



The SEMINOLE TRIBUNE

“Voice of the Unconquered”

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Welcome To Paradise: Seminole Paradise



Iretta Tiger

Entertainers and colorful lights captivated many of Seminole Paradise’s first guests.

❖ See PARADISE, page 9

By Iretta Tiger

HOLLYWOOD — In paradise there is something for everyone and the same is true for the Seminole Paradise. Dec. 16 marked the official opening of Seminole Paradise, a shopping and entertainment center adjacent to the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

This complex features 12 restaurants, 11 nightclub and entertainment venues, and 24 retail shops. Also located in Seminole Paradise is the Seminole Okalee Indian Village and Museum.

The grand opening celebrations began with the arrival of former Miami Dolphin quarterback Dan Marino. Marino made his way to the Park Sports Club where he was presented with a \$40,000 check. The check is a donation from Seminole Paradise to the Dan Marino Foundation, an organization that supports various children’s programs.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Councilman David Cypress, Hollywood Councilman Max Osceola, Jr., and Cordish Company Vice-President Joe Weinberg did the honor of presenting the check to Marino. The Cordish Company developed the land that is now the Seminole Hard Rock.

The Dan Marino Foundation was also the focus of the VIP grand opening. Those who attended the VIP party paid a \$50 fee and there was also a silent auction. All proceeds from the auction and the entrance fee went to the Dan Marino Foundation.

Those who did not attend the party were not left out. Jugglers, a Bahamian calypso band, and illusionists roamed throughout Seminole Paradise greeting and entertaining visitors.



Shelley Marmor

After Chairman Mitchell Cypress’ visit to the Healthy Solutions Resource Center in Belle Glade, Fla., he made an unplanned stop in nearby Pahokee, Fla. to bring toys to hurricane victims.

Chairman Brings Christmas Cheer to Needy Children

By Shelley Marmor

BELLE GLADE, FL — Although the last hurricane of the record-breaking 2004 hurricane season, Hurricane Jeanne, hit Florida back in September, many of Belle Glade’s 14,000 residents are still feeling the effects. This small town and its neighboring cities lie on Lake Okeechobee, making them very susceptible to damage from natural disasters like hurricanes.

With many families still trying to pick up the pieces, Christmas did not seem like a high priority in this small town. There were not many holiday lights hung and few festive decorations lining the streets.

However, that all changed when Chairman Mitchell Cypress arrived at the Healthy Solutions Resource Center, a community mental health center, on

❖ See TOY DRIVE, page 12

Residents of rural Florida cities receive early Christmas gifts

Seminoles and Employees Celebrate at Annual Christmas Party

Micki Free, Fat Joe and Tracy Byrd entertained the crowd

By Jaime Restrepo

HOLLYWOOD — Tribal citizens, employees, invited guests and dignitaries were treated to the wonderful annual Christmas party at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino’s Pavilion. The party was presented by the Chairman’s Office, which decided the Hard Rock venue was the perfect setting to celebrate this year’s annual festivities.

More than 2,000 people were in attendance. The settings, decorations, and the entertainment were second to none. The performers included Grammy and Nammy Award winner Micki Free, country musician Tracy Byrd and multi-platinum hip-hop artist Fat Joe with the Terror Squad.

The annual party was previously held at the Broward Convention Center. This year, the Tribe celebrated in grand style, in its own back yard, in its new state-of-the-art facility.

The Pavilion was decorated throughout with an intricate arrangement of draperies, wall decorations, and table center pieces, projecting the ambiance of a winter wonderland. Accommodations



Wanda Bowers

All decked out in balloons, Zephania Roberts had a great time at the party.

were plentiful, with the serving lines providing a wide variety of food fit to satisfy the tastes of all the guests.

Throughout the event, the guests were treated to a variety of music, including serene and soothing sound of woodwinds, the latest hip hop hits, and good

‘ole country music. There was a DJ to keep the guests on their feet and moving on the dance floor in front of the stage. Even the children had a place all their own, to play, create arts and crafts, and

❖ See PARTY, page 9

Seminoles Celebrate the Holidays Abroad

By Iretta Tiger

LONDON, ENGLAND — Sometimes we just want to escape from



Elrod Bowers

The group of about 30 Seminole made their way to several infamous London and Paris sites, including Paris’s world-renown Louvre museum seen in the background.

all the chaos of the holidays and just get away. For several Hollywood non-resident Seminole that is exactly what they did.

Starting on Dec. 19, several families flew to London, England to spend Christmas and New Year with the Brits. Going from 80 degree weather to 30 degree weather was a welcome change for these travelers—it was how Christmas weather is supposed to be.

Not all the days were spent in London. Tribal Clerk and trip organizer Holly Tiger planned several day trips to the English countryside and even a day trip to Paris, France.

One of the greatest assets London has is its public transportation system. Very efficient and vast, “the tube,” or subway, extends several miles in each direction from London.

Seeing some of the city without walking was also very convenient thanks to the Double Decker buses which run all night. It’s also a very economical way to see the city. Mercedes Osceola and her siblings spent a few evenings seeing London this way.

However, those with deep pock-

❖ See LONDON, page 17

Health Department Director Tells Her Story

By Susan Etxebarria

Connie Whidden, the Tribe’s Health Director was destined for a career helping Seminole people lead happier and healthier lives. Although the misfortunes of her childhood could have led to a different outcome, she had the love and support of family and community to succeed.

At the age of 27, while raising two kids, she went back to school to get her college degree. She says today that education is the key to financial security.

“I wanted a degree to make good money,” Whidden said. “There are no guarantees with dividends, but if you have an education, you have a guarantee.”

Whidden said she told her kids growing up to be marketable in the job market. From her own life experience, she knows that a mother can suddenly end up unprepared to be the sole provider of the family.

“Always know you can provide for your children if you have to,” she told them.

When Connie was only seven years old, she may not have foreseen a bright future ahead of her. Her mother

died when she was seven and her family moved from Okeechobee, where her Aunt Dolly Johns raised her and her siblings, Timmy Johns and Patty Johns Waldron.

Once on the reservation, she knew, especially as the years went by, that it was the only place she wanted to be because of her support system.

In the early 70s, Connie went to work for the Bureau of Indian Affairs Social Services department in Brighton. She enjoyed her work so much that when the Tribe gained sovereignty and took over many of its internal affairs, she decided to return to college again to get her master’s degree.

While working full time for the Tribe, attending college on the weekends and still taking care of her family, she accomplished this feat.

Whidden had a reason beyond her own satisfaction to get a master’s degree. The Tribe was facing the possibility of having to hire a Health department director with the proper credentials required to qualify for government grants. At that time, it meant someone with a

❖ See WHIDDEN, page 11

Indian Gaming Celebrates 25th Anniversary



Iretta Tiger

President Moses Osceola was among the many speakers commemorating the 25th anniversary of Indian gaming.

By Iretta Tiger

HOLLYWOOD — Dec. 14, 1979 is one of the most auspicious days in Seminole history. The date marks the beginning of self-reliance, not only for the Seminole Tribe, but for most native tribes in the U.S. Before there was a Foxwoods or Mohegan Sun, there was a bingo hall on the Seminole Hollywood reservation in Florida that started it all.

On Dec. 14, 2004, Seminole tribal citizens, tribal leaders and casino employees gathered at the Council Oak to commemorate this milestone. Chairman Mitchell Cypress recognized the leaders who helped to pave the way for the progress of the Seminole Tribe.

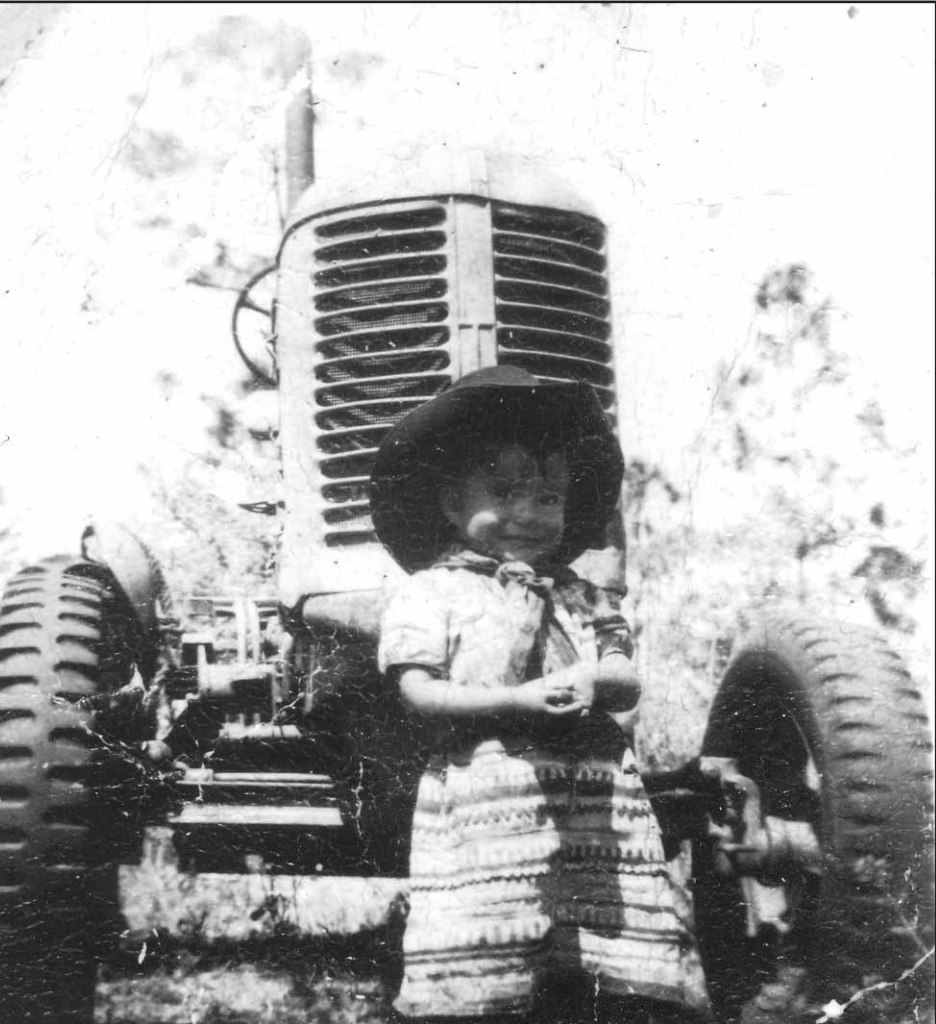
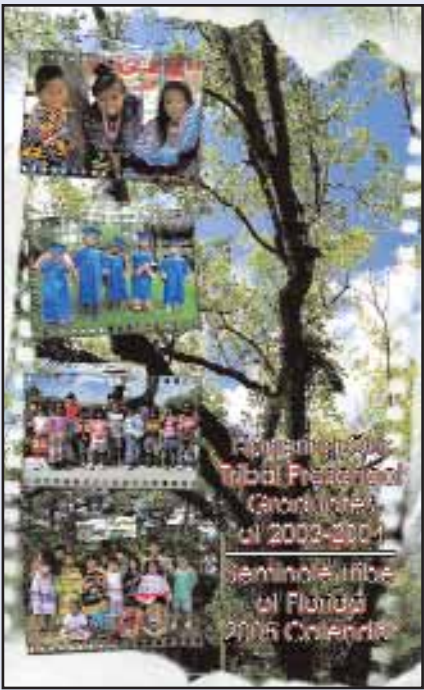
President Moses Osceola reminisced about the reservation and its

❖ See ANNIVERSARY, page 9

2005 Seminole Tribal Calendar

The new 2005 Seminole tribal calendar is almost here! This year's theme is "Honoring Our Preschool Graduates" and showcases the 2003-2004 tribal preschool graduates. In past calendars, Seminole elders, both men and women, were prominently featured.

The calendar is free to all tribal members and can be picked up at the communications department located on the second floor at the main tribal office. Those interested in purchasing the calendar should call *The Seminole Tribune* at (954) 967-3416, or visit the Seminole Tribe of Florida website at www.seminoletribe.com, under Marketplace.



You know this boy well. Guess who he is! Answer will appear in the next issue.

Letters & E-mail

Please send all letters to 6300 Stirling Road, Hollywood, FL 33024 ♦ tribune@semtribe.com

Dear Seminole Tribe of Florida,

My name is Dolly Badonie, a member of the Yakama Nation and a friend of the late Billy Cypress. I traveled to Florida for the Seminole Veterans Day ceremony to be part of the honoring ceremony for Billy Cypress.

Billy was a good friend of the Yakama Nation, specifically the Yakama Warriors Association, an organization comprised of military veterans of all wars, and also a good friend to the Yakama Nation Treaty Day Pow Wow Committee.

Billy made many friends here and participated two years in a row in our Treaty Day Parade, wearing his beautiful and colorful Seminole regalia. He carried the Seminole flag with honor. He was a site to behold and got everyone's attention.

To us, Billy had a unique sense of humor and would come up with the funniest sayings; we enjoyed listening and talking to him. I don't think that I have ever known a man with so many credentials: a major in the military, an educator, a museum curator. The list goes on and on.

At the Veteran's Day ceremony I presented a Pendleton blanket in honor of Billy to his wife Carol Cypress, the blanket was embroidered which read, "To our friend Major Billy Cypress, from your friends of the Yakama Nation." The blanket also had our tribal logo embodied on it.

Unknown to me, and the Yakama Nation, the blanket that was presented to Carol Cypress was titled "Spirit of the Bear" and in the middle of the blanket was a bear paw. I was told by a family member that the blanket was a special gift because Billy was a member of the Bear clan. I relayed all this information back to our tribal leaders and they were very pleased with the outcome.

I also presented a beaded necklace to Carol Cypress, I beaded this necklace and wanted to give it to Billy, I talked to him about a month before he passed away and told him what I had made for him and that I would send it when I returned home, all I was waiting for was to get a Seminole veterans medallion to attach to the necklace.

When I was notified about Billy's passing I decided to give the necklace to his wife in honor and memory of her husband Billy. I was honored to have made this presentation.

On behalf of the Yakama Nation, to the family and wife of Major Billy Cypress, rest in peace our

friend.

Sincerely,
Dolly G. Badonie

Dear Editor,

My name is Dolly Badonie and I am from the Yakama Nation in the state of Washington. When my husband Carson and I were in Florida for the Veterans Day Ceremony, we enjoyed the poetry of Moses Jumper Jr. I have heard his Native American veteran's poem before in the last three years I have attended this ceremony.

Anyway, my husband purchased the "Echoes in the Wind" poetry book from the Ah-Tha-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress. Recently there was a death of a Yakama tribal member who was a Marine veteran, at his prayer service I read to the family in honor and memory of the



Dolly Badonie (left) describes the blanket she will present to Carol Cypress to honor her late husband Billy Cypress.

deceased veteran, the "Native American Vet" by Moses Jumper Jr., and to the widow I read "The Last Prayer."

I told the audience about Mr. Jumper and how he writes poetry for any and every occasion for the Seminole Tribe and that his words come from the heart and are for Indian people. The poems were very appropriate and were well appreciated by all.

I want to thank Mr. Moses Jumper Jr. for his words, they touched the hearts of all who were at the prayer service. I read all the poems from front to back. Thank you for sharing your poems through this book.

I would also like to express from myself and my husband, Carson Badonie, our condolences to Sandy Selner and to the Gopher family members for the loss of Henry Gopher. Henry was a great guy and it was our pleasure knowing him.

On our last visit to Florida in November, he told my husband Carson that he doesn't have to wait for a special occasion to come to Florida because he was always can come anytime and stay with the Gopher family. I have a big house and you don't have to stay in a motel, Henry told Carson.

We appreciated his hospitality and most of all his kindness and big heart. We will miss Henry and we honor him a veteran.

To all my friends from the Seminole Tribe of Florida: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Sincerely,
Dolly G. Badonie



Dolly Badonie (second from left) after presenting the Pendleton blanket to Carol Cypress (center).

Dear Editor,

Hi. My husband and I are new craft exhibitors and we are interested in information on setting up at upcoming craft show events, such as Field Day or other craft events. Any information you could provide on how to apply would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you and kindest regards,
Lisa Guia

Dear Ms. Guia,

The information you will need in regards to setting up at the upcoming events will have to be answered by Ellen Smith. You can contact her at 863-763-4128 ext. 132. I do know that the Brighton Field Day & Rodeo will be Feb. 18-20, 2005. Ellen will be able to give you more information on the booths.

Thank you,
Jo Jumper
Chairman's Assistant, Brighton

Dear Editor,

Can you please give me information on the shootout in Kissimmee?

Thank you for your assistance,
Kim Minor
Trails End Concessions

Dear Ms. Minor,

This event is not in Kissimmee, Fla., it's in Big Cypress at the Seminole Indian Reservation south of Clewiston, FL. The event is named Kissimmee Slough Shootout & Rendezvous.

Sincerely,
Buster Baxley
General Manager
Okalee Village

Dear Editor,

I read on the national Meals on Wheels website that you provide their service. Can you tell me what you can do for someone elderly in need of assistance that lives in Hollywood, Fla.

Thank you for your help,
Stern

Dear Stern,

We provide the same kind of services but it is not their services. It is provided by the Seminole Tribe of Florida for their elders. You have to be a member of the tribe.

Sincerely,
Leah Minnick
Director
Department of Elder Affairs

Dear Editor,

We are interested in visiting the sacred mound known as Mount Royal. We believe it is near Welaka, Fla. in Southern Putnam County. Would you be able to direct us?

Sincerely,

Claire Luscombe

Greetings Ms. Luscombe,
To the best of my knowledge Mount Royal is on private property and that access is under the control of the land owner.

Best wishes,
David Blackard
Museum Director
Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Dear Editor,

My daughters' school is studying early Florida history for the first semester of school this year. I was wondering if your reservation offers any tours or educational programs for children?

Thank you,
Courtney Gonzalez
Tampa, FL

Dear Ms. Gonzalez,

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is a wonderful place to learn about the culture and heritage of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki means "things remembered, things learned" in the native Miccosukee language. The museum is of five-star Smithsonian quality and features a film about the history of the Seminoles, rare artifacts, displays, a nature boardwalk and even a living village.

Just down the road is Billie Swamp Safari, the Seminole's eco-heritage wildlife park. At Billie Swamp Safari you can glide through the river of grass or idle through a cypress dome on the airboat ride. Take a swamp buggy eco-tour out into the land where the Seminoles lived and visit a reconstructed authentic Seminole camp. Learn the history of the Seminoles, the medicine plants and the flora and fauna of the environment and even about the native and exotic wildlife that roams the area.

Many schools bring their classes out to the museum and safari while studying Florida history. The Safari has even adjusted its buggy tour to share information that coincides with the curriculum of Florida history taught to fourth graders in Florida schools.

We hope you will come to visit the museum and safari.

Sincerely,
Tina Osceola
Executive Director
Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Dear Editor,

I plan to visit Billie Swamp Safari on Monday, Jan. 3 with my four-year-old son. I have some questions.

Do you have accommodations at a chickee lodge on that night? Is the cost \$35 for each of us or \$35 total? What time is your Swamp Buggy Night tour on January 3.

Thanks very much,

Chris

Dear Chris,

We have accommodations for a chickee for that night. As for night activities they have to be reserved two weeks prior to arrival. For any more questions please call us at (800) 949 6101. Thank you and happy holidays!

Sincerely,
Jacob Starling
Sales Coordinator
Billie Swamp Safari

Corrections

In the Dec. 17, 2004 issue of *The Seminole Tribune* an article reporting on the Seminole Board of Directors investing in a Chicago Heights casino was printed. The headline was incorrect, the Seminole Board is looking into the possibility of a casino venture but has not invested into any casino ventures to date.

Once again, the Board of Directors has not invested any money into any casinos.

Due to an error in reporting the story titled "New Resident Moves into Okalee Village" in the Dec. 17, 2004 issue of the paper the alligator Limp Leg was misidentified as Superman. Limp Leg is 13.3 feet long and weighs approximately 950 pounds. Superman is 14.6 feet long and is approximately 1,200 pounds.



Limp Leg was donated to the Okalee Village by Billie Swamp Safari. He was moved to his new home in front of the Swamp Water Café at Billie Swamp Safari in Big Cypress.

We regret this error and any misunderstandings that this may have caused for alligator wrestler Mike Bailey who was misquoted during the stressful activity of moving this large reptile to its new home.

Please read more about Superman on page 4.

Attention Tribal Citizens

All tribal citizens of The Seminole Tribe of Florida who live out of state are eligible to receive a free subscription of The Seminole Tribune. Please fill out the information below and mail to: The Seminole Tribune 6300 Stirling Road, Room 235 - Hollywood, FL 33024

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The Seminole Tribune

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Seminoles Appear in Halle Berry Film

By Susan Etzebarria
BRIGHTON — This is a movie you won't want to miss. Tune in to ABC, Feb. 2 at 10 p.m. and watch three familiar faces in a made-for-television movie starring Halle Berry. Three Brighton residents, Kevin Osceola, Alan Huff and Billy Jo Johns, jumped at the chance to be in the movie-making business last May when the call went out for extras.

After going through screen tests at Universal Studios, they were selected for a brief segment in one of the last scenes in the up-coming movie "Their Eyes Were Watching God" based on a novel by the

"When you get a speaking part, they treat you good," said Osceola.

Billy Jo Johns said he became an extra when his sister, Terry Hahn, called him one day and said that a movie studio needed some Indians that very day for a film they were making. Since Johns had been in a commercial years ago, he had an idea of what to expect. He expected a whole day of waiting around on the set as the crew took all day to shoot scenes.

"It was fun. It was something different to do," said Johns.

Alan Huff said he learned a lot about movie making, although he admitted it is a tough business.

"I couldn't do it for a living," Huff said. "Not me. I'd rather watch movies than make them."

Huff said he does not like to sit and wait all day and then shoot the same scene over and over again from different angles. He said he sympathized with professional actors, adding he can "see now why movie actors get paid so much."

It was hot that day, but tents were set up and an excellent catered breakfast and lunch, including succulent smoked salmon, was provided. Best of all they got to shake hands with Halle Berry—and got paid for it.

All three men were in the same scene. It was shot at the Lee Ranch in Chuluota, FL just east of Orlando. They were dressed in long sleeve shirts and jeans and wore wigs on their heads that Johns laughingly said looked like Tecumseh haircuts. They were supposed to be dressed in the Seminole garb of the 20s, but Osceola said they didn't really look like Seminole clothes of that time period.

At any rate you can judge for yourself. The scene is very short, so you might miss it without some special cues, so here they are: The setting is supposed to be in Lake Okeechobee. However, it was actually shot at a pond at the Lee Ranch where a group of Seminoles are walking along a levee prior to an impending hurricane.

