



The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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July 31, 2009

First Council Meeting Held in Veterans Building

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Tribal Council met at the Brighton Veterans Building for the first time ever June 30 for a special meeting.

Brighton Council Rep. Andrew Bowers Jr. welcomed everyone to the new facility and said he hopes it will be the home to many more meetings in the future.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress invited attendees to visit the Veterans' hang out room and to take a tour of the star-shaped building following the meeting.

Three resolutions were passed on the agenda including:

Resolution 4: Approval of Indian Housing Plan for the fiscal year commencing Oct. 1 and ending Sept. 30, 2010, together with expression of intent and certain certifications;

Resolution 5: Prohibition of contractor Harry Pepper & Associates, Inc., and its employees from doing any further work on the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation Water Conservation Plan critical restoration project and from any entry on to the Tribal lands of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Trail Community Youth Receive Incentive Awards

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

MIAMI — Tribal students, parents, Trail community members and guests recognized the best in education June 17 at the annual Incentive Awards presentation, held at Dave and Busters restaurant/arcade.

During the event, Trail community students from grades kindergarten through 12th received certificates, T-shirts, backpacks and other awards.

Students Cassidy Bert, Morgan Bert, Charles Billie, Demetric Billie, Osceola Cypress, Jennifer Holdiness, Jessie Holdiness, Ozzie Holdiness, Lucas Huggins, Courtney Jim, Elena Jim, Katherine Jim, Lauren Jim, Destiny Jim-Harper, Katina Jumper, Falon Keyser, Davena Osceola, Kailani Osceola, Nichelle Osceola, Angelina Osceola, Jaya Osceola, Kaylene Osceola, Dionah Osceola-Bert, John Kyle Osceola Jr., Alana Roberts, Donavin Tiger, Hunter Tiger, Madison Tiger, Sadriynn Tiger, Stephen Tiger, Jonah Tigertail-Billie and Noah Tigertail-Billie were acknowledged at the ceremony.

"I enjoy them honoring me for going to school," said second year honoree and eighth

□ Please see INCENTIVE on page 2A

Fathers Honored at BC Community Celebration

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Big Cypress community members honored their fathers at a luncheon celebration at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium on June 19.

"In our clan society, we may have only one father, but we have many uncles who have contributed so much to our lives as we have grown into adults," said Chairman Mitchell Cypress. "On Father's Day take the time to put away all negative thoughts and let your hearts be filled with all the positive things that can be attributed to the father figures that have shaped your lives."

"You may find the reality of their commitment to be overwhelming," he added. "We owe a great deal to the men who have come before us and made our lives possible."

President Richard Bowers Jr. also spoke.

"When we were growing up, a series of camps were comprised of close-knit families and the elders would say that it takes a camp to raise a child," he said. "It is important to remember all of the men who have contributed so much to our lives as we celebrate Father's Day."

President Bowers continued: "During the Seminole Wars, some of our forefathers adopted a clothing style that included a large scarf tied around their necks. As hunters, fishermen, cattlemen and farmers, these men found many uses for this scarf and it became a part of their

□ Please see FATHERS on page 2A

Brittany Smith Crowned Miss Florida Seminole at 52nd Annual Pageant

Stevie Brantley Receives Junior Miss Florida Seminole Princess Title



Stephen Gallia

(L-R) Chairman Mitchell Cypress, 2009-2010 Junior Miss Florida Seminole Stevie Brantley, 2009-2010 Miss Florida Seminole Brittany Smith and President Richard Bowers Jr.

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The crowns and titles distributed to the winners of the 52nd annual Seminole Princess Pageant will reside in Brighton for the year as Brittany Smith was crowned Miss Florida Seminole Princess and Stevie Brantley took home the title of Junior Miss Florida Seminole Princess.

Both ladies made their home reservation of Brighton

when they received their titles at the pageant, held July 18 in the Hollywood Auditorium.

Emcees for the evening were Mary Jean Koenes, Seminole language consultant and 1973 and 1974 Miss Florida Seminole Princess, and Van Samuels of the Big Cypress Museum.

The evening started off with a moment of silence for the late Sandra McClenithan, the 1977 Miss Florida Seminole Princess.

A special documentary created by Seminole Media

Productions on the history of the Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant paid honor to the past, present and future princesses.

The Seminole Princess Committee members were recognized along with the Tribal Council and Board of Directors.

"Whoever is chosen will represent the whole year," said Chairman Mitchell Cypress. "They need prayers,

□ Please see PRINCESS on page 1D



Judy Weeks

Andre Jumper grabs his steer's neck, tucks the horn and prepares to cup its nose in his elbow for a perfect throw.

Tribal Citizens Attend Steer Wrestling Clinic

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Sweat-streaked faces smeared with red clay, roe muscles and big smiles became the trademark of the participants at the Steer Wrestling Clinic held at the Junior Cypress Arena on June 27 under the direction of Dennis DeVeau.

The Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) isn't just about producing rodeo competitions and tabulating qualifying points for the rodeo circuit. One of its major goals is the promotion of rodeo sports within a safe atmosphere and education of the next generation of rodeo athletes.

This past year, the EIRA expanded its roster of non-sanctioned events to include Chute Doggin' and Steer Un-decorating. Both of these activities are an exercise for youngsters learning how to control their body weight on horseback, safe dismount from a running horse and procedure for taking down a steer.

A career in rodeo doesn't just happen and Dennis DeVeau has made it his life

long passion.

Beginning at an early age, he tried his hand at every event and before long had developed the skills of an All Around Cowboy. By 1979 he had become the Florida Cowboy Assn. State Steer Wrestling Champion and during the following year, he climbed the ladder to Southeastern Circuit Champion.

A room filled with trophies and awards pays tribute to a brilliant career that has spanned a quarter century and seen him ranked among the Top Fifteen World Regional Finalists.

Assisting DeVeau at the Steer Wrestling Clinic were two EIRA instructors whose credentials speak for themselves. Naha Jumper is an Indian National Finals Rodeo Qualifier (INFR) and EIRA Champion and Ivan Bruisedhead is an INFR Qualifier.

Getting down to business, DeVeau explained the basic concept of Steer Wrestling before putting the youngsters through several hours of intensive training.

□ Please see CLINIC on page 2A

Seminole Youth Learn to Give Back at Culture Exchange

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

PEACH SPRINGS, Ariz. — Summer vacation for 27 high school students from all reservations began as they traveled out west to Peach Springs, Ariz. to participate in a culture exchange program during the week of June 8-13.

Sponsored by the Education Dept., the Seminole youth enjoyed a weeklong excursion where they visited the Hualapai Tribe. Throughout the week the group spent time learning about the Hualapai culture, sharing their culture and getting to once in a lifetime activities.

"It was any Tribe I wanted to expose them to and this kind of way to make a difference," said Education Dept. Director Emma Johns. "I want them to become more humble beings and learn how to give back and learn how to appreciate what you have."

The Seminole youth began their journey landing in Las Vegas where they visited a place that made them feel right at home — the Hard Rock Café. The students enjoyed a lunch that was full of entertainment that included lots of music and dancing. Some students and even a few of the adults jumped up and joined the Hard Rock staff in showing off their dance moves to the Village People's classic song, "YMCA."

Tribal citizen Shandiin Josh celebrated her birthday and was serenaded by the entire café while receiving an ice cream sundae topped with a cherry and a candle to make a wish.

After lunch the kids boarded their bus as they got ready to embark on their cultural exchange.

The students got their first introduction to the Hualapai Tribe as they visited the Grand Canyon Caverns.

The Grand Canyon Caverns, located on the Historic Route 66, is a natural limestone cavern located 210 feet underground. Students explored the caverns traveling down winding paths.

They learned their first tidbit about the Hualapai Tribe. Remains in the caverns originally thought to be prehistoric were actually ancestors of the Hualapai Tribe who became sick while out cutting firewood during the winter of 1917. The ground was too frozen for a burial so the two men were lowered into a concealed hole. The students were able to view the hole that has since been sealed off in respect to the last Hualapai members.

It wasn't until the next day that the students got their formal introductions to the Hualapai Tribe of today.

In the early morning of June 9, the students, staff and chaperones made their way into the residential area of the Hualapai Reservation to take part in a community service park cleanup.

"When I was on the bus it was hard to watch," said Whitney Osceola about seeing the Hualapai Reservation for the first time. "It made me feel bad. I didn't know how other reservations live. It was eye opening."

Pete Imus of the Hualapai Tribe welcomed the Seminoles to their reservation.

"It's good to finally be able to put a face to the phone numbers and e-mails," said Imus.

The two Tribes teamed together to help cleanup three parks located on the Hualapai Reservation that had been overgrown with weeds, littered with trash and glass and covered in graffiti.

"If there's one thing they take away from today that's leaving with a full heart and knowing deep down in their spirit they made a difference," said Emma Johns.

Students raked, shoveled and bagged weeds as they tramped off on. The first park, Milkweed, was a run down playground that will eventually be repainted so children can play on it.

"I was probably one of the ones that complained the most," said Ali Nunez referring to having to do community service. "But when you actually come out here and start working, you realize how much you're doing for them and it feels really good to help out."

Arnella Powesky, 15, a member of the Hualapai Tribe, said she found out the night before that members of another native Tribe, one she had never heard of, were coming to help her community.

"I had a good feeling," said Powesky. "A lot of love and it is just best if we try to get together and do something that is good and we'll get to know one another and have fun."

"It feels good to just have another Tribe come to help us clean our park, trying to make our reservation a better place," said Tawnya Shongo, 17, also of the Hualapai Tribe.

Everyone took a break to eat lunch that was provided by the Hualapai Tribe. Following lunch the youth were split up and sent to two other parks for cleaning up.

"We're real fortunate for the stuff we've got," said Audrey Osceola. "A lot of other Tribes don't get anything so I think it's really cool that we get to do this."

The community service didn't start at the parks, however. Prior to the trip departure students donated items to be given to the Hualapai Tribe. Marie Dufour of the Hollywood Education Dept. drove a U-Haul from Florida to Arizona to drop off the items. Dufour was on the road for 2.5 days, but in the end, it was well worth the time and effort.

"I always hear about the donations," said David Nunez, who accompanied his two daughters on the trip. "I didn't realize this is where it was coming to. When I hear about those donations again I'll talk to my girls and say, 'Hey remember where we were at and what it was like,' and just give. It's a realistic eye opener for them."

The next day the Seminole youth got to experience a more global side of the Hualapai Tribe as they visited Grand Canyon West.

Grand Canyon West, unknown to most, is not part of the Grand Canyon National Park. It is located on the Hualapai Reservation and has become a major part of their Tribal economy with the recently built Skywalk, a glass bridge that juts out over the canyon edge and over 4,000 feet above the canyon floor.

"It was very beautiful," said Cassandra Jimmie. "When I looked down I just hoped I wouldn't fall. It was an unforgettable site."

Also located at Grand Canyon West is the Hualapai Ranch where students took a step back in time. At the ranch youth tested their hatchet throwing abilities, gun drawing speed and archery marksmanship.

After a day of witnessing the Hualapai Tribe as a corporation the students were finally able to engage themselves into the Hualapai culture at the culture exchange presentation held that evening at the Tribe's gymnasium.

The evening began with the Hualapai Bird Singers, men and boys of all ages demonstrating their chants using native In-



The Seminole Tribe and the Hualapai Tribe become one and family.



Students on the winded cavern tour, where they see a mummified bobcat.



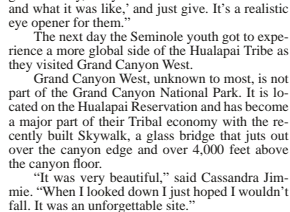
Alex Buck (R) used sister, Farrah Lytle (L), and Stevie Brantley (C) as shields from the 30 degree water rattle.



The Seminole youth (L) present the Hualapai Tribal Youth Council (R) with commemorative Seminole Tribe statues and books.



(L-R) Christian Buck and Jason Melton, along with other Seminole students, shovel debris into a bulldozer to be taken away.



Hualapai Tribal member George Walker (R) teaches Alex Buck (L) the proper way to carry elk antlers.

youth, Nolene Watahomigie. "It was like we were one big happy family."

The night only became more intense as the singing and dancing continued.

"Historically this is good because we get to see each other's cultures," said Willie Johns, Brighton's Museum Community Outreach Specialist. "We can see how advanced we are but yet how advanced they are or not as advanced as we are and see how each one of us are doing in our respective area."

The culture exchange and friendships made didn't end that night with the dancing. The next day the two Tribes together went whitewater rafting down the Colorado River.

Tribal youth held on for dear life as they went over cascading Level 7 rapids with 30 degree water pouring on them.

"It was really fun and nothing like I had ever done before," said Stevie Brantley. "I didn't know what to expect. I was scared and cold but it was worth it."

The youth spent the first half of the day riding the rapids and then enjoyed a lunch while drying off and warming up on the rocks of the Grand Canyon.

After lunch splashguards were put on the boats so everyone could enjoy the rest of the tour by taking in the scenic beauty of the Grand Canyon. When the boats reached their end point students were given a helicopter ride above the Grand Canyon giving them the opportunity to see the canyon from yet another angle.

"Even though it was five hours long it was probably the best five hours of my life," said Chelsea Storm.

Once back at the hotel lodge students got their last lesson on the Hualapai culture with Hualapai Tribal citizen George Walker hosting a Trophy Class on the practice and tradition of hunting elk within the Hualapai culture.

Tribal youth from both Tribes then said their farewells. Phone numbers and addresses were exchanged with promises to keep in touch.

"I didn't know the Hualapai Tribe existed until I came on this trip," said Storm. "I've made a lot of new friends and it's hard for me to make friends so this was a big step for me."

Students spent their last day on the trip walking up and down the jam-packed strip in Las Vegas shopping, exploring different hotels and riding the monstrous roller coaster at the New York, New York hotel.

"This trip has been pretty awesome," said Jason Melton. "I was enjoying the places we were going to and cleaning up the parks because I knew I was actually doing something for another Tribe that is less fortunate than ours."

Education Dept. Director Emma Johns was happy with the outcome of the trip.

"I can't believe I had so many interested and helping," Johns said. "Their attitudes are phenomenal. I'm so proud of our students. They have made me overwhelmingly happy as director of Education and as a Seminole Tribal member."



Hualapai Tribal member Ivan Bender (R) presents Daylon Youngblood (L) with a native rattle.



(L-R) Kyle Baker and Christian Buck have a quick draw shootout at the Hualapai Ranch.



The Skywalk Bird Dancers show the Seminole girls their traditional dances.



The Seminole youth relax for a moment after surviving a Level 7 rapid.

INCENTIVE

From page 1A

grade student Elena Jim.

The Tribe's Education Dept. and Trail Liaison William Osceola's office co-sponsored the event, which also featured a special performance by Cherokee hip-hop musician and actor Litefoot.



Tribal citizen Elena Jim (C) receives her award for academic achievement, joined by (L-R) Michael Cantu, Trail Liaison William Osceola and Cherokee hip-hop musician and actor Litefoot.

"I am glad we are here to honor you," said Litafoot Osceola to the students in attendance. "One day you are going to grow up to be something; that is what getting an education teaches you to do."

During his performance, Litefoot spoke about his time in the music industry, his struggles for respect and staying dedicated to achieving dreams and goals.

"This was their night because of what they have done and accomplished," Litefoot explained. "Listen to what is inside of you and be confident in what you can do."

"Putting in the hard work will allow you to see the rewards," he added. "You are the next generation of us."

Father Josh Osceola came to celebrate the accomplishments of this third grader, Angelina, 8.

"I am so proud of her and all my kids," Osceola said. "For her to be here at the awards doing the work, she has improved a lot."

"I do not want [my kids] going through what I have been through," he added. "As long as they succeed, I do. I tell them 'You can do whatever you want and be whatever you want to be.'"

Tribal Education Advisor Will Bacon commended the progress of many of the students who received awards. He also praised the behind the scenes heroes — the parents.

"The families are really placing an emphasis on education," Bacon said. "We continue to see a growth in the community in education as a concept as well as a whole. We want them to be part of the motivation for them to continue in school."

Chris C. Jenkins



Cherokee hip-hop musician and actor Litefoot and Trail Liaison William Osceola (Back Row, L-R) with members of the Tribal Education Dept., Trail students and guests at the Trail Incentive Awards ceremony, held June 17.

Chris C. Jenkins

CLINIC

From page 1A

"Safety must be your first priority at all times," cautioned DeVaugh. "Our goal is to teach you about technique and momentum. Speed will come in its own time, but means nothing if you cannot properly handle your catch and overpower the steer for a winning score."

The students began their training on a steer's head attached to a metal frame being pulled by an All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) and known as a Steer Saver. Position, posture and leg placement were stressed as students took several turns on the equipment and were critiqued by their instructors.

Concentrating on technique, the group learned the proper head catch, hand, elbow and arm placement that provides the leverage necessary to overturn a steer weighing from two to three times the weight of the contestant.

Following a short water break, the students were transferred to live animals on a protective lariat to practice and then moved up to the real thing. Tackling steers right out of the chute, bringing them to a stop and then wrestling them to the ground.

As the hours passed the students' strength dwindled, but their technique began to take form. Youngsters, who had previously failed to catch, lost their prey or wound up on the ground with a steer standing over them, were making complete runs that generated enviable scores.



(L-R) Kenny Deschene learns some valuable tips on position and technique in steer wrestling from instructor Dennis DeVaugh.

Judy Weeks



Covered in red clay, the young steer wrestlers join their instructors and arena crew on the fence at the end of the day.

Judy Weeks



Paul "Cowbone" Buster entertains with a medley of rhythm and blues, country and gospel songs at the Father's Day event.

Judy Weeks

FATHERS

From page 1A

daily clothing well into the middle of the 1900s. These men were responsible for our survival."

"I am giving each of you one of these scarves today in their memory and ask that you remember the role that you also have played in our future," he concluded.

Big Cypress Board of Directors Rep. Paul Bowers Sr. said: "Visit your father on his special day and if he has gone on before you, honor his memory."

"Many of our fathers are gone and we no longer can spend time with them," said Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress. "Remember how much they meant to you and pass their legacy on to your children."

Paul "Cowbone" Buster, Jonah Cypress and Pastor Arlen Payne provided live musical entertainment for the Father's Day celebration. Delving into their vast reper-



Chairman Mitchell Cypress (R) shows his gratitude to Frank J. Billie (L) for years of moral support during his youth.

Judy Weeks

toire, they took turns playing classic songs that spanned a time frame of over sixty years and included gospel, country, and rhythm and blues.

Forming family groups, the partygoers shared the luncheon buffet and posed for family portraits to commemorate the occasion.



(L-R) Beverly Alumbaugh, dad Joe Osceola Sr. and Janice Osceola enjoy the Father's Day festivities with the BC community.

Judy Weeks



(L-R) President Richard Bowers Jr. wishes George Billie a happy Father's Day.

Judy Weeks

First Council Meeting Held in Veterans Building



The Tribal Council conducts a special council meeting in the star-shaped Veterans Building pentagon auditorium.

Rachel Buxton

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Community

A



Rachel Buxton

The Seminole Warriors cheerleaders chant the message, "Say no to drugs," at the first anniversary celebration of the S.W.A.M.P., held at the Brighton gym on June 16.

S.W.A.M.P. Celebrates First Year Milestone

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Community members and Seminole youth gathered at the Brighton gym June 16 to celebrate the first anniversary of S.W.A.M.P. with a special presentation.

S.W.A.M.P., which stands for Seminoles Without Additions Make Progress, is a program that was started in 2008. The Family Services and the Recreation Departments co-sponsored the club's formation to help teach Seminole youth about alcohol and drug awareness.

To start things off, S.W.A.M.P. mascot Jeffrey the Alligator came out to get the crowd cheering. Valerie Marone, community events coordinator and S.W.A.M.P. organizer, spoke at the event.

"The S.W.A.M.P. is not me," Marone said. "It's the kids."

Marone also introduced the S.W.A.M.P. committee and presented each with a medal and certificate for their leadership and commitment. The officers were: Senior President Thomas Bearden, Senior Vice President Chastity Harmon, Senior Secretary Tyra Baker, Junior President Morgan King, Junior Vice President Sunni Bearden and Junior Secretary Odessa King.

Marone, assisted by the senior officers, recognized and handed out certificates of appreciation to different Seminole Tribe departments. She also recognized other key individuals that have played a major role in helping with the first year of the S.W.A.M.P.'s success.

"We couldn't have a group like this without the support of the community," Marone said.

Special plaques were given to Recreation Dept. Director Richard Osceola, Family Services Dept. Director Helene Buster and Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Andrew Bowers Jr., representing the Brighton Tribal Council Office, for their help in starting S.W.A.M.P. as well as their continued support.



Rachel Buxton

Senior President Thomas Bearden (R) presents Richard Osceola with a special recognition plaque for his help in starting and supporting S.W.A.M.P.

"Thank you adults for your support," Buster said. "The children are our future and if they are not doing what they are supposed to be doing, the Tribe

won't have a future."

Rep. Bowers also congratulated the members on their milestone anniversary as an organized club.

"You've been here a year," Rep. Bowers said. "Remember that you're still here."

The Seminole Warriors cheerleaders performed a special say no to drugs cheer before heading off for a costume change and another dance number.

Lunch was prepared by Ray King who also cooks the meals served each Thursday at the S.W.A.M.P. meetings.

During lunch a slideshow played showing the community events and projects that the children of S.W.A.M.P. have participated in throughout the year.

Some of the events have included the Red Barn cleanup, Field Day parade float, a Halloween party, trip to Busch Gardens, a bake sale, car wash and hot dog sale.

"S.W.A.M.P. keeps them busy," said Tammy King, mother of three S.W.A.M.P. members. "They love it. When I can't get them here they ask if I can find them another ride or let them stay with their grandmother on the reservation. It is just a great atmosphere."

S.W.A.M.P. presently has about 45 members. They meet in the side room of the gym that has been turned into the "Swamp," a drug-free zone where kids can play video games and hang out.

"S.W.A.M.P. has a lot of good events and good food," said Junior President Morgan King.

S.W.A.M.P. Junior Vice President Sunni Bearden said she enjoys the program because she has met a lot of new friends.

S.W.A.M.P. will be initiating another Youth Prevention Committee, aside from the one that already meets once a month, that is geared more to the teen members and will organize age specific activities for middle and high school students.



Rachel Buxton

(L-R) Thomas Bearden, Chastity Harmon, Tyra Baker, Morgan King and Sunni Bearden are the junior and senior officers in charge of running the monthly meetings.

Council Holds Special Meeting in Tampa

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

TAMPA — The Tribal Council met at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Tampa for a special meeting on June 18. They passed 28 resolutions on the agenda including:

Resolution 12: Amendment No. 2 to project cooperation agreement between the U.S. Department of the Army and the Seminole Tribe of Florida for construction of the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation water conservation plan critical restoration project;

Resolution 14: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency funding request for Fiscal Year 2009 Seminole Tribe of Florida clean water sewer infrastructure improvements program;

Resolution 22: Business lease between Seminole Tribe of Florida (lessor) and Joel Matthew Frank Sr. (lessee) for fast food restaurant and/or coffee shop, retail tobacco outlet and parking improvements - Hollywood Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 28: Approval of lease modification agreement by and between Seminole Properties Retail, LLC, and The Walking Company;

Resolution 29: Approval for Seminole Properties Retail, LLC, to consummate a lease agreement with CB5 Restaurant Holdings Corporation for the operation of a Bongos Cuban Café; delegation of authority;

Resolution 30: Approval for Seminole Properties Retail, LLC, to consummate a lease agreement with Front Street Restaurant Group, LLC, for the operation of an Italian restaurant; delegation of authority;

Resolution 34: Florida Department of Law Enforcement memorandum of understanding for the purpose of facilitating criminal investigations of incidents involving Seminole Police Dept. officers.

Marissa Osceola Participates in World Leadership Forum

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

WASHINGTON — Marissa Osceola, a seventh grader at Corkscrew Middle School in Naples, Fla., was chosen for the People to People World Leadership Forum as a student ambassador.

The daughter of Douglas and Sandy Osceola, she is an exemplary student, perseverant, inquisitive and shows leadership qualities, which prompted her teachers to nominate her for the program.

Started by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, the People to People Ambassadors Program fosters world citizenship. The project was established to promote peace among others through understanding and provides an opportunity for national and international exchange among students.

The 2009 roster of 1,000 young people converged on Washington, D.C. during the week of April 13-19. Attendees from as far away as Africa, Argentina and China attended. Marissa Osceola was one of the two representatives from the state of Florida.

"There was so much to see in such a short time that I feel as though I have just been introduced to our nation and its history," Osceola said. "It was great and I have already started a list of the places where I want to spend more time."

Divided into small groups with chaperones, the young people congregated each day for orientation, workshops and speaking engagements by dignitaries, who represented a cross section of government, business and media. Congressional representatives, news anchors, philanthropists and business executives provided exposure to the wide world of leadership.

Daily sightseeing tours were arranged for the group to share in historical moments that have influenced the history of the world in addition to the U.S. This itinerary included the White House, Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Wall, Mount Vernon, Jefferson Monument, Jamestown, Memorials to World Wars I and II, Holocaust Museum, the city of Williamsburg, Library of Congress Tunnel and Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) Memorial.

