogen drugs may be used to treat prostate cancer. Liver disease. This can increase your risk of gynecomastia and breast cancer.

Obesity. Fat cells convert androgens into estrogen.

Alcohol. Drinking alcohol raises the odds that a man will develop breast cancer. The risk increases with the amount of alcohol consumed.

If a man has a family history of the disease, he should consult a doctor about regular testing. Diagnostic tests for men include a clinical breast exam, mammograms, ultrasound, biopsy and, if indicated, a nipple discharge exam.

Breast cancer treatment for men is similar to that given to women. Some men may need only surgery. Others will need surgery and radiation, chemotherapy or hormone therapy.

There isn't much tissue to a man's breast, so removing the cancer usually means excising most of the tissue. The procedures that are used on women to save breast tissue aren't practicable for men.

Most men with breast cancer require a modified radical mastectomy. In this procedure, a surgeon removes the entire breast and some underarm lymph nodes, but leaves chest muscles intact.

Out With the Old, In With the New: Time to Clean House

BY PATRICK PECK
Environmental Health Program Manager

As most are aware, 2008 was a difficult year for many in the country. The start of a brand New Year, however, presents great opportunities for increased health and prosperity. A few suggestions come to mind as the New Year begins.

In some societies, it is customary for people to purge the past year by giving the home a top-to-bottom cleaning, which gives them a sense of renewal and a psychological boost to confront the New Year. As the old proverb recorded in a sermon by John Wesley in 1778 states, "Cleanliness is next to Godliness."

Although this spiritual uplift is welcomed, a clean home also offers many tangible health benefits, especially in those homes where children and elders with respiratory and other medical complications reside. So as a general rule, the start of the New Year should also start with a tidy home.

Here are some tips on healthy home living:

Take the time to discard — or better yet, donate — old and unused clothing and furniture to the Salvation Army or local collection agency to continue the gift of giving through the New Year. In these tough times, many folks are looking for savings in the purchase of basic necessities. Unused clothing often acts as dust magnets and unnecessarily clutters the home.

Consider deep shampooing carpets and thoroughly cleaning furniture to rid them of accumulated dirt and visible dirt. Move large furniture items and clean behind them. Dirt, dust and grime often harbor pests such as roaches — and many are often surprised to find some items, like that old pair of socks or keys, they searched high and low for when they clean behind the couch.

If it is not a part of the regular routine already, toss heavy bedspreads, curtains and pillows in the washer. Bedbugs, dust mites and other critters often find a home in these items and a long, hot machine wash and dry cycle will often suffice to get rid of them.

Many people hoard junk throughout the home; let us be honest. And a lot of these items are not worth much and have little sentimental value, yet they accumulate dust and greatly restrict space and aeration in the home. Consider clearing out these items to improve the amount of clutter and overall cleanliness of the home.

On the topic of aeration, one should also take advantage of this time to change air filters and clean ceiling fans of all cobwebs and dust. In addition, it is advantageous to also clean all vents, especially the bathroom exhaust vents, as many homes develop mold problems in the bathrooms due to insufficient venting.

Those chemicals purchased at the low-cost retailers and "dollar stores" during the past year do have a shelf life. Some of them are corrosives and may be leaking under the sink, causing damage to cabinets and possibly affecting the home's air quality. Of even greater concern is the possibility of explosions, fires and toxic fumes formed by incompatible products under the sink. Well, this is a time for some checking.

Toss out chemicals in their original containers. Do not dispose of them via the drain as they may cause a volatile reaction. Consult

with the Tribe's Utility Dept. on proper disposal methods. For prevention of accidental poisoning, discarding all expired and unused prescriptions and pharmaceutical products from the cabinet also is recommended.

Take a look at what is hiding in the refrigerator, and especially the freezer. Many purchase meat and frozen vegetables in bulk, and although stored in the freezer, they do have a shelf life. Look at the containers or packaging for expiration dates.

Typically, meat products can remain frozen between four months and a year, depending on type of meat and its packaging. As for those one-week-old leftovers hiding at the bottom of the shelf, discard them immediately. Although possibly a delicious meal, perishables, especially those that were already cooked, do not conserve well in the freezer. It is best to discard them because it's not worth exposing you and your family to possible food contamination.

Lastly, extra trash and garbage resulting from the holidays may have accumulated outside the home. Make sure to place boxes and discarded furniture to the curb for trash pickup. During this time of the year when temperatures drop, these items may be the right nesting place for rats, stray animals and other wildlife.

In addition, get rid of those old tires and empty plant pots and containers strewn around the yard as they can serve as a breeding ground for mosquitoes and pests.

These simple tasks will not only improve the overall aesthetics of the home, but they also have a positive impact on health, and give homeowners and residents a moral burst of energy, enthusiasm and pride at the beginning of the New Year.

For more information on indoor air quality, pests and healthy homes, please call the Tribal Health Dept. on each reservation, or the main offices at (954) 962-2009.





Jodi King

(L-R) Family Services Dept. Director Helene Buster invites Janieve "Cagey" Robenstein to the podium to share a few words.

Recovery Community Shows Gratitude

BY ERIC BRICKER
Family Services Dept.

HOLLYWOOD — More than 100 Tribal citizens and their guests gathered at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino to celebrate their sobriety and recovery from drugs and alcohol on Dec. 16, 2008. The Seminoles in Recovery group hosted the Gratitude Dinner event.

Seminoles in Recovery is comprised of recovering Tribal citizens who facilitate and attend 12 Step recovery support groups on various reservations. The group also organized sober activities for the Tribe's population of recovering individuals, including the annual Wellness Conference, which hundreds of Seminoles attend each July in Marco Island, Fla.

The Gratitude Dinner began with an opening prayer and dinner, followed by a 12 Step speaker meeting. Once dinner finished, the meeting began.

Recovering people in attendance were chosen to read the selections "How It Works" and "The 12 Traditions" from the book "Alcoholics Anonymous," better known as "The Big Book." After the introduction of speakers, they took turns sharing their stories of gratitude for having survived addiction, and for having received the gift of recovery.

Even though the stories of all recovering people differ, the 12 Step recovery program teaches everyone to focus on the similarities all people share.

Recovering addicts tell their stories not to impress the listener with the demonization and sickness of the active addiction, but rather to impress upon the listener the hope that there is a solution. If the storyteller found a solution, then the solution can work for the struggling or recovering listener as well.

In that way, 12 Step programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous, are said to be "programs of attraction, rather than programs of promotion." By tradition, 12 Step programs do not advertise for this very reason.

The Gratitude Dinner speakers focused on their solution as they shared the steps that they had taken to get into recovery, as well as the steps that they must continue to take to stay in recovery. This includes working the 12 Steps with a sponsor and then sponsoring others, because the 12 Step program teaches that an addict or alcoholic can't keep their recovery if they don't also give it away by sharing their experience, strength and hope with the newcomer.

As the speakers shared, people in the audience nodded their heads in agreement as they recognized and identified with the feelings and experiences of the speakers. After the speakers finished, the microphone opened for any participants at the Gratitude Dinner to come and share their thoughts with the rest of the attendees.

Several individuals spoke, and many shared their gratitude for their own recovery. Others spoke about the tragedy of fellow Tribal citizens lost to drug or alcohol related fatalities. Others shared stories about family members who they lost to the disease of addiction, or who had entered into recovery.

As the meeting wound down, Andy Buster took to the stage with his band, the Andy Buster Band. Even though the band stays busy during the holidays, Buster insists upon donating his band's performance to Seminoles in Recovery for the Gratitude Dinner, as well as other recovery-oriented community events.

In March of 2009, Seminoles in Recovery will host a statewide Native American Recovery Convention at the John Boy Auditorium in Clewiston, Fla. The convention, which takes place March 5-8, is open to the public.

For registration information, please contact any of the following: Jodi King, (863) 634-2763, jodiking@semtbribe.com; Tommy McGee, (954) 964-6338, tommymcgee@semtbribe.com; Bruce Duncan, (863) 763-7700, bruceduncan@semtbribe.com; Ray Yzaguirre, (239) 867-3480, raymaldoyzaguirre@semtbribe.com



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Please Mail to: Seminoles in Recovery - Attn: Jodi King 17281 Chris Street, Okeechobee, FL 34974

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For more information please contact one of the following people listed below

Jodi King 863-634-2763 jodiking@semtbribe.com, Tommy McGee 954-964-6338 tommymcgee@semtbribe.com,
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Sports

C

Tribe Hosts NASA Basketball Tournament for the Fifth Time

Participants Travel from Throughout Indian Country to Compete in Annual Hoops Tourney

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Hollywood Recreation Dept. once again hosted the Native American Sports Association (NASA) basketball tournament, which took place this year on Jan. 9-10. This is the fifth time the Tribe has hosted the NASA tournament.

Native American adult teams from across the country came together for basketball action at the annual event.

"It has been around for a long time and people keep coming from all over for it," Hollywood Gym Basketball Coach Carlos Adamson said.

This year's line-up featured men's and women's adult and legends divisions in a double elimination format. The winning teams, Native Ladies United, War, Cherokee Legends and Native Ladies Legends, took home trophies and custom NASA jackets and apparel.

"It was all nice because it is a vacation for the bunch of us," said Coach Donald Queen of the winning Cherokee Legends 40 and Older men's division team. "We wanted to just have fun."

Competitors from southern states, including Mississippi and North Carolina, and some from as far away as New York, traveled to Seminole Country to play in the tournament.

"I got involved in playing in this tourney through people in Cherokee," Eastern Band Cherokee Tribal citizen, and Team D-Boyz player, Alex Cruz of Cherokee, N.C. explained.