One of the lead characters, Tea Cake, played by Michael Ealy, asks budding actor Kevin Osceola, the question "Why?" Osceola replies, "To high ground. Sawgrass bloomed. The hurricane's coming." Both Huff and Johns are standing next to Osceola.

For speaking just those four lines, Osceola later received an official letter from the Screen Actors Guild signed by its President Melissa Gilbert. Remember her from Little House on the Prairie? He was invited to become a member. He has not done so; at least not yet.



(L-R) Billy Jo Johns and Kevin Osceola display the script from "Their Eyes Were Watching God," the film they appear in as extras.

famous African-American novelist Zora Neale Hurston.

The movie, produced by Oprah Winfrey's company Harpo Films, Inc., is a drama set in the 1920's in rural Eatonville, FL where a free-spirited black woman's search for happiness leads her through several different marriages, challenging the mores of her small town.

Of the three men, only Kevin Osceola has a speaking part. He only speaks three lines, but the fact that he was speaking at all entitled him to his own dressing room and trailer.



(L-R) Noella O'Donnell and David Cypress brave the odds and enter Superman's home.

Superman Moves to New Home

By Jaime Restrepo
BIG CYPRESS — Yes folks, the behemoth alligator known as Superman remains in residence at Billie Swamp Safari, as pointed out by Big Cypress Council Representative David Cypress and Noella O'Donnell, despite recent reporting that he had been moved to Okalee Village in Hollywood.

On Dec. 22, Superman was moved from his "oasis" habitat out in a remote region of the park to

on board, the ride to the alligator pit next to the Swamp Water Café was a cinch, but then getting the reptile off of the trailer proved to be an equally strenuous task. With a little lift here and another there, the animal was finally positioned. Gus Batista, a well-seasoned alligator wrestler, Mark Blanset and Eric Sanders removed the tape and blindfold. Superman was finally in his new home.

Removed from the Withlacoochee River to serve as a breeder for a Central Florida alligator farm, Superman took up residence in Big Cypress more than a decade ago. Reputed to be the largest alligator held in captivity, this brute weighs in at more than 1,200 pounds and boasts a length of 13-foot-9-inches.

Speaking of large, the animal is also very powerful, with a crushing set of jaws that can inflict over 4,000 pounds of pressure. An animal this size can easily bring down a horse or full-grown cow and make a satisfying dinner of them. Alligators are extremely territorial and will kill any other of their species lesser in size. Given Superman's vast proportions, nearly all other alligators are at risk, therefore it was best to give him a home all his own.

While Superman's exact age is not known, it can be guesstimated by utilizing established growth patterns of alligators in the wild. Most grow rapidly in length through their first six years, averaging a foot per year. As they get older, growth slows down to an inch or less each year or two. Given the length and girth of Superman, his age has been approximated at between 60 and 70 years old.

Alligators often live up to 40 years in the wild and usually no more than 50 years in captivity. In Superman's life there is no stress, he is fed and taken care of in a controlled environment. The Swamp Water Café location provides a more accessible viewing arena for park guests and allows for ease of monitoring and maintenance by staff. There is no way of telling just how long Superman will live, but it appears he is living up to his name.

The alligator donated to the Okalee Village by Billie Swamp Safari was known as Limp Leg, measuring 13 feet-3 inches in length, weighing between 900 and 1,000 pounds and is between 50 and 60 years old.



(L-R) Eric Sanders and Steve McNeil assist the rest of the moving crew with Superman.

the newly renovated alligator pit located adjacent to the Swamp Water Café. It took more than 15 able-bodied men to do it, but the job was done and it was done well. Superman met his match as these men combined their strength and abilities to capture and subdue the famous alligator.

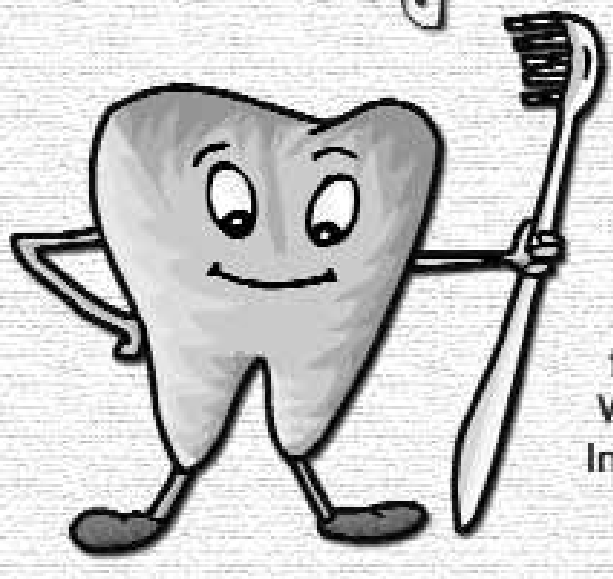
Park Director of Billie Swamp Safari Ed Woods, led the caravan of volunteers to the task of securing the animal for safe transport to his new home. The first thing to be done was to tape shut the powerful set of jaws and then blindfold the animal to minimize stress. Next, the men attempted to simply lift and carry Superman to the awaiting flatbed trailer, but his sheer size and weight proved the task more difficult.

They finally resorted to a series of smaller lifts, until, foot-by-foot, he was loaded onto the trailer. Once



It took more than 15 men to move the 1,200 pound gator.

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<p><u>Krispy Kreme</u> Glazed and Assorted Donuts .75¢</p> <p><u>Yogurt</u> Various Flavors \$1.25 with Granola \$1.50</p> <p><u>Muffins</u> Assorted \$1.50</p> <p><u>Bagels</u> Plain \$1.00 with Cream Cheese \$1.50</p> <p><u>Pastry</u> Danish \$1.00</p> <p><u>Fresh Smoothies</u> Assorted Flavors \$3 to \$5 Fresh Fruit Cup \$2.50</p>	<p>7 Bean Blend from Around the World</p> <table><tr><td>Large</td><td>X-Large</td></tr><tr><td>Regular \$1.50</td><td>\$2.00</td></tr><tr><td>Decaf \$1.75</td><td>\$2.25</td></tr><tr><td>Tea \$1.50</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Hot Chocolate .. \$1.50</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Custom Latte</p> <table><tr><td>Single</td><td>Double</td></tr><tr><td>Espresso \$1.00</td><td>\$1.75</td></tr><tr><td>Cuban Coffee .. \$1.35</td><td>\$1.85</td></tr></table> <p>Extras</p> <table><tr><td>Espresso Shot</td><td>.75¢</td></tr><tr><td>Flavoring Shot</td><td>.75¢</td></tr><tr><td>Soy Milk</td><td>.50¢</td></tr><tr><td>Whipped Cream</td><td>.50¢</td></tr></table> <p>Many more drinks to choose from!</p> <p>Now Serving Victoria L'Originale Italian Espresso Caffeel</p>	Large	X-Large	Regular \$1.50	\$2.00	Decaf \$1.75	\$2.25	Tea \$1.50		Hot Chocolate .. \$1.50		Single	Double	Espresso \$1.00	\$1.75	Cuban Coffee .. \$1.35	\$1.85	Espresso Shot	.75¢	Flavoring Shot	.75¢	Soy Milk	.50¢	Whipped Cream	.50¢	<p>All drinks available in Mox's Decaf 8 oz. 12 oz. 16 oz. 20 oz.</p> <p>Americano \$1.00 espresso served with hot water</p> <p>Rattlesnake \$1.50 \$3.00 espresso served with 7 bean blend coffee</p> <p>Mochacino \$3.75 espresso, white and dark chocolate, and steamed milk topped with whipped cream</p> <p>Café Mocha \$2.75 espresso milk chocolate, and steamed milk topped with whipped cream</p> <p>Cappuccino \$2.00 \$2.75 espresso served with frothed milk</p> <p>Café Latte \$2.00 \$3.00 espresso served with steamed milk</p> <p>Breve \$2.25 \$3.00 espresso served with steamed half & half</p> <p>Soy Latte \$2.25 \$3.00 espresso served with steamed soy milk</p>
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Country Music Legends Co-Headline Ahfachkeke Festival

John Anderson and The Bellamy Brothers, among others are scheduled to appear

By Cindy Malin
BIG CYPRESS — Join country music fans as they enjoy performances by John Anderson and the Bellamy Brothers at the Ahfachkeke Festival presented by the Seminole Tribe of Florida on Saturday Jan. 15 at the Big Cypress Rodeo Arena located on the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation. Gates open at 10 a.m.

Ahfachkeke is a Miccosukee word meaning “happy day.” The festival got its name from Seminole tribal citizen Mary Tigertail because she thought it would best describe this family event.



Although the festival is a free event, attendees are encouraged to make donations at the Emergency Management Services booth at the event and buy raffle tickets for a Gooseneck Brand Multipurpose Aluminum Trailer courtesy of Eli’s Trailer Shop, with retail value \$15,000, or \$10,000 cash. All proceeds will go to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Funds, nationally and internationally.

In addition to country music, the festival will feature a children’s village with a bounce house, face painting by clowns, pony rides, mechanical bull riding, popcorn and snow cones. Seminole arts, crafts and cuisine will also be available.

The festival will start with the Seminole Color Guard consisting of veterans Paul Bowers, Stephen Bowers, Mitchell Cypress and Charles Hiers Billie. Following the Color Guard, tribal citizen Jessica Buster will sing the national anthem. Operations Director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Brian Zepeda will emcee the festival.

The first of five bands to perform at the festival is Smoken. Featuring Hollywood tribal employee Vinnie Fontana on the bass guitar, Smoken will be

playing tunes from artists such as Janis Joplin and Trick Pony. The band will also play a few original tunes from their own CDs.

Tribal citizen Paul Buster and his Cowbone Band will follow Smoken. Jesse and Noah Bellamy, sons of David Bellamy, will perform next.

Co-headlining the festival, brothers David and Howard Bellamy will then take the stage. These brothers have been making music together for more than two decades and will no doubt play some of their hits such as “Let Your Love Flow” and “For All the Wrong Reasons.” The Bellamy Brothers are the most nominated duo in country music today.

The final musical performer will be co-headliner John Anderson. He is a country music legend with more than 20 albums and more than 30 songs on Billboard’s Top 20 chart. One of his songs that is sure to bring the crowd to their feet is “Seminole Wind.” He brought the house down at the grand opening of the Tampa Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino with this song.

For further information, please call (561) 308-0101.

Lak-haa-che, Hem-maa-she schee faach ko? Happy New Year! Cheen hon tom mo?

By Paul “Cowbone” Buster
Greetings to everyone, ’04 has come and gone. Did you accomplish your goals and resolutions? Or did you procrastinate and let the year pass by? Well if you didn’t do what you’d planned to in ’04, maybe you can get it done next year.

For me, I had planned to get a little more physically active: basketball, jog and run, ride a horse, deer hunting, fishing, writing a million-selling song and going to church to serve God.

My health has been declining lately due to diabetes. The staff at the Hollywood clinic is doing their very best to keep us in good health, but some of us are ignoring their advice and not taking care of ourselves. Hopefully we will take care of ourselves better this year.



COWBONE

Last year came and went before we knew it was here, possibly ’05 will be coming and going before we know it. Rez Rally is coming up soon in January. The Super Bowl is happening too, but I don’t think the Dolphins are playing in it!

We’re looking forward to a wonderful year in ’05. It really depends on you and I, but I think 2005 can be prosperous and full of success. Together we can make things happen, hope for the better and accomplish our goals.

I thank God for the wonderful year in ’04 and I am equally thankful for this new year in ’05. It is my prayer to God that we will do well and be healthy. I pray for the tribal leaders and everyone in our tribe.

God bless you and Happy New Year,
Hem maa ka la ka,
—Cowbone

Florida Monthly Readers Vote Billie Swamp Safari as Best Guided Tour

By Cindy Malin
It’s official. The readers of *Florida Monthly* magazine have voted Billie Swamp Safari as offering the best guided tour in Florida.

Florida Monthly magazine asked their readers to nominate and vote for their choices for the 2004 Best of Florida Awards. More than 600,000 votes revealed Florida’s bests. The ninth annual Best of Florida winners were announced in the September



2004 issue of *Florida Monthly* magazine and will appear on their website, www.floridamagazine.com, for the entire year.

“We are honored that the readers of the magazine nominated and chose Billie Swamp Safari for this prestigious award,” said Billie Swamp Safari Park Director Ed Woods. “We are proud to be able to offer such a unique and educational experience to park visitors.”

Fox’s ‘Trading Spouses’ Seeks Native American Family for Television Series

Submitted by Alexis Diamond
LOS ANGELES, CA — Hi, I am a casting associate for Fox’s new hit show “Trading Spouses” and currently in search for a Native American family to participate in a future episode. We look to cast diverse families with at least one child six years of age or older to participate in the series.

This is a family show that welcomes people of all cultures, religions and political points of view.

Families chosen for the show receive a large cash reward for participating. Please pass this information along to any families you think may be interested in this opportunity. We are under a very tight schedule, so the sooner we hear from you the better.

Families interested or those who have questions, please call Casting Associate Alexis Diamond with Rocket Science Laboratories at (323) 802-0586 or fax (323)802-0599.

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The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should be based solely upon advertisements. Guy J. Seligman received his Certified Legal Intern in both the State Attorney and Public Defender offices in Dade and Broward County; he has been in private practice for 15 years; he is graduated from Nova Southeastern University Law School in 1987 and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1988.

Attention Employees & Tribal Members!

2005 RESERVATION RALLY

Saturday, January 22, 2005

Hosted by Big Cypress Community

More details to follow. First training session Wednesday, December 8th, 2004, 6:00 pm John Williams Park. Any questions contact your team captain and co-captains.

Jo North & Bonnie Morrow	954/989-6840
Holly Tiger	954/966-6300
Bo Young	954/989-9457
Shannon (Clinic)	954/962-2009

The REZ RALLY Applications are in!!

If you would like one, stop by one of the following locations:

Health Department
c/o Shannon McKeown or Suzanne Davis

Tribal Clerk's Office
Headquarters, Room 114

Seminole Police Department
c/o Angie Margotta or Diane Buster

Language Department
DSO Building, 2nd Floor

Recreation Building

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The Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.

The Honorable President Moses B. Osceola and Board Representatives;

The Seminole Tribal Members:

The Directors, Officers and Employees of First Bank of Indiantown want you to know that we appreciate your business.

We look forward to serving you in the New Year, and we wish you and your families a healthy and prosperous 2005!

Warm Welcome for Tribe's New Extension Agent

By Susan Etzebarria

BRIGHTON — Michael Bond is the Seminole Tribe's new extension agent assigned to work on behalf of all the reservations, as well as Glades County, under the auspices of the University of Florida (UF).

Bond was approved for the job by the Tribe in early December and recently established an office at the Cattle & Range Headquarters in Brighton.

Bond is one of only 26 persons in the United States who works under the Extension Indian Reservation Program. This program, funded by the federal government, has a wider range of responsibilities and opportunities for service than the normal county extension agent has had in the past.

Not only will Bond serve as a resource person and educator for the Tribe in the areas of cattle, swine, citrus, sugar, other farm animals and crops, he also has a particular interest in working with 4-H and especially finding ways to involve at-risk youths in the program.

Bond, 38, holds a master's degree in soil chemistry from UF and has a diversified experience in the field of agriculture.

"I am available as a resource person familiar



Susan Etzebarria
Extension Agent Michael Bond

with both domestic and international farming and cattle enterprises, but also with niche markets such as the growing of guava, kasava and water buffalo," Bond said.

He has spent time working for international institutions in South America, the Caribbean, Jamaica and Bolivia. He has worked with major commercial farms, as well as small farms owned by individuals. Bond said he enjoys helping individuals to develop business plans and obtain funding for new farming ventures.

When asked how he feels about his new job with the Tribe, he said he plans to work harder than ever because, as far as he is concerned, this is the best job he

has had so far.

"I am very excited," he said. "This is not a nine to five job for me. I am available 24 hours a day. I would like to be around for at least five to 10 years, or more."

He stressed he is not here to start a business for himself. Bond said his role as an educator and resource person is to help others be successful, adding he strives "to help others initiate something that takes a life of its own."



Tribal Council Meeting: Budget Referendum

By Iretta Tiger

HOLLYWOOD — On Dec 17, the Seminole Tribal Council met in Hollywood auditorium to address one resolution. Resolution C-013-05 calls for referendum measure C-01-05 to vote on rescinding the 2004-2005 Tribal budget. The

resolution came about through a petition compiled by voting Tribal citizens.

The Council agreed to an election. Tribal citizens will vote on whether or not to recall the 2004-2005 budget. The election will be held on Jan. 15 on all reservations.

Election Notice from the Seminole Tribe of Florida

Submitted by the Tribal Secretary's Office

Members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida are hereby advised that an election will be held on January 15, 2005, for the purpose of voting on the Referendum Measure No. 01-05, Recall Tribal Council Resolution C-013-05 Budget 2005.

All tribal members who are 18 years of age, or will be 18 thirty days prior to Election Day, and older shall be entitled to vote for the ratification or rejection of the proposed referendum. If any adult member is unable to vote at

a designated polling place because of temporary absence from reservation, illness or physical disability, the individual may vote by absentee ballot upon request in writing to the secretary of the tribe.

Non-resident voters may go to the nearest polling place to cast their vote. Here is a list of the voting locations: Big Cypress Senior Center, Brighton Education Center and Hollywood Office Complex Auditorium. All polling places are open from 8 a.m.-7 p.m.



The Billy Osceola Memorial Library

Emma Brown

Departments Receive Improvements

By Emma Brown

BRIGHTON — Thanks to financial backing from Brighton Councilman Roger Smith, the Brighton reservation's various departments and roadways have received new coats of paint and beautiful landscaping to help spruce up the look.

The newly received improvements have created a much more pleasant environment to drive through with a very tidy and clean new look that is very welcoming to community members and guests.

Brighton Maintenance Director Jody Goodman and the Brighton Maintenance department have worked very hard alongside Smith to improve the Brighton reservation and continue to do a wonderful job at providing the Brighton residents with a nice, neat community.



The Brighton Field Office

Emma Brown

Rev. Hummingbird Speaks at Potluck Dinner

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — Whenever possible the Immokalee community gathers bimonthly in the gym for a pot luck dinner. On Wednesday, Dec. 15, they were fortunate enough to have Reverend Salaw Hummingbird of the Big Cypress Baptist Church as the guest speaker.

Following a delicious buffet supper, Hummingbird addressed the group explaining the true meaning of Christmas, it's origins in the Bible and affect on family values.

He began his presentation by making reference to a remark he had heard at the ground breaking for Immokalee's new administration building. Both Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Immokalee Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar had commented on the women who had founded the Immokalee reservation and been instrumental in its operation.

The Native American culture is in general based on a matriarch society. The New Testament in the Bible reinforces this concept in several passages, Hummingbird said. He then pointed out that a woman is involved in the beginning of all our lives, just as the Bible states regarding the birth of Jesus Christ; "She brought forth her first born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes..."

The importance of women in the rearing of

our children is further acknowledged in the Book of Timothy where it states that women show the way. Traditionally, grandmothers have provided lady leadership and strength, teaching the importance of family and God.

Hummingbird had a definite impact upon the gathering as he spoke in an intimate manner, addressing each person as though he was having a private conversation. He spoke of his twenty-five year marriage, the blessing of a devoted wife and two children.

Often people preach or lecture to others without understanding the forces behind their behavior. This is not the situation with Hummingbird.

"I once left Jesus out in the cold," he said. "I did not have room for him. I lived for myself, drugs and alcohol. I thought of Christmas as going to my mom's."

He continued, "Finally in July 1994, I took Jesus as my personal savior. My life changed immediately. I started to enjoy my wife and found that she was my best friend, who had stayed by me even when I was unworthy."

Hummingbird concluded with the following words of wisdom, "Jesus Christ is the greatest gift that anyone can receive for Christmas."

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How to Select the Right Tax Return Preparer

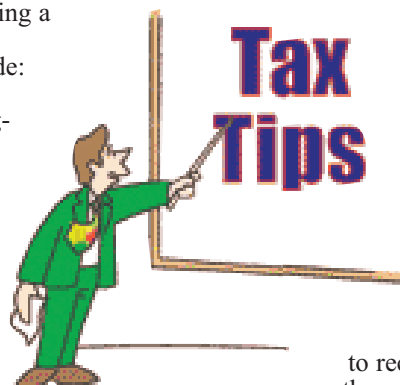
By Marie Trabulsi, Associate, RSM McGladrey, Inc.

The U.S. Treasury published several bulletins warning taxpayers against tax preparers who may take advantage of them. The treasury has published a list of helpful hints you should keep in mind when choosing a tax return preparer.

A few tips include:

avoid tax preparers who claim they can obtain larger refunds than other preparers, use a reputable tax professional that signs your tax return as a paid preparer and provides you with a copy for your records and consider whether the tax professional offers electronic filing options and other payment options that you want.

You should also consider the following: Consider whether the individual or firm will be around to answer questions about the preparation of your return, months, even years, after the return has been filed. Consider whether the tax professional can represent you if the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) audits your return.



As members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, you should be aware of tax issues specifically relating to you.

The Kiddie Tax, for instance, affects all members under the age of 14 and is a complex tax matter that is not fully understood by many tax preparers. If a tax preparer files your return incorrectly, you could personally face a large bill from the IRS requesting repayment of any refund received, plus interest and penalties.

Why should you use tax preparers sponsored by the Tribe? Why pay over \$250 of your money to receive a refund loan when they can prepare your return without any fees to you and you can receive your refund in as little as eight days? They are qualified to assist you with complex tax issues.

If you decide to have your tax return prepared by someone other than the Tribe-sponsored preparer, please make sure that your preparer meets all of the qualifications mentioned.

Tax Assistance Available to Tribal Citizens

By Marie Trabulsi, Associate, RSM McGladrey, Inc.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida has arranged for RSM McGladrey, Inc. to assist Tribal citizens in the preparation of their 2004 individual income tax returns. The tax accountants will be at each reservation per the following schedule:

Hollywood: Jan. 31–April 15, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Big Cypress: Jan. 31 and Feb. 28. Brighton: Jan. 31, Feb. 1 and Feb. 28. Immokalee: Feb. 1. Tampa and Ft. Pierce: by appointment.

Tribal citizens will be assisted on a first come, first serve basis on the scheduled days. All questions should be directed to Tina McGrath or Marie Trabulsi of RSM McGladrey, Inc. at (561) 697-1785.