"Everyone asks the same question, 'What was your favorite thing,'" Osceola said. "The answer is quite simple; I liked meeting the other students, exchanging our life's stories and learning about their cultural backgrounds."

"Standing with the bronze figures in the bread lines at the FDR Memorial made me think about our current economic condition," she continued. "It is apparent that everyone must do their part to manage our natural resources, agriculture and economy, because we are all citizens of the world."



Submitted by Marissa Osceola

Marissa Osceola joins the line of life-sized bronze figures depicting the bread lines of the Great Depression at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial in Washington, D.C. She said it made her think about the country's current economic situation.

Tribal Citizens Share Music, Poetry at Creative Expressions Event

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Sponsored by the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, Creative Expressions offers an opportunity for Tribal citizens to share their talents of music, poetry and storytelling.

Already a success at other locations, the program made its debut in the Immokalee community on the evening of June 16 in the gym.

As education coordinator for the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, Diana Stone, encourages all Tribal citizens to participate in this experience by either contributing or creating an audience.

Seminole poet Moses "Bigg" Jumper Jr. opened the presentation with a brief background of the Creative Expressions project.

"Drawing a favorable response, our first four sessions took place in Hollywood and Big Cypress," he said. "Native American culture has always been rich in art, stories, music, poetry, songs and dance. By this method our history has been passed down from generation to generation and endured for centuries, despite the lack of a written language."

Jumper continued: "It is our goal to become a link in this historical chain. By sharing our artistic assets, we are preserving a part of our culture and enriching it with our own contributions. Through our words and talents, our great, great grandchildren may someday learn who we were and from where they came."

Fellow Seminole poet Elgin Jumper also spoke at the event.



Elgin Jumper displays the cover for his newly released CD, "Words Taking Flight."

"I am a member of the Snake Clan and my family came from the vicinity of Indiantown," Jumper said. "I was raised on stories of our great warriors and strong women who endured many hardships during their quest for survival. They inspired me to write about my own experiences."

He then recited his poem, "Echoes in the Wind." Jumper is also a published author and shared excerpts from his Native American chapbook entitled "Night-fall."

Following his presentation, he told about his life-altering experiences and eventual decision to channel his energy along creative lines. Exposing himself to a broad spectrum of literary genres has greatly enriched his productivity.

Drawing attention to his newly released CD, "Words Taking Flight," Jumper discussed its contents and then shared his current adventure in the world of film productions.

As he blew into his flute, Gordon Oliver Wareham's deft fingers transformed a hollow wooden rod into a vessel of profound music. Playing his haunting notes, he set the mood for a round of storytelling. Wareham put his own spin on the tales of his ancestors by adding special sound effects and animation which brought his words to life.

Immokalee Family Services Dept. Prevention Program Manager Fred Mullins added to the philosophy of the presentations by saying, "Artists are prophets of culture and they freeze experiences for posterity."

Picking up his guitar, Mullins contributed to the evening's entertainment with some of his compositions that revolved around spiritual awakening.



The resonant notes of Gordon Oliver Wareham's flute set the mood for the storytellers.

Wildland Division Conducts Prescribed Burns

BY KEITH YEATES
Contributing Writer

LAKELAND, Fla. — The Seminole Fire Rescue Wildland Division conducted prescribed burns on the Tribe's Lakeland property June 9-10.

These prescribed fires are controlled burns, which reduce the increased fuel accumulation and the risk of a high intensity, uncontrolled wildfire. Less frequent prescribed fire on this land increases the chance of wildfires, which can destroy an ecosystem for years.

There is no history of any fire occurrences on the Lakeland property for more than 15 years. The state of Florida is a fire dependent ecosystem that depends on fire occurrence to rejuvenate its habitats. Prescribed fire is the key factor in restoring and maintaining the herbaceous vegetation for suitable habitats and hazards fuel reduction.

The issue is not whether an area will burn, but when it is going to burn. When conducting a prescribed burn, the vegetation is consumed with a less intense fire. This is achieved by back fires which are slow moving fires set against the wind. This consumes all the overgrowth and dead vegetation that smothers new plant growth.

The burn allows the forest floor to seed, open back up, and new growth to take place. The vegetation grows back quickly in Florida due to the long growing seasons in this type of climate. The two prescribed burns that were conducted on June 9-10, were a great success with the amount of hazardous fuels that were reduced.

There are more burns planned for the Lakeland property by the Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue Wildland Division, with the help of Tampa Liaison Richard Hen-



LT. Mike Lightsey sets a back fire on the Lakeland property.

ry's office, and the Seminole Tribe Environmental Resource Management Dept.



(L-R) Enayna Billie, Dalton Knoes and Dayra Knoes wash the dishes in the campers' make-shift kitchen.



(L-R) Rickyjoe Alumbaugh, Trent McInturf, Stevie Billie, Ari Perlmutter, Savannah Tiger, Dalton Knoes, Dominique Troadec and Robert North hike up the mountainous trails.

Tribal Youngsters Take on Snake River

BY THOMMY DOUD
Contributing Writer

HELLS CANYON, Idaho — Several Seminole Tribal and community youth from the Big Cypress Reservation and other locations began their journey west to Hells Canyon, Idaho to participate in the first ever Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club Wilderness Adventure on the Snake River, held June 20-27.

The first two days of the experience were dedicated solely to the travel involved in getting to such a remote and pristine location as the Snake River.

Upon arrival to the put in at the base of the Hells Canyon dam, the youth gazed in amazement at the mountains reaching up from the river banks as they listened intently to the safety instructions being reviewed by Meg, a professional river guide for the outfitter Hells Canyon Raft, Inc.

When the instructions were over everyone was fitted with a personal floatation device and the participants were assigned to rafts based on age, experience and maturity to ensure their safety. With one simple push from the guides, the rafts gently moved from the familiar calm of the shoreline to the cold, rushing water and an experience of a lifetime.

Over the next four days the participants would ex-



(L-R) Ari Perlmutter, Trent McInturf, Dalton Knoes, Stevie Billie and Dayra Knoes enjoy fishing in the Snake River.

perienced as a counselor and cultural instructor and quickly bonded with the youth. Her willingness to share her feelings and concerns for her people truly set the tone for this experience and had a positive impact on the youth.

Also on the trip was Tobey Patrick of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation. Each morning as the sun rose above the mountain tops, Patrick would sing his people's traditional songs that had been passed down to him from his ancestors. His songs echoed through the canyon as the youth listened to the powerful message of the words he shared.

On the river the youth experienced Class I-IV rapids, Class V being the highest possible classification. The participants in the paddle boat faced each new rapid as a challenge and came together as a team often raising their paddles in victory of their accomplishment.

The youth also enjoyed fishing, kayaking, hiking and kitchen duty.

On the last night of the trip, three teen participants were quickly inducted into an elite club known only as the Sturgeon Club.

For close to an hour the three young men battled and ultimately landed one of nature's oldest living aquatic species, the prehistoric sturgeon. Catching a sturgeon is not a simple task as they can often reach lengths upwards of 10 feet and weigh more than 100 pounds, but these three determined young men

completed the task giving all of the participants the rare opportunity to see this amazing creature up close and personal.

After the final catch of the rivercat fish, it was released and the final night on the project came to end.

The next day their journey back its way out of the canyon and began their group back to their loved ones.



(L-R, Front Row) Trent McInturf, Caleb Tiger, John Robbins, Rickyjoe Alumbaugh, Dayra Knoes, Savannah Tiger, Suzie Patrick, (L-R, Back Row) Taylor Pratt, Dominique Troadec, Ari Perlmutter, Tobey Patrick, Stevie Billie, Wyatt Deitz and Jo Jo Johnson.

perience many different things, from the beauty of the protected wilderness to the stories of the indigenous people whom once lived and flourished in this area. The trip was embedded with Native American culture and history.

Seminole Tribal citizen Erica Deitz, formerly of the Hollywood Reservation and now residing in Idaho,

Recital for Immokalee Dancers

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

LEHIGH ACRES, Fla. — The auditorium of the Lehigh Senior High School was packed by an appreciative audience for both presentations of a recital by the students of Footnotes Dance and Music Studio on the evening of June 20.

More than 75 students participated in both performances which included chorus lines, solos, duets, ballet and choreographed dance routines.

Opening the show, the LA Stars Competition Team performed "When I Grow Up," which set the mood for the show which included 35 songs.

Participating in the program were four young members of the Immokalee community, Larissa DeLaRosa, Chelsey Ford, Jillian Rodriguez and Ava Nunez. The first three girls have been attending dance classes for more than three years, with Nunez joining the group during this past season.

Wearing a vast array of fabulous costumes, the dancers brought their songs to life on the stage.

Specializing in hip-hop and choreographed dance routines, DeLaRosa performed in "Shooting with You," "Tricky" and "How Gee."



(L-R) Chelsey Ford and Jillian Rodriguez perform a dance routine during their year-end recital.



It may be little Ava Nunez's first year, but she already dances like a professional.

Nunez made her stage debut in "Born to be Wild" and "Never Saw Blue." Showing no fear, she walked out onto the platform with confidence and danced her heart out wearing a big smile.

Ford and Rodriguez share a love for chorus line and ballet. Whether they are wearing the green nightclub attire of 1920s flapper girls or pink organza ball costumes, they draw a stunning reaction from their audiences.

Following the evening's entertainment, the entire dance company did a curtain call and received a standing ovation for their performance.

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BIG CYPRESS

Creative Expressions Returns to Big Cypress

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The sound of a guitar being softly strummed and the harmonious blend of voices raised in song beckoned to residents of the Big Cypress Reservation on June 30 as they passed by Osceola's Pizza and Games. Creative Expressions was inviting them to participate in an evening of artistic enrichment.

Scheduled to begin at 7 p.m., a heavy rain caused a slow beginning to the festivities, but did not dampen the spirits of the participants. Elgin Jumper made opening remarks and then suggested that the program proceed with spontaneous presentations.

At about 8 p.m. the door opened and a steady flow of patrons slowly began to fill the room, transforming it into a coffee shop atmosphere. Youngsters coming from basketball and karate classes quietly joined adults who were listening intently to the performers.

Tribal citizen Joe Frank apologized for arriving so late.

"I started looking forward to this when I saw your flyer and I hope I didn't miss everything," Frank said. "The rain and the kids' extra curricular activities got in the way for some of us."

The consensus of the room was unanimous and im-



(L-R) Jorge Fuentes accompanies Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Education Coordinator Diana Stone as she sings a classic ballad.

mediately Creative Expressions came to life.

Gordon Oliver Wareham shared the humorous adventures of learning to play his flute and then serenaded the audience. His animated storytelling captured the attention of the group and led to a round of questions.

Elgin Jumper recited some of his poetic compositions and read brief excerpts from a few of his favorite authors, which gave insight to his inspiration. Relating his feelings upon visiting the fort at St. Augustine, he talked about Seminole patriots and the role everyone plays in creating history and then preserving it.

Education Coordinator for the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Diana Stone gave depth and meaning to The Eagles' song "Desperado" when she sang it acapella. Jorge Fuentes picked up his guitar and joined her in a duet.

Jacob Osceola said, "I had to travel into the recesses of my mind to recall this simple expression of my past and I think that it's appropriate for this evening."

He then recited his poems "Rain Drops" and "Skull."

Jorge Fuentes returned to do a Bob Segar medley, prior to a final performance by Gordon Oliver Wareham on his flute accompanying a poetic reading by Elgin Jumper.

The younger crowd showed silent respect for the performers who exposed them to the subtle aspects of culture and literature.



(L-R) Gordon Oliver Wareham provides soft background music with his flute as Elgin Jumper recites a poem from his chapbook.



The Big Cypress seniors form a caravan on West Boundary Road. Several elders participated in the ATV trail ride on June 17.

Seniors Embark on ATV Excursion

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Senior Center Site Manager Cecilia Guzman of Big Cypress organized an All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) trail ride to the woods and picnic lunch for the seniors on June 17.

By 8 a.m. the seniors had gathered at the center and consumed a hearty breakfast prior to putting on their helmets in anticipation of a day in the great outdoors.

For those who lacked the proper equipment, the use of ATVs and helmets had been donated by Moses "Biggs" Jumper Jr., Kevin Osceola, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, Billie Swamp Safari and Big Cypress Recreation Dept.

Seminole Fire Rescue, Community Care for the Elderly (CCE) and the Seminole Police Dept. (SPD) provided backup assistance for the Senior Center staff.

"You've all come here to have a good time and our primary goal is to insure that takes place in a safe, comfortable atmosphere," SPD Officer Jeffery Akin said. "Our journey will begin by traveling the West Boundary Road to the Motocross Track, where we will take a brief rest break. Then we will proceed past the last canal bridge before jumping off into the woods to the northwest."

A caravan formed and following his directions, it wasn't long before the real adventure began. Passing the weir, the trail dropped off into the woods, leaving the



Jonah Cypress relaxes during a water break before entering the woods.

reservation, crossing the old Robert's Ranch pastures, and then followed the canal for several miles through Miccosukee lands.

By the end of the day the riders had come full circle and covered an area of approximately 30 miles.

A severe thunderstorm the night before had been accompanied by lightning and evidence of its passing showed in the spiral strike marks left on two giant pine trees. Deer were spotted feeding in a clearing and an abundance of birds of all kinds and sizes lined the bushes and trees beside the trail. An alligator floated lazily in the water and turtle rested along the banks.

Reaching their final destination, the group arrived to find that the support team had prepared the picnic area with canopies, tables, cold drinks and an outdoor buffet.

While enjoying a leisurely meal, the seniors reminisced about growing up in remote camp sites similar to this one and the memories invoked by the sounds of the birds and insects that surrounded them. Some would like to journey to the woods more often, but realized the dangers they might encounter, if they were traveling alone.

Members of the Fire Rescue Dept. quickly responded with words of caution, informing the seniors to be aware of accidents, illnesses and becoming disoriented in unfamiliar surroundings. One of the riders normally requires the use of a walker for stability and was very grateful for the freedom she derived by joining the group outing.



Virginia Tommie gets in line as the seniors depart for the woodland trail.



Jonah Cypress plays contemporary gospel favorites on his acoustic guitar. He was one of several performers at the fourth annual Jr. Buster-Jimmie Robert Memorial Music Jamboree.

Jr. Buster, Jimmie Robert Memorialized at Jamboree

BY ELIZABETH LEIRA
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Paul "Cowbone" Buster said he can still remember his father, Jr., riding around the Big Cypress community playing his guitar on horseback.

"I think he got his influence from Gene Autry," Buster remembered. "He had to play an acoustic guitar because there was no electricity."

Buster's father and his father's cousin, Jimmie, started playing music in the 1950s and 1960s, long before radios and television were readily available on the reservation.

"They used to play under the tree," Buster said.

Buster coordinated the fourth Annual Jr. Buster-Jimmie Robert Memorial Music Jamboree to celebrate his father and uncle's musical legacy at the Herman L. Osceola Gym on June 27.

The concert began with contemporary gospel music from Jonah Cypress on his acoustic guitar. R.C. North was next up, performing two sets from his original musical compositions as well as some country music favorites like Merle Haggard.

He was followed by the Cowbone Jr. Band with Paul Buster's son, "Chunky," on guitar, along with Mark Thompson on drums and Mike Perryman on the bass.

Seminole Star Search 2009 winner Hank Nelson Jr. and the Shadow Creek Band performed next, playing

contemporary country music by the likes of Hank Williams Jr.

The Rambler Band closed out the show with some original Southern rock tunes.

"We had a good program," Paul Buster said. "We're remembering them for being the [Seminole] pioneers in music."



"Chunky" Buster plays guitar with his Cowbone Jr. Band during the fourth annual Jr. Buster-Jimmie Robert Memorial Music Jamboree held on June 27.



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HOLLYWOOD

City, Reservation Receive Free Wi-Fi

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Citizens and invited guests got some good news July 1 as part of a new technology project launch announced during a ceremony held in the downtown Hollywood Arts Park.

Local government officials from the city made the announcement that Hollywood residents would receive free Wi-Fi, or wireless Internet services, beginning in



Chris C. Jenkins

Hollywood Mayor Peter J. M. Bober (C), alongside Hollywood city officials, cuts the wire in celebration of the new wireless Internet services established throughout the city.

October.

This includes those Tribal citizens living in Hollywood or on the Hollywood Reservation.

"Today marks the beginning of one of the greatest innovations in our city's history," said Mayor Peter J. M. Bober, a lifelong Hollywood resident.

According to officials, the move will enable the city to enhance the efficiency of local government, provide the highest in municipal services to residents and continue attracting world-class technology and business enterprises to the South Florida area.

"We believe that as this goes citywide it will attract more new businesses," Public Affairs and Marketing Director Raelin Storey explained. "This will now be a true selling point for our city."

Tribal citizens living on or near the Hollywood Reservation will also directly benefit from these services.

"I think it is going to be great," Ronald Drake, a Hollywood Tribal citizen, said. "[It will] save a lot of money and time."

Drake said he uses the Internet close to 20 times per day.

"I think it is going to be good because I can now bring my computer anywhere for business when I check my e-mails," said Tribal citizen Kelli Tigertail.

The Hollywood City Commission approved the nearly \$14 million project in January. The move will also save the city more than \$23 million during a 15 year period in operational costs and energy usage savings.

The Wi-Fi services will also provide other benefits and conveniences, in addition to residents no longer having to pay an Internet provider for service. The free Wi-Fi service will also improve public safety communications, allowing law enforcement agencies to operate more effectively and allow them to download important information quicker.

The city's water meter reading process will become fully automated as well. Automated meter reading will ensure that all utility customers obtain accurate, timely bills and offer leak detection capabilities. Residents will soon receive notices when installation crews are scheduled to begin work. They are expected to complete the process within the next eight months.

Native American Travel Opens for Business

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Tribal citizens, employees and guests learned about another of the Tribe's newest ventures July 2 at the Tribal Headquarters Auditorium.

Native American Travel is the new, fully accredited travel agency offering assistance for traveling needs.

In another first among Native Americans, the Tribally-owned company becomes the first agency created for such a purpose. It was an undertaking three years in the making.

"This is all about seeing a need and filling it," Fort Pierce Liaison S.R. Tommie said.

"We now have our own way to make our own rules and chart our own journey."

"This will enable us to be flexible where we need be," she added. "The level of customer service has also been amazing and is much appreciated."

The agency officially made its debut on June 1. According to its mission statement, its goal will be to provide the highest level of professional and personalized travel services for the Seminole Tribe of Florida and all of its clientele.

"We want to make sure each traveler gets the accommodations that they need," Native American Travel Manager Sharon Calderon explained. "The Tribe has grown and our needs have changed. We needed this type of service to fill those needs."

"We are willing to work for the client on both a business and personal level," she added. Tribal Director of Finance Suresh Geer agreed that the agency will be in a unique position to offer specialized services.

"It made all the sense in the world from a business and monetary standpoint," Geer pointed out. "We want to be very careful with this, however. The goal is to provide a high level of service to all Tribal affiliates and allow them to take advantage with us."

Seven agents will be available through the agency to specialize in different areas of domestic, international and cruise destinations. Other services will include hotels, cars, airlines and tour reservations. Cash or credit card payments are also accepted and bookings can be made at anytime. Agents advise that the earlier the booking, the better.

"We want to make this program a very user friendly arrangement," Calderon said.

She also gave a special thanks to the members of the Tribe's Information Technology Dept., the Legal Dept., Human Resources Dept., Buildings and Grounds and



Chris C. Jenkins

Native American Travel Manager Sharon Calderon explains the mission of the agency and benefits for Tribal citizens who will use its services.

Education Dept. among others for their assistance and support in developing the agency.

Vendors were also on hand from Continental Airlines, Carnival Cruise Lines, the Fort Lauderdale Sheraton Hotel and the Dania Beach and Tampa Hilton Hotels to answer questions and to show their support.

Calderon said there are also future plans for the continued growth of the company, including the possibility of business from corporate executives at Hard Rock International. There will be a corporate travel website set to be unveiled this fall, a survey program to gather information on customer feedback and a request process established for travel upgrades.

Normal hours of operation are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., however, there will be after hours operations. For more information on the new agency please call (954) 967-3614.



Chris C. Jenkins

Judy Jones (Second from Left) surrounded by family members at her retirement party held at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino June 19. Jones retired after more than 25 years of service working for the Seminole Smoke Shop Management Dept.

Retirement Party Held for Smoke Shop Management Dept. Employee

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Tribal citizen Judy Jones retired in style June 19 at a party held at the Seminole Hard Rock.

With a packed house of co-workers, friends and family including several members of Tribal Council and Board of Directors present, this mother of one said her goodbye.

Tribal Council and Board of Directors representatives reflected about Jones, many also presenting her with gifts showing their appreciation for her hard work and service throughout the years.

The honor caps off a career spanning a little more than a quarter of a century with the Tribe. She said thoughts toward retirement came during the holidays last December.

"Thank you to everyone and God bless you for supporting me," said an emotional Jones.

She also received a standing ovation from everyone in attendance, including her younger brother, Johnnie Sr., the Brighton Board of Directors representative.

"She has done everything," Rep. Jones said. "What else is there left for her to achieve?"

However, his sister said she does have plans for her retirement which include spending more time with her mother, Shule, and dedicating herself to finishing school in fashion design at the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale.

Jones has been a part time seamstress and clothing designer for years, but said she only began formal schooling last summer. She now has plans to go full time and graduate in December 2010.

As a maker of ties, patchwork and other traditional

Seminole attire, it is a passion she has been involved with her entire life. She said she began early while in school through the local 4-H program.

"She has been a hard worker her whole life and gave us 26 years of service and we appreciate every day of that for the Tribe," said former schoolmate and Board of Directors President Richard Bowers Jr. "We will miss her."

Jones worked out of the Tribe's Smoke Shop Management Dept. holding several roles throughout the years as a trainer, cashier and manager. She has been the administrative assistant to Smoke Shop Management General Manager Elsie J. Bowers for the last 12 years.

"What I enjoyed the most was the smoke shop customers who came through," expressed Jones.

A tearful and moved Bowers expressed to Jones she will always be grateful for her.

"I want to thank you and wish you all the best," Bowers said. "I could always count on you. You will be greatly missed."

Before joining the Tribe, Jones had a stint of work with the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a purchasing agent and also worked in the Credit and Finance Dept. and did contract work.

Her steadfast approach defines her character and direction in life. "She never stops working," said friend and former co-worker Sandy Seiner.

"The more you know about her the more you admire her stamina and energy."

Dedication has always been a part of Jones' personality at work and with her family, including her other six siblings.

"She was always there for us growing up and was like a second mother to us," Rep. Jones acknowledged. "One of the reasons I made it is because of her."



Chris C. Jenkins

(L-R) Former co-workers Kathy Gutierrez and Smoke Shop Management General Manager Elsie J. Bowers say goodbye to Judy Jones at her retirement party June 19.

Everett Osceola Gives Seminole History Presentation

National Hurricane Center Director Bill Read at Event

BY SHELLEY MARMOR
Staff Reporter

DEERFIELD BEACH, Fla. — Tribal citizen Everett Osceola gave a presentation during a press conference held at the Disaster Survival House on July 9.

During his presentation, Osceola, who does community outreach for the Museum Dept., explained how Seminoles in years past have prepared for and survived during Florida's hurricanes.

The speech came as part of the fourth annual media day event, held each year at the Disaster Survival House, to educate the media on how to effectively distribute information to the public about hurricane preparedness.

The 3,300-square-foot Disaster Survival House was built in 1998 by State Farm Insurance and Seawood Builders of Deerfield Beach, Fla. The three-bedroom home was designed to withstand the impact of a Category 5 hurricane with its more than 100 hurricane-specific construction techniques and design features.

In his speech Osceola recounted how previous generations of Seminoles would look to "nature's alarm" for early hurricane warnings. He said elders have told him about how they would know a hurricane was coming if they found an abundance of large snails on a certain medicinal plant or if they saw the *fooshowa*, the Creek word for the "hurricane bird," flying in circles in the air.

He also remembered how he and his late mother, Maryjane, walked supplies from their home in Hollywood to members of the Miccosukee Tribe after Hurricane Andrew devastated their southwest Florida reservation on Aug. 24, 1992.

Osceola said he was shocked when his mother suggested walking the items the about 75 miles. But explained that since there was so much devastation in and near the reservation, law enforcement officials would not allow cars to drive in the area, and they had no other choice. He said they did make the long trek and brought water and non-perishable food items to distressed Miccosukee Tribal citizens.

"We went back to the way it was 100 years ago," Osceola said about walking the long distance.

In addition to Osceola, National Hurricane Center Director Bill Read also spoke at the press conference.

Read reminded those in attendance that although the 2009 hurricane season has been quiet thus far, the 2005 season also started out this way. However, he said, several hurricanes ended up making landfall towards the end of the season.

He said since this is an El Niño year, a weather phe-



Shelley Marmor

Tribal citizen Everett Osceola speaks about how previous generations of Seminoles prepared for and made it through hurricanes at the press conference on July 9.

nomen believed to be linked to hurricanes' strength and frequency, anything can happen at any point in the season. Atlantic Ocean Hurricane season runs from June 1-Nov. 30.

During his speech, Read also commended the staff and volunteers of the Disaster Survival House for the work they do in distributing information to the public about how to best protect themselves and their property during a hurricane. He said he often recommends people to visit the house before beginning a construction project.

In fact, the Disaster Survival House is primarily used today as an education center, not only for prospective builders, but also for school-aged students on field trips.