It was his fourth time in the tourney, and this year, his squad faced the superior Warriors team, losing 66-23 in his team's round one game.

"I still like it because it is all Native Americans and I like the travel," Cruz said. "It was a good experience."

Head coach Dalmion King Jr. brought his Mississippi Band of Choctaw Dream Catchers team in from Decatur, Miss. He said he has played in, and enjoyed, several Seminole Tribe softball and basketball events throughout the years, including the Native American Youth Organization Tournament.

"To me, it is all like a gathering of nations," King said. "It is very important to play against other Tribal people ... it is good to play against other, new Tribal members."

Prior to event play, Tribal President Richard Bowers Jr. had the honor of doing the ceremonial toss-up during the opening tip-off.

"It was great for me because this kind of tournament shows all these kids coming up that we support sports and it is nice especially in this kind of weather here in Florida," President Bowers said.

For a Complete List of the Tournament Winners, Please see NASA ♦ Page 2C



Chris C. Jenkins

The Immokalee and Big Cypress preschool students, with members of the Fitness Dept. and Preschool staff, at the "Get Fit Day" event, held Dec. 10, 2008 in the Big Cypress Gym.

Tribal Youngsters 'Get Fit' At Exercise Event

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Preschoolers from Big Cypress and Immokalee gathered in the name of fitness Dec. 10, 2008 as about 30 youngsters attended the "Get Fit Day," held at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.

The 1-3 year olds participated in a range of exercises featured at four different stations, with a bean bag and disk toss, soccer skills enhancement, ball balancing and an obstacle course.

"We want them to grow into the mindset of being active and knowing that exercise should be a part of their life," Fitness Dept. Operations Manager Denise Masak said.

She said the Fitness Dept. plans to begin a rotating schedule for other "Get Fit Day" activities on each reservation once a month throughout 2009. Masak said the goal of such a day is to help the children develop better hand-eye coordination, flexibility, conditioning, cardiovascular, social and interactive skills.

Preschool Head Teacher Vicki Cox from the 1 year old class and

Fitness Specialist Jeff Garland agreed with Masak. According to Garland, "This is something that should be done on a consistent basis."

"To get them out of their normal setting and expose them to this type of day is great," said Preschool Head Teacher Vicki Cox from the 1 year old class. "Every little bit helps."

Carlene DiCarlo said she enjoyed watching daughter, Dylane, participate in activities that promoted fitness.

"They have brought this to them early and I think it is great," DiCarlo said. "Compared to what both BC and Immokalee had, and what they have now to offer, is a big change."

According to recent statistics from fitnessyouth.umich.edu, the two biggest reasons kids participate in sports and exercise are fun and socialization. The average child also gets less than 15 minutes of vigorous activity a day; and nine out of 10 parents think their children are physically fit, when actually only one out of three are.

For more information call (954) 605-8909 or log onto fitnessyouth.umich.edu.



Chris C. Jenkins

The preschoolers crawl their way to fitness.



Chris C. Jenkins

Javian Cypress practices his balancing skills.

Community Participates in Jingle Jog Walk/Run

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — With the holiday season approaching, Tribal citizens and community members made efforts toward staying fit with the first annual Jingle Jog Walk/Run, held Dec. 19, 2008 along the Big Cypress Canal.

Approximately 20 participants got involved, with many in support of creating the December event with the recent success of the Thanksgiving holiday Turkey Trot, held in November.

"The main reason why we decided to do it is to gear up for the Rez Rally," said Community Outreach Program Coordinator and Office Manager Edna McDuffie. "With the busy holiday season, people tend to forget that it is coming up."

Turkey Trot participant and community resident Ashley Burnett participated in the event as a runner, and finished in second place.

"I like these kinds of events because it is local, it is something to do and it also keeps me in shape," Burnett said.

"It is really nice to stay in shape but it is also about bringing my kids out to keep them busy and getting family together to participate in a group activity," said Tribal citizen and event participant, Emilia Jumper.

For more information on related events, please call the Big Cypress Wellness Center at (863) 983-5798.

Photo By Chris C. Jenkins

At Right: First place Men's Division, Age 46-59 Runner, Ronnie Billie Sr., races to the finish line.



For a Complete List of the Jingle Jog Walk/Run Winners, Please see JINGLE ♦ Page 2C



Chris C. Jenkins

Robert Frank III shoots the ball during the NASA tournament, held Jan. 9-10.



Chris C. Jenkins

Participants in the Jingle Jog Walk/Run hold their certificates of completion after finishing their trek along the Big Cypress Canal.



Chris C. Jenkins

Louise Billie strolls into first place in the 60 and Older Female Walker's division.

❖ Jingle

Continued from page 1C

Results of the First Annual Jingle Jog Walk/Run

Tribal Female Walkers: Ages 18-45: 1. Marcia Cypress, 2. Almira Billie, 3. Cherelee Hall, 4. Diane Hall; Ages 46-59: 1. Beverly Alumbaugh; Ages 60 and Older: 1. Louise Billie.

Tribal Female Runners: Ages 18-45: 1. Cathy Cypress, 2. Candy Cypress.

Tribal Male Walkers: Ages 12-17: 1. Tyler Cypress; Ages 18-45: 1. Charlie Cypress; Ages 46-59: 1. Jonah Cypress.

Tribal Male Runners: Ages 36-59: 1. Ronnie Billie Sr.

Community/Employee Walkers: 1. Delwin McCowan, 2. Harley Roberts, 3. Emilia Jumper, 4. Gabriela Hayes.

Community/Employee Runners: 1. Christopher Joe, 2. Ashley Burnett, 3. Richard Henricks, 4. Stephen Hayes, 5. Nora Ramirez.

❖ NASA

Continued from page 1C

Results of the NASA Basketball Tournament

Women: 1. Native Ladies United (NLU), 2. Southern Smoke, 3. Seminole

Men: 1. War, 2. Big Town, 3. Seminole

Men, 40 and Older: 1. Cherokee Legends

Women, 40 and Older: 1. Native Ladies Legends



Chris C. Jenkins

President Richard Bowers Jr. prepares for the ceremonial toss-up to start the women's game.



Chris C. Jenkins

Native Ladies United (NLU), the Women's Division champions.



Chris C. Jenkins

Men's 40 and Older NASA champions, the Cherokee Legends, from North Carolina.

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Virginia Tech Beats Cincinnati, 20-7, UF Beats OU, 24-14, in Bowl Games

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

MIAMI — The Tribe co-sponsored two of the hottest ticket events in town Jan. 1 and 2 at the Orange Bowl in Dolphin Stadium.

A two-year deal to sponsor Orange Bowl festivities provides great exposure and public relationships for the Tribe, Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. said.

"The chance came to do this so it was a great marketing opportunity for us to be seen," Rep. Osceola said. "We [Seminoles] like football also, so it all worked out."

To kick things off on New Year's Day, the FedEx Orange Bowl game took place, with the Virginia Tech Hokies of the Atlantic Coast Conference facing the Cincinnati Bearcats of the Big East. The Hokies picked up the win, 20-7.

The major draw the following week, however, saw the number one and two teams in the country square off in the FedEx Bowl Championship Series National Cham-

ampionship Game. Both games featured a spectacular halftime show by the Seminole Hard Rock.

The championship featured Gainesville's own University of Florida Gators (12-1) taking on the University of Oklahoma Sooners (12-1) in a battle for top dog honors. The Gators picked up their second national championship win in three years, 24-14 over the Sooners.

"I like to support every Florida team, unless they play the Hurricanes or the Seminoles," Council Rep. Osceola, a University of Miami graduate, said.

The championship also boasted the last two Heisman Trophy winners at quarterback. OU's Sam Bradford claimed this season's most prestigious college award, coming in with more than 4,400 yards passing and 48 touchdowns, while UF's Tim Tebow laid claim to the hardware in 2007.

"I am surprised it took [Oklahoma] so long to get back [to the championship]," former OU All-American line-backer, and action film star, Brian Bosworth

explained prior to the game. "They have the talent to get back every year ... More than anything else the fact that they had a chip on their shoulder should have helped them."

A capacity crowd saw defense dominate from the beginning. The potent OU attack, which averaged the equivalent of a college basketball score of 60 points per game over their last five regular season games, seemed stifled by the Gators.

The Sooners would keep it close, however, although they were marred with missed opportunities throughout, including being held to only a field goal on three red zone scoring chances. The game was knotted at 7-7 at the half.

After key steps and little to show on the scoreboard for both clubs early in the second half, the game winning drive came in the fourth quarter with an 11 play, 76 yard drive consuming more than six minutes.

Tebow completed six of six passes on the scoring drive. He also finished with 110 yards rushing.

"I told my teammates throughout to just keep believing," Tebow said. "I am so proud of all of this and of my teammates. They came out and battled for four quarters with so much heart. It has all been a dream come true."

Tribal citizen and Pine Crest School seventh grader Trevor Osceola, Rep. Osceola's grandson, said he enjoyed rooting for his home-state Gators during the game.

"I grew up supporting both UM and Florida," Osceola said. "My dad liked Florida and my grandfather liked [UM]. Although UM was not there, I still went to support the Gators," he said.

He currently plays running back and linebacker on his school team.

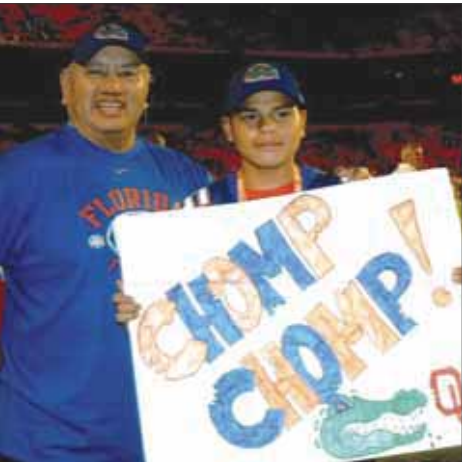
Head Coach Urban Meyer told ESPN's Chris Fowler and Kirk Herbstreit after the game that defense and offensive productivity were vital.

