

Youth Conference in Orlando Teaches Children Vital Life Lessons

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

ORLANDO — The annual Hollywood, Non-Resident, Fort Pierce and Trail Seminole Youth Conference brought youth and their parents together once again with the goal of enlightening its future leaders in the areas of culture, drug prevention, finances, education, art, health and other essential lifestyle topics.

The comfy Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center served as home base to dozens with the 2010 theme of “Prosperity Through Perseverance” July 5-10.

Several guests and presenters were featured throughout the week including: Tiffany Sinclair, reigning Miss National Indian Rodeo, Sam English, renowned Native artist, Vaughn Eaglebear, comedian, singer, dancer and motivational speaker, and Jennifer Villalobos, Native youth educator.

“We ask everyone to share yourself and sit and talk to people. This is how you learn and grow. We want to challenge you this week,” said Robert North, Boys

& Girls Club Counselor and conference co-organizer. “This week is an example of how we take time out for our youth; they are our future. Spend time with them; it is the Indian way.”

As perennial guest lecturers for the conference, Villalobos and English said instilling Native pride and artistic expression continues to be their main message each year.

“I want them to be proud to be Indian. Whatever it is they are trying to learn it will help them to keep their heads held high,” Villalobos said. “There are not a lot of Native role models to look up to. We have to set that example.”

“It is about inspiring young people to be creative,” English said. “All our young people are valuable in life. If you can get young people to engage in art it also inspires thought.”

The issue of drugs and prescription drug abuse was one of many other topics Tribal parents also took



Tribal youth participate in cultural activities during the annual Hollywood, Non-Resident, Fort Pierce and Trail Seminole Youth Conference.

▼ Please see YOUTH on page A2

Tribal Council Approves August Special Election

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Tribal Council convened on the Big Cypress Reservation Community Center July 13 and 15 and authorized a special election for the Big Cypress Tribal Council Representative seat.

The special election will take place from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. August 6 at the Senior Center on the Big Cypress Reservation.

The Tribal Council also approved the eligible voters list and the list of nine candidates.

For a list of candidates and of eligible voters read Seminole Media Production's special issue available on the Big Cypress and Immokalee Reservations.



President Richard Bowers Jr. at Cooil y Ree Gardens in St. John's lays a stone in honor of the United States, minutes before the Tynwald Ceremonies.

President Richard Bowers Jr. Honored at Ceremony in Isle of Man

BY BRIANA ABITTAN
Contributor Reporter

ISLE OF MAN — While walking the grounds at the Royal Chapel of St. John's, viewers can sense the history of the Manx Nation. Adjacent is a four-tier grassy hill, and a tent sits on top, amongst beautiful hills and green valleys.

Better known as Tynwald Hill, this picturesque scene has been the location for the Tynwald Ceremony dating back to the Viking settlements, in the eighth century A.D. At this year's ceremony on July 5, President Richard Bowers Jr. was the guest honoree.

As the oldest parliament in the world, the legislative government has managed to carry on a tradition for more than 1,000 years on the Isle of Man. Dignitaries are dressed in old-fashioned, traditional garb, proclaiming the laws of their land and airing grievances. Thousands witness this National Day, considered to be the heart of Isle of Man's nationhood.

Only six VIPs are chosen each year and following in the footsteps of the Queen of England, who was once recognized at the ceremony, President Bowers marched towards Tynwald Hill and partook in the weekend's festivities.

From tea time at the Garden Party to visiting the home of Isle of Man Lieutenant Governor Sir Paul Haddocks, President Bowers described the Manx as very kind, hospitable people.

“I'm very privileged and honored to be here,” President Bowers said. “The Manx



President Richard Bowers Jr. in front of Tynwald Hill on Tywald's National Day, July 5, 2010.

are a people of survival, just as the Seminole have been surviving in the U.S.”

Roger Phillips, Clark of Tynwald, agrees.

“The Seminole Tribe has a relationship with the United States, much like Isle of Man's relationship with the United Kingdom,” he said. “We're not part of the U.K., we're a crown dependency.”

The Manx have their own government and language, just as the Seminoles do.

President Bowers first visited this unique island located in between Ireland and Great Britain about a year ago. Finding the Isle of Man to be a haven for corporate businesses, President Bowers sees potential business opportunities after discussions with IOM Finance Minister Alex Downing.

▼ Please see CEREMONY on page A2

Tribal Graduates Rewarded with a Trip to Paradise

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

NASSAU, BAHAMAS — For the 10th year running, Tribal students enjoyed the spoils of paradise as a part of the Chairman's Office annual graduates' trip in one of the world's most popular tourist hotspots.

Daylon Youngblood, Duellie Gore, Jenna McDuffie, Jodi Huffman, Jordan Osceola and Shelli Osceola enjoyed a week of exploration and relaxation as guests of honor June 14-18 at the blissful all-inclusive Island Harbour Resort.

The six were joined by their families, members of the Tribal Education Depart-

ment as well as Tribal officials throughout the week. Twenty-seven Tribal citizens graduated throughout the Tribe this year.

“This island has been very nice to us over the years,” said Chairman Mitchell Cypress. “As the Chairman, I have seen a lot of our kids go in different directions because there are a lot of bad temptations out there. Each year I have chosen [the Bahamas] because I want them to experience another culture and to let them know there is something else out there.”

Among the many activities scheduled, a trip to the famous Exuma Island has continued to be a mainstay. Known as one of the most popular and beautiful of the Bahamian

islands, the graduates fed fruits to the native iguanas and other wildlife, snorkeled and swam in the clear, sparkling waters.

“This trip made me push myself to get through and finish [school],” said Youngblood, a graduate of Okeechobee High School. “It was a good experience for me and I will never forget it.”

The 18-year-old said he loves to work with automobiles and plans to attend Nashville Auto-Diesel College in Tennessee.

“I loved the island, especially the sharks and feeding them,” said Huffman, an honors student who graduated from NorthStar High School in Orlando. “I also love that the Chairman cares about our education and wants to reward those who care about it as much as he does.”

The future student of linguistics and language interpretation is undecided on college choices but scored an impressive 1530 on the SAT Reasoning Test (formerly known as Scholastic Aptitude Test or Scholastic Assessment Test).

“You have the best of both worlds and all the opportunities in front of you,” Tribal Board President Richard Bowers Jr. said to the graduates during a special graduation banquet dinner later in the week. “I am honored to be here with you to share in your celebration.”

The trip was also topped off by a special guest appearance by multi-platinum selling and Grammy award winning hip-hop superstar and actor Chris “Ludacris” Bridges. He was on hand to congratulate the graduates and promote the importance of financial responsibility, the pitfalls of peer pressure and following one's dreams.

“I am extremely proud of you all and when I say proud I mean it because there were different circumstances involved in

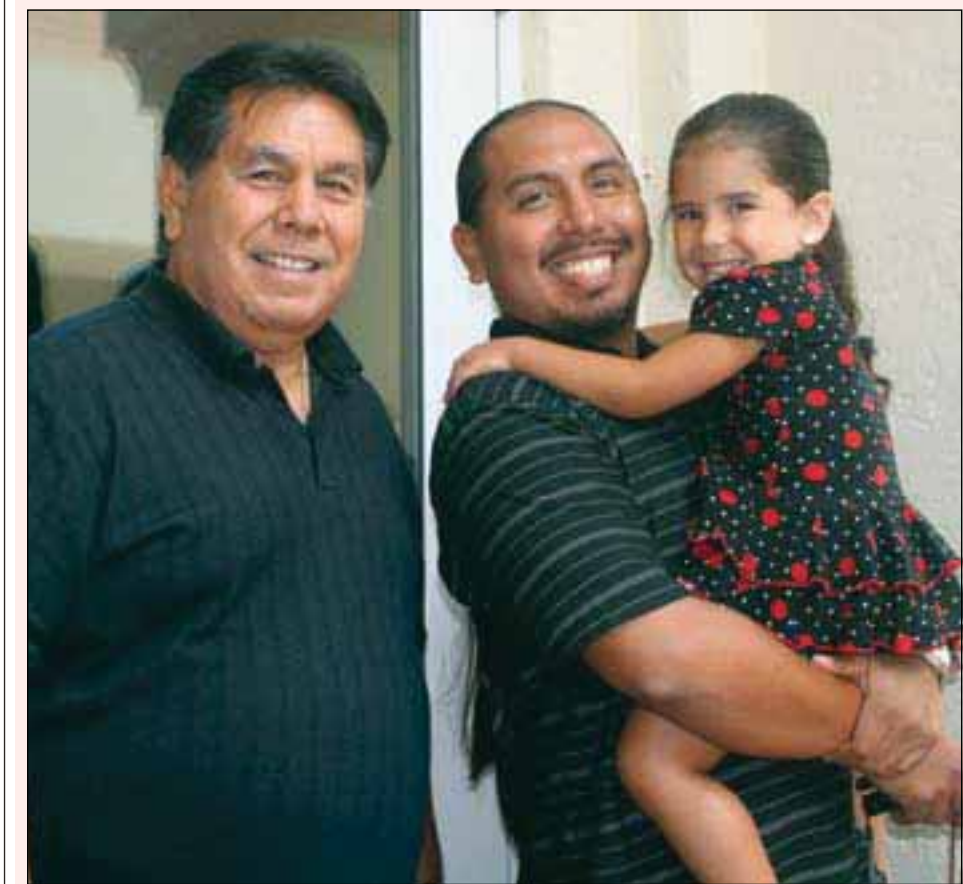


Tribal Board President Richard Bowers Jr. and Tribal Council Chairman Mitchell Cypress joined by the 2010 high school graduates. Graduates are, from left, Shelli Osceola, Jodi Huffman, Daylon Youngblood, Duellie Gore, Jenna McDuffie and Jordan Osceola.

Chris C. Jenkins

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From Dad to Dad, Love Grows



From right, Kaley Zepeda celebrates Naples Father's Day with her father, Doug, and grandpa, Lee Zepeda. Residents of the Naples community reserved a dining room at Don Shula's Steak House for a Father's Day luncheon on June 20. With more than 60 participants, the group represented four generations. The tables were clustered to create a family atmosphere for the sharing of stories and planning summer activities.

Judy Weeks

▼ SEE FATHER'S DAY SPECIAL SECTION ON A11

SMP Youth Media Workshop Completes Fourth Year

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — In its fourth year, the annual youth media workshop introduced Tribal teens to a week of hands-on training and exposure to the world of television and broadcast jour-



Chris C. Jenkins

nalism. Culinary student and chef Jimmie “Jimbo” Osceola talks to the Youth Media Workshop teens about the importance of following their dreams.



Chris C. Jenkins

From left, workshop participants Alisia Billie, Hanaa Al-Ajam, Jesse Mitchell and Shelli Osceola enjoy the Major League Baseball Florida Marlins vs. San Diego Padres game at Sun Life Stadium.

nalism.

Seminole Media Productions staff took part in teaching the basics of on-camera operations, script writing, audio functions, interviewing techniques and editing during the June 20-26 workshop. Members of The Seminole Tribune’s staff also educated the youth about print writing.

This year eight students from various reservations, ages 14-18 partook in the workshop. Veteran attendees Shelli Osceola, Jesse Mitchell and Alisia Billie, joined newcomers Elena Jim, Jason Melton, Hanaa Al-Ajam, Dylanie Henry and Danelle Thomas.

The participants chose an aspect of the Tribe’s culture and heritage, either alligator wrestling, arts and crafts or wood carving, to create a documentary, electronic news gathering or short film piece. They presented their work at week’s end.

“I really liked it and found that I am pretty good with the camera,” said first year participant Jason Melton. “I learned

how to edit and use Final Cut Pro and made a few friends also. I also liked the fact that you are in charge of your own things and can do what you want on film.”

The participants were divided into two groups to make their project. HJS Productions, consisting of Melton, Osceola and Al-Ajam, produced a short film of an aging former alligator wrestling legend, also played by Melton, looking to keep the traditions of the craft alive. His two daughters, played by Osceola and Al-Ajam, then enlisted the expertise of current Seminole expert alligator wrestler, James Holt, to teach them the basics.

The second group, called A&C Entertainment Group, consisted of Tribal citizens Jim, Mitchell and Billie. Their short film told the story of a grandmother’s desire to pass along the art and practice of Seminole patchwork and sewing to her granddaughter. Billie played the role of the grandmother while Jim took on the role of granddaughter.

Tribal senior Betty Osceola served as an arts and crafts expert consultant for A & C, offering her expertise in the

film through flashback sequences as the grandmother of a young Billie. She said she enjoyed the opportunity to work with the group.

“I am glad I was there for anyone that still wants to learn,” said Osceola. “I told them a long time ago, I learned young. Once you learn you need to keep doing it. I am glad I still remember things and glad these young people want to know.”

The week also offered a more in-depth spotlight into the broadcast news profession with visits to the Miami MegaTV station for a tour of the facility and a live sit-in taping. The group also toured the popular teen-based broadcast news station Broward Teen News, and participated in other recreation activities.

Community leaders and guests spoke at the workshop’s film presentation night and included Tribal citizens Jarrid Smith, Jimmie “Jimbo” Osceola and James Holt, as well as Seminole Police Department Chief William Latchford and veteran television broadcaster and media consultant Kelley Mitchell.



Chris C. Jenkins

Youth workshop participants Jason Melton, left, and Hanaa Al-Ajam, sit on the set of one the MegaTV shows filmed at its facilities.



Chris C. Jenkins

SMP senior videographer Celso Contreras, right, shows workshop participant Shelli Osceola, how to white balance a camera during the youth media workshop.



Chris C. Jenkins

Workshop participant Danelle Thomas of the Tampa community introduces herself to parents and supporters during the SMP awards ceremony.

GRADUATES

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“You being here,” Bridges said to the graduates, families and the guests in attendance. “But you made it a point to be here and I have to commend you on your commitment to staying in the right path in terms of your education and forward thinking.”

The star of the 2009 film “Gamer” also spoke openly about his success and commonalities with the Tribe.

“I have a lot in common with you all because we are both in powerful positions,” he said to the grads. I come from a strong foundation, the same way that I understand that the Seminole Tribe comes from.”

He even took the time for a closed meet-and-greet session with the teens for personal questions and conversation.

“He was a motivating speaker that has done a lot in his life to feel proud of,” Chairman Cypress said of Bridges. “He came from not having much to becoming someone to look up to.”

Bridges has his own nonprofit foundation for youth called the Ludacris Foundation. Its aim is to inspire youth through education and memorable experiences to live their dreams by uplifting families, communities and fostering economic development. It focuses on three key areas for youth of all ages in: leadership and education, LudaCares, a hands-on community outreach program, and living healthy lifestyles, according to www.theludacrisfoundation.org.

Founded in 2001 the charity has also been named as one of the top 20 Leading Philanthropy Foundations by several publications.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal graduate Shelli Osceola, center, with grandmother, Virginia Mitchell, left, and Virginia Osceola.



Chris C. Jenkins

Senior graduate Jenna McDuffie with son, Kaison, 1.



Chris C. Jenkins

Graduate Jordan Osceola, right, with guest speaker Chris “Ludacris” Bridges.



Chris C. Jenkins

Former San Francisco 49ers running back and special guest speaker William Floyd, far right, with Hollywood Recreation’s Richard Osceola, far left, and Tribal citizens at the Non-resident, Hollywood, Fort Pierce, Trail Youth Conference July 5-10.



Chris C. Jenkins

From left, Ditoyyo Billie and Brandon Latchford show off their carving, which they created in culture class.