While at the house the students can hear the sounds of a hurricane and feel a fan simulating the winds in condition-regulated rooms. Adults wanting to tour the facilities can browse through showrooms to find out what roofing and shutters will suit their needs and offer the best hurricane protection.

The Disaster Survival House, located at 1345 FAU Research Park Blvd. in Deerfield Beach, is open for public tours Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission is free but donations are encouraged.

For more information on the house please call (954) 426-6887 or visit www.hurricanewarning.org.

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HOLLYWOOD

Summer Work Teaches Valuable Skills

BY ELIZABETH LEIBA
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — For youngsters, summertime calls up visions of everything from lazy days at the beach to an extended vacation from school and homework. But this summer, more than 40 Seminole youth are participating in the Summer Work Experience Program to learn about Tribal departments and develop job skills for their futures.

The program, established more than 20 years ago, provides an exposure to departments within the Tribe, as well as outside organizations. Participants have worked everywhere from a karate school to a cemetery.

But for program coordinators, the lessons learned on the job are even more important than the location. Education Administrative Assistant Michelle

Woods emphasized that the customer service skills participants gain are invaluable.

"They're constantly in contact with the Tribal population, so they are learning how to be professional as well," she explained.

The Adult Vocational Program Office places youth workers on all of the reservations. Each department is encouraged to bring a worker on staff and this year saw the largest number of youth in the program. The goal is for a summer worker to eventually be placed for employment within the Tribe.

"The Summer Work Experience Program is a great way to network [and] get your foot in the door," Woods said.

Some participants, such as Jarrod Smith, have done just that. Smith, a Florida Atlantic University graduate and three-year alum of the program, went on to secure a position as the assistant to the Tribe's Chief Operations Officer Elrod Bowers. He credits the program for helping him become familiar with the organizational structure of the Tribe.

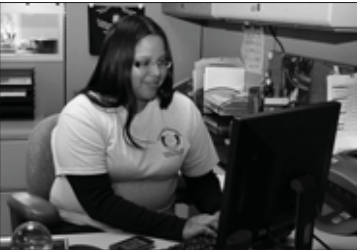
"I became familiar with the employees, many of whom are still working for the Tribe," Smith explained. "Overall, the program served to give me a gauge with which I used to identify the areas which most interested me."

Kelli Tigertail is enjoying her first year in the program and hopes to participate again next year. The 21-year-old is in her junior year, majoring in elementary education at the University of Miami. Her ultimate career goal is to become the director of the Tribe's Education Dept.

"I've learned a lot," Tigertail said. "I've got an appreciation for the programs and really what they do."

Woods believes the program is vital for career success.

"I would encourage them to get involved because...you take away so much from the program," Woods said. "It sets you up for your future."



Elizabeth Leiba

Kelli Tigertail, 21, a participant in the Summer Work Experience Program, is working in the Education Dept. to learn more about a career in education. She said she wants to one day become the director of the Tribe's Education Dept.



Brian Brown

Members of the Seminole Fire Rescue Dept. with honorary firefighter Justin Weiss (C) and family and friends.

Tribal Fire Rescue Team Gives Hope to Youth

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Fire Rescue Dept. made a lifelong impression on one of its biggest fans June 20 at the Seminole Hollywood Fire Station.

In an act of teamwork, heroism, dedication and public service, its members gave the Weiss family of Coral Springs the gift of hope and perseverance.

Justin Weiss, 9, was the main guest of honor at the facility. He was made an honorary firefighter, receiving a badge and fire hat from the crew.

Justin's father, Dr. Jeffrey N. Weiss, said although Justin has been a quadriplegic for the past seven years, the spirited youth has shown an interest in firefighting.

With the help of Dr. Gerald Gluck, Justin's doctor and therapist, as well as the assistance of son and Seminole Fire Rescue Dept. Lieutenant Jonathan Gluck, and Seminole Emergency Medical Services Chief Brian Brown, a day the Weiss family will never forget became a reality.

"He is truly inspiring," Lt. Gluck said. "Being in emergency medicine we come into people's lives at the worst moments, but here was a child, my co-workers [from the Coral Springs Fire-Rescue] resuscitated. When I saw him working with my father [Dr. Gluck] I was just taken back."

"Several times on the visit he was able to smile throughout and that was truly amazing," Lt. Gluck continued.

Through the work of Dr. Gluck using a therapy method called neurofeedback, Justin was exposed to a series of pictures. His marked brainwave and oxygen response to firefighter related items sparked an idea for the visit, Dr. Gluck explained.

"For him to see other men around with all this neat equipment, it was nice. Even I was excited," Dr. Weiss expressed. "[Firefighting] is a nice, noble profession."



Brian Brown

(L-R) Seminole Fire Rescue Dept. Lieutenant Jonathan Gluck, Dr. Jeffrey Weiss, and son, Justin, show off a custom framed certification making the young Weiss an honorary firefighter with the Seminole Tribe.

These guys put their lives on the line everyday and he wants to help people himself someday."

"The visit was incredible. What [the crew] did for my little guy, we will never forget," Weiss added.

"[Justin's] motivation is very important," Dr. Gluck pointed out. "This is often times a long, tedious, boring process. I realized that this was very motivating for him."

The doctor said neurofeedback and its techniques enable a person to alter their brainwaves and are used for many conditions and disabilities such as Justin's, in which the brain is not working as it normally would.

Neurofeedback also helps control mood disorders like anxiety and depression, or problems with the central nervous system like conduct disorder, temper tantrums, certain learning disabilities, sleep disorders, epilepsy, cognitive dysfunction from head traumas, strokes, or aging.

Dr. Gluck said each day since the Fire Rescue Dept. visit he has used it as a motivator for Justin in his recurring five day a week therapy sessions.

The story of Justin Weiss and his road to recovery, however, began on Memorial Day in 2002. At the time, the then normal 22-month-old quietly fell into his parents' home swimming pool.

After nearly drowning, but being revived by Coral Springs paramedics, Justin suffered severe and traumatic brain injuries.

Dr. Weiss sought out the services of Dr. Gluck in March of this year based on his practice of neurofeedback. Justin's progress remains steady according to Dr. Gluck, and will continue until he plateaus.

Justin currently has some limited speech and limb movement. His main source of communication is blinking his eyes.

"With a combination of therapies I hope someday Justin can speak and talk," Dr. Gluck said. "We are moving in that direction."

According to Justin's own official website, justin-gluck.com, drowning is the second leading cause of injury and death of infants and children younger than age 15 in the U.S. Florida death rates lead the nation in the 0-4 year age category.

Available on Justin's website, Dr. Weiss invented a preventative wrist watch called Aqua Alert. The one-size-fits-all electronic gadget device emits a loud sound when submerged into any body of water. The watch completes a circuit in the wristband of the watch and triggers an alarm that sounds similar to the piercing sound of a smoke detector. Designed to fit toddlers to teens, the band has a locking attachment and fits snugly on the child's wrist.

Aqua Alert is available commercially at amazon.com and a portion of the royalties will be donated to Justin's Club.

"I hope this product can also be of use to the Tribe and its members as well," Weiss said.

Justin's Club is a nonprofit corporation established to help prevent childhood drowning and near-drowning incidents, providing treatment for children whose families cannot afford treatment costs, and for research through nonprofit fundraising.



Chris C. Jenkins

Members of Seminole Fire Rescue's Class of 2009 take their Oath of Affirmation at the graduation ceremony on June 26.

Seminole Fire Rescue Dept. Holds Graduation Ceremony

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Sixteen graduates joined the ranks of the Seminole Fire Rescue staff after their graduation ceremony held June 26 in the Tribal Headquarters Auditorium.

The department's new members recently completed an intensive six-week training process at the Broward County Fire Academy.

"It has been a long and very tough process," said graduate Michael Mohorek, 27. "It was all different but well worth it."

Chief Public Safety Officer Jerry Wheeler also attended the graduation ceremony. He commended the grads and also their families for being supportive.

"Your family members are now a part of a new family and one of the most unique family businesses they will ever come across," Wheeler said. "There is no better place to be whether it is your first or of many you have had over the years."

Board of Directors President Richard Bowers Jr. and Big Cypress Board Rep. Paul Bowers Sr. were also present for the ceremony. Both showed their support and congratulations.

"Thank you for serving our people and those in the community as well," President Bowers said to the graduates. "I can understand what you are going through [as a former trainee] and I hope all the best for you."

As a former Tribal Wildlands Dept. worker, Mohorek said he enjoyed being exposed to the different personalities throughout his training.

"I have enjoyed the different aspects of the training and seeing and hearing different views," Mohorek

explained. "It is all going to be a good process for all of us."

Graduate Lisa Kinchen of Lake Placid, Fla. said the experience has been about fulfilling a dream she has had her entire life. She finished the training as the only female graduate in the class.

"In the guy's eyes, I am a firefighter," Kinchen expressed. "Even though I am a girl, I was still one of their brothers. A few of the guys even called me mom and looked up to me."

In spite of some height issues along the way, the firefighter and emergency medical technician has persevered. The 5'2" former law enforcement officer, volunteer firefighter and mother has also received a lot of encouragement and support.

"It all boils down to everyone just knowing you can do the job," Kinchen said.

Mohorek, Kinchen and their classmates will be assigned to specific reservations for a five week period then be assigned to rotating schedules every four months at a different reservation.

The other new members of the Seminole Fire Rescue Dept. include: Sergio Acosta, firefighter and medic, Anthony Berger, firefighter and medic, Steven Eller, firefighter and medic, Alexander Fernandez, firefighter and medic, David Harshfield firefighter and medic, Francis Hogan, firefighter and emergency medical technician, James Kelley, firefighter and medic, Brian Lenhart, firefighter and medic, Donnie Murray, firefighter and medic, Michael Ondo, firefighter and medic, Miguel Perez, firefighter and medic, Kevin Pinkerton, firefighter and medic, Juan Salazar, firefighter and medic, and Richard Vann, firefighter and medic.

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Seminole Edition | Black, H2, 2008, 22 Passenger



Independence Edition | White, H2, 2008, 25 Passenger



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



Freedom Edition | Black, H2, 2008, 25 Passenger



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



Tribal Edition | White, H2, 2008, 22 Passenger



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



Mercedes Benz | 5500, 4 Passenger



BMW 650 CI | Black, 2008, 5 Passenger



Lamborghini | Yellow, 2008, 2 Passenger



Rolls Royce | White, 1963, 3 Passengers



Range Rover Sport | Black, 2008, 5 Passenger

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(L-R) Arissa Cypress and Anya Cypress draw and write about themselves in a self-worth exercise.

Chris C. Jenkins

Communities Enjoy Annual Youth Conference

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

ORLANDO — For the ninth year running, Tribal citizens young and old gathered for the annual Hollywood/Fort Pierce/Non-Resident Youth Conference, held July 6-11.

The Walt Disney World Contemporary Resort hosted the event which addressed several issues throughout the week including culture and language preservation, education, health and finance.

"The main things I wanted [the youth] to focus on were prevention, taking care of their bodies and money management, we want to teach them at an early age to invest also," said Hollywood Boys & Girls Club Language Coordinator and conference organizer Jo Motlow North. "Mainly we just want to educate, educate, educate."

North said with enrollment numbers at more than 450 this year — 130 more attendees than last year — the youth conference saw the largest turnout in its history.

"Make the most of opportunities given to you and it will reward you in the end," said keynote speaker and Hollywood Board of Directors Rep. Marcellus Osceola Jr. to the families and guests in attendance. "The time you all spend this week will make memories you will never forget."

"Prosperity Through Perseverance" was the theme of the conference, which focused on consideration, kindness and respect. To reinforce this point, the "random acts of kindness" concept, as in years past, once again allowed youth the chance to earn paper money, or Tribal dollars, for completing simple acts of kindness toward others.

For every act and completed class the youth would earn a dollar. The money could then be spent every evening at a fully supplied canteen store stockpiled with games, movies, toys and other popular items including a \$50 Walt Disney World gift card to be spent at a Disney store.

Youth Conference committee members said the goal of the arrangement has remained each year to demonstrate the importance of saving, investing and redeeming the funds for a greater value.

Tribal youth Hunter O'Donnell, 7, said he enjoyed many things about the conference. He has attended with his family for several years.

"I liked carving with the soap and making spears and tomahawks," O'Donnell said. "I also liked buying the dinosaur toys and playing in the arcade."

Fort Pierce Chupco Youth Ranch Director and conference instructor Shamy Tommie was among many available throughout the week teaching culture and language to the youth.

As an instructor in the traditional Tribal custom of carving for the last four years, Tommie began at the age of 17 making weapons and animals. His grandfather, Jack, passed down the tradition to him. Tommie stressed that age, patience and concentration are very important in learning and perfecting such an art.



Mariah Bowers shows off the pillow she sewed in class.

Chris C. Jenkins

"Getting to them at the right age is key because they will listen to you," Tommie said of the Tribal youth. "If you do not have the patience you are never going to get it right."

Second year conference attendee Tomi Motlow brought her two children to the conference including Baylee, 11. She said the experience taught her a lot about what youth face today on and off the reservations.

"Before, I never thought about my children getting into the things that they have to face now," Motlow admitted. "I like for [Baylee] to hear and know about the consequences of doing wrong out there. I am also trying to shield her from that kind of life though."

International Native American artist Sam English of the Turtle Mountain/Red Lake Chippewa Tribe also made his first appearance at the conference as a guest and instructor.

"Anything that has to do with the arts and inspires is important for [Natives]," English said. "Our young people are looking for a way. There are a lot of negative things going on in Native Country."

"You need to learn to love, forgive and respect each other," English expressed to the youth.

The Seminole Police Dept. also offered their usual insight on community issues such as peer pressure and Internet safety.

Seminole Police Department Training Coordinator Richard Smith and Police Chief William Litchford spoke candidly to both parents and youth on a host of topics affecting all Tribal communities including online predators, truancy, password and identity safety, parental responsibility and accountability.

"The Internet is a great, great thing, but it can also be very, very dangerous," Smith pointed out to the 8-11 year olds. "There are some tremendously good amounts of people in the world but there are also some bad ones too."

Litchford advised the parents to take an active role in their child's safety, as well as the safety of the community they live in.

"I encourage you to take positive peer pressure and influence and change your communities," he said.

Allied Parents Management Suzanne Davis agreed, stressing the importance of parents.

"Remember you are the most important teacher your kids will ever have," Davis said. "I want to help these youth form their values for the future."

The week ended with the youth and families enjoying The Walt Disney World facilities and water parks.



(L-R) Tribal citizen Diane Snow teaches Katrina Bowers about traditional patchwork design in culture class.

Chris C. Jenkins

Council Rep. Addresses Tampa Community

BY RYAN WATSON
Staff Reporter

TAMPA — Brighton/Tampa Tribal Council Representative Andrew Bowers Jr. formally addressed the Tampa community on July 14 at Floyd's restaurant inside the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Tampa.

"I would like to thank all of you who voted for me and I look forward to serving this community for the next two years," Rep. Bowers said.

He also attended the Tampa Field Office staff meeting earlier in the day where he informed the staff that he had no intention of getting involved in the daily operations, as these things continued to run smoothly.

"You all are experts at your jobs," Rep. Bowers said. "I'll let you be the experts and I'll step in only when it's necessary."



(L-R) Brighton/Tampa Council Representative Andrew Bowers Jr. talks with Tampa Liaison Richard Henry at Floyd's in the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino on July 14.

Photo Credit

Seminole 4-H's Recognized at 2009 Banquet

Demi Garza is Steer Grand Champion, Cartaya Billie is Swine Grand Champion

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

CLEWISTON, Fla. — An awards banquet took place on the evening of June 23 at the John Boy Auditorium for the 23rd annual Seminole Indian 4-H Show and Sale which concluded the 2008-2009 season.

Jaryaca Baker opened the ceremony with the 4-H Pledge, followed by the reciting of the Seminole and U.S. pledges by the 4-H participants. Brighton Miss Seminole Princess Aiyana Tommie talked about the importance of 4-H and offered congratulations to everyone who took part in the program. President Richard Bowers Jr. also spoke.

"The 4-H organization has been around for more than 100 years and it has always been a part of my life," President Bowers said. "I participated in its programs while growing up and during my adult years, I have used many of the things that the program taught me. Self reliance, responsibility, integrity and leadership are among the valuable assets stressed by 4-H."

"A successful organization requires family support, and a competent staff with good leadership," he continued. "I want to congratulate all of you for your contribution in providing these things for the Seminole 4-H program."

Guest speaker Vicki LeBeaux, program director for the Intertribal Agriculture Council representing Native Women & Youth in Agriculture (NWIA), addressed the banquet attendees.

"Native youth are critical players in the future agricultural activities taking place in Indian Country," LeBeaux said. "Realizing that we needed a vehicle to capture national attention, we instituted a youth writing competition with a new topic each year. Numerous native youth representing a multitude of Tribes have submitted essays and the finalists make their presentation at our annual meeting and are rewarded with a scholarship."



Judy Weeks

Visiting from Montana, Rayel Brown shares her essay "Estate and Land Planning," which also won her a college scholarship.



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Demi Garza, Rayven Smith and Jonah Alvarado represent a few of the many youngsters who excelled during the 2009 4-H program season.



Judy Weeks

Representing Native Women in Youth and Agriculture, Vicki LeBeaux talks about the numerous opportunities available through education and agricultural venues.



Judy Weeks

Four-year participants receive awards in recognition of their time spent in the 4-H program.

LeBeaux (Cheyenne River Sioux) has had her position since it was established in 2004 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Following her speech, she introduced the 2009 NWIA Youth Essay winner Rayel Brown.

"I am an Assiniboine/Sioux from the Ft. Belknap Reservation in Montana and enjoy varsity sports and horses," Brown said. "Raised by traditional parents, I know the importance of preserving the culture and heritage of my ancestors."

"Where I come from there are no jobs, no housing and insufficient lands to meet the needs of farming and agriculture, which are our only source of revenue," Brown continued. "My essay was entitled 'Estate and Land Planning' and described the need for Native Americans to believe in and take control of their destiny by protecting their lands to ensure their future."

Following the reading of her essay, Brown said: "It is important that each of you get an education so that you can do your part to participate in the stewardship of your Native lands. Future generations are depending upon you and by taking part in 4-H, you are making a great start."

She was then presented with a Seminole 4-H jacket.

After the dinner, a video presentation offered insight into the 4-H Show and Sale, project development and small animal division known as the Clover Buds. Among the features was the ultrasound process which was initiated for swine in the past and became mandatory for steers during the current season.

Agricultural Extension Agent Michael Bond acted as master of ceremonies for the awards presentation. Seminole 4-H Coordinator Polly Hayes recognized the 4-H staff members and distributed gifts of appreciation.

Plaques acknowledging the producers of the award-winning livestock were as follows: Grand Champion Steer: Minnie Bert; Reserve Grand Champion Steer: Mary Jene Koenes; Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Swine: Dale McQuellene.

Steer and Swine Winners were introduced individually and recognized for their merits with trophies and certificates.



Judy Weeks

President Richard Bowers Jr. (Back Row, Center) congratulates (L-R, Front Row) Cyrus Smedley, Chastity Harmon, Ahnee Jumper, Brighton Miss Seminole Princess Iona Tommie, Courtney Gore, Calgary Johns and Andre Jumper.



Judy Weeks

Jessica Lopez receives first place as the Steer Carcass Winner for 2009.

Demi Garza had the Grand Champion Steer and Dalton Koenes had the Reserve Grand Champion Steer. Cartaya Billie raised the Grand Champion Swine and the Reserve Grand Champion belonged to Troy Cantu.

The 2008-2009 Seminole 4-H officers came before the assembly by reservation. Beginning with the Seminole 4-H Class of 2009 graduating high school seniors, Randy Osceola and Demi Garza, the participants formed groups according to the number of years they had produced 4-H projects and received their certificates, record books and proceeds of sale.

Awards Distributed at the 4-H Show and Sale

Steer

Grand Champion: Demi Garza
Reserve Grand Champion: Dalton Koenes
Junior Showmanship: Skyler Burke; Intermediate Showmanship: Erena Billie; Senior Showmanship: Alexis Aguilar; Most Weight Gain: Rayven Smith, 653 pounds; Junior Record Book: Jonah Alvarado; Intermediate Record Book: Rayven Smith; Senior Record Book: Erena Billie; Herdsman Award: Jessica Lopez; Steer Carcass Winners: 1. Jessica Lopez, 2. Kelton Smedley, 3. Alexis Aguilar, 4. Kenny Davis Jr., 5. Jessi Osceola.

Swine

Grand Champion: Cartaya Billie
Reserve Grand Champion: Troy Cantu
Junior Showmanship: Aiyana Tommie; Intermediate Showmanship: Mika Lopez; Senior Showmanship: Jaryaca Baker; Most Weight Gain: Cameron Thomas, 233 pounds; Junior Record Book: Aiyana Tommie; Intermediate Record Book: Dayra Koenes; Senior Record Book Ashton Baxley; Herdsman Award: Jaryaca Baker; Swine Carcass Winners: 1. Anthony Joe, 2. Rodni Mercer, 3. Christopher Briscall, 4. Rylee Smith, 5. Ethan Aguilar.

Clover Buds (Small Animals)

Big Cypress: Brianna Bowers, Jaylee Wilcox, Fayhnee Andrews, Harmony Cypress, Marley Herrera, Caleb O. Billie, Leo Osceola, Canaan Jumper, Vailholy Frank; Immokalee: Priscilla Alvarado, Ezekiel Roberts, Caniah Billie, Jack Aguilar, Jallayah Arreaga; Brighton: Aleah Turtle, Heith Lawrence, Alyssa Gonzales, Anya Gore, Alexis Gore, Justin Gopher Jr., Kalyne Urbina, John Gore III.

Seminole 4-H Officers

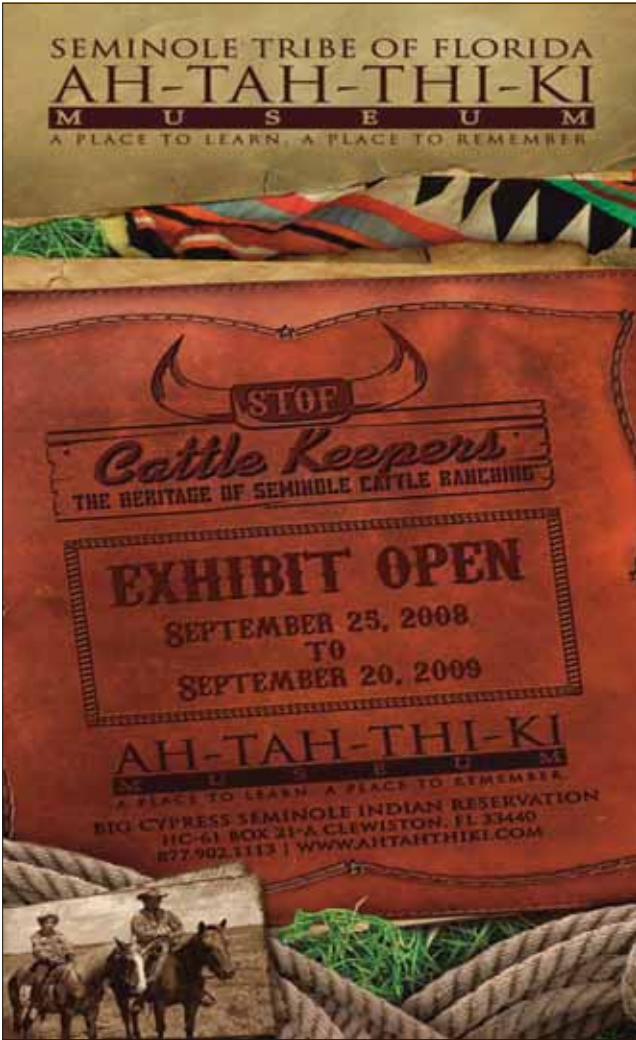
Immokalee: President: Jessica Lopez, Vice President: Alexis Aguilar, Secretary: Demi Garza, Treasurer: Spencer Jock, Sergeants of Arms: Keniyah Yzaguirre and Taylor Fulton

Big Cypress: President: Andre Jumper, Secretary: Ragan Osceola, Treasurer: Cooper Rivers, Reporter: Justin Roff, Sergeant of Arms: Tylor Tigertail
Brighton Steer Club: President: Brandon Billie, Vice President: Jewel Buck, Secretary: Breanna Billie, Treasurer/Reporter: Kristina Osceola, Sergeants of Arms: Erena Billie and Blake Baker; Brighton Swine Club: President: Jaryaca Baker, Vice President: Brydgett Kointz, Secretary: Brianna Nunez, Treasurer: Rosa Urbina, Sergeants of Arms: Justin Osceola and Ashton Baxley.

Graduating Seniors: Randy Osceola and Demi Garza.

