

The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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Tribal elder Bobby Henry leads a traditional stomp dance in the Indian Day festivities held at Chupco's Youth Ranch on the Ft. Pierce Reservation on Sept. 12.

Rachel Buxton

Indian Day Kicks Off in Ft. Pierce

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

FT. PIERCE — Indian Day got kicked off a bit early on Sept. 12 as the Ft. Pierce community held their annual Indian Day celebration at Chupco's Youth Ranch on the Ft. Pierce Reservation.

Complete with a D.J. and all, the Ft. Pierce Reservation rolled out the red carpet for an event bringing Tribal citizens from all reservations together. "We are here kicking it off in Ft. Pierce and we are delighted to be the opening act," Ft. Pierce Liaison Sally R. Tommie said.

The day prior, the Ft. Pierce community began their festivities with their first ever Indian Day fishing tournament and pool tournament, where men and women competed for the top place.

A 5k walk followed the next day leading into the grand celebration. "We are rocking out here in Ft. Pierce," Hollywood/Ft. Pierce Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. said. "We're celebrating a day that should be every day. The non-Indians call it Indian Day, we call it a good day."

The day consisted of many traditional Seminole activities including log peeling, archery and the very competitive horsehoes.

"I don't peel a log everyday; I don't make frybread everyday; I don't make sofkee everyday," Liaison Tommie said. "A lot of activities we have going on

today are reminiscent of the days of when we didn't have all the luxuries that we share today."

Shamy Tommie put on woodcarving demonstrations to all interested, while Brighton's Lorene Gopher demonstrated how to make frybread.

Tampa residents shared their native skills as well with Herbert Jim and Bobby Henry leading a group in a traditional stomp dance.

Men, women and children of all ages dressed in their traditional and modern garments for the ever-so-popular clothing contest.

The Ft. Pierce community didn't let a little rainy weather dampen their celebration as the local reservation band Bird Clan took the stage to perform, opening up for Native vocal artist Martha Redbone.

"The overall feeling is just being joyful, cheerful and happy," Ft. Pierce resident Dean Stokes said. "The settlers couldn't be here to see what we had to go through so it's a big ordeal for me and my family to see this day happen every year."

The children were kept occupied throughout the day with carnival rides, a giant slide and a face painting booth.

Lunch and dinner were provided by Ft. Pierce resident Mary Tommie who included some traditional delicacies.

"We've fulfilled the vision of our elders," Rep. Osceola said. "Our elders saved this Tribe and today you see the fruits of their vision."

Complete Indian Day Coverage □ Section E

Tribal, Local Officials Advise Student Council Hopefuls

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Potential future leaders of the Tribe stayed after school at Pemayetv Emahakv Sept. 28 to listen to Tribal and local officials speak about the importance and dedication it takes to run for an office position, such as Student Council.

"This is a good opportunity to get some good knowledge," said Principal Russell Brown.

Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Andrew Bowers Jr. spoke to students about what it means to be in office.

"What you do as a representative is talk about ideas," Rep. Bowers said.

Rep. Bowers said the most important thing about running for office is speaking to the people and really having the passion to change things.

"You have to be able to talk good enough and really want to change things," Rep. Bowers said.

"We have to be good people to be good leaders."

Brighton Board of Directors Rep. Johnnie Jones Sr. started his speech to the children by asking anyone who was considering running for Student Council to raise their hands.

"All of you should raise your

hands because one day all of you may be our leaders," Rep. Jones said.

Rep. Jones also emphasized the importance of teamwork.

"You're only one person," he said. "You got to get

the whole team behind you."

He encouraged the students to work together to help make their team stronger.

Glades County Superintendent of Schools Wayne Aldrich was the last official to speak to the students.

Aldrich focused his speech to the students on his knowledge of campaigning for office.

"Campaigning is the toughest part," Aldrich said. "The best way to campaign is door-to-door [and talking] to one another."

Aldrich encouraged students to make signs and campaign literature telling the student body what they are willing to do if they make it into office.

Aldrich also reminded students that Election Day is very important when it comes to campaigning.