"Charlie Strong [Florida's defensive coordinator] and our staff did a brilliant job but more importantly our players played great," Meyer said. "Throughout the course of the year, and certainly throughout the course of the game, our defense improved. The red zone production and third downs were key."

"We were 12 of 17 on third down conversions and they were only two of four," he continued. "We were four of four in the red zone. They had a fourth down, a turnover and a missed field goal and you can't do that in the red zone, that is the money area, and our guys have been good all year with one of the top offenses in the country."



Kodak® - Courtesy of the Orange Bowl Committee
Tribal citizen Clara Billie Guerue and husband, Joe, await the start of the big game.



Kodak® - Courtesy of the Orange Bowl Committee
Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. and grandson, Trevor, at the UF vs. OU game.



Chris C. Jenkins
University of Florida Head Coach Urban Meyer at the press conference before the BCS game.

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Announcements D

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Happy Birthday to Mrs. Devin Cypress-Kimble on Jan. 15

Hey Cuz,

Here I sit, wishing you a happy birthday
I'd give anything to see your beautiful face
You are always on my mind and in my heart
I miss you so much; even your laugh
I know you're in a much better place
But somehow I still feel robbed; to tell you the truth
I believe the whole family feels the same
All I have are the memories we shared

Dev, I love you and miss you to death
I pray you continue to guide me and watch over us
all
Thank you for being my best cousin, and most of all,
my best friend
You are my true family and you are never forgotten
I love you forever and a day

Love always,
Carolee, Gary & Dar'Rick
Fooshe for Life



Happy 72nd birthday to my dad, **Joe Dan Osceola** on Dec. 20. Jason R. Trinder Sr., Jo-Lin and Joe Dan Osceola celebrated this occasion at

Sake Thai & Sushi Bar in Hollywood.

Love,
Your daughter, Jo-Lin

Panther Clan

Analyse Ah'miah Garcia
Stockton
DOB: December 17, 2003 at
9:03 a.m.
Weighing 6 pounds, 2
ounces, Measuring 20 inches
Born in Winter Park, Florida

Parents: Leslie Yesenia Garcia
Billie (Panther Clan) and
Anilliss Nehemiah Stockton
(Bird Clan)
Brothers: James Edward Billie,
17, Cypress Lesley Billie,
13, Redheart L. Billie, 7

To my Daughter Analyse,

There's so much I'm wishing her on her birthday...
I wish you golden surprises that fill you with the simple knowing that
the world is a good place
Crocus buds peeking through snow, assuring you that all things come in
their time
Cool breezes on warm days to remind you of the balance needed for a
happy life

I wish you...
The wisdom that is born from rich experience
The peace gained through acceptance of yourself and others
And the contentment of a life lived fully and well
And on your birthday, most of all, my wish is for you to see that at the
heart of every hope, every dream and every beautiful wish for you is
love

Happy 5th birthday, Baby Girl!



Happy 8th birthday **Ezekiel Roberts**.
Now you can do 8-year-old things. We
can't wait to see what you come up with
next!

Love you always and forever,
Mommy (Vanessa Aguilar), Daddy
(Pete Aguilar Jr.) and Family



I would like to wish my husband, **Pete Aguilar Jr.**, a very
happy 37th birthday. May you have many more!

I love you,
Your wife, Vanessa Aguilar

We want to wish our daughter, **Alexis Aguilar**, a very
happy 14th birthday! You are growing up too fast and it seems
like only yesterday you came to our home at 5 years old. You
have blossomed into a beautiful, smart and feisty young lady
who always makes us proud!

Love you always and forever,
Mommy (Vanessa Aguilar), Daddy (Pete Aguilar Jr.)
and family



Happy birthday to **Jack "Jacky Poo"**
Aguilar who is turning the Big 8. Here's
to another great year of watching you
grow up, though you will never stop being
our little boy!

Love you always and forever,
Mommy (Vanessa Aguilar), Daddy
(Pete Aguilar Jr.) and family



WELL WISHES

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year

To my mom, Delores Jumper, I love you
Wesley and Lisa, Isabella and Elle Garcia, Caine and
Fawn
Micco, Kowako, E-Fiki-Chate-Offitch
My baby, Miah
O'Hara Tommie and family
Gabrielle, Shay, Celeste, Marissa, Ne-Ne

Nina Garcia and boys, Thunder and T.O.
My dad, Napoleon Garcia
Edwin Garcia, Fredona Garcia and Gwyn Garcia, I
love you

Love,
Leslie Billie

CORRECTIONS

In the Dec. 26, 2008 issue of *The Seminole Tribune*, Cathy Cypress-Osceola was mistakenly
identified as Cathy Cypress in the article titled
"Osceola Sisters Shine Through Fitness."

In the Dec. 26, 2008 issue of *The Seminole Tribune*, Lenny Jim was mistakenly identified as Robert
Youngblood in a photo caption that accompanied the
article "Community Adults, Seniors Attend Brighton
Bike Races."

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TRIBAL ATHLETES



Stephanie Harjochee's children, **Lauren and Trent Osceola**, both 8th graders at the MacLay School in Tallahassee, participate in team sports. Lauren is a member of the volleyball team, which

has helped raised money for the school. Her brother, Trent, plays offensive and defensive tackle for the junior varsity football team, which went undefeated during the 2008 season.



POEMS

Them Native Kids

Native kids are drinking and on their drugs
Sometimes they try to act cool
But really what they should be doing is stay in school
Were they just reaching out for the love
Or did they just forget who they were
Just look at what this great Tribe has become
Some kids getting their GED's
Trying hard to get those A's and B's
But some Natives, sitting there smoking that weed
Thinking they're doing themselves a good deed
All the drugs
And all the lies
Well, for me, that just ain't gonna fly
Waiting here
Waiting for someone to stand up

To look you in the eye and say something
Or will we just sit and watch our Tribe die
What happened to shooting hoops
And having fun
Just spending our days in the sun
Them kids are running, shooting, and stealing
For what they want
But not what they need
What do they really need
All these messed up lives we live
Or all these options that we give
Look how bad the society is now
'Cause for our kids in the future
There ain't no way
But we gotta remain unconquered
And wait 'til this disease of stupidity and hatred is cured

— **Deila Harjo**
Panther Clan

Keep It Real

Keep it real & let our sacred circle remain tight
No need for leaks to the pale face because they can't
Take care of their own & you know this is right.
Open your eyes & look at the world if this you don't believe
Seek & destroy complete destruction is all they leave.
From the beginning of time till now & no doubt the future as well
The great manipulators with the face that's pale.
Respect our ancestors for the sacrifices they made
Three wars & much death don't let true history fade.
Against all odds how do you think our ancestors remained an unconquered Tribe?
"Unity," standing side by side.
Tribal affairs are to be kept amongst our kind
Our leaders brought us out the dirt thanks to their brilliant business minds.
Envy breeds hate & that is what has taken place
You owe our leaders an apology for going to the pale face.
What did you get a pat on the back for your fifteen minutes of shame?

Or a handshake & an uncle tomahawk you did the right thing?
Since 1492 they have done no good in this land
We been fighting terrorism ever since but we continue to rise out the sand.
For our sacred circle to continue getting stronger we must remain unified
Win, lose or draw we are the Unconquered standing side by side.
However a Tribal member lives their life that's their choice to make
Pale face is not the problem solver of destiny or fate.
Though pale face likes to think they are that's not the case
Divide & conquer is all they want to take place.
Did you get educated to become a fool?
Wipe the cobweb from your ears & from your eyes pull the wool.
We are the only Unconquered in this land
Show respect for the Seminole Tribe & keep pale face out Tribal affairs understand.
Keep it real if you are a True Seminole
Don't sell stories about the Tribe, sell pale face your soul.

— **Ike T. Harjo**
Panther Clan

Jealous Ones Will Envy

Jealous ones will envy for what you have achieved.
Little homies stay real & stand your ground, they'll take heed.
There are haters all around the world, that will not end,
Just continue writing those lyrics with that paper & pen.
Lil' homies I want you to know I am proud of what you've done,
Making it the right way without a pistol grip shotgun.
I always like to see my own kind doing well,
Hanging out with family & friends staying free of this cell.
To all my people keep that unity tight,
Don't give into hate like the black & white.
Always be proud you're different & hold your head high.
Ya tah thi he ho guyo; we are, that's why.
I apologized once & I will again Carridine,

Just to show you how remorseful I am for being cruel & mean.
I apologize & thank you at the same time,
Carridine, I appreciate what you did for me, that comes from this heart of mine.
Keep ya head up lil homie & always stay real,
As Biggie once, said something 2 die 4,
As Pac once said, I hope your wife know she gotta place out Tribal affairs understand.
You come a long way Eli continue to hold it down,
Lil' homie leave those streets to those clowns.
Lil' homie be an inspiration to the young ones in the rez hood,
Plant that seed in their minds & water it "Ain't nothing in the streets good."
Carridine & Eli keep doing what you do,
Once again your big homie Ike is proud of you.
"Life" is crazy ain't it? One day I'm there with you
The next I'm gone, 10, 20, "Life" goes on.