Years in Seminole Indian 4-H:

9 Years: Jessica Lopez
8 Years: Demi Garza, Kristina Osceola.
7 Years: Ashton Baxley, Jaryaca Baker, Catlen Tommie, Rosa Urbina.
6 Years: Cassandra Jimmie, Erena Billie, Levi Billie, Danni Jae Tommie, Jade Tapia, Ravenne Osceola.
5 Years: Aaron Alvarado, Destinee Jimmie, Kyieler Baker, Sabre Billie, Brantley Osceola, Destiny Nunez, Mailani Perez, Brianna Nunez, Jessi Osceola, Mika Lopez.
4 Years: Alexis Aguilar, Courtney Gore, Jonah Alvarado, Rayven Smith, Ashley Faz, Dalton Koenes, Calgary Johns, Rodni Mercer, Christopher Briscall, Jacob Cotton, Larissa DeLaRosa.
3 Years: Alexis Jimmie, Chastity Harmon, Deliah Harjo, Ethan Aguilar, Kenneth Deschene, Nehemiah Roberts, Skyler Burke, Zephaniah Roberts, Andre Jumper, Chelsey Alvarado, Dennis Gonzalez, Kelton Smedley, Kenny Davis, Jr., Randy Osceola, Spencer Jock, Chaska Osceola, Damian Escobar, Drayton Billie, Keniyah Yzaguirre, Lahna Sedatol, Ruben Burgess, Tylor Tigertail.
2 Year: Aiyana Tommie, Chelsey Ford, Edward Aguilar, Mila Osceola, Ragan Osceola, Trevor Thomas, Blake Baker, Cooper Rivers, Jon Jimmie, Marshall Tommie, Rylee Smith, Blevyns Jumper, Cyrus Smedley, Kalin Brown, Nicholas Correa, Sarah Deschene.
1 Year: Aaron Osceola, Alphonso Alvarado Jr., Annie Joe, Billy Yates, Camryn Thomas, Dayra Koenes, Ivess Baker, Jonathan Bowers, Kathy Kippenberger, Myrick Puente, Quinton Smith, Taylor Fulton, Abraham Tigertail, Anthony Joe, Brydgett Kointz, Cartaya Billie, Hunter Strickland, Jenna McDuffie, Justin Roff, Kyle Alvarado, Oscar Yates, Robert Fudge, Trinity Williams, Ahnie Jumper, Amber Alvarado, Ashton Beer, Callie Joe, Dasani Fry, Issiah Alvarado, Jeremiah Bennet, Marquis Fudge, Preston Smith, Sean Osceola, Troy Cantu.



FOURTH OF JULY



Jamie Smith crawls on top and leaps over a barrel on the obstacle course during Brighton's July Fourth holiday festivities.



Brighton youth participate in the watermelon roll competition.

Brighton Celebrates Fourth of July

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Brighton community didn't let the rain and field of mud stop them from celebrating Independence Day July 2-5 on the Brighton Reservation.

The Recreation Dept., along with the Tribal Council Office, kept the community busy with many fun-filled activities.

"We are building family traditions in the Brighton community," said Kai Setty of the Recreation Dept. "This keeps the family bonded throughout the year and holiday season."

The department kicked things off on July 2 as men and women competed in a 4-on-4 volleyball tournament.

The Brighton kids got to join in the fun the next day as they competed in 3-on-3 youth basketball. Children of all ages claimed their part of the basketball court in the gym shooting baskets.

Following basketball, the youth raced outside where they took part in a variety of recreation field events. The youth trudged through the mud competing for the best time in the 50 and 75 yard dash.

An obstacle course was set up for participants to hop through tires, leap over barrels and dribble a soccer ball to the finish line.

In true Fourth of July fashion, the watermelons were brought out and children and adults participated in watermelon races.

Both youth and adults got to show off their pie eating skills over the weekend in the pie eating contests. Competitors picked their favorite pie filling and then raced their fellow eaters using no hands.

Adults and seniors enjoyed a friendly horseshoe tournament along with Bingo under the tents to cool off

and stay dry.

The Fourth of July festivities also included the Josiah Johns Memorial Rodeo, sponsored by the Brighton community. Both Eastern Indian Rodeo Association and Professional Cowboys Association Rodeo members participated in the event, held July 4-5.

The community and many visitors got to enjoy a beautiful firework display following the rodeo on July 4.

"Families that play together, stay together," joked Setty. "It's silly but true. It's all about making memories."



Sammy Gopher throws a ringer in the horseshoe competition.

Independence Day in Immokalee

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Members of the Immokalee community gathered at the Immokalee Ball Field and Recreation Complex on July 4 to celebrate Independence Day.

Heavy afternoon rains created a slow start to the festivities, but by early evening a crowd had formed at the carnival with a water park, rides, game booths and related activities. Children and adults were quick to consume the wide variety of midway favorites including popcorn, funnel cakes and cotton candy.

Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar offered a prayer for all the brave men and women fighting around the world to protect the country's freedom. Looking back at the origins of Independence Day, she presented a brief historical review of the event and enlightened the audience on the effects it has today on their lives.

The long awaited moment arrived with the setting of the sun. With a loud boom the sky lit up with a fantastic display of fireworks that lasted for more than 45 minutes and could be seen for miles. A round of applause accompanied the awesome flaming display of the American Flag during the finale.

Community Enjoys Independence Day Celebration

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

On July 3-4 the Hollywood Tribal community enjoyed a host of activities to celebrate Independence Day. The annual golf gathering brought teams together at the Orangebrook Country Club on July 3. With a mix of Tribal citizens and employees participating, the three-man draw 18 Hole event, which also featured a shotgun start.

"The conditions were wet but we had a good turnout," said organizer Mitch Osceola. "I definitely want to thank the players for coming out even though it was hot and wet."

Osceola also gave praise to Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. and Hollywood Board of Directors Rep. Marcellus Osceola Jr. for helping with equipment needs.

July 4 brought everyone together for bowling action at Spazex Bowling Center in Davie, Fla., and the annual carnival held on the Hollywood Reservation softball field.

With tournament play held in the morning on the lanes, the afternoon offered family, food and fun, according to organizer and Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Assistant Robin Osceola.

A wall climb, Ferris wheel, animal farm, face painting station and hay rides were also many of the attractions on hand.

"Getting rides in the summer is tough because a lot of the attractions go up north for their business," Osceola explained. "We make it work and make the best of it all year long."

Hollywood Board of Directors Rep. Marcellus Osceola Jr. said he enjoyed all the events.

"I thought it was all great especially from a fellowship standpoint," he said. "More than any other time

now I enjoy it all because being an elected official now I have a sense of responsibility to support the community."

A fireworks display wrapped up the evening.



Josh Harrison lines up his ball on the tee.

Chris C. Jenkins

Tampa Community Celebrates July Fourth at Crazy J's Ranch

BY RYAN WATSON
Contributing Writer

RIVERVIEW, Fla. — Tribal citizens and employees from the Tampa community celebrated Independence Day at Crazy J's Ranch in nearby Riverview, Fla. on July 4.

Event attendees enjoyed games of horseshoes, tug-of-war and closest to the pin, and listened to music provided by DJ Wanda, while the younger children spent the day running around in the bounce house.

Tampa Liaison Richard Henry said although professional fireworks were not on the Fourth of July agenda

at Crazy J's, he wanted attendees to be able to enjoy a pyrotechnics show.

"We scheduled the event to end before sunset so everyone could see fireworks wherever they want to," he explained.

The evening concluded with games of Bingo and a raffle for door prizes.

"I'd like to wish a Happy Fourth of July to all Tribal members and employees," Liaison Henry said.

At Right: Tampa senior Bobby Henry lines up to throw in a game of horseshoes.

Ryan Watson



Judy Weeks

The most popular booth at the carnival had a steady flow of contestants, all vying to win stuffed animals.

Big Cypress Fourth of July Celebration

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Big Cypress community members participated in a full day of fun-filled activities as they celebrated Independence Day on July 4 at the Ball Park.

"The Seminole people are descended from a long line of brave warriors who have fought for freedom for hundreds of years. Traditionally, Native Americans have painted their faces for battle," said Chairman Mitchell Cypress.

Pointing to his face painted with the American Flag, he continued: "I am painted for freedom. As a veteran, I feel that it is important to take time out here to recognize all the men and women who have shed their blood to insure our right of freedom and independence."

Live entertainment by The Grating Men echoed throughout the park creating a soundtrack for the multitude of activities. Shouts and laughter was heard from the youngsters playing in the carnival midway.

Bounce houses, a water park, rock climbing wall, bungee jumps, spinning cars, a merry-go-round and flying cup rides beckoned to children of all ages. The game of chance was an obvious favorite as boys and girls tested their skills with water pistols to win a variety of stuffed animals.

Meanwhile, the adults gathered in the shade to participate in the horseshoe tournament. Divided into five categories, the players patiently waited their turn, while studying their opponent's techniques and offering helpful criticism. A steady stream of laughter accompanied good-natured jokes and the players on their toes.

Lines were pointed on the lawn to mark off the



Judy Weeks

Jamie Onco's Can-Am Spyder street bike takes first place in his division.

track for the sack and foot races. The spectators roared with delight as the youngsters climbed into sacks and hopped, stumbled and rolled their way to the finish line in three age-divided contests.

Entries in the Fourth of July car show represented a broad spectrum of vehicles. Their owners spent all day washing, waxing and detailing in anticipation of the competition. A quick visible survey confirmed that the gems on display were prized possessions of their owners who had a substantial investment in their collection.

Jamie Onco ran a loving hand over her unique Can-Am Spyder Street Bike while talking to admirers about the motorcycle's capability on the highway. A short distance away, Toi Andrews was giving a final polish to her bright green Arctic Cat ATV 4X4.

Sara Osceola-Turtle's black GMC Denali SUV carried such a shine that it reflected the clouds floating in the sky overhead and she received recognition for the best engine in her division.

Ronnie Billie Jr. stood close beside his customized Chevy Impala and talked about its origins and the work that had gone into preserving a classic. With an appreciation for mechanics, he had entries in more than one division.

Julius Billie swept the Jeep division, receiving Best Interior, Best Paint and Overall First Place.

Moving through the line up, the judges talked to the owners, examined the exterior, interior, engine compartments, trunks and added features of each entry before tabulating the final results.



Judy Weeks

Sara Osceola-Turtle's GMC Denali SUV takes second in the car show.

Fourth of July Event Results

Horseshoes: Men: 1. Charlie Cypress, 2. Jay Osceola, 3. Bronson Hill; Women: 1. Renee Tigertall, 2. Toi Andrews, 3. Cathy Jumper; Senior Men: 1. Billy Johns, 2. Joe Billie, 3. Rudy Osceola; Senior Women: 1. Mary Tigertall, 2. Virginia Tommie, 3. Bess Bowlegs; Co-Ed: 1. Charlie Cypress & Myra Jumper, 2. Billie Johns & Mary Tigertall, 3. Joe Herrera & Cathy Jumper.

Sack Races: 3-5 Years Old: 1. Nick Andrews II; 6-8 Years Old: 1. Romeo Garcia, 2. Miguel Cantu Jr., 3. Brandi Osceola; 9-12 Years Old: 1. Darius Friday, 2. Jathaniel Brooks, 3. Lane Savant, 4. Terrance Hill.

40 Yard Dash: 3-5 Years Old: 1. Nick Andrews II, 2. Isadora Jumper, 3. Xavier Hill; 6-8 Years Old: 1. Dayra Koenes, 2. Romeo Garcia, 3. Osiana Crespo, 4. Shana Salentine; 9-12 Years Old: 1. Jathaniel Brooks, 2. Sydnee Cypress, 3. Sierra Bowers, 4. Darius Friday; 13-17 Years Old: 1. Rashaun Jim, 2. Tyler Tigertall, Nathaniel Jim.

Car Show Results

Best Of Show: Interior: Jose Osceola; Paint: Jadrien Antuna; Engine: Adriana Huggins; Sound: Adriana Huggins;

4-Wheeler: Toi Andrews; Side X Side: Nathan Billie; 4X4 Off-Road: Chaska Osceola-Onco.

Cars: Classic: 1. Ronnie Billie Jr.; Donks: 1. Adriana Huggins, 2. Carradine Billie; Best Interior: Carradine Billie; Best Paint: Carradine Billie; Best Engine: Adriana Huggins; Muscle: 1. Charlie Cypress, 2. Philip Jumper, 3. Joe Billie; Luxury: 1. Jose Osceola, 2. Jathaniel Brooks, 3. Lane Savant, 4. Terrance Hill.

Trucks: 4X4: 1. Chaska Osceola-Onco, 2. Nick Andrews; Pick-Up: 1. Sara Osceola; Jeep: 1. Julius Billie; Best Interior: Julius Billie; Best Paint: Julius Billie; SUV: 1. Jadrien Antuna, 2. Sara Osceola-Turtle, 3. Katherine Billie; Best Interior: Virginia Tommie, Best Paint: Jadrien Antuna; Best Engine: Sara Osceola-Turtle.

Motorcycles: Street Bikes: 1. Jamie Onco, 2. Michael Onco Jr., 3. Nathan Billie; Hogs: 1. Nick Andrews.

4-Wheelers: ATV (Race): 1. Robert Cypress; 4X4: 1. Toi Andrews, 2. Bonnie Billie Jr., 3. Justin Osceola; Side X Side: 1. Nathan Billie.

FATHER'S DAY



Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. with the Hard Rock calendar girls before his race.

Chris C. Jenkins

Community Members Celebrate 'Xtreme' Father's Day Holiday

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

FT. LAUDERDALE — Community members celebrated the Father's Day holiday to the extreme on June 18.

The Tribal Council and Board of Directors sponsored an outing to Xtreme Indoor Karting, a popular half-mile, indoor European Bowman race kart track.

Fathers in attendance also received gifts from the offices of Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. and President Richard Bowers Jr.

Rep. Osceola thought coming up with an inventive place and way to celebrate fathers would be a hit for everyone.

"I figured why not come to a place that caters to men, but also has something for everyone," Rep. Osceola said. "It is a family place, it is indoors and what better place to be than somewhere like here?"

Tribal citizen Mingo Jones, who brought his son, Lorenzo, to the event agreed.

"It was a good place," Jones said. "I was comfortable there even though it was my first time there. You could enjoy and do what you wanted."

Racing participants, including Manny Baker, received trophies depending on how well they did racing.

Guests also celebrated the birthday of newly elected Hollywood Tribal Board of Directors Rep. Marcellus Osceola Jr. at the event.

The early 20th Century concept of honoring fathers annually on the third Sunday of June came as a complement to Mother's Day. Father's Day celebrates fatherhood and male parenting.

The first observance of the day is believed to have been on July 5, 1908 in a church located in Fairmont, W.V.

Xtreme Indoor Karting is a 90,000 square foot facility. The main draw, however, remains the 40 European Bowman race karts that race on a half-mile of asphalt track. The karts reach speeds up to 45 miles per hour. Practice sessions, memberships and licenses are available.

There are also 10 cadet karts tailored for use by children ages 8-15.

The facility also has a 4,000 square foot sports bar with 10 plasma televisions, billiard tables and more than

120 video arcade games.

For more information on Xtreme Indoor Karting please call (954) 491-6265 or log on to www.extremendoorkarting.com.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal citizen Manny Baker with his racing trophy.

Seniors Celebrate Father's Day at Landmark South Florida Restaurant

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

FT. LAUDERDALE — In celebration of Father's Day, the Tribal seniors enjoyed lunch at one of South Florida's most well-known restaurants, the 15th Street Fishery and Dockside Café, on June 19.

Tribal Council Treasurer and first time patron Mike Tiger said the eatery was a hit for everyone.

"Our seniors enjoyed the trip," Tiger explained. "The fish was also good and delicious."

As a father himself, Tiger said the meaning behind the outing is also significant.

"[Father's Day] is important for a lot of people," he said. "It actually brings back memories of my father. He definitely died too young."

Owner of the 15th Street Fishery and Dockside Café, Ted Drum, said he enjoyed the seniors' visit and took the opportunity to greet them and express his ap-

preciation for the Seminoles longstanding presence and perseverance in Florida.

He also dedicated a room in the establishment to the Seminole Tribe. He said the pictures in the room, which he received through the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society in years past, are intended to honor the Tribe.

"As a kid growing up in Fort Lauderdale I was always fascinated with the Tribe and had a lot of admiration for them," Drum pointed out. "We want this to be their place on the river to continue to come to."

The 15th Street Fishery and Dockside Café is located directly inside the city's Lauderdale Marina for close to 30 years. The authentic old-Florida dock house atmosphere also draws in patrons. The casual waterfront setting of Dockside Café also has yachts, fishing vessels and other boats sail past for a scenic backdrop.

For reservations call (954) 763-2777 or log on to www.15streetfisheries.com.



Chris C. Jenkins

Owner of the 15th Street Fishery and Dockside Café Ted Drum (R) speaks with the seniors during the Father's Day lunch.

Naples Community Commemorates Father's Day at Private Dinner

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

NAPLES — Meeting in a private dining room at McCormick & Schmicks, members of the Naples community gathered to honor their fathers, past and present, on the evening of June 12.

Naples Liaison OB Osceola Jr. said: "It is times like this that I realize how fortunate I am to have my father here to share in the moment. Many people have had an effect on my life during my childhood, education and adult years, but none can compare with the positive reinforcement and moral support that my father provided to help shape my life."

Continuing, Liaison Osceola said: "My gratitude doesn't end with my dad. I am reminded each Father's Day of all the wonderful things that I learned from my grandfather, Corey Osceola. He was the rock that held our family together and through him we received the wisdom handed down from our forefathers."

President Richard Bowers Jr. presented each of the fathers with a silk scarf and silver tie clasp reminiscent of the ones worn for many decades by Seminole men.

"These items represent a small token of the strength and determination of our forefathers, who sacrificed so much to ensure our survival," President Bowers said. "Now it is our turn to pass these qualities along to our children."

Corey Billie offered a blessing for the occasion followed by a gourmet dinner. Each of the fathers received a gift bag from their children containing a silver money clasp to commemorate the event.



Judy Weeks

(L-R, Back Row) Naples senior Douglas M. Osceola Jr. and President Richard Bowers Jr. with (L-R, Front Row) elders Ingram Billie Jr. and OB Osceola Sr. at dinner.

Brighton Community Honors Fathers

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

OKEECHOBEE, Fla. — Brighton residents and community members came together June 16 at the KOA Campground in Okeechobee, Fla. to honor fathers and grandfathers at a Father's Day banquet dinner, sponsored by President Richard Bowers Jr.

"I'm glad to be here to celebrate an early Father's Day," President Bowers said. "Fathers, put yourselves on the back and children, put your arms around him and thank him."

The KOA Banquet Hall was decorated in Seminole colors with balloon arrangements on each table. Gold star confetti was sprinkled on the tables with little napkin notes reading, "A father is a man you can trust and look up to every day of your life."

Fathers came with their families and grandfathers brought their grandchildren to celebrate the special occasion.

The event was rocking with live entertainment featuring Seminole Star Search winner Hank Nelson Jr. Nelson sang alongside the Shadow Creek band



Rachel Buxton

George Micco joins his daughters, (L-R) Serenity and Charisma, at the Father's Day banquet dinner on June 16.



Rachel Buxton

Dad Daniel "Boogie" Nunez kisses his daughter, Cheyenne.

from Ft. Lauderdale.

The band played classics such as "Don't Rock the Juke Box" while Nelson sang his very own rendition of the John Anderson classic song, "Seminole Wind."

Residents were able to visit with non-resident friends as they feasted on a steak buffet prepared by D.R. Daniels of Okeechobee, Fla.

The blessing was said by Pastor Wonder Johns who spoke a few words on remembering the real Father up in heaven.

To remember the wonderful evening families and friends were able to get souvenir pictures taken and printed out onsite to take home.

President Bowers thanked everyone for coming out and reminded children once more: "Hug your fathers today."



Chris C. Jenkins

Wearing their Seminole scarves, several Immokalee fathers gather for a commemorative photo.

Immokalee Celebrates Father's Day

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Residents of the Immokalee community migrated to the event hall at the Immokalee Casino on the evening of June 20 in celebration of Father's Day. The banquet room had been decorated in turquoise and silver accented by an aquatic theme and giant fish trophies.

Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar said: "In our fast-paced lifestyle, we often fail to slow down and enjoy the companionship of our families. Gathered here this evening, we have the opportunity to let the father figures in our lives know how important they are to us. In our society we are all one big family related by blood, clan or circumstance. Show your gratitude to your fathers and remember the important role that you have undertaken, when you become a parent and have to fill your dad's shoes."

Acting on behalf of President Richard Bowers Jr.,

Esther Buster and Mornin' Osceola presented each of the fathers with a silk scarf and silver tie clasp. These items were symbolic of the brave men who have for generations protected and provided for their families and preserved the heritage of the Seminole people.

An array of gifts lined the front of the room comprised of tools, tackle boxes, fishing poles, cue sticks, coolers, car care kits and tool chests. Each father received an opportunity to select the item of his choice. Raffles tickets were distributed and winners were rewarded with Seminole jackets, vests, deluxe barbecue grills, a gym set and a recliner.

As grand prize winners, Raymond Garza Sr. received a custom outdoor, weatherproof pool table and Ralph Sanchez Jr. took home the 52 inch, high definition, flat screen television.

A professional photographer provided each of the families with a group portrait to commemorate the occasion.

Education

B



Judy Weeks

Workshop instructor Pedro Zepeda shows students an example of a traditional Seminole shirt at the seminar, held June 16 in Naples.

Pedro Zepeda Teaches Traditional Shirt-Making

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

NAPLES — Among the many informative and educational programs sponsored by the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, a series of workshops have been scheduled to assist Tribal citizens in learning and perfecting their cultural arts and crafts.

On June 16 instructor Pedro Zepeda conducted a class featuring construction of traditional Seminole shirts at the Juanita Osceola Center in Naples.

Attracting an eager study group ranging in ages from 11 to 82, Zepeda provided a brief history of men's traditional shirt styles that spanned the past two hundred years. Holding up clothing samples, he discussed the time period for various styles, manner of construction, fabric preferences and basic patterns that have become universal guidelines for generations of artisans.

Basic forms of Seminole patchwork were described, but the bulk of the information centered on materials, construction methods and the evolution of the styles as they adapted from one generation to another.

For the class project, each participant was encouraged to create a boy's short sleeved shirt. Zepeda said choosing a child's garment

would require less time and materials, and make it more feasible for each project to be completed while assistance would be available.

Supplying the basic pattern, Zepeda held up the various pieces and demonstrated their placement in the construction of the overall project. Yokes, sleeves, gussets, neck bands, collars and arm bands became a part of the students' vocabulary.

Selecting a basic background fabric and a coordinating sequence of colors for stripping, the class cut out their pieces and slowly began to assemble their shirts. Moving from one sewing machine to another, Zepeda kept a watchful eye on his seamstresses, answered questions and corrected mishaps.

By the end of the first day of the workshop, several of the students had mastered the difficult task of inserting sleeves, finishing neck bands and had nearly completed their first garment. The second day saw the finishing touches and talk revolved around beginning a new article of clothing.

Masters of their craft, the Tribal Seniors listened to the opening presentation and then pitched in and offered valuable assistance wherever they were needed. They quickly voiced their enthusiasm for the cultural training program and looked forward to attending future workshops.

school grads with this trip, which took place June 22-26.

While celebrating with the graduates, their chaperones and members of the Education Dept. at the graduation dinner banquet, held on-site at Atlantis on June 24, the Chairman commended the hard work that went into graduating high school.

"It might have been hard, but it was worth it," Chairman Cypress said.

He encouraged each graduate to pursue higher education and one day come back to work for the Tribe, telling them "you are the ones who will run the Tribe in the future."

Each of the grads also spoke to those in attendance about their future plans, with some admitting they are currently preparing for college.

Class of 2009 grads Brittany Huff, Falon Keyser, Randee McDonald and Krystle Young and have already been accepted to the university of their choosing, and Amber Craig said she will be attending Indian River College, a community college near her home.

Grad Pablo Cardenas said he plans to apply to Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan. and wants to study business, while Emily Cortez said she plans to attend a vocational school to become a certified bail bondsman. Graduate Damen Bert said he is undecided.

□ Please see GRADS on page 3B

Pemayetv Emahakv School Teachers, Staff Honored

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Pemayetv Emahakv teachers and staff were honored May 7 at the Teacher and Staff Appreciation Banquet held at the Brighton gym.

Student Council Reps. Joshua Madrigal, Aiyana Tommie, Raelley Matthews, Mallorie Thomas, Safety Patrol Captain Michael Garcia and third grade student Brady Rhodes.

Osceola read a self-written poem about and dedicated to his teacher, Mrs. Finney, while the rest of the students

read poems honoring all teachers.

The evening included a slide show presentation prepared by Pemayetv Emahakv's media specialist Shelley Brantley that documented the action-packed school year. Pictures popped up on the screen from the numerous events that were held during the 2008-2009 school year.

"A 30 minute video doesn't even scrape the surface of our school year,"

said Administrative Assistant Michele Thomas. "It gives Chairman Mitchell Cypress and everyone else who isn't able to attend all our events a chance to see what we've been doing."

Thomas represented Pemayetv

□ Please see BANQUET on page 2B

Students Receive Incentive Awards at Ceremony

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

MARCO ISLAND, Fla. — The 2009 Naples Education Incentive Awards Banquet was held on the evening of July 11 at the Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort.

Naples Liaison OB Osceola Jr. addressed the students and their families during opening remarks.

"Reviewing your achievements of the past year, I can't help but be proud of each and every one of you," Liaison Osceola said. "Your grade averages and accomplishments in extracurricular activities are an indication of the commitment of the students and their parents to education."

"I feel that it is important that I take this opportunity to acknowledge our parents for a job well done," Liaison Osceola continued. "It isn't easy to get your children up and off to school on time each morning, oversee their homework and juggle your own busy schedules."