RSM McGladrey, Inc. is pleased to announce that electronic filing will be available for the majority of the 2004 tax returns. RSM McGladrey, Inc. estimates that the majority of returns will be completed and mailed, or electronically filed, within three to five business days.

Please bring the following information that pertains to your tax return

with you when you meet with the accountant:

- copy of your 2003 tax return.
- 1040 form, if we did not prepare your 2003 tax return, any correspondence received from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) during 2003–2004.
- W-2 form from all employers.
- list of children (dependents), with birth dates and social security numbers.

- 1099 form showing income received during 2004 from the Seminole Tribe of Florida.
- 1099R form if you are receiving any funds from a pension plan, name, address, and tax identification number of the person or company to which you paid child care expenses.

- 1098 form showing the amount of interest you paid to a bank or mortgage company
- social security statement, if you are drawing social security.

- list of charitable contributions, property tax bills, daytime telephone number and any other documents that pertain to your income tax return.

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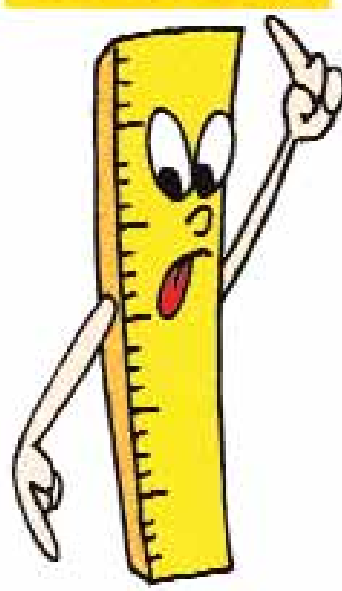
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772.467.2454

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By

**Lester L. Brown
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4. Are you concerned about your future?
5. Do you want your financial condition to be better in 2005?

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NASA Illustrator Visits Ahfachkee School

By Jaime Restrepo
BIG CYPRESS — The imagination is what drives human achievement and progress. Space exploration is the product of imagination. But before the plans are drawn up, and the rockets are designed and built, someone has to draw the picture and create the movie that will be shown to senators, congressmen, and even presidents for project approval and funding.

On Dec. 14, John Frassanito from John Frassanito & Associates Strategic Visualization®, a planning agency, visited the students of Ahfachkee School. As the students and faculty congregated in the school cafeteria, Frassanito demonstrated some of the visual and graphic work created by his firm depicting space travel, space vehicles, and the astronauts who

will be on those space missions. Frassanito & Associates have worked with NASA to create those “what if” depictions that help the President and other decision makers see what they are approving.

“The scientists and designers have great ideas and technology,” Frassanito said. “But the people who approve the projects and the funding feel much more comfortable when there is a picture.”

The students



Jaime Restrepo
John Frassanito demonstrates the effects of gravity on other planets for the students.



Jaime Restrepo
John Frassanito shows off a poster his firm created.

listened intently as he explained the illustration process and how he applies scientific theory and physics to create a realistic rendition of what an actual space mission will look like, including the movements and the effects of gravity on other worlds.

Frassanito used his computer to run short clips of some of his graphical creations, including one of the space shuttle. He presented the school with large posters illustrating various shuttle missions and books containing some of his illustrative work.

Frassanito’s visit was coordinated by the faculty and staff of the Ahfachkee School, President of the Native Management Group Joseph Ferrero and Big Cypress Council Representative David Cypress.

For more information on John Frassanito & Associates Strategic Visualization®, please visit www.frassanito.com.

Seminole Elementary Honors Tribe During Literacy Day

By Emma Brown
OKEECHOBEE, FL — Seminole Elementary has a program called Literacy Days, where each grade studies and explores different countries and cultures to help broaden their social studies skills and knowledge of the world, both inside and outside of the U.S.

One of the fourth grade units included learning about Native Americans. For the program, Mrs. White’s fourth grade class crafted small replicas of the Seminole Tribe of Florida flag.

Many Seminole children attend Seminole Elementary, so White dedicated part of their Native American studies to the Seminole Tribe of Florida. The flags were displayed in the school hall window for students to proudly show off their creativity and share a little about the Indian culture they learned from their peers.



Emma Brown
Small replicas of the Seminole flag surround the round circle of information outside of the classroom window.

Children’s Welfare Conference

Submitted by the National Indian Child Welfare Association

The 23rd Annual National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) “Protecting Our Children” National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, Courage, Conviction, and Living Our Values: How Are We Protecting Our children? conference will be held April 24–27 in Albuquerque, N.M.

Indian child welfare work requires individual conviction, organizational courage, and the maintaining of values through innovative services. NICWA asserts that programming and advocacy that are reflective of our values and culture are crucial to maintaining strong families and communities.

The work and commitment of all levels of Indian child welfare, from tribal councils to community elders, require support and regeneration. The balance of providing practical technical services to our families and maintaining the energy needed to create change can be a challenge for many communities and tribes.

Together, we can learn from each other how to make a difference in our children’s lives and in our communities.

For general conference questions, e-mail Tanya Firemoon at tanya@nicwa.org or call (503) 222-4044, Ext. 130. For questions regarding call for presentations, E-mail Kim Just at justkim@nicwa.org or call (503) 222-4044, Ext. 113.

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Admission: \$6 for adults and \$4 for seniors, and children, kids 5 and under are free. 4th Graders get in free Friday. (The event is free with paid admission to the museum)


Directions:
Festival is at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, Exit 49 off of I 75 and then 17 miles north.

Contact:
Brian Zepeda (863) 902-1113



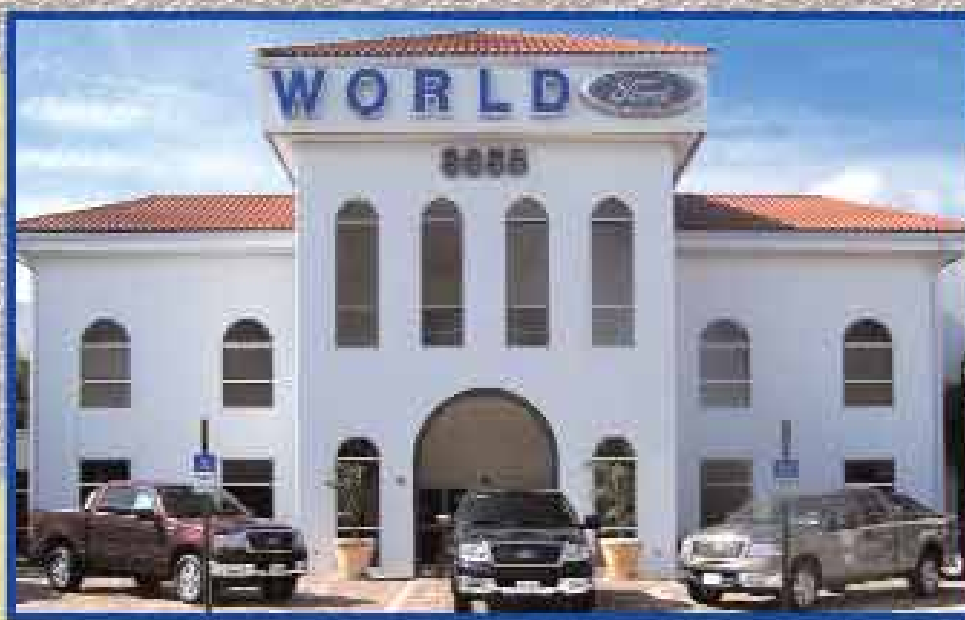
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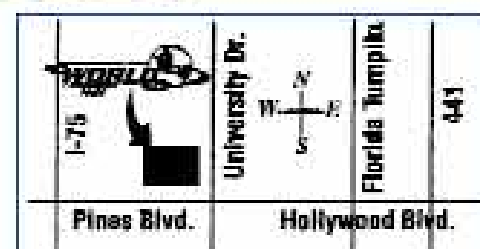
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❖ Anniversary

Continued from page 1

landmarks before the casino was built. Osceola also had a personal message for the Tribe.

“You folks have a lot to be proud of,” said Osceola “Those of you who pray, pray for your Council. We’re not always perfect. Don’t give up on your leadership.”

Also at the celebration was National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) Chairman Ernie Stevens Jr., Hollywood Council Representative Max Osceola Jr. presented Stevens with a Seminole jacket.

Stevens recognized the Tribe for its ingeniousness and fortitude, and cited numerous facts on what Indian gaming has accomplished. From the creation of thousands of jobs, to the charities who benefit from donations from the tribes; Indian gaming has become a prestigious enterprise.

Seminole casino employees who have been with the Tribe for the entire 25 years received special recognition and a gift of gratitude from the Tribe.

Seminole Gaming Operations



NIGA Chairman Ernie Stevens Jr. received this Seminole jacket from Hollywood Councilman Max Osceola Jr. at the anniversary celebration.

CEO Jim Allen unveiled his own personal tribute to the Tribe; the beautification of the Council Oak. Before the beautification, the oak had nothing to indicate its significance to the Seminole Tribe. Now, thanks to Allen, there are

benches, shrubs, and a plaque; and the health of the oak was also maintained.

Interns of the Tribal Career Development Program presented the Council with a painting by Guy LaBree. The painting is of the Council Oak and the spirits of those who were there for the signing of the organization of the Tribe.

Allen then exhibited the Seminole Pride slot machine, a Class 2 gaming machine specially created for the Seminole Tribe. The machine is designed with the chick-ee and fire logo; it is not known if the slot machine symbols will be alligators, fry bread or chickees. The music for the machine is John Anderson’s country music hit “Seminole Wind.”

There is also another machine being developed named Seminole Warrior.

As the Tribe prospers and develops, it’s easy to forget how things were. Take the time to think about all we’ve accomplished and give thanks to those who came before us. Thank them for their will to survive and ingenuity. Thank them for passing along those traits, the survival of the Tribe is now up to us.



The new and improved Council Oak, compliments of Gaming CEO Jim Allen.



Chairman Mitchell Cypress chats with Dan Marino during the check presentation.

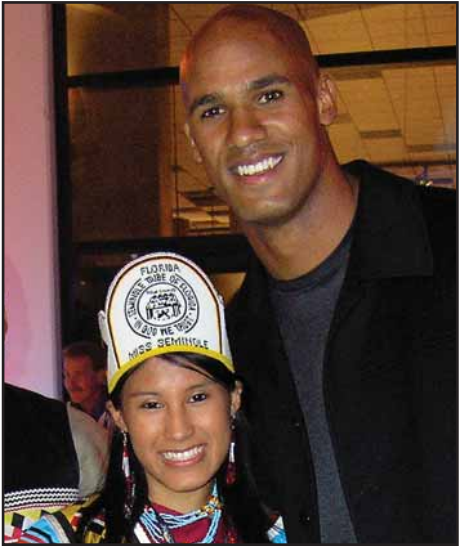
❖ Paradise

Continued from page 1

Miami Dolphin’s defensive end Jason Taylor also attended the party but not before doing a live interview. Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Taylor were interviewed by radio station The Beat 103.5’s DJ Coka Lani.

During the VIP party, there were bands playing live music, a circus performance and a boxing match happening simultaneously. A spectacular display of fireworks were supposed to close the evening, but many revelers stayed late into the night. It’s hard to leave paradise.

To check out Seminole Paradise, surf to www.seminoleparadise.com or, better yet, come visit. Seminole Paradise is located at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino on the Hollywood Seminole reservation.



(L-R) Seminole Princess JoJo Osceola and Miami Dolphin Jason Taylor.

January 2005 Seminole Paradise Concert Line-Up

Grammy nominated rock band the Gin Blossoms scheduled to perform

Submitted by Mayra Hernandez, Bitner Goodman Public Relations

HOLLYWOOD — Seminole Paradise, South Florida’s newest retail and entertainment district at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Hollywood, has announced its January 2005 schedule of free national and local recording artists as follows:

Thursday Jan. 27 the Gin Blossoms, popular rock, will perform at 8 p.m. This Grammy-nominated band is most famous for their number one hit “Till I Hear It From You,” as well as top 10 hits “Hey Jealousy,” “Mrs. Rita,” “Found Out About You,” “Allison Road,” “Follow You Down,” and “As Long As It Matters.”

Local acts scheduled to appear throughout the month are: Sundays (Jan. 2, 9, 16 and 23) Arturo Fuente, flamenco, from 7–11 p.m., Wednesdays (Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26) Lindsay Winn Band, soft rock, from 7–10 p.m., Thursdays (Jan. 6, 13, and 20) Shadow Creek, country rock,

from 7 to 10 p.m., Fridays (Jan. 7, 14 and 21) Billy Bones, contemporary sax, from 7–11 p.m., Saturdays (Jan. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29) The Providence, a blend of acoustic, pop and rock, from 7–10 p.m., All acts scheduled to appear at the Seminole Paradise Center Fountain.

Seminole Paradise offers 12 themed food and dining options such as Tequila Ranch, authentic Mexican cuisine complete with strolling mariachis and a mechanical bull in a vibrant hacienda setting; Renegade Barbeque, savory Florida and Southwest favorites set amidst authentic American Indian artifacts; Tatu, a two-level Asian fusion and sushi restaurant; The Park Sports Club, a 15,000-square foot stadium setting with 100 large-screen TVs and skyboxes; and the

Bad Ass Coffee Company, one of the largest distributors of Kona coffee from Hawaii. Eleven high-energy nightclub and entertainment venues include 88’s Dueling Pianos, Jazziz Live, Pangaea, a spin-off the world-renowned celebrity ultra lounge in New York City and The Improv Comedy Club.

Seminole Paradise’s 24 distinct retail shops include Cache, Footworks, Funky Fish, Havana Shirt Store, Plantazia, Quiksilver Boardriders Club, Ritchie’s Swimwear, Sunglass Hut, White House/Black Market and Xtra Lifestyle

Accessories.

True to its Native American ancestry, Seminole Paradise also features a one-of-a-kind special attraction – The Seminole Okalee Indian Village and Museum. Built around traditional Seminole “chickee” huts and pathways through a natural habitat emulating the Everglades, this unusual village and museum is part of the nationally recognized Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum located on the Big Cypress Seminole Reservation.

It showcases up-close animal habitats and exhibits that are part of the Seminole wildlife experience along with a prestigious collection of Seminole cultural and historical artifacts. The attraction also features daily alligator-wrestling shows.

Located adjacent to the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, on State Road 7 (U.S. 441) north of Stirling Road in Hollywood, Seminole Paradise shops are open from 11 a.m.–9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

For restaurants, hours of operation are from 11 a.m.–11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and from 11 a.m.–2 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Certain restaurants and nightclubs operate extended evening hours. Parking is free.

For more information, please call (954) 583-3250.

❖ Party

Continued from page 1

even take in a holiday movie.

Parents could enjoy the adult side of the party with peace of mind while the children remained in their area, content and secure, with plenty of their favorite food on hand.

This year’s event was beautifully orchestrated. All guests parked down the road and were transported to the Pavilion by bus. Each guest had a numbered wristband that would later serve as their potential winning ticket when their lucky num-

ber was called by the evening’s emcee and Ft. Pierce Liaison Sally Tommie, from the Chairman’s Office. And generous were the door prizes, with the lucky winners receiving \$500 each.

Food was plentiful with little, if any, lines and plenty of room to walk about and mingle. It was a perfect setting for all present to greet each other, mingle and enjoy a wonderful holiday party. Though this may have been the first annual Tribal Christmas party held at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, the new facility will be the home of many more parties to come.



(L-R) Aleah Ray Turtle and Shirley Clay dance the night away.



Rapper Fat Joe and Jr. Miss Seminole Krystle Young.

Month-long tribute to the King commemorates everything Elvis

Submitted by Doug Hoppe

TAMPA — From trips to Graceland to Cadillac giveaways, from appearances by The World’s Best Young Elvis to a day-long festival featuring the skydiving Flying Elvi, the Tampa Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino will honor the King of rock ‘n’ roll. If he were still alive today, Elvis Presley would have turned 70 this year, and the Hard Rock will celebrate throughout his birth month of January.

The festivities kick off with two month-long casino promotions. Each Tuesday from 12 p.m.–9pm, “Cash is King” will give one lucky player each hour the opportunity to win cash prizes, as well as a weekly grand prize trip to Graceland and \$2,000. Wednesdays honor Elvis’s loyalty to a particular car make in the “King of the Road” Cadillac giveaway.

Both promotions are open only to Player’s Club members; membership is complimentary and available to those 18 and older with a valid ID.

In addition to casino giveaways, several January special events will also celebrate Elvis. Seminole Hard Rock’s monthly “Art of Rock and Roll” art exhibit and wine tasting will feature exclusive memorabilia on loan from Hard Rock Cafe’s vault.

Items featured include a gilt metal belt buckle, a Remington Woodmaster rifle engraved with the letters “EP” and “TCB,” and a shirt, all once owned by the King, as well as a number of rare photographs of Elvis Presley. The “Art of Rock & Roll” is from 6:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m. this Thursday Jan. 6. Admission is \$10 at the door.

Continuing the festivities, Elvis tribute artist Travis LeDoyt, the “World’s Best Young Elvis,” returns to Tampa Bay

will also be used to decorate the cake.

The birthday celebration is the first of a month-long series of Elvis tribute events at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. Players Club members who visit the casino in January will have chances to win a trip for two to Elvis’ Graceland Estate in Memphis, plus a 2005 Cadillac CTS, with drawings slated for 10 p.m. each Wednesday in January.

In addition, Elvis impersonator Chris MacDonald will perform Elvis Memories, a tribute to the King of Rock & Roll, on Thursday, Jan. 20 at 8 p.m. in The Club Showroom. Tickets are \$25 and go on sale Friday, Jan. 7 at noon. They may be purchased at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Box Office, open daily from noon to 7 p.m.

Tickets also are available at all Ticketmaster outlets and online at www.ticketmaster.com. Charge by phone: Miami-Dade (305)358-5885, Broward (954) 523-3309, and Palm Beach (561) 966-3309. Doors open at 7 p.m., one hour before the show. Tickets are available at Will Call two hours before the show.

Hard Rock Celebrates the King of Rock ‘N’ Roll

to perform in four shows the weekend of Saturday January 15–Sunday Jan. 16. Tickets are on sale now at the Seminole Hard Rock Store, online at www.ticketmaster.com and by phone at (813) 287-8844 or (727) 898-2100.

Rounding out the month, Elvis Fest will take place at Seminole Hard Rock on Sunday Jan. 23, from 12 p.m.–5 p.m.. The festival is free and open to the public. The world famous Flying Elvi will kick things off with a noon skydive and stage show. Throughout the event, guests may purchase a souvenir photo with the Elvi for a \$5.00 donation to the Humane Society of Tampa Bay.

A poolside Memphis-style barbecue will also be available for \$5 a plate. Additional activities include a “Hound Dog” competition for dogs dressed as Elvis, a peanut butter and banana–Elvis’s favorite–sandwich eating contest, the Blue Suede Shoes dance competition, and an Elvis Impersonator contest.

Prizes for the various contests include hotel stay and BodyRock spa gift certificates, as well as cash prizes of up to \$1,000 for the best Elvis impersonator. The contests are open to those 18 and older and pre-registration is available by calling (813) 627-7766.

The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino is located just off I-4 at 5223 N. Orient Rd., Tampa, FL 33610. The property features 250 hotel rooms, a 90,000 square foot casino offering poker, bingo, and more than 1,800 gaming machines including Wheel of Fortune, Little Green Men, and Double Diamonds.

Dining choices include signature restaurant Floyd’s, casual dining in the 24-hour Green Room, a fast food court, and Quick Bites at Big Joe’s Sports Bar. An 8,000 square foot ballroom offers a variety of meeting space options, and the BodyRock spa adjoining the hotel pool provides relaxation amid a lush tropical setting. Both valet and self-parking are available.

For more information, please visit www.seminolehardrock.com or call (813) 627-ROCK (7625).

Lifestyle Balance Classes Beginning

Submitted by the Health Department
Join Allied Health as we begin our brand new, diabetes prevention program called Lifestyle Balance.
Learn new and practical ways to prevent or manage diabetes in our weekly classes beginning the week of January 17, 2005.
Topics covered will include: an introduction to the Lifestyle Balance Program, Getting Started Losing Weight, Be a Fat Detective, Three Ways to Eat Less, Move Those Muscles, Being Active: The Way of Life, Tip the Calorie Scale, Take Charge of What's Around



You, Problem Solving, Four Keys to Healthy Eating Out, Talk Back to Negative Thought, The Slippery Slope of Lifestyle Change, Jump Start Your Activity Plan, Make Social Cues Work For You, You Can Manage Stress and Ways to Stay Motivated
For more information, contact Cari Saldin or Debra Hamilton Ray in Big Cypress at (863) 983-5798, Barbara Boling or Beth Skinner in Brighton at (863) 763-0271, Doris Nicholas-Mir or Shannon Mckeown in Hollywood at (954) 965-1300, or Charlotte Porcaro in Immokalee at (239) 657-6038.

Cellular Phone Safety Tips

Submitted by Sergeant Al Signore
It is currently estimated in the United States that there are an additional 30,000 cellular phones in use every day. When people use cellular phones while driving motor vehicles, particularly when dialing a number, they are often distracted and traffic accidents occur. In the last year some states and communities have passed local ordinances and state laws prohibiting the use of a cellular telephone while driving a motor vehicle.
The following are a series of safety tips for cell phone users:
1. Get to know your cell phone and its features such as speed dial and redial. Carefully read your instruction manual and learn to take advantage of features most phones offer including automatic redial and memory dial – most phones can store up to 99 numbers or more in memory dial.
Also, work to memorize the phone keypad so you can use the speed dial function without taking your attention off the road.
2. Use hands free devices. A number of hands free cell phone accessories are readily available today. Whether you choose an installed mounted device for your phone or a speaker phone accessory, take advantage of these devices if available to you.
3. Position your phone within easy reach. Make sure you place your cell phone within easy reach and where you can grab it without removing your eyes from the road. If you get an incoming call at an inconvenient time, let your voice mail answer it for you.
4. Suspend conversation during hazardous conditions or situations. Let the person you are speaking to know you are driving; if necessary, suspend the call in heavy traffic or hazardous weather conditions. Rain, sleet, snow and ice can be hazardous. But so is heavy traffic. As a driver, your first responsibility is to pay attention to the road.
5. Pay attention to the road. Do not take notes or look up phone numbers while driving. If you are reading an address book or business card while driving a car, or writing a “to do” list, then you are not watching where you are going. It's common sense. Don't get caught in a dangerous situation because you are reading or writing and not paying



attention to the road or nearby vehicles.
6. Dial sensibly and assess the traffic: if possible, place calls when you are not moving or before pulling into traffic. Try to plan your calls before you begin your trip, or attempt to coincide your call times that you may be stopped at a stop sign, red light or otherwise stationary. But if you need to dial while driving, follow this simple tip–dial only a few numbers check the road and your mirrors then continue.
7. Do not engage in distracting conversations. Stressful or emotional conversations and driving do not mix—they are distracting and even dangerous when you are behind the wheel. Make people you are talking with aware you are driving and if necessary, suspend phone conversations, which have the potential to divert your attention from the road.
8. Use your phone to call for help. Your cellular phone is one of the greatest tools you can own to protect yourself and your family in dangerous situations—with your phone at your side, help is only three numbers away. Dial 9-1-1 in the case of fire, traffic accident, road hazard, or medial emergencies. Remember, it is a free call on your cell phone!
9. Use your phone to help others in emergencies. Your cellular phone provides you a perfect opportunity to be a Good Samaritan in your community; if you see an auto accident, crime in progress or other serious emergency where lives are in danger call 9-1-1, as you would want others to do for you.
10. Call roadside assistance or a special cell phone non-emergency assistance number when necessary. Certain situations you encounter while driving may require attention but are not urgent enough to merit a call to 9-1-1. But you can still use your cell phone to lend a hand.
If you see a broken-down vehicle posing no serious hazard, a broken traffic signal, and a minor traffic accident where no one appears injured, or a vehicle you know to be stolen, call roadside assistance or other special non-emergency wireless number.
For more information on cell phone safety, please call Sergeant Al Signore with the Seminole Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit at (813) 623-5748.



