

FALL FESTIVAL

affitting U.S. troops overseas. The money raised was used to purchase items such as toiletries and non-perishable foods.

"With the supplies slated to be sent to countries such as Iraq and Afghanistan, proceeds will also go to the America's Moms for Soldiers nonprofit organization, according to Liaison Tommie."

"We didn't want to wait until Veterans Day to show our appreciation for the soldiers out in war right now," she said. "It's a good way to show our gratitude for the men and women fighting for our freedom."

In addition to the aforementioned activities, there was a bobbing for apples contest, in which blindfolded participants picked up a smiley-faced apple from a large water-filled bucket. A face-painting activity was popular with the younger Tribal youth, while a set of carnival rides like the slide and the rodeo ambush kept those involved busy.

Ke'Yhara Tommie, 10, was one of the scores of people who enjoyed the carnival-style rides at the Ft.



Serenity Smith, 4, rides the Rodeo Ambush before participating in the Fall Festival costume contest on Oct. 24 at Chupco's Landing.

"It was so fun and so fast," Tommie said shortly after getting off the rodeo ambush ride. "I had a great time."

And so did 25-year-old Tribal citizen Antonio Timothly, who said safety at an event is the key to having a great time.

"It was a good idea for us to have something positive to do," Timothy said. "Here at the Fall Festival, if you come here, you know you're going to feel comfortable and safe. You don't have to worry about anybody harrning you and everyone knows each other. It's like family."



(L-R) Gloria Mullen paints the face of Anthony Wilson, 2, at the Ft. Pierce Fall Festival.

Ft. Pierce Fall Festival Contest Results

Costume Contest
Ages 0-4: Scariest: 1. Timothy Smith; Prettiest: Xiya Osceola; Most Original: Kai Tommie; Most Handsome: Mayll Tommie.
Ages 5-10: Scariest: 1. Jon Jimmie; Prettiest: 1. Arissa Cypress; Most Original: 1. Carmen; Most Handsome: 1. Tyhone Scott.
Ages 11-17: Scariest: 1. Destinee Jimmie; Prettiest: 1. Cassandra Jimmie; Most Original: 1. Alexis Jimmie.
Ages 18 and Older: Scariest: 1. Marlon Tommie; Prettiest: 1. Tammy Tommie; Most Original: Mercedes Osceola-Hahn; Most Handsome: Kevin Tommie Sr.

Bowling Tournament
First Team Game: Regular: 1. Kevin Tommie/Beverly Tommie, 347, 2. Merle Billie/Joni Johnson, 336, 3. Dwayne Billie/Betty Billie, 333, 4. Jerome Davis/Patricia Wilcox, 322, 5. Amos Billie/Alfreda Muskett, 313, 6. Elton Shore/Valerie Hayling, 307, 7. Michael Micco/Farah Jones, 326, 8. George Micco/Mary Jo Micco, 285, 9. Kenny Doney/Marilyn Doney, 284, 10. Jack Smith Jr./Crystal Weimann, 270, 11. Moses Osceola/Linda Tommie, 269, 12. Duane Jones/Stacy Jones, 263, 13. Jessie Urbina/Emma Urbina, 258, 14. Josh Sneed/Cara Billie-Guerue, 251.
Second Team Game: 3-6-9: 1. Merle Billie/Farah Jones, 419, 2. Josh Sneed/Yana Griffin, 393, 3. Remus Griffin/Linda Tommie, 381, 4. Duane Jones/Sheree Sneed, 373, 5. George Micco/Stacy Jones, 365, 6. Moses Osceola/

Margaret Wilcox, 358, 7. Jack Smith Jr./Betty Billie, 355, 8. Kenny Doney/Crystal Weimann, 354, 9. Kevin Tommie/Andrea Holata, 349, 10. (tie) Jessie Urbina/Mary Jo Micco, 341, 10. (tie) Dean Stokes/Cara Billie-Guerue, 341, 12. Elton Shore/Alfreda Muskett, 336, 13. Michael Micco/Tommie Mottow, 329, 14. Jerome Davis/Toni Johnson, 326.
Third Team Game: Regular: 1. Kevin Tommie/Crystal Weimann, 365, 2. Remus Griffin/Stacy Jones, 351, 3. Elton Shore/Linda Tommie, 344, 4. Merle Billie/Patricia Wilcox, 342, 5. Dwayne Billie/Margaret Wilcox, 336, 6. Kenny Doney/Farah Jones, 332, 7. Dean Stokes/Beverly Tommie, 312, 8. John Dorgan/Toni Johnson, 308, 9. Michael Micco/Mary Jo Micco, 303, 10. Duane Jones/Andrea Holata, 301, 11. George Micco/Marilyn Doney, 296, 12. Amos Billie/Tommie Mottow, 291, 13. Josh Sneed/Sheree Sneed, 286, 14. Jack Smith Jr./Emma Urbina, 275.
Fourth Team Game: No Tap: 1. Kevin Tommie/Alfreda Muskett, 484, 2. Moses Osceola/Emma Urbina, 416, 3. Jessie Urbina/Crystal Weimann, 412, 4. Kenny Doney/Mary Jo Micco, 410, 5. (tie) Amos Billie/Valerie Hayling, 385, 5. (tie) Jerome Davis/Tommie Mottow, 387, 7. Elton Shore/Sheree Sneed, 387, 8. Dwayne Billie/Toni Johnson, 374, 9. Antill's Stockton/Stacy Jones, 370, 10. (tie) Remus Griffin/Toni Johnson, 368, 10. (tie) Dean Stokes Jr./Linda Tommie, 368, 12. Dean Stokes/Andrea Holata, 357, 13. Josh Sneed/Margaret Wilcox, 351, 14. Adrian Baker/Cara Billie-Guerue, 348.

STAR SEARCH

The 2008 winners have been taking advantage of every possible opportunity to enhance their musical talents, develop an obvious style and stage presence and have obviously found the key to the door of the future.

David Billy is accompanied by a band that allows him to explore various genres including rock and country western, where he robustly excels. Watching him on stage, it is no secret that he loves what he is doing.

Fellow 2008 winner Paula Bowers-Sanchez owns the stage the minute she steps onto the platform. Her extraordinary voice and distinctive style captivate her audience as she travels from one musical venue to another. Displaying her versatility, Bowers-Sanchez has added two Spanish songs to her repertoire.

When Hank Nelson Sr. called his son and 2008 winner, Hank Jr., a "novice," he was showing humility. This talented young country western artist has unlimited potential and the ambition to strive for success. An outstanding performer, he makes the best use of his band and energizes his audience.

There is no doubt that the Seminole Star Search



(L-R) Lori Osceola, Preston Osceola and George Colyer take a little one-on-one time before appearing as Seminole Star Search ambassadors.

winners are true ambassadors of the program and all share one thing in common, the talent and enthusiasm for a bright future in the world of entertainment.



The Brighton preschoolers take part in the Red Ribbon Week festivities. Activities took place at various locations on the Brighton Reservation Oct. 19 - 27.

RED RIBBON

being approached at a younger and younger age so it's really important to build them up."

The Family Services Dept. started to wrap the weeklong celebration up with a movie presentation of "Smashed: Toxic Tales of Teens and Alcohol" at the Veterans' Building on Oct. 22.

"It's very important to know there are consequences to drinking and driving," Marone said to the youth. "You are not invincible. I really want you to take to heart what you see in the film."

The movie graphically portrayed the dangers and consequences of drugs and alcohol. The film shows young adults in the emergency room in critical condition due to the effects of using drugs and alcohol while driving.

On Oct. 27 the Brighton community got a chance to hear a firsthand account of how alcohol affected Renee Napier's life.

"I'm trying to make something positive out of something negative," Napier said. "I lost her daughter to a drunk driver in 2002 and has made it her mission in life to help educate not

only the youth but also the adults about the consequences of drinking and driving by telling her powerful story and putting on display the car her daughter was killed in.

"Our kids can educate us," Napier said. "As adults we need to realize that we are role models for children. Brighton's Red Ribbon Week came to an end with a candlelight vigil after Napier's presentation in remembrance of all those who the community has lost to the ongoing drug and alcohol battle."

"We've been working really hard this week, but it's not just this week," Marone said. "It's a whole year through thing we try to do to prevent drugs and alcohol in the community. It's a real positive thing that the Brighton community comes together to really reinforce 'Just Say No to Drugs,' not just for the youth, but the whole community."

Brighton Red Ribbon Week Contest Results

Door Decorating Contest: 1. General Staff, 2. Treasury Office, 3. Library

T-Shirt Decorating Contest: 1. Robin Hayes, 2. Denise Girtman, 3. Nikki Burton

VETERANS

here today," President Bowers said. "Any war is not popular. It takes lives and destroys families."

He shared with the attendees about his experience in Vietnam War. His brothers, Big Cypress Board Rep. Paul Bowers Sr. and Seminole Color Guard, fought alongside him during the war.

"It's by the grace of God that everybody's come back here alive today," he said, noting that no Seminole Indian veteran lost their lives in the Vietnam War. "All of my veterans have steered me in the right directions and mentored me."

The rest of the Tribal leaders in attendance were recognized and made remarks about the annual Veterans Day program. Ft. Pierce Liaison Sally R. Tommie also recited the poem "Four Hates to Remember."

The Ahfackees School Student Council representatives followed with a series of essays they read to commemorate Veterans Day, celebrated nationally on Nov. 11.

The special guest of honor was retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Anile Adair Locust, who touched on her 22 years of service in the Armed Forces.

A graduate from Chillico Indian Boarding School in 1966, the Cherokee Tribal citizen later served in the Vietnam War, Amile, after talking about her experience, introduced the three other guest speakers, U.S. Navy Lt. Col. Connie Christensen (Ret.), Army Nurse Corp. Capt. Constance Evans and Army National Guard Major Vicki Lynn Jones (Ret.).

All three women spoke about their efforts made while serving in the Vietnam War, admitting it had a profound effect on each of their lives. When speaking, all of them tried to fight back tears as they gave harrow-



(L-R) Stephen Bowers presents Joe Osceola Jr. with a special Seminole Veterans' Acknowledgement plaque toward the end of the celebration, as Big Cypress Board Rep. Paul Bowers Sr. looks on.

ing accounts of how they witnessed the deaths of some of their fellow soldiers in the war.

Lt. Col. Christensen also talked about how women served as cooks and supports to the men of the U.S. Armed Forces in earlier wars. She also gave a historical account on the woman's role in was throughout U.S. history, saying more than 100,000 women have played a role in the makeup of the U.S. military of today.

"The important role of women in our nation's defense cannot be overstated," Lt. Col. Christensen said. "In the future, women will not only change the way our military forces are but our veterans as well."

Following this and other poignant messages from the guest speakers was a special humanitarian award presentation to Chairman Cypress.

Major Jones gave the Chairman a painting of a Native American woman warrior for his efforts in recognizing veterans.

All of that led to perhaps the biggest honor of the celebration, a U.S. Veterans Acknowledgement plaque presented to U.S. Army veteran Joe Osceola Jr. from the Hollywood Reservation. Color Guard members Stephen Bowers and Rep. Paul Bowers Sr. presented the plaque.

"I want to thank the Seminole Tribe of Florida for recognizing all the veterans," Osceola said. "I'm going to accept this award for all of you."

The Veterans' Day celebration concluded with special recognition of all veterans, followed by a closing prayer, a moment of silence for the deceased veterans, a "Taps" performance and a lunch.

"It's so emotional on all levels," said Joanne Osceola, O.B. Osceola Jr. "I've never attended a Native American veterans service like this."

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Community

A

Seminole Veterans Presented with Picture in Appreciation

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — On behalf of D.E. Murphy Constructors, Inc., Don Murphy presented a few Tribal veterans with a grand aerial picture of the newly built Veterans' Building on the steps of the facility on Oct. 30.

"We want to make it an appreciation of you having the faith in us to build this nice building for you," Murphy said. "It was a great project."

On hand to receive the picture of the star shaped building were veterans John Huff Sr., Jack Smith Jr. and Billy Micco. All three veterans were close with Murphy and his crew and had major input during the construction.

"I always say that when we build something it's a partnership with the people we build it for," Murphy told the Seminole veterans. "And we consider the partnership we had with you folks one of the best ones we have had in our 30 years of building."

The Brighton Veterans' Building had its official opening May 28 and continues to be used for many of Brighton's gatherings and events.



Rachel Buxton

Don Murphy (R) of D.E. Murphy Constructors, Inc., presents veterans (L-R) John Huff Sr., Jack Smith Jr. and Billy Micco with a commemorative picture to express his company's appreciation.



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress First Baptist Church youth leader and keynote speaker Josh Jumper (R) speaks to the Tribal youth at the Unconquered for Christ session on Oct. 14.

First Baptist Church Launches Unconquered for Christ

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Pastor of the Big Cypress First Baptist Church Reverend Bruce Pratt has started a new initiative for Tribal youth dubbed Unconquered for Christ (UFC).

Youngsters from the Big Cypress Reservation who participate will have the opportunity to not only partake in fun and games with one another, but hear inspirational words as well.

"Our church wanted to do this to lift up the youth," Rev. Pratt said. "We want the youth to know that Jesus loves them and we're just here to help them out any way we can."

Their inaugural session meeting took place on Wednesday, Oct. 14 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium. All future meetings will take place on Wednesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. in the gym.

During the event, UFC participants listened to Tribal youth leader Josh Jumper speak about the importance of religion.

"When things are not going right, you could turn to God and pray to him," Jumper said. "God will take whatever problems you have and work it out for you."

"Jesus Christ wants to love you and if you have a hole in your heart, Jesus wants to come in and fill that for you," Jumper added.

The Tribal youth were told that future UFC sessions may feature activities including three-on-three basketball games and a musical skit.

Naji Tobias

Josh Jumper closes out with a prayer for the Tribal youth's protection and safety.



Rachel Buxton

Tribal veterans stand behind the Michael Savenelli Veterans Memorial Wall one last time before it is retired during the Brighton's Veterans Day celebration, held Nov. 10 in the newly-built Seminole Veterans Building. After the event, the Memorial Wall was moved to the Veterans Hospital in Ft. Lauderdale, where it will be on permanent display.

First Veterans Day Celebration Held in New Building

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Brighton started a new tradition Nov. 10 with the first annual Veterans Day Celebration at the newly-built Seminole Veterans' Building.

Tribal veterans were honored in a celebration that brought people from all over to show support and appreciation for their service to our country.

The event kicked off with a continental breakfast held in one of the points of the five-pointed star-shaped building.

Event emcee and Brighton Council Rep. Andrew Bowers Jr. welcomed everyone to the first annual event.

"It's good to have all you folks here today sharing this day with these fine men and women up here who have served their duties and who are serving their duties," Rep. Bowers, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, said.

Army veteran and Brighton community member Wonder Johns gave the invocation and held a moment of silence for all those who fought and lost their lives for the country's freedom.

"It's a joy to see all these veterans here today and with God's blessing everyone that went and served their country came back alive," Johns said referring to all Tribal veterans.

Stephen Bowers, a Vietnam army veteran and resident of the Hollywood Reservation, led the Seminole Color Guard for the presentation of colors.

Students of the Pemayetv Emahaky Charter School Student Council recited the pledge of allegiance in their native Creek language, followed by the pledge in English. Trina Harris then made her way to the stage to sing "The National Anthem" before Tribal officials were introduced and welcomed on stage.

"Veterans Day is the most important day because we all are here because of our veterans and our freedom," Chairman Mitchell Cypress said.

The Chairman took a moment to talk about how many people are protesting against the wars being fought right now.

"They forget why they have their freedom," Chairman Cypress said. "It's because of the veterans; people like you."

Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. let the Brighton community know that Brighton is "God's Country" too and that he was proud to be a part of the first-ever event.

"Freedom rings and why does freedom ring? Because of all the men and women that fought for this country to make it free," Rep. Osceola said.

Brighton Board of Directors Rep. Johnnie Jones Sr. didn't let his recent surgery keep him from celebrating the first annual celebration.

"I couldn't miss it," Rep. Jones said. "It gets the



Rachel Buxton

Seminole royalty, (L-R) Little Mr. Seminole Lance Howard, Little Miss Seminole Aubee Billie, Brighton Jr. Miss Seminole Aiyana Tommie, Jr. Miss Seminole Stevie Brantley and Miss Seminole Princess Brittany Smith, show their appreciation to all veterans at the celebration, held Nov. 10 at the Seminole Veterans' Building in Brighton.

people in our community to know who our veterans really are because in the past a lot of people didn't recognize them."

Tribal royalty also were on hand for the special day and gave brief thanks to all the men and women who served.

"I just want to say thank you for all that you have done," Miss Florida Seminole Princess Brittany Smith said. "And to the families of those who have served, thank you for allowing your fathers, sons, daughters, mothers, brothers and sisters to serve and support what they have done."

Junior Miss Florida Seminole Stevie Brantley addressed the crowd without the use of her note cards.

"I think that on occasions like this I should really just speak from my heart," Brantley explained. From a youth's perspective, it's strong individuals like you who give us young people someone to look up to and to give us heroes, inspiration and role models."

Little Mr. and Miss. Seminole, Lance Howard and Aubee Billie, thanked everyone for coming out and Brighton Jr. Miss Seminole Princess Aiyana Tommie read a poem about veterans titled "Because of You."

Rep. Bowers introduced guest speaker Major Vicki Jones, a Native American veteran from Okla-

homa. Major Jones was the first Native American female helicopter pilot in both the Oklahoma Army National Guard and the U.S. Army.

"I'm truly honored and humbled to be here today," Major Jones said. "I can only hope that the young people will be inspired in some way by what actions you have done."

Major Jones presented Rep. Bowers with a painting of a Native woman warrior past and present to be displayed in the Brighton Veterans Building.

"I can tell you that there is no building back home that I know of that compares to this building," Major Jones said. "I'm going to go back home and brag about this veterans building."

Rep. Bowers did the presentation of the roll call of the present veterans as well as a roll call of the many lost veterans.

Following the roll call, Alice Sweat with her granddaughter, Stevie Brantley, the Jr. Miss Seminole Princess, took to the stage for a last minute surprise.

"In exchange for 'Taps' my granddaughter and I will sing for you 'Amazing Grace' in our language," Sweat addressed the crowd. Sweat also gave the final blessing concluding the ceremony.

The members of the small animals 4-H program presented each Tribal veteran with a gift basket filled with vegetables in appreciation for all that they have done.

Outside on display was the Michael Savenelli Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall of Broward County. For the past 12 years the wall has made an appearance at the Big Cypress Veterans Day celebration and this year here in Brighton will be the last viewing of the wall for the Seminole Tribe before it is retired at the Veterans Affairs hospital in Ft. Lauderdale, where it will be on permanent display.

Lunch was provided for everyone to enjoy and gave the community a chance to thank the veterans first hand.

"It brings a lot of joy to my heart to see people actually come out," veteran Stephen Bowers said. "People that aren't even related to us are coming out and supporting the Seminole Tribe veterans."

For John Wayne Huff Sr., president of the Brighton Veterans' Committee, words couldn't even begin to explain how he felt about having a veterans celebration in the new building.

"It's really something," Huff said. "It's overwhelming because we've been fighting for this for a long time."



Rachel Buxton

Veterans bow their heads in a moment of silence for all fallen soldiers lost, as well as for the 13 who died in the recent Ft. Hood, Texas army base shootings on Nov. 5.

Tribal 4-H Pony Club Helps Build Confidence

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Big Cypress 4-H Pony Club members attended a class at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Grounds on Oct. 13.

The purpose of this session, according to 4-H Club Program Manager Crystal Burkett, is to teach the young members how to confidently ride a small horse in preparation for riding larger horses one day.

"When they get older, they'll have the self-confidence they need in themselves to ride an even bigger horse," Burkett said.

The monthly 4-H Pony Club classes take place every second Tuesday at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Grounds.

For more information, please call 4-H Club Program Manager Crystal Burkett at (863) 983-3436.



Jalee Wilcox, 4, begins her pony ride as 4-H Club Program Manager Crystal Burkett guides her along the way.

4-H Club Holds Cooking, Arts and Crafts Session

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Participants from the 4-H Club took advantage of learning how to cook and craft art-work on Oct. 13.

Held at the Big Cypress Rodeo and Entertainment Complex kitchen, the 4-H youth made ice cream cone cupcakes and painted some drawings on wood plaques.

As Crystal Burkett, 4-H program manager, started reading the instructions for how to make the cupcakes, the 4-H youth attendees didn't take long before they began mixing the ingredients and preparing their snacks for the kitchen oven.

According to Burkett, the purpose of the 4-H cooking/arts and crafts lessons is to give the youth an opportunity to learn life skills.

"Coming together as a club, what we're doing here is preparing our kids for adulthood," Burkett said. "This is a great chance for them to learn a few things early in life."



(L-R) Jalee Wilcox and Harmony Cypress make ice cream cupcakes at the 4-H cooking class, held Oct. 13 in Big Cypress.



(L-R) Dalton Koenes, 11, Jacob Cotton, 12, and Nicholas Andrews, 5, stir their ingredients together before cooking.

Burkett said she was happy with the enthusiasm the youth put into the cooking session.

With the cupcakes in the oven for 25 minutes, the group then focused on completing the wood paintings.

Jalee Wilcox, 4, perhaps one of the most excited participants, painted a rainbow house.

Once the 4-H participants had completed their wood paintings, it was time for them to take the cupcakes out the oven and put icing on it.

Jacob Cotton, 12, said he "never saw something like it before," as he and his fellow participants enjoyed tasting the finished product.

The Big Cypress 4-H cooking and arts and crafts classes are typically held the third Tuesday of each month.



Brian Zepeda, Shane Le Mar and Van Samuels present the colors to begin the AIAC Festival on Nov. 6. Following this, Samuels sang "The National Anthem."

Festival Attendees Share in Native Culture at AIAC

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Scores of individuals reveled in the many activities available at the 12th annual American Indian Arts Celebration (AIAC), held at the Ah-Tah-Thai-Ki Museum Nov. 6-8.

In addition to a vast exhibit of Seminole Indian and Native American clothing, a host of performers at the event added to the overall experience.

It all began with a stirring rendition of "The National Anthem" from Van Samuels, an Ah-Tah-Thai-Ki Museum tour guide.

After a standing ovation from the attendees, which included representatives from Brighton's Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School, the program shifted to a storytelling segment from Billy Walker, and brothers, Brian and Pedro Zepeda.

Walker told the participants stories about a box turtle and a hunter turning into a tree, while Brian Zepeda followed with his own stories about the four Seminole brothers and the lion versus the rabbit race. He concluded the segment with a word of encouragement for the participants.

"Everybody is good at something, even if it's just being a good person," Zepeda said.

Next on the program was a critter show segment from Rey Becerra, who wowed the crowd by holding a baby alligator and a skunk.

With the show's participants seemingly on edge when the skunk came out, Becerra kept the skunk firmly in his possession, as he explained that if the animal sprays an individual, then he or she will "suffer from it for at least a week." Becerra educated the audience about another unique skunk feature.

"The skunk's saliva is more dangerous than its spray," he said. "You can get rabies if it bites you; rabies can kill you."

Following that was an alligator wrestling show, which featured Billie Swapp Safari tour guide Shea Hayley and Walker tending to a closed-mouth alligator.

All that thoroughly impressed those in attendance.