Naples/Immokalee Education Advisor Diana Rocha also spoke.

"In examining your grade point averages for 2009, all of the students in the Naples community are rated in the upper percentile for their grade levels,"

Rocha said. "You have worked very hard throughout the year to meet these difficult standards and you will carry the rewards of your labors with you for a lifetime."

Rocha added: "Matthew Billie with a GPA of 4.0 and Bryce Osceola,



Judy Weeks

Students with Naples Liaison OB Osceola Jr. (Back Row, Center) after being recognized for their outstanding efforts.

who is taking advanced classes, will be receiving special recognition this evening."

She also said that the Naples students have some of the highest attendance records of all the students she supervises. Rocha said Martin Slavik and Matthew Billie both had perfect attendance, while Nicole Slavik, Ross Zepeda and Corinne Zepeda missed three days or less.

□ Please see AWARDS on page 2B

Seminole Preschoolers Learn How to Prevent Fires

BY ELIZABETH LEIBA
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The preschoolers learned how to dial 911 in a fire safety presentation conducted by Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue's Fire Pre-

vention Division on June 9.

Inspector Bruce Britton presented "Fire Prevention Tools" as a part of the Preschool Risk Watch Program, an 8-unit program designed by the National Fire Prevention Association to prevent various types of injuries in children under 14.

The program started off with a 10-minute animated DVD, which transported the preschoolers to the fictional Rainbow Valley.

Computer-generated characters taught about smoke detectors, fire extinguishers and other fire prevention methods commonly found throughout many homes.

After the video, Britton gave each of the preschoolers an opportunity to touch and get familiar with the fire prevention tools.



Elizabeth Leiba

(L-R) Simeon Cypress, Amber Cypress and Saylor Gown learn about fire prevention from Inspector Bruce Britton.

□ Please see FIRE on page 2B



Shelley Marmor

The Class of 2009 graduates (L-R) Randee McDonald, Brittany Huff, Emily Cortez, Amber Craig, Damen Bert, Krystle Young, Pablo Cardenas and Falon Keyser with Chairman Mitchell Cypress before the dinner banquet, held at the Atlantis Resort on June 24.

Seminoles Learn eBay® Buying, Selling Tips in Computer Class

BY ELIZABETH LEIBA
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Tribal citizens learned how to effectively use eBay®, the popular online auction website, in a training class held in the Dorothy S. Osceola Building library on June 30 and July 2.

The class emphasized the utility of the site, www.ebay.com, with topics highlighting the psychology of bidding, pricing and listing items and using PayPal®, the most popular payment site presently used by eBay® buyers and sellers.

Instructor Roger Fabel also pointed out the benefits and disadvantages of using eBay® to sell items instead of creating a private website.

Attendee Mary Gay Osceola said the class offered her the opportunity to learn more about how

she might be able to market her traditional Seminole artwork online. Her husband, Don, said the class was "pretty interesting."

"Some more skills you learn in case you need to earn a little more," he explained of his reasons for taking the course.

Fabel has taught computer classes for the Tribe for about three years and said a major theme of the courses is Internet safety. The Education Dept. also offers several additional classes, including computer fundamentals, electronic scrapbooking and website development.

"I'm trying to help show [Tribal citizens] what's available for them," Fabel said. "It's been very successful to get them to see what the computer can do for them."



(L-R) Don Osceola listens to tips on using the eBay® website, www.ebay.com, from computer class instructor Roger Fabel.

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(L-R) Firefighter Oscar Castillo plays the dispatcher as Enjayn Gray is coached by Inspector Bruce Britton on how to dial 911 in an emergency.

FIRE

From page 18

Britton explained that his department has conducted the program for two years and stressed that children are never too young to learn about fire safety.

"I hear about it on a regular basis where kids have saved lives," he said. "We really believe prevention is

very important."

The Fire Prevention Division will continue to present the program on various reservations through August. Other topics to be covered through the rest of the year include school bus safety, poison prevention, and choking and suffocation prevention.

For more information, please contact Inspector Bruce Britton at (863) 805-5450 or visit www.nfpa.org.



(L-R) Former British Council Rep. Roger Smith, Pam Rhodes, Jeanine Gran, Tribunal Board Rep. Johnnie Jones Sr. and Principal Russell Brown at the Teacher and Staff Appreciation Banquet, held May 7 at the Brighton gym.

BANQUET

From page 18

Emahakv Charter School's Parent Teacher Student Organization as she presented Teacher of the Year Jeanine Gran with a traditional Indian skirt.

"I can't say enough about Mrs. Gran and what she does," Thomas said. "It is so wonderful watching her do her magic and how she nurtures and teaches the students."

Pam Rhodes, the non-instructional employee of the year was presented with a Seminole beaded lanyard in appreciation for all of her hard work.

"Pam is wonderful to work with," Thomas said. "She is the first person you see when you enter the school and is so very deserving of this honor."

The Seminole Police Dept. Officer of the Year, School Resource Officer Darryl Allen, received a special award in recognition of his being named to this prestigious honor.

To show appreciation to all the teachers and staff the Cultural Education Dept. staff passed out beaded pins to each, thanking them for all that they do for the students and community.

"Because of the staff, we have established a fun, safe place to learn," Brown said. "The students, parents and community members should be proud of the staff at Pemayev Emahakv Charter School; I sure am."



Youngsters participate in a series of games and activities during the Hawaiian Luau that took place after their Judiciary Week Incentive Awards Ceremony, held July 11 at the Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort.

AWARDS

From page 18

Called the students forward one at a time, Roeha announced grade point averages and special achievements while Liaison Osceola passed out the Certificates of Merit and Assistant Education Advisor Victoria Presley-Soto distributed the Incentive Awards.

Cultural Outreach Specialist Sandy Osceola discussed the advancements that are taking place in the Naples Leadership Program.

"Tutors are now available for the students on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. We have endorsed an after school program each day from 5-7 p.m. With the arrival of new computers, adult education classes will begin and include instruction in Adobe Photoshop and establishing a website. All of these activities are located in the Juanita Osceola Center."

Adjourning to the hotel terrace, the Naples Community participated in a Hawaiian Luau complete with floral leis, live island entertainment and an extravagant buffet featuring a whole roasted pig, complementary side dishes and fresh fruits.

Naples Incentive Awards Recipients

- Kindergarten: Martin Slavik: Perfect Attendance.
- 1st Grade: Dominic Osceola-Lugo: GPA 3.42; Serena Zepeda: GPA 3.47, Awards & Certificates.
- 3rd Grade: Nicole Slavik: GPA 3.69, Three Days or Less Absent; Ross Zepeda: GPA 3.75, Three Days or Less Absent.
- 4th Grade: Broden Hagen: GPA 3.55; Matthew Billie: GPA 4.0, Perfect Attendance, Awards & Certificates; Nicholas Zepeda: GPA 3.63, Awards & Certificates.
- 5th Grade: Victoria Tucker: GPA 3.22.
- 6th Grade: Corinne Zepeda: GPA 3.89; Three Days or Less Absent, Awards & Certificates.
- 7th Grade: Marissa Osceola: GPA 3.72.
- 8th Grade: Bryce Osceola: GPA 3.6, Advanced Class; Kaitlin Billy: GPA 3.71.
- 9th Grade: Dakota Osceola: Effort Award.



Naples Liaison OB Osceola Jr. (R) congratulates his daughter, Bryce (L), for her outstanding 3.6 grade point average.

CLASS OF 2009 GRADUATES

GRADS

From page 1B

Members of the Education Dept., including Director Emma Johns, also attended the weeklong trip to get a chance to celebrate each graduate's accomplishment and also tell them about the infinite educational opportunities provided by the Tribe.

She told the grads at the dinner banquet that they are each eligible for the Billy L. Cypress Higher Education Scholarship to attend the university of their choosing or the Vocational School Scholarship. Johns said both scholarships will fully cover tuition, books and all other education-related needs for each student.

"It is a blessing for the Education Dept. to be able to send you to college," she said.

Johns also took the time to acknowledge all 34 Tribal citizens who graduated high school with the Class of 2009. She said it was one of the largest totals of graduates the Tribe has seen in years.

Johns, on behalf of her department, then presented each of the seven graduates in attendance with a mini-laptop, called a netbook, to help them on their future educational journeys.



Shelley Marmor

The grads (L-R) Damen Bert, Brittany Huff, Amber Craig, Pablo Cardenas, Krystle Young, Rande McDonald and Emily Cortez, at the Queen's Staircase during the historic city tour of Nassau on June 24.

Fort Pierce Liaison Sally R. Tommie, who served as banquet emcee, also spoke to the graduates, calling them "the future of the Tribe."

"The greatest tool you have in your lives is education," Liaison Tommie said.

She also introduced the night's guest speaker, Seminole Police Dept. Captain Kipper Connell. Connell has been in law enforcement for the last 26 years, though only with the Tribe for about a year. He spoke to the grads about striving for greatness, both in higher education and in life.

"Set the bar high because you'll only go as high as you believe you can," Connell said.

He also reminded them to aspire for greatness as a way to honor their parents, grandparents, family members and friends who helped make their graduation possible.

"If those who have come before you have made sacrifices for you to get where you are today, I think the best way to honor them is to go further," Connell said.

In addition to the dinner banquet, the graduates took a historic tour of Nassau, the capital city and one of the 700 islands that make up the Bahamas. While on the tour the group stopped at sights including the Queen's Staircase, Fort Montagu and Fort Fincastle and



Shelley Marmor

A stingray gets close to (L-R) Pablo Cardenas, Amber Craig and Emily Cortez on Exuma Island.

saw places such as the Parliament House, the central location of Bahamian government activities, and Gregory's Arch.

On the final day of the trip, June 25, the graduates joined Chairman Mitchell Cypress for a daylong excursion to the Bahamian island chain known as the Exumas, located about an hour by boat from the Atlantis Report. On Exuma Island, a popular vacation daytrip location, the graduates went snorkeling, fed stingrays and swam with sharks in a remote island paradise setting.



Shelley Marmor

(L-R) Falon Keyser accepts her graduation award from Chairman Mitchell Cypress at the dinner banquet on June 24 at the Atlantis Resort.

Class of 2009 Tribal Graduate Bios

Damen Bert
19 Years Old
Wind Clan
Brighton Reservation
Parents: Reese and Angie Bert
High School: Okeechobee High
Future Plans: Undecided

Pablo Cardenas
19 Years Old
Wind Clan
Brighton Reservation
Parent: Jennifer Fish
High School: Okeechobee High
Future Plans: Applying to Haskell Indian Nations University to study business

Amber Craig
18 Years Old
Bird Clan
Brighton Reservation
Parents: Jerry Craig and Shannon Purvis
High School: SEK Boca Prep
Future Plans: Attend Indian River State College for two years and then transfer to Oklahoma University to major in psychology

Emily Cortez
19 Years Old
Panther Clan
Brighton Reservation
Parents: Jose Cortez and Rimella Bailey
High School: Okeechobee High
Future Plans: Plans to attend a vocational school and become a bail bondswoman

Brittany Huff
18 Years Old
Panther Clan
Big Cypress Reservation
Parents: John Huff Jr. and Nanette Cypress
High School: American Heritage High
Future Plans: Accepted to Florida Atlantic University, but undecided about where to attend college

Falon Keyser
18 Years Old
Otter Clan
Trail Reservation
Parents: Richard Keyser and Tiffany Fiorella
High School: Johnson County High
Future Plans: Accepted to East Tennessee State University to study nursing

Rande McDonald
18 Years Old
Panther Clan
Big Cypress Reservation
Parents: Rick and Sarah McDonald
High School: Cooper City High
Future Plans: Accepted to Nova Southwestern University to study fine arts

Krystle Young
18 Years Old
Panther Clan
Hollywood Reservation
Parents: Steve Young and Brenda Cypress
High School: Pine Crest
Future Plans: Accepted to the University of Miami to study biology



Shelley Marmor

(L-R) Rande McDonald, Falon Keyser, Brittany Huff, Amber Craig, Krystle Young, Pablo Cardenas, Damen Bert and Emily Cortez take a swim on Exuma Island during their daylong excursion on June 25.



Photo Submitted by Tabitha Osceola

Sheyanna Osceola

Tribal Grad Looks to Future in Law

BY ELIZABETH LEIBA
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Tribal citizen Sheyanna Osceola was one of about 50 graduates to walk across the stage in a graduation ceremony held at Hollywood Christian Academy on May 29.

Osceola, 18, is the daughter of William Thomas Osceola and Tabitha Osceola. Her grandfather is Marcellus Osceola Sr.

Osceola was an active member of her school's volleyball team. She also participated in rodeo barrel racing and was a member of the Florida High School Rodeo Association, as well as the Georgia-Florida Youth Rodeo Association.

Mom Tabitha Osceola said she felt a range of emotions, including of course, pride, at her daughter's graduation ceremony.

"She's an excellent achiever," she said. "She sets her mind to something and she does it."

The Hollywood resident will be attending Florida State University in the spring after a semester at Broward College this fall. She said she plans to study corporate law and hopes to return to work for the Tribe in the future.

Shelby DeHass Graduates University School

BY ELIZABETH LEIBA
Staff Reporter

FT. LAUDERDALE — Hollywood resident Shelby DeHass was one of 140 seniors who graduated from the University School of Nova Southeastern University in a ceremony held at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts on May 23.

Mom, Deborah, said she was happy to see her daughter graduate.

"I'm extremely proud," she said. "I can't believe it's over."

DeHass participated in rodeo during all four years of high school and was a member of the Florida High School Rodeo Association. She won the Sportsmanship Award from the organization during her senior year and also served as Team Roping Student Director for two years.

DeHass said she was excited to have graduated so that she can move on to other endeavors.

"Finally!" she exclaimed. "It couldn't come soon enough."

In the fall she plans to attend Alabama's Troy University to earn her bachelor's degree in physical therapy.



Photo Submitted by Shelby DeHass

Shelby DeHass

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CLASS OF 2019 GRADUATES

Tribal Citizens Graduate From Pine Crest

Krystle Young, Meaghan Osceola Prepare for College

BY ELIZABETH LEIBA
Staff Reporter

FT. LAUDERDALE — Krystle Young and Meaghan Osceola were among about 200 students to graduate from Pine Crest School during a ceremony held at the War Memorial Auditorium on May 22.

Young, the daughter of Steve Young and Brenda Cypress, played on Pine Crest's basketball team during her last three years at the school.



Photo Submitted by Steve Young
Krystle Young

The graduation commencement ceremony was an emotional experience for the 18-year-old.

"It was the best feeling of my life," she said. "I almost started crying when I went on stage. All that hard work finally paid off."

Young was accepted to the University of Miami where she will study biology and pursue a career in medicine.

Osceola is the daughter of Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max. B. Osceola Jr. and wife, Marge. She played basketball during all four years at Pine Crest. She also went on to set the school record for the female player with the most points in the season.

In May, Osceola also was recognized in the *Miami Herald's* All-Broward Athletic Awards. She was chosen first team all county in fast-pitch softball and also had the distinction of being selected for the *Sun-Sentinel's* first team honors in the sport.

Her father called her educational achievements one more step toward a collective vision for the Seminole Tribe.

"I'm proud of every Seminole," Rep. Osceola said. "Because she's my daughter, I'm extra proud."



Chris C. Jenkins
Meaghan Osceola

Osceola will be attending Emmanuel College in Boston, Mass. in the fall. She has committed to playing basketball there and is considering the possibility of also playing softball on the collegiate level. She plans to major in sports medicine.

Christian Osceola Graduates High School

BY ELIZABETH LEIBA
Staff Reporter

DAVIE, Fla. — Hollywood resident Christian Osceola graduated from Chaminade-Madonna College Preparatory in a graduation ceremony held at the Signature Grand banquet hall in Davie, Fla. on May 22.

Osceola, 19, is the son of Jimbo and Jennifer Osceola. His maternal grandmother is Ruth Osceola of the Imokalee Reservation and his paternal grandparents are Jimmy Hank and Marie Osceola of Hollywood.

Osceola graduated with a near-perfect attendance record, something his mother attributes to her encouragement and his independence.



Seminole Tribune Archive Photo
Christian Osceola

"I'm so proud of him," said Jennifer Osceola. "He lives on his own [and] he's pretty much a young man."

Osceola plans to attend Florida State University in the spring where he will study engineering.

During his high school years Osceola was active in sports. He played two years of football and participated in both track and field and cross country. He was also on the wrestling team.

His mother said her son is also actively involved in traditional Seminole activities like hunting deer and alligator, and attending the Green Corn Dance every year. For fun he likes to ride four-wheelers and dirt bikes.



Photo Submitted by Amber Craig
Amber Craig

Former Jr. Miss Seminole Amber Craig Graduates

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

CORAL SPRINGS, Fla. — Amber Craig of the Brighton community graduated June 2 from Boca Raton Preparatory School in a commencement ceremony held at Heron Bay in Coral Springs, Fla.

Craig, the daughter of Jerry Craig and Shannon Purvis, holds the 2008-2009 Jr. Miss Seminole Princess title.

"It's been quite a year filled with events," Craig said. "[The Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Princess title] makes you realize a lot. You have to work for what you want and you have to be responsible."

Craig said she plans to attend Indian River State College in Ft. Pierce, Fla. and to then transfer to University of Oklahoma to study psychology.

While in high school Craig served as treasurer for student government. She was also the captain for both the girls and the boys varsity volleyball teams.

Craig was the first girl to ever play on the boys' basketball team.

"Everyone underestimated me," Craig said. "They all thought I couldn't catch up with them because I was a girl." Throughout the season Craig scored more than 40 points for the team.

Rhiannon Tiger Graduates High School

BY ELIZABETH LEIBA
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Rhiannon Tiger became the first of four sisters to graduate high school in a commencement ceremony for Cooper City High School's Class of 2019 seniors on May 31 at the Nova Southeastern University Convocation Center.

Tiger was one of more than 500 graduates to receive her diploma and had the distinction of achieving the Principal's Honor Roll in each grading period of her senior year.

The 17-year-old is the daughter of Charlie and Rachel Tiger. Her mother said she was pleased her daughter reached this milestone.

"I was overjoyed," she said.

Tiger said she plans to attend Broward College for her first year and then transfer to an out of state university. She is interested in studying merchandising.



Photo Submitted by Rachel Tiger
Rhiannon Tiger

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Photo Submitted by Robin Osceola
Nicole Osceola

Nicole Osceola Graduates Hollywood Hills High School

BY ELIZABETH LEIBA
Staff Reporter

FT. LAUDERDALE — Nicole Osceola graduated from Hollywood Hills High School in a commencement ceremony held at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts on June 2.

Osceola, 18, is the daughter Tate and Robin, and the granddaughter of Moydell.

"Her dad and I are so proud of her," said her mom, Robin. "She has grown into a beautiful young woman."

Nicole Osceola said she will continue her higher education at Broward College before transferring to a state university to study criminology.

Following her graduation, Osceola said she was excited about completing high school.

"Finally, I'm done," she said. "It was hard but I did it!"

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Tribal Youth Share Their Plans for Summer 2009

Travis Baker, 11



"I am happy to go back [to the Orlando Youth Conference] this year."

Tiffany Baker, 13



"I am going to the Youth Conference, as well as a Christian camp."

Damian Frank, 12



"I am going to keep learning with a tutor. I have had some troubles with my reading, but ever since I came to the Seminole Summer Camp it has improved."

Sarah Descheene, 9



"My mom and I and my brothers plan to go to West Virginia and New Mexico."

Jessalynn Osceola, 7



"I like to, and plan to, go swimming a lot."

Andre Baker, 3



"I'm going hog hunting, swimming and hanging out with my dad."

Anya Baker, 4



"I'm going to the pool with my dad."

Ramone Baker, 5



"I'm going to New York with my sisters and will be ... playing basketball."

Shyla Holata, 5



"I am going to go to the gym this summer."

Autumn James, 9



"I'm going to summer camp, NAVO Summer Camp in New York and I'm going to be at the gym."

Alissa Dorgan, 16



"I'm working at Senior Center and helping clean, wash dishes and serve food."

Jaryaca Baker, 14



"I'm going to lots of softball camps, hanging out at the gym and going to New York for NAVO's softball tournament."

Lanie Sedatol-Baker, 11



"I'm going to New York for NAVO and basketball summer camp."

Lahna Sedatol-Baker, 11



"This summer I'm playing softball for NAVO in New York"

Sean Osceola, 10



"I'm playing travel baseball everywhere; Plant City, Clearwater, Bartow and New York."

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Health



Tribal citizens and employees compete in the Firecracker Walk/Run along the L-28 Canal in Big Cypress on July 2.

BC Participates in Firecracker Walk/Run

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Tribal citizens and employees gathered on Canal Bank Road for the Firecracker Walk/Run at 6:30 a.m. on July 2.

From babies in strollers to seniors on walkers, firemen and office clerks, the participants represented a broad spectrum of the Big Cypress community.

Circulating through the crowd, Chairman Mitchell Cypress congratulated everyone on taking a step toward fitness.

"By coming here this morning, you have shown your commitment toward a better lifestyle that will benefit every part of your body," Chairman Cypress said. "Exercise is a vital key toward good health and its rewards are limitless. Regardless of when you cross the finish line, you will all leave here today as a winner."

Community Outreach Coordinator Edna McDuffie had assembled a capable staff from the Health and Fitness Department to manage the course and provide necessary incentives and assistance to the participants.

Fresh fruit, health bars, water and sport beverages were available to help control blood sugar levels and ensure proper hydration, which is an important factor during all levels of exercise. A booth offered valuable information regarding healthy hydration.

Barbara Billie from the Big Cypress Wellness Center offered words of advice.

"It is important to remember that you should drink a minimum of eight glasses of water or healthy liquids per day and especially before, during and after exercise," she said. "Water is the best fluid for replenishment and helps to regulate body temperature, cushions and protects vital organs and aids the digestive system."

The course had been laid out for a 5k Walk/Run, which is approximately 4 miles. A special area had also been set aside for the Big Cypress Seniors' Handicap Division, who completed a 1 mile course.

At 7 a.m. Neil Prager of the Fitness Dept. conducted a warm-up session with stretch exercises to prepare the participants for the event. Lining up the contenders by categories, Edna McDuffie officiated at the starting line.

Results of the Firecracker Walk/Run

Senior Citizen Handicap: First Place Winners: Claudia Doctor, Lydia Cypress, Ruby Osceola and Carol Cypress.

Youth, Ages 8-12: Runners: 1. A.J. Tigertail; Walkers: 1. Kaitlin Osceola, 2. Brandy Osceola, 3. Stanley Cypress III.

Youth, Ages 13-17: Runners: 1. Tyler Tigertail, 2. Ragan Osceola, 3. O'shaane Cypress.

Adults, Ages 31-45: Male Runners: 1. Bernard Robbins; Female Runners: 1. Kathy Cypress, 2. Almira Billie, 3. Barbara Billie; Male Walkers: 1. Charlie Cypress; Female Walkers: 1. Myra Jumper with Ezekiel in a stroller, 2. Carol B. Osceola, 3. Shelli Tigertail.

Adults, Ages 46-59: Male Runners: 1. Ronnie B. Billie Sr.; Female Runners: 1. Shirley Clay; Male Walkers: 1. David Cypress; Female Walkers: 1. Mary Tigertail, 2. Violet Jim, 3. Beverly Alumbaugh.

Adults, Ages 60 and Older: Male Runners: 1. Paul Bowers Sr.; Female Runners: 1. Edna McDuffie; Male Walkers: 1. Mitchell Cypress; Female Walkers: 1. Juanita Osceola, 2. Louise Billie, 3. Louise Osceola.

Community Members & Employees: Runners: 1. Gio Alvarez, 2. Jesus Lizarraga, 3. Jorge Napoles, 4. Paul Backhouse, 5. Andrew Flynn; Walkers: 1. Marilyn Jumper, 2. Allen Hoffman, 3. Brian Barton, 4. Harley Roberts, 5. Emilia Jumper.

Community Members Attend Informational Rabies Clinic

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Members of the Environmental Health Dept. organized a free rabies clinic for the Immokalee community on June 28 in the Health Dept. parking lot.

The purpose of the clinic was to ensure the safety and health of the Immokalee residents and their pets.

The dreaded disease of rabies is extremely debilitating and fatal, if not treated within a short period of time following exposure. Highly contagious, it is spread by a bite or transfer of saliva from an infected creature to other animals and humans.

Although a nationwide program of inoculation has greatly reduced the number of incidents in the past several decades, total eradication remains beyond reach. Vaccinating domestic animals and destroying carriers is the proven method of control. Until recently, it was necessary to administer a booster every year, but a new vaccine has been effective for three years.

Environmental Health has instituted a program to offer free rabies vaccinations to Tribal citizens' pets twice a year on each of the reservations. Using a

door-to-door marketing technique, Animal Control and Wildlife Officer Donna Williams handed out flyers and spread the word about the clinic throughout Immokalee during the week preceding the event.

Helping to man the booth, Dr. Oliver of Pinegate Veterinary in Naples provided valuable information to pet owners regarding recommended annual inoculations and was prepared to administer them onsite for a moderate fee.

Setting an example, Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar and her husband, Pete, were first in line with their two dogs.

Environmental Health Program Manager Patrick Peck said: "Turnout was low, but this is encouraging. Our records indicate that many of the reservation pets have already received the new three

year vaccine, and therefore did not require our services. This is an indication that our program is working."