Health Department employees display their plaques recognizing their service to the department.

Health Department Celebrates the Holiday Season, Honors Employees for Years of Service

Submitted By Connie Whidden, Health Director
HOLLYWOOD
— On Thursday, Dec. 16, the Health department held a holiday celebration at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. Health Director Connie Whidden greeted the employees and welcomed them to the event.
The employees were also provided with a tour of the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. They were amazed at how beautiful the resort was, especially the guest rooms.
After the tour, the Health department staff joined Whidden, along with Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Executive Administrator Ken Fields, for a holiday luncheon. The ballroom was decorated with a very festive holiday theme, and each employee received a holiday gift bag full of goodies.
Cypress addressed the employees during the luncheon and thanked each of them for their hard work and diligence in providing quality health care to



(L-R) Executive Administrator Ken Fields and Chairman Mitchell Cypress present Health Director Connie Whidden with a plaque of recognition.

dedication in meeting the needs of the patients.
Whidden then addressed the employees and expressed her sincere thanks to each of them for going the extra mile to ensure that the Tribal citizens receive the best possible health care. She provided the employees with her history as the health director and also acknowledged the great progress the Tribe has made in providing quality health care to the communities.
She then commented that she was very fortunate as a director to have staff that have been with the department for a number of years and wanted to recognize those employees who had been with the tribe five or more years. Each employee was presented with a plaque in appreciation of their years of service to the Health department.
Those recognized were: Five years of service: Belkys Bueno, Debbie Hamilton, Christina MacAuley, Dr. Michael Sofianos, DMD and Holly Billie; Six years: Judith Parks, Edna McDuffie, Pauline Good, Lawanna Niles and Perrie Whidden; Seven years: Sue Harjo and Helene Buster; Eight: Terry Sweat and Elizabeth Johns; Nine years: Suzanne Jaeger Davis; Ten years: Kerri Cook DeScheene and Debbie DeHass; Eleven years: Sue Langford; Fifteen years: Patty Waldron, Twenty-nine years: Billy Micco and Thirty-one years: Connie Whidden.
Following the awards ceremony, one final plaque was presented to Whidden herself for 31 years



(L-R) Kerri Cook DeScheene and Judith Parks.

Tribal citizens and their families. He reminisced of the time when he served as a community health representative for the Health department and acknowledged how far the Tribe has come in providing comprehensive health care services to meet the needs of the Tribal citizens.
Fields also spoke to the employees and thanked them as well. He commented on how remarkable it was that most of the staff had been with the Health department for two or more years.
Each of the Health department program managers came to the podium, introduced and recognized their respective staff for their hard work and



(L-R) Allied Health Manager Suzanne Davis and Cari Saldin.



Brighton Health Department staff: (L-R): Nikki Brown, Julie Wetherington, Shelley Maggard, Kim Crews and Selina Harvey.

of service for the Tribe.
Cypress and Fields presented Whidden with a beautiful marble plaque recognizing her many years of service to the Seminole Tribe of Florida, with the last 10 years in the role as Health Director.
Whidden said that she was very honored to receive the recognition and that, even after all her years of service, she wakes up in the morning ready to meet the challenges ahead of her. She said that she still enjoys her work in serving the Seminole Tribe to ensure that Tribal citizens receive the best possible health care.
The event concluded with Whidden wishing everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

Seminole Cultural Circle
Of Recovery

"Protecting Our Future"

Under the Chickee behind Youth Center rekindling the fire on Monday, January 17th, 2005 @ 6pm, gathering will be held every other Monday

A gathering of strength, power and love in honoring our God, the Great Spirit

for Seminoles and Other Natives Only

Need info: Donna Turtle 954-559-4790
Vivian Delgado 954-444-2954
Yvonne Courtney 954-261-4445

Recovery Gathering

"Protecting Our Future"

At the traller of Family Servlces on Frlday, @ 6pm on January 21st, 2005, gathering will be held every other Friday

A gathering of strength, power and love in honoring our God, the Great Spirit

for Seminoles and Other Natives Only

Need info: Donna Turtle 954-559-4790
Vivian Delgado 954-444-2954
Yvonne Courtney 954-261-4445

Health Corner

❖ Whidden

Continued from page 1

master’s degree.

But searching the remote region around Brighton, the Tribe could not find a good candidate. That is when Whidden decided that the Health department would always have a Seminole available to head it up.

“I wanted to be sure an Indian would be in charge,” she said.

Whidden has been in charge of all the Tribal health clinics for more than 10 years, but says she can not take the credit for the excellence of the Tribe’s health care system.

“I have to give credit to two Seminole directors,” Whidden said. “The real improvements to the health clinics were kicked off when Cecil Johns was the director, and also, Elsie Bowers in the 1970s. I see them as the ones with the vision and laying down the groundwork. I see myself as building on what they have done. These two people really cared about the people.”

Whidden said she has goals for the growth of the health clinics. These include providing, “more services to the outlying reservations—to Ft. Pierce, Tampa and Naples—for example.”

She is also trying to get the promised satellite clinic in Immokalee set up.

Whidden said she does believe that there has been a lot of progress in health prevention and awareness of diabetes among the Tribal members.

“Five or six years ago, people didn’t even

talk about the fact that they have diabetes,” she said.

Whidden said she hopes the day will come when every person who has diabetes running in their family will come in to the clinics for testing so prevention can begin early.

She spends a lot of her leisure time enjoying her four grandchildren. Although she has worked many years and puts in a lot of hours, with offices in Hollywood and Brighton, and many road trips to visit clinics, she still has plenty of energy to go fishing, air boating, and walking for fitness.

For Christmas, she got a bicycle which she vows to ride on the regular Thursday morning bike ride with the some of her staff and the seniors at Brighton whenever her busy schedule allows. The Tribe’s Health Director tries to do what she asks of others to do—to take care of your health, eat wisely, exercise and get regular check ups.



Susan Etzebarria
Connie Whidden

Dear Counselor,

Why do some people drink alcohol and nothing happens, and other folks drink alcohol and get addicted?

—Anonymous Recovery

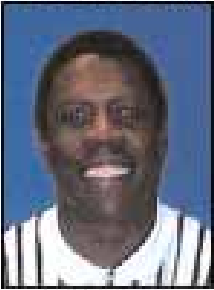
Dear Anonymous Recovery,

Addiction to alcohol is a physiological addiction that then becomes a psychological addiction. The reason a person uses alcohol in the first place is due to a desire to have the euphoric feeling, or the sense of well-being.

Some people are prone for addiction because their brain produces a drug that is more addictive than morphine. It never dissipates and stays inside the membrane that envelopes the brain. By itself it is harmless, but when alcohol is ingested, it causes a vicious cycle of wanting and needing more. In Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) they say one is too many and a thousand is not enough.

A person who is not alcoholic doesn’t have this problem. But if you were to inject this drug the brain produces, called THIQ, right into the brain of someone who is not alcoholic, you

Ask The Counselor



Basil Phillips
M.S. Mental Health Counseling

Letters of interest from the community

All letters should be sent to
ASK THE COUNSELOR
Family Services Department
4006 Josie Bille Avenue
Hollywood, FL 33024

would in fact turn them into an alcoholic.

The only way to stop alcoholism is to stop drinking. A prolong period of drinking will cause a psychological dependency, and the problem gets worse, and you get a double whammy. If a person sees no reason to quit, it is a degenerative sickness and it degenerates until the person dies. The alcoholic can have the strongest will totally overpowered by the chemical in the body.

The answer is abstinence. Just like any other addiction, a person must control what they ingest. Dependence means the person cannot do without it without going through some behavioral consequences,

withdrawal, etc.

A variety of approaches are used in treatment to help a patient address the cravings for alcohol and possibly avoid alcoholism relapse through treatment from AA that is tailored to the individuals needs. Patients learn to control their addiction and live relatively normal lives.

I pray that you remain in recovery, and be an example for others to follow.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) No. OT050368 LABORATORY INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LIMS) AND SCIENTIFIC DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SDMS)

The Procurement Department of the South Florida Water Management District, B-1 Building, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33406, will receive sealed proposals up to **2:30 p.m.**, opening time February 10, 2005 for a new Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) and Scientific Data Management System (SDMS).

An **OPTIONAL PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE** will be held on Monday, January 24, 2005 at 10:00 AM, in Building B-1 2nd Floor, Conference Room 2A, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, Florida for all interested respondents.

All proposals must conform to the instructions in the RFP. Interested respondents may obtain a copy of the complete RFP (1) at the above address; (2) by downloading the solicitation from our website at www.sfwmd.gov; (3) by calling (561) 682-2715; or (4) by calling the 24-hour **BID HOTLINE (800) 472-5290**. The public is invited to attend the proposal opening. **Further information on the status of this solicitation can be obtained on our web site - www.sfwmd.gov.**

Official public meetings regarding this RFP are scheduled as follows:

Product Demonstrations: March 11, 2005 through March 18, 2005 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM daily in Building B-1 2nd Floor, Conference Room 2A or 2B, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, Florida

Oral presentations are subject to cancellation in the event that the District's final ranking is based solely on the written proposal evaluation. All public meetings will be held at the dates, times, locations and conference rooms referenced above. A copy of the agenda may be obtained by writing the South Florida Water Management District, Procurement Department, P.O. Box 24680, West Palm Beach, Florida, 33416-4680. Persons with disabilities or handicaps who need assistance may contact the District Clerk, (561) 682-6297, at least two business days in advance of the meeting to make appropriate arrangements.

Should one or more members of the evaluation committee need to attend any of the meetings by means of communication media technology (CMT), the meetings will be teleconferenced at the dates, times, locations and conference rooms referenced above. For more information, please contact Johanna M. Labrada, Contract Specialist, at (561) 682-2720.



Seminole Edition | Black_H2_2004_22 Passenger



Independence Edition | Powder_H2_2004_25 Passenger



Tribal Edition | White_H2_2004_22 Passenger



Liberty Edition | Pearl White_Escalade_2004_22 Passenger



Freedom Edition | Black_H2_2004_25 Passenger



United Edition | Black_Excursion_2003_23 Passenger

**Jobs Starting Out at
\$50/hr for Regular Limos
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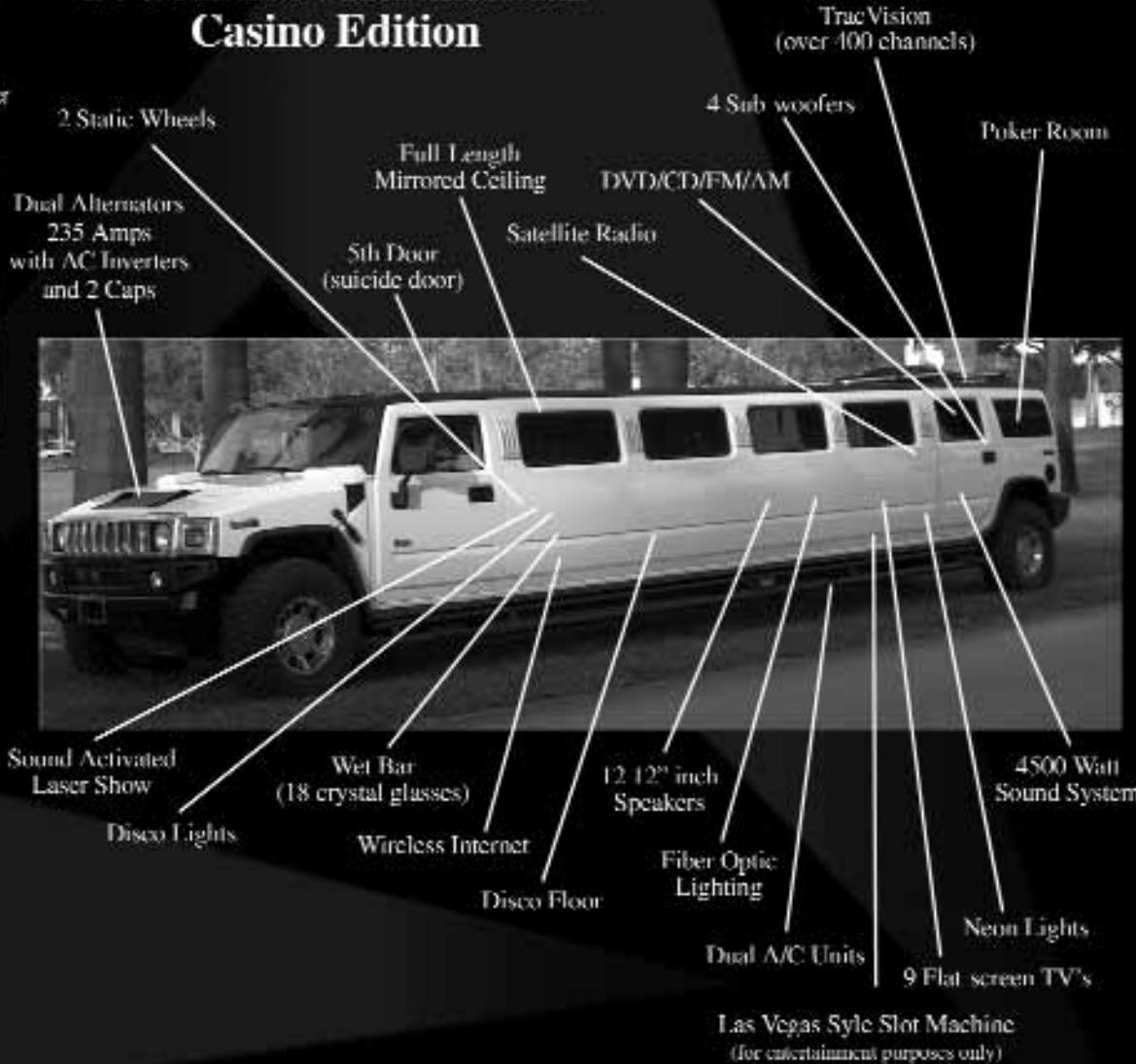
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Iretta Tiger

Mitchell Cypress tells a Channel 10 reporter about the importance of community members donating toys during the holidays.

Channel 10 Interviews Chairman Cypress

By Iretta Tiger HOLLYWOOD —

Poolside at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, an unusual but very welcome sight makes an appearance; it's a black pick-up truck loaded with toys.

The toys are only a fraction of the gifts donated from local citizens. This collection of toys is now known as the Seminole Toy Drive.

The Seminole Toy Drive is only



Iretta Tiger

The black pick-up's bed was full of toys.

in its second year and is already receiving local media attention. Channel 10 News even came to the Hard Rock to interview Chairman Mitchell Cypress.

Cypress expressed his genuine concern about those in need and said his hope is that soon the Tribe will be able to do more. At this time of year when it's easy to forget about others, it's

heartening to see the generosity of South Floridians.

Toy Drive

Continued from page 1

Wednesday, Dec. 22. Pulling up in a fire truck full of toys, he greeted about 50 Belle Glade residents with a handshake and a "Feliz Navidad," which means Merry Christmas in Spanish.

Belle Glade is comprised of many migrant farm workers, most of which are Hispanic and do not speak fluent English. Healthy Solutions Resource Center Family Coach Advocate Diana Galan said Hispanics are the group the staff most serves; many staff members even had to learn the language just to work there.

Cypress, along with Ft. Pierce Liaison Sally Tommie, Travel and Events Coordinator Eida Velez and Seminole Firefighters Ira Goodstat, Irena Loleski and Kevin Lois assisted in passing out toys to the children of about 30 families that receive social welfare assistance through the center.

In addition to brightening the kids' faces who received the toys, Cypress also came bearing gifts for the adults in the form of Publix® grocery store gift certificates. This gift seemed fitting as Cypress told a news crew from Channel 5 that "these are the people who put produce on our tables."

Galan, a former Big Cypress tribal employee herself, said she has known Cypress for many years. She said he is always generous with donations to the Healthy Solutions Resource Center, however boasted because this year he went all out with the gift presentation

arriving in a fire truck.

"This is the first time he personally came to deliver the donation," Galan said.

She said this year was exceptionally challenging because the nearby city of Pahokee, also comprised mainly of migrant farm workers who live in trailers, lost everything during the hurricanes. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, has assisted the roughly 100 families by setting up temporary housing in the form of single-wide trailers for those who lost their homes.

Galan has made it her mission to get the word out about these peoples' struggle.

"Every year I write to Mitchell [Cypress] asking for donations," she said. "This year I wrote to him telling him about the families who lost their homes in the hurricane."

After handing out toys to the people at the Healthy Solutions Resource



Shelley Marmor

Big Cypress Firefighters Irena Loleski and Kevin Lois hand out a truck-load's worth of gifts.

Center, Cypress took a trip to see these adverse living conditions. A row of

white trailers lined a one-lane road along Lake Okeechobee, behind them a temporary chain-link fence to keep the alligators away.

The chairman was touched when he saw an approximately two-foot tall Christmas tree outside one of the trailers decorated with white lights. With as many as five people living in a single-wide trailer, families had to improvise with space at such a premium.

Cypress made the decision to hand out the remaining toys to the children living in the trailer park. He met with many of the trailer park's residents. Most of them offered messages of thanks telling him things like "un million de gracias," literally meaning one million thanks.



Shelley Marmor

Chairman Mitchell Cypress shakes hands with mom Brenda Carranza (right) after daughter Ciclary Rosas receives her early Christmas gift.

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Seminole Paradise Welcomes the New Year with a Blast



The Raquel Williams Band belted out popular dance tunes.



An estimated 25,000 people stopped by the Seminole Paradise.

By Felix DoBosz
HOLLYWOOD — Late night revelers had a new hot spot to hang out at as they rang in the New Year at one of the biggest blasts in South Florida. The Seminole Paradise was ready to live up to expectations as thousands showed up, causing massive traffic gridlock to the main entrance of the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino along State Road 7. The huge crowd also made it difficult to find an empty parking spot to enjoy the big fireworks show at midnight. According to the Seminole Paradise's Marketing Director Julie Katz, the Seminole Hard Rock security estimated that 25,000 people visited throughout the evening. Seminole Paradise offered more than ten different nightly venues where people could celebrate the New Year in style. Besides the dining options, high-energy nightclubs were jammed with happy party goers enjoying all the festivities. Lots of people wore colorful Happy New Year's hats and used noise makers as they whooped it up after each burst of spectacular fireworks. Each burst created a breathtaking kaleidoscopic of colors that broke through the darkened sky over the Seminole Paradise Lake. Thousands of spectators lined the metal railings surrounding the lake area to view the thrilling fireworks show. Every burst and blast was greeted by wild cheers, whistles, and applause from the big festive crowd, which reverberated throughout the buildings in Seminole Paradise. The Valerie Tyson Band was scheduled to perform on the outdoor stage, adjacent to the Jazziz Live night club.

However, because of the wet weather earlier in the evening the band was not able to play. The Raquel Williams Band was found in the nick of time and performed on the outdoor stage. They played a mixture of infectious disco classics with mainstream pop classics to spread their holiday joy to the adoring crowd that seemed to move to every new beat and rhythm that singer Raquel Williams belted out. People were dancing and drinking the night away enjoying all the music the band could power up. The Gryphon night club and Pangaea were very popular stops among the many partiers. The beautiful people all came out to enjoy the hypnotic colored lights and drink and dance the night away. Pangaea is a spin-off of the world renowned restaurant/bar of the same name in New York City and London. Inside were Conga drummers playing to the burning beat that the DJ's were spinning. Next to them was a wall display of several steer skulls with long horns with several dozen burning white candles illuminating and casting dramatic effects below them on a pedestal. There were elegant sitting booths along the earthy walls and red leather deco-style lounge sofas to get comfortable on. The bartenders and waitresses were really happy to serve everyone quickly, and they provided the fuel for the party elite to get down and get jiggy with it. The Tequila Ranch featured authentic Mexican cuisine with a vibrant hacienda-style ambience, the mechanical bull in the center of the restaurant attracted a constant crowd peering through the large front panoramic windows. Young female patrons would take turns riding, jamming and slamming and flipping off the big robotic bull to the delight and cheers from the festive holiday crowd. At 88's Dueling Pianos a sing along comedy nightclub, Hollywood Tribal Council Representative Max Osceola Jr. sat at a table near the back and enjoyed the festivities with his small entourage. He said with a big grin on his face he was having a great

time bringing in the New Year, and said he enjoyed 88's Dueling Pianos. The place was packed and everyone seemed to enjoy singing along to the piano players' popular tunes.



The impressive fireworks display in "paradise."

Boys & Girls Club's 'Great Balls of Fire!' 38th Annual Dinner Auction

Submitted by Barry R. Epstein
HOLLYWOOD — Before the invitations were even addressed and mailed, more than half the seats were sold for the "Great Balls of Fire!" 38th Annual Dinner Auction to benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County. This year's Jerry Lee Lewis-themed gala, presented by Westec Interactive and the Seminole Tribe of Florida, is expected to attract 800 rock 'n' roll patrons on Saturday, Jan. 29, at the new Hollywood Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. Guests at this year's gala will have the opportunity to boogie to the sounds of Jason D. Williams, often compared to Jerry Lee Lewis, while bidding on silent auction items and unique live auction treasures that include luxury travel, sports memorabilia, high-end gifts, vacations in Hawaii and the wine country, a round of golf with legend Jack Nicklaus and much more. This year's event is expected to draw a record crowd as an increasing number of guests look forward to the annual gala and have spread the word to their friends and family members, say event co-chairs Bob Case and Julie Russell. The event begins at 5:30 p.m. with a silent auction and cocktail reception, followed by a sit-down dinner and live auction at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$225 per person and can be reserved by calling the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County at (954) 537-1010. The Boys & Girls Club of America is a national organization that operates facilities in the nation's most at-risk areas to actively seek youngsters whom other youth agencies have failed to reach. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County joined the national organization in 1965 and has grown along with the movement to include 12 clubs that currently serve 12,000 members, making it one of the 10 largest in the nation.