Shane Le Mar, event emcee, was one of those who came away more than satisfied with the entire experience — even before singing performances from Martha Redbone, Casper and the 602 Band and 2009 Seminole Star Search Winner Victoria "Tori" Osceola.

"Coming out here, my take is that the Seminoles are sharing their fortunes with their Native American brothers and sisters," Le Mar said. "It's a great thing that the Seminoles have not forgotten their roots and are proud to continue showing it on their own terms."

Martha Redbone, an award-winning Native American R&B artist, performed two original songs from her album collection. Belting out "Talk About It" and "Free," the crowd was captivated by Redbone's performance.

Redbone, who said she was "humbled by the humility and kindness" of the Tribal community, also performed with Casper and the 602 Band in a collaboration entitled "Human Beings," which kept the audience entertained throughout the performance segment.

Redbone, a Cherokee Native American who hails from Brooklyn, N.Y., said after the performance that coming to Big Cypress felt like a second home to her.

"The Seminole Tribe of Florida, for me, is the most progressive, forward-thinking Tribal organization in the country today," Redbone said. "They recognize that the Native arts, as a whole, deserve exposure just like other community groups. They'll do whatever it takes to support their culture and put it out in the mainstream. The sky's the limit for the future of the Tribe."

With Casper and the 602 Band closing out the festival with several live selections, Tribal Historic Resources Officer Tina M. Osceola said she was pleased with how everything turned out.

"I'm really amazed at the entire event from the production to the attendance," Osceola said. "What impressed me the most was when non-Native children were dancing to our Native artists' music and enjoying it. Not even realizing it, the children were receiving a valuable education."

Forum Educates Tribal Citizens About Living in New Gated Community

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Tribal community came out in full force to the Tribal Headquarters Auditorium Oct. 19 to discuss a number of issues in the list of many community forums scheduled.

Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. emceed the gathering joined by members of the Seminole Police Dept. to field questions about the new gated community along North 64th Avenue on the Hollywood Reservation.

Important topics included the new construction of guard houses, street cameras, future road building and accessibility, speed limits, drug testing, time constraints on non-community members, building patterns and security finger printing.

Tribal Director of Construction Management Robert Santarsiero will head up the construction efforts in the community. He said the transition process has been smooth, but admitted it will take many measures for continued success.

"The design of it all is significant because it has been exciting to get input from Councilman Osceola," Santarsiero explained. "This is definitely one of the more complicated projects we have undertaken, however, because there are a lot of other variables involved."

Non-Resident Liaison Holly Tibb-Bowers was also in attendance and gave her support for the new closed community effort.

"Being in a gated community gives you a sense of having better neighbors and people get more involved



Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. discusses plans for the new gated community on the Hollywood Reservation.

from a security standpoint," she said.

Rep. Osceola elaborated further saying, "It is the price we have to pay to secure our children."

Seminole Police Dept. Chief William Latchford also took the time to update the community members on a few pending issues. He asked for their support and diligence on the fight against drugs and drug abuse on the reservation.

"Drugs are an epidemic we always have to continue to fight," Latchford informed. "I ask you all to be our eyes and ears and to work with us. It is about working as a team."

Hollywood Tribal Board Rep. Marcellus Osceola Jr. was also in attendance.

Seminole Gaming CEO James F. Allen Speaks at Florida Gaming Summit

Photo by Chris C. Jenkins

At Left: Seminole Gaming Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and 2009 Florida Gaming Summit Conference keynote speaker James F. Allen fields questions regarding the state of Seminole gaming at the conference, held Oct. 19-20 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood.



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Florida Governor Charlie Crist (C) welcomes the out-of-town attendees to Florida for the 40th annual USET conference.

USET Members Attend 40th Anniversary Meetings

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Hard Rock was host to one of the Seminole Tribe's foundations for social and economic growth Oct. 25-29.

The United South Eastern Tribes, Inc., (USET) Board of Directors meeting brought all of the key players to town for a weeklong gathering and celebration of the 40th anniversary of the organization with a host of activities scheduled.

"I am happy to be a part of this and it is going to be educational for me as well," Tribal Council Chairman Mitchell Cypress said to panel guests in attendance. "Whatever it took to get us all here I am proud of. USET has been very instrumental in a lot of things that the Seminole Tribe does."

To open up the week's agenda, current USET President Brian Patterson (Oneida), along with the Seminole Tribal Color Guard, gave a presentation of the flags. Robert C. North Sr. gave a short opening prayer and Tribal citizen Gordon Oliver Wareham accompanied the affair with a flute performance.

"I feel very fortunate that we have the leaders that we do in this organization," Tribal Board President Richard Bowers Jr. pointed out. "I have been able to learn the truth about our people and have a message to pass along now."

Florida Governor and avid Seminole Tribe supporter Charlie Crist also made an appearance and spoke in support of the event.

Two-term USET President Patterson spoke highly of the conference and acknowledged "it has awakened



(L-R) Tribal Council Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Native American Rights Fund Executive Director John Echo Hawk and Board of Directors President Richard Bowers Jr. at the week-ending USET awards ceremony.

the spirit of family and unity."

"It has also renewed a sense of urgency in me to continue the path of the fore-fathers," Patterson continued. "Our leaders today remain committed to the original visions of our past."

He said commitment, integrity and unity are the major goals of the organization in the future. He also explained that there are many challenges still plaguing Indian Country including poverty, high school drop rates, substance abuse, diabetes and suicide. All continue to be at the top of the crisis agenda.

An elaborate banquet and awards ceremony also capped off the week in Hard Rock Live paying honor and remembrance to former USET founders and presidents including Joe Dan Osceola, Joel Frank Sr., Betty Mae Osceola and Howard Tommie.

There was also a "Play on the Links" tournament held at the Micoosuke Golf and Country Club to kick off the week's activities. Proceeds from the four man scramble and shot gun tournament benefited the USET Scholarship Fund, which awards supplemental money to enrolled area USET Indian students.

According to the organization's website, www.usetinc.org, its mission is dedicated to enhancing the development of Indian Tribes, to improving the capabilities of Tribal governments and assisting the member Tribes and their governments in dealing effectively with public policy issues and in serving the broad needs of Indian people.

As a nonprofit, inter-tribal organization it collectively represents its member Tribes at the regional and national level. USET has grown to include 25 federally recognized Tribes, operating through various workgroups and committees providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and information among Tribes, agencies and governments.



Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. addresses USET committee members and the panel during the opening day meeting at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.



(L-R) Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Tribal Treasurer Mike D. Tiger, Carole Crist, Florida Governor Charlie Crist, former USET President Joe Dan Osceola, Board of Directors President Richard Bowers Jr., and current USET President Brian Patterson together between sessions. Patterson holds the commemorative 40th anniversary USET book, which was later presented to Governor Charlie Crist.

Howard Osceola Continues to Wrestle Through Life

BY RASCEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — A member of the Panther Clan, Howard Osceola was born in 1951 to Robert Osceola and Alice Tony of the Micoosuke Tribe.

Unlike many Seminoles back then, Osceola was actually born to a Baptist hospital in Miami after his mother went into labor with him while picking potatoes. "My mom always joked with me saying 'You gave me a hard time during birth,'" Osceola said.

Growing up, Osceola resided in Hollywood, living in a camp with no electricity or running water.

"We had a lot of free time on our hands," Osceola recalled.

Osceola said he spent most of his free time in the woods where he would hunt and fish.

His family eventually pulled up and made the move to the Ocala, Fla. area where his father began working for Ross Allen, owner of the Ross Allen Reptile Institute in Silver Springs, Fla. At Allen's Native Village, Seminoles could share their culture and traditions, and Osceola's father put on alligator wrestling demonstration.

During their stay in Ocala, Osceola and his family would travel to Brighton a couple times a month and stay with his late father's sister, Mary Huff, at what was known as the Huff Campsite. In 1962 his family made their stay in Brighton permanent and moved there full time.

"He always called this place home," Osceola said about his father's thoughts on Brighton.

Osceola said school was never really for him, although he never felt like he fit in. He eventually dropped out but later earned his GED and attended community college for an 8 month span. He also traveled to Cleveland, Ohio and Dallas, Texas where he studied air conditioning filtration.

His real joy in life, however, came when he was 12 years old and his father brought him to the alligator ring and began teaching him handling techniques.

"You can't practice," Osceola said, "You either get it or you don't. You pick it up as you go."

Osceola began spending every day in the arena handling small alligators at first, and then gradually moved to larger and larger alligators. Little did he know that he would eventually follow in his father's footsteps, though he confessed "I never thought about doing it for a living."

The Okalee Indian Village offered Osceola a chance to make alligator wrestling his living by putting on a show four times a day for the many tourists that came by. He did well at the village but eventually traveled further south to work full time for the Micoosuke Village, where he put on up to six alligator wrestling shows daily.

At the Micoosuke Village he earned a small salary along with any other contributions made by spectators. Osceola joked that the Swedish were always the most generous.

However, six shows a day began wearing him out. He said wrestling alligator after alligator took a lot out of him having to roll them over and perform many of the other tricks he picked up throughout the years.

"A hung in there for awhile," Osceola said. After a few years with the Micoosuke Village and a three finger guitar bite and several stitches later, Osceola headed back to the Okalee Indian Village where he went back to only four shows a day.

"I was pretty good at it," Osceola proclaimed. "Some days I felt so good I'd put my hand in there three times."

Osceola explained that after three or four months new alligators were brought in, raising the challenge. He recalled one special alligator, nicknamed "Nasty," who always put up a good fight.



Howard Osceola performs during an alligator wrestling demonstration at the Okalee Indian Festival earlier this year. This was his last performance before he retired from the sport.

"That thing was mean," Osceola laughed. "He would jump at you, but he put on a good show."

For more than nine years Osceola wrestled alligators full time for a living. He said he doesn't like to call himself a professional alligator wrestler because professional just means he got paid for it.

Osceola called Brighton home once again and began doing odd jobs here and there to provide for his family. He built chicken coops and did construction to stay busy, admitting "there were always jobs popping up."

Osceola eventually took a job with the Forestry Department for eight years.

Even with all the odd jobs to keep him busy Osceola couldn't forget about his treasured talent of alligator wrestling.

In between jobs he would travel to surrounding areas to perform demonstrations and to wrestle. He would occasionally visit the Tampa Indian Village where he would bring alligators with him that he borrowed from Gatorama in Palmdale, Fla.

He was involved in a hit and run automobile accident in 1980 that left him unable to do much for a while and he provided for and raised a family. But Osceola said alligator wrestling never left his blood. His hobby eventually dwindled down to a few times every now and then until he went quite a few years without wrestling an alligator at all.

In February he received a call from his sisters informing him that Okalee Village was having their first alligator wrestling competition in years. Osceola jumped at the chance to compete, being the oldest competitor in the competition.

"I knew I could do it," Osceola said with a smile.

It was a two-day, deeper water wrestling competition, which meant the wrestler had to dive under water and catch the alligator before beginning to wrestle it. Osceola said a competitor had to keep their mind on the alligator at all times.

The first day Osceola was able to catch his alligator and wrestle him, however, on the second day he just couldn't catch the alligator under water.

"Don't ever take too many chances you don't have to," Osceola explained about wrestling. "I still have all my fingers to show."

Today, Osceola stays busy around his house taking care of his wife of 12 years, Virginia, going to appointment after appointment, chopping firewood, building chicken coops, hunting, feeding dogs and many other side projects.

"I'm always busy," Osceola said.

In his free time he carves wood, a trait he picked up on his own. However, he always has a smile on his face when he reminisces about his alligator wrestling days. He said those are days he will never forget but they're finally over now.

Hard Rock Café Makes a Mark on Vegas Strip

BY BRIANA ABITTA
Contributing Writer

LAS VEGAS — The Seminole Hard Rock Café filled a missing link in Sin City on Oct. 15, right in the middle of the Las Vegas Strip.

Members of Tribal Council, Miss Florida Seminole Brittany Smith and guest celebrities arrived on the red carpet in true rocker fashion. They smashed their guitars, as is done at the opening of each Hard Rock Café in the world, as a welcome to one of the largest cafés.

"The Seminole Tribe used to be small, never been heard of before but today we are on top of the world," Chairman Mitchell Cypress said. "So I think that's pretty good for any Native American. I think we are role models for the other Tribes throughout the country."

Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. agreed with the Chairman's sentiments.

"This is the gaming capital of the world, so to be here on the strip from a little old Tribe of 3,500 members, this is a giant step," Rep. Osceola Jr. gamed.

The glamorous, three story café, located directly across from the Monte Carlo Hotel, is a 47,000 square foot, state-of-the-art restaurant that could actually double as a rock 'n' roll museum.

Bringing technology to the next level, an interactive rock wall takes the stage on the second floor and gives the rock music enthusiast a chance to delve into the genre that has made history throughout the years. From guitars and clothing, to stories and music, the world's largest collection of memorabilia can be found right at each guest's fingertips.

In addition, interactive screen surface tables made by Microsoft® keep patrons occupied while they wait for a table in the restaurant, ensuring there is never a dull moment for any guest. The café boasts the largest Hard Rock Shop in the world on the bottom floor, a venue for an intimate, 1,000 person concert on the third level, and even a chapel.

"We hit the jackpot and it is history in the Seminole Tribe," said Board of Directors President Richard Bowers Jr.

Chief Operating Officer of Seminole Gaming Jim Allen said this addition could bring much success for the Seminole Tribe.

"We think this could be a \$50 million store and I don't think any restaurants in the world make \$50 mil-



An exterior view of the Las Vegas Hard Rock Café, which officially opened Oct. 15.

lion dollars, so we're really excited about it," Allen said.

For Joshua Smith, 20, from the Tampa Reservation, it was the luck of the draw that brought him to the grand opening. He was one of 10 lucky raffle winners who had the opportunity to see history in the making at the grand opening event.

"I'm very fortunate to have this opportunity," Smith said. "I think it's really nice. It's one of the nicest [Hard Rock Cafés] I've been to so far."

Proceeds from the event went to Opportunity Village, a Las Vegas-based nonprofit organization dedicated to serving and enhancing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities.

After purchasing Hard Rock International in 2007, the Seminole Tribe of Florida has become a success story. Opening hotels and cafés throughout the world, the Tribe becomes more renown with each opening.

"Every time we open a new location it brings notoriety to the Tribe," said Naples Liaison OB Osceola Jr. "We've already been pioneers in everything else that we've done, so why not be on the Las Vegas Strip?"

This opening will also help the Seminole Tribe carry on prosperously, according to Ft. Pierce Liaison S. R. Tommie.

"It will continue to allow us to raise our standards of living, being able to build more houses and provide better education for our people and healthcare as well," said Liaison Tommie.

There are about 11 more Hard Rock Cafés scheduled to open through 2011.

Late Seminole Tribe Matriarch Honored at Tampa Statue Unveiling

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

TAMPA — The Tampa community, Tribal officials and friends and family from all other reservations came together Oct. 23 to honor the late Ruby Tiger Osceola with a statue unveiling held at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Tampa.

Ruby Tiger Osceola was a leading matriarch in Seminole history and helped shape the Tampa Reservation.

In memory of the late Osceola, and in appreciation of a woman who gave so much of herself for her family and Tribe, a bronze replica of her was created by Bronze by Cooley and placed on display in the Hard Rock.

John Fontana, president of the Tampa Hard Rock, welcomed everyone to the special statue unveiling ceremony and invited the late Osceola's son-in-law and Tampa community member, Bobby Henry, on stage to give the invocation.

Tribal officials were then brought on stage to say a few words with all of them reminiscent of their time spent with Osceola.

"Ruby was like my grandmother," Board of Directors President Richard Bowers Jr. said. "I got a lot of encouragement and positive influence from Ruby Tiger."

Brighton Council Rep. Andrew Bowers Jr. also spoke at the event.

"I was surprised to see this many people here but then I thought about it and understand why," Rep. Bowers said. "Whoever thought this whole thing up had to have the right idea because I think it's only fitting that something like this would be done in honor of Ruby."

Osceola played such a prominent role in Tribal history and endured many hardships during her life including having to raise her entire family on her own after the tragic loss of her husband. Osceola's six remaining living children were all present for the occasion and addressed the crowd thanking them for sharing in this special moment. Herbert Jim of the Tampa community helped translate the daughters' native language.

Linda O'Henry thanked everyone for being at the event, especially her children because they never saw their grandmother when she was alive, and now wants to make sure that everyone goes up there and sees her.

Peggy Cubis reminded the family of how they have become so many and to remember that they are family and never to fight or argue amongst each other.

Osceola's remaining nieces and nephew also came on stage and thanked the crowd.

Amos Tiger, nephew to the late Osceola, joked, saying "this isn't right" referring to his being the only male on the stage with all the women.

"I think this is a great moment for the family," Tiger said.

Fontana presented each daughter with a "giclee," an ultra-high-resolution art print of the statue of their mother with their mural picture that is on display behind the statue. He said this way they can bring it home and always have their mother close.



Rachel Buxton

It took almost a year for the father and son artists from Bronze by Cooley to complete the statue of late Seminole matriarch, Ruby Tiger Osceola.

Lola Juarez, Director of the Senior Center in Tampa, who played a vital role in making this statue possible was introduced with tears in her eyes.

"To me being part of these ladies' lives is very important, very touching," Juarez said in between tears. "We're not related and I know they say for me this is a job but it's my heart. It is an honor working for these ladies. They deserve a lot more."

Juarez was presented with a smaller version of the giclees along with the Tribal officials and the Cooley family.

The statue is on display above the bus lounge and right inside the garage entrance.

"We wanted to put the statue in a place where a lot of people would see it and people would pass it," Fontana said, "Over half the guests of the casino come through this new garage."

Fontana allowed the daughters to be the first to go up the elevator and to see the statue. They were then followed by family and friends.

The statue process was started back in 2007 when the daughters approached the father-son Bronze by Cooley statue team. They presented the father and son duo with pictures of their late mother and the statue came into existence.

"We had a lot more guidance with this piece than we do a lot of them," Bradley Cooley Sr. said.

The daughters visited the artist's studio in Lamont, Fla. and critiqued the piece to ensure their mother's likeness came into existence.

"We got to actually hear stories, get a little more of a personality rather than just working from a picture," Bradley Cooley Jr. said. "It was definitely one of our pieces in the top realistic pieces where I can look at it and say 'wow that really looks like her.' It was enjoyable getting to that satisfaction."

The statue of Osceola wears a traditional patchwork skirt with her hair up how it was worn in the Tribe's earlier days. A bronze panther sits beside the statue, representing Osceola's clan. The statue of Osceola is also pointing.

"She laid a path for us to follow," Chairman Mitchell Cypress said. "Where she's pointing at she sees a vision of what is happening today."

Family gathered around the statue taking turns posing for pictures. Many even took pictures of the statue with their camera phones to capture the moment.

"So from here on out I think the grandkids and great-grandkids are going to look up to her and maybe follow in her footsteps; she's a role model," Chairman Cypress said.

Osceola strove to preserve Tribal culture and had a guiding presence that will continue to live on at the Hard Rock through the grand bronze statue.

"I didn't expect so many people to come; I'm happy for that and I'm really happy today is today," Osceola's daughter, Nancy Shore, said with tears in her eyes. "I want my mama back and she's here. I'm going to see her every day."



Rachel Buxton

(L-R) Daughters Susie Osceola, Nancy Frank, Annie Henry, Peggy Cubis, Linda O'Henry and Maggie Garcia, say they will visit their mother's statue daily.

Tribal Royalty Makes Annual Trip for FSU Homecoming

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

TALLAHASSEE — The Tribe's royalty took part in the 61st annual, spirit-filled Florida State University (FSU) homecoming festivities, held Oct. 30-31 throughout the campus.

Tribal guests in town for the annual weekend included Miss Florida Seminole Princess Brittany Smith, Jr. Miss Stevie Brantley, Little Miss Aubee Stevie Billie, Little Mr. Lance Howard, Big Cypress Board of Directors Rep. Paul Bowers Sr. and Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Andrew Bowers Jr.

Halloween eve, Oct. 30, led off with an afternoon Homecoming parade sponsored by the FSU Student

Alumni Association with this year's theme, "Ignited by Tradition."

The day featured an array of colorful floats with participants from community and campus. FSU mascots, Osceola and Renegade, the FSU cheerleaders, contestants for the homecoming chief and princess and the FSU Marching Chiefs band all attended. The Seminole Tribal Color Guard, including co-founder Stephen Bowers, as well as Tribal Council Treasurer Mike D. Tiger also made a parade appearance.

A Pow Wow showcasing Comedian Jim Gaffigan, the FSU football team captains and FSU legendary Head Football Coach Bobby Bowden highlighted the evening's festivities.

"The school has these events every year and we appreciate them using our name and having us be a part of it. We enjoy it and being a Tribal official makes it even better for me," said Big Cypress Board of Directors Rep. Paul Bowers Sr., who also participated in the parade as a long standing member of the Color Guard. "It is also really good to come out here with all the college kids and watch and support all the festivities."

Jr. Miss Seminole Princess Stevie Brantley, an Okeechobee Christian Academy High School sophomore, said being a part of the weekend events has been a goal of hers for years, and has now become a reality.

"Growing up and doing pageants I always wanted to be a good example for my people and I always wanted to do the FSU parade," Brantley explained. "I just want to represent my Tribe and be an ambassador for it."

Brantley said after graduation she plans to attend FSU.

Seminole Princess Committee Chairwoman Wanda Bowers said coordinating the homecoming activities for the past seven years brings on a new set of experiences with every passing year.

"Each year there is a new princess so it begins a new family," Bowers pointed out. "I try to make it as simple as I can for each girl, though."

"The people and the reception are always really nice and they have always been really good to us," she added.

Bowers also presented retiring FSU President T.K. Wetherell with a set of Seminole Tribal dolls on behalf of herself and the Tribe, for his support of the Seminoles throughout the years. Wetherell said he still plans to teach at FSU after retiring as president.



Chris C. Jenkins

(Center, L-R) Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Stevie Brantley and Miss Florida Seminole Princess Brittany Smith on the field with the FSU Homecoming chief and princess and school mascots, Osceola, and horse, Renegade.

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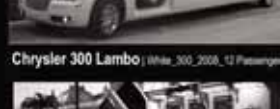
Freedom Edition | Black, H2, 2008, 25 Passenger



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



Tribal Edition | White, H2, 2008, 22 Passenger



Bentley Edition 2009 | Silver & Black, 300, 12 Passenger

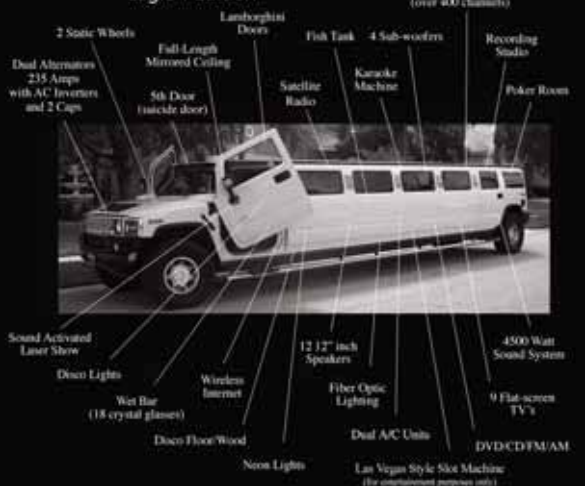


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Education

B

Youth Take on Back to School 'Fear Factor' Challenge

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Scores of Tribal youth from the Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club participated in a "Fear Factor"-type activity on Oct. 13.