"On Election Day you don't give up," Aldrich stressed. "Campaign up until the very end."

Aldrich left the students with a final thought that summed up all three officials' speeches.

"If you are going to run for an office, you have to have a reason and purpose," he said.

Elections for Pemayetv Emahakv Student Council took place Oct. 14.



Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr. advises the students to use their voices.

Rachel Buxton

Tribal Pioneer Rev. Frank Billie's Legacy Lives On

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — With the passing of Seminole Tribe founding father Rev. Frank Billie on Sept. 23, the Seminole people celebrated the life of a leader who had tremendous impact on their existence in South Florida. He was instrumental in laying the groundwork that mapped the road to the future for the Seminole Tribe.

Billie was born into the Wind Clan on July 11, 1913 at An-tooch-cho-koo-lee Island, in what is now a portion of the Everglades National Park near the Collier/Dade County line.

The son of Ingraham Billie Sr. and his wife, Effie Tiger Billie, he came from a line of strong men and women who had used their influence to lead their people and attend to their spiritual needs.

Frank Billie's life paralleled a new era that affected the lives of all South Floridians. Following the Seminole Wars, his ancestors had derived a meager existence by living off the land in isolated areas while avoiding interaction with the encroaching white population with the exception of a few trading posts.

During his early years, the main method of travel for the Billie family was dugout canoes and on foot overland during the dry season. He was a young man at the time of the construction of the Tamiami Trail, which opened the Everglades to cross state travel and encouraged developers to begin draining the swamplands.

With the coming of the trail, Billie witnessed an economic change that would forever affect his homeland. Families

□ Please see BILLIE on page 2A

Tampa Mayor, Tribal Citizens Dedicate Native Art Sculpture

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

TAMPA — Tribal citizens and Tampa community leaders joined Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio at Cotanchobee Fort Brooke Park on Sept. 22 for a sculpture dedication.

The stainless steel structure titled "Ceremonial Space" honors all past and present Native Americans who have impacted Tampa Bay's history. The piece was designed and created by artist Bob Haaouzous of the Warm Springs Chiricahua Apache Tribe of Oklahoma.

More than six years ago, the city of Tampa broke ground and dedicated what is known as Cotanchobee Fort Brooke Park to the Seminole Tribe and their ancestors who fought in the Seminole Wars on that very location. Translated, cotanchobee means "where the big water meets the land."

"This is a symbol of the past," Mayor Iorio said referring to the ceremonial structure. "Isn't this the perfect place, on the water's edge where settlers came centuries ago; on the water's edge adjacent to the Tampa Bay History Center that tells the stories of our beginnings?"

Haaouzous' "Ceremonial Space" is a 15' 6" stainless steel structure that took more than one and a half years to complete.

The artist designed it to represent branches of a cypress tree stationed at the four cardinal directions. Each also corresponds to the culturally-appropriate color; yellow for the east, red for the north, black for the west, and white for the south.

Haaouzous also said the idea for the art piece came from the concept of presenting a unified space for people of all

□ Please see SCULPTURE on page 2A

Tribal Council Meets at New Trail Field Office

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

TRAIL — The Tribal Council convened on the Trail Reservation for their first meeting at the new Petties Osceola Sr. Field Office on Sept. 23. They passed 53 resolutions on the agenda including:

Resolution 28: First Amendment to the 22nd annual Work Plan submitted to the South Florida Water Management District by the Seminole Tribe of Florida;

Resolution 29: U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Water Resource Management Planning and Predevelopment Program application for the funding for the Big Cypress and Brighton Seminole Indian Reservations;

Resolution 30: Grant application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for funds for the Seminole Tribe of Florida Water Pollution Control Program;

Resolution 31: Approval of the Title V FY 2010 Funding Agreement with the agreement with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service under P.L. 106-260 Title V of the Indian Self-Determination and Educa-

□ Please see COUNCIL on page 2A

BILLIE

moved their entire villages to the side of the highway to take advantage of the tourist trade that would provide them with a market for their arts and crafts.