A Carriibbean drum band provided some of the live New Year's entertainment.

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Darchinyan Defeats Pacheco For International Boxing Title

By Adelsa Williams
HOLLYWOOD — On Thursday, Dec. 16, an exciting lineup of bouts, including a world title fight, drew many boxing fans to the Seminole Paradise grand opening's celebration.

The fans enjoyed a thrilling showdown that was held outdoors in the Seminole Paradise retail complex. The event was compliments of the Hollywood Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, in association with Hollywood-based Warrior's Boxing Promotions, Inc.

The main event featured International Boxing Federation flyweight Irene Pacheco of Barranquilla, Colombia defending his title against Vic Darchinyan of Sydney, Australia. The match was previously scheduled to take place on the Sept. 3 Warrior's card, but was postponed due to Hurricane Frances.

The relentless south-paw fighters did battle in what was scheduled to be a 12 round match, but ended in a knockout by Darchinyan, 44 seconds into the 11th round. Pacheco did everything right but win the fight. Throughout the match, it was hard to tell who would be the winner.

Although blood streamed down Pacheco's face during the fifth round after a headbutt, it did not affect his performance. Being the skillful and tactical fighter that Pacheco is, he managed to make a comeback in almost every round.

At the height of the fight, during the ninth round, the grand opening celebration fireworks went off not too far from the ring and seemed to temporarily spark up the excitement of the moment. Referee Jorge Alonso stopped the fight, claiming that the loudness of the fireworks interfered with the fighters' ability to hear him.

The fight was delayed for at least 15 minutes and both fighters were forced

to stand in their corners in the night's 65-degree weather.

Soon after the fight resumed, Pacheco was deducted a total of three points for low blows during rounds nine

11th round.

In his U.S. debut, Vic "The Raging Bull" Darchinyan (22-0, 17 KO's) earned his biggest victory ever as he snatched the title from defending champ Pacheco, making him the new undefeated world champion.

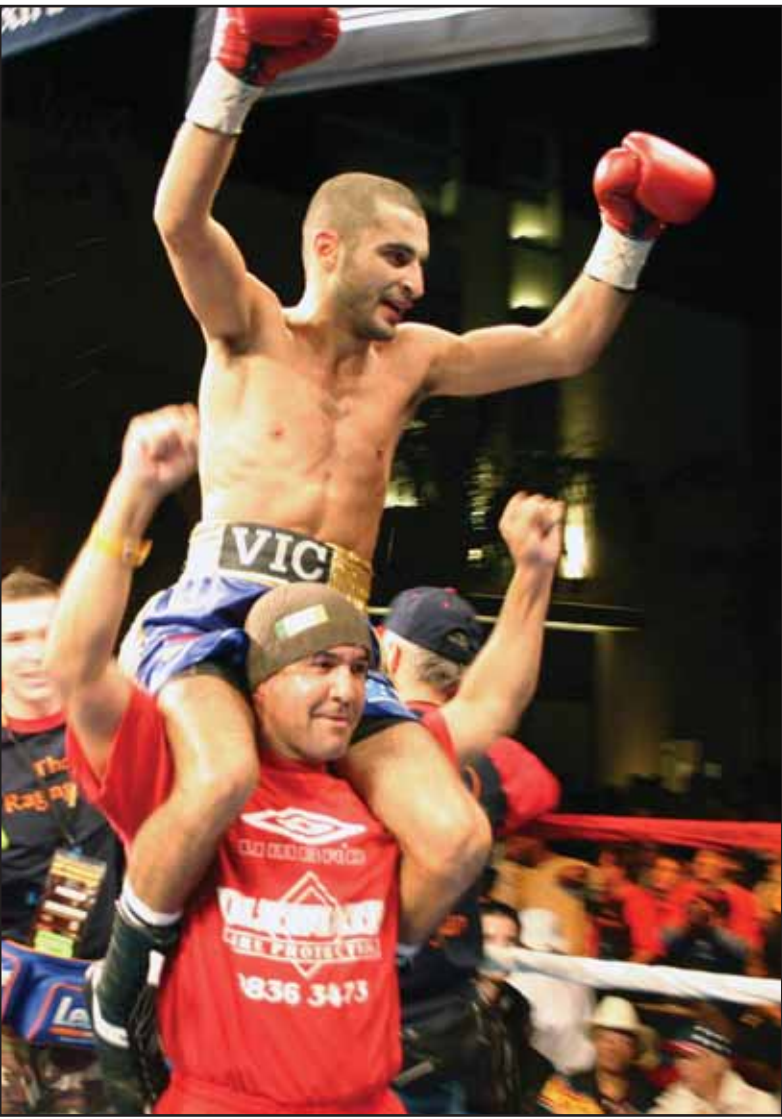
While it was a long-awaited moment for the Aussie, this marked Pacheco's seventh title defense fight and his first career defeat, dropping on the charts (30-1, 23 KO's).

In the co-feature, Warrior's light welterweight Juan Urango (14-0-1, 11 KO's) from Colombia knocked out Mexico's Ubaldo Hernandez (19-15, 10 KO's). Hernandez only lasted until two-and-a-half minutes into the second round, dropping on both rounds to Urango's solid combination of punches.

Urango started working on Hernandez' body to weaken him and then finished him off with a hard right hook to the chin. Urango remained undefeated and won the vacant World Boxing Council's Latin American junior welterweight belt.

On a heavy note, 307-pound Garing Lane of Fort Lauderdale (22-39-2) lost by unanimous decision to Kendrick Releford (12-4-1, 5 KO's) of Warrior's Boxing, despite an eighty pound weight difference.

Orlando's Hilario Guzman (6-15-3, 1 KO), originally from the Dominican Republic, won a six round split decision against light heavyweight opponent Sammy Retta of Washington, D.C. (17-2, 16 KO's). Guzman, also known as "The Killer," obviously lived up to his nickname.



Adelsa Williams
Australian Vic Darchinyan, pictured here, snatched the International Boxing Federation title from former champ Irene Pacheco in his U.S. debut.

and ten. Despite his steadfast defense, Pacheco was dropped at the end of round 10 but was saved by the bell.

Realizing that the champ was hurt in the previous round, and to avoid being devoured by the fierce challenger, Pacheco's corner threw in the towel in the

won a six round split decision against light heavyweight opponent Sammy Retta of Washington, D.C. (17-2, 16 KO's). Guzman, also known as "The Killer," obviously lived up to his nickname.



Felix DoBosz
Escalade best of show winner Adriana Huggins (left) with her baby Juelz Billie and father Norman Huggins, also father of the late Randall Huggins.

First Annual Randall Huggins Memorial Car/Bike Show

By Felix DoBosz

HOLLYWOOD — Show cars and bikes were lined up in rows on the big green baseball field as car enthusiasts meandered about their favorite cars, taking photos and chatting with the owners of the shiny machines. On Saturday, Dec. 18, at the Seminole baseball field, more than 30 show cars, trucks, and bikes competed for top trophy prizes.

The first annual memorial Randall Huggins Car/Bike Show went off without a hitch. It was sponsored by the Seminole Tribe of Florida and hosted by the late Randall Huggins' parents Norman and Kathy Huggins.

Norman Huggins said he and his family and friends missed his son so much, this was the family's way to honor and remember Randall and all the things he enjoyed so much. Randall worked for the Seminole Recreation department helping preschool kids and enjoyed culture class with the children.

Norman said he was very happy with the turn out and hoped that next year's event would be even bigger by providing live music for all to enjoy.

The open competition was conducted and judged by "Strictly Business"

a car club out of Miami that Randall was involved with. A big basketball tournament called "Big Ballers" was going on at the same time at the Seminole gym next to the field, also in Randall's honor and open only to Native Americans.

The judges had a big crowd pleaser event scheduled after the winners were presented with their trophies. An

audio sound off consisting of five cars were selected with superior sound systems to compete for the best Bass sounds emanating from their custom cars.

Each car played the same loud heavy bass beat for 10 seconds to loud applause and cheers from the hyped up crowd. After repeating this listening

formula and eliminating the cars that did not measure up the clear winner was chosen by the loud chants from the hip crowd and the white Honda Accord was the clear winner of best sound off.

The rest of the results are as follows: Best Bike: 1. Codey Burt, 2. Ronnie Billie; Classics: 1. Moses Jumper Jr.; Lowrider Bike: 1. Katelyn Osceola, 2. Tyler Baker.

Best of the Show, Lowrider Bike: Tyler Baker; Bike: Ronnie Billie Sr.; Escalade: Adreana Huggins; Classic Car: 1. Derrick Velar; Stock Truck: Bobby Joe Lewis.



Felix DoBosz
Derek Villar's second place '94 Suburban.

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‘Christmas Skins’ Golf Tournament Benefits Charity



The BC group (L-R): Cicero Osceola, Ricky Doctor, Salaw Hummingbird and Charlie Cypress.



Charlie Cypress from Big Cypress sinks the putt.



Mondo Tiger from BC eases his way through the course.

By Adelsa Williams
PLANTATION, FL — On Saturday, Dec. 11, the Hollywood Recreation department held their annual “Christmas Skins” golf tournament at the Jacaranda Golf Course.

Eighteen golfers that included tribal members and employees teed off in the early hours of the morning and enjoyed a cool play of golf until early afternoon. Some new faces, traveling from the Immokalee and Big Cypress reservations, to join the fun included Immokalee Board Liaison Raymond Garza and his wife Virginia, among others.

Unlike many tournaments, there was a \$100 entry fee. Players also had to have a handicap card or they were only allowed to play for gross. In efforts to raise funds for underprivileged children, proceeds from the tournament went to the Boys & Girls Club in South Dakota on the Pine Ridge reservation.

Statistics show that the Pine Ridge reservation covers the poorest two counties in the nation with an average 86 percent unemployment rate versus the five-and-a-half percent national average. Sixty-three percent live below the federal poverty line and the amount continues to rise.

The tournament raised in excess of \$5,400. Most of the amount raised was a combination of both entry fees and voluntary donations.

Tribal citizen Charlie Cypress from the Big Cypress reservation donated his prize money to the cause; he was a winner in the closest to the pin men’s division. Hollywood resident, Steve Osceola suggested coordinating a donation rally that will include participation of all reservations.

“Some of our kids have

clothes and stuff they no longer need,” said Osceola. “We can collect that and ship that out as well.”

Emcee Mitch Osceola gave credit and thanks to Hollywood Council Representative Max B. Osceola Jr. for suggesting the fund raiser golf tournament that will benefit those in need, this holiday season.

Below are the winners:
Overall: Senior men: 1. Max Osceola Jr., 2. Bo Young, 3. Lawrence Osceola; Men: 1. Steve Osceola, 2. Charlie Cypress, 3. Salaw



Immokalee Board Liaison Raymond Garza concentrates on his putting.

Hummingbird; Women: Draw: Jackie Thompson and Virginia Billie.

Longest Drive: Senior men: 1. Max Osceola Jr.; Men: 1. Steve Osceola; Women: 1. Jackie Thompson.

Straightest Drive: Men: 1. Terry Tartsah; Women: 1. Jackie Thompson

Par 3, Closest to the Pin: Senior Men: Hole #3 Fred Hopkins, #8 Lawrence Osceola, #17 Bo Young; Men: #3 Terry Tartsah, #8 and #11 Salaw Hummingbird, #17 Charlie Cypress; Women: #3 and #8 Jackie Thompson.

Huff is Recommended to Serve as Youth Sports Ambassador

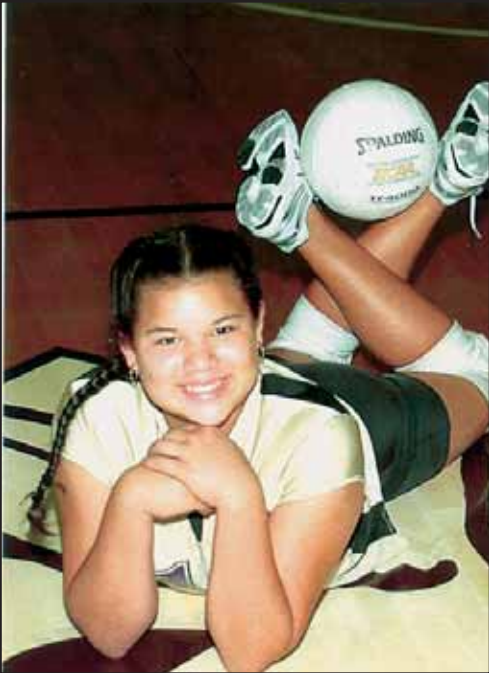
By Emma Brown
BRIGHTON — Mary Huff, a ninth grader and daughter of John Wayne and Vickie Huff, has been recommended to represent the U.S. in international competitions as a People to People Sports Ambassador.

Due to Huff’s success and involvement as a student athlete, she is eligible to apply for an exciting volleyball program built around a major overseas tournament. As a Sports Ambassador to the Youth Friendship Games in Holland she will join a delegation of American athletes, coaches and leaders representing the 50 states in eight different sports.

This experience will allow Huff to build athletic skills, discover another part of the world, and become friends with athletes around the world. By participating in this program she and her family will be able to foster the world peace envisioned by People to People founder, former President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Not only will Huff attend a training camp to prepare her for a tournament, but she will explore and learn about different cultures and historical elements that will also allow for her to earn academic credit.

Congratulations Mary Huff.



Mary Huff

Brighton is proud of you for all of your successes and look forward to all of the wonderful things you will be able to share with your community and peers.

Wanted: Cyclists to Help A Worthy Children’s Cause

Submitted by Kelly Mattox
JACKSONVILLE, FL — Take Stock in Children, Florida’s premiere mentoring and scholarship program is looking for cyclists to participate in its second annual scholarship bike ride, Cycling for Success on March 11-12.

On Friday, March 11, riders will begin a 200 mile, two-day excursion leaving from Ocala, riding along Florida’s most scenic roads through Gainesville to Lake City. Riders will leave on March 12, returning to Ocala.

Each rider is asked to help raise money to purchase college scholarships for underserved children living in his/her



TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN

community. One hundred percent of the funds raised by each cyclist will help purchase scholarships for Take Stock in Children students living in the participant’s community.

Take Stock in Children has a 90 percent success rate in keeping students, who enter the program in the seventh grade, in school and on track to high school graduation. Additionally, 72 percent of Take Stock in Children students attend college within six months of graduation.

Take Stock in Children is providing a solution to overcoming child poverty, academic failure and youth crime.

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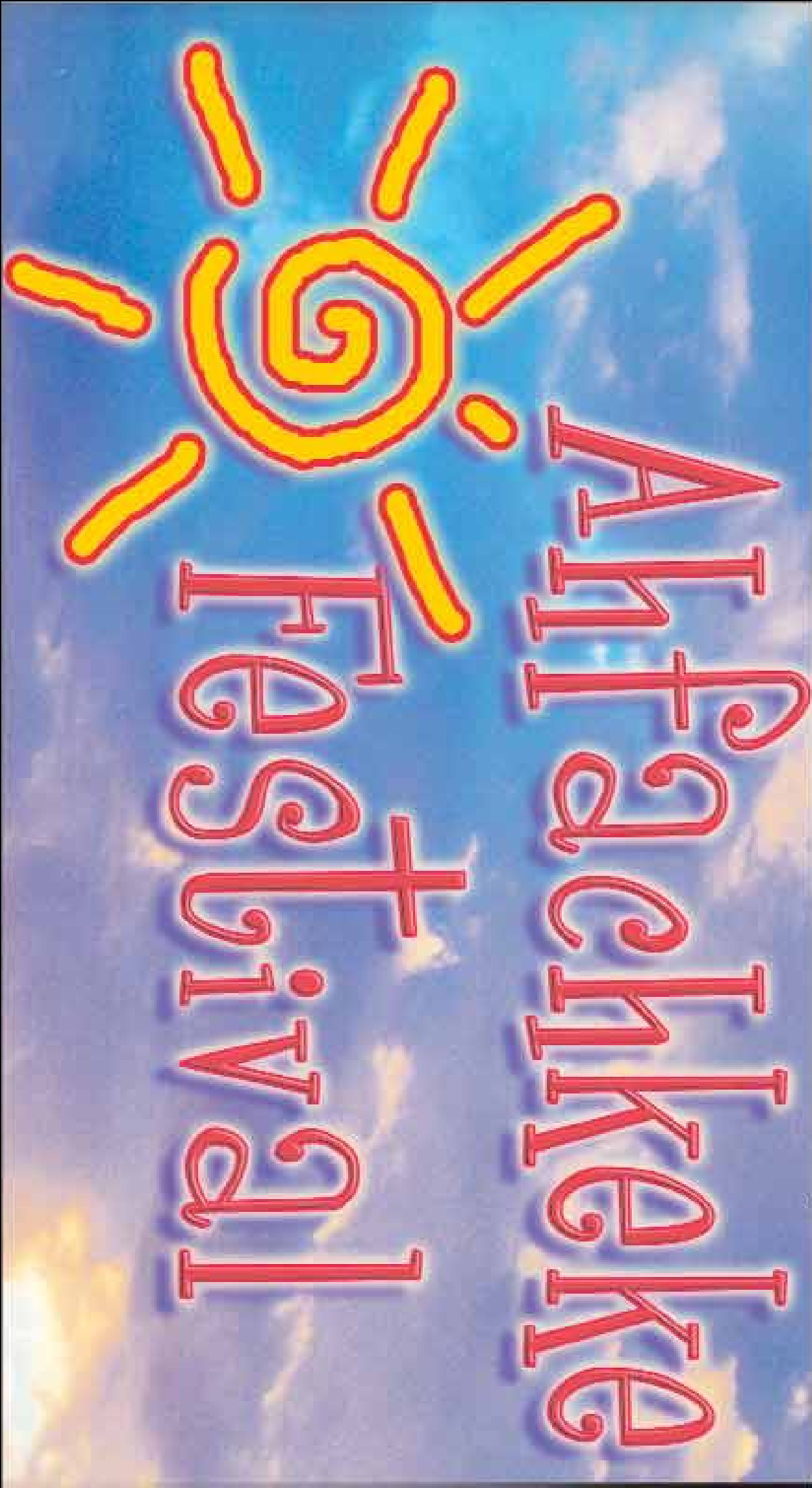
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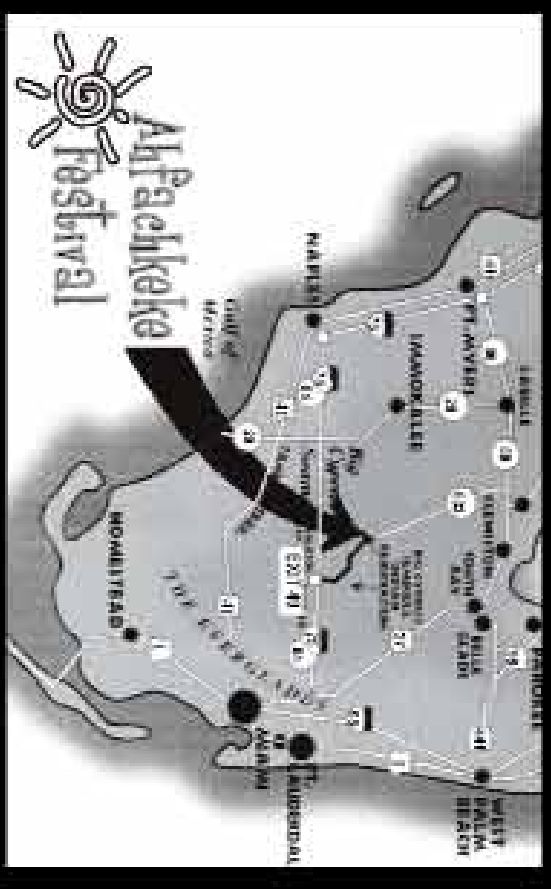
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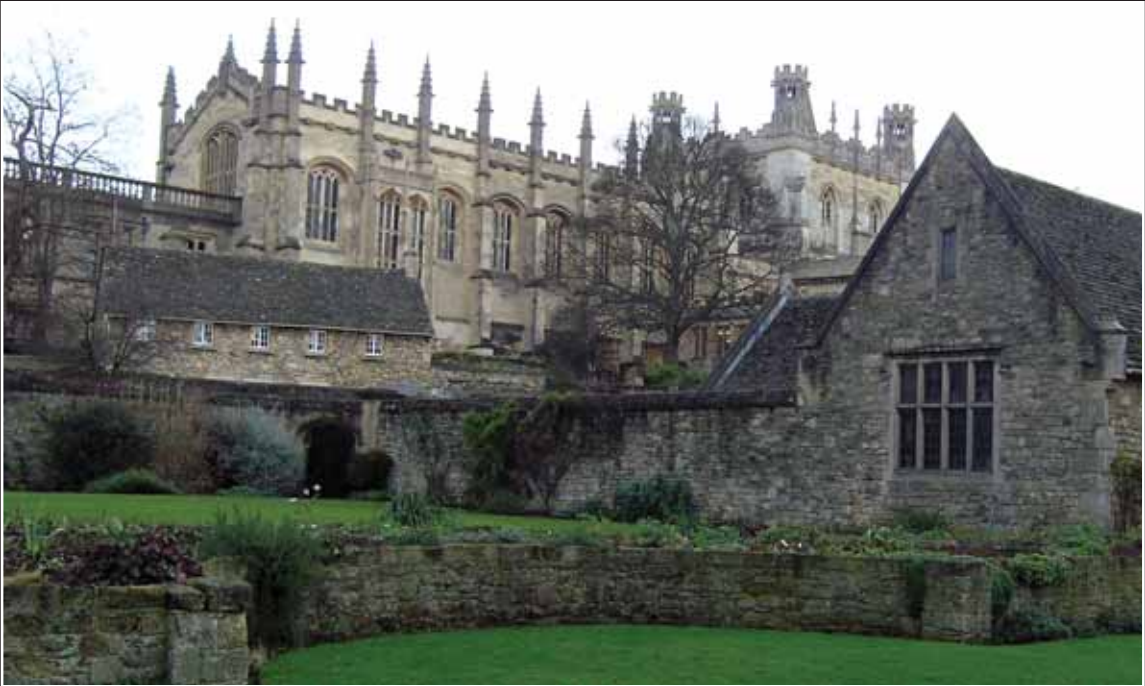
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Paris's most recognizable landmark: the Eiffel Tower. The Liberty Flame (foreground) serves as a memorial to the late Princess Diana whose fatal accident occurred in a tunnel underneath.