Held at the Ahfachkee School, there were 11 teams of two that engaged in a series of competitions, which emphasized the focus on critical thinking and teamwork.

The following teams placed first through third, respectively, Jonah Alvarado/Roderick Bert, Sabré Billie/Jasmine Billie, and Marc Flores/Katie Bert.

"We put this on to promote healthy risk taking and by creating interactive activities for our youth," said Boys & Girls Club Assistant Director Thommy Doud. "Fear Factor is designed to be a team building activity, which fosters positive social interaction between teammates."

For the "slimed apple toss," the first challenge, the 11 teams had to throw an apple covered in corn syrup to each other without dropping it. If the teams dropped their respective apples, they would be eliminated from the competition. In the end, only six teams advanced to the next round.

In the second round challenge, the "blind folded school object find," players from the top six teams had to find school supply items, rulers, pencils, glue and scissors, in a slop-filled bucket on one end of the field. On the other end of the field was a tub with identical items.

When the activity began, the team player by the bucket had to reach into it and pull out the first item. This player then told their teammate what the item was. The blindfolded player went next, using only their feet to find the identical item the first teammate found.

In the timed event, only three teams moved on to the final challenge.

With the "backward sponge toss," the final activity, the top three teams engaged in a spirited competition that came down to the wire.

Each team had 10 chances to catch a slop-filled sponge through a "brain freezer" helmet. The player who was blindfolded threw the sponge to their teammate, who wore the helmet.

In the end, the team of Jonah Alvarado and Roderick Bert came out on top, winning the overall "Fear Factor" challenge.

"It was successful and fun for the youth," Doud said. "They were all good sports and they competed very well."

Fear Factor is typically held monthly at the Ahfachkee School for Boys & Girls Club participants.



Naji Tobias

Jonah Alvarado, 10, catches the game winning slop-filled projectile in his bucket during the "Fear Factor" finals on Oct. 14.

Ft. Pierce Stays Drug Free at Red Ribbon Week Events

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

FT. PIERCE — The Ft. Pierce community sent the message "Drug Free is the Key" Oct. 26-29 as they celebrated their Red Ribbon Week, holding a variety of activities at Chupco Youth Ranch.

The community began the Red Ribbon Week celebration with a showing of HBO's film "Smashed: Toxic Tales of Teens and Alcohol." The graphic video took adults and the youth into the emergency room and showed what can happen when you use drugs and drink and drive. The video focused on teens who sustained life threatening injuries while under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

"To get to your teens you really have to get your message across to your adults," said Ft. Pierce community outreach specialist Stefanie Duda.

The same night the reservation held a balloon release, making a collective statement of solidarity in the fight against drugs and alcohol.

The community followed up the second night with a poster and door decorating contest.

Feasting on pizza, community members were provided with poster board and markers for a chance to have their poster design chosen as the image for next year's Red Ribbon Week T-shirt. Families took to their homes to decorate their doors sending out the drug free message. Marty Tommie Sr. and his family took the top honor for their decorated door.

□ Please see RED RIBBON on page 4B



Rachel Buxton

(Back Row, L-R) Brighton Council Rep. Andrew Bowers Jr., Jade Braswell of the Culture Dept., Brighton Board Rep. Johnnie Jones Sr., Principal Russell Brown, (Front Row, L-R) Elle Thomas, Ozzy Osceola, Morgan King, Trevor Thomas, Zack Hudson and Michael Garcia at the ceremony, held Oct. 26 in the Pemayetv Emahakv cafeteria.

Student Council Members Take the Oath of Office

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Pemayetv Emahakv held their Student Council inauguration ceremony to swear in this school year's newly elected officers Oct. 26 in the school's cafeteria.

The Student Council representatives sworn in were: Chairman Michael Garcia, Kindergarten Rep. Elle Thomas, First Grade Rep. Haylie Huff, Second Grade Rep. Ozzy Osceola, Third Grade Rep. Raelley Matthews, Fourth Grade Rep. Morgan King, Fifth Grade Rep. Trevor Thomas and Sixth Grade Rep. Zack Hudson.

Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr. and Brighton Board of Directors Rep. Johnnie Jones Sr. were on hand for the event.

"All of you students being sworn in, there's something about the swearing in ceremony," Rep. Bowers expressed to the students. "It is something you have to live with and it has to come from [the heart], keep that in mind."

Rep. Jones addressed the elected officers next congratulating them and offering words of guidance.

"You have a lot of work ahead of you," he said. "And all the students out there are going to be looking up to you; just do a good job."

Lined up in front of the audience the outgoing

and incoming Student Council members led the student body and guests in the Creek Pledge of Allegiance followed by the pledge to the American flag.

Following the pledges, the fourth through sixth grade choirs came forward and lined up behind the Student Council for a special presentation. First, Pemayetv Emahakv's bell ringers performed the song "This Land is Your Land" twice using the bells and then the choir took over and sang the lyrics.

Everyone took their seats as Rep. Bowers began the swearing in of the elected officers. Each grade level officer took to the podium and placed their left hand on the Bible, raising their right hand and saying the oath.

Once sworn in, members were presented with their new sash by the outgoing Student Council members and took center stage to deliver their acceptance speeches.

"I will represent our school the best that I can," newly elected Chairman Michael Garcia told his peers.

Principal Russell Brown encouraged the student body to form a line and shake hands with the elected officials for their school.

"These are the people you will be talking to as we look to make our school the best that we can," Brown said.



Rachel Buxton

Chairman Michael Garcia (R) gives his acceptance speech with assistance from Jade Braswell (L) of the Culture Dept.

Koenes Gives Tribal History Presentation to GNL

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

EVERGLADES CITY, Fla. — Beginning its 14th year, Greater Naples Leadership, Inc., (GNL) asked Tribal citizen Mary Jene Koenes to address their organization for the second consecutive year at their History Day function, held Oct. 21 at the Collier County

Courthouse in Everglades City.

GNL provides group sessions each year to acquaint men and women interested in volunteering their skills to nonprofit organizations with community service. Hoping they will apply their leadership skills, talents and experience to assist programs in Collier County, GNL focuses on history, culture, communication, healthcare, education, envi-

ronment, growth, human services, government and law.

Koenes was the highlighted speaker for history day, which is one of 10 scheduled sessions. The day's itinerary included a tour of Olde Naples, the Collier County Museum, Collier Seminole State Park, Smallwood's Store on Chokoluskee and the Everglades City Courthouse.

Koenes opened her presentation by speaking in Mikasuki and then provided a brief history of Native American and Seminole occupation of the Florida peninsula. Acquainting her audience with the Seminole culture, she supplied a background of Tribal history within the Collier County region for the past 150 years.

The majority of the group was surprised to learn that South Florida had remained an untamed frontier of natural resources inhabited, almost exclusively, by the Seminole Indians until the past 85 years. With the arrival of speculators and developers, the area was transformed forever.

Moving to more recent times, Koenes explained the Seminole Tribe's sovereign status, constitution and basic governmental administration. Observing that the Tribe's economy consists of more than just casinos, she enlightened them on the agricultural ventures, cattle industry, citrus and Hard Rock enterprises.

Extending an invitation to visit the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, Billie Swamp Safari and the Seminole casinos, Koenes opened the presentation to group discussion.

During the question and answer period, inquiries included education, healthcare, citizenship, environment and natural resources. Many of the participants expressed their astonishment when they learned that the Tribal citizens are self sufficient, pay income taxes and are proud veterans and supporters of the U.S. military.

GNL History Day Organizer Sandy Diamond said: "We have received wonderful feedback about Mary Jene Koenes' presentation from the class members. Her contribution to the agenda was inspiring and gave insight into new avenues of thought for which we are grateful."



Judy Weeks

Members of the GNL organization surround Mary Jene Koenes (R) to make inquiries following her presentation for History Day on Oct. 21.

Rachel Buxton

Rachel Buxton

PEMAYETV EMAHAKV STUDENT HONORS



ESE
Mrs. Bond – Aleah Turtle

Rachel Buxton

SPD Chief Inducts Safety Patrol Members

Members of the Safety Patrol will hold their titles



Book Reviews

(L-R) Safety Patrol Captains Michael Garcia and Kailin Brown return to serve again this year.

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AHFACHKEE SCHOOL

Students Rewarded As School's First Nine Weeks Draws to a Close

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Tribal students from the Ahfachkee School were presented with a slew of awards on Nov. 6 as part of its end of the first nine weeks of the school year awards ceremony.

"The first nine weeks might have been a bumpy one to begin with, but it's going to be better the rest of the way," said English Teacher Jordan Rosenberg.

Awards were handed to the Ahfachkee students in the following categories: culture, perfect attendance, citizenship, Read Rights, and Councilman's. President's and Chairman's Awards.

Those who achieved at least a 3.0 grade point average (GPA) gained a host of incentives, which include the

right to wear an Ahfachkee Warriors lanyard during school hours. According to Ahfachkee School Principal Walter Swan, any student wearing the earned lanyard gets to leave school 15 minutes early before regular dismissal.

Also, the honor roll students will have a future



Naji Tobias

The prekindergarten group celebrates receiving their awards at the Ahfachkee School's end of the first nine weeks awards ceremony on Nov. 6.



Naji Tobias

The Councilman's Award winners receive white lanyards as part of their incentives package.

opportunity to go to either the Dave and Buster's or Gameworks arcade as a treat for their accomplishments.

The Councilman's Award winners received white lanyard passes, while the President's and Chairman's Award recipients earned black and red lanyards, respectively.

"You guys are all doing a great job," Swan said to the students after they received their awards.

Ahfachkee Students Attend Weeklong Book Fair at School

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Students, their parents and staff members took advantage of the opportunity to scroll through the vast array of close to 5,000 books at the Ahfachkee School's Book Fair, held Nov. 2-6.



Naji Tobias

Fifth grader Jonah Alvarado reads through a book just before the school's book fair wraps up on Nov. 6.

Divided by categories and sections, including easy-readers, science fiction, sports, history, entertainment, education, fiction and non-fiction, the students and adults had a lot to purchase or read through at the event.

Tribal parent Emilia Jumper, mother of students Jathaniel Brooks, 10, and Hechchoo-Ye Jumper, 6, accompanied her two children to the book fair on Nov. 5. All three were impressed by the variety of books available to them.

"We're very blessed to have this opportunity," Jumper said. "Reading gives kids more knowledge as we parents don't know everything. If our kids read, they could teach us something."

Jumper read a book titled "The Boys Book of Survival" which she said could benefit her son, Jathaniel, in his life.

"When I was glancing at the book, I looked upon one that focused on survival," Jumper said about the selection. "It teaches boys about bullying, how to be a good leader and how to track a wild animal. The book could give my son a better attitude and a positive outlook on life."

Margarita Lugo, the book fair chairperson, said she was thoroughly encouraged by the support Tribal parents and children exhibited for the book fair. She

said she noticed a positive atmosphere throughout the week, as the Ahfachkee students and their parents were happy to purchase multiple books and begin reading their selections right away.

"The whole community will benefit from this because the children are going to be encouraged to read more," Lugo said. "We're going to see our students' education and comprehension improve because of this. They'll turn into avid readers as they read more and instead of searching for a toy, they'll be looking for a book to read."

Some of the book fair's most popular selections included "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" by Jeff Kinney and "Lego's Star Wars Encyclopedia."

Following the book fair, the school established two websites, one for Ahfachkee's lower grades and one for the high school students, geared toward promoting literacy through reading. The website for the elementary grades is <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/ahfachkee>, while the high school website is <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/ahfachkees>.

"It explains what books are featured and upcoming," Lugo said about the school's website. "You can make your book selections from the comfort of your own home; you can do it any time."

The next book fair at Ahfachkee School, which will likely include a science component, is slated for April 2010 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.

Proceeds from the book fair will benefit the Ahfachkee School Fund.



Naji Tobias

Tribal student Jathaniel Brooks reads Jeff Kinney's "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" at the event.



Naji Tobias

Sabré Billie walks the electric wire at the Florida Atlantic University (FAU) Ropes Course Challenge on Oct. 27.

Ropes Course Promotes Teamwork with Ahfachkee Students, Staff

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BOCA RATON, Fla. — Tribal students and staff from the Ahfachkee School learned several important concepts at the Florida Atlantic University (FAU) Ropes Course Challenge on Oct. 27.



Naji Tobias

Ahfachkee ESE Coordinator Jillian Francis navigates her way across the climbing wall.

Coming off the 90 minute bus ride from the Big Cypress school, students and staffers alike wondered what would take place at the outdoor course. They soon found out there would be a series of challenges aimed to promote unity, teamwork and critical thinking.

"On a day-to-day basis, are you only juggling one thing in your life?" asked course instructor Terra Cay, who facilitated the group juggling challenge.

The Ahfachkee students and staff members agreed there are multiple things they had to try to balance in life including family, pets, school and work.

"We need to figure out what's the best way to juggle," Cay said. "Teamwork and communication are the keys to having a proper balance in life's activities."

With a set of five teams of students and staff divided up, each of them juggled a set of toys and threw them to their team members. Those catching the objects started with one item, but soon after had to juggle five items their teammate threw to them.

"Things change in your life," Cay said. "You have to be prepared for it."

Ropes Course Challenge instructor Laura Zorza called the next challenge "one of the most dangerous activities on the course."

In order to succeed in the challenge, the logs course, the teams had to establish good communication and effective teamwork. For Team Climbers, consisting of students Jalen Cypress, Haden Littlebear, Marc Flores, Bradley Osceola, Jon Ross Billie, Ronnie Billie and Stevie Billie, this strategy paid off.

In this support activity, team members placed a set of logs in different locations for connection, they could

not use their hands to get it done; some of them couldn't even speak to accomplish this task. Ultimately, they had to use their legs and non-verbal communication skills to succeed in this challenge.

It took some time, but all teams completed the activity successfully.

"The easy way out gets you nowhere in life," Zorza said. "In the path of life, sometimes you have obstacles that you need to overcome. It's important to ask for help and support when needed. It takes teamwork to succeed in this course of life."

All those tips were smoothly translated to the series of rope climbing exercises. Each student had at least one chance to climb the ropes and walk across them. Some of the Ahfachkee students admitted they feared the course before this activity. However, they came away enthusiastic about the lessons it taught.

"Teamwork is more fun than when you're doing something alone," said Matthew Bluebird, an Ahfachkee School student. "When you have help, things get easier."

Fellow Ahfachkee School student Sabré Billie said she was encouraged by what transpired as she walked the electric wire portion of the ropes course.

"When my team was talking to me about it, I was scared," Billie said. "But when I began to climb the wire, I blocked everything out and it was easy from there."

Even some Ahfachkee staff members had a chance to take part in the rope climbing exercises, with many of them returning to the course for a second time. Ahfachkee Teacher Beverly Grinis took advantage of the opportunity.

"It's a great exercise for team building and self-esteem," Grinis said. "The kids have learned to encourage each other and it's helping them to build camaraderie and self-confidence."

"Proper communication is the key to success and the strength of the Seminole Tribe," Grinis added. "We need to listen to each other and help one another out if we are to be successful in whatever we do as a team."



Naji Tobias

Student Marc Flores walks across a catwalk pole at FAU's Ropes Course Challenge.

Ahfachkee School Launches Website

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Ahfachkee School is now more technologically advanced, thanks to the recent launch of its website, www.seminolewarriors.net.

The website's purpose, according to Ahfachkee English Teacher Jordan Rosenberg, is to keep the Tribal students and their families involved in whatever events and happenings occur throughout the academic year.

A relatively user-friendly site, www.seminolewarriors.net features a variety of links users can navigate. If one clicks on the "Academics" icon, they can

view all homework assignments each teacher assigns on a weekly basis. Also on the website is a listing of upcoming events for the Ahfachkee School and other related Big Cypress community activities.

While the website is still undergoing alterations at this time, staff members say they are happy with the progress that's been made thus far.

"If the kids use our website as a tool, it will help them keep up with their classes," Rosenberg said. "Pretty soon we'll be able to upload all our homework assignments on the website. It's yet another way to allow our kids to get connected to the Internet."

RED RIBBON WEEK

Big Cypress Celebrates Red Ribbon Week

BY NAIJ TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — A slew of activities geared toward maintaining a drug-free lifestyle took place in Big Cypress to commemorate Red Ribbon Week, held Oct. 19-23.

The first day of the week-long festivities, Oct. 19, was dubbed "Wear Red Day" and Tribal citizens and employees were encouraged to wear red shirts in commemoration of the national drug prevention campaign.

Big Cypress teachers and employees alike took the time to unite together for a group photo shoot in their efforts to fight against drug use.

The following day, crews from Seminole Fire Rescue took a tour of the reservation to judge the many doors that were decorated in the annual door decorating contest. In all, more than 20 doors throughout the Big Cypress Reservation were entered into the contest.

Some doors stood out, such as the Willie Frank Library door, which featured a life-sized cutout picture of President Barack Obama. The Big Cypress Tribal Council Office door, which had a donkey, a bird and a set of talking props on it, drew graves, stars and double takes from just about everyone who stopped by.

Jason Camarrese, a firefighter/paramedic with the Seminole Fire-Rescue

Dome, the Public Safety Complex and Billie Swamp Safari were among the stations teams scrambled through for at least two hours.

When it was all said and done, all eight teams had a great time with the brisk pace and critical thinking that went into the Amazing Youth Race.

From there it was on to the BMX Ultimate Drug Free Show, where John Dowker, Kevin Little and Doug Morrison performed bicycle tricks at the Billie Swamp

Safari parking lot.

The Amazing Youth Race results were announced after the conclusion of the highly-moved show, which featured bicycle moves such as the Superman jump, the tail whiplash and a set of back flips.

The pace slowed down quite a bit on Red Ribbon Week's fourth day with judges evaluating the posters drawn up in commemoration of the nationally celebrated drug free campaign.

And on the final day of Red Ribbon



Naij Tobias

Big Cypress Tribal citizens and employees wear red on Oct. 19 to kick-off the annual Red Ribbon Week festivities.



Naij Tobias

The Big Cypress Housing Dept. wins the top prize for Red Ribbon Week's best float on Oct. 23.

Dept. who helped judge the contest, tried his best to be tight-lipped on what his favorite door was. After he and a host of his fellow crew members took ample time to judge each door in the competition, Camarrese offered a brief assessment on the decorations.

"A lot of the doors were really good, so it's tough for us to pick which one was the best," he said.

As Red Ribbon Week moved on to its third day, Oct. 21, two events took center stage, the "Amazing Youth Race" and the BMX Ultimate Drug Free Show.

The Amazing Youth Race, which featured eight teams of Tribal youngsters, began at the gym, as they lined up for instructions on how to navigate through the live event.

"We're going to have a great time," Big Cypress Recreation Dept. Assistant Director Stan Frischman said with the participants roaring in approval. "Have a great day and I'll see you at the finish line."

And off the eight teams went. With eight vans available, the teams had to stop at a total of 16 stations and were required to figure out a variety of clues in order to finish the race, which followed a format similar to that of the CBS network reality TV show *The Amazing Race*.

The Big Cypress Senior Center, New Testament Baptist Church, the Fitness



Naij Tobias

BMX entertainer Kevin Morrison (C) performs a bunny hop move flying his bike over his two fellow crew members, Doug Little (L) and John Dowker (R). Four of Big Cypress's more daring youth also took part in the stunt, which took place at the Billie Swamp Safari parking lot on Oct. 21.

Essay Contest

1. Chelsey Alvarado, 2. Ricky Joe Alumbaugh, 3. Tequesta Tiger.

Door Contest

National Red Ribbon Week and Family Bowers and Family, 3. Allen and Mary Billie; Juniors: 1. Phillip Jumper, 2. Alice Billie, 3. Joe Osceola Sr.; Tribal Department: 1. Big Cypress Tribal Council, 2. Big Cypress Treasurer, 3. Big Cypress Learning Resources.

Parade

1. Housing, 2. Big Cypress Broadcasting, 3. Cattle and Range.

Big Cypress Red Ribbon Week Results

Amazing Youth Race

1. Team Orange, 2:02:29, 2. Team Pink, 2:22:15, 3. Team Blue, 2:24:51, 4. Team Yellow, 2:27:12, 5. Team Purple, 2:39:00, 6. Team Red, 2:39:54, 7. Team Green, 2:50:45, 8. Team White, 2:52:40.

Poster Contest

1. Jared McInturf, 2. Katrina Colombo, 3. Elsieah Billie.

Red Ribbon Week Begins with Poster Contest

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Tribal youth and teens in the community showed off their artistic side Oct. 13 at the Boys & Girls Club.

In anticipation of the annual Red Ribbon Week festivities, the national poster contest kicked things off as the students created original, themed art work related to drug prevention.

"I just felt like doing it because my friends are and I just wanted to keep my poster simple," first year participant Devon Bowers, 12, explained.

"Drug Free is the Key" is the Red Rib-

bon Week national slogan this year.

The winning poster had prints of the design placed on hundreds of T-shirts to be distributed throughout the community. In the youth and teen categories Mariah Bowers and Toby Gopher took home first place honors. Upon voting, Gopher had her design designated as the choice. Custom Seminole spirit bracelets were also designed for the occasion.

"This whole thing helps them get in the frame of mind of what Red Ribbon Week is all about," said Tribal Family Services Dept. Case Manager and Counselor Kelly Hous. "It also makes them feel good."

This year the national campaign held

Oct. 23-31 celebrated with the Hollywood Reservation celebration.

"Each year I think the children are starting to see the importance of being drug-free," Hancock pointed out. "They are starting to make this a part of their own lifestyles."

National Red Ribbon Week remains one of the oldest and largest drug prevention programs in the country.

The week helps commemorate the sacrifices made in the battle against illegal drug use in the U.S. Its purpose and goals are to seek a commitment for drug prevention as well as to educate and inspire drug-free communities.



Rachel Buxton

Margaret Wilcox signs the Ft. Pierce banner pledging to be drug free.

RED RIBBON

From page 18

On Oct. 28 Renee Napier made her way to Ft. Pierce to tell her sad but very powerful story of how she lost her daughter, Meagan, to a drunk driver.

Napier spoke to the community and played several videos, including a message from Eric Smallridge, the man who was sentenced to 22 years in prison for the death of Meagan and her friend Lisa. Smallridge joined the first hand at the time of the accident.

Napier showed firsthand how drugs and alcohol don't just affect the user but everyone close to them. The car Meagan and her friend Lisa were killed in was on display for the community to get an up close and personal look.

The community concluded their week-long celebration on Oct. 29 with a dinner provided by Shanny Tommie and Wanda Tommie of the Ft. Pierce community.

Tribal Youth 'Plant A Promise' to be Drug Free, Attend Field Day Event

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — As a part of Red Ribbon Week, the Tribal youth, teens and parents of the Hollywood community took one more step toward celebrating a drug free lifestyle Oct. 26-27.

Through the ongoing co-partnership of the Hollywood Boys & Girls Club and Family Services Dept., the "Plant A Promise" Field Day event spread the importance of living drug free by the act of planting a flower with the promise to remain abstinent from drugs. Parents and youth also gathered for two neighborhood community marches in the spirit of the drug free celebration.