YOUTH

From page A1

an interest in. Hollywood resident and Tribal citizen William Johns wanted to become more aware and informed. In a class hosted by the Seminole Police Department, various issues addressed included drug disposal, symptoms, types of drugs, and the most popular available.

“I was interested because we do not see this and often times take a blind eye to it as parents,” Johns said. “I also wanted to see and find out what SPD’s take was. I want to break the circle of abuse in my own family.”

Non-resident Tribal youth Ditoyyo Billie, 11, of Salamanca, N.Y. said he enjoyed the cultural aspect of the conference. He learned to carve traditional Seminole objects from culture instructor Shamy Tommie. “I liked learning more about our culture,” Billie said. “I like using Mother Nature’s resources and learning a new skill.”

The week’s festivities also featured a special cultural exchange performance by members of the Lemhi/Bannock Shoshone Tribes of Idaho, youth performances by Tribal citizens Shelli Tiger, Mariah Bowers and R.C. North, along with Tribal members of Sifu Nee’s Kung Fu class and a special speaking appearance by former San Francisco 49’ers standout fullback and Super Bowl XXIX champion William Floyd.

Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. and Hollywood Board Rep. Marcellus Osceola Jr. also made appearances.

CEREMONY

From page A1

Noel Cringle, President of Tynwald, said he is delighted at the idea of working with the Seminole people.

“The Seminole Tribe is working their way out



Briana Abittan

President Richard Bowers Jr. and Virginia Osceola attend annual Tynwald Ceremony in Isle of Man.

from the United States. They have international interests and the Isle of Man would like to share those international interests if it’s possible. So we’re pleased that The Seminole Tribe of Florida is here.”

The trip was July 2 through 7. President Bowers was accompanied by his Executive Administrative Assistants Virginia Osceola from the Hollywood Reservation and Mornin Osceola from Big Cypress, and were all able to partake in a once in a lifetime cultural exchange with The Manx National.

“This is a very big honor. Not only for us, but also for the President, because he’s representing all the Tribal members as well,” Mornin Osceola said.

The people of Isle of Man enjoyed the beautiful patchwork on display and were enthralled with the fact that President Bowers was once an alligator wrestler.

“It’s absolutely fantastic, because there’s such a richness of culture among the Native American people and to meet Seminoles, which you don’t do everyday on the Isle of Man, is a great privilege for all of us,” Phillips said.



Briana Abittan

Isle of Man Finance Minister Alex Downing and President Richard Bowers Jr. at The Garden Party.



Briana Abittan

Mornin Osceola, President Richard Bowers Jr. and Virginia Osceola in front of the Royal Chapel of St. John’s in Isle of Man.

The Seminole Tribune is a member of the Native American Journalists Association.

Letters/e-mails to the editor must be signed and may be edited for publication.

Subscription rate is \$35 per year by mail. Make checks payable to The Seminole Tribune, 3560 N. State Rd. 7, Hollywood, FL 33021. Phone: (954) 985-5702 Fax: (954) 965-2937 Or subscribe online at www.seminoletribe.com

The following deadlines apply to all submissions to The Seminole Tribune:

Issue: August 27, 2010
Deadline: August 11, 2010

•
Issue: September 24 2010
Deadline: September 8, 2010

•
Please note: Submissions that come past deadline will be posted in the following issue.

Advertising:
Advertising rates along with sizes and other information may be downloaded from the internet at:

www.seminoletribe.com/tribune

Postmaster:
Please send address changes to

The Seminole Tribune
3560 N. State Road 7
Hollywood, FL 33021

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If you need a reporter or you would like to submit an article, birthday wish or poem to The Seminole Tribune, please contact the Editor Adina Loochkartt at (954) 985-5702, Ext. 10717 Or by fax at (954) 965-2937

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Community

4-Hers Awarded at 2010 Year End Banquet

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Seminole 4-Hers and their families gathered at the Herman Osceola Gym on the evening of July 8 for their 2010 Year End Awards Banquet.

"I am extremely proud of all the youngsters that participated in the 2010 4-H season and want to acknowledge their hard work, diligence and positive attitude," said Seminole 4-H Coordinator Polly Hayes.

"A great deal of effort goes into raising a livestock project and it means shouldering a lot of responsibility. Several of this year's participants elected to raise an additional project, which allowed them to expand their competitive field. Showing in more than one arena required making a tremendous commitment but they lived up to the challenge," she said.

Introducing the Seminole Indian 4-H Staff for all reservations, Hayes presented them with 4-H pins in recognition of their devotion to the program and acknowledged that they are the backbone of the organization. She pointed out that through their guidance and coordination of the parents and youngsters, a successful and creative learning experience is possible. Most valuable leaders for the 2010 season were Emma Urbina and Donald Hayes, Jr.

Florida Agricultural Extension Agent Michael Bond said, "I have worked with the Seminole 4-H for many years and seen

Bond said, "It has been a privilege to work with these young people and the lessons learned in 4-H will benefit them as they embark on their adult journey. There is always a standing invitation for them to return to assist the next group and past experience has proven that most good 4-H leaders were once participants."

Coordinator Hayes and Agent Bond were joined by 4-H assistants in the presentation of awards for Steer, Swine and Small Animal Projects. Each reservation elects Club Officers and they were recognized for the important role that they play in a successful 4-H season.

Acting Judge for the Herdsman Awards, Mary Jene Koenes said, "Participation in 4-H teaches our children to be prepared and discipline themselves. This is a valuable lesson that they will carry with them into the future so that they can function in the world outside the Reservation.

In making my Herdsman decisions, I established a point system and graded the youngsters over a three-day period. They were quizzed on nutrition, breed and physical development. Attitude and cooperation were major factors in the final decisions, which were extremely difficult."

During the final count down, all of the 4-Hers were acknowledged according to the number of years they had participated in the program. They each received their certificates, proceeds from the sale of their livestock, their graded record books and a 4-H shirt. Trophies were pre-



Judy Weeks

Small Animal 4-H participants received trophies for their project awards.



Judy Weeks

The Reserve Grand Champion Steer belonged to Kailin Brown and the Grand Champion Steer was raised by Kalgary Johns.

sented to the small animal owners.

"Raising livestock and growing our own food has always been a part of our culture," said B.C. Board Rep. Paul Bowers Sr. "In more recent times, agriculture and the cattle industry have played an important role in our economy. 4-H offers an opportunity for young people to learn the basics so that they will be able to carry on this part of our heritage. By caring for animals, they acquire some of life's most important lessons of responsibility and management of finances."

A steak and chicken banquet preceded the awards ceremony and a Mardi Gras theme was enhanced by a dance following the presentations.

A professional disk jockey covered the broad expanse of the world of music and enticed the dancers to the floor.

Winners:

Steer Winners: Grand Champion: Kalgary Johns, Reserve Grand Champion: Kailin Brown, Jr. Showmanship: Kalgary Johns, Intermediate Showmanship: Skyler Burke, Senior Showmanship: Jessica Lopez, Most Weight Gain: Kalgary Johns (722 pounds) Junior Record Book: Kalgary Johns, Intermediate Record Book: Marshall Tommie, Senior Record Book: Jessica Lopez, Senior Herdsman: Jewel Buck, Intermediate Herdsman: Kenny Deschenee, Junior Herdsman: Blake Baker.

Steer Carcass Winners: 1. Blevyns Jumper, 2. Ahnie Jumper, 3. Kailin Brown, 4. Andre Jumper, 5. Kalgary Johns.

Swine Winners: Grand Champion: Mika Lopez, Reserve Grand Champion: Issiah Alvarado, Junior Showmanship: Rosa Urbina, Senior Showmanship: Garrett Thomas, Most Weight Gain: Rosa Urbina (229 pounds), Junior Record Book: Troy Cantu, Intermediate Record Book: Ashton Beer, Senior Record Book: Cassandra Jimmie, Senior Herdsman: Garrett Thomas, Intermediate Herdsman: Dalton Koenes, Junior Herdsman: Dayra Koenes.

Swine Carcass Winners: 1. Chastity Harmon, 2. Hunter Strickland, 3. Justin Roff, 4. Oscar Yates, 5. Mailani Perez.

Small Animal Members: Big Cypress: Brianna Bowers, Harmony Cypress, Nick Andrews, Caleb Bowers, Jalee Wilcox, Valholly Frank. Immokalee: Priscilla Alvarado, Caniah Billie and Jaliyah Arteaga. Brighton: Jarrett Beecham, Aubee Billie, Creek Gopher, Emerson Billie, Jaccee Jumper, Kaleb Doctor, Heith Lawrence, Alyssa Gonzales, Santiago Billie, Kiowa Garcia, Marcos Reyna, Norman Osceola, Tucker Johns, Taden Santiago, Justin Gopher, Jr., Karlyne Urbina, Laviticus Roberts.

Seminole 4-H Officers for 2009-2010: Immokalee: Pres.: Alexis Aguilar, VP: Jessica Lopez, Sec: Spencer Jock, Sgt. of Arms: Edward Aguilar, Jr. and Troy Cantu. Big Cypress: Pres.: Anthony Joe, VP: Allison Herrera, Sec: Dayra Koenes, Treasurer: Calli Joe, Sgt. of Arms: Chris Joe. Brighton Steer Club: Pres. Erena Billie, VP: Breanna Billie, Sec/Treas.: Ashton Baxley, Reporter: Rayven Smith, Sgt. of Arms: Drayton Billie and Blake Baker. Brighton Swine Club: Pres.: Rosa Urbina, VP: Rylee Smith, Sec/Treas.: Jenna McDuffie, Sgt. of Arms: Richard Smith and Marquis Fudge.



Judy Weeks

Senior Steer Project Winners received their awards from 4-H Coordinator Polly Hayes and Ag. Ext. Agent Michael Bond. Grand Champion Steer: Kalgary Johns, Reserve Grand Champion Steer: Kailin Brown, Senior Showmanship: Jessica Lopez.

a vast improvement and expansion in the program. Many of the children here this evening started with small animal projects and have grown up in 4-H."

"This is a tremendous commitment for their families who are an integral part of the process. I am honored to act as emcee this evening and have a chance to personally congratulate each of these fine young people and their families," Bond said.

"A successful project gets its beginning with a quality foundation," continued Bond. "Our first plaques will be presented to the cattle owners who supplied the Grand Champion Steer, Naha Jumper, and the Reserve Grand Champion, Seminole Tribe of Florida [Parker Island]. Dale McQuelle was the source of both champion swine."

Seminole Indian 4-H Graduating Seniors were Jewel Buck from Brighton and Nikki Davis, Cassandra Jimmie, Spencer Jock and Deidra Hall from Immokalee.

Hollywood Celebrates Security Gate Grand Opening



Chris C. Jenkins

Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., center, stands among Tribal and community members during the grand opening of the new Hollywood Reservation Bird Clan security gate entrance located on 64th Avenue. The June 21 ceremony also featured Hollywood Board Rep. Marcellus Osceola Jr., the Tribal Color Guard, and the revealing of a bronzed bust of the great Seminole warrior and leader Osceola.

Seminole Tribe Gives Back to a Tribe Less Fortunate

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

PINE RIDGE, S.D. — In the wee hours of June 17, Tribal citizens, employees and volunteers began yet another cross-country trek to South Dakota. This marked Brighton's Community Care for the Elderly fourth trip to the Sioux Tribe Reservation.

Prior to their departure, CEE, with the help of the Tribal community and employees collected clothes, shoes, toys, towels, bedding and many other essential living items.

Collection boxes were set up on all reservations and delivered to the CCE offices in Brighton to be cleaned, folded and packed according to size and gender and then stored in a 12-by-24 shed CCE purchased after their last visit in December 2009.

CEE made its first visit to the Sioux Tribe two and half years ago after Tribal citizen and CEE Project Director Alice Sweat heard an announcement at the First Indian Baptist Church about the desperate need the Sioux Tribe was in.

Sweat recalled memories of how her Tribe was once in the same desperate position and knew that she and her Tribe needed to do something to give back.

"The Seminole Tribe is so blessed, that's why we try to bless others," Sweat

said.

Sweat is in constant contact with Pastor Stanley Hollow Horn of the Wounded Knee Church to help determine how the Seminole Tribe of Florida can be of help to the Sioux Tribe.

During the most recent trip Brighton employees and volunteers had the opportunity to communicate and get to know the members of the Sioux Tribe. Once they arrived they unloaded the packed 24-foot trailer towed with items. After that, the volunteers headed to nearby stores where they loaded the trailer with much-needed food and staple items to fill the Sioux Tribe's pantries.

The next few days the crew spent cooking for the Pine Ridge Tribal residents and featured games for the children.

Within the Sioux Tribe there is an 80 percent unemployment rate with an increase in alcohol and drug abuse.

"It's like they've lost their hope," CCE Assistant Director Rhonda Goodman said. "They need to be shown that people care and they aren't a lost Tribe."

Tribal citizens or Tribal employees who would like to make a donation can contact the CCE department in Brighton at 863-763-3561.



Rhonda Goodman

CCE employees and volunteers traveled more than 2000 miles and survived a tornado as they made their way to the Pine Ridge Reservation.

SPD's Citizens Police Academy Series Features MILO Simulation, Taser Demos

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — In the SPD Citizens Police Academy's Week 8 class on June 14, SPD Sgt. George Gonzalez began the session by discussing how a law enforcement officer would use force while on the job.

There are at least four ways for an officer to apprehend an offender: the use of handcuffs, batons, pepper spray and the Taser device.

"Our job is not to inflict pain on someone, but we have to defend ourselves," Sgt. Gonzalez said. "You have to do whatever it takes to protect yourself."

Another way for officers to take down a potential criminal is the use of a firearm. This however is only done when warranted.

A few scenarios of the potentially deadly use of force were played out later on in the class as Tribal academy students participated in a MILO simulation demonstration.

"Until you're in that situation, you don't know," Sgt. Gonzalez said. "The time to figure out what to do in a potentially deadly situation is in training. It's an ongoing thing."

Sgt. Gonzalez said the level of training for the SPD officers is a high priority on the department's list. He said a potentially dangerous situation can happen at any time, such as a potential assailant shooting at an innocent bystander and/or an officer in the criminal act.

"We don't ask to be in these situations," Sgt. Gonzalez said. "We have to reach according to situations that are presented to us."

That's why a law enforcement officer must be on the lookout all day, every day, according to SPD Of-

ficer David Lee.

"A cop's job is 24/7," Officer Lee said. "We always have to be on our toes. It has to be a part of us."

The Tribal academy students received the opportunity to see and feel what it's like to be in a simulated anxiety and serious situation during a Taser demonstration. They were drawn to a visual that showed Officer T.J. Tartsah on the receiving end of the Taser shock.

A Taser is used by law enforcement officers as a pain compliance procedure to stop offenders who either resist arrest or try to cause harm to the officer in question. The Taser device usually engages for a total of five seconds.

"It's not a matter of if it will happen, but it's a matter of when," SPD Officer David Lee said. "We need to be prepared for any kind of situation that may come our way."

The class was later moved to the MILO simulation room, where the students engaged in a few simulated shooting video exercises.

In one sequence, Tribal academy students Mornin Osceola and Eldeen Tecumseh teamed up to use lethal force on a simulated male suspect after he shot a boy in a hotel. Officer Lee complimented the two Tribal students on their effectiveness and timely actions.

"This was a pretty intense one," Officer Lee said. "You were just instinct shooting."