Tribal Clerk Holly Tiger and family in front of the Leeds Castle in Leeds, England.



Oxford, England's Christ Church, and inspiration for the hall in the Harry Potter films.



❖ London

Continued from page 1

ets splurged and caught a ride in London's black taxis. The drivers are very knowledgeable and accommodating.

London is known for its uniqueness but, sadly, the city has become more Americanized. There were more American fast food places; there were even some in the countryside towns.

This loss of uniqueness was also apparent in the smaller details. The buildings which used to have so much history and character were less numerous and more modern, plain buildings took their place. The Double Decker buses now have a more modern exterior design. It is rumored that they plan to do away with the Double Deckers.

There were a few of the new buses driving around that would take the place of Double Deckers—They were plain one story caterpillar buses, similar to ones seen in Miami or New York City with one cart that leads and a second cart that follows and the two are joined by an accordion in the middle.

One place that has changed very little is Camden Town. Everything is a little more organized and there is actually some security now. Camden is where you go to find those wonderful punk rockers, Goths and all other different people. Here you can find the clothes and music that will be the envy of your friends—if your friends appreciate the unique.

Everyone looked forward to the day trips. One of the trips was to Oxford, Stratford and Warwick Castle. Oxford is a beautiful city but the main attraction was the opportunity to go to Christ Church and see the hall that the Hogwarts dining hall, seen in the Harry Potter films, was modeled after. Time restrictions didn't allow us to go in, but we were able to see the outside which was very beautiful.

Stratford was also exciting because it is William Shakespeare's birthplace. Several buildings dating from the time of Shakespeare were still standing. It was amazing just to see them.

Warwick Castle was fun and, if you ever get the chance to go, please go. It's an actual castle built in the 14th Century that is open to the public. You can climb the towers and walk along the wall; the view is gorgeous. The interior of the castle has been set up so you can see what life was like in the castle. There is also a sort of medieval fair on the grounds.

We also visited Leeds castle and it was beautiful, but not as fun as Warwick

Castle.

Other towns and sights visited were Stonehenge, Bath and the cliffs of Dover.

One special day trip was to Paris, France. If you really want to see and experience the city you need at least a week. Paris is beautiful! We only had a few hours and decided to do the guided tour which was not enough time. It's nice to see all the landmarks that Paris is known for, but one wants to experience it all.

The line at the Eiffel Tower would take a week alone to get through but we did manage to get off the bus for literally two minutes to take pictures of the tower.

One amusing sight was the Louis Vuitton store, you can't miss it. It looks like a huge Louis Vuitton bag, the white ones with the multi-color emblems.

The group decided to ditch the guided tour of the Louvre museum and walk around Paris for the hour-and-a-half of free time that we had. We were all glad we did. We found a little "patisserie" or French pastry shop, bought some goodies and devoured them on the steps of a local church. It was nice just relaxing, enjoying our pastries and watching some of Paris walk by.

Parisians are known for being rather snobbish but they were a little nicer than the English. We met the one nice guy in all of Europe and England. He was a nice elder gentleman who laughed at watching the kids play on the church steps and doted on Gavin Cypress.

We gathered together for dinner at the hotel for Christmas dinner. The hotel gave everyone a box of party favors and a cracker. Crackers are an English tradition; you and someone else each grab an end and pull. The cracker pops and a party favor is revealed.

For New Year's our group booked a medieval banquet. The show was King Henry the VIII's court—we even had our own serving wench. Magicians, jugglers and knights sword fighting entertained as we ate. We enjoyed the show, but decided to make our way to Tower Bridge before the New Year rang in. From Tower Bridge, we watched the fireworks at the London Eye.

Finally, our trip came to an end. It was wonderful to get away. If you get a chance to go to London or Europe go for it. Go out there and see the world; it's important to realize that there is more to life than just the reservation. Don't waste time and money partying, go and experience the world.

Thank you Holly Tiger, for organizing the wonderful trip.



The Roman Baths in Bath, England have been designated as a world heritage site.



The Queen of England's Life Guards en route to the Changing of the Guard ceremony.



(L-R) Michael Turrentine and Jason Dodd stand in front of Stonehenge in Salisbury, England.

Native American Comedian Visits Reservation

By Jaime Restrepo
BIG CYPRESS — They say laughter is the best medicine. That is just what performer, actor, and speaker Don Burnstick uses—as well as a healthy dose of drama—as he speaks to audiences around the country on issues involving alcohol, drugs and youth development.

On Dec. 13–14, Burnstick visited Big Cypress. The visit was sponsored by the Family Services department. Burnstick met with students at the Ahfachkee School, and a mix of students and adults at the Herman Osceola Gym.

Utilizing different techniques in comedy and drama to get his message across, Burnstick taught healing and personal wellness through humor and play acting to “provide a holistic approach to healing.”

One effective and dramatic method is his one-man performance of “I Am Alcohol.” In this performance, he imitates the drug as it enters the bloodstream and takes over and destroys the human body as it courses through the body.

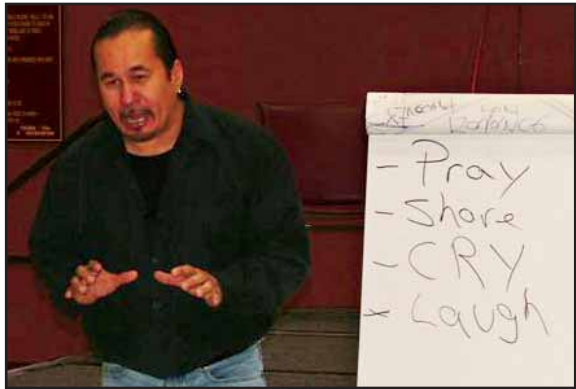
Though dramatic, the short play does not offend the sensibilities of the audience, but rather, provokes strong images of what damage alcohol abuse can inflict. He uses a simple overhead projector to illuminate him as he performs while creating a shadow of his body on the wall behind him that grows more and more menacing as his alcohol character gets more and more destructive. The audience, consisting of students and parents alike, listened intensely as he delivered his lines.

The humorous aspect of his performances hit home as well as he reminisces about growing up as an Indian. Burnstick is a Cree from the Alexander First Nation located near Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

The audience laughed hard as he imitated teenagers growing up on the reservation, and how they stray towards drug and alcohol use. But, in making

fun of the characters he portrays, he gets the message across that illicit drug use is not the way to achieve social status.

Speaking of social status, Burnstick said taking



Don Burnstick tells the audience to pray, share, cry and laugh.

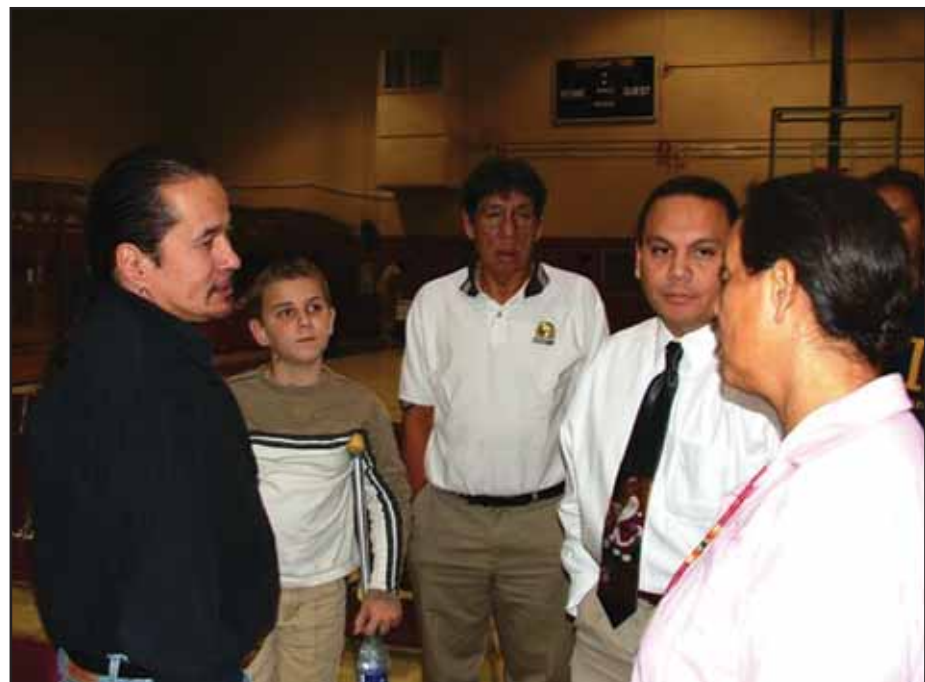
ing pride in one’s heritage is what fosters strength. He pointed out how some Native Americans mimic other racial and ethnic groups and dress along those ethnic lines.

“You never see any other ethnic group wanting to be an Indian,” he said. “Why must Indians look to imitating other racial or ethnic groups? Be yourself, take pride in what and who you are.”

This is his third visit to the Seminole Tribe, each visit drawing a larger audience as the positive reviews filter back to the community. In addition to the personal touch of his visits, Burnstick has a collection of performances and comedy routines, each delivering a message of self-healing through humor and a lighter side of life.

He also provides workshops for counselors and caregivers who work with adolescents and shares his knowledge and skills to help professionals and become more effective while they help children and young adults deal with social pressures.

Drug and alcohol addiction is by far the most prominent social malady affecting Native Americans today. Burnstick addressed this in many ways, performing and speaking directly to the youths, using humor, which may be the strongest tool yet to help youths attain self-actualization and the fortitude to say no to drugs.



Don Burnstick (left) met with various Tribal Citizens after his two performances.

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Announcements ❖ Ahaaheeke ❖ Nak-ohkērkēcetv

Happy Birthday

Happy birthday Melokgmehche. I hope you have the best birthday with Grandma and all your friends. I love you and I miss you.
Love,
Egoosh

Happy birthday Grandma Peggy Jim Osceola. We love you and wish you only the best! Forever and always.
One Love,
Oppy and the Otter gang

Happy brthday to our sister "Ne-Ne." You're the bomb, baby. Be good and have fun.
Love always,
Dom, Marlon, Teesh and Häns



Happy second birthday Mckenzie "Rosebud" Sherman. We love you very much and wish you many more blessed years to come.
Love always,
Mommy (Melissa), Daddy (Michael) and big brother (Robbi)

We would like to wish our daughter **Alexis Aguilar** a **happy 10th birthday!**
You have grown so much and have turned into a very beautiful young lady and I hope you are truly happy.
We love you so much,
Your Mommy (Vanessa Aguilar) & Daddy (Pedro Aguilar Jr.)



Happy birthday to Mr. Victor P. Osceola, my only grandson born on Jan. 20, and to **Ms. Valerie M. Frank,** my only daughter born on Jan. 25.
You both have grown to be responsible and very caring. We have been blessed to have you in our family. All the best, and many more parties to have and share with our extended families.

Love always,
Mom & Grandma Virginia Mitchell

Poem

I Like it Like This

He tucks the 9mm, still smoking, in at his waist
Glances at a red rose in a glass vase on a desk
& says, "There, all we have are blue skies now.
Pray he crosses over alright,
& is met on the other side with much exuberance & ritual."
They pray.
The reservation seems quiet, desolate, as they drive out.
His girl shoves in a CD of Guns N' Roses Finds the song, "Sweet Child O' Mine,"
Leans over,
& kisses the Seminole thug on the cheek, sits back & smiles.
She gently pats the brown leather briefcase,
With thousands upon thousands of dollars in it
She runs a soft hand across the back of his neck.
"Care for a drink, a shot?" she asks.
He sighs,
Drums his fingers on the steering wheel to the song.
"I like it like this for now. Just clear thinking for awhile."
"Okay," she answers.
They ride, not speaking,
Taking in Slashes guitar & Axl's words,
Absorbing the poetry of it all.
Blue skies stretch out to the north,
But, in the distance, they can see darkness.
A storm is brewing somewhere,
& they know they'll be riding into it.
They realize it in silence, save for the power of the song.
Several moments later, she turns the song down & says,
"Hey, how bout a stop at Disney?"

—**Elgin Jumper**
August 4, 2004

In Loving Memory



Henry Jim Gopher
(1939–2004)

I want to express to the Gopher family, Tribal Council, Tribal citizens and employees my heartfelt thanks for your expressions of sympathy. Henry and I were together for the past 22 years. He was my soul mate and I will miss him deeply.
He was a wonderful man who showed me his love in many ways. All his staff in the buildings and grounds department admired and loved him. They have been very devoted and Henry appreciated each and every one of them.
God was good to us because he gave us a strong and beautiful relationship with love and understanding. Henry will be in my heart forever.
To everyone, thanks again for all your support,
—**Sandy Selner**

Thank You

I guess you could say this year's Tribal Christmas party was a blast with the kids. We had rapper Fat Joe as a special guest and the kids got to meet him. Casey caught Fat Joe's hand towel, the only one he threw out into the crowd, after wiping his head with it. He took it home and put it in a baggy to preserve it; if one can preserve such a thing.

Anyway, the kids had a blast, shook Fat Joe's hand and said "What's up." Junior Miss Seminole Krystle Young was especially glad to have met and taken a picture with Fat Joe after the concert. Christine was lucky enough to get Tracy Byrd's guitar pick after his performance. All in all, it was a fun night.
—**Wanda Bowers**

Congratulations

As your kids grow up you wonder if what you do for them was right. I guess you wait and see, as I did. My daughter is a senior at Sheridan Hills Christian School. She's just like other kids; she's tough and wants to go to college.

I will see her graduate from high school this May and continue her education in the field of social work. She wants to return to the Tribe and work in our Family Services department. You teach your kids right from wrong, and you just

hope for the best for your kids and they grow up with a since of responsibility.

I am proud of my daughter in what she accomplished so far. She bought her own car that she's been looking at for about six months; she had to trade her first car that she had for about two years. She's grown up to be a responsible young lady. She's so proud of her new 2004 silver Infiniti G35 she got for her 18th birthday. Christmas and her senior year all rolled into one.

—**Wanda Bowers**



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Preschool Entertains North Pole Visitor

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — On Monday, Dec. 13, the holiday season got off to a wonderful beginning with the preschool Christmas party.

The gym was decorated for the occasion with wall hangings of Santa Claus, his sleigh, reindeer, toy soldiers, snowflakes and traditional ornamentation. The focal point was a beautiful Christmas tree surrounded by an abundance of gifts for the preschool students.

Just like Santa's reindeer, a pair of brown fuzzy antlers adorned the heads of each student and teacher.

Immokalee's year-round Santa Claus with long white hair and beard, Edward "Ski" Olesky, occupied the place of honor



Judy Weeks

Three-week-old Alisa Torres made it just in time to celebrate her very first Christmas.

beside the Christmas tree. Santa greeted each individual child, talked to them and gave them wrapped presents and gift bags.

His many years of experience became apparent as he skillfully handled the very young, who were wary of this strange man in the white beard. During the photos, as the parent held the child, he would wave goodbye and pretend to depart. The children never suspected that he would immediately return behind them for a beautiful photo opportunity.

After the gift presentation, Santa interacted with the children, helping with Etch-A-Sketch® drawings, coloring book activities and rolling a ball. Some even returned to his knee to whisper little confidences in his ear.

Neo Motlow, tightly hugging his new snowman ball, joined Crystal and Geneva Garcia in offering the blessing of the meal. Immokalee Preschool Manager Michelle Ford had arranged for Lozano's to cater the Christmas luncheon with not only adult favorites, but child-friendly cuisine.

Thommy Doud and Amber Giehtbrock traveled from the Hollywood preschool to share in the festivities and assist at the buffet table. The children quickly cleaned their plates in anticipation of the dessert of strawberry and banana-filled Santa Claus cake.

At the end, the preschool staff, including Michelle Ford, Elva Montez AKA Ms. Bay, San Juanita Reyna, Rosa and Ruby Garcia, joined together to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

ings, coloring book activities and rolling a ball. Some even returned to his knee to whisper little confidences in his ear.



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Geneva Garcia, Crystal Garcia and Neo Motlow join in with the adults as they bless the Christmas buffet.

Seniors Enjoy Busy Holiday Schedule

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — Holiday activities for Immokalee's seniors began in the middle of December with a field trip. They left early in the morning to join up with the Big Cypress seniors and traveled to the Swap Shop flea market in Ft. Lauderdale.

After a morning of shopping, they enjoyed a pleasant lunch at The Ark in Davie. In the afternoon, they checked out the bargains at Wal-Mart.

On Wednesday, Dec. 15, a special party was held in the gym for all of the senior citizens. Community Action Agency (CAA) Representative Jennie Martinez joined forces with the Recreation department to organize the affair. They were assisted by Senior Aide Elsa Zamora, who planned a morning of bingo in the gym with prizes for the entertainment.

The Recreation department sponsored gifts for the group which Martinez and Zamora distributed after the bingo tournament. These gifts included such useful items as towels, afghans, candy and a Christmas ornament.

After the presents were given out, the group was transported to the Immokalee Casino for a special luncheon sponsored by Immokalee Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar. Angie Arreguin from the Broadcasting department documented the day's activities.

In addition, Arreguin took a group photograph and presented a copy to each senior in a Christmas card frame as a keepsake.

On Dec. 20, the seniors and their families

attended the annual community Christmas party in the gymnasium. They enjoyed a wonderful evening of companionship and entertainment with family and friends. Santa Claus presented them with individual gifts, sponsored by the Recreation department, the Tribal Council and Tribal Board.

On Dec. 15, all of the seniors were invited to participate in one more shopping spree just days before Christmas. Those who were available to attend started the day with breakfast at Lozano's, compliments of

Immokalee Board Liaison Raymond Garza. The Recreation department and Garza sponsored this shopping trip. CAA Representative Jennie Martinez drove the seniors' bus and attended to their needs, with the assistance of Elsa Zamora, Tracy Delarosa, Angie Arreguin and Linda Beletso.

Their itinerary began at the Coastland Center Mall in Naples for a pleasant morning of shopping. David and Maria Billie of the Immokalee Recreation department treated the group to lunch at

Red Lobster.

Next on the agenda was the new Super Wal-Mart on Route 951 in Naples. Here, they made last minute gift purchases and acquired groceries for the holidays.

The most important thing to round out their busy social calendar was, of course, the Christmas and New Year's celebrations, which they enjoyed with immediate family and friends.



Angie Arreguin

(L-R, front row) Mary Sanchez, Louise Motlow, Nellie Billie, (L-R, back row) Rachel Billie and Nancy Motlow were just some of the seniors at their Christmas party.

Seminole and Employees Celebrate at Trail Party

By Iretta Tiger

MIAMI, FL — For centuries, Santa Claus was thought to be a chubby white guy but this myth has been shattered. Santa is none other than Trail Liaison William Osceola. One may question "What?!" but it's true.

Now your next question is probably "Why?" Well, there are very few who can compare to his generosity.

On Saturday, Dec. 18, Santa threw a Christmas party for the Trail Seminoles at the Micosukee Resort. True to his generous nature, Santa invited everyone to come and enjoy themselves.

Upon entering the dome, partygoers were greeted by the sight of stacks of gifts, but this wasn't everything. There were more gifts stacked at the foot of the stage, and these were the big gifts.

Skimmy, from the band Native Roots, emceed the evening's events. The first act of the evening was James and Ernie, two Navajo comedians from New Mexico. They had everyone, including the children, cracking up.

Next was musician George Leach of the Sta'atl'imx Nation in Canada. Leach is not only an

award-winning musician, he is also an award-winning actor. This talented musician worked the crowd into a frenzy.

Throughout the evening, Santa's helpers raffled the prizes and gave them away to all of the children. Everyone attending the party was eligible to participate in the raffle and gifts, including those who were not Seminole. Osceola has never been one to discriminate.

Just when the party couldn't get any better, the final act for the evening, Derek Miller, took the stage. Enough can't be said about Derek Miller, a Mohawk Indian from the Six Nations reservation in Canada. If you weren't able to see him perform at the party, you can learn about him at www.derekmillermusic.com.

What a way to end an evening. However, Santa was not finished just yet. As the grand finale, Santa saved the best presents for the very last.

The children were worn out from the evening and slept all over the tables and chairs, but the families stuck it out for this final raffle. Santa

gave away three Orlando vacations and a 42-inch plasma screen TV.



Iretta Tiger

Derek Miller was just one of the musical acts at the Trail party.



Judy Weeks

Members of Motown music group The Edge got the Immokalee crowd going during the community party.

Recipe for a Merry Christmas: Combine Community, Family, Love

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — The celebration of Christmas in Immokalee is a gala event that began

two weeks before the actual day. Nearly every resident started changing the interior and exterior of their homes with extravagant lights, Christmas trees and beautiful holiday displays.

Their hard work turned the reservation into a multi-colored wonderland in anticipation of the holiday season.

The recreation department, under the direction of David and Maria Billie, sponsored many of the scheduled activities. However, they acknowledged that nothing could have taken place without the cooperation and effort of numerous other departments and volunteers.

The Recreation department enlisted the impartial services of the Seminole Police Department to judge the yard decoration contest. The happy recipients of the cash awards were: 1. Raul and Rebecca Martinez, 2. Thomas and Dorothy Benson and 3. Mark and Maxine Jock.

Among the numerous holiday activities were two shopping trips for the seniors, a preschool party, pot luck dinner, annual employee Christmas party and the community Christmas party.

On Thursday, Dec. 14, tribal employees gathered at the gym for a gift exchange, organized games and fellowship. The Education department provided a generous array of holiday dishes for the partygoers' pleasure.

On Monday, Dec. 20, the biggest event of the season took place when everyone crowded into the gym for the annual community Christmas party.

Earlier in the day, two semi-trailers arrived with a delivery of snow provided by the Recreation department. Reservation youth descended upon the snow pile with a great deal of enthusiasm as soon as it arrived. They built snowmen, had snowball fights and, with the skillful use of shovels, created their own snowstorm and slide. Thanks to a cold front, which provided low temperatures, remnants of the snow were still visible two days later.