Automobiles were reshaping the Florida lifestyle and Billie saw vast changes taking place as his relatives attempted to adapt to the 20th century. Realizing that survival required adjusting to the new environment, Billie became a mechanic and learned how to operate heavy equipment.

Attempting to preserve his culture while pro-

viding for his family, Billie led one of the first movements to set up permanent homes at the newly established Big Cypress Reservation. Seeking employment, he frequently took his family and neighbors to temporary home sites while building roads for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

Because of a lack of Tribal government, BIA Commissioner Kenneth Marmon appointed Billie, Johnny Cypress and Henry Osceola as spokespersons for the residents of Big Cypress.

Billie was one of the first cattle owners in Big Cypress and had an economic stake in the development of the reservation cattle program. In the early 1950s, severe flooding created a massive problem for Brighton Reservation and its surrounding neighbors.

Without Tribal government or funding, the Seminoles were powerless in their efforts to deal with the problems that confronted them and had no control over their own finances.

Washington was placing pressure upon legislators to terminate the Florida Indians and assimilate them into local society. Billie became a member of a coalition to thwart these efforts and organize a government and corporation with a constitution and by-laws that would establish sovereignty.

Upon the signing of the Constitution in 1957 and ratification of the Articles of Incorporation, the Seminole Tribe of Florida was established. At the time of his death, he was the last living signer of the Constitution, which guaranteed a future for the Seminole people.

On Dec. 25, 1947, Oklahoma missionary Stanley Smith was instrumental in converting Billie to Christianity, which carried him down a new path of leadership. In the years that followed, he became a Baptist minister and established the Big



Seminole Tribune Archives

(Third from Left) Frank Billie and his family had moved from their remote home in the Everglades by the mid 1930s and were living in the village of his grandmother, Mokee Tiger, on the Tamiami Trail, where they could sell their crafts to tourists.

Cypress New Testament Baptist Church. Eventually, he began making missionary trips to the Tamiami Trail and Oklahoma spreading the Gospel.

On Aug. 21, 1957, Billie became the first president of the Board of Directors. However, strenuous travel requirements and the remote location of Big Cypress with limited access to Hollywood, he later resigned.

A strong advocate of education, Billie lobbied for adequate teaching facilities at Big Cypress and encouraged future generations to arm themselves with knowledge in preparation for governing their affairs.

Rev. Frank Billie's legacy lives on.



Judy Weeks

Frank Billie shares memories with his granddaughter, Betty Cypress King, in 2007 amid photos depicting some of his life achievements.



Seminole Tribune Archives

(L-R) Rex Quinn, L. Mike Osceola, Frank Billie, Jackie Willie, Bill Osceola, John Henry Gopher, Billy Osceola and Jimmie O'Toole Osceola were members of the constitution and charter committee that established the Seminole Tribe of Florida in 1957.



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Ingram Billie Jr., Frank Billie and Wanda Billie share a 2008 Christmas dinner on the Micosukee Reservation.



Photo courtesy of the Stanley Hanson Collection

In 1937, 24-year-old Frank Billie moved with his family to the Big Cypress Reservation and made it his permanent residence.

SCULPTURE

From page 1A

backgrounds with a place to build lasting relationships.

"I thought, 'Why not create a lodge that asks the local indigenous people to come and talk, not in anger, not with economic goals; just to have a dialogue,'" Haozous said.

"Ceremonial Space" is located on Tampa's Riverwalk at a cenotaph, which is a memorial site honoring lives lost. In years past, many battles in Florida were fought at the site.

"It's a reminder; don't forget your past — it offers unity," Tampa Liaison Richard Henry said.

The structure was years in the making. Because of the rising price of steel in the U.S., Haozous had to put his project aside.

"For five years, I gave up," Haozous recalled.

Now residing next to the Tampa Bay History Center on the Hillsborough River, runners, walkers or just passersby can enjoy the work of art.

"This is a beautiful place that keeps growing and growing," Tampa elder Bobby Henry said.

Once a site that was revered with sad memories in Seminole history, Contachobee Fort Brooke Park and the sculpture Ceremonial Space now resemble a peaceful relationship between Natives and non-natives.