Sgt. Gonzalez offered his take on how important it is for the SPD officers to receive this level of training in order to ensure the best possible protection for the Tribe and its citizens.

"We don't settle for mediocre," he said. "If it even comes close to that, we won't even provide that training for our officers."



Naji Tobias

Photo above, SPD Officer T.J. Tartsah, center, is on the receiving end of the Taser demo drill, with SPD support aide Shani Billie, left, and SPD Sgt. George Gonzalez, right, holding him up. SPD Officer David Lee, back, administers the Taser shot. Right top photo, Tribal academy students Sarah Osceola, left, Candy Cypress, center, and Sheila Benvenue, take a look at the serial numbers to the deployed Taser devices. Right bottom photo, SPD Officer David Lee, right, shows Tribal academy students a few Taser probes, which measured a half inch.



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Naji Tobias

Tribal academy students Sarah Osceola, left, holding the flashlight, and Vera Herrera find a beeper in the SPD parking lot – a key piece of evidence in the mock crime scene investigation.



Naji Tobias

Lt. Jerry Herren, left, gives the Tribal academy students a crash course on how a crime scene investigation works in a mock visual demonstration during the Week 9 class on June 21.

Mock Crime Scene Investigation Concludes Citizen's Police Academy

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Outside the Seminole Police Department building were a trail of blood, a beeper, a license plate and seven shell casings.

Those were just four of the items on display in Week 9 of the SPD's Citizens Police Academy Class on June 21, when Tribal academy students took part in a mock crime scene presentation.

SPD Lt. Jerry Herren, based out of the Tampa Reservation, took seven Tribal students to the crime scene investigation, placing them in a straight line as they searched for clues to find out who the suspects were in the mock crime.

"The rule of evidence is to complete everything," Lt. Herren said to the students. "Take your time. Don't rush to figure everything out. It's a big, big puzzle."

According to Lt. Herren, the mock crime scene scenario consisted of a group of three people – two men and an unidentified woman – sitting on a park bench right in front of the Seminole Police Building. An argument ensued between the individuals and a burly man in his 40s stabbed a 32-year-old slender man wearing a white shirt, tight blue jeans and a pair of Nike Air Force 1 sneakers.

Meanwhile, the victim, who was stabbed three times by the assailant, pulled out a shotgun and shot him multiple times. The assailant somehow escaped the scene alive and fled the area in his black Cadillac Escalade SUV.

Not satisfied, the victim tried to chase the suspect on foot. However, the suspect could not be found. The woman, now a witness to the melee, fled the area on foot and has not yet been located by law enforcement.

Less than 10 minutes after the incident, all that remained was a smattering of evidence for the investigators to pick up. At this point the stage was set for investigators to begin the long and arduous process of figuring out what happened and how to apprehend the suspect and victim.

On the CSI (Crime Scene Investigation) Tip

For a law enforcement officer, it normally takes 4 to 10 hours to complete a crime scene investigation. Once the work is done, then all evidence is submitted to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for further review, according to Lt. Herren.

Before any evidence is collected, it has to be photographed and measured, he added. When the findings are later presented in court, it is imperative that all bases are covered before presenting evidence to a judge and jury for the prosecuted case in question.

"Someone in the jury is going to say, 'We want to duplicate the scene,'" Lt. Herren said. "The big word is 'approximately.' With measurements, you don't want to be exact. It will make things harder for you in court."

To ensure a successful crime scene investigation, Lt. Herren said law enforcement takes several steps, which they also followed during their mock crime scene investigation. These are: ensure the safety of yourself, the witnesses, the victims and the suspects; secure the crime scene, search the crime scene, look for evidence, take photos of the evidence, measure the evidence, collect the evidence and write the crime scene report.

As the Tribal academy students searched in earnest for all the evidence nearby, Lt. Herren gave them another helpful tip.

"Curiosity makes us want to look at

things, but if an object is not in its original state, then the evidence is destroyed," he said.

Learning Mission Accomplished

The first 15 minutes of an investigation will determine the success of it, according to Lt. Herren. The coordination of a crime scene, he said, can be one of the most difficult things to do in law enforcement.

A grid search – something the Tribal academy students participated in – is typically considered the best, because investigators will start the process on the outer edges of the scene and work inward.

A wheel search, meanwhile, starts in the epicenter of the crime scene and works its way out.

"I don't know what my evidence is," Lt. Herren said. "The further I go out, the greater my responsibility is. The further I walk out, the greater possibility it is for me to miss things."

It took about an hour for Lt. Herren and the Tribal academy students to gather the plethora of evidence outside the building, but the strategic use of the grid search helped them find some clues as to who the suspects were.

Though the criminals were never found in this mock crime scene, they all learned one key thing: evidence is the difference between a successful investigation and a botched one.

The items ultimately discovered were a knife, a pair of eye glasses, a ball cap, three cups and cigarette butts, in addition to the aforementioned objects.

It's the story of a crime scene that a law enforcement official can live out at any given time – something the Tribal academy students took home with them as the final SPD Citizens Police Academy topic has been covered.

Tribal Council Has Monthly Meeting in Tampa

BY ADINA LOOCHKARTT
Senior Editor

The Tribal Council approved the following resolutions at the June 30 council meeting held in Tampa:

Resolution 14: Service agreement with Aim Engineering & Surveying, Inc. to provide mitigation services for the Rock Mine for the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Resolution 15: First amendment to the 23rd annual work plan submitted to the South Florida Water Management District by the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Resolution 16: Tribal response program fiscal year 2011 grant application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency for all reservations of the Seminole Tribe of Florida for the purpose of public health and cultural use preservation.

Resolution 17: Grant application to the United States environmental protection agency for funds for the Seminole Tribe of Florida water pollution control program.

Resolution 19: U.S. Department of Justice - office of community oriented policing services, fiscal year 2010 coordinated tribal assistance grant application; ratification

Resolution 20: Interlocal agreement designating the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation as a primary public safety answering point for enhanced 911 service between the Board of County Commissioners of Hendry County, Florida and Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Resolution 21: U.S. Department of Transportation - Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, fiscal year 2011 hazardous material emergency preparedness grant application; ratification

Resolution 22: Ratification of the Seminole Tribe of Florida filming permission letter granting Spectrum Field Productions, LLC, permission to film a television show on the Big Cypress, Brighton, Immokalee and Hollywood Seminole Indian Reservations.

Resolution 24: Approval of agreement with Seminole Design-Build, Inc. for the Seminole Tribe of Florida Immokalee Pre-school and Community Center; ratification of execution

Resolution 31: Declaration of official intent with respect to reimbursements for capital expenditures related to the Hollywood Garage Project.

Ceremony Held for Communication Tower Groundbreaking



Chris C. Jenkins

Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., center, and Tribal Housing Department staff from left, Tribal Realty Services Officer Bill Abell and Real Estate Director Fred Hopkins with Crown Castle International staff for the official Hollywood Communications Tower relocation and groundbreaking ceremony, held on the Hollywood Reservation June 10. The tower was relocated from Northwest 64th Avenue to its new location for further building by the housing department. The time for completion and operation of the 30-day project is set for late August to early September.

Native Car Show and Sound Off Brings Crowd



Tom Riser

Cars, trucks and motorcycles lined up on display June 19 at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena in Brighton for the first Native Car Show and Sound Off. The event was sponsored by the Brighton Tribal Council office and Custom Sights & Sounds. Tribal citizens showed off their custom-designed vehicles and their older, treasured vehicles. A sound off was also held. The day also included a live DJ, performances by Iceberg, Papa Duck and Mike Bless and native food for all to be enjoyed. Pictured is Moses Jumper Sr.'s classic car with his previous winning trophies. -Rachel Buxton

Tribal Citizens Dance in the Streets of Immokalee

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Dancing in the streets wasn't just an old cliché at the Immokalee Family Services Department Block Party on June 24. Community members of all ages literally took to the street to get down and groovy.

The street extension connecting Ethel Frank Court and John Jimmie Boulevard was cordoned off for the erection of a tent and stage to accommodate the occasion and by 5 p.m. the area was overflowing with party goers.

"This year's theme was designed to promote family togetherness and sober celebrations," said Immokalee Family Services Department Site Supervisor Billie Napper-Bodway. "The strength of this reservation is the ability of the residents and employees to pull together as a team and they did an awesome job. Each of the departments contributed food and drink donations along with decorations, game plans and prizes. With the community support, success was inevitable."

Entertainment professional Dennis John, aka "Big Papa D.J.," had the crowd swaying and singing along to old time rock 'n' roll as they ate their dinner. Frequently changing the repertoire, dancers quickly finished their meals and then responded to the rhythm of their favorite music. They were drawn to

the street for couples, solo and line dancing.

The crowd went wild when Natasha Perez from Brighton Fitness Department arrived with Franky and the Cheer/Dance Girls. The young multi-talented Franky Huff stimulated his audience with several songs while his backup chorus and dance line of cheerleaders motivated the group to join in the festivities.

"This community is in love with health and life," said Abuse Prevention Specialist Fred Mullins. "It's great to be drug and alcohol free and getting high on our own enthusiasm."

Dividing the crowd into age groups, they competed for gift card prizes during the dance contest. Contenders were judged by their peers, who were recruited from the audience. Among the crowd pleasers were 2-year-old Remy Rodriguez, who loves to shake to the music, and Sylvia Marero, who used her electric wheelchair to boogie down with her husband, Juan Tapia.

Fred Mullins demonstrated 10 one-handed pushups to lead off a contest for the male participants. It wasn't long before the dance floor was filled with young athletes eager to demonstrate their strength and agility.



Judy Weeks

The cha-cha slide drew line dancers to the Immokalee Family Services Department's Block Party.

During a Brighton challenge, 14-year-old Timmy Bearden took down his competition with 60 standard pushups and wasn't even out of breath. Coming in for a close second were Ethan Aguilar, Raymond James Mora and Jack Aguilar.

Proving that fitness is physical, mental and inspirational, the crowd shouted, "We're high on life!"

Amos Tiger Continues to Ride the Bull Known as Life

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The arena bleachers are packed with cowboy wannabes all cheering for their favorite bull rider. Amos Tiger, the All Around Champion of Abraham Baldwin's college rodeo team mounts his bull and waits for the stall gate to open.

Tiger bears down and focuses. He is oblivious to the cheers and chants as he clears his mind and plays the successful eight-second ride in his head. Before Tiger knows it, the ride is over and his adrenaline is pumping.

Today, the ride is far from over for this 57-year-old cowboy. It is just beginning.

"It's been an experience, but definitely exciting," Tiger said about his rodeo life.

Tiger, a member of the Bird Clan, was born in 1952 in Okeechobee to Joe Henry and Goby Tiger. He grew up on his grandfather's campsite the Charlie Micco camp on the Brighton Reservation with his parents and three siblings. He recalls a childhood of fishing and hunting, but most of all, and what may have been the spark to his love in life and career path, he remembers working cattle with his father and grandfather.

"When I was old enough to ride I helped out," Tiger recalls.

Tiger was introduced to rodeos by attending festivals in Okeechobee where cow-

boys showed off their riding skills.

It wasn't until his high school senior year that he really got into the competition aspect of rodeo. After graduating high school in Moore Haven, rodeo was put on the back burner as Tiger attended Broward Community College in Fort Lauderdale to study computer processing. After two years, Tiger returned to rodeo and the outdoors.

"That life wasn't for me," Tiger said about computer processing. "I belonged outdoors. That's where I felt comfortable."

Tiger then headed to Tifton, Ga., where he attended Abraham Baldwin College and joined the rodeo team. He spent his weekdays in the classroom earning his Bachelors in Agriculture and his weekends on the road competing in bull riding, bareback riding and other rodeo events.

"It was a rough life," Tiger said. "It was good and fun but it's a different world, it's not back home."

Back home Tiger went after graduating in 1973. Tiger was at the top of his game then after being the All Around Champion of his rodeo team both years. Even though Tiger settled down with a fulltime job doing artificial inseminations and then onto working for the Department of Agriculture for the State, rodeo never left his blood. He used his fulltime job to pay his way in the south eastern rodeo circuit competing in whatever rodeos he could on the weekends.

"You would set your schedule so you could hit all of them," Tiger said.

Marriage and a family also forced Tiger to settle down. Tiger married his wife Lynell in 1978. Tiger said he knew his focus had to be his family.

As the years went by, Tiger continued to work and rodeo on the weekends. His events changed as he got older. The bull riding became his past and steer wrestling and team roping became the forefront of his competing. In 2005, his own Seminole community asked him for his help in developing the Brighton rodeo arena. He continued his work with the state and in his free time helped out at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena working behind the scenes in putting on rodeos and attracting spectators.

In 2009 his work with the Tribe became much more time consuming than he imagined, he said, and eventually made the decision to retire from the Department of Agriculture after 31 years.

"I wasn't able to focus on both jobs," Tiger said. "I wanted to try to make things better here."

In just his short time at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena Tiger has made major improvements. He said he enjoys being behind the scenes and being in the production aspect of rodeos.

"There's a feeling of achievement," he said. "You feel good about what you do."



Rachel Buxton

Amos Tiger stands outside rodeo arena.

Today Tiger is busy promoting Xtreme Bulls, a bull-riding circuit the Seminole Tribe sponsors. He still competes in different Indian rodeo circuits teaming up for calf roping however his main focus is on the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena.

"Rodeo is just a part of it," Tiger said about the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena. "It's also just an arena."

Tiger has turned the arena into a musical concert venue several times adding to the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena's possibilities.

He said there is a certain gratification in representing the Tribe in all that he does. Rodeo is always a main priority to Tiger being the director of the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena but, he said, "I have a lot more irons in the fire."

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Billy L. Cypress Honored in Memorial Run



Matthew Snowberger

Family members of the late Billy L. Cypress gathered on the Big Cypress Reservation for the third annual Billy L. Cypress Memorial Bike Run. The event celebrated the avid motorcyclist and war veteran with a motorbike ride starting at the Hard Rock Hotel in Hollywood, continuing through Clewiston and concluding at the At-Tha-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress on June 13.

Brighton S.W.A.M.P. Teens Delegates Attend SADD Conference in Orlando

To Gain New Skill in Alcohol/Drug Prevention Education

BY VALERIE J. MARONE

Community Events Coordinator
Family Services Department

ORLANDO – Brighton Recreation and Family Services teamed up to send four S.W.A.M.P. (Seminoles Without Addictions Make Progress) teens delegates and their chaperones to the 2010 National SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) Conference in Orlando to learn the latest in Prevention Education.

Six hundred teens from 37 states and their chaperones gathered June 27–30 for the SADD National Conference, to share ideas on how to educate their peers and promote positive decision making.

As part of the conference, S.W.A.M.P. Teens President Timothy Bearden, and members – Colby Herrera, Erik Garcia, and Tatiana Herrera attended workshops aimed at providing students with information about the topics critical to teen health and safety, such as underage drinking, drug abuse prevention, teen violence and suicide, diversity, driving safety, and bullying. They participated in motivational activities and presentations aimed at exchanging new approaches and gathering ideas that they can now share with their community and develop into prevention activities.

S.W.A.M.P. Teens are dedicated to helping their peers make safe, positive decisions. Timothy Bearden, S.W.A.M.P. Teens President, said, "It was good to meet with teens from around the country who share the same goals of staying alcohol/drug-free. We learned a lot at the conference and want to put what we learned into action." Colby and Tatiana Herrera, Garcia and Bearden said they are looking forward to attending next year's conference.