Chris C. Jenkins

Audrianna Sirota completes work on her planter pot, which has the Tribal colors painted on it.

Red Ribbon Week Celebrated with Door Decorating Contest

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Tribal youth in the community got in the spirit of upcoming Red Ribbon Week festivities Oct. 22 with the annual door decorating contest.

The Hollywood Boys & Girls Club, hosted the event in promotion of a drug free environment using this year's national slogan "Drug Free is the Key."

"We were able to pool our resources with the door contest and open house and it showed our youth that it is important enough for them to show up and created a buzz," said Hollywood Boys & Girls Club Director Robert C. North Sr. "Every one working together for both events made sense because it was all a massive effort. We, as departments, are trying to continue to build some consistency."

The open house portion of the night featured musical performances from the youth for the promotion of a new music program within the club.

"It is still new but everyone that has gotten involved has liked it and they are learning something new along with new skills," said Boys & Girls Club Counselor and music teacher James Payne.

Payne said the eighth youth and teens enrolled are learning to play the guitar, piano, bass guitar and drums, as well as taking voice lessons.



Chris C. Jenkins

Brent Porter (L) puts the finishing touches on his group's door poster entry for the contest.

RED RIBBON WEEK

Drug Free is the Key in Immokalee

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Red Ribbon Week in Immokalee featured a wide range of activities from the kick-off parade on Oct. 19 to the final night of awards on Oct. 23.

"This was the most impressive Red Ribbon Week in the history of Immokalee," said Family Services Dept. Site Supervisor Billie Napper-Bodway. "My staff worked closely to coordinate the efforts of all departments, who gave 100 percent cooperation to make this a memorable experience. Our small community pulled together like one big family and 'Drug Free is the Key' was the magic password."

Prevention Specialist Fred Mullins said: "Departmental involvement, support and resources laid the foundation for success. It is impossible to list every department and individual that participated, but I feel safe in saying that no stone was left unturned in attempting to reach this year's objective. Tribal members and employees highlighted a unified intolerance to alcohol and substance abuse."

An addition to this year's organized effort was the Immokalee Seminole Casino. Manager Tony Sanchez pledged the support of his team and offered a ride in the casino's hot air balloon as the grand participation prize.

All departments rallied to construct a dozen floats for the kick-off parade. They were joined by the Immokalee High School Indians marching band, Pop Warner cheerleaders, and Seminole departments including Fire-Rescue, Seminole Police and the Youth Ranch. Horse drawn carriages and various utility and maintenance vehicles followed down the parade route.

Approximately 40 Immokalee Casino employees marched shoulder to shoulder with the community in the parade against drug abuse. As they snaked their way through the streets of the reservation, onlookers were quick to join in the procession.

The final parade destination was the Immokalee ball field, where the Seminole casino had prepared a barbecue dinner with all the amenities and rewarded the youngsters with prizes.

Immokalee Seminole Ranch won a "bragging rights" trophy for best float. They will be allowed to enjoy the trophy throughout the year, but must maintain their standard of excellence to insure that no one takes it away from them next year. The Education and Community Care for the Elderly Departments teamed up and placed second in the competition.

On the second day of the event, several departments worked together on the "Plant the Promise" project. The Housing Dept. supplied pots of red impatiens and the community youth cleared the way and then planted a border along the sidewalk leading to the gym.

Completing their gardening efforts, the group moved inside the gym and participated in a red hat decorating contest. Using costume jewelry, silk flowers, art supplies and a multitude of outrageous trims, all ages attempted to build the hat of their dreams, or nightmares, as it would appear.



The Immokalee Family Services Department's Red Ribbon Express leads the way for the parade through the community.

Deila Harjo — Say No to Drugs Essay

My persuasive speech is on why you shouldn't do drugs or drink alcohol. The reason why I picked this topic is because the teenage world is so caught up in making the wrong choices to do such things.

I strongly believe that being under the influence of any type of substance while underage has conquered the minds of teens everywhere. So, in the following paragraphs, I am going to explain the consequences of these events.

There are many different reasons why teenagers let themselves hurt their bodies with substances. Some of them are peer pressure. They're depressed, they have low self-esteem, to make themselves seem "cooler," or their families have a history of substance abuse.

There are also many signs of substance abuse. Some physical signs are red eyes, a bad cough, bad breath, paleness, weakness, and occasionally, breaking out.

Some of the emotional signs are mood swings, low self-esteem, depression, a general lack of interest and personality changes.

Signs of substance abuse within a family are starting arguments, breaking rules, or withdrawal from the family.

Also, there can be changes in school. These signs are a negative attitude, drop in grades, many absences and disciplinary problems.

An average of 1,400 teenagers die each year be-

After much scrutiny, a panel of judges declared the following winners: 1. Vanessa Billie, 2. Alycia Mora 3. Geneva Garcia.

The parking lot of the Immokalee Administration Building became an enormous tailgate party on Oct. 22. Slowly meandering from one booth to another, participants picked up a piece of their evening meal at each stop. Diners enjoyed everything from hamburgers and hot dogs to sushi and Swedish meatballs at the event.

After filling their plates, the group gathered on the bleachers to watch the Wheels of Free Style members demonstrate some fantastic moves on their BMX bicycles.

The three man team of Doug Morrison, Kevin Little and Jon Dowker represent a national group of world class athletes who organized in 1986 to provide motivational presentations against drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse.

Using their extraordinary talents to captivate their audiences, the performers energize the youth to seek healthy lifestyles, promote safety measures and encourage family values. They emphasize three important issues: find a rewarding hobby, stay focused and practice, but most of all, never lie, cheat or steal.

The Education Dept. organized a poster contest in the week preceding the Red Ribbon activities and the competitors delivered their drug free message by displaying their artwork on the wall of the gym. Developing their own themes with the use of a variety of art supplies, the first place winner was Gherrit Osceola. Chelsea Alvarado earned second and Alycia Mora and her brother, James, tied for third.

Wrapping up Red Ribbon Week events was a family-themed fun evening at the gym on Oct. 23. Immokalee Seminole Ranch and Recreation Departments provided a mechanical ball and games for the youngsters.

Awards were distributed and the youngsters anxiously awaited the drawing for the grand prize. Raffle tickets had been earned each time a young person participated in a Red Ribbon activity throughout the week. A drum roll sounded and everyone held their breath as the winning ticket was drawn from the jar.

Alexis Jimmie had won the ride in the Immokalee Seminole Casino hot air balloon. Allowed one companion, she selected her sister, Cassandra, to accompany her on the ride. The trip will take place on a future date to be determined by weather conditions and school obligations.

"Everybody was a winner this year," said Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar. "You could feel the momentum gaining and see that the community became energized by the activities. Red Ribbon Week takes place just once a year, but its objectives should be sought after year round."



Jack Aguilar dons his red hat creation.



The youth "plant the promise" during Red Ribbon Week.

Judy Weeks



Malcom Lacey

Gordon Oliver Wareham recounts the traditional story of "The Rabbit and the Turtle" at the talent show on Oct. 29.

Red Ribbon Week Ends with Tribal Talent Show Performance Event

BY ELIZABETH LEIBA
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Red Ribbon Week on the Hollywood Reservation ended Oct. 29 with a performance night at the Tribal Headquarters Auditorium featuring musical acts, storytelling and a martial arts demonstration.

Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. welcomed the community during dinner preceding the event and offered words of wisdom and inspiration to the youth in attendance.

"Not everyone has to be an athlete," Rep. Osceola said. "Be number one in something else. Drugs are a killer. We want you to be high on life, not high on drugs."

As the program began, Boys & Girls Club Director Robert C. North echoed Rep. Osceola's sentiments. He encouraged parents to recognize the leadership ability in their children.

"A lot of times we as parents wait until they're 18, 19, but they have leadership skills."

The youth participating in the performance had an opportunity to show just that, as several were given the chance to introduce fellow performers to the audience as they came to the stage.

First up was Deila Harjo introducing Tribal youth who attend Sifu Nee's Kung Fu Black Belt Academy

in Pembroke Pines. They wowed the audience, demonstrating their proficiency with weapons and strikes accompanied by the music of "Kung Fu Fighting" by Carl Douglas.

Next was a variety of musical performances by Tribal youth and adults. Ian Billie and Cameron Osceola played "The Star Spangled Banner" on their electric guitars. The duo was later joined by Robert C. North, Eric Bricker and Haley Riddering on vocals playing a medley of songs including "Sweet Child O' Mine" by Guns 'N Roses and "Fall to Pieces" by Velvet Revolver.

Deila Harjo was next up, performing several contemporary gospel favorites such as "Mighty to Save" by Hillsong. Then Jada Holdiness and Alexis Dumas gave the audience their *a capella* rendition of Taylor Swift's "You Belong to Me."

Paul "Cowbone" Buster and son, "Chunky," took the stage next, playing "The Traveling Song" and "Me and Grandpa."

"Chunky" Buster provided the audience with some personal insight into his struggle with drug abuse and offered words of advice about staying drug-free.

"I'm not saying this to scare you guys; it's just reality," he warned. "I had to go down that road. It's pretty bad."

The night closed with story telling from Gordon Oliver Wareham, who gave an animated performance of the traditional story of "The Rabbit and the Turtle."

Attendees Enjoy Drug Free-Themed BMX Stunt Bike Riding Show

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — In celebration of Red Ribbon Week, the Tribal youth of the community saw a way to fly high in a drug free way Oct. 20.

As part of the annual event festivities, performers in the BMX Ultimate Drug Free Go Big Stunt Show brought a sobriety message to the Hollywood Reservation while performing some impressive high-flying acts.

"Drugs are the first thing to cause young people to lose sight of their hopes and dreams," said Freestyle BMX Team performer and emcee Jon Dowker to those in attendance.

"Find what you love to do, stay focused and celebrate one another's differences and diversity," Dowker added.

The Hollywood Boys & Girls Club, Seminole Police, Hollywood Recreation and Family Services Departments co-sponsored the event. According to Family Services Dept. Addictions Program Administrator Eric Bricker the purpose of the show was to give a distinctive message.

"We try to bring something big and different each year," said Bricker. "This brings awareness in a unique way to the community in ways that appeal to them and draws in the kids."

"This is a hit with the kids and while here it touched on themes like following your dreams, staying off drugs and other things," Bricker continued.

Dowker along with Athens, Ga. teammates Douglas Morrison and Kevin Little are among a team with the company Wheels of Freestyle. All three made the trek to South Florida to perform; they go all over the country as well.

With more than 5,000 shows performed since 1996, Wheels of Freestyle programs are performed for students of all ages. Teams are fully self-contained and

provide a professional sound system, cones, table and banners — but require an asphalt or concrete surface for performances.

The groups also try to teach students about life lessons on overcoming self-limiting beliefs, translating dreams into success, staying away from drugs and violence, never quitting, wearing a helmet when riding and bike safety checks.

For more information please call (888) 818-8388 log on to www.wheelsoffreestyle.com.



Chris C. Jenkins

Douglas Morrison wows the crowds with an aerial stunt.



Chris C. Jenkins

(L-R) BMX performer Douglas Morrison signs Tribal citizen Keishawn Stewart's T-shirt after the show on Oct. 20.

Health



Naji Tobias

(L-R) Tribal senior Frances Teele receives a mock bandage treatment from Seminole Fire-Rescue Dept. Inspector Bruce Britton.

Seniors Learn Tips During Burn Prevention Clinic

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Tribal seniors were served a hearty lunch and a burn prevention seminar from Seminole Fire-Rescue Dept. on Nov. 5.

Bruce Britton, a fire inspector with the department, conducted the 45 minute presentation, which centered on safety inside and outside of the home. Some key tips that Britton touched on were the importance of making sure young children don't touch electrical items in the home and providing ample care for the elderly.

Also, as a part of the clinic, Britton gave some examples of how to treat an individual should they suffer from any cuts or burns. Frances Teele, a Big Cypress senior, was picked to receive a mock treatment in the session as Britton applied a wrap bandage cloth on her arm.

A few years ago Britton was forced to administer a life-saving technique on his then 3-year-old son. He showed the seniors how to use the upward thrust maneuver. He said as his young son was choking on a piece of food, he remembered seeing the upward thrust maneuver on a poster and used the technique to dislodge the obstruction from the boy's throat.

"A lot of people have experienced burns and choking incidents," Britton said. "When I was in that situation with my son, I was frightened but remained calm. I felt good about saving my son's life."

Britton demonstrated a series of CPR mannequins, both adult and pediatric, to conclude the presentation.

Sarah Kirkland, a Tribal senior, offered some advice on the importance of practicing home safety.

"Make sure you pay attention to your cooking and not wander off while you're doing it," Kirkland said. "Make sure you're aware of your surroundings at home. You could have an accident if you don't do so."

Tampa Community Holds Health Fair

BY RYAN WATSON
Contributing Writer

TAMPA — For the first year ever, the Tampa community held its annual health fair at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Tampa.

Tribal citizens had access to a multitude of complimentary healthy lifestyle services, including flu shots, blood pressure checks and massages at the Nov. 5 event.

"We gave each Tribal member a passport to health," said Tampa Health Dept. Supervisor Michele McCoy. "If they got it stamped by each one of the vendors then they qualified for a prize."

There were 27 booths in all at the health fair.

Among the approximately 65 Tribal citizens who attended the event were Barbara Cypress and her four grandsons.

"I'm so excited about this health fair because it is really important for children to learn about living healthy at an early age," Cypress said.

Additional Tribal department participants included the Seminole Police, which distributed pamphlets about child car seat safety, and the Seminole Fire Rescue, which discussed burn prevention.



Chris C. Jenkins

Guests and fellow supporters engage in a support chain during the Seminoles in Recovery meeting, held Oct. 17 at the Petties Osceola Sr. Field Office in Trail.

Trail Community Hosts Seminoles in Recovery

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

TRAIL — Despite rain showers throughout the day, Tribal and community members gathered in the name of sobriety Oct. 17 at the Petties Osceola Sr. Field Office.

As a part of the Seminoles in Recovery support program, a first time get together on the Trail Reservation allowed more than 100 former substance abusers the chance to support and encourage one another while enjoying a fish fry luncheon.

"I thought we should have this type of thing for our community and there are folks here in recovery still also," said Tribal citizen and meeting organizer Richard (Jake) Keyser, now in his fifth year of sobriety. "You can still have a good time and be in recovery."

"I want people to know that there is a network of support," Keyser added. "All they have to do is reach out."

Meeting co-organizer and Seminoles in Recovery member Andy J. Buster said after serving other communities in Broward County and Tampa, it was time to bring such a gathering to those in need of support in Dade County.

"This is something we continue to do to give people something to look forward to," Buster expressed. "It was open to anybody, especially those

who have really wanted to recover from any type of substance or want someone to talk to. It was really all about service to the people."

As a special guest speaker Tribal citizen Richard Osceola also spoke candidly about his own battles as well as his one year anniversary of sobriety.

"I was overwhelmed with honor to be the guest speaker," he explained. "To break bread in the place I started rumbling in years ago is nice to come back to. I love giving back based on the changes I have made in my life now."

"I want to try to open a lot of young minds to the things you can do in this world," Osceola, a graduate of the John's Place recovery house in Ft. Lauderdale, added.

Seminoles in Recovery and John's Place continue to be mainstays in the fight against the substance abuse epidemic among the Tribal community.

According to Buster, Seminoles in Recovery started out as a sober house funded through walks for donations. It has expanded throughout the past decade to include the annual Wellness Conference and other ventures.

John's Place is a day and night residential treatment center for the men and women of the Tribe. It is the first and only treatment program that provides exclusive clinical and medical services to its members.

The program is also licensed by the U.S. Department of Children and Families and the facility

is accredited by the Joint Commission of Healthcare organizations.

For more in formation call (863) 902-3200, Ext. 13225, (954) 463-9590 or log on to www.johnsrecoveryplaces.com.



Chris C. Jenkins

Andy Buster plays a few tunes during the fish fry.

ACS Educates Community About Breast Cancer

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the American Cancer Society (ACS) provided members of the Immokalee community with a personal plan of action at the Senior Center on Oct. 27.

Estimates indicate that approximately 193,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed in women during the current year. It will be responsible for the death of one in every 35 of these women according to ACS.

Based on these facts, Carol Hartmann of the ACS brought her experiences from a career in cancer nursing to a special presentation designed to broaden breast cancer awareness.

"Your best defense is to know your own body and find breast cancer early," Hartmann said. "The chances of successful treatment are the best if found in the earliest stages."

Hartmann then explained the when and how often women should have breast exams.

"A screening mammogram every year starting at age 40 is important," she said. "Breast self-examination should begin monthly at age 20. Clinical breast exams by a health care provider should take place annually after age 40."

Passing a synthetic breast with hidden lumps around the room, the group were given an opportunity to recognize the tell tale signs of concern that can be found during self-examination.

"Knowing your risk factors can change the horrible statistics that we have presented here today," Col-



Judy Weeks

Immokalee Health and Nutrition Rep. Charlotte Porcaro distributes Breast Cancer Awareness tote bags.

lier County, Fla. ACS Community Representative Melissa Pfeffer explained. "You can make a difference by controlling your weight through regular exercise and a healthy, low-fat diet, get regular breast exams, mammograms and do self-exams."

"Bear in mind that breast cancer can be hereditary and doesn't always evidence itself with lumps," continued Pfeffer. "It can appear as an inflammatory red rash and hot streaks. Men can also experience breast cancer."

A table with diagnostic information, tote bags and small gifts was provided by the Tribal Allied Health Dept. for the benefit of the attendees.

Immokalee Seminole Health and Nutrition Rep. Charlotte Porcaro announced that the annual ACS Relay for Life will be held at the Immokalee Seminole Ranch on May 7-8, 2010. Participants will have an opportunity to camp out for the two-day event and fundraiser.



Judy Weeks

Men and women from the Immokalee community at the Breast Cancer Awareness event, held Oct. 27 at the Senior Center.

Tribal citizen Miranda Motlow visits one of the 27 booths at the Tampa Health Fair, held Nov. 5 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Ryan Watson

Food Prep, Storage Tips for Safety During the Holiday Season

BY AVA JOHN
Contributing Writer

[Editor's Note: Ava John is the community health & vector control supervisor for the Tribal Health Department's Environmental Health Program. The opinions she expresses are her own. If you would like to ask a question, please e-mail avajohn@seminoletribe.com or call the Environmental Health Office at (954) 965-1300, Ext. 10325. Information from this article was obtained from the USDA's website, <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/home/index.asp>]

Safe steps in food handling, cooking, and storage are essential in preventing food borne illness. Harmful bacteria may cause illness often times can not be seen, smelled, or tasted, so please follows these steps to keep food safe:

Thawing

Refrigerator: The refrigerator allows slow, safe thawing. Make sure thawing meat and poultry juices do not drip onto other food.

Cold Water: For faster thawing, place food in a leak-proof plastic bag. Next, submerge in cold tap water, changing the water every 30 minutes. Cook immediately after thawing.

Microwave: Cook meat and poultry immediately after microwave thawing.

Preparation

Cleaning: Always wash hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds before and after handling food.

Separate: Don't cross-contaminate. Keep raw meat, poultry, fish and their juices away from other food. After cutting raw meats, wash the cutting board,

knife and counter tops with hot, soapy water.

Marinate: Keep meat and poultry in a covered dish in the refrigerator.

Cook: Cook foods to proper temperatures, checking them with a food thermometer.

Chill: Refrigerate promptly.

Cooking

Cook foods to the recommended minimum internal temperatures listed below. Measuring food temperatures using a thermometer is an important part of food safety. Remember to always measure temperature in the thickest part of the food.

Beef & Veal: Ground: 160°F, Steaks/Roasts: Medium: 160°F, Steaks/Roasts: Medium Rare: 145°F.

Chicken & Turkey: Breast: 165°F, Ground: 165°F, Whole Bird/Legs/Thighs/Wings: 165°F.

Fish & Shellfish (Any Type): 145°F.

Lamb: Ground: 160°F, Steaks/Roasts: Medium: 160°F, Steaks/Roasts: Medium Rare: 145°F.

Pork: Chops/Ribs/Roasts/Fresh Ham: 160°F, Reheated Pork (Any Type): 140°F.

Eggs (Any Type): 160°F.

Leftovers (Any Type): 165°F.

Leftovers

Discard any food left out at room temperature for more than two hours, or one hour if the temperature was above 90°F.

Place food into shallow containers and immediately put in the refrigerator or freezer for rapid cooling.

Use most cooked leftovers within 3-4 days.

If you have additional questions about safe food handling, please contact the Environmental Health Office at (954) 965-1300, Ext. 10325.

THE HEALTHY SENIOR BY FRED CICETTI

[Editor's Note: Fred Cicetti is a syndicated columnist who writes about issues concerning senior citizens' health. The opinions he expresses are his own. If you would like to ask a question, please write to fred@healthyageer.com. All Rights Reserved ©2009 by Fred Cicetti.]

Q: I seem to be getting more cavities in my teeth as I get older. Is this another part of the aging process?

A: Tooth decay and gum disease are caused by plaque — a layer of bacteria. This plaque can build up quickly on the teeth of older people. In addition, seniors have a greater tendency to get decay around older fillings. And we have more fillings than younger people because we didn't all grow up with fluoride.

Cavities in the roots of teeth are also more common among older adults, because the roots are exposed when our gums recede and we become "long in the tooth." The root surfaces are softer than tooth enamel and may erode easily.

Dry mouth, which is a lack of saliva, promotes tooth decay. Saliva is needed to neutralize the cavity-causing acids produced by plaque.

Most dry mouth, a condition also known as xerostomia, is related to the medications taken by older adults rather than to the effects of aging. More than 400 medicines can affect the salivary glands. These include drugs for urinary incontinence, allergies, high blood pressure, depression, diarrhea and Parkinson's disease. Also, some over-the-counter medications of-

ten cause dry mouth.

Dry mouth can also be caused by cancer treatments including chemotherapy and radiation, nerve damage in the head or neck, the autoimmune disease Sjogren's syndrome, endocrine disorders, Alzheimer's disease, stroke, anxiety disorders and depression.

Despite all of the dental problems related to age, seniors are holding on to their teeth longer than they used to. One reputable survey showed that the rate that seniors lose their teeth has dropped by 60 percent since 1960. This improvement has been attributed to advancements in treatment and better oral hygiene.

Cleaning your teeth is especially important as you age. Dentists advise that you brush your teeth twice a day with fluoride toothpaste and clean between your teeth with floss or other inter-dental cleaner.

Gum disease is common among seniors because it develops painlessly over a long period of time. It is caused by plaque, but it can be aggravated by smoking, ill-fitting dentures and poor diet. Symptoms include bleeding, swollen or receding gums, loose teeth, a change in your bite and persistent bad breath or taste.

Another change as you grow older is difficulty keeping your teeth white. Again, plaque is to blame. Because plaque can build up faster and in greater amounts as we age, older people have a hard time maintaining a bright smile. Changes in dentin, the bone-like tissue that is under your enamel, may also cause your teeth to appear slightly darker.



Judy Weeks

Seminole Fire-Rescue Dept. Inspector Bruce Britton (C) explains the proper assessment of burns and home remedies.

Immokalee Community Learns Burns Can Be Prevented

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — The Seminole Fire-Rescue Dept. provided a burn prevention presentation at the Immokalee Senior Center during a luncheon on Oct. 28.