"It goes back to the basic concept of being responsible for the future and [using] the past as guidance," Haozous said.



Rachel Buxton

Builder Bob Haozous created the steel structure "Ceremonial Space" in the hopes of bringing people together.

ship between Natives and non-natives.

"It goes back to the basic concept of being responsible for the future and [using] the past as guidance," Haozous said.



Rachel Buxton

Tampa community members (L-R) Herbert Jim, Bobby Henry, Jackie Smith and Tampa Liaison Richard Henry with Apache artist Bob Haozous.



Rachel Buxton

(L-R) Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio shares a few words with Bobby Henry.

COUNCIL

From page 1A

tion Act (ISDEAA).

Resolution 32: Engagement letter for audit of the Seminole Tribe of Florida 401k Plan for the calendar year from Jan. 1, 2009 through Dec. 31, 2009;

Resolution 33: Engagement letter for audits of the financial statements for the seven Tribal gaming facilities for the fiscal year ended Sept. 30, 2009;

Resolution 41: Bitter Goodman, Inc., services agreement for the Seminole Tribe

of Florida;

Resolution 42: Approval of agreement with Redman Builders, Inc., for the improvements to Seminole Police Department in the Hollywood Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 43: Approval of agreement with Redman Builders, Inc., for the Ahfahkee School roof repair;

Resolution 65: Ford Motor Credit Company Indian Tribal Government Lease Purchase Agreement No. 49990 as amended by schedule 499060: limited waiver of sovereign immunity.



Chris C. Jenkins

Micosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida Chairman Billy Cypress (Left, Seated) with Seminole Tribe Chairman Mitchell Cypress (Center, Seated) and other members of the Tribal Council in between meeting sessions Sept. 23 on the Trail Reservation.

Council Holds Special Session Meeting

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

TRAIL — Following the regular session meeting, held Sept. 23 at the Petties Osceola Sr. Trail Field Office, the Tribal Council met for a special session. They passed five resolutions on the agenda including:

Resolution 4: Ratification of the formation of Seminole Taft Street Properties, LLC, and 6365 Taft, LLC; authority to execute operating agreements for Seminole Taft Street Properties, LLC, and 6365 Taft

Street, LLC, authority to execute sub-recipient agreements

Resolution 5: Approval of Seminole Taft Street Properties, LLC, to purchase the property located at 6363 Taft Street, Hollywood, Fla.;

Resolution 6: Approval of Seminole Taft Street Properties, LLC, to purchase the property located at 6365 Taft Street, Hollywood, Fla.;

Resolution 7: Termination and buyout of sublease agreement - Hollywood Reservation.

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The Seminole Tribune
3560 N. State Road 7
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Editor: Elizabeth Leiba

Assistant Editor: Shelley Marmon

Graphic Designer: Stephen Galla

Staff Reporters:

Chris C. Jenkins, Rachel Buxton, Naji Tobias

Contributors:

Judy Weeks, Brian Brown, Tommy Doud, Robert C. North Sr., Fred Cicotti, Briana Abblan, Patrick Peck, Eric Bricker, Carter Elbon, Linda Iley, Ryan Watson

If you need a reporter or you would like to submit an article, birthday wish or poem to The Seminole Tribune, please contact the

Editor Elizabeth Leiba at

(954) 985-5702, Ext. 10718

Or by fax at (954) 965-2937

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CommunityA



Rachel Buxton

Chairman Mitchell Cypress welcomes guests, including members of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to the Tribe's Lakeland property.

Bureau of Indian Affairs Visits Seminole Tribe

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

LAKELAND, Fla. — Members of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) met with Tribal officials and the Tampa community Oct. 8 at the Lakeland property for a ground's tour and better look at the Tribe's proposed trust property and application.

"Instead of just looking at the trust application as paper form they are going to have the chance to see it on the ground and experience it," Real Estate Dept. Director Fred Hopkins said. "It just makes it much better for them when they are reviewing it."

Chairman Mitchell Cypress, along with the BIA representatives, toured the property to see the pastureland, woodlands and wetlands that the 792 acre land is comprised of.