The SADD Conference is held in a differ-

Native American Comedian

Charlie Hill Entertains Immokalee Tribal Citizens

BY JUDY WEEKS

Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Native American comedian Charlie Hill brought his professional talents to the Immokalee Seminole Casino on the evening of June 12 for the exclusive entertainment of the Tribal citizens.

A member of the Oneida Nation, Hill was born in Detroit, Mich., and moved to Wisconsin when he was 10. Growing up in the city and on the reservation, he acquired valuable insight into both exposures.

"As a kid, I loved comics and television. I had a dream to someday become a part of that world," said Hill. "One of my first entertainment jobs was radio, which became a path to the stage and eventually, Los Angeles. After 35 years in this game, I would have to say that I have made it my career."

Hill shows no racial or political bias. His hysterically funny repertoire targets all races and issues. His imitations are right on the mark and his audience readily identified with his satire, which poked fun at the Hollywood stereotypes of cowboys, Indians and the distortion of historical facts. His analysis of politics, economy, global warming, oil in the Gulf of Mexico and military conflicts around the world drove home some serious points with innovative humor.

He made a versatile transition to the home front with tongue in cheek scenarios about husbands and wives, parents and teenagers and how to deal with the idiosyncrasies of elders. His stimulating dissertations bridged all generation gaps.

Married to a Navajo woman, Hill currently resides on a reservation in Arizona with his wife, four children and new grandchild.

Sharing the stage with Hill was the opening act of Warren Durso. Long time acquaintances, Hill and Dur-

Seminole Moments Brings Story Telling at Hollywood Headquarters



Adina Loochkartt

Ollie Wareham, from Hollywood, is entertaining Tribal members and employees at the Hollywood Headquarters with “The Opossum” story during “The Art of Storytelling” Seminole Moments presentation hosted by Everett Osceola on July 7.

SPD Sergeant Excels in Community Service

BY LT. JERRY MEISENHEIMER

Recently, Sergeant Angela Comito was awarded the 2009 Officer of the Year plaque for her work in the Brighton, Tampa, and Fort Pierce communities. The award was presented by Police Chief William R. Latchford at the annual Public Safety Recognition Luncheon, held at the Hollywood Hard Rock.

Sgt. Comito began her career with SPD in 2001 as a Hollywood patrol officer. A year later she transferred to the Brighton Reservation. After only four years, she was promoted to the rank of sergeant.

In 2008, Sgt. Comito's initiatives in mentoring the Brighton youth were brought to the attention of Chief Public Safety Officer, Jerry Wheeler. She had taken personal interest in some of the Tribal girls who had been going through some social and educational issues. Through her example, a mentoring program was started to serve all the reservations' youth. A short time later, the police department formed a new unit called the Youth & Elder Welfare Unit. Sgt. Comito was named the supervisor of this unit for the Brighton, Fort Pierce, and Tampa Reservations. Today, the unit consists of ten sworn law enforcement personnel, along with four police service aides.

Some of the other ways Sgt. Comito has had an effect on the various communities is her involvement in a Guest Reader Program, where police and fire staff, celebrities, and others travel to the different schools to read stories to the children. She has also set up haunted houses in Brighton and Fort Pierce during Halloween. The displays are very realistic and the kids love them. SPD staff and their families play the parts of the gruesome actors in the haunted house. After everyone goes through the display, the reservation kids participate in a "Lock-in" in the gym. They watch movies, listen to guest speakers, have pizza, and sleep in sleeping bags on the gym floor until morning.

Sgt. Comito has also been instrumental in setting up the Brighton SPD staff Christmas parties each year. She also assists the Brighton Tribal Council staff when they go out to purchase all the gifts and door prizes for community and employee Christmas events. Sgt. Comito has been credited with being a positive role model for her many, many endeavors.

Because of the efforts and dedication of Sgt. Comito and many other employees of SPD, the mission statement of the police department is being put into action. That statement calls for being committed to giv-



Adina Loochkart

*Junior Buster/
Jimmie Robert
Memorial Music
Jamboree*

Daisy Jumper Buster sings with her son Paul "Chunky" Buster at the fifth annual Junior Buster/Jimmie Robert Memorial Music Jamboree on June 25 at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. Father Paul Buster said the memorial is in honor of Jimmie Robert and of his dad, Junior, who used to sing country music.

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COMMUNITY CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE DAY

Immokalee Community Marks Independence Day with Fireworks, Carnival and Picnic

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — A dazzling show of fireworks lit up the Immokalee sky in celebration of the birth of our nation on the evening of July 4.

“Two hundred thirty-four years ago the founders of the United States of America declared their independence on this date,” said Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar. “Since that day, people of many cultures have fought and died to defend their

freedom and homelands. Eventually, we became one nation of people, different in many ways, who share one thing in common - a love of freedom and the hope for a bright future for our descendents.”

The Immokalee celebration got underway at 4 p.m. at the ball field. It was comprised of a carnival, face painting, temporary tattoos, balloon animals, personalized T-shirts and a caricature artist.

Magician David Kaplan took center stage at 6 p.m. and captivated his audience with a series of red, white and blue illusions.

Incorporating his audience into the act, he performed numerous card, rope and slight of hand routines.

A large crowd gathered to share the traditional picnic of hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad and big slices of ice cold watermelon that have come to be a symbol of July 4.

As dusk descended upon the gathering, an hour-long display of fireworks burst forth in celebration of freedom and gave tribute to our veterans who have sacrificed so much to preserve that freedom.



Chris C. Jenkins

Independence Day Brings More Than Fireworks to Hollywood

Photo above, Talia Rodriguez, left, and Melina Gentry are all smile as they enjoy snow cones at the Fourth of July carnival. Right photo, Maggie Puente, upper right, enjoys the fireworks show with son Jose Puente Jr. and daughter, Grace Puente at the Hollywood softball fields July 3. The festivities also included rides, foods, a petting zoo, games and bounce houses throughout the day.



Chris C. Jenkins



Left, Remy Rodriguez dances to the carnival music during the Immokalee Fourth of July celebration organized at the ball field. Center, Nehemiah Roberts assists Magician David Kaplan with a card trick. The event featured a carnival, face painting, temporary tattoos, balloon animals, personalized T-shirts and a caricature artist. Right photo, all decked out for Independence Day, Jaylee Jimmie looks like a Little Miss Firecracker. – Judy Weeks.

Big Cypress Community Takes Fourth of July Celebration to the Softball Field



Naji Tobias

Alyssa Osceola, 8, completes the sack race at the reservation's Fourth of July Celebration on July 3.



Naji Tobias

Billie Johns, right, gets first place in the senior men's category at the horseshoe tournament, with senior men's runner-up Joe Frank looking on as he aims for his horseshoe target.



Naji Tobias

Mahala Billie-Osceola, 7, left and Alena Stockton, 8, have a blast on the dolphin water slide at the Big Cypress Fourth of July celebration. About 200 Big Cypress and Immokalee Tribal citizens, community members and employees participated in the Fourth of July celebration on July 3 at the Softball Field.



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Recreation Aide Veronica Mata cheers on Charlie Osceola, 6, as she finishes the sack race at the reservation's Fourth of July Celebration on July 3.



Naji Tobias

Charlie Cypress snags the win in the men's category of horseshoe tournament.



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Tribal citizen and smoothie ontestant Janice Osceola, left, offers the refreshment to Nathaniel Jim, 13.



Naji Tobias

Noella Dyan O'Donnell plays a round of horseshoes.



Naji Tobias

Charley Cypress competes in the men's and co-ed categories of the horseshoe tournament.



Naji Tobias

Dane Billie, 5, left, and Tyee Thorpe, 8, have fun at the water maze.

Big Cypress Fourth of July Celebration Results

Horseshoes

Senior Women: 1. Mary Tigertail, 2. Daisy Jumper; Senior Men: 1. Billie Johns, 2. Joe Frank; Women: 1. Carol Osceola, 2. Loraine Billie, 3. Doreen Torres, 4. Noella Dyan O'Donnell; Men: 1. Charlie Cypress, 2. Allen Billie, 3. Kenny Davis; Co-ed: 1. Charley Cypress/Martha Doctor, 2. Billie Johns/Mary Tigertail.

Sack Races

Ages 3-5: 1. Madasyn Osceola; Ages 6-8: 1. K.J. Davis, 2. Valholly Frank; Ages 9-12: 1. Kenny Joe Davis Jr., 2. Alyssa Osceola.

40 Yard Dash

Ages 3-5: 1. Madasyn Osceola; Ages 6-8: 1. K.J. Davis, 2. Charlie Osceola, 3. Valholly Frank; Ages 9-12: 1. Kenny Joe Davis Jr., 2. Alyssa Osceola.

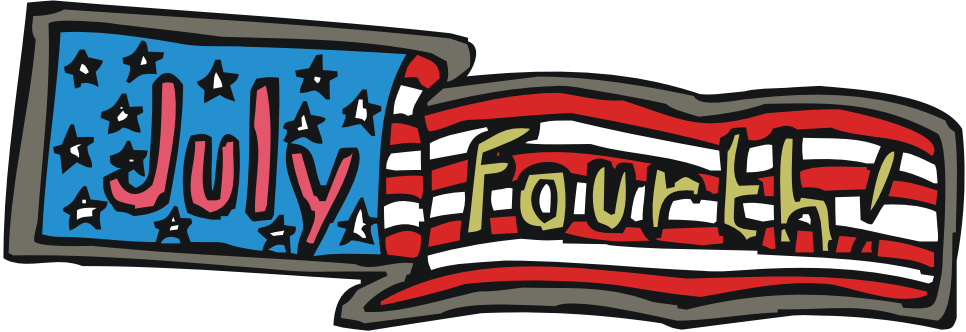
COMMUNITY CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE DAY



Rachel Buxton
Emma Urbina, front, throws a ringer as Diane Smith, back, watches.



Rachel Buxton
McKayla Snow gets some air as she leaps over the log in the recreation obstacle course.

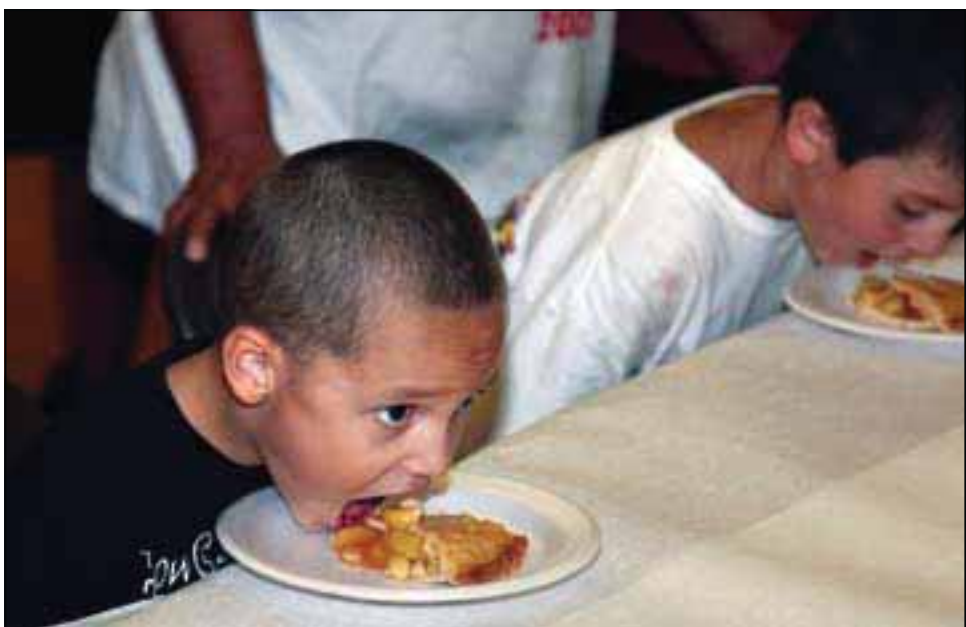


Rachel Buxton
Ramone Baker, left, tries to keep the ball away from Deagan Osceola during the 3-on-3 youth basketball Fourth of July competition held July 1 in the Brighton gym.

Brighton Has Fourth of July Friendly Competition



Rachel Buxton
The Brighton community didn't let a little rain dampen their Fourth of July celebration, held July 2. Community members enjoyed an afternoon of activities outside the Brighton gym and softball fields before having to move inside of the gym due to weather conditions. Before the rain came, adults competed in events including horseshoes and golf while the younger ones tested their physical limits in recreation field events. Once in the gym, the infamous Fourth of July pie eating contest began, followed by a community dinner and fireworks. Pherian Baker hops in and out of Hula hoops and races against the clock in the obstacle course. - Rachel Buxton



David Baum
Heith Lawrence gets ready to take a big bite of apple pie in the pie eating contest.

July Fourth Fun Walk Kicks Off Weekend Celebration in Hollywood



Chris C. Jenkins
Members of the Huggins, DeMayo and Osceola families display their Independence Day spirit after completing a 1-mile walk in the Fourth of July fun-walk held at the Hollywood Reservation softball field on July 3. The participants received trophies, hats, flags and leis.



Chris C. Jenkins
Agnes Billie-Motlow with pet Horatio shows off her trophy after completing the fun-walk.



David Baum
Chrissy Tommie shows off her patriotism on her face after visiting the face painting booth at the fun zone.



David Baum
Josh Sneed competes in a friendly game of horseshoes.

Fort Pierce Shows Patriotism with Fellowship



The Fort Pierce community celebrated the Fourth of July at the Chupco Ranch July 3 in true Indian style with friendly competition and lots of fellowship. The adults played several rounds of horseshoes, along with bingo while the children enjoyed a fun zone that included face painting and extra large slides. Photo above, Patricia Wilcox concentrates as she gets ready to toss her horseshoe for a ringer. Right top, family and friends take advantage of the patriotic holiday and spend time at the Chupco Ranch. Right photo, kids gather at the fun zone where they enjoy face painting and slides. -Rachel Buxton/Photos by David Baum



HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

Staying Safe During and After a Storm

BY CARL FOWLER

TitleEmergency Management Coordinator
Brighton, Fort Pierce and Tampa Reservations

By now, most of us have heard the news: There will probably be a lot of tropical storms and hurricanes this year, although we don't know exactly where these storms will be headed. And since the statistical probability is high for a strike by at least one major hurricane somewhere along Florida's Atlantic or Gulf coasts by the time the Atlantic Hurricane Season ends on Nov. 30, the Department of Emergency Management has been urging all Tribal members and employees to start preparing now by having a Family Disaster Plan and putting together an Emergency Supplies Kit.

The 2010 All Hazards Guide, now available at all reservations, includes information on this and much more.

Yet beyond the single message of Prepare Now, there's another aspect of storm and severe weather survival that is equally important: Coping with disruptions that might occur such as a loss of power and staying safe during and after a storm. If you decide to remain in your home instead of going to a shelter, following a few basic tips and safety guidelines will help you deal with some typical challenges that may occur and help prevent illness and injuries for you and your family members.

Downed power lines. Remember, after a storm, downed power lines may still be energized and are extremely dangerous. They may be in contact with a tree or debris on the ground. Look around and size up the situation before venturing out doors.