In anticipation of the party, Immokalee Board Liaison Raymond Garza gave education funds to enhance what had already been provided by Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar. Education department employees Norita and Jaime Yzaguirre, Cris Marrero, Rhonda Nunez, and Gale Boone used these funds to acquire gifts for every young person and



Judy Weeks

Vanessa Billie had a great time playing in the warm Florida snow.

senior in the community. The Recreation department and Tribal Council provided door prizes appropriate for every age group.

Maria Billie was very complimentary of several Immokalee Youth and Adult Vocational Training participants, who wrapped gifts, decorated the gym and were instrumental in handling the door prize raffle and gift distribution. As Santa's helpers, they were outstanding and indispensable.

Partygoers entered the gym to the music of Paul Buster and his Cowbone band. Their musical repertoire filled the gym with gospel, country and rock 'n' roll.

The buffet was catered by Billie Swamp Safari and included pork and chicken for the entree with multiple side dishes and desserts. Paul Buster provided the evening prayer and offering of thanks giving for such a wonderful year.

The Tribal Council distributed Christmas bonuses to tribal citizens while the recreation department provided raffle tickets for the door prizes.

Following the meal, Immokalee's Santa Claus took center stage at the Christmas tree. With the help of "Little" Ray Yzaguirre as emcee and Santa's elves from the Education department, AVT and Immokalee Youth, a mountain of presents for young and old were distributed. Each recipient took a turn on Santa's knee before hurrying away to open their packages.

Christmas would not be complete without the traditional Seminole fruit baskets, which were loaded with citrus and bananas. Many Tribal citizens reminisced about the days when these fruit gifts, a length of ricrac or a yard of cloth were their only Christmas presents. These memories are

held dear by our seniors and shall never be forgotten.

Halfway through the evening, the lights were dimmed and spotlights illuminated the stage for the long-awaited performance by The Edge. This Motown music sensation traveled all the way from Miami to entertain the Immokalee audience.

Their fabulous performance had the building vibrating as the crowd reacted to the songs of the great Motown bands of the past forty years. These talented artists provided something for everyone to enjoy and they encouraged crowd participation.

After a standing ovation, The Edge exited to reopen the microphone for the door prize raffle. Winners received age-appropriate prizes that ranged from scooters, motor bikes, swing sets, plasma TV's, a washer and dryer, bicycles, DVD players, and workout gym to a wide variety of Fisher-Price toys, boom boxes, dolls and Nintendo Game Boys, to name just a few.



Judy Weeks

Immokalee community members gathered in the gym for the Christmas festivities.

Santa Visits Lucky Preschoolers

By Jaime Restrepo

BIG CYPRESS — On Dec. 21, Santa paid an early visit to the Big Cypress Preschool. Parents were invited to witness the jolly man in red greet the little ones and distribute presents to each child.

As they waited for Santa to drop by, the preschool staff invited the parents to join the children in a home cooked feast of ham, mashed potatoes, macaroni, and delectable roast, complete with beverages and dessert.



Jaime Restrepo

Lauren O'Donnell (left) tries to make a quick getaway with her gift.



Jaime Restrepo

Santa gives Ricardo Rodriguez a gift that is almost as big as he is.

Community Comes Together for Annual Christmas Party

By Susan Etxebarría
BRIGHTON — What a wonderful Christmas season in Brighton, after all of the difficult days and extreme damage to the reservation during the hurricane season. Thursday, Dec. 23 was a special day of laughter and fun, a day for families and friends to enjoy time together in the holiday spirit at the annual community Christmas party.

The gym was unusable for the biggest party of the year, the building was condemned after the hurricane destroyed its roof. However, that did not deter the tribe from putting together a truly grand affair.

The gym parking lot was magically transformed with the sounds of Christmas music and giant canopies of white tents, which protected the guests from occasional sprinkles of light rain throughout the day.

Under the main tent, a large stage was set up with microphones and piles of gifts for the drawings after dinner was served. The beautiful Christmas tree and decorated tables added the sparkle for a lovely catered affair that began at noon and went on past 3 p.m.



Brighton Council Representative Roger Smith (left) draws the numbers for the door prizes.

Smith had the best job of all. He conducted the drawings for the magnificent prizes such as TVs, VCRs, saddles, turkey cookers, microwaves, knife sets, fishing poles, dishware, silverware sets, and many traditional Seminole clothes such as skirts, vests and jackets. The Tribal Council paid for the door prizes.

Smith also announced the winners of the Christmas decorating contest with the top three winners receiving cash prizes for the best decorated house. Alan Huff, Norman Johns, and Johnny Jones finished first, second, and third, respectively.

The list of organizers and sponsors that presented this event for the community is long, but some deserve special mention.

The Brighton Recreation department paid for the cost of the elaborate event. Brighton Recreation Director Robert Osceola and his staff organized the event.

Councilman Roger Smith provided each person with goodie bags that his staff, Terry Hahn especially, had filled with nuts and fruit.

Brighton Board Representative Johnny Jones, provided the resident children with gifts.

Gifts for non-resident children were taken care of by Joleigh Jumper, under the sponsorship of the Chairman Mitchell Cypress.

There were many volunteers from so many departments it is hard to list them all, but everyone who helped should be thanked for the work they did on this glorious day.



Joleigh Jumper (left) looks through the gifts to find a special one for a special child.

More than 500 people enjoyed the occasion and many kids had the time of their life—especially when the distribution of presents began and each child's name was called out. The strolling Santa Claus was a big hit with the toddlers.

Brighton Council Representative Roger

Ahfachkee Students Put On Christmas Show

By Jaime Restrepo
BIG CYPRESS — On Dec. 22, Ahfachkee School students, from pre-kindergarten up to the eighth grade, performed for their parents and the Big Cypress community. The students and faculty collaborated on various productions, ten in all, that also included a short video.

The talent was flowing and kids were clearly enjoying themselves as they sang and performed.

In one production, the second grade students played "Jingle Bells" with real bells, all rung in sequence. In another act, Miss Cohen's class sang the song.

The Ahfachkee Christmas program featured the following acts: Miss Cohen performed "Jingle Bells" and the kindergartners performed "Christmas is Coming" and "Eight Reindeer."

The first grade performed "There Was a Little Baby" and "Must be Santa." The second grade

performed "Jingle Bells" and sang "Away in the Manger" in the Miccosukee language. Third grade performed "Jingle Bell Rock," while the fourth grade sang "I Want a Hippo for Christmas" and read a poem entitled "Christmas Night in BC."

The fifth grade ladies tried to coax Santa Claus with their rendition of "Hey Santa" and followed with "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." The sixth grade did hulas with their version of the "Hawaiian Christmas Song." The seventh and eighth grades rounded up the entertainment with a home grown video, which was very witty.

The parents, faculty and other staff members who work in Big Cypress were treated to a fine production. The students and the teachers who guided and coached them deserve an ovation for their fine efforts.



The sixth graders put on their grass skirts to perform the "Hawaiian Christmas Song" for their classmates.

Preschoolers Enjoy Their Annual Christmas Party in the 4-H Barn

By Emma Brown
BRIGHTON — On Monday, Dec. 20, there were presents, parents, family, friends and even a visit from Santa Claus at the Brighton Preschool Christmas party. Santa arrived standing on the side of a Ford Expedition, excitedly greeting the children as he was driven inside the gates of the Brighton 4-H barn.

The preschool children greeted Santa with big smiles and open arms and stayed very close to him as he distributed gifts for all of the children. There were items such as Leapfrog learning gifts and stockings stuffed with goodies for the children's enjoyment.

Once Santa wrapped up the gift distribution, a wonderful lunch was served for everyone to enjoy and there was time to fellowship with friends and family. The preschool staff and children have had a rough time this year due to hurricane damage. However, the staff have persevered and kept the school going for the children while providing a nice little Christmas extravaganza for the tots.



Little Tadan Santiago is ready to play with his new toy.



Howard Micco from Brighton sang "Alleluiah."



Happy Jones recalled old Christmas memories.

A Big Cypress Christmas Luncheon Fit for the Seniors

By Nery Mejicano and Jaime Restrepo
BIG CYPRESS — On Thursday, Dec. 16,

Santa Claus came early on to visit the seniors, who congregated at the Big Cypress Senior Center to celebrate Christmas. The center was brightly decorated with the season's red bows, lights, and lots of beautiful flowers at each table.

Seniors arrived from Immokalee, Hollywood, and Brighton to celebrate the holidays, enjoy a sumptuous lunch and dessert and play bingo. There were door prizes and music to accompany the already lively atmosphere.

Jack Micco gave the blessing as the participants prepared for their meal. Some seniors took to the time to grab a microphone and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Howard Micco sang "Alleluia". Happy Jones greeted her fellow seniors and gave thanks for the opportunity to share lunch with them.

There was music, provided by Seminole Police Department Officer Powell Morris and tribal citizens Jonah Cypress and

Tony Osceola, which served as background for the festivities.



Talented musicians (L-R) Jonah Cypress, SPD Officer Powell Morris and Tony Osceola entertained the senior crowd.



Big Cypress Council Representative David Cypress with mother Mary Frances Cypress at the luncheon.

The activities included a bingo game, which was followed by several of the seniors describing how they first became familiar with this holiday and how today brings hope and meaning to their lives through the story of the birth of Christ.

Staff from Community Care for the Elderly and the Senior Center prepared and served the fabulous meal and dessert, while staff from Recreation provided the bingo entertainment and door prizes. Jonah Cypress sang Christmas music for all.

The seniors were welcomed by the Seminole Tribal Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Councilman David Cypress and Big Cypress Board Representative Paul Bowers. Afterwards was a feast of the holiday favorites. Senior Center Manager Cecilia Solano and her staff helped make this an occasion to remember.

Community Comes Together For Annual Holiday Celebration

By Nery Mejicano
BIG CYPRESS — Thousands of bright, white Christmas lights illuminated the Big Cypress gym. Multiple Christmas trees, decorated with bright ornaments and a beautiful manger scene, served as a backdrop to the annual Christmas lunch in Big Cypress Gymnasium on Dec. 23.

Cars, trucks, ATVs and bicycles spilled out the parking lot, across to the Ahfachkee School, and lined both sides of Snake Road.

Hopping gracefully on his bright and shiny crutches, Chairman Mitchell Cypress welcomed everyone to this wonderful festivity. It was a community and family celebration, and everyone from tiny tots to the elders and tribal employees joined together to enjoy the holidays.

The music was provided by Paul Buster, and served as a background of what was to come: a great meal of holiday favorites including ham, chicken, steak, a multiplicity of veggies, along with the traditional fried bread and sofkee.

Santa had two helpings, and he and his rein-

deer were unable to take off for the next couple of days. It was rumored that the Aviation Department had to assist Santa in the delivery of this year's gifts.



Community members and employees at the lunch.

Employees Celebrate Christmas Together

By Emma Brown
BRIGHTON — On Saturday, Dec. 18, the

Brighton Recreation department hosted a holiday party for all of the reservation departments at the 4-H barn.

The evening started under a beautifully decorated tent with a delectable steak and shrimp dinner. Once dinner was over, Brighton Language Coordinator Diane Smith provided a little entertaining gift exchange game for everyone to enjoy.

This game provided a roar of laughter, because many people ended up with hilarious gag gifts. Once the gift exchange was wrapped

up, tickets were drawn for door prizes.

Afterwards, everyone socialized with their co-workers and enjoyed music from the Chase band.

It was a perfect evening for an outdoor party, and everyone seemed to have a wonderful time. It was also a way for the Brighton community to extend appreciation to all of the employees that work so hard to make Brighton a great place to live and work.

The Recreation staff, along with other departments, worked very hard planning this party for the employees and deserves a hand for a job well done.



The Brighton Recreation department staff: (L-R) Rhonda Goodman, Tim Thomas, Assistant Director Leroy Boyett and Director Richard Osceola.

Preschoolers Perform Christmas Play

By Janice Billie and Adelsa Williams
HOLLYWOOD — On Tuesday, Dec. 22, students from the Hollywood preschool performed their annual Christmas recital at the Tribal headquarters auditorium.

Parents, family and friends were all gathered to watch a delightful production featuring the talents of Seminole children. Under the direction of the dedicated preschool staff and parents the children sang songs and acted in several skits.

The program began with prayer followed by preschool student Carieees Avila's solo recital of John 3:16, "The reason for the season."

Before the performance, Hollywood Preschool Center Manager Carol Crenshaw took charge of the microphone, briefly explaining details of the whole Christmas play. She proudly announced and gave recognition to one preschooler in particular, Shania Johns, for creating the handmade drawing on the cover of the program booklet.

"Students began learning the songs in early December, and they would practice on stage for at least 45 minutes each day," said Crenshaw, "They learned rhyming words and poems, and got to act out what they learned during the play."

Parents and friends were entertained and the cameras flashed as the students acted out the skits "Happy Birthday

Jesus." Students took stage each taking roles that included soldiers, shepherds, angels, the three wise men and Mary and Joseph.

The little kids did not take their time in the limelight for granted. Reminiscent of sports stars they didn't forget to wave and say "Hi mom" as they entered or left the stage. The enthusiasm was contagious as it seemed to pour out into the audience. It was apparent the kids were having a great time illustrating the reasons for the season.



Janice Billie
Joseph Diaz (left) played Jesus and Leonna Pichardo played Mary (right) along with the three wise men Charles Billie, Howie Drake and Franklin Jumper in "Happy Birthday Jesus."



Adelsa Williams
The four-year-olds performed as dancing elves.

All dressed up in green as dancing elves, the preschool's four-year-old class took stage for one last performance, dancing, hopping and laughing.

After the curtain call and all bows were taken the guests and performers shared a buffet lunch in the auditorium lobby. Entertainment was provided by special invited guests Inkary, a musical group from Ecuador. The Latin flavored festive music invoked an uplifting mood which complimented and concluded the overall spirit of Christmas program.



Adelsa Williams
All the seniors, including Peggy Stivers (center) received gifts donated by various tribal citizens and the Department of Elder Affairs.

A Christmas Luncheon for the Seminole Seniors

By Adelsa Williams
HOLLYWOOD — On Monday, Dec. 21, the seniors gathered for their annual Christmas luncheon at the Hollywood Senior Center.

The day's celebration began with the most requested form of entertainment— a morning play of bingo. Tribal citizen Vivian Delgado, along with volunteer Mary Grosso, took charge of calling out the winning numbers for each game, as well as the door entry prizes.

On the menu were assorted appetizers and desserts, along with a choice of entrees featuring filet mignon, baked chicken, and the choice of many side dishes.

Visiting, and participating in the festivities, were tribal citizens from the Big Cypress and Trail reservations. Site Manager Linda Ormond wrapped up a total of 80 Christmas gifts, enough to cover all attendees and more.

The grand prize was a nearly five-foot Christmas stocking full of goodies ranging from household appliances and gold-plated figurines to special treats. The lucky winner of the raffle was Effie Osceola from the Trail reservation.

Tribal leaders stopped by to have lunch with the elders and wish them holiday greetings. In attendance were Chairman Mitchell Cypress, President Moses Osceola, Hollywood Council Representative Max B. Osceola, Jr. and Tribal Treasurer Michael D. Tiger.

"I need assistance singing a song, since it's been a while since I sang it," said Tiger, as the seniors joined in to sing "Jesus Loves Me," in the Miccosukee language.

Special thanks went to all who donated gifts to be raffled, including Lawanna Niles, Judybill Osceola, Mary Moore, Tribal Secretary Priscilla D. Sayen, the department of elders, as well as to Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Vivian Delgado for their donations.



Adelsa Williams
Trail resident Effie Osceola won the grand prize stocking.

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Merry Christmas Housing Department

By Shelley Marmor
HOLLYWOOD — On Dec. 16, carpenters, painters, electricians and administrative staff from the Housing Department came from their respective reservations to attend the yearly Christmas Lunch at the Hollywood Seminole Hard Rock.

Director Michele Thomas acted as emcee, telling her employees how happy she was with the work they do. Thomas joked that hopefully Florida will not have back-to-back hurricanes again in the 2005 hurricane season.

On a serious note, she thanked the employees for the work and long hours they put in during the hectic few months when Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne hit. In a brief speech, Chairman Mitchell Cypress boasted about the department. Thomas reiterated one of the

themes in Cypress' speech again letting her employees know they are an integral part in tribal welfare.

"The [Housing] department is so important because without a house we have nowhere to live," she said.

Thomas has only been Housing director for 10 months, several employees made brief speeches letting her know that she has had a positive impact. The 62 employees also presented her with a Swarovski crystal figurine to show their appreciation.



Monica Wasco
Housing Department Director Michele Thomas (left) and Assistant Director Pete Russo at their department party.

A few lucky employees also picked up some gifts, as several large poinsettia plants were raffled off. A second gift of departmental jackets were to be given out to all employees, but they did not make it in time. Thomas promised the employees that they would have their jackets soon.



Photo submitted by Holly Billie
Children from the First Indian Baptist Academy with their toy donations.

FIBA Donates Toys to Operation Christmas Child

Submitted by Holly Billie
BRIGHTON — In order to make a difference for the hurting children around the world, the students of First Indian Baptist Academy (FIBA) decided to participate in Operation Christmas Child.

They became partners with the Big Cypress First Baptist Church, agreeing to purchase and donate gifts and pack them in shoe boxes, which were then delivered to children in more than 120 countries.

The faculty at FIBA was really touched by the enthusiasm of their students as they wrapped and boxed gifts for



needy children. Geography lessons became part of the project as students were told to identify the listed countries on a map, and then read about the culture and traditions of the people in those areas.

When the shoe box gifts are handed out to children and families living in difficult situations, they are told of God's love and reminded that there are many who pray for them, including the students of the FIBA.

A big Sho-naa-bish and Mvto to all the FIBA faculty, parents, and students who demonstrated the true meaning of Christmas through their eagerness to give and share God's love this holiday season.

34th Annual Seminole Tribal Fair Feb. 10-13, 2005

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Susan Etxebarrria
Jack Micco addresses the Brighton seniors.



Susan Etxebarrria
Brighton Board Representative Johnny Jones (center) hands out food with the help of Louise Gopher (right).

Seniors Say 'Mvto' at Christmas Time

By Susan Etxebarrria
BRIGHTON — On Thursday, Dec. 16, one special word was heard over and over at the Brighton Senior Center—"Mvto." The seniors were invited to a full course dinner at noon, where each received a gift and many won door prizes at their annual Christmas Party.

Several of the seniors were asked to come forward to the microphone to speak to the gathering. Among them was respected tribal elder Jack Micco, who prayed in Creek and English. He said everyone should give thanks to our father for this Christmas season; for sending his son.

"Thank you for this day you have provided for us to come together to celebrate our savior Jesus Christ," said Micco, a former minister.

He also recognized the Hot Meals staff saying, "Thank you for all the workers who work tirelessly cooking the food throughout the year."

It was a room crowded to the walls and many of the elders were dressed in traditional clothing of colorful patchwork. Beneath the lighted Christmas tree

were gifts to be exchanged among friends. Prior to the party, each person had picked the name of another person to buy a gift to place under the tree, and they were handed out.

Dan Bowers, who preaches God's word at Seminole Bible Baptist Church, also came forward to speak.

"This is the time of the year we always enjoy getting together," he said. "We visit all the tribe's senior centers and it is always good to see people in good health. This is the time to say Mvto to our supreme creator."

He reminded the seniors that there are people in the world starving for food and there were days in the past when the Seminoles did not have much to eat.

"We have been through all that and today we are blessed that the Tribe can provide us with food—and a dividend," he said. Bowers added that the Bible warns of days when there will be famines, but even so, "we can always thank God."

Another elder young for her years, Happy Jones, addressed her fellow tribal members, twelve of whom came from Big Cypress to share the day, and

she spoke primarily in Creek which showed how well the elders still speak and understand the native language of their ancestors. "Mvto," she said often.

Billie Micco welcomed everyone to the center and Jack Smith also thanked the Tribe for all they do for the seniors. Cecilia Solano, the site manager at Big Cypress gave her best wishes from Chairman Mitchell Cypress.

Pastor Wonder Johns, of the First Indian Baptist Church, said, "Show a lot of reverence toward God and gratitude for all the good the Tribe does."

There were lovely fruit baskets for each person, and a special gift came personally from Brighton Board Representative Johnny Jones, who was there to hand them out.

He had arranged for Carla Gopher, who attends Florida State University in Tallahassee, to bring back nicely-wrapped packages of Bradley's Country Milled Grits. Some say these grits are the best in Florida for making sofkee and he made sure each person there who wanted a bag, got one. There were many "Mvtos" for that gift.

Pemayetv Emahakv Shares in the Joy of Christmas

By Emma Brown
BRIGHTON — Once again, the Pull Out Program staff successfully created a special party day for the students of the Friday Pull Out Program in honor of the Christmas holiday.

Santa Claus even made a special appearance, arriving by four-wheeler instead of sleigh due to lack of snow in the Brighton area. Santa spent time greeting the excited students and took a picture with each one of them.

Each student received a tote bag decorated with art work created by Lois Billie. Theresa Boromei created



Stacy Johns
Jayce Smith gets his requests in with Santa.

an obstacle course with hurdles and tires for the kids to complete for one of the day's extracurricular activities.

Lunch was a very unconventional Christmas feast, consisting of cheeseburgers and chips. This happened to be a special request by the school's student council, which seems to have some pull around "Friday school."

There were also decorative cupcakes and cookies served to celebrate all of the December student birthdays. The students enjoyed games and free play after lunch and had a wonderful Christmas celebration with the staff of the Pull Out Program.

Special Thank You's from the Osceola Family

By Wanda Bowers
The Osceola family would like to thank all the family, friends and neighbors who attended the 9th Annual Brenda Osceola Memorial Christmas Morning Breakfast. Boy, that's a long title; but deserving nonetheless.

I've always looked forward to having breakfast with Jackie and the rest of her family in memory of Brenda. You go to have a good breakfast, visit friends and even through out a few good stories about Brenda.

I'll always remember her for calling my son Casey "Hey, Big Bad Wolf." I can't believe she always remembered that. Casey would get a big smile on his face, just because she remembered his stage name.

The menu was great as



Wanda Bowers
The Osceola's (L-R): Jackie, Allison, Kaylan, Chucky, Leoda, Dan, and Vivian.

usual—great, but not healthy—scrambled eggs fried potatoes with corn beef hash and onions, bacon, fried bologna, water, coffee and all the juices you could think of.

I've been to every one of Brenda's breakfasts and I appreciate the family for remembering her in that special way. To think of her on a special day such as Christmas reminds you of what they thought of her everyday as a daughter, sister and a good friend.

Thank you for letting me be a part of Brenda's special day Christmas breakfast.