"There were only a few cats, but several dogs were treated," continued Peck. "We even made a house call to one resident who lacked the means to transport their pets. For those who missed this clinic, please allow for some time in October."



Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar brings her pet corgi for a rabies inoculation.

Dental Program Hosts Externs

SUBMITTED BY THE SEMINOLE DENTAL PROGRAM

The Seminole Tribal Dental Program hosted three dental students as a part of the Indian Health Service Externship Program during the week of July 6-10.

Brigham Burton, who attends Ohio State University, Carla Belgard, who



Photo Submitted by the Seminole Dental Program (L-R, Front Row) Brigham Burton, Mallorie Watson, (L-R, Back Row) Dr. Parker, Tribal Dental Program Manager, and Carla Belgard.

Understanding Pandemics, Epidemics

BY AVA JOHN
Contributing Writer

[Editor's Note: Ava John works for the Tribe's Environmental Health Program. The opinions she expresses are her own. If you would like to ask a question, please write to avajohn@semtb.com.]

A pandemic is an outbreak of global proportions. It happens when a new virus emerges among humans and then causes serious illness and is easily human transmissible through person-to-person contact.

A pandemic is different from an epidemic outbreak in that a pandemic covers a much wider geographical area, often worldwide. A pandemic also infects many more people than an epidemic.

An epidemic is specific to one city, region or country, while a pandemic goes much further than national borders. During an epidemic, the number of people who become infected rises well beyond what is expected within a country or a part of a country. When the infection takes place in several countries at the same time it can then become a pandemic.

A pandemic is usually caused by a new virus strain or subtype — a virus humans either have no immunity against, or very little immunity. If human immunity is low or non-existent, the virus can easily spread around the world because it becomes easily transmissible.

In the case of influenza, seasonal outbreaks or epidemics are generally caused by subtypes of a virus that is already circulating among people. Pandemics, on the other hand, are generally caused by new subtypes; these subtypes have not circulated among people before.

Pandemics generally cause much higher numbers of deaths than epidemics.

ies. The social disruption, economic loss, and general hardship caused by a pandemic are much higher than what an epidemic can cause.

A pandemic can emerge, for example, when the Influenza A virus changes suddenly. Experts call this an antigenic shift, which will result in a new Influenza A virus subtype. This new Influenza A virus subtype needs one characteristic to cause a pandemic; it must be easily human transmissible.

After the pandemic has emerged and spread, the virus subtype circulates among humans for several years, causing occasional flu epidemics. These will not usually become more than epidemic because humans have developed immunity over time.

Using information gathered by health agencies around the world that monitors the behavior and movement of the virus, the World Health Organization (WHO) uses a six phase influenza program to raise the pandemic alert level.

Phase 6 is WHO's highest alert level and means a pandemic is underway. A move to Phase 6 is not an indication of the severity of the virus, however, does mean that the extent of global spread fulfills the definition of a pandemic.

During the 20th Century, the emergence of new Influenza A virus subtypes caused three pandemics. All of which spread around the world within one year of being detected.

The most recent pandemic was declared by WHO in June 2009. This new strain of Influenza A virus subtype, known as H1N1 or "Swine Flu," was identified in April 2009 and has caused mild infection globally.

The Environmental Health Program requests that Tribal citizens call them at (954) 965-1300, Ext. 10326 with any environmental health issues.

Seniors Learn Home Safety in Presentation Series

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — As part of an ongoing series, the Emergency Management Dept. and Fire Rescue Prevention Division collaborated for a home safety presentation at the Senior Center June 25.

Tribal Fire Rescue Inspector Bruce Britton

spoke to the Tribal seniors on a range of issues and provided tips for the home; all as part of national home safety month.

"This is a great way to get information out and teach the Tribal seniors about safety preparation throughout the year," said Hollywood and Trail Emergency Management Coordinator Jason Dobronz. "They also enjoy the information and we are able to get a lot out there to them."

The attendees also learned about tornado, lightning and heat wave precautions, smoke alarm and fire extinguisher maintenance and preparation throughout the day.

"I was in the health and medical field for years so I already knew some of the information, but it was a good refresher," Tribal senior Edna Bowers said.

Britton emphasized that the safety of a fire, firefighters make the safety of the Tribal citizen a major priority.

"Our concern is with them getting out, not putting the fire out," he said. "We are very much focused on keeping the home safe also."

According to the Home Safety Council's "State of Home Safety in America™ Report," fires and burns are the third leading cause of unintentional home injury and related deaths in the U.S. each year.

Some useful tips for smoke alarms include remembering that smoke rises, mounting should be high on walls or ceilings and ceiling-mounted alarms should be installed at least four inches away from the nearest wall. Wall-mounted alarms should be installed 4-12 inches away from the ceiling. Do not install smoke alarms near windows, doors, or ducts to ensure that they work properly and make sure the alarm is away from the path of steam from bathrooms and cooking vapors in the kitchen, it may cause "false alarms" when there is not a fire.

Useful tips for fire extinguisher use include: choosing an extinguisher that will work on all types of fires, typically called "ABC" type extinguishers, choose the largest extinguisher you can handle, the bigger the better, and mount the extinguisher near an exit door and out of the reach of children.



Chris C. Jenkins

THE HEALTHY SENIOR BY FRED CICETTI

[Editor's Note: Fred Cicetti is a syndicated columnist who writes about issues concerning senior citizens' health. This is parts 1 and 2 of a 2-part column about understanding sunscreens and sun exposure. The opinions he expresses are his own. If you would like to ask a question, please write to fred@healthyseer.com. All Rights Reserved ©2009 by Fred Cicetti.]

Q: There are lots of sunblocks out there with SPF numbers on them. What exactly do these numbers mean?

A: Sunblocks, or sunscreens, work to prevent the damage of ultraviolet (UV) rays, an invisible component of sunlight. There are three types of UV rays: UVA, UVB and UVC.

UVA is the most abundant of the three ultraviolet rays at the earth's surface. These rays penetrate through the outer skin. Many of the UVB rays are absorbed by the stratospheric ozone layer, so there aren't as many of these at the earth's surface as the UVA rays. UVB rays don't penetrate as far as UVA rays but are still harmful. UVC radiation is extremely hazardous to skin, but it is completely absorbed by the ozone layer.

Sunburn and suntan are signs of skin damage. Suntans appear after the sun's rays have already killed some cells and damaged others. UV rays do more harm than damaging skin. They can also cause cataracts, wrinkles, age spots, and skin cancer.

Sunscreens are given SPF (Sun Protection Factor) ratings that tell you how well they protect you from damaging rays from the sun. The SPF ratings can be as low as 2 and as high as 100 or more.

Here's how the ratings work: If you apply a sunscreen rated at SPF 2, you will double the time it takes for your skin to burn. A sunscreen rated at SPF 15 will multiply the burning time by 15.

Dermatologists strongly recommend using a broad-spectrum (UVA and UVB protection) sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or greater year-round for all skin types.

The SPF number indicates the screening ability for UVB rays only. Research is being done to establish a system to measure UVA protection.

There is a point of diminishing returns with sunscreens. Here's how it goes:

A sunscreen with an SPF of 2 screens 50 percent of UVB rays; a sunscreen with an SPF of 15 screens 93 percent of UVB rays; a sunscreen with an SPF of 30 screens 97 percent of UVB rays; a sunscreen with an SPF of 50 blocks 98 percent of UVB rays; and, a sunscreen with an SPF of 100 or more blocks 99 percent of UVB rays.

Not applying enough sunscreen can seriously reduce your protection. You should use an ounce, or about a palm's full, on your body to gain the full protection indicated by the SPF on the product. Also, dermatologists advise reapplication every two hours or after swimming or sweating.

It seems logical that, if you use half the required sunscreen, you will get only half the protection, but that doesn't seem to be true. A study in the British Journal of Dermatology found that you get the protection of only the square root of the SPF. So, in theory, if you use a half ounce of sunscreen rated at 64, you won't get the protection of an SPF 32, but only the protection of an SPF 8.

In addition to applying a sunscreen, you should protect yourself by avoiding the sun between 10 a.m.

and 4 p.m., wearing protective clothing and wrap-around sunglasses, avoiding sunlamps and tanning beds, and checking your skin regularly for changes in the size, shape, color or feel of birthmarks, moles and spots.

Ultraviolet (UV) rays, an invisible component of sunlight, can cause skin damage, cataracts, wrinkles, age spots, and skin cancer. These rays also impair the skin's immune system.

UV rays can hurt you on cloudy as well as sunny days. UV rays also bounce off surfaces of the ocean, sand, snow and cement.

One of the surest ways to reduce your exposure to UV rays is to stay out of the sun when it is the strongest. Those times in North America are between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the late spring and early summer.

Other ways to protect yourself are to wear protective clothing, such as a wide-brimmed hat, long-sleeved shirt and long pants. You should use a sunscreen rated at SPF 15 or more. Eye doctors recommend wrap-around sunglasses that provide 100 percent UV protection.

You should also pay attention to the UV Index developed by the National Weather Service and the Environmental Protection Agency. This index assesses risk of overexposure to UV rays.

The UV Index is calculated daily and is reported by the press. It can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/sunwise/uvindex.html>, where you can plug in your own zip code to find out the index rating in your area.

The following are the index levels: 2 or less: low danger for the average person, 3-5: moderate risk of harm, 6-7: high risk of harm, 8-10: very high risk of harm, 11 or more: extreme risk of harm.

It is possible to go outside when the UV Index is 11 or higher but you must be sure to take every step possible to protect yourself, meaning use sunscreen and wear hats, long sleeves and sunglasses.

Not everyone reacts to the sun in the same way. The level of danger calculated for the basic categories of the UV Index are for a person with Type II skin.

The following is a list of the skin types: I: always burns, never tans, sensitive to sun exposure, II: burns easily, tans minimally, III: burns moderately, tans gradually to light brown, IV: burns minimally, always tans well to moderately brown, V: rarely burns, tans profusely to dark, and, VI: Never burns, deeply pigmented, least sensitive.

What is a suntan?

When UV rays penetrate the skin's inner layer they generate the production of melanin, a dark pigment. The melanin eventually moves toward the outer layers of the skin and becomes visible as a tan. Every time you tan, you damage your skin and this damage accumulates over time.

There is no safe tan. What some call a "base tan" may actually increase the chances you'll get a burn, because you're likely to stay out longer without properly protecting your skin.

You should stay away from tanning beds and sunlamps because they emit UV rays that can cause serious long-term skin damage. The amount of the radiation produced during indoor tanning is similar to the sun's production and in some cases may be greater.

Many tanning salons are unregulated. They allow customers access to tanning beds without supervision or eye protection.

Beware the Dangers of Extreme Heat

BY BRIAN BROWN
Contributing Writer

[Editor's Note: Brian Brown is the Tribe's Chief of the EMS Division. The opinions he expresses are his own. If you would like to ask a question, please write to brianbrown@seminoletribe.com.]

Our bodies normally cool by sweating. But under some conditions, sweating just isn't enough. In such cases, a person's body temperature rises rapidly. Very high body temperatures may damage the brain or other vital organs and can lead to death.

Several factors affect your body's ability to cool itself during extremely hot weather. When the humidity is high, sweat doesn't evaporate as quickly, which prevents your body from releasing heat quickly. Other conditions related to risk include age, obesity, fever, dehydration, heart disease, mental illness, poor circulation, sunburn and prescription drug and alcohol use.

After the storm, it's important to balance your clean-up activities with measures that help your body's cooling mechanisms and prevent heat-related illness.

What Is Extreme Heat?

Temperatures that are 10 degrees or more above the average high temperature for your region and last for several weeks are defined as extreme heat. Excessively dry and hot conditions can provoke dust storms and low visibility. Droughts occur when a long period passes without substantial rainfall. A heat wave combined with a drought is a very dangerous situation.

During Hot Weather

To protect your health when temperatures are extremely high, remember to keep cool and use common sense. The following tips are important:

Drink Plenty of Fluids

During hot weather you'll need to increase your fluid intake, regardless of your activity level. Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink. In a hot environment, drink two to four glasses at 16-32 ounces each of cool fluids each hour. If your doctor generally limits the amount of fluid you drink or has you on water pills, ask how much you should drink while the weather is hot.

Avoid Alcoholic, Sugary Beverages

Don't drink liquids that contain alcohol or large amounts of sugar. They actually cause you to lose more body fluid. Also avoid very cold drinks, because they can cause stomach cramps.

Replace Salt and Minerals

Heavy sweating removes salt and minerals from the body. These are necessary for your body and must be replaced. If you must exercise, drink two to four glasses of cool, non-alcoholic fluids each hour. A sports beverage can replace the salt and minerals you lose in sweat. However, if you are on a low-salt diet, talk with your doctor before drinking a sports beverage or taking salt tablets.

Wear Appropriate Clothing and Sunscreen

Choose lightweight, light-colored and loose-fitting clothing. Besides causing pain and skin damage, sunburn affects your body's ability to cool itself and causes a loss of body fluids. If you must go outdoors, protect yourself from the sun by wearing a wide-brimmed hat, which also keeps you cooler, along with sunglasses and apply sunscreen of SPF 15 or higher 30 minutes prior to going out. Continue to reapply it according to the package directions.

Schedule Outdoor Activities Carefully

If you must be outdoors, try to limit your outdoor activity to morning and evening hours. Try to rest often

in shady areas so that your body's thermostat will have a chance to recover.

Pace Yourself

If you aren't used to working in a hot environment, start slowly and pick up the pace gradually. If exertion in the heat makes your heart pound and leaves you gasping for breath, stop all activity. Get into a cool area or at least into the shade and rest, especially if you become lightheaded, confused, weak or faint.

Stay Cool Indoors

Stay indoors and, if at all possible, stay in an air conditioned place. If your home doesn't have air conditioning, try to go to the shopping mall or public library. Even a few hours spent in air conditioning can help your body stay cooler when you go back into the heat. Electric fans provide some comfort, but when the temperature is in the high 90s, fans will not prevent heat-related illness. Taking a cool shower or moving to an air conditioned place is a much better way to cool off.

Use the Buddy System

When working in the heat, monitor the condition of your neighbors and have someone do the same for you. Heat-induced illness can cause a person to become confused or lose consciousness. If you're 65 years of age or older, have someone check on you twice a day. If you know someone in this age group, check on them at least twice a day.

Monitor Those at High Risk

Although anyone can suffer from heat-related illness, some people are at greater risk than others. Visit these individuals at least twice a day and watch them for signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke. Infants and young children need much more frequent watching.

Infants and children up to 4 years of age are sensitive to the effects of high temperatures and need others to provide adequate liquids.

People 65 years of age or older may not compensate for heat stress efficiently and are less likely to sense and respond to changes in temperature.

People who are overweight may be prone to heat sickness because they tend to retain more body heat.

People who overexert during work or exercise may become dehydrated and susceptible to heat sickness.

People who are physically ill, especially with heart disease or high blood pressure, or who take certain medications, such as for depression, insomnia, or poor circulation, may be affected by extreme heat.

Adjust to the Environment

Keep in mind that any sudden change in temperature will be stressful to your body. You will have a greater tolerance for heat if you limit your physical activity until you become accustomed to the heat. If you travel to a hotter climate, allow several days to become acclimated before attempting any vigorous activity and work up to it gradually.

Use Common Sense

Remember to keep cool and use common sense: Avoid hot foods and heavy meals that add heat. Drink plenty of fluids and replace salts and minerals in your body.

Dress infants and children in cool, loose clothing and shade their heads and faces.

Limit sun exposure during mid-day hours and in places of potential severe exposure such as beaches.

Do not leave children, or pets in a parked car.

Provide plenty of fresh water for your pets, and leave the water in a shady area.

Even short periods of high temperatures can cause serious health problems.

SEEKING ORAL HISTORIES FOR MUSEUM COLLECTION AND VETERAN'S MEMORIAL BUILDING EXHIBIT

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is seeking to conduct oral history interviews with Seminole veterans and family members of veterans. The interviews will become a part of the existing oral history collection of the Tribal Museum. In the interview, you may choose what you would like to speak about. If you give permission, the interview might be considered for use in the exhibits to be created within the new Veteran's Memorial Building in Brighton. We hope that Seminole veterans will share stories for the benefit of current and future generations, as we look to honor your dedication and service.

To participate contact:

Elizabeth Lowman
Oral History Coordinator
Phone: 863-903-1113 ext. 12210
elizabethlowman@seminoletribe.com

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Sports

C

Tribal Martial Artists Advance in Program

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Three months after initiating the Big Cypress Martial Arts Program, students were recognized for their accomplishments at the Fitness Dome on July 7.

A mixed martial arts and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu coach, Luis Gutierrez accepted the position of instructor for the program in Big Cypress that emphasizes safety, fitness and fun.

"I have taught competitive athletes, military and police, but my first love is working with children," Gutierrez said. "Martial arts are a lifelong commitment that builds character, confidence, physical fitness and self-esteem."

"I call my philosophy 'Play is the Way' and prohibit striking," Gutierrez continued. "Our exercises are all grappling, which is less dramatic, and the students are taught not to overreact, but focus and balance. Learning to separate rage from aggression is a major objective."

Beginning their session, the students did a bow in and warm up and stretching session that incorporated postures and moves from yoga and karate. Covering basic punches, take downs, foot work, dominant positions and the point system for grading, the class was corrected whenever necessary but never discouraged. Following the work out, there were no sore losers and everyone shook hands.

▶ Please see MARTIAL ARTS on page 3C



Judy Weeks

Students practice warm-up exercises at the Big Cypress Fitness Dome.



Elizabeth Leiba

Former National Football League Oakland Raider Charles Jackson (L) plays quarterback as his team scrambles to catch the football.

Tribal Youth Learn Football Tips from NFL Pros

Seminole Clinic Features Santana Moss, Charles Jackson

BY ELIZABETH LEIBA
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Tribal youth ran wind sprints, did speed and agility drills and learned teamwork at the Family Football Clinic on June 12.

More than 20 youngsters participated in the clinic held on the Hollywood Ball Field and hosted by the Hollywood Recreation Dept. The all-day event was sponsored by the Tribal Council with help from the Chaka's Stars Foundation and the Moss Foundation, founded by NFL Washington Redskins wide receiver Santana Moss.

Moss said the camp gave him a chance to reach out to a group of children that he had never touched before with his foundation.

"Kids all over watch us and wonder who we are and how they can be us," Moss said. "I've dreamed and I've kept that dream. You don't get to every kid but the one you do reach can become me."

Moss explained that one of the main goals of his foundation is to fight childhood obesity and encourage proper nutrition and eating healthy food and snacks.

"TV ratings are at an all-time high but they are killing our kids," Moss said. "It's strange that you don't see kids outside on days like this."

Despite the more than 90 degree temperature, boys and girls alike participated in the drills and mini scrimmage coordinated by Moss.

Hollywood Recreation Dept. Director Moses "Big" Jumper Jr. said the camp was a unique opportunity.

"They get a chance to see Santana Moss, get a chance to play and get some good coaching," Jumper said. "Just getting alongside these guys is a good thing."

The youth took full advantage of the instruction from the players, including former Oakland Raider Charles Jackson. Jackson explained that the lessons learned from participating in these types of camps apply both on and off the football field.

"You have to be a team player wherever you go," Jackson explained. "It taught me leadership and how not to be a follower, but also how to be a follower if necessary."

After the youth were put through their paces by the coaches, they headed inside to the Boys & Girls Club for a question and answer session with Moss. Questions ran the gamut from how many touchdowns he has scored to how much money he makes.

Participants also had an opportunity to answer questions to win a signed football from Moss. Keishawn Stewart won a football for correctly identifying the traditional sport of the Seminole Tribe — stickball. Austin Lewis also won a football when he correctly guessed the

year Moss was drafted into the NFL.

Tribal citizen Suraiya Smith, one of the clinic's organizers, hopes to hold similar events in the future. Her organization, Chaka's Stars Foundation was founded in 2007 and provides youth enrichment programs and services. Most recently the organization held a charity golf tournament in Okeechobee, Fla. on May 9.

"We just want to get kids to interact and be drug free," Smith emphasized. "You can be whatever you want as long as you keep your head up and stay focused."



Elizabeth Leiba

Washington Redskins wide receiver Santana Moss (C) speaks to the Tribal youth about the importance of perseverance and teamwork at the Family Football Clinic, held June 12 at the Hollywood Ball Field.

EIRA Remembers Josiah Johns at Memorial Rodeo

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Native rodeo competitors from all over the Eastern Circuit participated in the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) championship Josiah Johns Memorial Rodeo, held July 3 at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena.

The event, which honored the late Seminole cowboy, was sponsored by the Brighton community.

"What a great cowboy and great leader of the Seminole Tribe," said Norman Edwards, rodeo announcer and a friend of Johns. "Tonight is in honor of him and we will do the best we can to pay tribute."

The night began with the children competing in the non-sanctioned events.

The little ones started things off with the muton bustin' event. Pony riding, calf riding and steer riding all lead to the junior bull riding where the young adults rode with the hopes of one day being a great champion bull rider. Chute riding and barrel racing followed with much support from the family members in the stands.

Parents and grandparents offered guidance with shouts of "bring him home" heard throughout the arena.

Junior breakaway and junior and senior steer un-decorating completed the non-sanctioned events, as the adults got ready to enter the arena for sanctioned competition.

Indian rodeo hopefuls competed for the first place title and silver and gold belt buckle, along with the yearlong championship bragging rights.

William Bearden was the first cowboy to snag a championship title, winning the junior bareback event with a 69 point ride. Jacoby Johns followed in the adult division with a score of 78 points.

Tyler Humble put the saddle on for the win in the saddle bronc event, scoring an amazing 77 points.

"I'd like to thank the Seminole Tribe for putting on all these events," said Humble after his ride.

Ivan Bruised Head and Naha Jumper were neck and neck in the steer wrestling competition with only a tenth of a second separating them. Bruised Head, however, went on to win the buckle.

Naha Jumper wasn't discouraged and was able to win his buckle and championship, roping his calf in 15.2 seconds in the calf roping event.

The women finally made their way into the arena to compete in the breakaway event. With a 20 second time limit and a one loop rule, Trina Harris blew away the competition in 4.1 seconds, securing the champion title and prize-winning belt buckle.

The Legend's Division breakaway roping event followed, with Billy Joe Johns snapping it hard for a 7.8 second win.

The cowboys then partnered up to compete in the team roping event.

Header Marvin Bowers and heeler Todd Johns took the lead with 11.8 seconds going into the slack. The team of Justin Gopher and Hilliard Gopher, however, had a 1 second better run, finishing with a time of 10.8. Ultimately, the team of Josh Jumper and Naha Jumper had the fastest time, 8.2 seconds, and took home the buckles.

The barrels were brought out as the ladies raced their way to impressive finishes in the barrel racing competition. Carrera Gopher raced her way to the top going into the slack. Lorreta Peterson was able to take the first place finish in 16.06 seconds competing in the slack and walking away with the silver and gold belt buckle.

As the crowd got ready for the bull riding action, Dayne Johns took his 8 second ride to the top. He scored 74 points, taking the EIRA championship bull riding title.



Rachel Buxton

Dayne Johns ends the rodeo with an 8 second ride and championship title.



Mindy Fish chases her calf in the breakaway event.

Rachel Buxton



Kelton Smedley places first in his heat and sixth overall in the 100 meter dash event at the track meet, held June 27 at Lake Brantley High School.

Pemayetv Emahakv Students Compete at State-Level Hershey's® Track & Field Meet

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, Fla. — Five Pemayetv Emahakv students traveled to Lake Brantley High School in Altamonte Springs, Fla. on June 27 to compete in the Hershey's® Track and Field State-Level Meet.

"This is a good thing we are doing for the kids today," said event coordinator Carol Hardemon. "This is about the kids, not the parents."

Sean Osceola, Kelton Smedley, Cheyenne Nunez, Lahna Sedatol-Baker and Odessa King all fought for a chance to make it to Nationals, which takes place in Hershey, Pa., July 30-Aug. 2.

Osceola placed first in the Boys 9-10 year old Softball Throw category, throwing the ball 128.5 feet. Osceola said he thanks his dad for his accomplishment.

"I practiced a lot," Osceola said. "It would work with my dad out in the field."

Osceola's father, Reno, admits the two did practice often.

"When we're around the house and have nothing going on we'll go out and throw 20 to 30 minutes a day," said Osceola.

Osceola now has the chance to advance to national competi-

tion but will have to wait to find out in the coming weeks if he made it based on other track meet results in surrounding regional states.

"Makes me proud to be a parent," Reno Osceola said. "It shows what can happen by working with your kid and supporting them."

The Charter School's other competitors made impressive finishes as well.

Smedley placed sixth overall in the 100 meter dash and third in the 800 meter run.

Nunez competed in the 200 meter dash and placed fifth overall. She also beat her local meet result time by almost two seconds.

Sedatol-Baker also placed fifth in her event, the 400 meter run, and decreased her time by almost six seconds.

The relay team of Nunez, Sedatol-Baker and King faced the challenge of having to replace their teammate James Allen whom they had competed with in the last two meets. Unfortunately, Allen was unable to make it to the meet and was replaced by Okeechobee youth Jordan Lawlis of North Elementary.

"We have a pretty good team," said Sedatol-Baker. "I'm so glad she came."