— **Ike T. Harjo**
Panther Clan

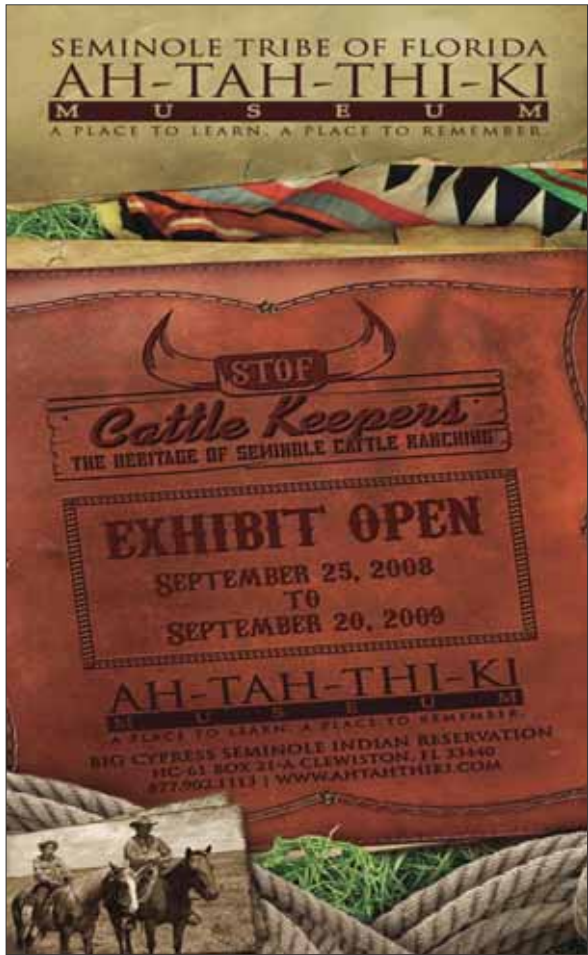
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Celebrating Christmas



Marisol Gonzalez

The Hollywood Preschool 3-year-old class perform as reindeer during their rendition of the song, "Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

Preschoolers Perform in Annual Christmas Production

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Hollywood preschoolers entertained their family members, friends, teachers and other invited guests during their Very Merry Christmas production, held in the Headquarters Auditorium Dec. 16.

The attendees were treated to a theatrical performance of songs and poems in both English and Mikasuki.

Language Coordinator Jo Motlow North emceed the event and said that it

was the first year that all the preschoolers participated. Each class, from the infants to the 4-year-olds, played a part in the Christmas spectacle.

"These are our future actors and actresses," North stated.

The infants, 1- and 2-year-old classes came out first with jingling bells which went along with their rendition of the "Jingle Bells" song. Following the little ones, the 3-year-olds dressed as reindeer and sang along with "Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

The 4-year-olds recited "The Christmas We Like" poem and then threw snowflakes in the air while singing "Winter Wonderland."

At the end of the show, all the 3- and 4-year-old students gathered on stage to sing songs in Mikasuki, as well as their grand finale song, "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

The community then enjoyed lunch and reconvened into the auditorium when Santa Claus arrived to distribute gifts to all the boys and girls.

Tribal Citizens Host Traditional Christmas Celebrations

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

Tables laden with food, holiday decorations, entertainment, raffles and gift distributions have become symbolic of the numerous parties that take place throughout the month of December in celebration of the Christmas holidays in Seminole Country.

Family reunions, renewal of old friendships, companionship with neighbors and memorializing elders, highlight these holiday gatherings.

"Family ties and cultural backgrounds build strong bridges from one generation to another," said President Richard Bowers Jr. "During the holiday season we feel a desire to bond with our family and friends, rekindling memories of the past and examining the path for our children's future."

Following the three Seminole Wars, social activities for Native Americans in Florida dwindled. Forced to reside in camps in remote areas scattered throughout the wilderness, they went for long periods of time without interaction with each

the legacy as memorials. The late Frances Willie learned from her parents, Josie and Louise Billie, to open her heart and her home to those in need.

"As her descendants, we are keeping her spirit alive and ensuring close family ties as we organize this event in her memory each year," said her granddaughter, Francine Osceola.

Nina Frias, great-granddaughter of Tommie Jumper, eulogized the woman who she called the strength and core of her family.

"No one was a stranger in her



Judy Weeks

Robert "Busch" Cypress holds up his raffle ticket in anticipation of the drawing.

Seniors Celebrate at Christmas Luncheon

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Hollywood seniors held their annual Christmas luncheon at the Senior Center on Dec. 17.

The band Malikku performed for the seniors and their guests, before door prizes and Bingo began. Malikku played traditional holiday music along with some original pieces they composed of contemporary music from South America.

The preschool children visited and sang "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" in Mikasuki and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" in English.

The seniors got into the giving spirit during their luncheon, which included door prizes that the seniors themselves donated for their guests in attendance to receive. After raffles and door prizes, they enjoyed a few games of Bingo.

Santa Claus also made a special appearance and gave each senior a special gift.

Elder Affairs Site Manager Patricia Ferreira thanked everyone for participating before wishing them a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Marisol Gonzalez

(L-R) Elsie Bowers and Dorothy Tommie try their hand at a game of Bingo.

Tribal Non-Residents Attend Christmas Party

BY LORI FISHER
Freelance Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Tribe of Florida's non-reservation residents attended their annual Christmas party on Dec. 21, 2008 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.



Photographer Bob Kippenberger was on-hand taking portraits of those in attendance with the beautifully decorated Hard Rock ballroom as his backdrop.

The festive lights and ornaments set the scene as the children in attendance eagerly awaited the arrival of the North Pole's most famous resident. Upon his arrival, Santa Claus, along with his elves, Sadi Santos and Stephanie Torres, distributed gifts to those in attendance at the holiday celebration.

Matt Kramer and his Big Band took center stage for a musical performance and dedicated a Frank Sinatra song to non-resident and Chief Operations Officer Elrod Bowers. Kramer, formerly of the band Saigon Kick, and his band also played timeless classics including John Lennon's song, "Imagine."



Lori Fisher

Sofia Acuna, 4, and sister, Isabel, 8, with Santa.



Judy Weeks

Delores Jumper circulates at her party, handing out pots and pans as gifts.

other. For many Tribal elders, the Green Corn Dance, or an occasional journey to the nearest trading post or town, encompassed their social events.

When a fellow clansman, hunting party or travelers visited a camp, it was a memorable experience and every effort was made to welcome their guests. No matter how poor or limited their resources, the host and hostesses willingly shared their hospitality and food.

With the arrival of Christianity, as well as the establishment of larger camps and newly-formed churches, festive holiday celebrations have become a tradition during the Christmas holidays. Months now go into planning these events and organizing resources. Organizers plan ahead and solicit donations, as well as hold car washes, garage sales, food concessions and 50/50 raffles to raise the funds to offset the enormous expenses.

Many of the elders who established these festivities have now passed and their descendants carry on

home," Fraiss said. "She shared whatever she had with those who were less fortunate. She taught us life's most important lesson — respect others."

Grandpa Henry Jumper spent a lifetime helping his friends and neighbors in need. Today, his countless descendants consider it a privilege to acknowledge his sacrifices that insured their survival.

People like Sue Jane Bert, Louise Billie, Nancy Billie and Michaelene Billie Cypress have been opening their homes to their annual guests for many, many years. They spend months in preparation and when the day finally arrives, they are up before dawn. Bending over their cooking fires, they work with family members to prepare enough food for more than 400 guests.

With her face bright red from the fire, Nancy Billie, recalled why hosting these types of events have so much meaning for her.

"It's a lot of work, but I look forward to it each year," Billie said. "I love to hear the children shout with joy over their gifts and see the happy faces of the lucky raffle winners."



Judy Weeks

Nancy Billie started cooking in the early morning hours in order to feed her more than 400 guests.

Dakota Entry, 4, has his photo taken with Santa Claus at the Tribal Non-Resident party.



Julian Chirino, 4, receives a gift from Chairman Mitchell Cypress during the toy distribution at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital on Dec. 12, 2008.

Chairman's Toy Drive Benefits Charities

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD

Chairman Mitchell Cypress held his sixth annual Toy Drive at the corner of Stirling Road and St. Rd. 7, adjacent to the Hollywood Classic Casino, on Dec. 10, 2008.

The toys received were distributed at local organizations, including Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital on Dec. 12, Holtz Children's Hospital of Miami and the Sheridan House, a center that assists single mothers in facilitating the basic needs of their children.

Local radio stations joined forces with the Seminole Tribe of Florida by announcing the Toy Drive to the public. Each station then decorated one of seven trees with prizes they raffled off towards the end of the evening. The Hard Rock donated tickets to upcoming concerts as raffle prizes as well.

During the event, volunteers collected toy donations and unwrapped gifts which were distributed to the less fortunate. In addition, those in attendance enjoyed a Winter Wonderland theme with 20 tons of snow to play in.

Chairman Cypress said he hosts the Toy Drive every year because of the joy it

brings to a child's face when he or she receives a toy for Christmas.

"It makes me really happy to see them smile," he stated.

The Chairman shared memories of his childhood, recalling a time when he was unable to participate in gift exchanges, and vowed to try to make a difference in children's lives during the holidays.

From newborn to young adolescent, each child at the Dec. 12 toy distribution at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, located in Hollywood, received a toy and had a chance to meet Chairman Cypress.

The Chairman's Executive Assistant S.R. Tommie said throughout the years, the Toy Drive has benefitted more and more children. She said she hopes the Tribe can collect more donations for needy children in the years to come.

"The look on their face is all worthwhile," Tommie said.

According to Chairman Cypress, the annual Toy Drive would not be possible without the continued support of all Tribal citizens, employees and the South Florida community members, who assist with donations, participation and their continued support of this annual holiday event.