Seminole Fire Inspector Lt. Robert Brown made opening remarks and pointed out that most burns in the home are a result of accidents that could have been avoided.

"Too often we attempt to cook or perform simple tasks while preoccupied with other matters," Brown said. "Fire and electricity are serious matters that require our full attention."

Inspector Bruce Britton showed slides to accompany his discussion of burn hazards and means of prevention. Beginning with the types of burns and the do's

and don'ts of home remedies, Britton reminded his audience about the basic dangers associated with stoves, microwaves, hot water heaters and hot foods.

Clothes irons are the number one cause of burns for children younger than 2 and curling irons are second. He urged listeners to use appliances with caution. Space heaters, electrical cords, light bulbs and candles are items of convenience that can spell tragedy in a matter of seconds under the wrong circumstances.

Britton also explained that smoke detectors and fire extinguishers are vital household accessories and should be frequently inspected to insure proper operation when needed.

A quick quiz concerning fire control acted as a refresher course on extinguishing flames with salt, baking soda and smothering, but never water.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Breast Cancer Awareness Event Held in BC

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Tribal citizens and employees joined together to commemorate National Breast Cancer Awareness Month on Oct. 29.

Those in attendance wore pink attire for "Wear Pink Day" because pink is the official color for breast cancer awareness.

According to the American Cancer Society, about 193,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed in women this year.

The society also claims there is a 1 in 35 probability that breast cancer will be the primary cause of a woman's death in 2009.

"You can do something to change these numbers," said Edna McDuffie, Big Cypress Wellness Center director. "By knowing your risk factors, controlling your weight through regular exercise and a healthy, low fat diet and by getting annual breast

exams, mammograms and doing self breast exams, we can change these statistics."

Breast cancer, according to Seminole Health Dept. Director Connie Whidden, has few limits. Everyone, regardless of age, race and family history, is at risk for this potentially fatal disease, including men, Whidden warns.

"This is a time to remember those who may have passed from the disease, honor those who have beaten this disease and also a time to work toward prevention and early detection of it," Whidden said. "We at the health Dept. are dedicated to promoting wellness and keeping our communities healthy."

For more information on breast cancer awareness, please contact Big Cypress Wellness Center Director Edna McDuffie at (863) 983-5798, Health Dept. Education Coordinator Brenda Bordogna at (954) 965-1300, Ext. 10377, or visit the American Cancer Society's website, www.cancer.org.



Naji Tobias

In commemoration of Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Wear Pink Day, a host of Tribal citizens and employees join in the fight against breast cancer on Oct. 29 at the Big Cypress Family Investment Center parking lot.

Hollywood Employees Wear Pink in Support of Breast Cancer Awareness



Shelley Warner

Tribal employees from the Hollywood Reservation show their support of October's designation as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month during Wear Pink Day on Oct. 29 when employees don pink clothing to bring awareness to the disease. According to American Cancer Society statistics, breast cancer is the second leading cause of death in women in the U.S., behind only lung cancer. Their statistics also say 1 in 8 women, or about 12 percent of the U.S. population, will be diagnosed in their lifetime. According to the center's estimates, in 2009 alone there will be about 193,000 new diagnoses and approximately 40,000 women will die from the disease. For more information please visit www.acs.org.



Judy Weeks

Team Seminole, donning their yellow T-shirts, gets ready to walk the 3-mile course to raise awareness of breast cancer.

Tribe Makes Strides Against Breast Cancer

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Overcast skies with an occasional mist of rain couldn't daunt the spirits of the more than 1,500 participants in the 3-mile Making Strides against Breast Cancer Walk, held the morning of Oct. 17 at Centennial Park.

Team Seminole members took the point position at the starting line. From infants in strollers to senior citizens, the 35 walkers in bright yellow T-shirts became a beam of sunshine on the otherwise dreary day.

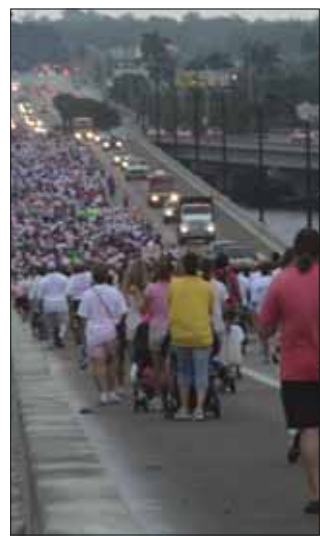
"This comprises our first foundation walk in the Seminole Pathways [Walking] Program and I am delighted with the response," said Walk Coordinator Edna McDuffie. "I am happy to see so many familiar faces here today and am thrilled that we have been joined by members of the Naples community."

Seminole veterans Dan Bowers and Stephen Bowers walked with Team Seminole to raise awareness of breast cancer.

"This isn't just about fighting breast cancer," Stephen Bowers said. "Following the Seminole Pathway [Walking Program] promotes a better lifestyle. Walking regularly combats diabetes, heart disease, obesity, osteoporosis and a multitude of other ailments. I encourage everyone to join our ranks."

An opening program in the Centennial Pavilion provided an opportunity for cancer survivors to share their experiences and offer support to others. A special tribute was paid to actor Patrick Swayze, who was a strong supporter in the fight to find a cure for cancer until he recently succumbed to the disease.

Following several testimonials, the crowd participated in a warm up session that energized them for the 3-mile journey on the bridge across the Caloosahatchee River. It was pointed out that while half the walk is an uphill climb, it is nothing compared to battling cancer. The crowd showed their exuberance by shouting "Ain't no stopping us now!"



Judy Weeks

More than 1,500 supporters participate in the Oct. 17 walk.

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Seminole Pathways Walk Honors War Veterans

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Twenty-three Tribal citizens participated in the Veterans Day walk/run, held the morning of Nov. 10 at the Seminole Pathways Trail.

The Seminole Pathways Walking Program group meets at the trail on a weekly basis, but this week's walk paid homage to those who have served in the U.S. armed forces.

"It turned out to be very special at the walk," said Edna McDuffie, Seminole Pathways walking program co-ordinator. "I have about 25 walkers here each week at the Seminole Pathways Walking Program, and most of them came out to walk in honor of all our veterans."

The walkers and runners had the option of going 1-3 miles on the trail, with the majority of participants finishing in about 30 minutes. The attendees concluded their walk at the Seminole Veterans Monument, located in the center of the Seminole Pathways Trail.

In a peaceful and serene, yet sobering moment, all of them took the time to look at not only the monument, but the entire landscape of the Seminole Pathways Trail.

Before leaving the trail for the Brighton Reservation's Veterans Day Celebration, Noella O'Donnell, administrative assistant for the Big Cypress Reservation, reflected on the significance of Veterans Day and its impact on the Seminole Tribe.

▮ Please see VETS on page 2C



Naji Tobias

Tribal citizen Jonah Cypress completes his 3-mile trek in the Veterans Day walk/run on Nov. 10 at the Seminole Pathways Trail.

Seminole Volleyball Team Wins Home Game

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Pemayetv Emahakv's girls' volleyball team, the Seminoles, played their last home game Oct. 14 and triumphed against their opponents, the Moore Haven Middle School Terriers, two games to one.

"They started off a little slow," Seminole coach Pam Matthews said. "They looked like they were nervous playing in front of their fans and family but they got the job done."

The Seminoles took the first match, 25-21, only to have the Terriers bounce back and snag the second match, 25-18, forcing the two teams into a third, tie-breaking match. The Seminoles stayed strong and took the win, closing out the match with a score of 15-8.

The Seminoles pushed hard with Tamea Allen with a total of eight service points, Kalgary Johns with one kill, Chastity Harmon serving 14 points and one kill, Tyra Baker with two kills and Melany Williams with five service points.

"Every game they have just gotten better and better, and every game they've stepped up," Matthews said.

This is Pemayetv Emahakv's first year adding sports to their curriculum and Matthews said there has only been positive feedback.

"I've had several teachers say that it has affected [the players'] attitudes in class," Matthews said. "They have to keep their grades up to play sports and it has really made a difference. Also I can tell a huge difference in their relationships as far as getting along together and bonding as a group."

The Seminoles volleyball team ended with a 5-5 record overall for their first season.



Rachel Buxton

Chastity Harmon (C) of the Seminoles hits the ball backwards to get it over for the net and score a point.



Jeanine Gran

Students take off down the lanes competing in the backstroke event at the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's second annual Swim Olympics held at the Brighton pool on Oct. 7

Swimmers Take Their Mark for Charter School Olympics

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Students swam for the gold Oct. 7 as they competed in the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's second annual Swim Olympics held at the Brighton pool.

In preparation for the competition the students took part in a three-week swim unit during their physical education class.

In class, physical education teachers Chris Goodwin and Pam Matthews worked with the students in mastering strokes including the freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly stroke. During class the swimmers practiced the strokes by swimming laps in the pool and building strength and endurance.

The students were also tested on a variety of water skills to help train them for the big day.

Recreation Dept. Director Richard Osceola and the Brighton Reservation lifeguards assisted during training and the actual competition.

Charter School Swim Olympics Results

Freestyle Stroke

50 yards: Sixth grade: 1. C.W. Ortiz, 2. Thomas Bearden, 3. Zeke Matthews; Fifth grade: 1. Dylan Sheffield, 2. Kelton Smedley, 3. Joshua Madrigal; Fourth grade: 1. Brady Rhodes, 2. Chandler Pearce, 3. Layne Thomas.

30 yards: Second grade: 1. Silas Madrigal, 2. Jason Sampson, 3. Burgundy Pierce; First grade: 1. Jahbahn Arnold, 2. Jaylen Baker, 3. Kaiden Sampson; Kindergarten: 1. Hawk Micco, 2. Kalyon Hammill, 3. Jaytron Baker.

25 yards: Sixth grade: 1. C.W. Ortiz, 2. Rayven Smith, 3. Joyce Smith; Fifth grade: 1. Kelton Smedley, 2. Demetrius Clark, 3. Joshua Madrigal; Fourth grade: 1. Richard Harris, 2. Brady Rhodes, 3. Camryn Thomas; Third grade: 1. Raelay Matthews, 2. Gage Riddle, 3. Drake Lawrence.

15 yards: Third grade: 1. Andrew Fish, 2. Katie Osceola, 3. Aleke Baker; Second grade: 1. Jason Sampson, 2. Echo Billie, 3. Jaycee Jumper; First grade: 1. Todd Pierce, 2. Tanner Shore, 3. Aubee Billie; Kindergarten: Hannah Moss, 2. Elle Thomas, 3. Jahcole Arnold.

Backstroke

50 yards: Sixth grade: 1. Thomas Bearden, 2. Kalgary Johns, 3. Chastity Harmon; Fifth grade: 1. Andrew Fish, 2. Bethany Billie, 3. Odessa King; Fourth grade: 1. Chloe Chalfant, 2. Sunni Bearden, 3. Camryn Thomas. 30 yards: Third grade: 1. Raelay Matthews, 2. Andrew Fish, 3. Tyler Howard; Second grade: 1. Blake Baker, 2. Aubrey Pearce, 3. Ozzy Osceola; First grade: 1. Billy Bailey, 2. Jahbahn Arnold, 3. Kobe Jimmie; Kindergarten: 1. Kalyon Hammill, 2. Joss Youngblood, 2. Mariah Bennett.

25 yards: Sixth grade: 1. Chastity Harmon, 2. Rumor Juarez, 3. Jaron Johns; Fifth grade: 1. Dylan Sheffield, 2. Bethany Billie, 3. Sean Osceola; Fourth grade: 1. Chloe Chalfant, 2. Easton Moss, 3. Richard Harris.

15 yards: Third grade: 1. Katie Osceola, 2. JJ Tonegas, 3. Kano Puente; Second grade: 1. Blake Baker, 2. Jaycee Jumper, 3. Dakota Micco; First grade: 1. Destiny Elliott, 2. Caylie Huff, 1. Jaylen Baker; Kindergarten: 1. Hawk Micco, 2. Jaytron Baker, 3. Elle Thomas.

Breaststroke

25 yards: Sixth grade: 1. Kalgary Johns, 2. Kallin Brown, 3. Rumor Juarez; Fifth grade: 1. Demetrius Clark, 2. Odessa King, 3. Zach Gore; Fourth grade: 1. Easton Moss,

2. Dyami Nelson, 3. Jalynn Jones; Third grade: 1. Gage Riddle, 2. Lucas Osceola, 3. Conner Thomas.

Relay Race

Sixth grade: 1. C.W. Ortiz, Kalgary Johns, Thomas Bearden, Chastity Harmon, 2. Boyd Brown, Zach Hudson, Zeke Matthews, Tamea Allen; 3. Rumor Juarez, Jayce Smith, Michael Garcia, Rayven Smith. Fifth grade: 1. Demetrius Clark, Odessa King, Kelton Smedley, Dylan Sheffield; 2. Andrew Fish, Zach Gore, Joshua Madrigal, Erik Garcia; 3. Sean Osceola, Drayton Billie, Trevor Thomas, Courtney Gore. Fourth grade: 1. Brady Rhodes, Dyami Nelson, Easton Moss, Chloe Chalfant; 2. Chandler Pearce, Bryan Bishop, Layne Thomas, Ayana Tommie; 3. Camryn Thomas, Rudy Juarez, Sunni Bearden, Crystal Smith. Third grade: 1. Katie Osceola, Krysta Burton, Raelay Matthews, Conner Thomas; 2. Tyler Howard, Andrew Fish, Lucas Osceola, Keely Billie.

Second grade: 1. Blake Baker, Jason Sampson, Shyla Gopher, Echo Billie; 2. Silas Madrigal, Robert Harris, Donovan Harris, Dante Thomas; 3. Aubrey Pearce, Brienna Brockman, Madison Osceola, Malorie Thomas.

Exercise Promoted at Preschool Fitness Day

BY SHELLEY MARMOR
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Once a month for about the last two and a half years, Youth Fitness Coordinator Gina Allardyce and other members of the Fitness Dept. led the Tribal preschoolers in various activities during their Get Fit Field Day events.

About 70 children from the Hollywood Preschool attended the health-themed event Oct. 23 on the ball field.

Students in the 2-, 3- and 4-year-old classes began the day by going through a stretching routine, led by Allardyce. They then rotated through four stations — a circuit training obstacle course, soccer ball relay race station, balancing relay race station and a station where they pushed around a large, inflatable ball — to get in their exercise for the day.

"We want to promote fitness and exercise in young people so it gets instilled in them at a young age and they stay involved," said Allardyce, who coordinates the Get Fit Field Day events.

Allardyce said the activities promote hand/eye/foot coordination and other skills important in early childhood development.

She said once a month the Fitness Dept. hosts similar field day events on each reservation, but said they switch up the activities to keep the youngsters interested. The department also hosts Get Fit Field Day event for the Tribal seniors on all reservations.

Fitness Dept. Trainers Neil Prager from Big Cypress, Natasha Perez from Brighton and Jay Garland and Andrew "Billy" Marks from Hollywood, assisted as the preschoolers rotated through the four stations. Preschool staff members and teachers also made sure each child got some fitness time in at each station.



Shelley Marmor

Gregory Thomas from the 3-year-old class makes his way through the hula hoop jump exercise at the circuit training obstacle course.

In addition to hosting Get Fit Field Days, the Fitness Dept. has gymnastics, martial arts and kickboxing programs on various reservations to help Tribal citizens get and stay active.

For more information about Get Fit Field Day, please call Youth Fitness Coordinator Gina Allardyce at (954) 989-9457, Ext. 12416 or (954) 605-8909.



Shelley Marmor

At one of the four stations, Hollywood Preschoolers in the 2-year-old class push around a large, inflatable ball at the Get Fit Field Day event, held Oct. 23 at the ball field.

VETERANS DAY

Veterans Honored at Holiday Walk Event

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Members of the Immokalee community gathered in front of the Administration Building on the morning of Nov. 12 for the Veterans Day Walk.

Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar gave purpose and inspiration to the walkers' objective.

"It was only a few years ago that all of our ancestors walked everywhere they needed to go and they were a lot healthier because of their daily exercise," she said.

"The Seminole people are veterans of many conflicts; they walked many miles and made unbelievable sacrifices in order that you might be here today," continued Liaison Aguilar. "Now is your chance to walk in their honor to fight for a healthier lifestyle that will ensure that you and your descendants will have a future."

Immokalee Health and Nutrition Rep. Charlotte Porcario reminded everyone that Veterans Day is a time to remember all the men and women who pledged their lives for the country's freedom.

"As an army veteran, I covered many miles on my feet and participated in 12-mile hikes carrying a rifle and backpack," Porcario said. "It didn't do us any harm, but rather strengthened us."

"Committing yourself to a daily walk will improve your health and strengthen your heart, body and mind so that you will be able to tackle what lies before you,"



(L-R) Angella Dixon of the Human Resources Dept. and Health and Nutrition Rep. Charlotte Porcario lead the Veterans Day Walk in Immokalee on Nov. 12.

Judy Weeks

she continued. "Look at diabetes, heart disease, obesity and high cholesterol as your enemy. Pick up your feet and arm yourself to fight for a healthy lifestyle."

The Immokalee Veterans Day Walk participants completed their course around the reservation and then returned to receive their commemorative T-shirts and tote bags at the event's conclusion.



Immokalee Tribal citizens and employees unify to walk in honor of the country's veterans.

Judy Weeks



Naji Tobias

Tribal citizens from Big Cypress gather at the Seminole Veterans Monument, located in the center of the Seminole Pathways Trail, at the conclusion of the Veterans Day walk/run.

VETS

From page 1C

"I have much respect for all the veterans," O'Donnell said. "Because of them we have the freedom to come out and enjoy the beauty of the day here at Big Cypress. Having the Veterans Monument at the Seminole Pathway is much-deserved, as they paved the way for us."

As a parting gift, each participant received a Veterans Day commemorative bag and T-shirt.

The Veterans Day walk was the fifth of 14 scheduled key walks for the 2009-2010 Seminole Pathways Walking Program season.

"[This program] gives them a chance to move, to exercise and to improve on their health and lives," McDuffie said.

For more information on the Seminole Pathways weekly walks, and a listing of the remaining events for 2009-2010, please contact Seminole Pathways Walking Program Coordinator Edna McDuffie at (863) 983-5798.



Naji Tobias

(L-R) Tribal citizens Carol Osceola, Almira Billie and Emilia Jumper embark on a 3-mile walk for the Veterans Day walk/run, as part of the 2009-2010 Seminole Pathways Walking Program.



Naji Tobias

Laura Clay shoots some pool in the 8-ball competition at the Big Cypress Veterans Day Pool Tournament on Nov. 6.

BC Attends Veterans Day Pool Tourney

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter



Naji Tobias

Chairman Mitchell Cypress prepares the set of pool balls in 8-ball play tournament.

BIG CYPRESS — It was a reunion of sorts for Chairman Mitchell Cypress, who invited 10 of his fellow military veterans and Chillico Indian Boarding School graduates to play in the Veterans Day Pool Tournament on Nov. 6 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.

Many Tribal citizens competed in the pool competition alongside the invited veteran guests and graduates of the school, which was located in Chillico, Okla. Chairman Cypress graduated from the school in 1966.

"It's the first time we're doing it here at Big Cypress," he said of the tournament. "We wanted everyone to come out and honor our veterans so that we remember our troops overseas. We need to not forget those who fought for our freedom, especially those that died for us so we could enjoy what we have right now."

And that they did, as Chairman Cypress made the most of the function, embracing his time with his fellow classmates.

"We wanted to go ahead and invite our veterans to celebrate what the Seminole Tribe of Florida has," he said. "We wanted to have time to share with them our school and military days when we were younger."

Veterans Day Pool Tournament Results

8-Ball Competition

Women: 1. Theresa Nunez, 2. Phalyng Osceola, 3. Laura Clay, 4. Melissa Silva, 5. Virginia Billie; Men: 1. Kiko Villalobos, 2. Rokey Johnson, 3. Daniel Gopher, 4. RC Foy, 5. Alex Villalobos.

9-Ball Competition

Women: 1. Theresa Nunez, 2. Virginia Billie, 3. Laura Clay, 4. Dale Grasshopper, 5. Juanita Osceola; Men: 1. Kiko Villalobos, 2. Leon Micco, 3. Alex Villalobos, 4. Nick Tiger, 5. Tony Billie.

Hollywood Community Celebrates Veterans Day with Walks

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Tribal community members gathered in the name of fitness for two Veterans Day walks, one held at Topeekeegee Yugnee Park, better

known as TY Park, and the other at the Seminole ball field, on Nov. 10.

The events were a part of the Health Dept.-sponsored Seminole Pathways Walking Program and participants enjoyed Veterans Day T-shirts, extra walkway program points and other rewards at the events.



Chris C. Jenkins

(L-R) Tiger Tiger picks out her Veterans Day T-shirt with Health Dept. Nutritional Coordinator Toma Hunter at the morning walk in TY Park.

known as TY Park, and the other at the Seminole ball field, on Nov. 10.

The events were a part of the Health Dept.-sponsored Seminole Pathways Walking Program and participants enjoyed Veterans Day T-shirts, extra walkway program points and other rewards at the events.

"The goal of the program is always to get more people walking," said Hollywood/Trail Reservation Nutritional Coordinator Toma Hunter.

Tribal citizen Judy Tiger said with a family history of health issues, including heart attack and stroke, she wants to head down a different road.

"I am doing this because I am getting older and I have set myself up for health problems up to this point in my life, so I want to do something about it," Tiger explained.

Seminole Pathways Walking Program enrollee and Tribal citizen Rhonda Bain said upcoming summer plans were her moti-

vation to come out for the noon walk. "I just want better health," Bain said. "With the summer coming I want to get myself together to feel sexy and look sexy. It has all been a very good experience that I have enjoyed in the program."

The new program gives Tribal families the opportunity to sign up for weekly fitness walks including foundation and holiday walks in their communities across all the reservations. There is also a pedometer program with a goal of 10,000 steps a day for the highly motivated.

The program also provides the chance to collect as many lapel pins as possible running September through next March. Ending with the Easter Seals Walk, prizes will also be given out at selected walks. A prize-filled banquet celebration will also be held in the spring for selected categories.

For more information on the program please log onto www.seminole.com/walk.



Chris C. Jenkins

Esther Gopher gets moving at the Hollywood ball field afternoon walk.

Tribal Athletes Compete in Third Annual Brighton Triathlon

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Brighton's Recreation Dept. held their third annual Mini One-Man Triathlon Nov. 7, with numerous competitors vying for the gold.

The competition was open to all Tribal citizens, spouses and Tribal employees. With an amazing 18 competitors, a few even coming from other reservations to compete, the triathlon was a success.

"With everything else going on today I'm honored that they all came out for this," Kai Setty of the Recreation Dept. said.

The triathlon was broken down into three divisions, senior, adult and youth.

"This brings us all together in a good competitive spirit," Johns said. "We get to challenge each other, get to encourage each other and just have everyday good health."

The adults were the next to compete. With more than 10 competitors, the adults competed in two separate heats. To ensure safety during the triathlon Brighton's life-guards competed the day before so they could be on hand in case of an emergency.

Ignacio Orozco took first place in his 18-25 age division with a time of 36:36. First time participant JoJo Osceola captured the women's 18-25 first place division in 39:53, and said she will sign up for the triathlon again next year.

ing first in 48:52. Larissa McDuffie and Reina Micco followed with times 49:21 and 51:30, respectively.