Lawlis started the relay handing the baton over to King who passed it to Sedatol-Baker. Baker made the handoff to Nunez who finished off the race securing the team a fourth place finish.



Rachel Buxton

Sean Osceola out-throw the competition, sending the ball 128.5 feet.



Rachel Buxton

Lahna Sedatol-Baker crosses the finish line and beats her previous time by 6 seconds.



Shelley Marmor

Jack Wilson, who tied for second place in the tournament with 9.5 total pounds of bass caught, waits for a bite.

Micosukee Recreation Hosts Fishing Tournament

Theo Thomas Takes First, Raymond Tigertail Biggest Bass

BY SHELLEY MARMOR
Staff Reporter

TAMIAMI TRAIL — About 25 fishing enthusiasts competed in the first annual Bass Fishing Tournament, held June 13, and sponsored by the Micosukee Tribe's Recreation Dept.

The competition was open to all Micosukee, Seminole and community members.

Competitors began fishing at first daylight in the waters that stretch from the Collier County Line to 40 Mile Bend. They had until 7:30 p.m. to catch as many fish as they could.

After each competitor finished fishing the brought their catch to the back of the Micosukee Restaurant to be weighed. At the tournament's end, they competitors also dined at the restaurant together.

First through third place awards went to the three men who caught the most weight in fish and a Big Bass Award went to the competitor who caught the largest single fish.

First place finisher Theo Thomas caught 10 pounds worth of bass and Jake Keyser and Jack Wilson each caught 9.5 pounds for a second-place tie. Raymond Tigertail caught the largest fish and won the Big Bass Award with his 5 pound catch.

Andrew Bert Jr., assistant director of the Micosukee Recreation Dept., organized the tournament. He said he wanted to have a fishing tournament because they are not the norm in his area.

"Most tournaments down here are basketball," Bert said. "So we wanted to bring other sports here too."

For more information on upcoming Micosukee Tribe Recreation Dept. tournaments please contact Andrew Bert Jr. at (305) 934-2712.



Shelley Marmor

James Clay fishes for bass in the Micosukee Tribe's first annual Bass Fishing Tournament on June 13.

Tribal Youngsters Take Fishing Trip

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

FT. MYERS BEACH, Fla. — The Immokalee Seminole Ranch sponsored a fishing trip for the youth of the Immokalee community on June 10 with the assistance of the Recreation Dept.

Boarding their bus early in the morning, the expectant anglers were transported to Ft. Myers Beach alongside the Sanibel Causeway. While some had their own equipment, this was a first time experience for others.

Prior to fishing, the chaperones distributed a wide selection of fishing gear and gave a short lecture on safety and responsibility.

Casting their lines into the surf along the beach, the youngsters hooked into some interesting catches. A boot, seaweed, horseshoe crab and sea fans were reeled in, but no fish. Changing location, the youngsters filed out onto the catwalk of the Sanibel Causeway and their luck immediately turned around.

The chaperones moved back and forth down the line of fishermen to a chorus of "Help Me!" and "I'm Okay!" For them it was a steady job of untangling lines, baiting hooks and helping to remove fish, but they enjoyed every minute of it as they watched the children have the time of their lives.

Hungry and thirsty, the group walked back down to the beach for a little rest and relaxation that included a picnic lunch before taking up their poles to challenge the fish one more time



Jennifer Ramos

Damian Escobar reels in his catch. He was one of several youth who went fishing on the Sanibel Causeway Bridge.



Jennifer Ramos

Immokalee children and their chaperones participate in a day of fun in the sun while fishing at Ft. Myers Beach.

MARTIAL ARTS

From page 1C

Then Gutierrez called student Sierra Bowers to the front.

"Today's activities were closely observed as a test," he said. "Sierra Bowers

has learned her initial fundamental core and earned the first yellow belt in Big Cypress." Removing her white belt, the instructor replaced it with a yellow one.

Richard Billie and Rebecca Wolf were awarded their first stripes and Blue Sky Friday earned her third stripe.

"The student enrollment in our program has increased dramatically over the past three months," Gutierrez said. "Kids need something better in their lives than drugs. Good things like sports, dance or music can become habit forming, too. My goal is to get them into a good habit today before they can develop a bad habit."

Participants in the Big Cypress Martial Arts Program are divided into three age groups, 5-8, 9-12 and 12-15 years old.

"Some of these youngsters are beginners and others have previous experience," Gutierrez explained. "Not being familiar with their backgrounds, I have started everyone out with a white belt. Following a trial period of evaluation, they will be elevated according to their skills. Some of our students have made considerable progress and they are being recognized here today."



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Assistant Sharlene Quezada watches as instructor Luis Gutierrez awards the first yellow belt in the Big Cypress Martial Arts Program to Sierra Bowers.



Judy Weeks

Some of the Big Cypress martial arts students assemble with their instructors.



Judy Weeks

Cody Billie's Ford Bronco pulls the sled during the Southwest Florida Truck Pull competition, held June 13 at the Junior Cypress Arena.

Tribe Hosts Truck Pull Competition

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The loud roar of engines, acid smell of burning fuel and shouts of encouragement and jubilation filled the Junior Cypress Arena on the evening of June 13 with the arrival of the Southwest Florida Truck Pull event.

A veteran of this rapidly growing sport, Raymond Garza Sr. expressed what he loves about truck pulling.

"I've always enjoyed good trucks that can get the job done whether they're on the highway, in the woods or pulling a loaded trailer through a pasture," Garza said. "When I was young, one of my favorite pastimes was getting together with my buddies and putting our vehicles to the test in the nearest mud hole, down in the water or peeling rubber at the races."

Pointing to the arena lined with trucks of all kinds, shapes and sizes, Garza laughed: "The rush that comes with the burst of power and the competitive atmosphere are still the same, but the mechanical modifications and financial investment have risen with time. There's an old saying, 'the older the boys, the bigger the toys.' But most of all, we've come here to have a good time."

A steady stream of monster trucks had completed their weigh in and equipment inspection, which divided the contestants into categories to compete against their peers. Small and big block gasoline en-

gines, and stock and outlaw diesel engines were separated from road ready, super modified and exhibition classes.

A broad spectrum of the finest machines in the truck industry lined the arena with no particular make or model taking precedence. Modifications including tire changes, frame adjustments, transmissions, rear end and engine enhancement were made with one goal in mind — increasing the pulling power and guts of their vehicles.

Contestants took turns pulling a large sled that has a 28,000 pound weight adjustment to accommodate each class.

One by one, they hooked up to the sled and dragged it down the arena floor as the weight gradually increased until their vehicle reached the point where it couldn't pull any further. Achieving maximum power, the strain of the engines vibrated the arena and spectators.

Competing in the 5,500 pound small block stock division, Mark Billie, Kelly Youngblood and Cody Billie put their confidence in Ford trucks.

Oseola Billie joined the competition in the 6,750 pound big block stock and ran against Kelly Youngblood, who took an impressive third place in his black Ford.

It was a tough night for Raymond Garza, Sr. and Lonnie Billie in their big block modified Fords. Billie faltered two thirds of the way down the arena during his second run. Experimenting with some changes, Garza broke down before com-

pleting his pull and will be making some alterations prior to entering his next race.

Stealing the show during the heavy truck exhibition of 8,000 pounds plus were Alvin Buster's green Dodge, Jamie Onco's silver Ford and Michael Doctor's black Dodge.



Judy Weeks

Lonnie Billie weighs-in his blue and white Ford to determine his truck's classification.



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Annual Candy Osceola Memorial Pool Tournament Held

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

The first phase of the 13th annual Candy Osceola Memorial Pool Tournament was held at the Hollywood Gym on May 15 with the Senior and Youth Divisions competing. The Adult Division play took place at the Immokalee Ranch Billiard Hall on July 11 to finalize the tournament.

Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. sponsored the 8-Ball portion and Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress handled the 9-Ball at the all Indian shoot-out, held in memory of Candy Osceola.

Juanita Osceola recalled highlights of her daughter's life.

"It seems like yesterday that Candy was here poking fun at us, laughing and bubbling over with energy," Osceola said. "She was like sunshine in our lives and I am reminded of her daily in the smiling faces of her children."

"Candy was a terrific mother to her two little boys and we have had to work hard to fill her shoes," Osceola added, putting her arm around her grandson, Justin. "J.T. is already 17, and Nelson just recently turned 19. It is unfortunate that she never had the opportunity to see these boys turn into men and missed the arrival of her first grandson, David Merrick."

Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress said: "These young men carry her blood and through them she will always be remembered. She may be gone but Candy did not leave without doing her part to carry on her heritage."

Results of the 13th Annual Candy Osceola Memorial Pool Tournament

8-Ball: Senior Women: 1. Laura Clay, 2. Annie Jumper, 3. Diana OnlyAChief, 4. Jane Freeman, 5. Esther Buster; Senior Men: 1. George Grasshopper, 2. David Cypress, 3. Joe Yeahpau, 4. Joe Billie, 5. Gary Clay.

Women: 1. Theresa Nunez, 2. Phalyn Osceola, 3. Virginia Billie, 4. Donia Antuna, 5. Jane Freeman; Men: 1. Jack Billie, 2. David Cypress, 3. Charles Osceola, 4. Roy Snow, 5. Jadrin Antuna.

Junior Girls: 1. Jessica Osceola, 2. Ravenne Osceola, 3. Leandra Mora, 4. Deidra Hall, 5. Mailani Perez; Junior Boys: 1. Joshua Boromei, 2. Charlie John, 3. Rhett Tiger, 4. Neko Osceola, 5. Daniel Rodriguez.

9-Ball: Women: 1. Phalyn Osceola, 2. Virginia Billie, 3. Louise Osceola, 4. Donnia Antuna, 5. Theresa Nunez; Men: 1. Raymond Garza, Sr., 2. Jack Billie, 3. George Grasshopper, 4. Boogie Nunez, 5. Leon Micco.

Scotch Doubles: Adults: 1. Roy Snow and Theresa Nunez, 2. Daniel Gopher and Jane Freeman, 3. Raymond Garza Sr. and Virginia Billie, 4. Joe Billie and Louise Billie, 5. Jadrin Antuna and Donnia Antuna; Seniors: 1. Jimmie Bert and Jane Doctor, 2. David Cypress and Laura Clay, 3. Lonnie Billie and Louise Osceola, 4. Joe Billie and Annie Jumper, 5. Keeno King and Betty Osceola.



Members of Candy Osceola's family, (l-r) Jennie Billie, Robert Osceola, Juanita Osceola, Carlene DiCarlo, Phalyn Osceola and Russell Osceola, looking in her memory.



(L-R) Joe Billie watches as Chairman Mitchell Cypress contemplates his next shot during the 13th annual Edna Cypress Pool Tournament, held in memory of the Chairman's late sister.

Competitors Attend 13th Annual Edna Cypress Pool Tournament

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Pool enthusiasts congregated at the Immokalee Seminole Ranch Billiard Hall for the 13th annual Edna Cypress Pool Tournament on June 20.

This year's tournament included Men's and Women's Divisions with both 8- and 9-Ball competitions, as well as Scotch Doubles. Prizes and trophies went to the first through fifth place winners, and all participants received a commemorative T-shirt.

In Men's 8-Ball play, Juan Encarnacion, Ricky Martinez, Glen Olson, David Cypress and Roy Garza Jr., respectively, captured the top five spots. First through fifth in the Women's 8-Ball competition went to Sherry King, Shelly Harrison, Nina Frias, Jennifer Jumper and Juanita Osceola.

Glen Olson, Juan Encarnacion, Willie McBride, Greg Anderson and Shawn Jones placed first through fifth in Men's 9-Ball, while Shelly Harrison, Sherry King, Louise Osceola, Nina Frias and Jennifer Jumper, respectively, won for the women.

Glen Olson and Kathy Breland captured top honors in Scotch Doubles play.

Immokalee Board of Directors Liaison Delores Jumper coordinated the event, with the assistance of her granddaughter, Nina Frias.

"Edna Cypress was one of my best friends and her memory will always be with me," Liaison Jumper said. "We worked, played and raised our children together. She was one of those rare individuals who were always helping others and reaching out to her friends."

"Times were hard back then and if she had something, we all shared in it," she added. "That's how it was in her family. Her mother, Mary Frances, and niece, Michele, always put others first."

Providing an example of her friend's generosity, Liaison Jumper said: "I had been in an automobile accident and after leaving the hospital, I was confined to a wheelchair for a while. She came every day to check on me and helped care for my family. When others would have left me behind, she wouldn't even consider it. She would load up my wheelchair and away we'd go."

Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress recalled his sister.

"My sister Edna lived life to the fullest," he said. "During the worst of times, you could count on her for a laugh and she always saw the best in everyone. As secretary at the Ahfachkee School, she invested years in helping to educate the children of Big Cypress, while raising her own family, Patrick, Jonell, Arnold, and her grandniece, Margie."

Edna's own brother, Chairman Mitchell Cypress, also reminisced about his sister.

"You might say that Edna put a happy face on life," said Chairman Cypress. "She was quick to recognize a challenge and realized that education was a key to helping Native Americans earn their rightful place in society."

"She went to grade school here and high school in Oklahoma before accepting a student secretarial job in Washington, DC," he continued. "Sharing her educational skills, she returned to Big Cypress to work at the school and inspire others."

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Tribal July Fourth Golf Tournament Draws Numerous Competitors

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

NAPLES — Originally scheduled for play in Clewiston, the Fourth of July Golf Tournament suffered a last minute relocation to Heritage Bay in Naples on July 3.

Torrential summer downpours created major flooding problems on the original course and necessitated its closing. Living in a sub-tropical climate, avid golfers take changes in stride and point themselves in a different direction without complaint as long as they get to play somewhere.

Following registration, the players drew for partners in the Two Man Blind Draw Scramble and then headed for the links.



(L-R) Raymond Garza Jr. and Mondo Tiger examine their clubs.



Ricky Doctor's careful scrutiny of each shot helps him place second in the Two Man Scramble.

First place went to Charlie Cypress and Duane Pratt by a very small margin, with Ricky Doctor and Raymond Garza Jr. coming in second. Partners Raymond Garza Sr. and Manuel Tiger filled the third slot with Bruce Pratt and Keeno King completing the roster.

A favorite course for many of the Tribal players, Heritage Bay has 27 holes of beautifully maintained fairways and is one of the newest facilities within their playing radius. The Fourth of July Tournament teed off on the second nine holes known as The Pines, and then backtracked to the front nine to play The Oaks for the completion of the game.

Good fortune followed the contestants around the course with plenty of sunshine and a gentle breeze throughout the round of golf. However, the players watched the sky closely as menacing dark clouds formed several times and then drifted off to the east without incident.

Returning to the club house for a buffet luncheon and tabulation of scores, the players got under cover just in time for the arrival of the impending storm.

Judy Weeks



Judy Weeks

Laura Clay lines up behind the cue ball to make her shot. Clay placed fifth in the senior's 8-Ball competition during the Fourth of July Pool Tournament, held July 3.

Seminole Compete in Fourth of July Pool Tourney

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Big Cypress Recreation Dept. coordinated several events in celebration of Independence Day in an effort to provide an opportunity for everyone to participate in the festivities.

The Fourth of July Pool Tournament started off with a bang at noon at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium on July 3.

Open to Seminole Tribal citizens and invited

guests only, the tournament drew a large crowd of participants and spectators eager to take part in one of their favorite pastimes. Twenty tables saw continuous action throughout the day and evening.

The senior men and women had their own 8-Ball Division, with many of the seniors returning for a chance to compete in the adult play. The teams for Scotch Doubles showed no distinction for age and frequently paired up adult and senior players for some exciting games.

Results of the Fourth of July Pool Tournament

8-Ball: Senior Women: 1. Rena Blissett, 2. Jane Freeman, 3. Juanita Osceola, 4. Annie Jumper, 5. Laura Clay; Senior Men: 1. Joe Billie, 2. Charley LaSarge, 3. Roy Snow, 4. David Cypress, 5. Abel Salgado.

Women: 1. Phalyn Osceola, 2. Theresa Nunez, 3. Virginia Billie, 4. Jamie Onco, 5. Carlene DiCarlo; Men: 1. Mike Dewitt, 2. Tony Bert, 3. Nick Tiger, 4. Vicente Villalobos, 5. Jack Billie.

9-Ball: Women: 1. Laura Clay, 2. Virginia Billie, 3. Theresa Nunez, 4. Tonya Jumper, 5. Marissa Cypress; Men: 1. Charley LaSarge, 2. Mario Posada, 3. Tony Bert, 4. Nick Tiger, 5. Abel Salgado.

Scotch Doubles: 1. Jack Billie and Phalyn Osceola, 2. David Cypress and Laura Clay, 3. Fernando Silva and Esther Buster, 4. Kiko Villalobos and Rena Blissett, 5. Charley LaSarge and Jane Doctor.



Judy Weeks

BC Board Rep. Paul Bowers Sr. racks up the balls for a game of 8-Ball.

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Seminoles Learn Disc Golf Tips from Pro

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — World Champion disc golfer Gregg Hosfeld conducted a disc golf clinic on the temporary course in the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum parking lot on the morning of July 4.

A man of many talents, Hosfeld is a runner, yoga enthusiast, professional juggler and comedy club entertainer, in addition to competing in disc golf competitions around the world.

Grabbing the attention of his audience, Hosfeld opened the clinic with several disc golf tricks and then provided a quick history of the game.

"Disc golf is one of the fastest growing sports," Hosfeld said. "Played much like traditional golf, a disc is thrown into a basket, as opposed to hitting a ball with a club. Games and challenges are similar to playing with a ball and the object of the game is to get the disc into the target in the least number of throws."

"The beauty of the game is the fact that it is not necessary to be athletic, offers exercise, can be played by people with limited mobility and stimulates the competitive spirit that we all share," Hosfeld continued. "Using discs with a variety of sizes and density, players learn control and accuracy. The disc is manipulated into the target with the use of tilts, side arm throws, wrist snaps, back fists and creative spins."

The players formed a line across a fairway to watch a demonstration. Then they participated in practice shots before dividing into groups of six and taking to the course. Experimenting with technique sometimes resulted in hilarious body positions, mishaps and foul shots. Laughter followed the participants around the course.

Returning to the shade of the canopy, the players each received a T-shirt and disc to commemorate the event.

Assistant Big Cypress Recreation Dept. Director Stan Frischman said: "This is the fourth time that disc golf has been played at Big Cypress and each time the number of players increases. We are currently looking for a site to design a permanent course so that we can establish a series of regular competitions."



Judy Weeks
World Champion disc golfer Gregg Hosfeld does Frisbee™ tricks during his opening presentation.



Judy Weeks
(L-R) Assistant Big Cypress Recreation Dept. Director Stan Frischman joins disc golf pro Gregg Hosfeld for an exhibition on the first hole.



Jennifer Ramos
Children quickly volunteer to assist Juan Marrufo with his roping tricks in the arena during his demonstration on July 1.

Trick Roper Performs at Rodeo Complex

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Immokalee Seminole Ranch sponsored the Trick Roping Extraordinaire exhibition, held at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Complex on July 1.

Originally contracted for the Immokalee Reservation as a portion of their summer youth program, the performance was relocated to Big Cypress at the last minute due to a flooded arena. What at first appeared to be a setback, in the end worked to everyone's advantage as the audience size tripled with the addition of the Big Cypress children, who also benefited from the presentation.

Juan Jose Marrufo, known as "Riata Man," gave a terrific performance with his fancy dancing Andalusian horse and extraordinary rope tricks. Accompanied by his nephew, Raul, he provided a non-stop roping demonstration for more than 30 minutes without duplicating any of his tricks.

A fifth generation Mexican charro, or cowboy, Marrufo began manipulating ropes at an early age and can quickly bring a coiled *riata* to life with a flick of his wrist.

Explaining that *riata* is what Mexican people call a working cowboy's rope, known as a *lariat*, he invited some of his spectators to join him in the arena to examine its waxed surface. Then twirling his rope around the group, he incorporated them into his act.

Several members of the audience completed the

events of the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association and were familiar with his tools of the trade.

Marrufo prides himself on having a horse whisperer-type relationship with animals that works to his advantage as a trainer and professional cowboy showman. During his career he has trained numerous horses to sit down, rear, bow, lie down, count and dance.



Jennifer Ramos
Juan Marrufo puts his fancy dancing Andalusian horse through a very difficult routine on its hind legs.

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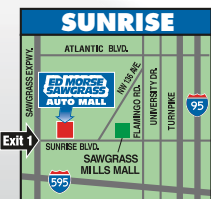
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52nd Annual Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant 2009 - 2010



Stephen Galla

(L-R) Chairman Mitchell Cypress, 2008-2009 Sr. Miss Seminole Nation Inna Hickey, 2008-2009 Miss Seminole Nation Erica Williams, 2008-2009 Little Miss Seminole Nation Sierra Price, 2008-2009 Jr. Miss Seminole Nation Angela Lena, 2009-2010 Brighton Jr. Miss Princess Alyana Tommie, 2008-2009 Miss Indian Nations Alyssa Alberts, 2009-2010 Little Miss Seminole Aubee Sueie Billie, 2009-2010 Miss Indian World Brooke Grant, 2009-2010 Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Stevie Brantley, 2009-2010 Miss Florida Seminole Brittany Smith, Rusty Gillette, 2009-2010 Little Mr. Seminole Lance Howard, 2009-2010 Choctaw Indian Princess Famie Cheyenne Willis and President Richard Bowers Jr.

PRINCESS

From page 1A

help and support."

President Richard Bowers Jr. joked about how difficult it is for the girls to be competing, saying: "it's more nervous than jumping into a pool with alligators."

Chairman Cypress and President Bowers presented the 2007 Miss Florida Seminole Princess Jennifer Chalfant with a trophy crown that she was unable to receive last year when she crowned 2008 Princess D'Anna Osceola.

The princess contestants were finally introduced as they paraded into the auditorium with much poise and confidence.

Ten girls competed; with eight vying for Junior Miss Florida Seminole and two for Miss Florida Seminole. Each girl made their way to the stage to give a brief introduction of themselves.

First up was 14-year-old Lorelei Tommie of the Big Cypress Reservation. Tommie is a freshman at University School in Davie, Fla. and enjoys sewing, acting and spending time with her family.

Kirsten Doney, 13, of the Brighton Reservation followed. Doney is a member of the Panther Clan and her hobbies include volleyball, softball, swimming and drawing.

Kaylan Osceola, 13, resides on the Hollywood Reservation and is a member of the Big Town Clan. She is in the eighth grade and enjoys playing baseball and riding horses in her free time.

Jennie Eagle, 13, is a member of



Stephen Galla

The 2009-2010 Miss Seminole Brittany Smith receives her crown from 2008-2009 Princess D'Anna Osceola.



Stephen Galla

(L-R) The 2008-2009 Miss Florida Seminole D'Anna Osceola receives her trophy crown from President Richard Bowers Jr., a pageant tradition for the last two years.

the Bird Clan and is from the Brighton Reservation. She is a seventh grader at Yearling Middle School in Okeechobee, Fla. and said she plans to attend Florida State University to obtain a medical degree.

Tia Blais-Billie of the Hollywood Reservation is 13 years old and her hobbies include baseball, lacrosse, drawing and reading.

Stevie Brantley, 15, from the Brighton Reservation is a member of the Panther Clan and attends Grace Christian Academy in Hollywood where she maintains a perfect 4.0 grade point average. She is currently working at the Brighton Housing Dept. as part of the summer job program.

Airianna Nunez, 12, represented the Brighton Reservation and said she enjoys volleyball, soccer and her passion cooking.

McKayla Briann Snow, 12, also from the Brighton Reservation, wrapped up the Junior Miss Florida Seminole introductions saying her hobbies include softball, swimming, riding bikes and hanging out with her cousins. Snow attends Yearling Middle School in Okeechobee, Fla. where she will be in the seventh grade.

Following the Junior Miss Florida Seminole introductions were the two Miss Florida Seminole contestants who told a little about themselves.

Brittany Smith, 19, is from the Brighton Reservation and is currently in her second year at Indian River State College where she is studying architecture.

Krystle Young, 18, of the Holly-



Stephen Galla

2008-2009 Jr. Miss Seminole Princess Amber Craig crowns the 2009-2010 Jr. Miss Seminole Princess winner Stevie Brantley.

wood Reservation is a member of the Panther Clan and will attend the University of Miami in the fall to begin studying for her degree in biology.

Please see PRINCESS on page 2D



Stephen Galla

The Miss Seminole Princess and Jr. Miss Seminole Princess contestants enter the auditorium at the start of the program.

PRINCESS

From page 1D

After all introductions were made the ladies donned their finest traditional Seminole clothing for the modeling portion of the competition.

One by one the contestants graced the stage escorted by Kyle Doney and Bobby Frank III modeling their traditional outfit while the emcees gave descriptions of the garments.

Lorelei Tommie wore a two piece traditional Seminole dress and cape with three rows of patchwork. The first two rows of patchwork on the dress represented the tree design with the third row symbolizing rain. Tommie's dress included a variety of colored bias tape including blue, red, orange and brown.

Kirsten Doney modeled a cotton lime-green dress accented with a purple flower print along with purple and green bias tape. Her skirt included man-on-horse and lightning patchwork while her cape had the fire patchwork design. Doney's dress was made by Tasha Osceola of the Hollywood Reservation.