Billy Marks organizes toys donated from South Florida community members.

Tribal Reps. Host Employee Holiday Party

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. and Non-Resident Liaison Holly Tiger-Bowers hosted the annual Hollywood Headquarters Employee Christmas celebration in the auditorium lobby on Dec. 18, 2008.

Rep. Osceola and Liaison Tiger-Bowers wished all the attendees a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thanked them for all their hard work throughout the year.

"We are only as strong as our weakest link, and we are all strong," Rep. Osceola told those in attendance.

Tiger-Bowers expressed her gratitude to the employees and said that she appreciates all the staff.

As employees and co-workers mingled and caught up with one another, a DJ set up under the chieftee and played music for them to enjoy. Each guest received a raffle ticket for door prizes raffled at the event.

Santa Claus arrived via fire truck for the celebration, accompanied by Noah Connell and Jason Allis, two of the three Emergency Services Dept. employees who helped on the Mission Haiti trip in October 2008. During their four-day stay in Haiti,



Non-Resident Liaison Holly Tiger-Bowers and Santa Claus pull raffle tickets for the employee prizes.

Connell, Allis and Benjamin Driscoll provided medical assistance to more than 800 people after Hurricane Gustav devastated the island nation on Aug. 26, 2008.

Representatives from the Gloria Dei School, who organized the first Mission Haiti tips, plan to return to Haiti to provide additional philanthropic assistance on Jan. 26.

Assistant Director of Human Resources Shelia Elliot and her staff helped coordinate this year's Employee Christmas celebration festivities.

President Hosts Christmas Celebration

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — President Richard Bowers Jr. hosted a community Christmas celebration for Tribal citizens and employees at the Hollywood gym on Dec. 29, 2008.

President Bowers said although he had to reschedule the party which was supposed to take place at an earlier date,

he was glad to see that many people could make it. Betty Osceola of the Hollywood reservation said a prayer for the food and shared many blessings for those in attendance.

"I thank Richard for bringing us all together," she said.

The guests shared in conversation with friends, family and co-workers and listened to music played by the Dale Powers Band. The Dale Powers Band also regularly plays at the

Council Oak inside the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

Event organizers handed out raffle tickets to each Tribal citizen for dozens of door prizes distributed throughout the afternoon. The grand prize was a new four-wheel ATV, which Connie Gowen took home. Gowen received a big hug from President Bowers, and then posed on her ATV for all to see.



President Richard Bowers Jr. with Connie Gowen, the grand prize winner of an ATV.

Hollywood Tribal Community Celebrates Christmas with Carnival, Holiday Party

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Hollywood gym was transformed into Santa's backyard for the annual Hollywood Community Christmas Party on Dec. 20, 2008. With artificial snow and Christmas ornaments galore, Tribal citizens basked in the holiday spirit.

Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola spoke to the crowd and welcomed everyone to the annual event.

Rep. Osceola shared memories of past leaders and said that he remembers when the Tribe was small and how it's grown bigger and bigger. He emphasized that everyone should treat each day as if it was Christmas day, and for there to be no animosity towards others.

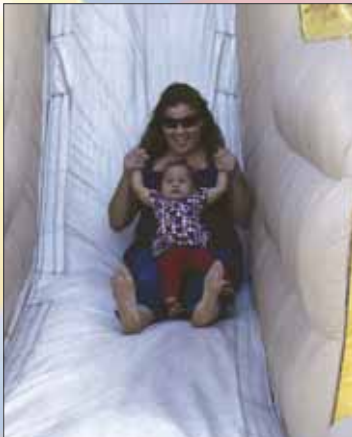
"If we treat everyday like Christmas day, there would be peace on Earth," Rep. Osceola stated.

Community members dined on food catered by Renegade BBQ. They also participated in card tricks performed by a magician.

A stage was set up for multiple performances by Paul "Cowbone" Buster and the First Seminole Baptist Choir, an Elvis impersonator and singer Spencer Battiest.

Santa Claus was then introduced after Battiest performed his rendition of the holiday song, "Santa Claus is Coming to Town."

Santa arrived on the stage and began calling out names for the attendees to receive their Christmas gift, with stations set up around the



Betsy Bowers holds Maya Bowers as they come down the slide.

gym for the various age groups. From infant to senior, all Tribal citizens received their Christmas gift.

Mrs. Claus was also on hand and visited with all the children as well.

The ball field was also converted into a carnival for all the children to enjoy themselves. Rides, games and carnival foods were only part of what was in store for the community members.



Members of the First Seminole Baptist Church Choir sing at the party, held Dec. 20, 2008 in the gym.

IL-RI EMS Division Chief Brian Brown speaks to the crowd about the efforts of Mission Haiti, and recognizes Jason Allis and Noah Connell, two of the three Tribal employees who contributed. The third, Benjamin Driscoll, is not pictured.



Chris C. Jenkins

(L-R) Friends Mark Kirkland and Tyrus Billie battle in the joust during the carnival.

BC Council Hosts Christmas Carnival

Ronnie Milsap Performs at Annual Big Cypress Event

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Big Cypress Tribal Council Office and the Big Cypress community showed off their holiday spirits in a big way at the annual Council Christmas Celebration, held Dec. 18, 2008 at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena.

The gathering was open to Tribal citizens in Big Cypress, and members of the local community.

"It is a way to get everyone together and to have a good time because this is a growing community and it is getting a lot larger," Big Cypress Board Rep. Cicero Osceola said. "We want to show our appreciation for them and give back."

Seven-time Grammy Award, and four-time Academy of Country Music Award winner, Ronnie Milsap entertained those in attendance by performing some of his greatest hits. The country music superstar and legend has sold more than 25 million records

with 40 No. 1 hits in his illustrious career.

The event also came complete with an appearance from Santa, gifts for the youth, a raffle and a carnival with more than 10 rides. The youngsters also enjoyed playing in two bounce houses, challenging each other in a jousting ring, and flying high on the bungee ride. The fun-filled day has been something many of the youth on and off the reservation look forward to each year.

"It has been really fun every year because of all the rides," Tyrus Billie said.

He said the joust and racing rides are his favorites.

"I like being with my friends, especially Tyrus, because we both like some of the same things," friend Mark Kirkland explained.

Clewiston resident Amparo Suarez said she enjoys com-

ing each year because of the nice community atmosphere.

"Everyone gets along in BC and this is a lot of fun," Suarez said. "You are able to converse, relax and have a good time."



Chris C. Jenkins

Ayze Henry with Santa Claus at the party.



Gordon Oliver Wareham

Country Musician Ronnie Milsap entertains the crowds at the annual BC Council Christmas Celebration.

Preschoolers Commemorate Christmas, Entertain Family During Annual Program

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — In the spirit of the holiday season, community parents, relatives and invited guests attended the annual Preschool Christmas Program, held at the Preschool on Dec. 17, 2008.

The little ones exercised their singing skills and opened presents in a short gathering complete with a visit from Jolly Old Saint Nick.

"It was a nice program," Tribal citizen and parent Alice Billie said. "I enjoyed the singing portion the most."

Tribal Board Assistant Lenny Jim made a big splash playing the role of Santa while also enjoying the day with son, Leighton. His Santa, however, took on a different look from the traditional.

"I always like to try to do different types of stuff and I want to give Santa a little twist," Jim explained.



Chris C. Jenkins

Lazzlow Billie tears open his race car Christmas gift.



Chris C. Jenkins

The preschoolers and their teachers sing Christmas carols.



Chris C. Jenkins

Claudia Doctor receives her gift from Santa Claus at the seniors' annual gift exchange, held Dec. 19, 2008.

Seniors Get in Holiday Spirit at Gift Exchange

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Tribal seniors of the community got into the holiday spirit Dec. 19, 2008 with their annual Christmas gift exchange, held at the Big Cypress Senior Center.

"I have fun doing these kinds of things," Tribal senior Claudia Doctor said. "I turned 55 a few years ago so I like coming to this place."

The afternoon came complete with holiday musical selections from Tribal citizen Jonah Cypress, Bingo games and a visit from Santa Claus.

"They say that they love seeing Santa every year," Elder Services Site Manager Cecilia

Solano said. "It helps brighten up their day and they actually expect it."

Herman L. Osceola Recreation Center Manager Stan Frischman played the role of Santa after being asked at the last minute. He said although the "whole thing was unexpected ... I was glad to do it."

"I have done it before with the children, before but never with the seniors," Frischman said. "They seemed to get into the spirit though and enjoyed it."

The day also celebrated and acknowledged the monthly birthdays. December births included: Theodore Cypress, Joe B. Osceola, Teresa Jumper, Mary J. Robbins, Alice Tigertail and Louise Tigertail.



Chris C. Jenkins

Santa gives Frances Teale her Christmas gift.

Big Cypress Tribal Employee Christmas Photo



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal employees and staff inside the Big Cypress Family Investment Center for the annual Christmas group photo on Dec. 11, 2008.

Ahfachkee School Students Perform in Theatrical Christmas Program

Students Entertain Family, Friends with Musical, Acting Abilities

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The students of the Ahfachkee School entertained their families and community members on the evening of Dec. 16, 2008, with a Christmas Program.

For the performance of the musical, the Herman L. Osceola Gym was converted into a country western theme. Split rail fences, snow-laden Christmas trees, stars twinkling in the rafters and western memorabilia transported the audience to the imaginary town of Snowy Gulch.

School Principal Walt Swan made the welcoming address and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year on behalf of the students and staff of the Ahfachkee School. Pastor Bruce Pratt of the Big Cypress First Baptist Church led with the invocation and then introduced Master of Ceremonies Keeno King.