Upon arrival, Brighton/Tampa Tribal Council Rep. Andrew Bowers Jr. welcomed the Tampa community to the very important meeting.

"I know you are eager to get back into the woods yourself," Rep. Bowers said. "Hopefully one day with these gentlemen's help we'll get that done and be back together."

Hopkins conducted a presentation providing information about the land and the Tribe's future goal for it — to one day be the home of the Tampa reservation. The preliminary plans for the property include 151 1-acre, single family residential sites. Hopkins said currently 77 families with 160 family members make up the Tampa community.

"This is the future home for the younger generations coming up as well as us today," Chairman Cypress said.

BIA Eastern Regional Director Franklin Keel reassured the community he and his staff will do everything they possibly can to make this reservation a reality.

"It's wonderful and I congratulate the Tribe for wanting to do this for their Tribal members," Keel said. "What is good for Indian citizens is also good for the other citizens of the state."

The next step for the Seminole Tribe is to await approval from the BIA.

"We're hoping that because this is non-gaming related it will be a much more expedited process," Hopkins said.

If the BIA approves the trust application, ownership will be conveyed to the U.S. government on behalf of the Seminole Tribe and the Tribe will be free to begin building their new Tampa reservation.

"Now they are going to come back together as a big family," Chairman Cypress said in reference to the Tampa community.



Rachel Buxton

Real Estate Dept. Director Fred Hopkins discusses the many aspects of the Lakeland property using a map of the land.



Naji Tobias

(L-R) Seminole Design president David Nunez and Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar stand on the grounds of Immokalee First Baptist Seminole Indian Church. The grand opening is tentatively scheduled for December.

First Baptist Seminole Indian Church Nears Completion

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar said she is happy about the progress of a new Seminole church facility.

Tentatively called the Immokalee First Baptist Seminole Indian Church, Liaison Aguilar's initiative is getting closer to its completion. She said the new Immokalee church will open its doors sometime in December.

The church building project, which began in November 2008, however, experienced some alterations in the process.

According to Liaison Aguilar, the church's seating capacity was supposed to be at 350. But when she took a closer look at the church facilities on the Big Cypress and Hollywood reservations, a shift in plans took place.

With a planned seating capacity now down to 150, which Liaison Aguilar said is about the same for most of the churches on the other reservations, a fellowship hall construction was birthed as a result of the change in plans.

The church, along with the fellowship hall, began its actual construction on



Naji Tobias

Construction of the interior of the Immokalee First Baptist Seminole Indian Church nears completion with the building scheduled to open its doors sometime in December.



Naji Tobias

Construction of the Immokalee First Baptist Seminole Indian Church has made steady progress since March 1. The church will be able to accommodate 150 congregants.

March 1. Liaison Aguilar said Big Cypress/Immokalee Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress agreed on the revisions.

"David Cypress and I sat down and made it smaller," Liaison Aguilar said of the church. "I was looking at the other reservations and their churches don't have that many seats available. Big Cypress and Hollywood have more Tribal members than we do here at Immokalee. They've managed to do well with the church sizes they have."

Rep. Cypress and Liaison Aguilar tapped David Nunez, president of Seminole Design, to directly oversee the construction of the church and fellowship hall.

The church is measured at approximately 7,000 square feet, while the fellowship hall is being built at about 3,700 square feet, according to Nunez.

"It's fitting to have a Seminole Tribal member come and actually construct a Seminole church," Nunez said. "It's such an honor for David and Elaine to select me to take this project on."

"Elaine is the reason why we're standing here right now," Nunez added. "She picked the project up and got it into the right hands. It was her calling and it has all worked out."

Checkpoints Implemented on Hollywood Reservation

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Hollywood Reservation took the necessary steps to ensure the safety and welfare of the community on Oct. 1.

As part of a Tribal Council initiative, led by Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max Osceola Jr. and organized through the Seminole Police Dept., the north side of Tribal lands along North 64th Avenue and North 64th Street checkpoints in place.