Kaylan Osceola took the stage in a yellow traditional Seminole cotton dress with a short cape and long skirt with white, black, green and grey bias tape. The four rows of patchwork resembling a flower and the wave design were made by her grandmother, Sadie Cypress, and her dress was sewn by her mother, Allison Osceola.

Jennie Eagle wore a modern style traditional outfit with the colors white, black and red. The de-

sign on her cape represented the zigzag design. Her skirt included a pleated red ruffle on top and the fire design on the bottom.

Tia Blais-Billie modeled a traditional cotton dress with strips of black, yellow and purple bias tape. The rain design was displayed on her cape and on her skirt. One row of Seminole patchwork represented the tree design. Her outfit was made by Debbie Osceola.

Stevie Brantley donned an outfit made by her grandmother, Alice Sweet. Her dress consisted of a short cape and long skirt with two rows of the modern diamond patchwork. The base color was deep purple with strips of shades of pink.

Airianna Nunez wore a dress with a design from the early 1900s. Her dress included various shades of pink, green and white. Her skirt included one row of patchwork called the Four Directions. Oneva Osceola of the Brighton Reservation was credited for making Nunez's dress.

McKayla Briann Snow displayed a traditional dress from the early 1800s. Her skirt had strips of beige, green, burgundy and red and was a sample of early Seminole clothing, pre-patchwork. Her dress included a flower design with a green ruffle and was made by Virginia Osceola.

The Miss Florida Seminole contestants followed and modeled their traditional outfits for the judges.

Brittany Smith wore an old style traditional outfit made out of cotton with a Florida State University pattern accented with black, beige, yellow, white and maroon bias tape. Her dress was made for her by Oneva Osceola.

Krystle Young modeled a traditional two piece outfit with red and blue lightning patchwork with one row on the cape and one row on the skirt. The dress represented the corn design with blue, red, yellow, black and white colors. Her dress was made by Marie Osceola.

After the modeling portion the contestants were able to show the judges a little bit about their personality and talents as they took the stage for the talent portion of the evening. The Junior Miss Florida Seminole contestants were first to demonstrate their traditional talent.

Lorelei Tommie showed off her acting and performance skills as she told the tale of how the opossum got his hideous tail. Kirsten Doney and Kaylan Osceola both used a slideshow presentation to assist them. Doney talked about the history of the Seminole Clans while Osceola spoke on how to sew a traditional Seminole dress.

Jennie Eagle demonstrated to the judges and crowd how to heal an earache traditionally, a skill that has been passed down from her great-great-grandmother.



Stephen Galla

Stevie Brantley answers her impromptu question about Seminole language and culture.



Stephen Galla

Airianna Nunez wears a dress with an early 1900s design made by Oneva Osceola.



Stephen Galla

Tia Blais-Billie displays some of her artwork, including a self-portrait she did.



Stephen Galla

Brittany Smith demonstrates the process of making a patchwork drawing bag with a sweetgrass bottom.



Stephen Galla

Krystle Young discusses Tribal business ventures, answering a question posed by the pageant's judges.

Tia Blais-Billie displayed art pieces she had created and spoke on how she picked her subject and medium such as watercolors and oil painting.

Stevie Brantley and Airianna Nunez kept the crowd's attention as they both put on demonstrations about two Seminole traditions, dancing and cooking. Brantley talked about how traditional and modern shakers are made and then demonstrated how to use them. Nunez gave the audience step-by-step cooking instructions about how to make the Seminole delicacy of pumpkin bread.

McKayla Briann Snow brought some to tears with her rendition of the song "Amazing Grace," which she dedicated to her late mother, Dawn Marie Snow. Snow wowed the crowd as she sung the second verse in her native Creek language.

Miss Florida Seminole contestants Brittany Smith and Krystle Young then demonstrated their talents for the audience.

Smith did a step-by-step demonstration on how to make a patchwork drawing bag with a sweetgrass basket bottom. Young educated the judges and all on the Second Seminole War using a PowerPoint presentation.

The audience applauded all the ladies for their hard work and confidence in getting up on stage in front of a large crowd.

"It takes a lot of courage for them to get up here and do what they are doing," said co-emcee Samuels. "This should be headlines."

The ladies had one more chance to grab the judge's attention during the impromptu questions. The contestants were asked a variety of questions pertaining to the Seminole Tribe of Florida and its history. All the ladies did a wonderful job and gave eloquent answers.

The outgoing 2008-2009 Miss Florida Seminole D'Anna Osceola and Junior Miss Florida Seminole Amber Craig said their farewells and thanked the many people that made their reigning year so memorable.

Osceola was presented with a princess medallion by Chairman Cypress and given a crown trophy that has become a tradition within the princess pageant for the past two years.

"I feel so proud to be part of this Tribe; but even more that I got to represent it," Osceola said. "I'm very excited to pass it on."



Stephen Galla

Kaylan Osceola tells the judges about culture and education on her home reservation of Hollywood.



Stephen Galla

McKayla Briann Snow displays her traditional dress made by Virginia Osceola.



Stephen Galla

Lorelei Tommie answers a question from the judges about Tribal businesses.

All the ladies were brought back out for the much anticipated announcement that they all worked so hard for.

McKayla Briann Snow and Brittany Smith were announced as the talent winners for the Junior Miss Florida Seminole competition and Miss Florida Seminole competition, respectively.

Miss Congeniality, an award that was selected by her peers, was awarded to Kirsten Doney.

The atmosphere became intense as Stevie Brantley was named Junior Miss Florida Seminole. First runner up went to Airianna Nunez, second runner up Lorelei Tommie, third runner up Tia Blais-Billie and fourth runner up McKayla Briann Snow.

Brittany Smith held back the tears as she was crowned the 2009-2010 Miss Florida Seminole Princess with Krystle Young as first runner up.



Stephen Galla

Kirsten Doney talks about the history of the Seminole Clans with the assistance of a slide show.



Stephen Galla

Jennie Eagle demonstrates how to heal an earache on Kyle Doney using traditional methods.

Contestants Spend Pre-Pageant Days Practicing

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The competition didn't just start the night of the pageant for the girls. The



Rachel Buxton

Brittany Smith accessorizes her outfit backstage.



Rachel Buxton

Kirsten Doney shows why she was voted Miss Congeniality, helping fellow contestant Jennie Eagle with her jewelry.

contestants had the days leading up to the main event to impress the judges.

In the days prior, the girls had jam-packed schedules leaving very little free time with rehearsals during the day and dinners where judging took place at night.

During banquet dinners the contestants were seated among the judges where they were judged on attire and presentation. At each meeting the girls had to get in front of the attendees and judges and introduce themselves.

Many of the girls admitted being in the pageant helped them gain confidence and a sense of pride for themselves and their Tribe.

"The public speaking has really helped with my confidence," said Krystle Young.

Brittany Smith expressed her love for her culture.

"We have such a great culture and background," Smith said. "I want to get our culture out there and exposed."

When the princess contestants weren't in rehearsals or attending a dinner, they spent a lot of time practicing their introduction speeches and talent performances on their own.

On the morning of the pageant each contestant



Rachel Buxton

The Junior Miss Florida Seminole contestants go poolside for a photo shoot.

had to sit down with the judges for a brief interview where they were asked a variety of questions. Some of the questions pertained to their Seminole heritage and touched on essays that the girls were required to write in order to compete.

Most of the contestants have either held a princess title prior or have had a mother or sister who has and were able to gain some valuable advice and examples.

"My sister was Junior Miss Seminole," said Airianna Nunez. "I looked up to her a lot and I thought, 'I could be like that.'"

All the ladies had the same reply when asked why



Rachel Buxton

(L-R) Miss Florida Seminole contestants Brittany Smith and Krystle Young

they wanted to capture the princess title.

"To learn new things about our culture and other people and go new places," said Jennie Eagle whose sentiments were echoed by the other contestants.

"I want to represent the Tribe all the way to the finish," said McKayla Briann Snow.



Rachel Buxton

(L-R) Stevie Brantley, Kaylan Osceola, Lorelei Tommie and Tia Blais-Billie get a chance to speak with pageant judge Miss Indian World Brooke Grant (C).



Rachel Buxton

The ladies and their escorts have some fun after a day of rehearsal.

Seminole Princess Contestants Attend Culture Workshop

Beading, Weaving, Language, Sewing Practiced

BY SHELLEY MARMOR
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The 12-25 year old Miss Florida Seminole and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole contestants had the opportunity to practice traditional crafts with Tribal elders at a culture workshop held June 12 in the Hollywood Headquarters Auditorium lobby.



Shelley Marmor

Katelyn Young, 13, a Jr. Miss Florida Seminole contestant, works on beading.

During the workshop about a dozen pageant contestants had nearly the entire day to practice beading, weaving and sewing, with an additional station available for language instruction.

According to Princess Committee Secretary Mercedes Osceola-Hahn, the Princess Committee wanted to conduct the workshop because throughout the years many contestants have found it difficult to select a talent, a mandatory requirement to compete in the pageant.

"We wanted to offer a workshop to help the girls pick a talent to perform at the Princess Pageant," Osceola-Hahn said. "Each contestant must have a talent to compete."

Employees from the Culture Dept. and Hollywood community Tribal citizens served as instructors at each of the stations.

Donna Turtle headed up the sewing station, with additional help from ladies including Lawanna Osceola throughout the day. Paul "Cowbone" Buster taught Mikasuki vocabulary at his station, while Lorene Gopher and Jade Braswell did the same at the Creek language station. Jo Motlow North and La'Toya Stewart helped the girls work on their weaving techniques, while Leoma Poore assisted at the beading station.

According to Osceola-Hahn, the Seminole Princess Pageant contestants could spend as much or as little time as they wanted at each station. She said if one of the girls wanted to only practice beading they could stay there all day, but if they wanted to practice all four crafts offered, they could do that as well.

In addition to this culture workshop, the contestants also attended a workshop the following day to work on their personal appearance and public speaking skills with Briana Abitban, Seminole Broadcasting reporter, speaking at the seminar.



Shelley Marmor

Marisa Stockton, 15, a Jr. Miss Florida Seminole contestant, sews some patchwork.



Shelley Marmor

Jr. Miss Florida Seminole contestant Tianna Young, 15, practices beading.



Shelley Marmor

(L-R) Secretary/Language Instructor with the Education Dept. La'Toya Stewart helps Jr. Miss Florida Seminole contestant Braudie Billie, 15, with weaving.



Shelley Marmor

(L-R) Miss Florida Seminole contestant Krystle Young, 18, practices speaking Mikasuki with Paul "Cowbone" Buster.



Shelley Marmor

(L-R) Jr. Miss Florida Seminole contestant Gianna Wargolat, 12, gets help with weaving from Jo Motlow North.

Announcements E

BIRTHDAYS

I would like to wish a belated but very happy birthday to my sister **Cheyenne Billie**, whose birthday was May 17.
You're a wonderful mom to your two little boys. Stay strong for them and for yourself.
I love you and know that we are here for you.

From your sister,
Clea Billie-Herrera



Happy birthday to our three wonderful daughters, **Marley Billie** on June 8, **Alison Herrera** on July 20 and **Cooper Rivers** on July 24.

You are all so different in your own ways but when it comes to each other you show love and respect to one another.

We feel very blessed to have smart, beautiful young ladies in our lives.

We want you girls to know that we love you and will always do our very best to support you in whatever it is you choose to do in life.

Love,
Mom & Dad (Joe Herrera & Clea Billie-Herrera)



FATHER'S DAY

Happy belated Father's Day to **Michael Ronnie Doctor Sr.** from your dad, **Virgil Doctor**, Big Town Clan.

IN MEMORIAM

The Man Upstairs

Well, it's been a year now that the man upstairs has taken two of my three beautiful baby girls. I'm not going to lie, yes I was upset with the man upstairs for taking my second baby girl, but then again as through experience their grandmother let me know that they really weren't my babies. They were, but then they weren't, the man upstairs just let me borrow them so that I could have some love, joy and happiness in my life. I truly believe that because mothers are never wrong. One thing that I am thankful for is that the man upstairs has given me long-term loan on my oldest baby girl, **MaryAnn Marie Doctor**. Through her, the man upstairs has given me so, so, so, so much love, joy and happiness by way of blessing me with four beautiful grandbabies. One other thing I would like to mention and that is the man upstairs has also blessed me with my one and only son, **Michael**.

Ronnie Doctor, who has blessed me with my newest grandson, **Michael Ronnie Doctor Jr.** So **Tiffany** and **Pamela**, ya'll will always be remembered through the blessings of **Maleah**, **Tiejo**, **Cadence** and **Nettie**.

Thank you God, our Father,
Thank you Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior,
Thank you Great Holy Spirit,
— **Virgil Doctor**
Big Town



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NEW KIDS



Michael and Lee Ann Micco would like to announce the birth of their new baby girl, **Chace Ole Micco**. She was born June 14 at 7:30 p.m. at Memorial Hospital in Pembroke Pines, weighing 8 pounds, 6 ounces, and measuring 20 inches.

Grandparents are **Billie and Mary Jo Micco** of the Brighten Reservation and **Kimberly Davis** of Hollywood, Fla.



Edward Aguilar and his wife, Cindy, announce the birth of their first grandchild, **Ayden Dean Aguilar**. Their daughter, **Jessica**, gave birth on June 5 to a healthy 7 pound, 8 ounce boy, measuring 20 inches in length.



TRIBAL ATHLETES



Cypress Brothers Triumph in 5k Run

Family of Reggie and Dillon Cypress, including mom, Regina, visited the two boys at the Blount Youth Home in Vidalia, Ga. on April 25.

During the visit, the two boys competed in the 32nd annual Vidalia Onion Festival's 5k Run, held during the weekend of April 25-26. They both won trophies and received recognition for their performances.

Reggie and Dillon Cypress are students at the Blount Youth Home where they are both pursuing their education while learning the vital life skills necessary for success.

POEMS

Wishful Thinking

Tonight I wish on the first star I see
That things will be how I want them to be
But I am a man that's full of faults
And right now they're all just wishful thoughts
I never knew it would all fall this way
Just please understand your worth to me
Where we go from here I have no clue
It's a part of the storm we're going through
I loved you then, like I love you now

I can't explain so don't ask me how
All I can tell you is I'm here for you
Like you've always been there for me
Even when I got shot you was by my side
With a beautiful smile that's a mile wide
When we were kids didn't we dream big?
Now 12 years in the making it wasn't like this
Hey can't I still wish as I leave you with this
goodnight kiss?

— **Kiel Jumper**

My First, My Last, My Everything

My first, my last, my everything, in time you will see this to be true, you can't help it that you were raised to believe that I don't love you.
You can't remember the times I had you with me or the times I came by, because you was just a baby then that's the only reason why.
When I was there I got much respect as your dad, I could stop by anytime I wanted but since I been gone they shut me out which has kept me mad.
But you were being raised by them so they had complete control, true I'm not there but I love you this you must know.
I was on the run years before you came, I didn't disappear because you were born that's silly and lame.
Though I have been mad because I was shut out I have nothing bad to say, with all my heart I ask the spirits to bring that man you trusted to me one day.
As I said in time you will understand that I have always loved you, that "One Day" it will be an honor and privilege to do what I must do.
It would be nice to communicate with you hopefully in time, remember this you're always in my heart and mind.

As for my last you were born months after I was gone, though I haven't been there as I was for my first you and I have that ultimate bond.
Though things did not workout with me and your mom at least you understand I love you, it goes without saying my family does too.
We want you to have the best and achieve all your goals, also master our Mikasuki language, traditions and culture of us Unconquered Seminoles.
Always be proud of who you are and hold your head high, you are a beautiful Seminole girl with that unique sparkle in your eye.
When the opportunity arises, reach out to my first and tell her we love her with all our heart, they can no longer manipulate her mind so maybe we can make a new start.
You'll also have a brother that's older than that two, one thing and two for sure this warrior is proud of each one of you.
My first, my last, my everything, that's what you'll be to me, since day one I have had unconditional love for you three.

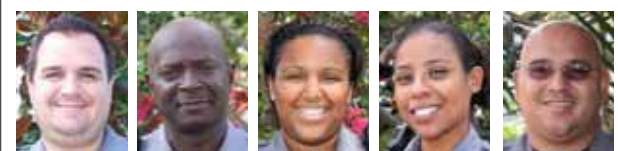
— **Ike T. Harjo**
Panther Clan



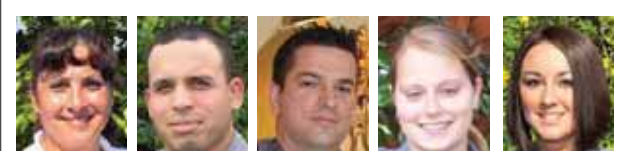
Meet Your Seminole Police Department Service Aides



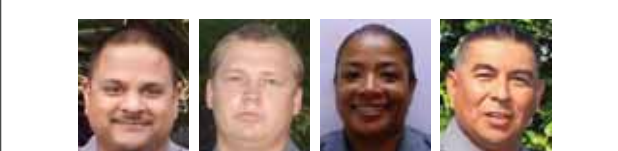
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Larry Hamilton Hollywood
Fran Poux Hollywood
Teresa Bass Brighton
David Hughes Fort Pierce



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Jacklyn Hines Hollywood
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Jeannie Hagan Brighton



Ricky Ali Hollywood
Shawn Gregg Hollywood
Cheri Rolle Tampa
Terry Tartshah Sr. Hollywood

SEMINOLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

SPD Service Aides Provide Assistance to Officers

BY LIEUTENANT JERRY MEISENHEIMER
Contributing Writer

The Seminole Police Dept. (SPD) employs 19 civilians to assist the sworn police officers in providing the best service to the Seminole communities they serve.

These 19 are called police service aides (PSA) and unlike SPD officers, they wear gray and black uniforms. Their patrol cars will also say Service Aide under the "Police" decal.

Their duties vary greatly according to the needs of the reservation they are assigned to.

In Tampa, one PSA is in charge of maintaining all the property and evidence stored there. He is also trained to process crime scenes and gather evidence and to investigate accidents. Another Tampa aide covers the front desk, delivers criminal reports to the State Attorney's Office, patrols the parking lot of the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino and performs other tasks to help the police officers.

PSAs operate the guard gatehouse at the Fort Pierce community on a 24-hour schedule. They control access to the reservation and assist the residents and police officers in any way they can.

On the Brighton Reservation, one service aide is

assigned to work with the Youth and Elders Unit. In addition, she is in charge of the custody of the evidence room there. Another service aide assists with office work, servicing police vehicles, and the weekly mail run to SPD's Hollywood Records Office.

The Hollywood service aides also perform a wide variety of assignments: one is assigned full time to the Youth and Elders Unit, one mans the Tribal Headquarters front desk, and another operates the security gate at the front entrance.

One PSA is trained to investigate traffic fatalities, while others patrol the community, investigate accidents, deliver messages and direct traffic outside the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino on the weekends. Still another is in charge of the Property and Evidence Room and coordinates with the State Attorney's Office.

Two former PSAs are now in the police academy training to be certified police officers. There are plans to hire more PSAs in the future as needs require.

Tribal citizens are encouraged to consider applying for a career as a police service aide with the Seminole Police Dept. Training is provided.

For more information, please contact the SPD Human Resources Dept. at (954) 967-8900.

New Seat Belt Law in Effect in Florida

SUBMITTED BY THE SEMINOLE POLICE DEPARTMENT



As of July 1, a new seat belt law took effect in Florida. The new law states that everyone in a vehicle must be wearing a seat belt at all times.

In addition, law enforcement officers can now stop a vehicle if the officer sees anyone in the vehicle not wearing their seat belt. The old law stated that police had to have another reason for pulling vehicles over.

Under the new law, if the driver or any passengers are seen not wearing a seat belt, the police officer can issue a non-moving violation for each person without a seat belt on. The fine varies in each county.

The Seminole Police Dept. has been handing out fliers announcing this change to the Tribal community. Anyone with questions should please feel free to talk to a local SPD officer.

SPD Launches Explorer Program for Tribal Youth

SUBMITTED BY THE SEMINOLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Seminole Police Dept. has launched a new program for Tribal youth called the Explorer Program.

This program is designed for all male and female Seminoles, ages 6-19, interested in learning about law enforcement as a career choice. Participants must also be enrolled in school and maintain at least a 2.0 GPA.

In order to qualify for the program, each person must not have had any serious criminal infractions, past or present. All applicants must also complete an oral interview with an SPD Review Board and anyone younger than 18 must have a signed parental permission form to participate.

The mission of this program is to further the knowledge and understanding of law enforcement through training and experience, to provide an insight into the criminal justice system in order to encourage members to become law enforcement professionals in the future,

and to help create a better understanding between our department and the youth of our community.

These young men and women will be representatives of SPD and their community. As such, they will have their own uniform and chain of command. They will follow a code of conduct becoming of an SPD Explorer. However, program attendance will be voluntary and will not have any law enforcement authority.

The program will be led by an advisor who will be an SPD full time employee. They will act as a leader and mentor to the police explorers and will be responsible for appointing, directing and reviewing the members and establishing and coordinating their roles and assignment.

If anyone is interested in joining the program, or knows of someone who would be interested in it, please feel free to talk to any SPD officer about it.

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SEMINOLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

SPD to Hold Citizens' Police Academy

BY ELIZABETH LEIBA
Staff Writer

HOLLYWOOD — Tribal citizens will be able to step into the shoes of the Seminole Police Department (SPD) during a 10-week Citizens' Police Academy on July 30-Oct. 1.

The program is being conducted by members from several SPD departments including the Training Division and Youth and Elder Unit. Their goal is to give Tribal citizens a taste of how it feels to be a police officer, with classes offered on traffic stops, crime scene evidence collection, community policing and more.

Sgt. George Gonzalez, who coordinated the program, said he expects topics like identity theft, crime prevention and domestic violence will be of interest to community members.

"I think it's going to be fun," Gonzalez said. "Our mission is not only to make it fun, but to make it informative."

According to Gonzalez, 95 percent of police agencies conduct some type of citizens' academy. Their goal is to bridge the existing gap between the police department and the communities they serve, he said.

This is the second time the program has been held in Hollywood. The first academy took place in May 2005. As a result of the positive feedback from Tribal citizens, SPD decided to renew the program. The original academy trained 12 community members who learned about the police department from the classes held, with open forums for question-and-answer sessions.

"The majority of the questions were legitimate,

good questions," Gonzalez admitted.

Community members were curious about everything from traffic stops and the number of officers typically involved to the attitude of police officers.

Participants were given insights into some of their questions from candid answers from SPD staff as well as the hands-on training activities, which included opportunities to conduct their own simulated traffic stops and building searches.

"Sometimes we had a bad guy [in the building]; sometimes we didn't," Gonzalez explained. "We never told them."

Gonzalez said the experience gave the community members a different outlook on SPD.

"When it was all said and done, they had a new respect for us," he said.

The police department hopes to duplicate their efforts this year and have scheduled at least 15 officers to present the training classes that will be held each Thursday evening from 6-9 p.m. during the 10-week period. On successful completion of the program, participants will take part in a graduation ceremony at the Hollywood Tribal Headquarters on Oct. 1.

Members of SPD hope this year's program will help to build a lasting relationship between the department and the community.

"I think nothing but good things will come out of this," said Officer Bobby Betz of the Youth and Elder Unit. "If it wasn't for the community, we wouldn't be here right now. They need us and we need them."

For more information please contact Sgt. George Gonzalez at (954) 967-8900, Ext. 10416.



Seminole Police Dept. officers take notes during presentations in the COPS Native American Training Series.

SPD Focuses on Native Training in Presentations

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Police Dept. made strong moves toward establishing better and safer Tribal communities at the Community Oriented Policing Service, or COPS, Native American Training Series, held at the Hard Rock Hotel on June 19.

During the presentation, law enforcement members from all reservations learned about the COPS program, a nationwide effort designed to improve and implement more effective community police initiatives.

SPD Lt. Jim Polan helped assist and implement a train-the-trainer presentation for the first time event.

"We want our officers to develop a strong relationship with the Tribal community," Polan said. "Hopefully this event will create a better community for them."

"The positive thing is that what some of the instructors told our officers has already been put into play," he added. "It is all nice because it reinforces that we are on the right track."

The Native version of the COPS program has provided Tribal policing grants along with training and technology for 10 years. Some of the program partners include the Community Safety Institute, specializing in developing, training and technically assisting government entities, and the Upper Midwest Community Policing Institute (UMCPI), a nonprofit organization that builds bridges between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

"We want this to give them the tools to promote police and community partnerships," said UMCPI Services Director Wayne Shellum. "The chief [William Latchford of the Seminole Police Dept.] has really committed to community policing."

"Many police departments want to do this and this gives departments an opportunity to really try to improve the quality of life and build a bridge or foundation of trust within these communities," Shellum added.

COPS program goals include modifying and meeting the needs of Natives across America, developing new information tailored to Native communities and developing a plan to bring to Tribal policing agencies and community partners together.

According to the COPS website, www.cops.usdoj.gov, the national program places an emphasis on advancing the practice of community policing as an effective strategy to improve public safety. It also operates as a component of the U.S. Justice Department.



Upper Midwest Community Policing Institute Services Director Wayne Shellum discusses problem solving solutions within communities.



(L-R) Sgt. George Gonzalez, Training Assistant Terry Tartsah Jr., Sgt. Bill Maynard and Officer Bobby Betz discuss plans for the Citizens' Police Academy.

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