Generators. While generators are a great tool for providing temporary power during outages, they can also be very dangerous if not used properly. Generators run on either gasoline, propane or diesel fuel, all of which produce deadly carbon monoxide fumes (an odorless, colorless gas). When in use, generators need ample ventilation, which means always using them outside and well away from open windows, vents or doors. (Please make sure that your neighbor's home is safe from the exhaust of your generator.) Never run a portable generator inside the home or in an enclosed space, such as a garage. Yet despite this warning, many people have fallen victim to illness and even death by carbon monoxide poisoning from not using generators properly. A sudden headache is one of the signs of carbon monoxide poisoning, be aware and take care.

When fueling your generator make sure that it has had a chance to "cool down" and be very careful of the hot areas when adding the fuel. Never plug the generator directly into a house circuit. This very dangerous and may "feedback" electricity into a damaged power line which could electrocute someone.

Grills and Cooking. Just like a generator, a gas or charcoal barbecue grill uses fuel to cook food. The best advice is to treat a grill like a generator, which means never using it inside the home or in an enclosed space, and keeping it away from open windows, vents and doors. Over the years, many people have set their homes on fire or asphyxiated themselves by using a grill inside or in an enclosed space such as a garage. If conditions outside prevent using a grill, eat non-perishable foods from your Home Emergency Supplies Kit until the weather clears.

No Open Flames. Never use candles or anything with an open flame inside the home during a storm. This

includes kerosene lanterns; all of these produce carbon monoxide. Battery powered flashlights and lamps are a much safer alternative light source. Should a fire start in your home during a storm, the Tribe or local fire department and paramedics may not be able to immediately respond if the sustained (constant) winds of a storm are at a certain speed, generally 45 mph or greater. Fire rescue vehicles are "high profile" and become unstable in winds that reach that level.

Passing the Time. During a storm, keep in mind that it could be several hours before conditions improve – so be prepared for the "downtime" that occurs. Plan now to include some activities and entertainment that will help you and your family pass the time more quickly. Have on hand items such as a deck of playing cards, board games, books and other reading materials, and even a portable DVD player with a fully charged battery (and plenty of DVDs). Consider purchasing a portable digital television to use during a loss of power and/or the home satellite or cable signal. Digital portable TVs are available at a variety of stores for less than \$100 and can receive local broadcasts "over the air" without having a satellite or cable connection. They also typically use a variety of power sources such as a vehicle adapter. And remember to include an inexpensive, battery powered AM/FM radio for weather, storm updates and entertainment.

For kids, especially younger ones, select items that will keep them occupied and help divert their attention from the storm. Examples for fun and learning include a few of their favorite books, crayons, pencils or marking pens and plenty of paper; scissors and glue; a couple of favorite toys such as a doll or action figure; a puzzle with lots of pieces; stuffed animals; play people figures and vehicles; pictures of family members and the pet; and a box with a few favorite items to make them feel special.

Finally, any discussion on how to survive a storm must include pets. For them and for you, assemble an "Emergency Pet Kit" that includes a current color photo of each pet showing distinguishing markings and a copy of vaccination records. Include a two-week supply of food, medicine, plenty of water, cat litter, treats, toys, a blanket, and cleaning supplies. Also, it's a good idea to preplan for a possible evacuation, so have a crate or carrier available to transport your pet that's large enough for them to stand in and turn around. Find safe places in the area to take your pet such as pet friendly motels, kennels, veterinarian offices with boarding facilities, and the homes of friends or family. Make sure that your pet's identification tag on the collar is current.

Taking the time now to plan for alternative ways to accomplish tasks such as cooking in the event of a power outage as well as how to survive during and after a storm while staying safe, will greatly benefit you and your family members should we experience severe weather this year. Make sure you have your copy of the All Hazard Guide that is available at all Tribal communities, and visit the Department of Emergency Management website at <http://www.stofemd.com/> for an online version of the guide and for additional information.

Contact the Department of Emergency Management at any of our offices in Hollywood (954-966-6300, ext. 11773), Big Cypress (863-983-2150, ext. 12740) or Brighton (863-357-7620, ext. 15805). The Department can also be contacted outside of normal business hours at 1-800-617-7514.

Paula Bowers-Sanchez, Hard Rock International and Seminole Tribe Support the Ann & George Lopez Foundation

BY MARILYN MCEUEN

AND THE ANN AND GEORGE LOPEZ FOUNDATION

LOS ANGELES — Celebrities golfed for a good cause on May 3 to benefit the launch of the Ann and George Lopez Foundation at the sold out third annual George Lopez Celebrity Golf Classic. The event raised \$425,000 to benefit the new foundation.

Presented by Ann and George Lopez, Hard Rock International and The Seminole Tribe of Florida, this is the first fundraiser to benefit the foundation, which was established to assist underprivileged children and adults confronting challenges in education and health, and to increase awareness of kidney disease and organ donation.

"Over the years we have supported so many deserving organizations and felt it was time for us to focus on a cause close to our hearts by launching this foundation," said Ann and George Lopez. "We are grateful to have raised so much money at our sold out kick-off today and appreciate the support of all our friends, sponsors and the community."

Tribal citizen Paula Bowers-Sanchez performed at the dinner and was recognized for her participation in raising sponsorship money for the event. Bowers-Sanchez is also the Goodwill Ambassador for the Ann and George Lopez foundation to help bring awareness to Native American Tribes about the importance of preventing kidney disease and diabetes and improving the health and well being among Native Americans with kidney disease and diabetes.

"I have personally seen how kidney disease and diabetes has affected my Tribal members and tribes all across America, this is my chance to make a difference by bringing awareness through education for the prevention and or treatment of kidney disease and diabetes," she continued. "With the help of Ann and George Lopez we can make a huge impact across the Nation."

An impressive gathering of celebrities participated in the event including Samuel L. Jackson, Dennis Quaid, Don Cheadle, Benjamin Bratt, Andy Garcia, Tim Allen, Cedric the Entertainer, Hilary Duff, Dave Annable, Oscar de la Hoya, Glenn Frey, Christina Kim, Jimmy Jam, Tony Dovolani, Dennis Haysbert, George Eads, Sugar Ray Leonard, Jack Wagner, Hill Harper, Harold Perrineau, Aimee Garcia, Bill Bellamy, Jimmy Jam, Joe Mantegna, Patrick Warburton, Mike Comrie, Kevin Sor-



Billy Ingram

Paula Bowers-Sanchez gives a traditional basket to George Lopez.

bo, Susie Castillo, Shawn Hatosy, Kevin Dobson, Richard Karn, Rob Morrow, Roy Disney, Jennifer Tisdale, Kendall Schmidt, Tanya Chisholm, Kyle Kaplan, Michael Wolff, Josh Sussman, Bryan Fisher, Dave Dettman, Michael Beardin and Paula Bowers-Sanchez.

For more information about The Ann and George Lopez Foundation visit www.georgelopez.com or www.thelopezfoundation.org or visit . www.paulabowersanchez.com



Billy Ingram

HamishDodds, right, and George Lopez pose at the third annual George Lopez Celebrity Golf Classic



Billy Ingram

From left, James Tommie, John Madrigal, Paula Bowers-Sanchez, George Lopez and Tony Sanchez.



Billy Ingram

HamishDodds, left, George Lopez and Paula Bowers-Sanchez.

Elders Visit Crazy Horse Memorial

BY PAT DOBBS

Crazy Horse Memorial Media Specialist

Seminole elders recently made a trip to Crazy Horse Memorial in South Dakota's Black Hills.

The elders attended the June 26 night blast that marked the 134th anniversary of the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876 and the 84th birthday of Ruth Ziolkowski, the memorial's president, chief executive and wife of the sculptor's founder, the late Korczak Ziolkowski.

On June 3, 1948 Korczak and Lakota Chief Henry Standing Bear founded the nonprofit memorial to honor Lakota leader Crazy Horse and the history and culture of all North American Indians. After 62 years, the world's largest mountain carving in progress thrives as a privately funded educational endeavor. Crazy Horse Memorial sponsors include? the Indian Museum of North America, the Native American Educational and Cultural Center, the Native American Scholarship Fund and now the first University Student Living and Learning Center, the start of the American Indian University of North America at Crazy Horse.



Pat Dobbs

Pictured are President Richard Bowers, Nancy J. Willie, Ruth Ziolkowski, Judy Baker, Ollie Balentie, Judy Jones, Elsie J. Bowers, Nettie Stewart, Coleman Josh, Dorothy Josh, Lawanna Oscele Niles, Bobbie L. Billie, Connie Gaiven, Minnie Billie Doctor, David Stephen Bowers and Elizabeth Bowers. Also part of the group, but not shown are Scarlett Jumper, Tiana young, Naomi Fewell, Cynthia Douglas, Jayne Salgado, Kenneth Bayon, Wilmeth DeHass, Robin Weitzer, Joel M. Frank, Marcy Frank, Yvonne Courtney, Bryan Courtney, Ruscilla Tiger, Treasurer Michael D. Tiger and Judy Tiger.

SAFETY CORNER

Learn How to Protect Your Home from Fires

BY CHIEF DAVID LOGAN

Fire Marshal

As a part of the Senior Safety Program for the month of June, Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue conducted a "Fire in the Home" presentation at the Immokalee, Hollywood, Brighton, Tampa and Big Cypress Elder Affairs Centers.

The purpose of this presentation was to remind Tribal seniors about the importance of fire safety practices within their homes. Home fires can develop rapidly and become uncontrollable within a matter of seconds. Therefore, the department wanted to make certain that everyone knows exactly what to do.

- Most fire fatalities – Occur at residences during the nighttime when people are asleep. In most cases that involved deaths, there were no working smoke detectors present. This was due to a missing, disconnected or dead battery. Smoke inhalation is the major cause of death during a fire because many victims become incapacitated by the toxic fumes which are produced when household materials are burning. Smoke detectors provide a chance for everyone to wake up and get out before it is too late.

- Smoke detectors – Their batteries should be changed once every six months or at Daylight Saving Time. A smoke detector that chirps every few seconds should have its battery replaced. Working smoke detectors increase the chance of survivability in a residential fire by 50 percent.

- Common sources of fires – Are usually unintentional incidents, such as unattended cooking, overloaded electrical equipment, un-extinguished cigarettes,

candles, unclean dryer filters and flammable items that are within close proximity to a space heater. Pay close attention, use these items with caution and turn off electrical equipment when they are not in use.

- Fire load – Is a term that refers to the amount of combustible matter present that acts as fuel for a hostile fire. For example, this can be excessive amounts of piles of clothing, boxes, bags or other miscellaneous materials that are stored within a room and may contribute to a fire. These items should be reduced or removed completely because they can also obstruct the only other way out of a residence that is on fire.

- Fire extinguisher – Is effective on small fires when it is used correctly. The acronym P.A.S.S. means to pull out the pin, aim the nozzle at the base of the fire, squeeze the lever and sweep back and forth until the fire is out and/or the extinguishing agent is finished. Always place yourself between the fire and the exit in case your efforts are unsuccessful and you need to evacuate.

- Home escape plan – Is an emergency plan of action if a fire occurs within the home. First, there should be two ways out of each room, which may include a door and a window. Secondly, the family should decide on a predetermined meeting place. This may be a mailbox, the beginning of a driveway or a tree in the front yard. Thirdly, never re-enter the house. This escape plan should be practiced at least twice a year.

- Hurricane shutters – Can obstruct a potential exit during a fire. From a rescuer's stand point, shutters can hinder the efforts to enter a residence, especially when every minute is valuable. Therefore, they should only be used temporarily, such as when a hurricane is expected, and then removed when it has passed.

Osceolas Celebrate 50 Years of Marriage



Chris C. Jenkins

Left photo, from left, Marie and Jimmie Osceola renew their wedding vows in the presence of family and friends, while celebrating half of century together. Photo below, several generations of Osceolas gathered at the Hard Rock June 10 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Jimmie and Marie Osceola (middle in white). The evening also featured dinner, a live band, and well-wishes from family and friends.



Chris C. Jenkins

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FATHERS HONORED ON ALL RESERVATIONS



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Tribal seniors Billie Johns, left, and Ingram Billie Jr., show off their Father's Day tool kit gifts at the reservation's Father's Day Luncheon on June 17.



Naji Tobias

From left, Andy Cypress, Rudy Osceola and Earl Kirkland, all Tribal fathers, share some laughs and fond memories.

Big Cypress Community Celebrates Father's Day with Luncheon



Naji Tobias

Tribal citizens enjoy a holiday luncheon sponsored by former Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress and the Big Cypress Councilman's Office.



Naji Tobias

Tommie Billie, left, and Phillip Jumper take the time to celebrate the Big Cypress Community's Father's Day.



Naji Tobias

Tauni Cypress, 6, rides her skateboard down the table aisles before lunch is served.

Four Generations of Fathers Get Together in Naples to Be Honored by Their Families

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

NAPLES — Residents of the Naples community reserved a dining room at Don Shula's Steak House for a Father's Day luncheon on June 20. With more than 60 participants, the group represented four generations.

The tables were clustered to create a family atmosphere for the sharing of stories and planning summer activities.

O.B. Osceola, Sr. sported a big smile as he watched the Naples community children laughing and playing.

"I used to tell the kids to be quiet and get away from my father, Corey, as he sat in his chair for family gatherings. He would always yell at me, 'Leave the kids alone. They aren't hurting anything.' Now that I have reached his age, I understand what he meant," Osceola Sr. said. "The children bring joy and wonderful memories of my youth. I look forward to these occasions and having them gathered around me."

ward to these occasions and having them gathered around me."

"My grandfather drew children like a magnet and now it's my dad's turn," said Naples Liaison O.B. Osceola, Jr. "They taught us so many things, to prepare us for working in the outside world and caring for our own families. The times may have changed, but the basic principles are the same. Today we are gathered here to acknowledge how important our fathers have been to us. They set a very high standard and as the years go by, I hope that we will measure up to their accomplishments for our children."

Following a leisurely meal, individuals gathered in small groups for family photos and then the children passed out hugs to their fathers and grandfathers.



Judy Weeks

Tammy Billie and her children wish their father Solomon Veliz a happy Father's Day.



Judy Weeks

Maggie Porter tells her dad, Ingram Billie, Jr. that everyday is Father's Day.

Brighton Dads Awarded and Entertained on Their Day

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Father's Day looked a little different in Brighton this year with community members and employees being treated to a lunch catered

by none other than Hooters and the infamous Hooter girls.

Organized by Brighton's Tribal Council office, the Father's Day luncheon was held in the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena June 18. The Fitness Department added a little fun to the day by putting on an obstacle course for all the fathers and grandfathers vying for the ultimate title of "Man of the Year."

The timed obstacle course included activity stations where the men showed off their parenting skills using baby dolls. Fathers raced to change diapers, feed babies and get them dressed for the day.

Tribal employee Jose Garcia of Broadcasting won the "Man Award" honor with an amazing time of 2 minutes and 29 seconds. Garcia received a memorable golden trophy to go along with the bragging rights. "We've never had stuff like



Rachel Buxton

Jose Garcia holds up his Man Award trophy as he is announced Man of the Year.

this," Brighton Tribal Council Office Events Coordinator Larry Howard said. "Everything's new. We're going further in the future, just bringing a whole bunch of new flavor to the table."

A Father's Day-themed photo set was also set up for families to capture the moment where professional photos were taken and given out.



Rachel Buxton

Larry Howard washes his baby in the man obstacle course as Elbert Snow watches on the side.

Immokalee Emphasizes Importance of Father Figures in Communities

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — "Father's Day is a time for us to acknowledge the important role played by father figures in our lives," said Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar. "Some of you are fortunate enough to be able to spend time with your dads. For those of you who do not share this privilege, it is important to remember that you are not alone. Your grandfathers and clan uncles can have a very positive impact upon your lives. The old adage that it takes a village to raise a child still rings true."