"The citizens of Snowy Gulch are faced this evening with an old-time melodrama," said King. "Watch as they handle their predicament and attempt to save the spirit of Christmas."

Singing "Christmas at the OK Corral," the pre-kindergarten through sixth graders, gave the opening performance. A highlight of their medley took place when the younger children stepped forward to

impersonate farm animals. As the story unfolded, the villain Bubble Gum Bart, played by Edward Aguilar Jr., rode into town and refused to allow the citizens to celebrate Christmas. The Mayor of Snowy Gulch, played by Alphonso Alvarado Jr., attempted to reason with him, but to no avail.

The fifth and sixth graders took turns narrating the plot of the story while individual grades performed songs, complete with costume changes and props.

At long last, the hero Candy Cane Kid, played by A.J. Tigertail, challenged Bart and determined the cause of his nasty behavior. In the end, the town's members convert the villain, filling him with the Christmas spirit.

Both the seventh and eighth grades had written, directed, produced and played, both following a similar good versus evil plot, in two Christmas videos filmed at various locations throughout the reservation. Tribal community and family members watched the films on the wall of the gym.

Student Council President Albert Cypress gave a short address to the assembly on behalf of the student body and Big Cypress Board Rep. Cicero Osceola acknowledged the students and staff for their hard work in preparation for the extraordinary presentation.



The Ahfachkee student chorus performs "Christmas in the West" for the audience during the Christmas Program on Dec. 16, 2008.



The little barnyard animals dressed as pigs and cows, (L-R) Lauren Doctor, Timothy Tigertail and Sontino Billie, enthusiastically play their roles.



Thomlynn Billie waves ribbons of bubble gum to dissuade the evil efforts of Bubble Gum Bart, played by Edward Aguilar Jr.



Playing the mayor of Snowy Gulch, Alphonso Alvarado Jr., attempts to thwart the evil of the villain, Bubble Gum Bart.

Seniors Share In Holiday Spirit at Party

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Big Cypress seniors attended their annual Christmas party on Dec. 16, 2008 at the Senior Center. Guests from Hollywood and Immokalee joined in the festivities.

Paul "Cowbone" Buster and Tony Osceola provided live entertainment by playing their guitars and singing Christmas carols, hymns and country western favorites. Trading places, Jonah Cypress picked up his guitar and accompanied Marie Phillips with traditional hymns.

A reverent hush fell over the Senior Center when Phillips sang "Oh, Holy Night," and more than one person shed a tear.

Sadie Billie came forward and said: "I am 76 years old and I thank God for every day that I wake up. I learned at an early age to put my trust in God and lay my problems in his hands. He has always carried my load and shown me the way. God is the Creator of all things."

In conclusion, she sang her mother's favorite traditional Indian hymn in Creek. Almost immediately, her appreciative audience joined the chorus and then they sang two more songs together.

Tribal elder Frank Billie made one of his rare public appearances despite his advanced years. As retired pastor of the Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church, and one of the original signers of the Tribal



Frank Billie spends time with fellow BC community members at the party, held Dec. 16, 2008 at the Senior Center

Constitution, Billie looks forward to the Christmas season and spending time with his family and multitude of friends.

Pastor Bruce Pratt spoke about the origin of Christmas and offered the blessing. Big Cypress Board Rep. Cicero Osceola made a brief holiday presentation prior to the serving of the catered lunch.

Colorfully-wrapped presents surrounded the Christmas tree before each one of the seniors received their gifts. Intermittently, event organizers drew raffle tickets for additional gifts including ceramics, a patchwork skirt, apron and mitt set, Christmas wreaths and a man's watch with the Tribal logo.

The seniors also played four games of Bingo with the Tigertail ladies, Alice and Mary, hitting a hot streak. Other winners were: Crazy L: Alice Tigertail; Double Postage Stamp: Louise Osceola; Regular Bingo: Mary Tigertail; Full Card Cover All with 4 Wild Numbers: Mary Tigertail.



Esther Buster holds up the patchwork skirt she won in the gift raffle.



The judges selected Alice Billie's family Christmas card for first place in the community.

Annual Christmas Card Contest Draws Numerous Competitors in BC

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Twenty-five giant Christmas cards decorated the landscape of the Big Cypress Reservation heralding the spirit and message of the Christmas holidays.

The Recreation Dept. sponsored the annual contest under the supervision of Recreation Manager Stan Frischman. The judging took place on the afternoon of Dec. 16, 2008, with separate judging for family residences and Tribal departments.

Each entrant could receive a score ranging from 1-100. Frischman guided the panel of three impartial judges through the maze of cards, while each judge determined their own score. The difficult task took more than an hour to complete.

After a tough decision the winners were announced. Department: 1. Fitness, 2. Recreation, 3. Preschool; Families: 1. Alice Billie and family, 2. Lorraine Billie and family, 3. Shani Billie and family.

Long hours went into establishing individ-

ual themes, designing and fabricating the works of art. A great deal of ingenuity and artistic talent went into the preparation of the projects, and each entry stood on its own merits. There was no duplication and a wide variety of ideas, making the judging process very difficult.

Cards with religious, spiritual and cultural themes, interspersed with traditional Christmas poems and stories, lined the reservation. Classic designs of fireplaces with stockings, Christmas trees and presents stood their own against special lighting effects and musical cards.

Among the more creative entries, the Tribal Council's entry featured a candy house and pathway made from real cookies, simulated marshmallow roof, lollipop flowers and a snowman with a real scarf and top hat. The Ahfachkee School art classes created a lifelike Christmas tree from hundreds of green painted hand prints and wrapped presents from each grade level.

The Alice Billie family surrounded their tree with little Native American characters and topped it with a Seminole doll. The Marilyn Jumper family placed clan symbols around a family, 2. Lorraine Billie and family, 3. Shani Billie and family. The Mary Bear family did a eulogy to a loved one with "There is an Angel on Top of My Tree."



The Fitness Dept. took first place amongst the Tribal department entries in the Christmas card contest.

Seniors, Community, Preschoolers, President Celebrate Christmas at Numerous Events

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Brighton Community celebrated the holidays with family and friends at their many holiday gatherings. There was singing, eating and even a couple visits from Santa Claus.

President's Christmas

President Richard Bowers Jr. stopped by Brighton Dec. 17, 2008 to share in the holiday spirit by throwing a Christmas celebration for the Brighton community at the gym.

He reminded the community of how blessed the Tribe really is during this difficult time for our country.

"We are enjoying ourselves and that is something to be said for our Tribe," President Bowers said. "God has blessed us."

Family and friends captured the moment by having pictures professionally taken with a Seminole Tribe backdrop.

Christmas music played in the background as the Tribal community talked, laughed and ate to be merry.

Senior Christmas

It was a full house at the Senior Center on Dec. 18, 2008 as Tribal seniors gathered for their Christmas party.



Rachel Buxton

Grandma Agnes Bert gets a special visit from granddaughter, Tammy Martinez, at the seniors' Christmas celebration on Dec. 18, 2008.

Students from Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School took the stage to sing carols to the crowd. Boys and girls bounced up and down with huge smiles on their faces as they sang "Jingle Bells." The students also sang their rendition of songs in their native Creek language.

Howard Mico spoke a few words about the holiday and the true meaning behind Christmas before he said the blessing for the meal, catered by Renegade Barbeque.

Throughout the night, children had their picture taken with Santa who came for a visit. They could also have their faces painted, with little girls donning butterflies and boys transforming into Spiderman.

The community ended the night and celebration with door prizes, along with a special ATV donated to the community by Chairman Cypress.

Preschool Christmas

The preschoolers had a very special visitor Dec. 23, 2008 at their Christmas celebration. Santa rode up in a fire engine at the preschool to greet the children.

The youngsters took turns visiting with Santa as he picked them up and passed out presents. After Santa emptied his bag, parents and children shared a holiday lunch together.

The Seminole Fire Dept. was on hand to help out with the festivities.



Rachel Buxton

The Charter School students sing with holiday spirit.

The preschool 4-year-old class serenaded the seniors with holiday classics including "Jingle Bells" and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." After singing, the children went around shaking hands and giving hugs, wishing the seniors a very merry Christmas and presenting them with Popsicle-stick ornaments decorated with glitter.

Cheers and claps could be heard as the seniors played games for holiday door prizes.

Not forgetting about traditions, the seniors enjoyed sojoke before their feast. During their meal they visited with friends and caught up with some they hadn't seen in awhile.

Community Christmas

Tribal citizens came together Dec. 18, 2008 to celebrate Christmas as a community at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena.

Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith welcomed the community and brought Chairman Mitchell Cypress to the stage. Chairman Cypress was presented with a new bolo tie as a token of appreciation from the Brighton community.

Wonder Johns led the First Indian Baptist Church in the singing of hymns including "Go Tell it on the Mountain" and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing." Johns also read a passage about the story of Christmas.



Rachel Buxton

Gage Riddle gets ready to open his Christmas gift.



Valerie Marone

(L-R) Delaney Osceola, Korvette Billie, Tyra Baker, Odessa King and Cheyenne Fish at Disney World.

Youngsters Celebrate Holidays at Disney

BY VALERIE MARONE
Family Services Dept.

KISSIMMEE, Fla. — Youth from Brighton's S.W.A.M.P. Program, which stands for, "Seminoles Without Addictions Make Progress," received an early holiday treat on Dec. 12 when they attended Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Party at Disney's Magic Kingdom.

The first stop on the agenda included a parade of the Disney characters in holiday attire singing and dancing to welcome in the 2008 holiday season, as snow flakes gently fell on the theme park's Main Street.