"This community has been talking about this the last three to four years," Rep. Osceola said. "It is about having a piece of mind and tranquility. I look at it as a secure place and now home is home."

There are currently three checkpoint areas installed on the road, one at Josie Billie Avenue and North 64th Avenue, North 33rd Street and 64th Avenue, and North 39th Street and 64th Avenue.

Before the closure, North 64th Avenue was often used as a cut through or short-cut road for the general public and Tribal employees traveling between the major roads of Sheridan Street and Stirling Road. Traffic has now been rerouted along the major roads of State Road 7/US 441 and University Drive.

"If any criminal element has the thought of committing any act, this will definitely help deter them," said Seminole Police Dept. Chief William Latchford. "We have gotten a lot of feedback," Latchford added. "There is not much traffic as a result now; families feel safer and feel that they can let their kids out to play and do things around the community."

"This also opens up the doors for us as a staff to

really get to know the community better," Latchford concluded.

Rep. Osceola said the project has gained momentum over time due to random acts of theft, unwelcome traffic and loitering on the reservation. He said the unfavorable publishing and depictions of the Tribe through mainstream newspapers and television have made checkpoints necessary.

"There are some Tribal members that feel they are being held in but I have said to them 'Look at it this way, we are not holding you in, we are keeping them out,'" Rep. Osceola explained.

As a victim of theft in the past, Tribal senior and long-time Hollywood Reservation resident Paul "Cowbone" Buster said he is adjusting, but remains in support of the idea.

"It is a getting used to stage for me," Buster said. "I am getting used to it all. It is a little of an inconvenience but it is good for us seniors."

"When it is all said and done I really have no complaints," he continued. "What [the Tribal] Council has done is just protecting us and I am grateful for SPD and what they do also, I appreciate it all."

Chief Latchford urged Tribal citizens to contact SPD should they have any questions about the checkpoints.

"We are excited to assist the community in this and any requests or questions citizens have they can definitely call us or stop by the checkpoint areas," he said.



Chris C. Jenkins

SPD Police Service Aide Cheshka Graham takes down information from a visitor at one of three new checkpoints along North 64th Avenue on the Hollywood Reservation.

Miccosukee School Students Celebrate Grandparents at Show

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

TRAIL — Students and faculty of the Miccosukee Indian School celebrated their grandparents through music Sept. 11.

As part of National Grandparents Day, more than 250 parents and family members gathered for the annual event in the Administrative Building Auditorium.

With the theme Disco Daze, the head start through fifth grade students and school staff performed some of the 1970s' best disco songs. The yearly Grandparents Day event has become a tradition spanning more than a decade.

"We like doing this every year to, of course, honor the grandparents and families," said Miccosukee Indian School Assistant Principal Barbara Clark. "The kids have also become a lot less shy in performing than they used to be. The grandparents like coming because we cater to them and it is all meant to be a really fun day for families to enjoy."

Tribal citizen and grandfather of 10, Norman Huggins had five grandsons perform throughout the day. He said he enjoys the shows each year.



Chris C. Jenkins

(L-R) Fifth graders Deiondra Burt, Tracy Cypress and Josie Osceola perform the 1970s disco hit "Le Freak" at the Grandparents' Day celebration, held Sept. 11 at the Miccosukee Indian School.

"It was nice seeing all the young kids and getting together with the other grandparents," Huggins explained. "I like the shows and they are entertaining. I have been watching them every year and it is a different theme also so it is really good."

Huggins' grandchildren also enjoyed the special day.

"It was all nice and fun to watch," seventh grader and granddaughter, Kailyn, added. "I see my grandparents a lot and I am glad they have a day to be honored. I enjoy spending time with them."

The idea for a National Grandparents Day originated from housewife Marian McQuade of Fayette County, W.V. McQuade said her main motivation was to support the lonely elderly in many of the nursing homes in her city, her state, and throughout the nation. She explained she also hoped to persuade grandchildren to take the wisdom and heritage their grandparents could provide.

In 1978, then President Jimmy Carter declared that National Grandparents Day would be celebrated every year on the first Sunday after Labor Day across the U.S.