Darin Koonitz took the first place title in 47:34 in his 36-40 age division.

Pemayetv Emahaky's Physical Education Teacher Chris Goodwin showed off his athletic ability taking first in the male 41-54 age group with a time of 40:58. Mitch Osceola, visiting from the Hollywood Reservation, took the second place finish in 51:32. Judy Jones took the women's 41-54 first place finish in 1:40:00.

Timothy Bearden paced himself in the youth division, coming in at 53:42 and taking first place



Rachel Buxton

Helene Buster paces herself in the pool during the first leg of the triathlon, held throughout the Brighton Reservation on Nov. 7.

The adult and youth divisions were broken down even further into different age categories. Each division had a challenging competition that started in the pool, followed by a walk/run and ended with a bike ride.

The seniors had a 105 yard swim, 1 mile walk/run and a 2-mile bike ride. The adults and youth upped the challenge and had a 200 yard swim, 1-mile walk/run and a 5-mile bike ride, with the last few miles in a ride against the wind.

The seniors were the first to take their marks at the pool. Patty Waldron had an impressive first place finish with a time of 26:15. Helene Buster stayed on Waldron's heels taking second place in 28:47. Mable Tichenor rounded out the competition, taking third place with a time of 49:14.

Willie Johns competed solo in his division, taking first place at 42:03, after having mechanical difficulty with his bike. He said it didn't matter, however, because he still got to challenge himself.

"It just seemed like something fun to do ... just to see how far I could test myself," Osceola said.

In the 26-30 age division, Howard Jimmie took first in 50:31. For the women, Kathleen Hauser of the Brighton's Recreation Dept. snagged the gold in 52 minutes flat, with Suraiya Smith taking second with a time of 1:11:07.

In the adult male 31-35 age group, Dallas Nunez finished first in 44:43, with Travis Trueblood following at 46:57.

There was tough competition in the women's 31-35 age division. Carla Gopher held the lead, tak-



Rachel Buxton

Timothy Bearden gets ready to finish his 1-mile run and begin his bike ride. His 53:42 finish earned him first place in the youth division.



Rachel Buxton

Mable Tichenor, who recently underwent foot surgery, crosses the finish line on her bike.



Rachel Buxton

Patty Waldron continues her lead into the last leg of the race. She took first place with a time of 26:15 in the senior division.



Rachel Buxton

Mike Micco bowls a 245 in the no tap game at the 8th annual Corey Jumper and Waylon Huff memorial bowling tournament.

Family, Friends Gather for Memorial Jumper/Huff Bowling Tourney

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

OKEECHOBEE, Fla. — Family and friends from all reservations came out to Stardust Lanes in remembrance of the late Corey Jumper and Waylon Huff to participate in the 8th annual bowling tournament held in their memory.

"We'd like to welcome everyone to the 8th annual Corey Jumper and Waylon Huff Bowling Memorial," Mary Alice Smith, the mother of the late Waylon Huff, said. "We hope you all enjoy yourselves this evening."

Agnes Jumper offered a blessing before the games began. The men then drew for their teammate and the competition began.

All bowlers played their A game with many bowling more than 200 point games. Many spectators came out to support and cheer the bowlers on and enjoy the family fellowship.

Mary Jo Micco and son George Micco stole the competition in the first game, played regular, with a team total of 409. Mary Alice Smith and partner Curtis Hardy took second place with a total of 390. Husband and wife team, Darin and Grace Koonits with a total of 366 snagged the third place finish.

The second game played, 3-6-9, had stiff competition as well with the top three places all having more than a 400 point team total.

First place went to Crystal Weimann and George Micco with a total of 440. Patty Entry and Milo Osceola secured the second place finish with a team score of 430, and third place went to Farrah Branthoover and Derrick Thomas with a team total of 406.

The bowlers attempted their luck at another regular game where Crystal Weimann held onto the first place spot with partner Wayne Billie with a score of 376.

Farrah Branthoover stayed in one of the top spots as well with a team total of 366 with partner Darin Koonitz. Suraiya Smith and Derrick Thomas claimed third place with a total of 365.

The fourth game, no tap, put Emma Urbina and Rufus Tiger in the winner's spot with a team total of 433. Second place with a total of 429 went to Mahala Madrigal and Kevin Tommie and third place was captured by Wendi snow and Amos Billie with a team total of 426.



Rachel Buxton

Mary Alice Smith bowls in memory of her late son, Waylon Huff, one of the tournament's namesakes.

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(L-R) Father, Jim Russell and mother, Leslie Osceola, with softball player Phyllis Osceola, 8.

Chris C. Jenkins

Osceola Youth Continues Family's Sports Legacy Through Softball

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Softball enthusiast Phyllis Osceola, 8, has continued a tradition her family began at least two generations ago.

Playing softball competitively just comes naturally for the Hollywood Reservation resident, who began by playing T-ball.

"She has been out there since around 4-years-old," said her father, Jim Russell. "Being out there playing and around it has been the key."

Through the teachings of her mother, Leslie Osceola, and grandmother, Maydell Osceola, both also softball players, the young hurler and first baseman has grown to love the sport. Phyllis is now in her fifth year on the Little Thunder community squad in Pembroke Pines, Fla., a girl's fast-pitch softball league that operates out of Fletcher Park.

"I started liking it because my mom played and the whole family still plays," said Phyllis, who also plays the same positions as her mother. "I liked how [my mother] hit and I hope someday I can do that too."

Nowadays, mom Leslie said she also enjoys watching her daughter play.

"I love to play with her and watch her," Leslie Osceola said. "When I was young I had to learn on my own."

As a member of the 8-year-old and younger 2008-2009 State Championship Team, Phyllis Osceola has had a lot to build on throughout her current season. She is part of a 13 game recreation schedule in the 10 and under league running through December of this

year, along with an upcoming tournament-heavy travel team schedule going through January of next year.

It all keeps Phyllis very busy, something mother Leslie said she is just fine with.

"I am just trying to keep her on the right track," Osceola explained. "She is so awesome out there and she is like me; she just enjoys playing the game."

The teams first travel tournament is on Dec. 5-6 in the Okeechobee Park "Santa Slam" to be held in West Palm Beach.

The Flamingo Road Christian Academy student said she began her softball career with the Tribe's Recreation Dept. softball team, The Seminoles. She said she played for three seasons, but decided to try her hand with another league.

Leslie said the transition to her new team has been a good one.

"It has been fun getting to play," she said. "I think I am good at pitching and it makes my mom really happy to see me also."

Her grandfather, Russell Osceola, said the sky is the limit for his little girl.

"Given the experience she has, she is on her way," he said. "She only has one year pitching, but if she were given more innings she could pitch a no-hitter, so she is there already."

"It is about God-given talent, hard work and patience; this is what I tell her are the keys to getting better," Osceola added. "She can do whatever she wants; it seems like it is something she really wants and enjoys."

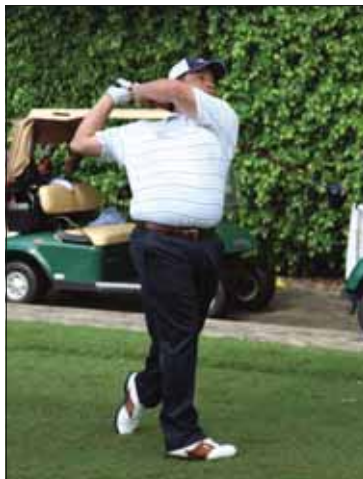
Phyllis said playing on the high school college levels are definitely a part of her future plans, declaring "I want to play as long as I can."

Tribal Delegation Attends Rodeo Finals



Chris C. Jenkins

Members of the Tribe's royalty including (L-R) Little Mr. Seminole Lance Howard, Little Ms. Seminole Aubee Susie Billie and Jr. Miss Seminole Stevie Brantley join members of the Florida Rodeo Queens (Back Row) at the Southeastern Circuit Rodeo Finals held at the Bergeron Rodeo Grounds in Davie, Fla., Nov. 5-7. Miss Florida Seminole Brittany Smith is not pictured. The Tribe co-sponsored the three-day event and the Tribal Color Guard took part in the opening ceremonies. Award presentations and recognition for sponsorship went to Tribal Council and Board of Directors members including Big Cypress Board Rep. Paul Bowers Sr., Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Board of Directors President Richard Bowers Jr.



FNGA Holds Seminole Hard Rock Golf Championship Game in Hollywood

Photo by Chris C. Jenkins

At Left: Hollywood Board of Directors Rep. Marcus Osceola Jr. tees off from the first hole at the First Nations Golf Association Seminole Hard Rock Golf Championship held at the Emerald Hills Golf Club in Hollywood, Fla. Rep. Osceola was among the participants at the event, which included players from Oklahoma, Mississippi and Wisconsin. According to its website, www.fnga.net, the First Nations Golf Association inducts and promotes golf to natives, particularly youth, throughout the U.S. and Canada, and is committed to making social and economic contributions to Native communities.

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Announcements

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Happy birthday in November to my children, **Paula, Burton and Ike Harjo**.

Love,
Mom (**Jennie Harjo**) &
Family

For **Paula Harjo**, our beloved daughter, sister, mother and friend,

even though you're gone, you are not forgotten.

We love you,
Your family and friends

Happy birthday **Dad** and big sis **Susie**. I love you both a lot.

Always,
India Harjo



Josie Cantu, happy 3rd birthday!

Love always,
Mom & Dad (**Michael Cantu**)

Happy birthday **Terrijo Nelson** on Dec. 12. I want to wish my mother a happy birthday. May your day be filled with fun and lots of love. I'd give anything just to see you finally be happy. Remember no matter what, I love you and regardless what the case may be. I'm here for you.

Love always,
Your first daughter, **Carolee J. Anderson**

Happy birthday to my Grandma **Terrijo Nelson** on Dec. 12. Grandma, you're the best and I want you to know how I love you and miss you. Remember to smile because your "Rick" loves you.

Love,
Your grandson,
Dar'Rick "Ricky"

Happy 18th birthday **Daylon Youngblood**.

Love,
Mom, Dad and Everett



POEM

United We Can

United we can achieve all of our goals.
One beautiful, defiant, sensitive woman.
And her warrior, an Unconquered Seminole.
Against all odds, with faith and trust in each other,
We will be strong.
Envy breeds hate, so we must be skeptical,
Because some will mean us wrong.
Susie, Kris and India, we will make you a home,
A place where you will always be welcomed,
No matter how much you think you're grown.
Everyday my beautiful Mayra, I wish the best for each of you,
Don't think you are not loved,
Because that's simply not true.
In our hearts and in our arms,
You three will always find love,
A blessing you are to us from the Creator above
Susie, smile and be happy,
Because there is always a better

day.
We are proud of you; stay strong, OK?

Kris, I know this is all new to you,
Embrace it and understand.
As your dad I'm telling you to always respect your mom,
And become a successful man.
India, let's show your sister and brother this bond that we share,
At the same time we must let them know,

They are part of our circle,
And that we love them, as well as care.

As for my beautiful Mayra, I acknowledge I'm not a great man,
But I am better than I once was,
Now I put my life in your hands.
I gave you my word and I will uphold it until the day I die.

It's written in blood so there's no such thing as "try."
Faith and trust are what I want you to have in me,

I will not let you down,
As time goes on, you will see.
As Sam Cooke said, "A change is going to come."

That has arrived,

Wiser, determined and focused to prove I'm worthy of you,
Mayra, my beautiful bride.
Thank you for uprooting your life To be closer to my mom, my niece and my nephew too,
As you already know, they love you.

I'm grateful for the sacrifices you made for me,
So we can be a closer family as well.

Together, we will put our son in a position to excel.
United we can keep our love, respect and loyalty to each other strong.

Mayra Hernandez Harjo, you're a very special and great woman,
I appreciate the unique love you've shown.

— **Ike T. Harjo**
Panther Clan

Big Sis, you gave Mayra and I your blessing many years ago. I know you are very happy. Happy birthday big sis, I love you.

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SEMINOLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Citizens Police Academy Introduces Simulated MILO Training

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — In week eight of the Seminole Police Dept. (SPD)-sponsored Citizens Police Academy series, Tribal and community members gathered for a rare and insightful introduction to the rigors of police work Oct. 15 in the Tribal Headquarters Auditorium.

The topics of discussion included IES Interactive Training, a simulation training products line used by law enforcement, security and public safety agencies, as well as the use of force.

In an IES simulated training system called MILO, which stands for Mission Initiated Learning Objectives, Seminole Police Dept. Training Specialist Officer David Lee showed simulations of both minor and major life and death scenarios officers can encounter while in the line of duty.

"This system gives you one of the best realistic outlooks on real life events," Lee said. "These situations or simulations are all based on decision making." "The biggest thing that gets officers killed in the line of duty is indecision," he continued. "These types of situations also take you from the potpourri pot into the deep fryer."

MILO comes with more than 250 ready-to-train scenarios, an extensive library of interactive graphics-based firearms drills and exercises, and can accommodate any size law enforcement agency to meet its training objectives.

"I was amazed at the reaction time needed to respond to the situations," said former officer and academy series regular Charles Hiers Jr.

Class attendee John Osceola also said he enjoyed learning about police work during the class.

"I learned about responsibility and what you need to do before firing a gun and to always keep your eyes on your target," said an enthusiastic Osceola. "I liked seeing all the real life stuff like the Tasers, guns and pepper spray."

The training system also comes with an advanced set of training features including true high definition video, 5.1 surround sound, interactive graphics exercises and supports up to 16 simultaneous individually detected un-tethered weapons.

According to SPD Training Supervisor George Gonzalez, SPD and the Fort Lauderdale Police Dept. are the only police stations in the state of Florida using this type of police training technology.

"We provide this type of training so the physiological changes we face can be understood," explained Gonzalez to those in attendance. "When we are out there face to face there is no take two."



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal citizen Tammy Osceola takes aim in a target practice program on the MILO training simulator.



Chris C. Jenkins

SPD Training Specialist Officer David Lee (R) discusses the issues officers face involving use of force while out in the field.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal citizen John Osceola on the motorbike of SPD officer James Boudreaux at the event on Oct. 22.

SPD Citizens Academy Concludes

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — In week nine of the Seminole Police Dept. (SPD) Citizens Police Academy Series, officers discussed Tribal programs, traffic unit motorbike officers and citizen patrol programs on Oct. 22 at the Hollywood Community Center.

SPD Officer and Training Specialist and Armorer Jack Nash opened up the evening with information on a diverse range of programs offered including: basic driver's education, internet safety/social networking sites, advanced driving, All-Terrain/Unmanned Aerial Vehicle education and safety, and cell phone safety.

Nash emphasized that communication and teamwork within communities are important in the continued success of the programs.

Next, 10 year SPD veteran James Boudreaux spoke about motorbike units discussing their use, operations and history which began in the 1890s. SPD currently has four active motorbike officers on its squad, which began in 1990.

"Our biggest thing is to educate the driver. This unit allows us time to really go after the overly aggressive driver," Boudreaux explained. "A lot of police bicycling today is based on past traditions."

"Being a good motor officer is about posture, competitiveness and professionalism," Boudreaux continued.

He said the importance of activities and responsibilities of officers include high profile escorts, traffic patrols, parades and funerals.

Boudreaux also discussed a unique requirement to becoming a part of his specialized unit — the ability to lift a motorbike from the ground. Bikes average at about 800 pounds and he said he had to accomplish the

feat many times because he trained his own motorbike more than 20 times while in the academy.

Other requirements include completing an 80 hour, 12 week driving course.

He also mentioned most motorbike training involves braking and escaping and said two-thirds of all crashes are due to over-braking, or running wide on a curve because of speeding. He acknowledged that many also consider the physical training involved to become a motorbike officer as the second most difficult to complete next to the Special Weapons and Tactics Unit, better known as S.W.A.T., for team training and development.

"You definitely have to be tough if you want to be a motorbike officer," Boudreaux said.

One inherent danger Boudreaux detailed in his presentation is a lawbreaking tactic by motorists called "leapfrogging." This consists of unexpected motorists driving into the middle of a motorcade police escort. According to Boudreaux, at least one officer per year dies as a result of this.

SPD Sergeant George Gonzalez closed out the night with a presentation and discussion on volunteer police service programs. He said such programs supplement and support officers and allow them to concentrate on other primary duties. There is also hope for such a program on all the reservations in the near future.

"What better source do we have other than someone from their own communities to help," Gonzalez acknowledged.

Prerequisites and roles include the needs of the individual department, being a minimum 18 years old, completing and passing a screening process, being a law abiding citizen, providing front desk assistance, flyer distribution, assisting in search and rescues and other potential responsibilities.

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SEMINOLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Who Do You Call in an Emergency? SPD Provides the Answers

SUBMITTED BY SPD

When you have an emergency and you are on the reservation you want help as soon as possible, whether you need the police, an ambulance, or fire service. Did you know that the type of phone you use can impact how long you may have to wait?

Cell phones generally go to the local county, but in some cases, may go to another county that has to transfer your call. Internet phone service phones like Vonage® may do the same. Your home or business phone will generally go to the nearest public safety provider but that also depends on the carrier that provides your service.

So given the choices, who do you call when you need help right away?

This article will help you plan for how you would use your phones during an emergency on the reservation. You may even be able to program the correct numbers into your phone for emergencies so that it will save you time.

Please take the time to review each reservation's process and at the end of the section, we will make a recommendation to you.

Hollywood

On the Hollywood Reservation you have police and fire-rescue service right in the community.

In order to connect to those services immediately you must dial the ten digit number of (954) 976-8900. That will put you directly in touch with the communications center that will dispatch help as soon as possible.

If you dial 9-1-1 on your wired home or business phone, you will most likely be connected to the Broward Sheriff's Office Communications Center in Fort Lauderdale. From there your call will either be routed to the Seminole Public Safety Dispatch Center in Hollywood, or you may be transferred to the City of Hollywood Police Dept. for fire department dispatch.

If you call from the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino property you will connect with a security operator who will route your call.

So who do you call when you are on the Hollywood Reservation?

If you have an emergency that requires police, fire, ambulance or any combination thereof, the fastest way to get help is to dial Seminole Police dispatch at (954) 967-8900. In this way, no matter what phone you use, you will be speaking with the Dispatch Center first hand.

If you can't dial those numbers, you can still call 9-1-1 and be prepared to tell the person answering your exact location.

Big Cypress

On the Big Cypress Reservation you have police, fire-rescue and medical services right in the community.

When you call 9-1-1 from a home line or business line your call is routed to the Hendry County Sheriff's Office. A phone call to 9-1-1 from your cell phone has the possibility of being routed to the Broward County Sheriff's Office, Hendry County Sheriff's Dept., or even the Collier County Sheriff's Office.

This is dependent upon which cell tower or service carrier near the reservation picks up the call. The calls are received and the location information provided on their screen is verified by the call taker and then trans-

ferred to the Seminole Police Dept. Dispatch Center.

You can also reach the Big Cypress Dispatch Center directly by calling (863) 983-2285. This number will put you directly in contact with a dispatcher who will dispatch the response units needed to assist you.

Please remember that when calling the direct line no location information is provided to the call taker; the only information they have is what appears on the Caller ID, if enabled.

So who do you call when you are on the Big Cypress Reservation?

If you have an emergency that requires police, fire, ambulance or any combination thereof, the fastest way to get help is to dial Seminole Police Dept. dispatch at (863) 983-2285. In this way, no matter what phone you use, you will be speaking with the Dispatch Center first hand.

If you can't dial those numbers, you can still call 9-1-1 and be prepared to tell the person answering your exact location.

Brighton

On the Brighton Reservation you have police, fire-rescue and medical services right in the community.

When you call 9-1-1 from your home line, business line or cell phone, you will be connected to the Glades County Sheriff's Dept. When you call the operator will verify the location where services are needed and will transfer the call to the Brighton Dispatch Center.

You can contact a dispatcher directly at the Brighton Dispatch Center by calling (863) 763-5731. Please remember that when calling this number the address information is not provided, as they only receive the information provided by Caller ID.

So who do you call when you are on the Brighton Reservation?

If you have an emergency that requires police, fire, ambulance or any combination thereof, the fastest way to get help is to dial Seminole Police Dept. Dispatch at (863) 763-5731. In this way, no matter what phone you use, you will be speaking with the Dispatch Center first hand.

If you can't dial those numbers, you can still call 9-1-1 and be prepared to tell the person answering your exact location.

Ft. Pierce

On the Ft. Pierce Reservation you have Seminole Police Dept. services only within the community while your medical and fire services are provided by St. Lucie County.

When you call 9-1-1 from your home line, business line or cell phone you are routed to the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office, they will verify the location and type of services needed and will transfer the call to the Brighton Dispatch Center.

If police services are needed you can also contact the Brighton Dispatch Center directly by calling them at 863-763-5731. If medical or fire services are needed it is still best to call 9-1-1 directly to avoid any delays resulting from the need to transfer or relay information to the correct agency.

In Ft. Pierce there are police service aides stationed at your gates and they can be reached at (772) 468-1990.

So who do you call when you are on the Fort Pierce Reservation?

If you have an emergency that requires police, fire,

ambulance or any combination thereof, the fastest way to get help is to dial 9-1-1. A call transfer will be made to the Brighton dispatch for police only response.

For non-emergency police response you should call Brighton dispatch at (863) 763-5731.

Immokalee

On the Immokalee Reservation you have police services in your community. All medical and fire services are provided through Collier County.

When calling 9-1-1 from your home, business or cell you will be routed to the Collier County Sheriff's Office. They will verify the location and the type of services required and will transfer the call to the Big Cypress Dispatch Center.

You can reach the Big Cypress Dispatch Center directly by calling (239) 657-6956 from the Immokalee Reservation. This number will put you directly in contact with a dispatcher at the Big Cypress Dispatch Center who is able to dispatch police services only.

If you require medical or fire services it is best to call 9-1-1 and reach the Collier County Sheriff's Office, this will help to reduce response time by eliminating the need to transfer or relay information to proper agency.

So who do you call when you are on the Immokalee Reservation?

If you have an emergency that requires police, fire, ambulance or any combination thereof, the fastest way to get help is to dial 9-1-1. A call transfer will be made to the Big Cypress Dispatch Center for police only response.

For non-emergency police response you should call Big Cypress Dispatch at (239) 657-6956.

Tampa

Currently in Tampa, our officers operate out of the Tampa Seminole Hard Rock & Casino.

Because the Tampa Reservation is unique in that it doesn't contain a residential community, calling for emergency services from a cell phone from the reserva-

tion will connect you to the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office.

For residents that live in the Tampa area, emergency services are provided through the local agency for the area in which you live. For most of you that main agency would be the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office.

When a 9-1-1 call is received through that agency the information for the caller will be verified and the correct response units dispatched. If Seminole Police Dept. response is required or needed the Brighton Dispatch Center should be contacted at (863) 763-5731.

Calls from within the Hard Rock facility go through the facility operator and Seminole Police are advised via their security and an officer responds. When 9-1-1 is dialed from an outside line from the Hard Rock the call is routed through the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, which verifies the location and response needed and forwards the call to the Brighton Dispatch Center. All medical and fire services for Tampa are provided through the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office.

So who do you call when you are on the Tampa Reservation?

If you have an emergency that requires police, fire, ambulance or any combination thereof, the fastest way to get help is to dial 9-1-1. If you are your residence in the Tampa Metropolitan area, the fastest way to get help is to dial 9-1-1.