It was a cold Florida evening, but the youngsters said the complimentary hot chocolate and warm cookies served throughout the park really hit the spot.

After the parade, everyone rode the rides, went to the shops and shopped for souvenirs. The evening ended with the Holiday Wishes — Celebrate the Spirit of the Season fireworks spectacular and Tinker Bell flying from the ice-covered Cinderella Castle across the night sky.



Valerie Marone

(L-R) Chloe Chalfant and Sunni Bearden display Chloe's new Minnie Mouse souvenir.



Valerie Marone

(L-R) Korvette Billie, Odessa King, Tyra Baker, Cheyenne Fish and Delaney Osceola get ready to laugh at the Monster's Inc. Laugh Floor.



Valerie Marone

Odessa King and Tyra Baker at Stitch's Great Escape.

Youth Portray Nativity Story in Theatrical Production

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Without its own church, the Immokalee community has struggled to survive for years as a mission served by members of the Christian communities in Big Cypress and Brighton. During the past few months, the Immokalee First Baptist Indian Church has finally become a reality.

In addition to breaking ground for a new sanctuary, the church members have instituted a youth program under the direction of Geraldine Osceola. Starting from the ground up is not an easy task, but she has definitely proven equal to the challenge.

Kicking off the new program, Osceola undertook a rather difficult project in the form of a Nativity Play for the Christmas holidays. Osceola canvassed the children one by one as she solicited their help and quickly aroused their interest. By the first week in November, she had already met with a group of approximately 25 youngsters.

The children then continued to meet at least twice and sometimes three afternoons a week, as they worked out the logistics for their play and practiced for their theatrical production. By the first dress rehearsal, the performers grew overwhelmed with enthusiasm.

Their debut performance took place at the weekly meeting of the church membership on the evening of Dec. 11, 2008, to rave reviews.

Nearly the entire Immokalee Community turned out for their presentation at the annual Christmas party on Dec. 19, where they made a curtain call following the finale. The enthusiasm of the young actors carried them to a final performance before their peers at the Recreation Dept. Christmas Party on Dec. 23, 2008.

As narrator, Randee Osceola spoke in a clear, confident voice, as she transported the audience to the City of Bethlehem more than 2,000 years ago. During her narration, Osceola told the Bible story of the birth of Jesus, marking the origins of Christianity.

In the opening scene, Joseph, played by Nehemiah Roberts, brings his pregnant wife, Mary, played by Chelsey Ford, to Bethlehem where she gives birth to the Christ Child in a palmetto-thatched stable. Elegantly attired Wise Men, played by Jon Jimmie, Dennis Gonzales and Troy Cantu, came to witness the miracle as a chorus of angels sang traditional Christmas hymns.

The angels, adorned in flowing white gowns with gossamer wings and sparkling halos were played by Gherri Osceola, Alexis Jimmie, Eliza Mora, Randean Osceola, Jordan Osceola, Destinee Jimmie, Priscilla Alvarado, Alycia Mora, Aaliyah Mora, Jillian Rodriguez, Shyanna Escobar, Geneva Garcia and Marina Garcia.

Following the pageant, the angels traded in their halos for antlers and puffy red noses and sang a series of Christmas songs, beginning with "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Dennis Gonzales Jr., Chelsey Ford, Nehemiah Roberts and Troy Cantu perform their parts in the Nativity story.

Immokalee Reservation Commemorates Christmas

Various Parties, Card Contest Round Out Celebrations

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Tribal citizens in Immokalee spent the full month of December 2008, planning, preparing and attending a multitude of Christmas holiday celebrations. They look forward each year to the opportunity to strengthen family ties and renew old relationships, while sharing the joys of the holiday season with each other.

During these celebrations, attendees remember loved ones, and bring old memories to life, as they create new memories as well. This also gives the older generations a chance to pass on cultural traditions to the next generation.

Senior Christmas Party

The Immokalee Senior Center hosted the annual Seniors Christmas Party on Dec. 10, 2008. Guests entered the room filled with the sounds of Christmas carols and old time favorites being sung by Linda Beletso and Joe Billie. Taking advantage of the karaoke machine, partygoers took turns joining in the entertainment.

Happy competitors yearning to try their luck with the Bingo cards quickly filled the tables. Winners were: Double Bingo: Alice Billie; Double Postage Stamp: Nellie Bain; Crazy Letter "L": Linda Frank; Small Picture Frame: Mary Tigertall; Full Card: Lucille Jumper.

While playing their games, raffle tickets were frequently drawn and the lucky winners received an opportunity to select one of the gaily wrapped presents lining the back of the room.

A special guest in a red suit and long white beard livened up the party with a "Ho-Ho-Ho" and then set up his shop beside the Christmas tree. As the gift numbers were drawn, the recipients paid a visit to Santa and then collected their presents.

The room filled with laughter upon the arrival of Big Cypress Council Rep. David Cypress. Moving from table to table, he spread cheer with his witty remarks and playful banter. The room roared with laughter when he crawled up on Santa's lap and gave him a big hug.

Everyone received a basket of mixed fruits and holiday treats from Chairman Mitchell Cypress.

Preschoolers Receive A Visit From Santa

The preschool students played host and hostess to their families at a Christmas party on Dec. 15, 2008 at the Senior Center. After weeks of rehearsal,



The super grand prize four-wheeler went to lucky winner Susan Davis.

the time finally arrived to perform their holiday program.

The youngsters eagerly lined up beside the Christmas tree, and holding sun beams around their faces, sang "You Are My Sunshine" as their opening number. A quick costume change to antlers and red noses transformed the chorus for their rendition of "Rudolph, The Red Nosed Reindeer."

Whether shaking their bells or donning halos as angels, enthusiasm from each performer filled the room, as they sang one Christmas carol after another. The teachers did a fabulous job and the youngsters didn't want to leave the stage even after they finished their performances.

Attendees dined on a catered luncheon of authentic Mexican food prior to the arrival of an honored guest from the North Pole. The jolly old fellow received a mixed reaction from his young audience, some rushed to climb on his lap while others maintained their distance, and a few stayed away entirely.

As Santa Claus called their names, each of the children came forward to receive a stack of presents from beneath the tree. They opened their presents before individual families had their portraits taken with Santa Claus.

Employee Christmas Party

The employee Secret Santa Gift Exchange took place on Dec. 18, 2008 in the Immokalee Gym, following the annual Holiday Pot Luck Luncheon.

Immokalee's Human Resource Rep. Angella Dixon set the mood when she sang "Oh, Holy Night" a capella. Her beautiful voice filled the gym with the true spirit of the Christmas holidays. Then the preschoolers entertained the group with their rendition of "Jingle Bells."

Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar showed her appreciation to the employees by giving everyone a large fruit filled basket with a candy apple and jar of trail mix.

With more than 60 people in attendance, the room was filled with laughter as the employees played the Gift Game. Each individual received three numbered tickets. Large and small presents were piled high on a table and as the numbers were drawn, the winners came forward and selected a package.

Eventually, everyone held a gift, but now the game took a twist. When each number was called, that person had the option of exchanging their package and claiming one from another person. Some of the wrapped presents moved around the room a dozen times, as its content was anticipated. Bringing the players forward by table, the packages were opened in front of the audience. Super prizes were interspersed with a multitude of gag gifts.

The gift exchange was followed by a grand prize drawing, in which the winners were: Play Station 3: Lois Jenkins; \$500 Gift Card: Kenny Joe Davis; Plasma TV: Maria Billie.

Immokalee Community Christmas Party

The annual Christmas Party for the Immokalee Community took place on the evening of Dec. 19, 2008, in a large tent in the parking



A chorus of angels entertain the Immokalee Community with "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" following a performance of the Nativity Play.



Maria Billie (L) helps Agnes Cypress carry her Christmas gifts.

lot of the Administration Building. Carnival rides and a concession stand provided an afternoon of entertainment with the real party getting underway at 6 p.m.

Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar made opening remarks to a tent filled to capacity with holiday revelers.

"Despite economic woes around the world, it has been a wonderful year for the Seminole Tribe," Liaison Aguilar said. "We have expanded our sources of income, are building and remodeling homes throughout the reservation, and ground was broken for the long awaited church just a few days ago."

"Our ancestors fought and worked hard to insure our future in Florida and we should remember them in our prayers as we give thanks during the holiday season. They planted the seed and now it is our job to make sure that it grows," concluded Aguilar.

The youth group from the Immokalee First Baptist Indian Church gave an extraordinary presentation of the Nativity, which told the true origin and meaning of Christmas. Following the play, the chorus of angels performed a series of Christmas carols and then wished everyone "Peace on Earth and Good Will to All Men."

Prior to the annual gift distribution, event organizers divided the gifts into age- and gender-appropriate categories. Calling the children forward one at a time, they had an opportunity to select one present each. Raffle tickets were drawn for the grand prizes which included bicycles, iPods®, televisions and a Nintendo Wii®.

Next, the adult raffle took place, and the lucky ticket holders had the opportunity to select their gift from the mountain of possibilities. Holding onto their tickets, all of the adults had an opportunity to win one of the spectacular grand prizes including a flat screen TV, living room full of furniture and a washer and dryer.

The office of Chairman Mitchell Cypress sponsored the super grand prize, a four-wheeler. A hush fell over the tent as the lucky number was drawn. Following a drum roll, lucky recipient Susan Davis shouted with delight as she anticipated riding her prize well into the New Year.

Giant Christmas Card Contest

The Immokalee Recreation Dept., under the



Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress climbs on Santa's lap to deliver his Christmas list.

direction of Johnny Boone, challenged the community to make the most interesting card in the Giant Christmas Card Contest. Dividing the group into resident, non-resident and departmental categories, the competition drew a wide range of entries.