"We are lucky in our culture to have wonderful extended families," concluded Liaison Aguilar. "Life is a journey of survival and achievement and we should be grateful to these men who are here to help give us guidance."

A casino theme transformed the Immokalee Gym on the evening of June 18, providing the ideal atmosphere for the annual Father's Day celebration raffle. Every father in the Immokalee community received a ticket that offered an equal opportunity to win one of the extraordinary prizes that lined the wall of the gym.

These included watches, luggage, sports coolers, tools, fishing equipment, electronics, power tools, cameras, tents and barbecue grills.

Watching the tickets spin around in the tumbler, the players anxiously looked forward to the luck of the draw. As the winning numbers were called, the participants came forward one at a time to select the gift of their choice.

All of the tickets were returned to the drawing for one last chance to win the grand prizes of a duck boat, huge tool chest, computer components and state-of-the-art entertainment systems.

Surrounded by family members, community fathers shared a barbecue buffet topped off by generous slices from enormous gourmet cakes in honor of the occasion.



Judy Weeks

Timesia Jimmie is already to embark upon a photograph journey with his Father's Day cameras.



Judy Weeks

Immokalee fathers were honored with a celebration on their special day, June 18.



David Baum

From left, Briote Alexander, Brichay Alexander and Brian-Jaymes Alexander celebrate Father's Day with father, Brian, back, at the Fort Pierce Father's Day celebration June 18 held at Superplay USA in Port Saint Lucie. Together they enjoyed games of bowling, laser tag, mini golf and a dinner for the Fort Pierce community and employees.

Fort Pierce Offers Fathers a Night of Fun



David Baum

Kevin Tommie Sr. focuses on the pins as he enjoys several games of bowling at the Fort Pierce Father's Day celebration.



David Baum

Dean Stokes Jr. enjoys the Fort Pierce Father's Day celebration with daughter, De'Naja.



David Baum

Chrissy Tommie, right, helps Tavera Tommie send the ball down the lane.

ELDER CATEGORY ANNOUNCEMENT

On behalf of Seminole Heritage Events & Promotions and The Seminole Star Search program, we are proud to announce the addition of a new category for Seminole Star Search; The "Senior / Elder" category!

In keeping with Seminole tradition, the new category will be open to all Tribal Elders 55 and over.

With your support and encouragement we feel that you as tribal elders, with your positive life experiences in music, can pass on this knowledge to the generations of up and coming talent on all Seminole Tribe reservations.



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WWW.SEMINOLESTARSEARCH.COM



Education

B

Trail Students Receive Incentive Awards



The Trail community students are all smiles as they come together in celebration of their Incentive Awards Ceremony on June 16, with Trail Tutor Coordinator Julissa Collazo, second from left, and I2T (Inspired to Teach) Tutoring Company Vendor Janet Martipresenting them with certificates.

V SEE STORY, PHOTOS AND RESULTS ON 2B

Naji Tobias

Bryan Arledge Ready to Give Back to Tribe after Completing College

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

TALLAHASSEE — On May 1, Bryan Arledge of Brighton completed another chapter in his life as he graduated from Florida State University.

Arledge, 23, the son of Arica Buck, earned his Bachelor of Science in social science with a focus on anthropology and urban and regional planning.

Arledge plans to continue his education by attending a vocational school to gain further knowledge on urban and regional planning, considering a future job with Brighton's Community Planning Department.

"I feel like I haven't given anything back," Arledge said. "I'm willing to do all I can."

Arledge may feel like he isn't giving back but his actions speak differently. Arledge is currently tutoring the Tribal youth on the Brighton Reservation.

He said he would like to thank his mother Arica, grandmother Louise Cypress, Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr., Rep. Bowers Jr.'s wife Kay and son Dru for all their help and support in furthering his education.



Photo submitted by Bryan Arledge

Bryan Arledge shares his special day with mother Arica Buck, left, and grandmother Louise Cypress, front.

A and C Entertainment Present Short Film on Tribal Culture at Workshop

BY ALISIA BILLIE, ELENA JIM, AND JESSE MITCHELL
SMP Youth Workshop Participants

HOLLYWOOD — During the week of the fourth annual Youth Media Workshop, A and C Entertainment Group produced a short film explaining the importance of Seminole arts and crafts.

Elena Jim, Jesse Mitchell, and Alisia Billie formed the A and C group, which told the story of a grandmother's desire to pass along the art and practice of Seminole patchwork to her granddaughter in the film. Billie took on the role of grandmother and Jim portrayed the granddaughter.

Their project came as part of a week-long assignment produced by the three June 21-26.

"I really liked the topic because of what it was and I enjoy doing it," said Billie of her group's choice of subject matter. "You are always able to learn a little more each time you do it also."

Billie's own personal interest in arts and crafts, beadwork in particular, completes three generations of instruction. She said she was taught by her grandmother Jane Billie, and aunt Alice Billie.

Tribal elder Betty Osceola also made a cameo appearance in the movie and offered her consult-

ing advice to the group on patchwork. She said she began learning and developing her skills at the age of nine.

"It seems to be that all our lives we have been surviving [doing arts and crafts]. Living in the Everglades we did not have to do anything too much, but in town and in the city it [making and selling arts and crafts] helped make us money," Osceola said. "We have just kept going over the years - that is just what we do. We used to make it by doing [arts and crafts] so we do not want to quit. We want to teach the young people now. Some have picked it up, some have not."

The traditional trades of the Seminoles have been perfected over several centuries. All are customs which continue to be passed on to future generations.

As a cottage industry, all these crafts continue to be made individually and without technical aids.

Patchwork sewing is known as the process of sewing pieces of cloth into rows of designs, joined to make garments. Throughout the years Seminole women have used small, hand-cranked sewing machines as well as the modern devices creating fire, rain, storms and other designs in traditional patterns.

The customary practice of beadwork has always been important for Seminole women and in decades past was one of the first items purchased after groceries in their daily routines. It was also an important courting gift used by the Seminole men.

Some other time-honored Seminole customs also include basket weaving, doll-making, alligator wrestling, storytelling and carving.

For more information on Seminole trades visit www.sem-tribe.com, floridastateparks.org or www.semtribeinc.com.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal senior Betty Osceola, second from left, with A&C Entertainment Group members Elena Jim, far left, Alisia Billie and Jesse Mitchell.



Chris C. Jenkins

HJS Productions Feature Short Film at Youth Media Workshop

BY HANAA AL-AJAM, JASON MELTON AND SHELLI OSCEOLA
SMP Youth Workshop Participants

HOLLYWOOD — At the annual Youth Media Workshop HJS Productions worked on a short film about the sport of alligator wrestling.

Made up of Hanaa Al-Ajam, Jason Melton and Shelli Osceola, the group produced their film about a former alligator wrestling legend, played by Melton, looking to keep the traditions of the craft alive by enlisting his two daughters, played by Osceola and Al-Ajam. The two daughters then sought the expertise of current Seminole expert alligator wrestler James Holt to learn the basics of the craft.

Their June 21-26 project produced a great experience, one Al-Ajam said she enjoyed.

"I liked it all," she said. "I liked being able to actually sit on a gator. I was also scared though when it breathed even though it had tape on its mouth."

In spite of its name, alligator wrestling in its truest form is known as a series of careful stunts involving both strength and finesse. This 19th-century skill has been a part of both Seminole and Miccosukee customs long before tourist attractions, federally-funded roads or gaming empires.

"I had a great time working with the group and it is encouraging to see them taking an interest in this type of thing," said Holt of his teachings for the film.

According to an eHow.com article titled "How to Become an Alligator Wrestler," there are six important steps involved becoming a professional in the hazardous custom:

Step 1: Go to an alligator wrestling school. Colorado Gators Reptile Park is currently one of, if not the only, al-

ligator wrestling school in the U.S.. Opened to the public in 1990, in Mosca, Colo., the park offers hands-on half-day classes where they teach students how to handle two- to 10-foot alligators. It is located 17 miles north of Alamosa, Colo., and includes a bird sanctuary, reptile rescue, education and display, and biodome.

Step 2: Get a job at an animal park.

Step 3: Research alligator wrestling extensively by reading books about alligator wrestling and watching videos to study the techniques used by professionals.

Step 4: Observe alligators in the field by becoming comfortable around alligators familiar with their natural environment.

Step 5: Start small. The first alligator to wrestle should be small to maximize safety. Move up very slowly from smaller to larger alligators and be respectful of the animals and their danger and abilities.

Step 6: Know how to wrestle free from an alligator. When on land, get on the alligator's back and apply pressure to his neck, forcing the head and jaws down. Then cover the alligator's eyes. If the alligator attacks, use a weapon or a fist on the eyes and nose.

Tips and warnings include: avoid an alligator attack by not swimming or wading in areas where alligators live, never feed alligators or interfere with babies or eggs or let your arms or legs dangle from the side of a boat, do not harass or try to capture an alligator, if an alligator gets you in its jaws, try to keep his mouth clamped shut so that it can not shake you or roll you over, and if an alligator attacks you, seek medical attention immediately, regardless of the size of the cut or bruise.

Tribal Youth Graduates Paladin Academy



Janice Osceola

Hollywood Tribal youth Echo Wolf, left, and Aaron Osceola, right, graduate from the eighth grade at Paladin Academy in Weston on June 11. They will be moving on to the ninth grade to further their education studies in August. Meanwhile, fellow Hollywood Tribal student Jordan Osceola graduated high school from Paladin Academy on the same day. The graduation ceremony was held at Grand Palms Resort in Pembroke Pines.

Brighton Seniors Ready to Take Their Next Academic Step

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Brighton youth continue to excel in academics. Nine Tribal youth from Brighton graduated high school this year and are ready to take their next step in their academic future.

Ryan Osceola, the son of Stacy Jones and Mitchell Osceola graduated from Okeechobee High School June 10. Osceola played basketball for four years and was a two-year OHS varsity letterman. Before heading off to Florida State University in August to study engineering Osceola will be traveling and competing in the Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI) tournament this summer. Osceola's advice to the Tribal youth today is simple: "stick with everything you're doing and you'll end up with opportunities."

Jewel Buck, the daughter of Jessie and Emma Urbina, received her diploma June 10 marking the end of her time at Okeechobee High School. During her four

years of high school Buck played for the OHS basketball, softball and track teams. She was also a sports medicine trainer for the OHS football team. Buck will continue her education at Redlands Community College in El Reno, Okla., where she plans to study dentistry and play for the basketball team. "Working hard really does pay off," Buck said.

Jodi Huffman, the daughter of Lauri Smith originally from the Brighton community



DAYLON YOUNGBLOOD

graduated from North Star Charter High School in Orlando June 4 in a ceremony held at the Holiday Inn Express. Huffman plans to relocate to the Hollywood Reservation to learn her native language Creek. "I want to be an interpreter," Huffman said. "It's dying out, so why not learn our people's language."

Daylon Youngblood, the son of Kelly and Kim Youngblood, graduated from Okeechobee High School June 10. Youngblood will continue his education in September as he heads to Nashville, Tenn., to study at the Nashville Auto Diesel College to complete his ASE certification.

Other Brighton graduates include Melanie Jones, Duelle Gore, Jenna McDuffie, Hayden Roberts and Elizabeth Dehass.



JODI HUFFMAN



JEWEL BUCK

Trail Community Students Receive Incentive Awards

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

MIAMI — Before taking flight to the Bahamas for the Tribe's annual graduates' trip on June 16, Trail Liaison William Osceola spent quality time with the community's students at the Trail Incentive Awards Ceremony.

Held at the Dave and Buster's Restaurant in the Dolphin Mall, Liaison Osceola noted several of the Tribe's educational achievements and advancements from the past 25 years — a very important accomplishment to him.

"We came from poverty," Osceola said. "We were poor, but we are rich in culture. We've had kids who have graduated from Florida State and the University of Miami. Every Tribal member can go to any college in the world he wants to now. The Tribe has its organization in 52 countries. I'm happy we've accomplished that."

Talking directly to the Trail community

students at the podium, Osceola told them that they have a lot of options after graduating from high school.

"You can become an executive or you can become a lawyer," he said. "Nothing can stop you from what you want in life. Congratulations for coming this far in your schooling. We're already proud of you."

The awards presentation also included a special PowerPoint presentation, highlighting all the achievements the Trail community students made for the 2009-2010 academic year at the Miccosukee Indian School and in Trail's tutoring program.

After that, the Trail youngsters received their Incentive Awards certificates as they relished in a few photo opportunities with Liaison Osceola and the Trail community's education staff.

Seminole Tribe Tutoring Coordinator

Julissa Collazo noted that 90 percent of all the community's children were actively enrolled in the program, which is geared toward offering specialized homework help on the weekdays. Collazo said she was impressed by the level of community and family support shown throughout the year.

"It is truly a pleasure working with the Trail children," Collazo said. "I would

like to thank the parents for bringing them out everyday. The kids have never been disrespectful and I'm so proud of them for that."

In preparation for the upcoming 2010-2011 academic year, the Trail community has set up a tutoring program aimed at providing kindergarten-level readiness sessions. Also, reading opportunities are available for all the Tribal youth who desire to further their learning in that area.

The tutoring sessions, which include one-on-one teacher/student services, are offered to all Tribal children in the area from Mondays through Thursdays at a small schoolhouse located in the Trail community site. The schoolhouse seats up to 20 students, with most of them hailing from the Miccosukee Indian School.

"We've seen a lot of improvements with our students," Trail Office Manager Michael Cantu said. "A lot of it has to do with our tutoring program. Our students have improved with their attendance and grades. They were more encouraged to come out to school and do well. It all showed in the strides they made this year."

To achieve Incentive Award status, a Tribal student must receive at least a 2.5 grade point average for the school year.

As a result, a total of 28 Trail students were rewarded with a trip to Chicago, courtesy of Liaison Osceola and the Trail Education Department. The trip was held from July 5-9.

Trail Incentive Awards Recipients

Kindergarten Graduates: 1. Mae'anna Osceola-Hart, 2. Aaliyah Phillips; Grade Point Average - 3.0-3.75: 1. Morgan Bert, 2. Darian Cypress-Osceola, 3. Courtney Jim, 4. Elena Jim, 5. Katherine Jim, 6. Lauren Jim, 7. Gordon Jumper, 8. Angelina Osceola, 9. Jaya Osceola, 10. Nichelle Osceola, 11. Sadrilynn Tiger; Grade Point Average - 3.76-3.99: 1. Davina Osceola, 2. Kailani Osceola, 3. Kaylene Osceola, 4. John Kyle Osceola Jr., 5. Dionah Osceola-Bert; Improved GPA: 1. Elena Jim, 2. Drew Osceola; Good Attendance: 1. Davena Osceola, 2. Kailani Osceola; Perfect Attendance: 1. Dionah Osceola-Bert; Good Effort: 1. Cassidy Bert, 2. Destiny Jim, 3. Dorian Jumper, 4. Eden Jumper, 5. Franklin Jumper, 6. Alana Roberts, 7. Donte Osceola-Tiger, 8. Jonah Tigertail-Billie, 9. Noah Tigertail-Billie.



The Trail community youth and their Liaison, William Osceola, share a moment at the Trail Incentive Awards on June 16.



Seminole Tribe Adult Vocational Administrator Marie Dufour, left, hands out backpacks and hooded jackets to Miccosukee Indian School fourth grader Eeyale Osceola, 11, center, and her grandmother, Judy Osceola, at the Trail Incentive Awards ceremony.