If you need the Seminole Police Dept. for any reason, and it is not an emergency, please call Brighton Dispatch at (863) 763-5731.

If you have any questions about the above or want a personal explanation from our public safety personnel, please contact the Seminole Police Dept. communications manager's office at (954) 967-8900. They will set up a visit from one of your Seminole Tribe public safety professionals.

Seminole Police Dept. officers will soon be delivering magnets with contact numbers to Tribal residents.

Seminole Police Dept. Training Calendar

SUBMITTED BY SPD

Any Tribal citizen interested in observing the various training courses delivered to Seminole Police Department officers please contact Lt. Jim Polan at (954) 967-8900.

Dec. 2-4: Annual in-service program each officer must attend. This training is held at the Big Cypress Public Safety Complex from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and is both classroom and practical application.

Dec. 16-18: Annual in-service program each officer must attend. This training is held at the Big Cypress Public Safety Complex from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and is both classroom and practical application.

Dec. 21-22: Patrol Rifle Operators Course. This training is held in Moore Haven, Fla. at the Glades County Sheriff's Office Firearm Academy from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.



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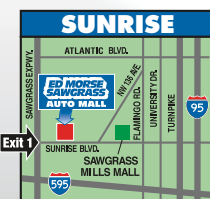
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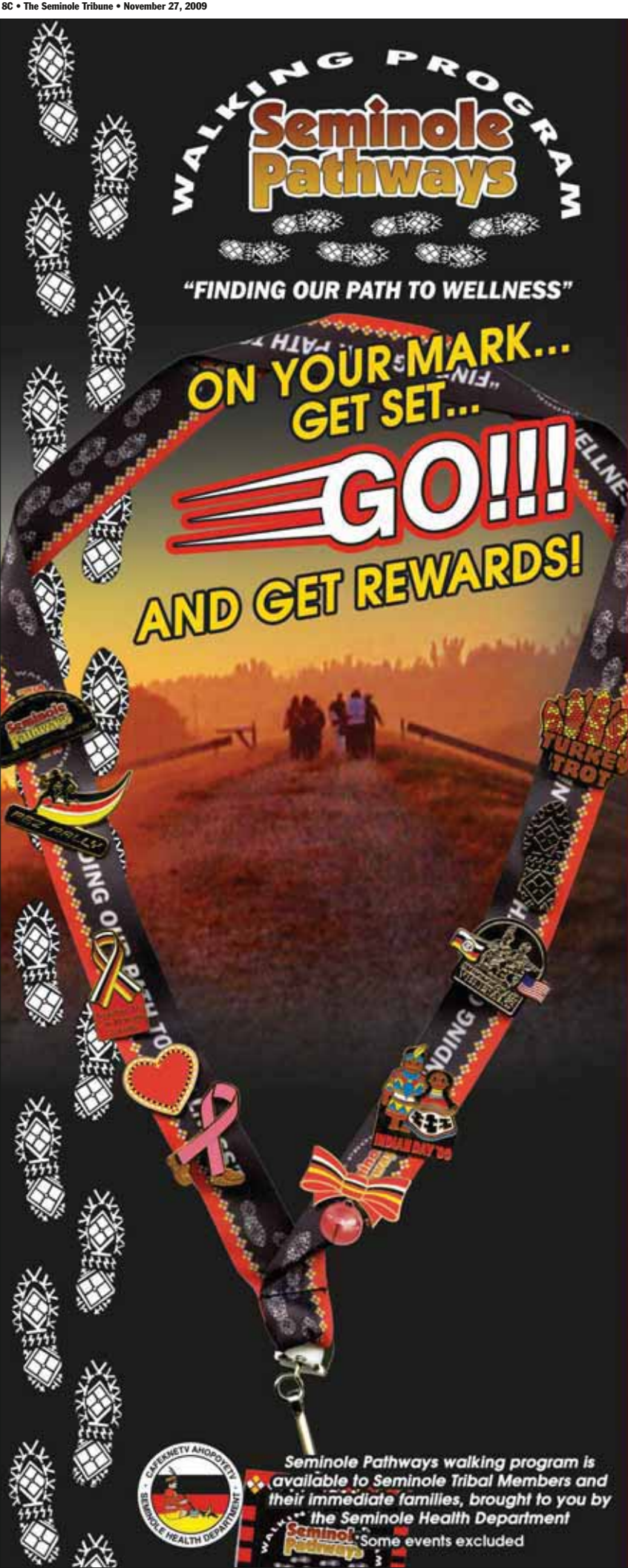


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Florida Seminole Veterans Walking Path

HOLLYWOOD

Tuesdays at 7a
TY Park

Tuesdays at 12p
Hollywood Ball Field

IMMOKALEE

Thursdays at 9:30a
Immokalee Tribal Office

TAMPA

Wednesdays at 9a
Lettuce Lake Park

FORT PIERCE

Wednesdays at 9a
Fort Pierce Community

TRAIL

Mondays at 5p
East Village Parking lot

NAPLES

Wednesdays 5:30p
Sun-N-Fun Park

*Weekly walk times subject to change:
verify with health educator or website
www.semtribe.com/walk

PATHWAY PROGRAM CALENDAR

JINGLE JOG

Sat., Dec. 5, 8a
Hollywood, John Williams Park

Wed., Dec. 9, 5p
Naples, Golden Gate Community Park

Thur., Dec. 10, 6a
Brighton, Fred Smith Arena

Thur., Dec. 10, 8:30a
Immokalee Tribal Office

Friday, Dec. 11, 7a
BC, Canal Bank across from BC Landings

Sat., Dec. 19, 8a
Trail, East Village Parking Lot

HEART WALK

Dec. 12, 7:30a
Ft. Myers, Centennial Park

REZ RALLY

Jan. 16, 2010
Brighton Rez

MARCH OF DIMES

March 6, 7:30a
Okeechobee, Flagler Park

HEART WALK

March 13, 7:30a
Davie, Nova Southeastern University

RELAY FOR LIFE

Date TBA, Clewiston

EASTER SEALS

March 26, 7:30a
Ft. Lauderdale, Markham Park

HALLOWEEN

Big Cypress Hosts Halloween Carnival

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Held at the Big Cypress softball field on Oct. 30, the Halloween Carnival drew more than 1,500 people from a variety of locations throughout the state.

Even former NFL player Eric Green made an appearance at the big event, which featured a vast array of fun-filled activities and contests.

There were a slew of amenities available for those who attended, including a bungee jump ride, rock climbing, several bounce houses and a teacup ride, among many others.

In addition to the large selection of food and beverages at the carnival, many Tribal and non-Tribal citizens dressed up for the costume contest, which had a whopping 20 categories.

More than 100 contestants stood out in the Big Cypress costume competition, as they won a variety of prizes.

Following the four-hour long costume contest was an exhilarating series of arm-wrestling matches, with Charlie Cypress and Lydia Cypress coming out on top as the big winners for the men and women.

To conclude the wildly energetic carn-



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress community children enjoy the Pirate's Revenge ride at the carnival on the evening of Oct. 30.

val, several teams stayed late and competed in the egg toss contest.

A brief power outage did not, in any way, dampen the high spirits kindled during the egg toss competition, with Ronnie Billie and Cheyenne Billie emerging as the contest's top overall team.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress, who enjoyed his time at the Big Cypress Halloween Carnival, could not have been any more pleased at how the extravaganza turned out.

"It seems like it's bigger and bigger every year at Big Cypress,"

Chairman Cypress said of the carnival. "We try to get everybody to come here and enjoy the carnival with us."

Asked if he thinks next year's carnival can improve on this one, Chairman Cypress simply said having more rides for the kids is a strong possibility.

Nonetheless, the Chairman quickly placed his focus on how this past carnival was compared to years past.

"It's the best we've ever had," Chairman Cypress said matter-of-factly, with a big smile on his face.



Naji Tobias

The three queen winners of the Halloween costume contest stood out throughout the competition.



Naji Tobias

(L-R) Shana Valentine paints her pumpkin during the Oct. 30 pumpkin painting contest, with assistance from grandmother, Glynis Bowers.

Big Cypress Halloween Carnival Results

Costume Contest — Tribal/Non-Tribal King: 1. Lisa Rittenberry, 2. Margaret Gibson, 3. Crystal Rittenberry; Queen: 1. Steven Arthur.

Costume Contest — Tribal Ages 0-2: Scariest: 1. Blaze Cypress, 2. Adrianna Cypress-Ramirez, 3. Tahnia Billie; Most Original: 1. Mayli Tommie, 2. Halley and Hayzen Valentine, 3. Ezekiel Hill; Prettiest: 1. Xiya Osceola, 2. Emma Osceola, 3. Shylah Walker.

Ages 3-5: Scariest: 1. Andrew Bowers Jr., 2. Anya Cypress, 3. Lazzlow Billie; Most Original: 1. Harmony Cypress, 2. Madasyn Osceola, 3. Leighton Jim; Prettiest: 1. Charlie Osceola, 2. Evi Buck, 3. Sarah Robbins.

Ages 6-8: Scariest: 1. Alena Stockton, 2. Grace Martinez, 3. Ricky Rodriguez; Most Original: 1. Alyssa Osceola, 2. Arissa Cypress, 3. Mya Cypress; Prettiest: 1. Aujua Williams, 2. Athena Bert, 3. Julius Smith.

Ages 9-11: Scariest: 1. Natomah Robbins, 2. Cameron Osceola, 3. Maurice Billie; Most Original: 1. Arak Jumper, 2. John Robbins, 3. Aldrica Cummings; Prettiest: 1. Sierra Bowers, 2. Mariah Smith, 3. Mazzy Robbins.

Ages 12-14: Scariest: 1. Julian Billie, 2. Echo Wolf, 3. Kaylan Osceola; Most Original: 1. Caitlin Cypress, 2. Silver Wolf, 3. Jean Capri-cen; Prettiest: 1. Kaitlin Osceola, 2. Destiny Robbins, 3. Katrina Jumper.

Ages 15-18: Scariest: 1. Stevie Billie, 2. Ronnie Billie Jr., 3. Jessica Osceola; Most Original: 1. Jason Melton II, 2. Brannon Billie, 3. Rowdey Osceola; Prettiest: 1. Kristen Billie, 2. Courtney Osceola.

Ages 19-49: Scariest: 1. Marlon Tommie, 2. Billy Walker, 3. John Billie Jr.; Most Original: 1. Cicero Osceola, 2. Toi Andrews, 3. Tasha Osceola; Prettiest: 1. Trisha Walker, 2. JoJo Osceola, 3. Clea Billie Herrera.

Ages 50 and Older: Scariest: 1. Ronnie Billie Sr., 2. Rudy Osceola, 3. Mary Jean Koenes; Most Original: 1. Violet Jim, 2. Stephen Jim, 3. Cornelia Osceola; Prettiest: 1. Louise Osceola, 2. Jeannette Cypress, 3. Mary Robbins.

Family Division: 1. Melissa Billie, 2. Toi Andrews, 3. Alyssa Bowers.

Costume Contest — Non-Tribal Ages 0-2: Scariest: 1. Jaely Rodriguez, 2. Damien Vicente, 3. James Valdez; Most Original: 1. Jaiden Thomas, 2. Liliana Hayes, 3. Eden Gerald; Prettiest: 1. Tyler Pruitt, 2. Annissette Villalobos, 3. Riley Sutton.

Ages 3-5: Scariest: 1. Nicholus Andrews II, 2. Hector Huertas, 3. David Rojas; Most Original: 1. Yzabella Fuentes, 2. Jalee Wilcox, 3. Philip

Berry; Prettiest: 1. Jaslyn Creagh, 2. Unique Montalvo, 3. Alicia Adkins.

Ages 6-8: Scariest: 1. Frank Suarez, 2. Damaris Rojas, 3. Katessa Kirkland; Most Original: 1. Landon Sutton, 2. Sylvannah Galarneau, 3. Khloe Jackson; Prettiest: 1. Elyana Leon, 2. Ashley Jasso, 3. Sulema Gonzalez.

Ages 9-11: Scariest: 1. Sierra Kirkland, 2. Inai Rojas, 3. Katelin Aragus; Most Original: 1. Alex Acree, 2. Gloria Brooks, 3. Zenyda Soriano; Prettiest: 1. Trinity Williams, 2. Breanna Berry, 3. Jaylin Aragus.

Ages 12-14: Scariest: 1. Justin Roff, 2. Savannah Martinez, 3. Jose Trevino; Most Original: 1. Mark Kirkland, 2. Jocelyn Chavez, 3. Jazmine Thompson; Prettiest: 1. Alejandro Madrigal, 2. Allin Hernandez, 3. Sabre Billie.

Ages 15-18: Scariest: 1. Alejandra Salazar, 2. Ethan Cappelino, 3. Elice Hoffman; Most Original: 1. Shaun Pineda, 2. Lisa Rittenberry, 3. Steven Arthur; Prettiest: 1. Sarah Arango, 2. Margie Lugo, 3. Yasmely Perez.

Ages 19-49: Scariest: 1. Joe Hernandez Jr., 2. Elias Alvaranga, 3. Yasmín Gonzalez; Most Original: 1. Nick Andrews, 2. Ryan Washington, 3. Shaun Dougherty; Prettiest: 1. Jennifer Plau, 2. Mariana Carrizalez, 3. Sandy Hernandez.

Ages 50 and Older: Scariest: 1. Dolly Tecumseh, 2. Marshall Johnson, 3. Rhonda Roff; Most Original: 1. Maria Perez, 2. Jose Garcia, 3. Margaret Gibson; Prettiest: 1. Jack Grotton, 2. Alfie Roff.

Family Division: 1. Hernandez, 2. Rojas', 3. Shepard's.

Arm Wrestling Contest Women: Heavyweight: 1. Lydia Cypress; Middleweight: 1. Janice Marshall; Lightweight: 1. Sarah Arango; Men: Heavyweight: 1. Charlie Cypress; Middleweight: 1. Andy Perez; Ages 16-17: 1. Deforest Carter.

Egg Toss Contest Ages 17 and Under: 1. Gregory Carter/Josie Valentine, 2. Faisal Bokhari/Juan Arango, 3. Rowdey Osceola/Marc Kirkland; Ages 18 and Older: 1. Ronnie Billie/Cheyenne Billie, 2. Patty Sanchez/Olego Sanchez, 3. Charlie Cypress/Cicero Osceola.

Pumpkin Painting Contest Ages 0-5: 1. Nicholus Andrews II, 2. Jalee Wilcox, 3. Andrew Bowers Jr.; Ages 6-10: 1. Elyana Billie, 2. Eliza Billie, 3. Jathaniel Brooks; Ages 11-17: 1. Gloria Brooks, 2. River Dillon, 3. Kaitlin Osceola.



Naji Tobias

(L-R) Peggy Osceola, Francis Osceola and Rosa Billie focus on their Bingo game at the Big Cypress Seniors' Halloween Party on Oct. 29.

Seniors Enjoy Bingo Games for Halloween

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Tribal seniors from the Naples, Trail, Brighton and Hollywood communities joined their Big Cypress peers for the annual Big Cypress Seniors' Halloween Party on Oct. 29.

The Halloween function began with a series of Bingo games, with winners including Violet Jim, Carol Cypress, Francis Osceola, David Bowers, Mary Tigertail, Junior Billie and Claudia Doctor.

After that was the costume contest, in which

the seniors donned a variety of outfits including Michael Jackson, Michael Myers, a clown and a ghost; providing perhaps some of their happiest moments of the day. Representatives from the Seminole Fire Rescue Dept. judged this year's competition.

Alan Jumper, a Big Cypress senior, said he was pleased just to spend time with friends and family members from other reservations.

"Everybody looked forward to this," Jumper said. "We had some seniors from other reservations come here and have a nice time with us. It was a pleasure to see all my fellow seniors at the Halloween party."

Big Cypress Halloween Contest Results

Costume Contest

1. Mini Tigertail, 2. Louise Osceola, 3. Violet Jim, 4. Ruby Osceola, 5. Mary Tigertail, 6. Nancy Billie.

Pumpkin Contest

1. Violet Jim, 2. Frank J. Billie, 3. Mary Robbins, 4. Lottie Jim, 5. Sally Tommie.

Preschool Students Attend Halloween Party

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The preschoolers donned costumes and ate candy at this year's Big Cypress Preschool Halloween Party, held on Oct. 30.

At the event, Tribal employees from various departments paid a visit in a trick-or-treat segment. Parents of the Tribal youngsters joined in the fun, also celebrating at the event.

The costume contest was followed by the trick-or-treat candy distribution with employees from the Big Cypress Seminole Fire Rescue unit serving as judges.



Naji Tobias

Phoenix Kimble enjoys his lunch at the party.



Naji Tobias

The 2-year-old students impress their fellow participants and the judges with their costume choices at the Preschool Halloween Party on Oct. 30.

With four categories, ranging from the infants up to the 3-year-old class, all the Tribal preschoolers were decked out in stunning costume gear, which put smiles on the faces of everyone in attendance.

The winners were: Infant class: 1. Avany Jim, 2. Thelma Tigertail, 3. Antil-lis Stockton; 1-year-old class: 1. Landell Turtle, 2. Shylah Walker, 3. William Bevenue; 2-year-old class: 1. Tahnia Billie, 2. Riley Hill, 3. Jody Cabral; 3-year-old class: 1. Leighton Jim, 2. Phoenix Kimble, 3. Aaliyah Billie.

The Halloween party concluded with lunch, as the school released its Tribal

preschool students early for dismissal. Shirley Clay, Big Cypress Preschool site manager, called the eighth annual function a "smooth operation."

And Jamie Valbez, the preschool's teacher aide for the 2-year-old class, added that the parental involvement for this event was exemplary. "It's good for the parents to come out and have a party with their kids on Halloween," Valbez said. "We're happy to see the parents involved with the school's activities. We want more parents to come out and get involved with their kids' lives."

Hollywood Preschoolers Celebrate Halloween

BY ELIZABETH LEIBA
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The preschoolers donned costumes and transformed into fairy princesses, super heroes, goblins and ghouls as they made their rounds to collect Halloween candy from departments on the Hollywood reservation.

The 1- and 2-year-old classes didn't venture too far from the preschool. Escorted by their teachers, they visited the Dorothy S. Osceola Library, the Senior Center and the Hollywood Gym where employees from various departments including Education, Culture and Seminole Police, waited to pour candy into eager hands and bags.

The 3- and 4-year-old classes ventured a little further. Their trick or treating adventure took them by bus to the Tribal Auditorium where employees loaded them up with candy. Then the preschoolers returned to follow the same route as the younger children, adding to their haul of treats at every stop.

Parents joined in the fun, escorting their children to the various locations, laughing and taking photos as they went.

Mercedes Osceola-Hahn participated in trick-or-treating with her 3-year-old son, Draven for the first year with the preschool.

"I enjoyed it immensely," Osceola-Hahn said. "Draven got so much candy, he even offered to share with me and his sister."



Malcom Leiba

Adrian Cypress (R) from the 4-year-old class dives into a bowl of Halloween candy.

Brighton Gets Spooky for Halloween

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Brighton community took part in a variety of Halloween festivities on the reservation leading up to the dark and spooky holiday.

Members of S.W.A.M.P. which stands for Students Without Addictions Make Progress, celebrated Halloween a little bit early at their costume party, held Oct. 15 held at their Brighton gym in a side room that has become known as "the swamp."

Some came in costume, but most came and just simply enjoyed themselves by hanging out with their friends. With "Ghostbusters" playing in the background, members of S.W.A.M.P. danced and played games including the limbo and a bean bag toss.

"This is just something that gives kids an alternative to doing drugs," S.W.A.M.P. coordinator Valerie Marone said.

Preschool

The preschoolers entered the Brighton gym at their own risk Oct. 29 for a little haunted trick-or-treating.

One-by-one, Dracula, Spiderman, Wonder Woman, witches and skeletons paraded around the gym filling their orange jack-o-lantern bags to the brim with candy.

Employees with various departments including Seminole Police, Fire Rescue, Fred Smith Rodeo Arena, Cattle and Range and the Tribal Council Office, took part in the preschoolers' trick-or-treating activity, handing out candy and getting into the spooky holiday spirit.

With the gym decorated with coffins and tombstones, some posed for pictures, while others ran as fast as they could.

Seniors

The seniors got into the festive mood as well on Oct. 29 at the Senior Center for their Halloween luncheon. They also took part in a friendly costume contest.

The spirited seniors, dressed head to toe in costumes, took the floor one at a time and showed off not



Rachel Buxton

The youth boys dress to scare in the Halloween costume contest on Oct. 31.

only their costumes but also their dance moves for the Seminole Fire-Rescue Dept. judges Firefighters Miguel Perez, Christopher Muxo and Mitch Romine.

Josephine Villa took first place in the most original category with Sandy and Archie Johns taking second and third, respectively, for their Adam and Eve costumes.

Sarah Sampson won first place for the scariest costume with Wonder Johns following in second and Rachel Pigeon in third.

In the prettiest costume category, Mable Tichenor took first place dressed in traditional Seminole attire. Happy Jones snagged second place with Mary Jo Micco taking third place with her sign "Howdy" hanging around her neck due to a case of laryngitis.

Louise Gopher got the crowd laughing, taking first place in the funniest category, while Jenny Snow and Jenny Johns placed second and third, respectively. Alice Sweat and Billy Micco received participation awards for their costumes.

After a tough competition, the seniors feasted a meal prepared by Rachel Pigeon and John Huff Jr. They topped it all off with cake baked by Mary Jo Micco.

The Tribal seniors enjoyed a few games of bingo after lunch and everyone held their tickets tight for the many door prizes given out.

Community

The Brighton community came out as a family Oct. 31 to celebrate the ghoulish holiday at Brighton's annual Halloween Carnival, held at the softball field. With much to-do, community members walked the field, some dressed cute while others dressed to scare.

The Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School had a booth selling hamburgers and the "best" sweet tea according to school Administrative Assistant Michele Thomas. She said the proceeds went to support the school's student council.

The Charter School Culture Club had a dunk tank booth where the youth could spend a dollar taking chances to dunk their very own Culture Administrator Amber B.A.M.P.

S.W.A.M.P. members had a cake walk booth set up with decorative cakes the youngsters vied for chances to win. They also had a ring toss set up and handed out prizes to the winners.

Children got a chance to throw a pie in the face of some of their peers at the pie throwing booth. Trevor Thomas was among one of the faces that received a whipped cream pie.

Community members who were brave enough took a ride on the haunted Red Barn hay ride put on by Pemayetv Emahakv.

Costume contests for all age groups were held with categories ranging from the preteens to the senior and judged by members of the Seminole Fire-Rescue Dept.

(L-R) Sandy and Archie Johns win prizes for originality as Adam and Eve at the seniors' Halloween party on Oct. 29.

Rachel Buxton

Seniors Enjoy Annual Halloween Party

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The tricks, treats and fun of Halloween came a little early for the Tribal seniors of the community Oct. 28.

The Senior Center hosted a party where everyone wore their best costumes and got into the spirit.



Chris C. Jenkins

(L-R) Robin and Wilmette Dehass dress up for the costume contest at the Senior Center on Oct. 28.

"It all brings about a feeling of belonging and participation. Dressing up is fun too," said Tribal citizen and second year participant Wilmette Dehass about the holiday.