2005 Seminole Tribal Fair in New Location

By Cindy Malin
HOLLYWOOD — The 34th Annual Seminole Tribal Fair and Rodeo is scheduled to take place from Thursday–Sunday, Feb. 10–13 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood and Bergeron Rodeo Grounds in Davie, Fla.

Powwow events are scheduled at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino from 3–6 p.m. Thursday and 1–7 p.m.

Friday and Saturday. Sunday's times have not been set. The Bill Osceola Memorial All Indian Rodeo takes place Friday and Saturday nights beginning at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. at Bergeron Rodeo Grounds.

A variety of entertainment events are scheduled throughout the weekend. Entertainment includes competition Powwow dancing, alligator wrestling and snake shows. Also scheduled are

Seminole clothing contests, arts and crafts contests, Little Mr. and Miss Seminole Contests and a Powwow exhibition.

Admission is \$12 for adults, \$6 for children under 12 and free for children five and under.

For general information and vendor information, call (954) 364-4221 or (800) 683-7800. For rodeo entries call (954) 384-7075. For Powwow information call (954) 410-9398.

Historical Roots of the Seminole Tribal Fair

Story compiled by Cindy Malin, with information from Reflection #160 by Patsy West

The Tribal Fair is the Seminole Tribe's foremost event, bringing Seminole Tribal citizens together from all reservations. The rodeo, which is the Seminole Tribe's oldest attraction event, is historically important. It was created in the 1950s and is of historic importance as the Tribe's first fundraiser.

At that time the Tribe was impoverished. The proceeds from this event were used to fund the leaders' trips to Washington, D.C. to discuss the Tribe's future as a federally recognized tribe.

The Tribal Fair is held on a historic site located at State Road 7

(Highway 441) and Stirling Road. More than 100 years ago this property was called Big City Island, a 360-acre island in the Everglades. In the 20th century, Big City Island became the site of the Seminole's Dania Reservation, later renamed the Hollywood Reservation, which opened in the 1920s.

Near the Seminole Tribal Fair is also the site of the Council Oak under which important organizational meetings were held in the 1950s. Today, the installation of newly elected Tribal officials continues to be held under the Council Oak.

Once the Seminoles gained their Tribal status in 1957, the government built the Tribal Headquarters building. The

Seminoles also built Seminole Okalee Indian Village, a Tribal tourist attraction including a craft shop and Indian village, which featured the popular sport of alligator wrestling.

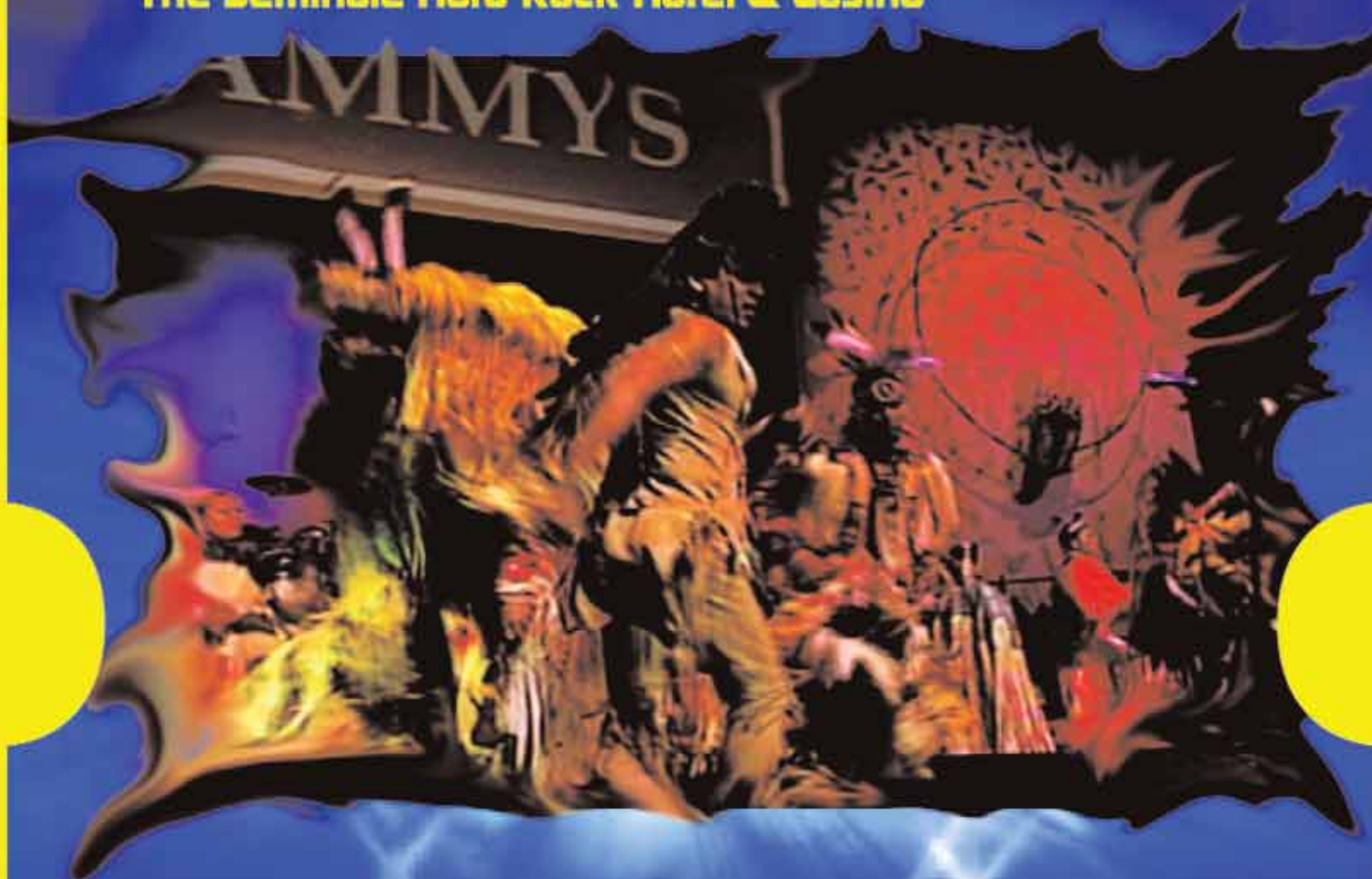
Tobacco shops and a large bingo parlor near the Tribal Fair location were pioneered in the 1970s and 80s which brought in needed revenues to support existing Tribal business.

Big City Island has supported Seminole endeavors for 175 years. The Seminole Tribal Fair has delighted many for the past fifty years with the sights, sounds, foods, crafts and pleasures of a day spent in the company of the "unconquered Seminoles."

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Y e a r i n R e v i e w



APRIL 30 ISSUE: Hollywood preschoolers make their way to the petting zoo. Adelsa Williams



OCT. 15 ISSUE: Smithsonian opens the National Museum of the American Indian. Nery Mejicano

January is a time for looking back on what has transpired in the last 12 months that was 2004. We at *The Seminole Tribune* have also looked back through our proverbial vault and came up with some highlights from the news world that we wanted to share with all of you.

With exciting happenings on all Seminole reservations, selecting photos to sum up those exceptional events was no easy task. We hope you enjoy re-living some of these newsworthy events.

The Seminole Tribune's first issue of the New Year in Jan. 2004 started off much like this issue. There were several stories dealing with toy drives and other humanitarian holiday donation causes the Tribe was involved in. Also, like this year, the Tribe was a part of the annual Winterfest Boat Parade. While last year the Tribe received the coveted "Best Use of Lights" award, this year the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino became the title sponsor of the parade; it was even renamed the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Winterfest Boat Parade.

In February the *Tribune* reported on several other annual events, including the Kissimmee Slough Shootout in Big Cypress and the Rez Rally, which was held in Brighton. The 2004 Rez Rally was the biggest to date, drawing 713 participants according to event emcee John Madrigal. He told *The Seminole Tribune* that he hopes for 1,000 participants at the 2005 rally, but only time will tell. Youngsters and those just young-at-heart were all delighted at the opening of the Seminole Tribe Motocross track in Big Cypress. Brother and sister duo Rudy Juarez IV and Rumor Juarez were crowned Little Mr. and Miss Seminole at the Bergeron Rodeo Grounds in Davie, Fla. However, the biggest story might have been the fire at the pool area of the nearly-complete Hollywood Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. No one was injured during the fire, caused by fiberglass material from the slide at the pool igniting, and construction continued as planned.

Speaking of the Hard Rock, the Tampa Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino officially opened its doors in March 2004. In addition to the Flying Elvi skydiving team, other big names attended the opening including Hard Rock CEO Phil Clemente, Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Association Ernest



MARCH 19 ISSUE: Tampa Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino grand opening. Nery Mejicano

Stevens Jr., and Cordish Co. Chairman David S. Cordish, from the Hard Rock's development firm. The Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida hosted the annual United Southern and Eastern Tribes Gaming Expo. President Moses Osceola was among the many Seminoles who participated in the annual Battle of Okeechobee reenactment in Okeechobee, Fla. The Brighton reservation was full of excitement in the March issue of the *Tribune* with their annual Field Days and the crowning of the Brighton Jr. Miss Seminole Brianna Nunez and Brighton Princess Jennifer Chalfant.

In April *The Seminole Tribune* reported on the Eighth Annual Junior Cypress Cattle Drive in Big Cypress. The Kiwanis Club of Davie honored the tribe at their weekly luncheon assisting with sponsorship of the club's 2003 Classic Golf Tournament, which raised money for charitable causes. Hollywood Council Representative Max B. Osceola Jr. accepted the award from Kiwanis Club of Davie President Bob Oldham. The East Indian Rodeo Association held the Second Annual Swamp Cabbage Festival in La Belle, Fla. with many Seminoles competing. Chairman Mitchell Cypress also cele-

brated his birthday with a bash in the Big Cypress Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium. The Brighton Trading Post also opened, to the delight of those on the Brighton reservation.

The May 5 issue of the *Tribune* was chock-full of news and pictures about the Hollywood Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino's grand opening. Like the Tampa opening, the Hollywood opening was full of big names, including Kenny Rogers and John Anderson and Micki Free, who all performed, as well as artist Michael Israel. One of the world's largest Powwows called the Gathering of Nations celebrated its 22nd year; then-Miss Seminole Cherelee Hall attended and also competed in the Miss Indian World Pageant. This issue also featured coverage of the various Mother's Day activities on all reservations. In educational news, current Miss Seminole JoJo Osceola was inducted into two honor societies, the English Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society, at the University School of Nova Southeastern University. Anthony Frank also completed his classes at Florida Atlantic University and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration.

❖ See 2004, page 26



JULY 23 ISSUE: St. Jude Trike-A-Thon. Felix DoBosz



APRIL 9 ISSUE: Eighth Annual Junior Cypress Cattle Drive. Judge Nelson Bailey



FEB. 27 ISSUE: 2004 Tribal Fair clothing contest. Iretta Tiger



OCT. 15 ISSUE: Dine Tah Navajo dancer.



FEB. 27 ISSUE: 2004 Tribal Fair clothing contest.

❖ 2004

Continued from page 1

In June, *The Seminole Tribune* featured more educational news with a special section honoring all the 2004 graduates from preschoolers all the way to college graduates including Marina Renee Tigertail-Sanders who earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Miami. Big Cypress residents rejoiced with the opening of the Big Cypress Trading Post, but more importantly the U Save gas station. Also a welcomed addition to the reservation, the Mitchell Cypress Trail of Fitness also opened. The Immokalee reservation Seminole Wind Horse Club members had their end of the year award's banquet in the Immokalee Gym. Immokalee rodeo enthusiasts also attended the Three Head Round Robin Team Roping competition at the John Jimmie Memorial Arena.

In July the *Tribune* featured coverage of the United Southern and Eastern Tribes' semi-annual meeting, this year at the Hollywood Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. The Seminole Tribe also joined the ranks with many other tribes, including the Sioux Indians on the Big Pine Reservation in South Dakota, when ground was broke for the tribe's Boys & Girls Club that will be located where the Hollywood Gym currently is. Tribal citizens Dan and Leoda Osceola also celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary.

The Aug. 13 issue featured other celebration with coverage of Big Cypress Councilman David Cypress' birthday party. Marco Island, Fla. hosted the 11th Annual Seminole Wellness Conference and the Trial Council had a special meeting dealing with matters concerning both Hard Rock Hotel & Casino's. Tribal citizen Gem Osceola opened his Cup of Joe To Go drive thru coffee shop on the Hollywood reservation. Immokalee residents had many reasons to celebrate, namely the expansion of the 4-H program with the construction of a new steer barn and the opening of the water and waste treatment plant.

The big news in September was the crowning of the 2004-2005 Seminole Princess JoJo Osceola and Jr. Miss Seminole Krystle Young. The staff at *The Seminole Tribune* took a moment to recognize our own achievements, mentioning the three awards the paper received at the Native American Journalists Association's awards banquet in Washington, DC. Gaming CEO Jim Allen revealed his plans to re-vamp the historic Council Oak tree. There was much back to school news and the preschool staffs on various reservations went all out for their open houses; the Hollywood staff had a 1950s theme and the Immokalee staff went 1960s. Relief efforts also began on the Ft. Pierce reservation, which was hit during Hurricane Frances. Tribal citizen Jarrid Smith made his football debut for the Florida Atlantic University Owls at their first game in Honolulu, Hawaii against the University of Hawaii. Tina Marie Osceola replaced the late Billy L. Cypress as the Ah-Tha-Thi-Ki Museum's Executive Director.

The Oct. 15 issue of the *Tribune* featured coverage of Indian Day events on the various reservations. In national news, the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC opened the much-anticipated National Museum of the American Indian. Native peoples from all over the world—including the Maoris all the way from New Zealand—attended this historic event. Board President Moses Osceola celebrated a birthday with a surprise celebration in Hollywood. The Brighton reservation felt the wrath of Hurricane Jeanne, which caused extensive damage to several buildings including the preschool, the Field Office, Seminole Police Department and casino. In happier Brighton news, the Brighton Lady Seminoles basketball team was the runners-up in the Native World Series held in Salt Lake City, Utah.

❖ See 2004, page 27



SEPT. 3 ISSUE: Princess pageant Mardi Gras event.



JULY 23 ISSUE: St. Jude Trike-A-Thon.



SEPT. 3 ISSUE: Hollywood Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino prepares for Seminole Paradise grand opening.



DEC. 17 ISSUE: Diabetic Fall Carnival.



APRIL 9 ISSUE: Barbara Butera at the National Conference for Community and Justice.



JUNE 11 ISSUE: Brighton children take VIP tour of the Hollywood Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

Iretta Tiger



Adelsa Williams

JUNE 11 ISSUE: Marina Renee Tigertail-Sanders (center) graduates from UM.

❖ 2004

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In the November issue many big names made their way into the paper. Then-National Security Advisor Condoleeza Rice made a speech at the Hollywood Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino on behalf of the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee. Teresa Heinz Kerry also made a speech on behalf of her husband and democratic presidential nominee John Kerry, along with Congressional Representative JD Hayworth, R-Ariz., at the National Congress of American Indian's Convention held at the Greater Ft. Lauderdale Broward County Convention Center. Ft. Pierce Liaison Sally Tommie had a surprise birthday party and tribal citizen Keyah Osceola had an 18th birthday bash to remember at the Hollywood Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. The late Billy Cypress received an award for his various contributions he made to the tribe at the American Indian Arts Celebration held in Big Cypress. Tribal citizen Tony Bert was admitted to the University of Miami during the school's Native American Day celebration. The Immokalee reservation held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new administration building.

In the last issue of 2004, which came out on Dec. 17, *The Seminole Tribune* covered stories including the opening of the new Okalee Village at the Hollywood Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. Tribal officials and Big Cypress residents alike attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the reservation's new water treatment plant. Tribal citizen Joel M. Frank Sr. was named chairman of AMERIND Risk Management Corporation. Various activities on different reservations focused on health-related topics, including two pedometer contests in Hollywood and Brighton, the Diabetic Fall Carnival and CPR classes, both in Hollywood. The Immokalee reservation had an AIDS prevention presentation in conjunction with World AIDS Day on Dec. 1. The tribe also participated in the annual Toys in the Sun Run, which drew big names including Aerosmith singer Steven Tyler and Bon Jovi guitarist Richie Sambora.



Felix DoBosz

SEPT. 24 ISSUE: Jarrid Smith blocks for quarterback Jared Allen.

We at the *Tribune* look back on 2004 with fondness. Recalling these stories helps us see where we have been. We look forward to bringing you more news in 2005 and keeping all our readers informed on what the Seminole Tribe of Florida is doing. Happy New Year!



Felix DoBosz

SEPT. 24 ISSUE: Youth Athletic League summer games.



Felix DoBosz

JULY 23 ISSUE: Big Cypress incentive awards.



Nery Mejicano

MARCH 19 ISSUE: Tampa Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino grand opening.



Nery Mejicano

MAY 21 ISSUE: Mother's Day celebration in Big Cypress.



Felix DoBosz

OCT. 15 ISSUE: Second Annual Seminole Men's Wellness Conference.



FEB. 6 ISSUE: Seminoles defeat government troops at the Kissimmee Slough Shootout.



DEC. 17 ISSUE: Okalee Village grand opening.



FEB 27 ISSUE: Close call for the Hollywood Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.



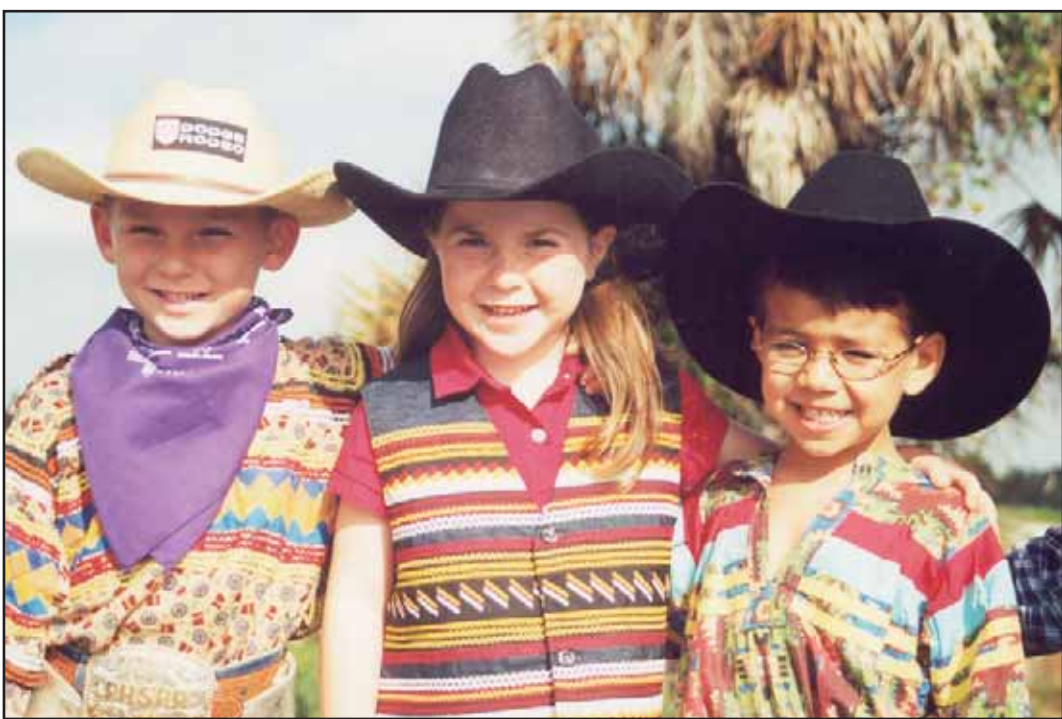
JUNE 11 Issue: Trail Mother's Day dinner.



MAY 21 ISSUE: Hollywood Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino VIP Party.



MARCH 19 ISSUE: The 66th Annual Brighton Field Day and Rodeo.



APRIL 9 ISSUE: East Indian Rodeo Association participated in Chalo Nitka Festival.



MAY 21 ISSUE: Micki Free (left) performed at the Hollywood Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino grand opening.



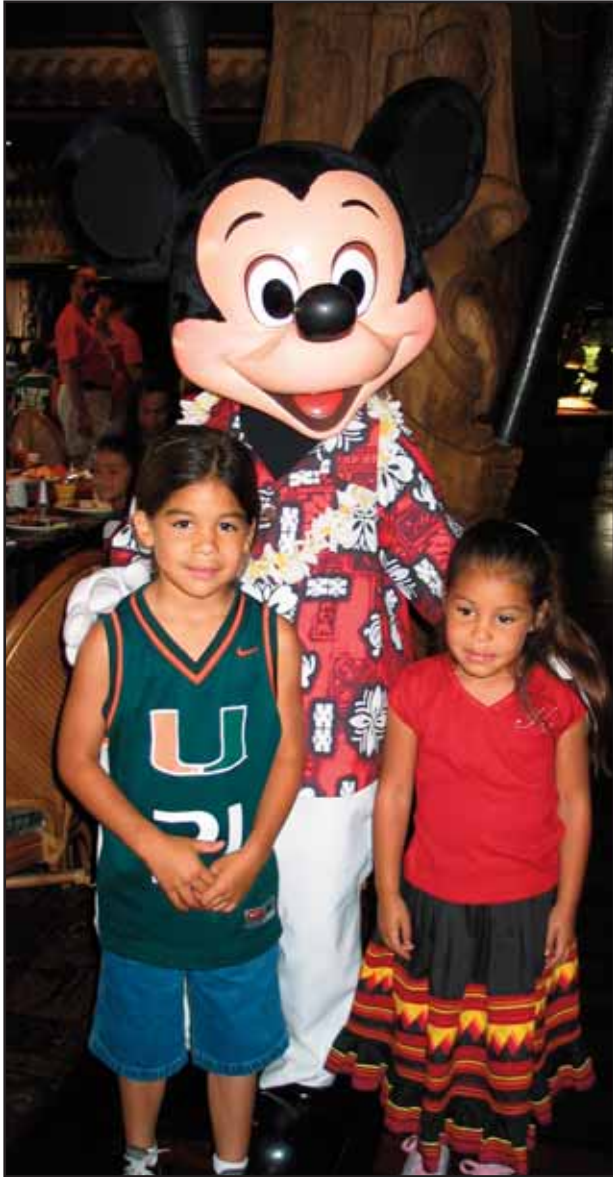
JULY 12 ISSUE: Cupcakes served at the Big Cypress youth awards.



APRIL 30 ISSUE: Tom Jones serenaded the seniors at Mitchell Cypress's birthday party.



FEB. 6 ISSUE: Big Cypress family roller dance.



JULY 23 ISSUE: Tamiami Trail students earn incentive trip to Walt Disney World®.