Naji Tobias



After the Trail Incentive Awards presentation, the Trail staff spent a little time to celebrate all the accomplishment made throughout the 2009-2010 academic year. From left are Trail Adult Vocational Assistant Michelle Woods, Trail Tutor Coordinator Julissa Collazo, Trail Field Office Administrative Assistant/Tribal Citizen Marcella Billie, Adult Vocational Administrator Marie Dufour, Trail Office Manager/Tribal Citizen Michael Cantu, Tribal Student Darion Cypress Osceola, Trail Liaison William Osceola, Trail Education Advisor Will Bacon and Tribal Citizen/Work Experience Participant Kelli Tigertail.

Naji Tobias

Tribal Youth Take Trip to Clewiston Library



Naji Tobias

Clewiston Library Assistant Maria Antunez, left, reads the book "I Wish I Was Strong Like Manuel" to the Tribal youth toward the end of the hour-long afternoon tour on July 1. The trip concluded with the Tribal youngsters working on a coloring session to their reading.



Naji Tobias

Clewiston Library Assistant Shirley Reynolds takes the Tribal youth to the nonfiction book section on the library tour on July 1. Five Big Cypress and Brighton youngsters embarked on an educational trip to the Clewiston Library, hosted by the Big Cypress Library staff. Accompanied by the costumed-fictional character Horrid Henry and Big Cypress Library Assistants Gretchen DeBree and Melissa Silva, the Tribal youth participants are in the middle of the Big Cypress Summer Reading Program, which is primarily based on the fictitious character. The trip was meant for the Tribal youngsters to familiarize themselves with the facility, according to DeBree. The Summer Reading Program lasted from June 21-July 15 at the Big Cypress Library.

Clewiston Library Assistant Shirley Reynolds, right, explains to the Tribal youth how to check out and return a book at the facility's circulation desk.



Naji Tobias



The Tribal youth poses at the Clewiston Library tour; from left, Nyah Davidson, Shana Balentine, Bly Davidson, Sierra Bowers and Janessa Jones.



Nyah Davidson, 8, reads "Charlotte's Web" with Big Cypress Library Curator Gretchen DeBree.

Naji Tobias

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Chris C. Jenkins

Native guest speaker and Indian Housing Consultant Donna Fairbanks talks to conference guests about the positive impact of education.



Chris C. Jenkins

From left, Toby and Reed Gopher displaysome of the traditional attire during the Evolution of Seminole Fashion show.



Chris C. Jenkins

Pemaytv Emahakv Charter School Cultural Program Director Lorene Gopher discusses the language curriculum in the Developing Language Preservation Curriculum class.



Chris C. Jenkins

During opening ceremonies of the conference, Tribal Board President Richard Bowers Jr. praises the efforts of the Native Learning Center.

Native Learning Center’s Summer Conference Gathers Natives Nationwide

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

FORT LAUDERDALE — The Native Learning Center held its second annual summer conference with big support and success beachside at the plush Fort Lauderdale Ritz-Carlton Hotel.

The event was June 8-10 and featured a vast array of educators providing specialized insight into several important and education-related topics in the Native communities including: financial wellness, grant writing, Tribal nonprofits, trust management, solar energy

and language preservation and development.

“We hope you can use this week to meet new people and be inspired,” said Holly Tiger-Bowers, Native Learning Center Executive Director, to the dozens of attendees during opening ceremonies. “One of the things we do not see as Natives but hope to change is us helping one another and empowering each other.”

Tiger-Bowers said this year’s participation numbers reached triple digits with Tribal representation from throughout Native Country states such as Arizona, California, Oklahoma and Michigan.

“The Tribe has allowed me to be a part of this and it is something which is bigger than me,” Tiger-Bowers

said. “We want to provide the best skills we can so Natives can take the skills they learn back to their own Tribes. We hope when you leave here you have better ideas, solutions and gain friends.”

Tribal Council and Board of Directors members also made appearances in support.

“The conference was a great opportunity to network with people from across the country. It also will help to teach ourselves to do better as a Tribe and among others,” Tribal Board President Richard Bowers Jr. said.

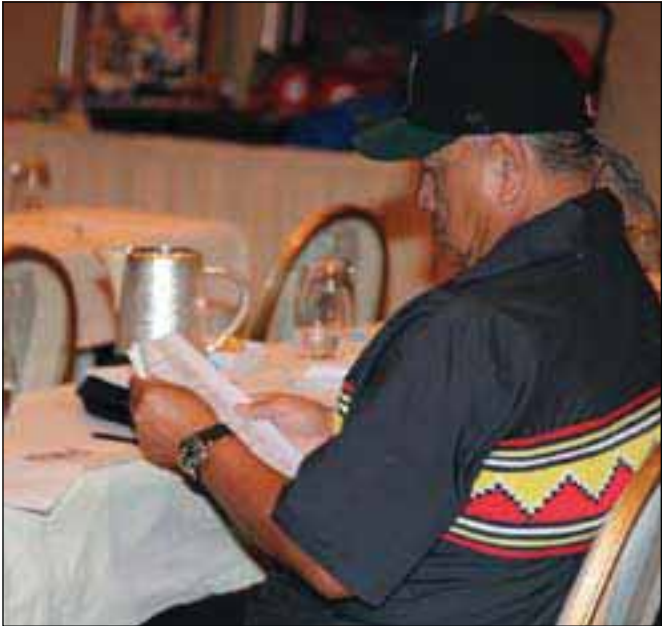
“This is a way to share our knowledge,” Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max Osceola Jr. said. “I look [at this] as a way to not only be teachers, but also learn something as well.”

First-year attendee Nakia Zavalla-Lent of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Tribe of California said she heard of the conference in the *Indian Country Today* publication. As a presenter and instructor for Language Credentialing and Language Legislation workshops throughout the week she said she was impressed with the diverse sessions offered and the strong support by Tribal officials.

“For this conference to offer such a variety it has opened up a lot of doors I never thought about,” Zavalla-Lent said. “To see all the Tribal leadership support and welcome us was very overwhelming and inviting. It made us as guests feel right at home.”

The Native Learning Center was established in 2008 with support and funding by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development with the mission of providing Native and Indigenous people with skills and knowledge to improve their quality of life through housing-related educational programs.

It offers free courses and training to Native Americans to address the specific educational needs of Tribal



Chris C. Jenkins

Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. looks over the agenda while attending the Financial Wellness class on the conference’s first day.

citizens through “Tribal-centric” learning in the areas of financial wellness, housing strategies, Tribal government, celebrating culture and grant education.

It is also the first educational facility and resource for Native Americans that is owned and operated by a Tribe with programs developed specifically for Natives.

For more information, visit www.NativeLearningCenter.com.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal and Native American attendees soak up the knowledge they gained from the Native Learning Center’s second annual summer conference.

Children Explore Their Talents at Naples Music Camp

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

NAPLES — The Juanita Osceola Center in Naples vibrated with the beating of drums, strumming of guitars and voices raised in song by the children attending Music Camp on the evenings of June 21 and 22.

This was the second exposure of these young budding musicians to Native Music Rocks. Casper and the 602 Band, comprised of Casper Lomayesva, William Banks, Justin Banks and Dwayne Dedrick, had left a lasting impression during their first visit a few months earlier and the students eagerly awaited their return.

With diverse levels of talent and age groups, the camp covered a wide range of possibilities. For some of the children, this was an introduction of primary musical skills, while others are taking music lessons, play in school bands or have enjoyed on-stage experience.

“I was brought here to teach and inspire youth,” said Casper. “Instead, they have taught me about what it means to be inspired.”

Drums, tambourines, keyboards, guitars, vocals and more opened new avenues of expression to the younger generation of the Naples Community. Regardless of experience, the camp held rewarding aspects for all of its participants.

Some band students saw this as an opportunity to experiment with a wider range of instruments and become more creative. Meanwhile, the novice group learned about rhythm, recognition of notes and played their first chords.

All little kids enjoy making noise and music camp started them along a road that uses instruments to make noise that is pleasing to the ear.

As a winning vocal artist in the Seminole Star Search competition, Tori Osceola had a blast at the camp. Teaming up with her cousin, Serena Zepeda, the pair composed lyrics for their very own song. With the help

of Casper, the words were set to music and by the end of the second session, the young ladies were ready to perform.

A quick survey of the participants determined that everyone looked at the camp as a beginning of a great program and no one wanted it to come to an end. A chorus of requests came forth for Casper to return as soon as possible.



Jessica Osceola

Justin Banks and Joseph Osceola-Lugo watch as Ross Zepeda experiments with a guitar.



Jessica Osceola

Percussion instruments were a big hit with Joseph Osceola-Lugo and Malcolm Wallace as they learned about rhythm.



Jessica Osceola

Native Music Rocks for Casper and his 602 Band, who find that teaching children is very inspiring.



Judy Weeks

Canoe racers struggle to break up a photo finish at the Immokalee Education Fun Day.

Immokalee Students Celebrate End of School with Education Fun Day

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — As the 2009-2010 school year drew to a climax, the Immokalee Education Department joined forces with Recreation for an End of School Fun Day on June 11.

At 2 p.m. students ranging from kindergarten to high school gathered at the Immokalee ball field. They were divided into two teams to compete at kickball while several of their counterparts formed a cheering section. Due to the intense heat, the competition ended in a tie after just one hour of play.

The group quickly moved to the community lake to cool off and participate in

age appropriate canoe races. Causing a slight delay in the program, a four foot alligator attempted to join the competition. A few quick runs with the Jet Ski changed his mind and the fearless youngsters jumped in their canoes, grabbed paddles and the race was on again.

The results of their efforts were hilarious. They paddled in circles, ran into the shoreline and flipped over on more than one occasion. The majority of the kids eventually jumped into the lake to play.

Adults joined the festivities to share a community dinner and then gathered with their offspring around the Unity in the Community campfire.



Judy Weeks

Did someone yell “Gator!” at the Immokalee Education Fun Day?

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Health



Nancy Frank, left, helps her sister Linda O. Henry during stretching exercises.

Miranda Motlow



Fitness Department Director Natasha Perez assists Maggie Garcia during cardio exercise.

Miranda Motlow

Tampa Tribal Citizens Keep Fit with Water Aerobics Classes

BY MIRANDA MOTLOW
SMP Intern Contributor Writer

TAMPA - In an ongoing effort to promote healthy lifestyles among Tribal citizens, the Seminole Fitness Department hosts aqua aerobics every Tuesday at the Seminole Hard Rock Tampa pool.

Aqua aerobics is an exercise designed to prevent injuries while working out and also provides great physical simulation for people rehabbing injuries. "Anyone who's had any kind of surgery this is a good exercise for them," said Natasha Perez, Brighton/Tampa Fitness Department director. "It helps prevent injuries in the future."

The different activities that take place in aqua aerobics consist of stretching, cardiovascular exercises, core training, and various games.

"They don't notice that they are building their stamina, increasing their energy level and strengthening their heart muscles because we're playing games and they're having fun," Perez said.

Tampa Tribal elders make up the majority of the class. Participants included senior Tribal members Nancy Frank, Peggy Cubis, Maggie Garcia, and Linda O. Henry.

Perez said she notices a high level of enthusiasm among the senior women.

"I love the Tampa seniors. I think they're great and I wish I could spend all day with them because they're really a lot of fun," she said.

Classes for Tampa aqua aerobics begin at 2 p.m. at the Seminole Hard Rock Tampa pool. For information on aqua aerobics in your area contact your reservation's Fitness Department.



Tampa Tribal participants warm up for aqua aerobics.

Miranda Motlow

Youth Learn About Healthy Eating Habits During Nutrition Classes



Matthew Snowberger

First row from left: Tauni Cypress, Eyanna Billie, Madasyn Osceola, Charlie Osceola; second row from left: Alyssa Osceola, Jillian Gurlaski, Big Cypress nutritionist Marley Herrera and Amy Kimberlain, Hollywood Youth Health Specialist, pose during a nutrition class organized at the Willie Frank library on July 14. The youth learn about nutrition and how to maintain a healthy diet by eating right.

Don't Let Unpaid Healthcare Bills Affect Your Credit Rating

BY CONNIE WHIDDEN
Director of Health Department

Please help us to ensure that your healthcare bills are paid in a timely manner and in turn, protect your credit by following these steps:

- Show your STOF Member Health Plan card to medical, dental, and pharmacy providers prior to receiving services.

- Check your Health Plan Book or call the Health Plan Office to make sure that the care you are receiving is covered by the Health Plan. Some services are limited or excluded from coverage.

- If you receive a bill or a statement for healthcare services in the mail, please call the provider of service and ask that they mail a copy of the itemized bill to your Health Plan Office so that your bill can be processed.

The address of the STOF Health Plan is 5201 Ravenswood Road, Suite 107, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312. The address of the Health Plan Office is also on the back of your Health Plan card. In addition, please bring the bill to one of the STOF Clinics or mail it to the Health Plan Office.

- If you receive a collection notice from a collection agency for an unpaid healthcare bill, again, please call the collection agency and ask that they submit an itemized bill to the Health Plan Office so that your bill can be processed. If you have any questions you may call the Health Plan and they will assist you. In addition, please bring the bill to the STOF Clinic or mail it to the Health Plan Office for processing. We may ask you to sign a release form to allow the collection agency to speak with us about your bill and to obtain a copy of the bill.

- Review the bi-annual explanation of benefits statement that we mail to you which provides detailed information about each medical and dental bill processed on your behalf. Please note that you are responsible to pay the provider of service for the amounts listed under the patient responsibility column.

Please call the Health Plan Office at 866-505-6789 if you have questions or need assistance in resolving an unpaid healthcare bill.

If you currently have unpaid healthcare bills appearing on your credit report we will attempt to resolve these debts for you.

Please contact Debi DeHass at 954-962-2009, ext.10323 for assistance. She will need a copy of your credit report listing the unpaid healthcare bills and a signed release form giving her permission to contact the collection agency on your behalf to discuss your account and to obtain a copy of your bill for processing.



The Dangers of Prescription Drug Addiction

BY TOM RYAN
Family Services Department

The nonmedical use or abuse of prescription drugs is a serious and growing public health problem in this country. Although many prescription drugs can be abused, there are several classifications of medications that are commonly abused.

The three classes of prescription drugs that are most commonly abused are: Opioids, which are most often prescribed to treat pain; central nervous system (CNS) depressants, which are used to treat anxiety and sleep disorders; and stimulants, which are prescribed to treat the sleep disorder narcolepsy and attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

The elderly are among those most vulnerable to prescription drug abuse or misuse because they are prescribed more medications than their younger counterparts. Most people take prescription medications responsibly; however, an estimated 48 million people (ages 12 and older) have used prescription drugs for nonmedical reasons in their lifetimes. This represents approximately 20 percent of the U.S. population. Also alarming is the fact that the 2004 National Institute on Drug Abuse's Monitoring the Future survey of eighth-, 10th-, and 12th-graders found that 9.3 percent of 12th-graders reported using Vicodin without a prescription in the past year, and 5.0 percent reported using OxyContin—making these medications among the most commonly abused prescription drugs by adolescents.