Creativity abounded with themes ranging from spiritual and traditional, to cartoon and humor. A great deal of effort went into fabricating all of the entries, making them extremely difficult to judge.

The suspense built as the days passed, but the winners were finally announced at the Community Christmas Party.

Residents: 1. "A Charlie Brown Xmas" made by The Jock Family, 2. Susan Davis Family, 3. Pete Aguilar Jr. Family; Non-Residents: 1. "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" made by the Kenny Joe Davis Sr. Family, 2. America Martinez, 3. Ralph Escobar Family; Departments: 1. "The Stockings Were Hung by the Chimney with Care" made by the Senior Center, 2. Housing Department, 3. Library.



(L-R) Jesus Arteaga Jr., Angelo Colon Jr., and Jaliyah Arteaga sing "You Are My Sunshine" at the Immokalee Preschool Christmas Party.



(L-R) Brandon Posada, Amara Martinez, Leah Alvarado, Jaliyah Arteaga and Angelo Colon Jr. don antlers and crafted from silhouettes of their hands for the "Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer" musical number.



The Jock Family, (L-R) Spencer, Mark, Marcos Lopez and Nathan Lewis Pierre, won the Community Resident's Division of the Giant Christmas Card Contest with their version of "A Charlie Brown Christmas."



(L-R) Linda Riso, Jovita Turriabagias, Gayle Greer, Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar and SPD Officer Tom Faherty take turns opening their presents, which ranged from useful items to gag gifts, they won during the Gift Game.



(L-R, Back Row) Damian Escobar, Edward Aguilar Jr., Jack Tahchawickah, Paul Tahchawickah, Zephaniah Roberts, (L-R, Front Row) Lauren Posada, Lindsey Posada, Jack Aguilar, Neo Motlow and Ezekiel Roberts helped pack Christmas baskets for the needy and stuffed stockings for the soldiers serving in Iraq in an effort to spread Christmas cheer.

Youngsters Spread Christmas Cheer to Soldiers, Needy

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — As the holiday season drew near, the Immokalee Education Dept. saw an opportunity to let the children of the community learn about the joy of giving and sharing with those less fortunate.

On Nov. 15, 2008, Asst. Education Director Victoria Presley set a goal for seven baskets to help feed the needy during the holidays. Letting the children distribute flyers and collect non-perishable food donations, she launched a drive within the community.

Getting the ball rolling, her department supplied a ham for each basket. Word spread quickly and before long other departments began participating and Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar offered assistance.

The children were filled with enthusiasm and couldn't wait to load the baskets for delivery on Nov. 25, 2008. The Battered Women's Shelter received three of the baskets and the remainder went to needy families designated by a local relief organization.

The Seminole Tribe has always

held veterans in high regard. With this thought in mind, a plan was placed in action to provide the children with an opportunity to see how they could show their gratitude to the men and women serving in the armed forces and fighting for freedom.

Liaison Aguilar and the Recreation Dept. agreed to sponsor the project.

Elsie Bowers, general manager of the Tribal Smoke Shop operation, contributed cartons of cigarettes and chewing tobacco. Beef jerky, snacks, candy, gum, socks, board games, puzzles, cards, dice, baseballs and footballs were purchased.

Enough items were accumulated to stuff 100 stockings and the children were ecstatic. How to get the stockings to the soldiers in Iraq became the next hurdle.

Immokalee Fitness Dept. employee Tracey DeLaRosa, has a sister, Maggie, in the Armed Forces. Currently stationed in Texas, she has two Air Force friends based in Iraq. A few phone calls later and connections had been made.

By Dec. 7, 2008 the stockings were on their way to their destination in Iraq, and the children were jubilant.

Tampa, Ft. Pierce Celebrate the Holidays

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

TAMPA — The Tampa and Ft. Pierce communities gathered at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Dec. 22, 2008 to ring in the holidays at their Community Christmas Bash.

Liaisons Richard Henry of Tampa and Sally Tommie of Ft. Pierce welcomed the two communities — "partners in crime" as Liaison Tommie described them — to the event.

"We are here to celebrate," she said. "Coming together like different reservations and generations did in the past."

Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith also attended the event and received gifts on behalf of the two Tribal communities.

Tampa elder Bobby Henry said the blessing and then the party began in the ballroom which was decorated in a red and gold color scheme. South Florida band Libido took the stage and provided the musical entertainment during dinner. Libido played modern classics covered by Michael Jackson, Norah Jones and Stevie Wonder.

Following dinner, Liaisons Henry and Tommie took the stage again to announce the winners of the Tampa house decorating contest. The Seminole Police Dept. conducted the judging that lasted until almost 2 a.m. the previous Friday, Dec. 19, 2008. James Henry's house took top honors with Maggie Garcia and Annie Henry, claiming the second and third spots, respectively.



Shane Clay, 1, enjoys the Tampa/Ft. Pierce Christmas Bash, held Dec. 22, 2008.

The party continued as music videos played on television screens and community members took the dance floor. Deven Osceola from the Tampa community dropped to the floor and brought out the famous "worm" dance move to everyone's delight.

Members took a break from dancing and went to their seats as comedian Jay Lamont came on. Lamont has performed with well-known comedians Jamie Foxx and D.L. Hughley. He captured everyone's attention with his amazing ability to imitate performers and singers, including President Barack Obama.

Several lucky Tribal members received prizes, including



Comedian Jay Lamont entertains the crowd at the gathering.

two ATVs donated by Chairman Mitchell Cypress, during a raffle that took place at the event.



Singer Crissy Simone of Libido performs a Motown classic.



Ft. Pierce Liaison Sally Tommie with brother, Shamy.

Happy Holidays in the Naples Community

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

NAPLES — Members of the Naples community gathered at the home of Doug and Sandy Osceola on Dec. 14, 2008, to celebrate the Christmas holiday.

Lavish decorations transformed the chickees and surrounding landscape into a Christmas wonderland park. Glittering stars shined down from high in the oak trees, while the Grinch, reindeer and elves delighted the children. As darkness fell, everyone joined in a countdown to the lighting of the Christmas tree in the center of the compound.

"One of my fondest memories of Christmas was going with my grandfather, Corey Osceola, to get fruit to give away to the guests who came to visit our camp," said Naples Liaison O.B. Osceola Jr. "My cousins and I would climb up in the trees to pick the fruit and load up the bed of his pickup truck. Then we would head for the surplus bread store for loaves of bread to distribute. There was very little money in those days, but a whole lot of love."

Pointing to a tub full of oranges and a basket of bread loaves, Liaison Osceola added: "When I look at these, I see my smiling grandfather and it wouldn't be Christmas without him."

Tahama Osceola also recalled memories from Christmases past.

"We couldn't buy a lot of presents, but we were happy to receive a little material, ric-rac, thread, candy, or enjoy a meal with our many friends and relatives from along the Trail," Osceola said.

"Those were good times."

A catered gourmet dinner was supplemented by traditional foods cooked



Maggie Porter tells Santa what she wants for Christmas.

over the fire. It wouldn't be Christmas without venison, sofkee and fry bread.

A special chair awaited the guest of honor, Santa Claus, in the central chickee. Surrounded by presents, the jolly old fellow called each child by name, listened to their requests and then handed out gifts. Raffle tickets provided each adult with an opportunity to claim one of the wonderful presents that included household goods, digital cameras, jewelry and televisions.

Amusement games and tactical sports provided an interesting playground for the youngsters. Children of all ages rushed to take their turns, circulating through the maze. Armed with Velcro™ dart guns, they combated their adversaries, who in some instances turned out

to be their parents. An obstacle course with laser guns provided an opportunity for team competitions.



Home from college for the holidays, Jessica Osceola, helps her mother, Sandy, cook traditional dishes over the fire for the Christmas celebration.



Marissa Osceola helps her niece, Angelina Osceola-Lugo, claim her Christmas gifts.



(L-R) Michael Cantu, Trail Liaison William Osceola and JR Battiest assist in calling out the winners during the raffle.

Trail Community Attends Annual Christmas Party

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Trail Seminoles celebrated Christmas at their annual party, held this year at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino on Dec. 14, 2008.

Trail Liaison William Osceola joined his guests for a day full of fun and prizes.

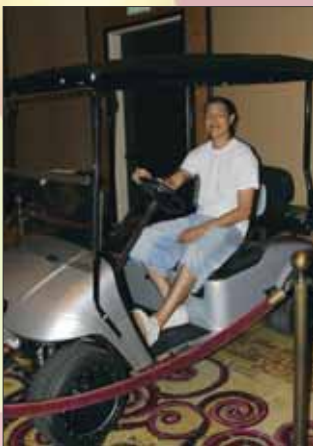
The Plateros, a family blues band, from Albuquerque, N.M., treated the guests to a musical performance, while JR Battiest emceed the gathering and kept the crowd entertained for the remainder of the event.

Santa Claus made a guest appearance and presented each child with a gift. The leftover toys were donated to those in need through the Toys for Tots charity. The children also took portraits with Santa for keepsakes.

Raffle tickets were given to each visitor for a multitude of gifts. Trail community members Norman Huggins and Samuel C.

Osceola Jr. walked away with the top prizes of the event. Huggins won a plasma television, and Osceola, a new golf cart.

Liaison Osceola thanked everyone in attendance and wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season.



Samuel C. Osceola Jr. of the Trail community wins a new golf cart.



Taking time out for a family portrait, the Osceola-Lugos, (L-R) Karie, Joseph, Dominic, Rafael and Angelina, gather around Santa Claus at the party.

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