Dehass and wife, Robin, dressed as a jester and Viking respectively. The day also featured several activities including a pumpkin carving, pie eating and costume contests, Bingo games, lunch and door prizes.

"Halloween is my favorite holiday because you can make your fantasies come true and be whoever you want," said Tribal elder Lawanna Osceola. "I love doing this and I have been doing it every year since I raised my own children. I have just continued it as an adult."

Dressed as the character Sally from the feature

film "The Nightmare Before Christmas," Osceola came out with a sweep, taking home first place honors in the pumpkin carving, pie eating and costume contests.

It was the second year in a row Lawrence Osceola won top honors for in the costume and pumpkin carving categories for the men's division.

"I decided to do it all for the fun and to participate with all the seniors," said Osceola.

Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. also made an appearance.

Senior Halloween Party Contest Results

Pumpkin Carving Contest: Women: 1. Lawanna Osceola, 2. JudyBill Osceola, 3. Maydell Osceola; Men: 1. Paul Buster, 2. Wilmette Dehass.
Costume Contest: Women: 1. Lawanna Osceola, 2. Elsie Willie, 3. Cornelia Osceola, 4. Maydell Osceola; Men: 1. Lawrence Osceola, 2. Johnny Tucker, 3. Paul Buster, 4. Wilmette Dehass.
Pie Eating Contest: Women: 1. Talia Osceola, 2. Elsie Willie; Men: 1. (Tie) Paul "Cowbone" Buster, Wilmette Dehass and Jimmy Hank Osceola Jr.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal senior Betty Osceola gets in the Halloween spirit in her Mardi Gras costume.



Naji Tobias

Halloween Festival attendees enjoy the hayride on the ball field during the Hollywood Reservation activities on Oct. 31.

Community Attends Annual Halloween Festival

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Hollywood Seminole ball field was the venue of choice for Hollywood's Halloween Festival on Oct. 31.

Attendees enjoyed the vast array of activities on hand for the reservation's big Halloween gathering. Tribal youth revelled in the opportunity to participate in the pumpkin and axe throwing games, as well as the haunted house exhibit and some touch football games.

Also at the Halloween Festival was a petting zoo, which featured animals including sheep, goats and baby cows. In addition to a set of hayride opportunities, many participated in the Hollywood Reservation costume contest — perhaps the most popular event.

Hollywood resident Marlon Tommie, 34, certainly made the most of the event. Tommie, who said he wanted to attend Brighton's Halloween Festival, decided to stay at home for the evening since both Brighton's and Hollywood's festivities took place on the same day.

And for that, he was one of many costume contest winners at the festival, grabbing second place honors in the scariest contest for the 18-49 year old age group.

It marked his third costume contest recognition in a span of eight days; Tommie won the scariest categories at the Ft. Pierce Fall Festival on Oct. 24, and at the Big Cypress Halloween Carnival on Oct. 30, a day before Brighton's and Hollywood's Halloween Festivals.

"It's been a good turnout at these Halloween festivals," Tommie said. "Getting together, having a good time and being safe are all that matters at each festival we attend."

Tommie was one of more than 70 costume contest winners that evening, as the festival featured eight age groups with three categories each, plus each group's prince and princess, in addition to the adult costume contest's kings and queens.

There were culture-themed activities at the event as well, including the cake walk. According to Hollywood Education Dept. Cultural/Language Director Josephine Mottlow North the cake walk focused on numbers in the Mikasuki language.

In this game, Tribal youth were instructed to walk around 10 different numbers, which were on paper and taped to the court grounds. When going around a circle,

the youth kept walking until they were told to stop.

After they pronounced the spelling to the Mikasuki numbers correctly, when called to do so, somebody ended up winning a cake. More than 10 cakes were given away as a result of that game alone.

"We show the card to the kids," North said of the game's rules and objectives. "We do that so they could have fun playing the game and learn how to understand the Mikasuki language better."

The cake walk was followed by the haunted house, which the Tribal youth took advantage of as they went through parts of the Seminole gym in total darkness.



Naji Tobias

(L-R) Mary Cypress and Bailey Latchford, both 5, tend to a chicken at the Halloween Festival petting zoo.



Naji Tobias

(L-R) Netty Stewart, Scarlett the Jumper and Ginger Tiger don the costumes which earned them top honors as the prettiest entries in the 50 and older division at the Hollywood Reservation Halloween Festival costume contest.

Halloween Contest Results

Pumpkin Carving Contest

Seniors: 1. Judy Bill, 2. Alice Tucker, Cornelia Osceola; Adults: 1. Resha Doctor, 2. Yvette Jung, 3. Justin Frank; Ages 17 and Younger: 1. Conchada Byron Osceola, 2. Francisco Rodriguez, 3. Talia Rodriguez.

Costume Contest

Ages 0-1: Scariest: 1. Kai Tommie, 2. Alex Rodriguez, 3. Talon Jumper; Prettiest: 1. Deveny Osceola-Hahn, 2. Eagle Jumper Young, 3. Tyler Bane Osceola; Most Original: 1. Syllas Nolan Billie, 2. Kyler Osceola, 3. Jayde Eliza Billie; Princess: 1. Mary Sally Osceola; Prince: 1. Josie Billie Jr.
Ages 2-5: Scariest: 1. Jose Puente Jr., 2. Bryce Osceola, 3. Anya Cypress; Prettiest: 1. Bailey Latchford, 2. Mary Cypress, 3. Gabrielle Diaz; Most Original: 1. Sebastian Jack Mottlow, 2. Skye Celine Stubbs, 3. Mayli Tommie; Princess: 1. Xiya Osceola; Prince: 1. Nikko Doctor.
Ages 6-9: Scariest: 1. Reed Gopher, 2. Phyllis Osceola, 3. Grace Martinez; Prettiest: 1. Xiora Osceola, 2. Talia Rodriguez, 3. Clarice DelMayo; Most Original: 1. Zoe Puente, 2. Chandler DelMayo, 3. Arissa Cypress; Princess: 1. Kaiya Drake; Prince: 1. John Rhodes-McKinley Osceola.

Ages 10-12: Scariest: 1. Daniel Rodriguez, 2. Brent Frank, 3. Kyrell Josh; Prettiest: 1. Kaiuna Martin, 2. Leisset Baker, 3. Raevin Frank; Most Original: 1. Carmen Anthony Osceola, 2. Kiana Bell, 3. Maurice Billie; Princess: 1. Brianna Blais-Billie; Prince: 1. Manny Baker.
Ages 13-15: Scariest: 1. Justin Frank, 2. Jonathon Frank, 3. Julian C. Billie; Prettiest: 1. Delia Harjo, 2. Alexis Jumper; Most Original: 1. Kaylan Osceola, 2. Dominique Mottlow, 3. Trevor Osceola; Princess: 1. Tiffany Baker; Prince: 1. Neko Osceola.
Ages 16-17: Princess: 1. Talena Castillo; Prince: 1. Jessica Osceola.
Ages 18-49: Scariest: 1. Natoshia Osceola, 2. Marlon Tommie, 3. JD Bowers; Prettiest: 1. Alexandria Frank, 2. Tasha Osceola, 3. Cassandra Jones; Most Original: 1. Nathan Doctor, 2. Mercedes Osceola-Hahn, 3. Shannon Gopher; Princess: 1. Symphonie Jumper; Prince: 1. Allen Venzon, Queen: 1. Elliot Young; King: 1. Mitch Osceola.
Ages 50 and Older: Scariest: 1. Jimmy Hank Osceola, 2. Lawanna Osceola, 3. Agnes Mottlow; Prettiest: 1. Nettie Doctor Stewart, 2. Scarlett Jumper, 3. Ginger Tiger; Most Original: 1. Coleman Josh, 2. Elsie Willie; Princess: 1. Virginia Osceola, Prince: 1. Joe Dan Osceola; Queen X-Dress: 1. Mitch Osceola; King X-Dresser: 1. Resha Doctor.

Community Celebrates Halloween Holiday at Numerous Events

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — It doesn't take Frankenstein's doctor to transform family members, friends and neighbors into unrecognizable personalities for Halloween. A vivid imagination, a little ingenuity, a flair for the outrageous, some makeup and a change of clothes can work wonders in the twinkling of an eye.

Halloween is one of Immokalee's favorite holidays and long hours went into selecting the perfect costume



Josh Garza dresses as a larger-than-life werewolf during the Halloween festivities.

and decorations to celebrate the occasion. The seniors' annual party on Oct. 28 marked the beginning of three fun-filled days of activities.

With an open invitation to the other reservations, the Immokalee seniors hosted a luncheon, preceded by their favorite pastime, Bingo. With gift card prizes hanging in the balance, the players kept a close watch on their cards, marking off each number that was called in anticipation of a winner.

After two hours of play, the results were tabulated as follows: Letter H: Linda Frank; Kite: Juanita Billie; Postage Stamp: Louise Osceola; Full Card: Addie Osceola.

Hoping to place in the costume contest, the seniors quietly slipped out of the room to return a short time later in disguise. Grotesque masks proved to be a favorite among

this year's competitors. Pete Aguilar, Linda Frank and Violet Jim, took first through third place, respectively, while Nancy Motlow and Patsy Billie tied for fourth.

On the afternoon of Oct. 29, the younger generation gathered in front of the gym to express their artistic talents in the pumpkin carving contest, which eventually included more than 75 entries from five age groups. The completed jack-o-lanterns were placed on display at the Community Halloween Party.

Cake decorating reached new heights with pumpkins, witches, spiders, haunted houses, cats, bats and ghouls among the favored topics. The creativity was extraordinary and there was no duplication within the 16 entries.

The preschoolers had a shrieking good time as they haunted the departmental offices on their trick-or-treating tour throughout the reservation. The casino was their first stop and had been decorated as a medieval castle in anticipation of their visit.

The energetic little group quickly moved on and within two hours were dragging their loaded trick or treat bags along beside them and looking for a place to rest from their morning's exertion.

The Immokalee Seminole Ranch staff prepared a barbeque luncheon for the Employee's Halloween Party at the Senior Center, which was highlighted by a costume contest that had the group rolling with laughter.

Carnival rides in the Administration Building parking lot welcomed the youngsters returning from school and offered entertainment until nightfall.

As darkness fell upon the community, eerie sounds emitted from the gym and party guests risked life and limb as they slipped through the door of evil into the room of horrors. Dead trees, three-headed dogs, dismembered bodies, giant spiders, medieval dragons and ghostly webs surrounded the room.

Activity booths and games of chance brought generous rewards to their players. A caricature artist and face painter drew a steady crowd of appreciative young faces throughout the night.

Following the evening meal, the long awaited costume contests began with five categories comprised of seven age groups.

As always the younger children were among the cutest entries. However, the most creative category excelled beyond everyone's expectations. A homemade alligator, ostrich, toucan, Oscar the Grouch, a box of popcorn, a bouquet of flowers and a miniature fairy were just a few of the fantastic figures that made their way across the stage.



(L-R) Jack Aguilar and Caniah Billie wear their Halloween costumes for the Immokalee Reservation festivities.



The entrants wear an assortment of masks during the seniors' Halloween costume contests on Oct. 28.

Halloween Costume Contest Results

Most Creative
 Ages 0-2: Girls: 1. Denise Gonzales, 2. Skyla Mata, 3. Remy Rodriguez; Boys: 1. Curtis Smith, 2. Jayden Garza, 3. Jack McIntruff. Ages 3-6: 1. Carlize Bermudez, 2. Jalissa Hill, 3. Noe Artega. Ages 7-9: 1. Edward Aguilar, 2. K.J. Davis, 3. Shyanna Escobar. Ages 10-12: Boys: 1. Kenny Davis Jr., 2. Damien Escobar, 3. Jon Jimmie. Ages 13-17: 1. Vanessa Billie, 2. Spencer Jacob, 3. Cassandra Jimmie. Ages 18-35: Women: 1. Jennifer Davis, 2. Leslie Correa, 3. Esmeralda Billie; Men: 1. Gk Yzaguirre, 2. Randell Byrd. Ages 36-54: 1. Susan Davis, 2. Mark Jacob, 3. Allen McIntruff. Seniors: 1. Martha Davis, 2. Nancy Motlow.

Funnies
 Ages 2-6: Girls: 1. Remy Rodriguez, 2. Jamin Garcia, 3. Shayla Tahcawhwickah; Boys: 1. Curtis Martinez, 2. Jack McIntryre, 3. Tayce Sanchez; Ages 3-6: Girls: Paula Billie, 2. Jordan Osceola, 3. Madison Martin; Boys: 1. Noe Artega, 2. Kaden Grimaldo, 3. Pedro Martinez Jr; Ages 7-9: Boys: 1. K.J. Davis, 2. Troy Cantu, 3. Jack Aguilar; Ages 10-12: Girls: 1. Destinee Jimmie, 2. Ashley Fax, 3. Alexis Jimmie; Boys: 1. Kenny Davis Jr., 2. Damian Escobar, 3. Jon Jimmie; Ages 13-17: 1. Cassandra Jimmie, 2. Nikki Davis, 3. Selenia Perez; Ages 18-35: Women: 1. Esmeralda Billie, 2. Brenda Davis, 3. Allison Sargz; Men: 1. Noe Artega, 2. Remy Rodriguez, 3. Randy Osceola; Ages 36-54: 1. Kenny Davis Sr., 2. Susan Davis, 3. Allen McIntryre; Seniors: 1. Martha Davis, 2. Nancy McIntryre.

Cutest
Ages 0-2: Girls: 1. Amani Cummings, 2. Dallas Garza, 3. Skyia Mata; Boys: 1. Curtis Smith, 2. Jack McInturff, 3. Shayla Tahcawwikkah. Ages 3-6: Girls: 1. Mercedes Davis, 2. Jordan Osceola, 3. Madison Martinez; Boys: 1. Brandon Posada, 2. Taycee Sanchez, 3. Pedro Martinez. Ages 7-9: Girls: 1. Shvanna Escobar, 2. Lindsey Posada, 3. Havlie

Halloway; Boys: 1. K.J. Davis, 2. Jack Aguilar, 3. Sovann Gonzales. Ages 10-12: 1. Randee Osceola, 2. Kenny Davis Jr. 3. Alexis Jimmie. Ages 13-17: 1. Nikki Davis, 2. Vanessa Billie, 3. Cassandra Jimmie; Ages 18-35: 1. Janet Mata, 2. Esmeralda Billie, 3. Jennifer Davis. Ages 36-54: 1. Kenny Davis Sr., 2. Geraldine Osceola, 3. Susan Davis.

Scarsie:
 Ages 2-4: Girls: 1. Denisse Gonzales, 2. Allie McClinturf, 3. Remy Rodriguez; Boys: 1. Josiah Arteaga, 2. Curtis Smith, 3. Jack McClinturf; Ages 3-6 Girls: 1. Madison Martin, 2. Jalayah Arteaga, 3. Carlise Bermudez; Boys: 1. Pedor Martin, Jr., 2. Noe Arteaga, 3. Ahmad Cummings; Ages 7-9 Girls: 1. Crystal Garcia, 2. Aaliyah Mora, 3. Cartaya Garcia; Boys: 1. Brandon Correa, 2. J. J. Davis, 3. Ryan Davis; Ages 10-12: Girls: 1. Jazmine Faj, 2. Alexis Jimmie, 3. Destinee Jimmie; Boys: 1. Dennis Gonzales, 2. Jon Jimmie, 3. Kenny Davis Jr; Ages 13-17: 1. Cassandra Jimmie, 2. Vanessa Billie, 3. Jordana Osceola; Ages 18-35: Women: 1. Vicki Mata, 2. Deirdra Hall, 3. Juanita Martin; Men: 1. Randy Osceola, 2. Gil Yzaquire, 3. Peter Martin; Ages 36-49: 1. Denise Gonzales, 2. Susan Garcia, 3. Kenny Davis Sr; Seniors: 1. Nancy McQuinn, 2. Prite Aguilar.

Best Overall
 Ages 0-2: Girls: 1. Remy Rodriguez, 2. Aubree Rodriguez,
 3. Josie Osceola; Boys: 1. Elijah Yzaguirre, 2. Jack McIn-
 truit, 3. Josiah Arteaga. Ages 3-6: 1. Akeem Cummings,
 2. Noey Arteaga, 3. Caniah Billie. Ages 7-9: K. J. Davis, 2.
 Jazya Balle, 3. Jack Tachawachewich. Ages 10-12: Girls:
 1. Randon Osceola, 2. Alexis Jimmie, 3. Destinee Jimmie;
 Boys: 1. Kenny Davis Jr., 2. Jay Aguiar, 3. Nehi Roberts.
 Ages 13-17: 1. Vanessa Billie, 2. Lyla Mora, 3. Cassandra
 Jimmie. Ages 18-35: Women: 1. Deirda Hall, 2. Esmeralda
 Billie, 3. Krystal Rodriguez; Men: 1. Noey Arteaga, 2. Gil
 Yzaguirre, 3. Randy Osceola. Ages 36-54: 1. Susan Davis,
 2. Geraldine Osceola, 3. Allen McIntruit. Seniors: 1. Nancy
 Motlow, 2. Martha Billie.



(L-R) Nicole Slavik and Jessica Osceola clean pumpkins before carving them at the Naples Halloween party on Oct. 30.

Naples Community Celebrates Halloween Holiday

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

NAPLES — There may not have been a full moon for Halloween in Naples, but that didn't prevent the community members from being transformed into ghosts, goblins, transformers, fairy princesses and cartoon characters.

There was no lack of originality from the attendees, making judging the costume contest all the more difficult at the event, held at the Woodside Bowling Alley on the evening of Oct. 30. With awards going to the best of the best in the funniest, scariest and most original categories, the entrants strutted their stuff for top honors.

The ghosts from the Titanic, Tammy Billie and Solomon Veliz were unanimously chosen for first place among the adults. As the Wicked Witch from "The Wizard of Oz," Connie Slavik placed second. Karie Jo Osceola-Lugo and husband, Ralph, made a delightful Mickey and Minnie Mouse for third.

In between pinball and bowling competitions, the party goes indulged in a delicious buffet topped off with candy apples, Halloween cake, cookies and a vast assortment of sweet treats.

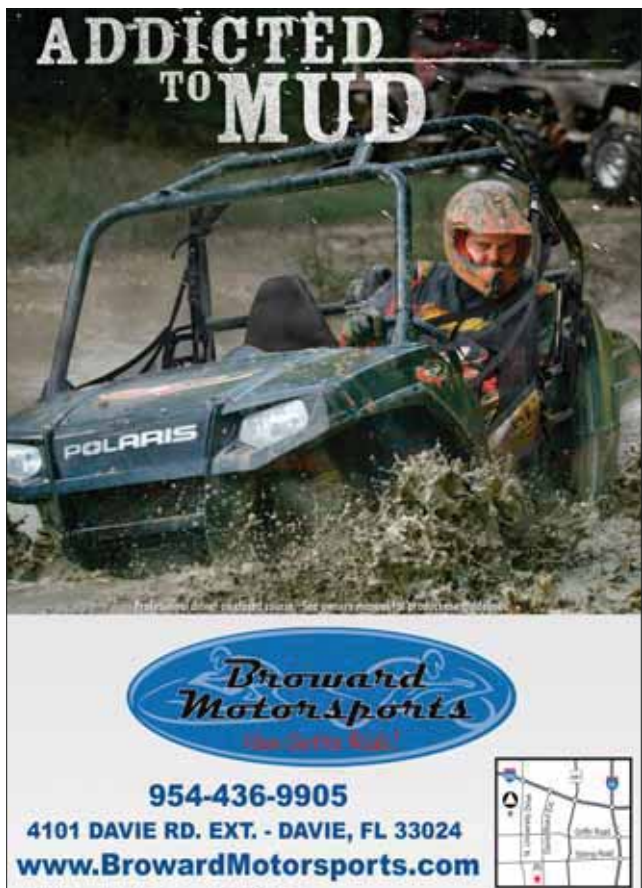
Lining the room were pumpkins of all shapes and sizes which the youngsters had spent the previous afternoon carving for the occasion. Opening the tops, seeds were carefully removed for roasting into a traditional holiday treat and then the artwork of creating got underway.

The smaller children employed magic markers to design the faces on their pumpkins and then relied on the adults to carefully cut out their masterpieces. Supervising the operation, the little ones were quick to give directions to insure that the end result met their expectations.

Finally, lit candles were placed in each cavity and the lights were dimmed to expose crooked smiles, gro-



Kennedy Huggins shows no fear of spiders as she turns one into a costume hairpiece.

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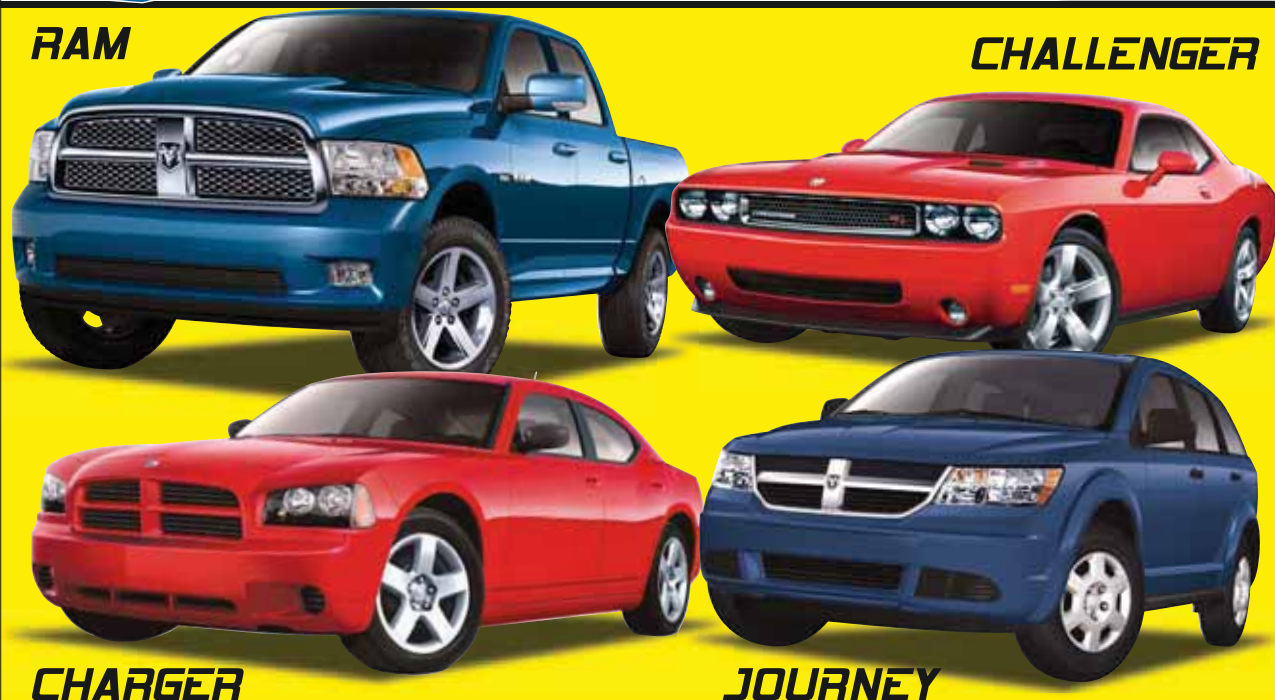
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