The Opioids are a class of drugs commonly prescribed because of their effective analgesic, or pain-relieving, properties. Medications that fall within this class

- referred to as prescription narcotics - include morphine (e.g., Kadian, Avinza), codeine, oxycodone (e.g., OxyContin, Percodan, Percocet), and related drugs. Opioids can produce drowsiness, nausea, constipation, and, depending upon the amount of drug taken, depress respiration. Opioid drugs also can induce euphoria by affecting the brain regions that mediate what we perceive as pleasure. This feeling is often intensified for those who abuse opioids when administered by routes other than those recommended. For example, OxyContin often is snorted or injected to enhance its euphoric effects, while at the same time increasing the risk for serious medical consequences, such as opioid overdose.

Taken as directed, opioids can be used to manage pain effectively. Many studies have shown that the properly managed, short-term medical use of opioid analgesic drugs is safe and rarely causes addiction-defined as the compulsive and uncontrollable use of drugs despite adverse consequences or dependence, which occurs when the body adapts to the presence of a drug and often results in withdrawal symptoms when that drug is reduced or stopped. Withdrawal symptoms include restlessness, muscle and bone pain, insomnia, diarrhea, vomiting, cold flashes with goose bumps ("cold turkey"), and involuntary leg movements. Long-term use of opioids can lead to physical dependence and addiction. Taking a large single dose of an opioid could cause severe respiratory depression that can lead to death.

Should you wish to learn more about the dangers of prescription drug addiction, please feel free to schedule a confidential meeting with a Family Services Counselor on your respective Reservation.

- Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse (2009)

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The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely on advertisement. Guy J. Seligman worked as a Certified Legal Intern in the State Attorney and Public Defender's Offices in Dade and Broward Counties. He has been in private practice for 23 years. He graduated from Nova Southeastern University Law School in 1987 and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1988.

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Announcements

GRADUATES



Congratulations to our big boy, Evan Riley Cypress, on graduating from kindergarten at the Ahfachkee School. We hope you have a great summer and a wonderful year at your new school, American Heritage.

From your family, love always, Grandma, Mom and Dad, sisters

Aileen and Nia Cypress, big brother Darwin Cypress and Papa Joe.



Congratulations to Jordan Osceola on graduating high school at Paladin Academy. This is just the beginning for you. Work hard and do your best in whatever you do in life. Trust in God and always pray. We love you very much.

From your family: Grandma, Mom, Grandpa Joe, Grandma Janice and the rest of the crew.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

August 10, 2010 – 10 a.m. (Big Cypress) at Jimmie Cypress Public Safety Complex
October 12, 2010 – 10 a.m. (Hollywood) at Hollywood Auditorium
December 14, 2010 – 10 a.m. (Brighton) at Brighton Tribal office conference room
February 8, 2011 – 10 a.m. (Hollywood) at Hollywood Auditorium
April 12, 2011 - 10 a.m. (Big Cypress) at Jimmie Cypress Public Safety Complex
June 14, 2011 - 10 a.m. (Brighton) at Brighton Tribal office conference room
August 9, 2011 - 10 a.m. - (Big Cypress) at Jimmie Cypress Public Safety Complex

– In case of any circumstances arising within the Tribe, the date, time and possibly location may be subject to change. If you have any questions please contact the Hollywood President's office.

NOTICE OF SECRETARIAL ELECTION

NEWS RELEASE
2010

DATE: July 22,

Contact: Keith Neves
(954) 983-1537, Ext 22

THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS TO CONDUCT A SECRETARIAL ELECTION FOR THE SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA

Hollywood, Florida – The Seminole Tribal Council has requested the Bureau of Indian Affairs to conduct a Secretarial Election pursuant to Tribal Council Resolution No. C-257-10, "Secretarial Election, Amendment No. XXI to Constitution and Bylaws Seminole Tribe of Florida; to repeal Article II, Section 9."

Members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida are hereby advised that a Secretarial Election will be held on SEPTEMBER 7, 2010, for the purpose of voting on the proposed amendment to the Tribal Constitution to retain or repeal Article II, Membership, Section 9. This election is being conducted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in accordance with Part 81 of Title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations (25 CFR Part 81).

Pursuant to the requirements of 25 CFR 81.6(d), adult tribal members who register to vote in this election shall be entitled to vote for the retention or removal of Article II, Membership, Section 9 of the Tribal Constitution. A notice is being mailed to all tribal members 18 years of age and older thirty days prior to the election, at the address listed on the current tribal membership roll with a voter registration form enclosed. Any member who does not receive such form by mail should request one from the Seminole Agency, 6100 Hollywood Blvd, Suite 206, Hollywood, Florida 33024, or from the Election Board, Seminole Tribe of Florida, 6300 Stirling Road, Hollywood, Florida 33024.

THE REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE SEMINOLE AGENCY OR THE SEMINOLE TRIBAL OFFICE BUILDING NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM (CLOSE OF BUSINESS) ON AUGUST 16, 2010.

If any adult member is unable to vote at a designated polling place because of non-residence, temporary absence from the reservation, illness or physical disability, the individual may vote by absentee ballot. Requests for absentee ballots must be designated on the voter registration forms.

It is particularly important that only adult members who register to vote in this election will be permitted to cast ballots on the retention or removal of Article II, Membership, Section 9 of the Tribal Constitution.

Immediately after the ballots are counted, the results of the election will be posted at the Seminole Agency and the Seminole Tribal Administrative Office.

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THANK YOU

Daylon Youngblood graduated on Thursday, June 10, 2010 from Okeechobee High School. Daylon and his family would like to thank the Brighton Education staff for all their work with helping him achieve this great accomplishment.

They would also like to thank Chairman Mitchell Cypress and the Chairman's staff for such a wonderful graduation trip to the Bahamas. Thank you to President Richard Bowers Jr. for the gift he presented.

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AUGUST 18, 2010 - THE ABCs OF GRANTS

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AUGUST 26, 2010 - NAVIGATING GRANTS.GOV

2:00PM – 4:00 PM EST

This course is an intermediate course that will provide participants with a guided introduction to the grants.gov web portal. Participants will be shown how to search for available grant funding and set up their agency in the grants.gov database. Participants should have a good understanding of how to use the internet and an interest in finding out more about applying for federal grant dollars for their organization. The NLC recommends taking its' ABCs of Grants course prior to the Navigating Grants.gov course.

SEPTEMBER 15, 2010 - ESSENTIAL GRANT SKILLS

2:00PM – 4:00PM EST

Improve your ability to win grants, avoid common mistakes and take your grants skills to the next level. Participants will gain valuable insight into submitting successful grant proposals, learn how to avoid common errors even experienced grant writers make, how to answer the funders questions about proposals, better understand the grants planning process, find and prioritize funding sources, match funders to your needs, and the importance of networking. Participants should have a good understanding of how to use the internet and/or have some familiarity with grant writing, and the NLC recommends taking its' ABCs of Grants course prior to Essential Grants Skills course.



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SportsC



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Tribal citizen Charley Cypress looks at his pool shot, as he gets ready to strike in 8-Ball play at the Fourth of July Pool Tournament organized at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress, on July 2.

Fourth of July Pool Tournament Results

8-Ball

Senior Women: 1. Laura Clay, 2. Jane Freeman, 3. Rena Blissett, 4. Louise Billie, 5. Linda Billie; Senior Men: 1. Roy Snow, 2. Charley LaSarge, 3. Ralph Gray, 4. R.C. Foy, 5. Russell Osceola; Women: 1. Theresa Nunez, 2. Virginia Billie, 3. Phalyn Osceola, 4. Melissa Silva, 5. Katrina Silva; Men: 1. Ralph Sanchez, 2. Nick Tiger, 3. Tony Bert, 4. Enrique Gamez, 5. Mario Posada.

Scotch Doubles

1. Charley LaSarge/Phalyn Osceola, 2. Roy Snow/Theresa Nunez, 3. R.C. Foy/Katrina Silva, 4. David Cypress/Laura Clay, 5. Raymond Garza Sr./Virginia Billie.

9-Ball

Women: 1. Phalyn Osceola, 2. Laura Clay, 3. Virginia Billie, 4. Latonya Jumper, 5. Jane Freeman; Men: 1. Charley LaSarge, 2. Angelo Claro, 3. Nick Tiger, 4. Carl Yazzie, 5. Ralph Sanchez.



Naji Tobias

Arizona native Carl Yazzie of the Navajo Tribe places fourth in 9-ball play at the Fourth of July Pool Tournament on July 2 in Big Cypress.

Fourth of July Pool Tournament Entertains Big Cypress Community



Naji Tobias

Immokalee Tribal citizen Virginia Billie places second in women's 8-Ball play at the Fourth of July Pool Tournament in Big Cypress on July 2.



Naji Tobias

Immokalee community member Abel Frank shows off his game in 8-Ball play at the Fourth of July Pool Tournament in Big Cypress.



Naji Tobias

Former Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress, primary sponsor of the Fourth of July Pool Tournament, competes in the 8-Ball play on July 2. Tribal and non-Tribal citizens were invited to play in the holiday competition. Tribal citizens from Big Cypress, Brighton, Hollywood and Immokalee joined in the festivities.

Tribal Citizens Celebrate Independence Day with Golf Tournament at the Grande Oaks Club



Chris C. Jenkins

Right photo, Tribal citizens, including Hollywood Board Rep. Marcellus Osceola Jr., third from the right, gather before action for the Fourth of July Golf Tournament held at the Grande Oaks Golf Club in Davie. The two-man, five-team tournament featured 18 holes with trophies presented to the winners in several categories. Photo above, first place tournament winners, Mondo Tiger, left, and Hollywood Board Rep. Marcellus Osceola Jr. show off their wares after competition.



Eastern Indian Rodeo Association Sets Up Event in Memory of Josiah Johns



Results

Bareback Riding: Freddy Warbonett; Steer Wrestling: Quinn Campbell; Calf Roping: Preston Williams; Lady's Breakaway Roping: Boogie Jumper; Team Roping: Josh Jumper and Preston Williams; Lady's Barrel Racing: Carrera Gopher; Bull Riding: No Quilified Rides; Kids Rodeo Winners: Mutton Busting: Dwayne Billie Jr.; Pony Riding: (tie) Jobe Johns and Drayton Billie; Calf Riding: Myron Billie; Steer Riding: Rayven Smith; Jr. Bull Riding: Josh Johns; Chute Doggin: Dillion Chalfant; 4-8 Barrels: Brighton Bauman; 9-12 Barrels: Calgary Johns; 13-17 Barrels: Ashley Parks; Jr. Breakaway Roping: Andre Jumper; Jr. Steer Undercoating: Jobe Johns; Sr. Steer Undercoating: Dillion Chalfant; Jr. Bareback: William Bearden; 50 & Over Lady's Barrel Racing: Anna Bowers; 50 & Over Team Roping: Joe L. John, Norman Johns; INFR Steer Riding: Kelton Smedley



Native cowboys and cowgirls came from throughout the eastern circuit to Brighton, on July 3, to compete in the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association rodeo and to also remember the late great cowboy Josiah Johns. The Josiah Johns Memorial rodeo was held at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena in Brighton where the youth kicked things off with the non-sanctioned events including mutton busting and calf riding. The adults followed with the sanction events with cowboy hopefuls all trying to rack up points and one more win before the EIRA finals scheduled for Aug. 27-28 in Big Cypress. Photo above, Andre Jumper earns 61 point ride. Far right top, Seth Randolph ends the rodeo with hopes to be the first qualified bull ride. Far right bottom, Dwayne Billie rides his way to a win in mutton busting. Right, Justin Gopher returns to bull riding striving for a eighth second ride. - Rachel Buxton/Photos by Tom Riser.





Naji Tobias

About 40 Tribal and community youngsters cool off at the Big Cypress Disc Golf Pool Party, hosted and sponsored by the Big Cypress Recreation Department. The purpose of the event, according to Big Cypress Recreation Aide Carlton Banks, was to provide special activities for the youth residing at the reservation. He said there will be a special event each Wednesday during the summer months at the Big Cypress Reservation.



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Recreation aide Carlton Banks, left, watches Tyrus Billie, right, play his last hole at the Big Cypress Indigo Disc Golf Park on June 16. The disc golf park has nine holes plus a practice facility before participants explore the course.



Naji Tobias

Isaiah Alvarado hangs out at the Big Cypress community pool with a Jr. Roller floating device.



Naji Tobias

Jathaniel "Nano" Brooks works on his swimming skills at the Big Cypress Disc Golf Pool Party on June 16.



Naji Tobias

Children cool off at the Big Cypress Disc Golf Pool Party.

Big Cypress Recreation Department Hosts Disc Golf Pool Party



Naji Tobias

From left, Isaiah Alvarado, Tyrus Billie, Mariah Smith, Jonah Alvarado and Dasani Frye throw their Frisbees during the Golf Pool Party organized at Big Cypress' Indigo Disc Golf Park/Big Cypress Community Pool on June 16.



Naji Tobias

Jonah Alvarado, center, takes his third Frisbee shot on the third hole as Big Cypress Recreation Aide Carlton Banks, left, and Tyrus Billie, right, look on.

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Youngsters Work on Gymnastics Skills at the Fitness Dome



Matthew Snowberger

From left, Tauni Cypress, 6, Charlie Osceola, 6, Madasyn Osceola, 4, and Alyssa Osceola, 9, practice at the Fitness Dome in Big Cypress.



Naji Tobias

Hilliard Gopher of Brighton, and Fragua Machado of Miami, team up to catch a steer at the Team Roping Round Robin Challenge on June 26.



Naji Tobias

The team roping tandem of Brighton's Hilliard Gopher and Alby Dominguez catch a steer at the Team Roping Round Robin Challenge on June 26.

Rodeo Arena Hosts Team Roping Round Robin Challenge



Naji Tobias

The team roping tandem of Pablo Delgado, left, and Big Cypress community member Walter Summerall, try to catch a steer at the Team Roping Round Robin Challenge, held June 26 at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Grounds Arena on the Big Cypress Reservation. In all, 308 teams competed, with the headers – ropers who catch a steer from its head – taking a total of 22 shots with their heeler counterparts. The heelers – ropers who catch the steer from its feet – had 14 attempts.

Team Roping Round Robin Results

(Top Three Places plus Finishes from Hilliard Gopher and Walter Summerall)

All final times are recorded in seconds

Headers – 14 attempts: 1. Alby Dominquez – 7 steer catches down; Final time: 103.03, 2. Freddie Gonzalez – 7 steer catches down; Final time: 105.57, 3. Alfredo Fuentes – 6 steer catches down; Final time: 103.27; 4. Walter Summerall – 5 steer catches down; Final time: 69.58; Heelers – 22 attempts: 1. Andres Hernandez – 8 steer catches; Final time: 104.75, 2. Noel Vigil – 8 steer catches; Final time: 110.22, 3. Wayne Hicks – 8 steer catches; Final time: 111.17, 5. Hilliard Gopher – 6 steer catches down; Final time: 101.57.

Note: The next team roping round robin challenge will take place at the Immokalee Seminole Ranch on July 31, the third and final of the 2010 Saddle Series. The Saddle Series winner will earn a saddle and a matching breast collar.

Big Cypress Community Participates in Fourth of July Firecracker 5K Walk/Run



Naji Tobias

At the conclusion of the Firecracker 5K Walk/Run, all of the attendees come together to reflect on what they accomplished in their exercises. They also made sure to eat a healthy continental breakfast to get fueled up for the day.



Naji Tobias

Former Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress, front, leads Justin Gonzalez and his son, Charley Cypress,



Naji Tobias

Rob Landin strolls with his two children, D.J. Kimble, 4, and Swan Kimble, 5.

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