Chris C. Jenkins

Norman Huggins (R) with grandson, Lucas, at the show. The grandfather of 10 had five grandsons perform in the show.



Wanda Bowers

(L-R) Miss Florida Seminole Brittany Smith stands alongside Alyssa "skaawita" Alberts, Miss Indian Nations XVI, at the Grand Entry at the Pow Wow held in Bismarck, N.D.

Miss Seminole Attends Youth Summit, Pow Wow

BY WANDA BOWERS
Contributing Writer

BISMARCK, N.D. — Miss Florida Seminole Brittany Smith, from the Brighton Reservation, was invited to be a guest speaker at the first annual Great Plains Tribal Youth Leadership Summit, held at the United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck, N.D.

The students were honored to have Miss Florida Seminole fly in all the way from Okeechobee, Fla. She spoke about youth involvement, a topic very close to her heart, considering she is involved with helping all the students who attend the Pemayetv Emahavk Charter School in Brighton.

Her parents, Roger and Diane Smith, and myself, were also in attendance during her presentation on the morning of Sept. 11. Brittany Smith addressed the audience of young natives that came to listen from Bismarck's neighboring cities. Her heartfelt speech told the youth to be positive and truthful in what you say and whatever you do, make sure it comes from the heart.

Smith's appearances in North Dakota continued at the 40th annual Miss Indian Nations Pageant and Pow Wow, held on the same campus Sept. 9-13.

Not only did she get to use her public speaking skills as the Miss Indian Nations Pageant co-host, but Alyssa "skaawita" Alberts, Miss Indian Nations XVI, invited Smith to dance beside her in the circle at the Grand Entry — a true honor. Amongst the circles and excitement, Smith was able to make some new friends at the pow wow.

The weekend ended with the crowning of the new Miss Indian Nations Shere Lynn Wright (Sicangu Lakota/Rosebud Sioux) and Smith receiving special recognition from Alberts.

Alberts and her family recognized Smith and me for inviting her to judge the Miss Florida Seminole



Wanda Bowers

(L-R) Miss Indian Nations XVI Alyssa "skaawita" Alberts and Miss Florida Seminole Brittany Smith

Princess pageant, which took place in July on the Hollywood Reservation. Her gratitude did not go unnoticed and I know she enjoyed her stay at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.



Wanda Bowers

(L-R) Miss Florida Seminole Brittany Smith receives a Pendleton blanket and a hug from Miss Indian Nations XVI Alyssa "skaawita" Alberts.

Winterfest Committee Meets at Hard Rock



Chris C. Jenkins

Winterfest Committee Chairman and Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. (C) with Winterfest 2009 staff and members of the Rockettes at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino on Sept. 29. The photo op and gathering was to promote upcoming Winterfest festivities including the 38th annual Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade to be held on Dec. 12 in Ft. Lauderdale.

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Seminole and Miccosukee Input is Invited for Museum Collection

The Florida Museum of Natural History holds over 300 Seminole/ Miccosukee historic artifacts. We are interested in getting YOUR feedback on artifact descriptions and preferred terminology before the information is made available on the museum's website. Your contribution will increase collections accuracy and offer a Seminole/ Miccosukee perspective.

Input is invited from all Seminole/ Miccosukee Tribal Members. Comment as little or as much as you like. It's easy to participate, just go to:



Florida Museum of Natural History Photos: Eric Zamoras

www.floridamuseumproject.pbworks.com

Tribal Firefighters Hold Sept. 11th Remembrance Ceremony

BY BRIAN BROWN
Contributing Writer

HOLLYWOOD — At 9:45 a.m. the fire engine and ambulances were lined up with their emergency lights lit. The firefighters assembled in front of the station facing the American flag, under the direction of the District Chief Frank Ransdell.

Deputy Chief Dave Casey reminded the assembled firefighters that, excluding the 19 hijackers, 2,974 people died in the Sept. 11 attacks. The overwhelming majority of casualties were civilians, including nationals of more than 90 different countries.

When the Twin Towers collapsed, he said, 343 Fire Department of New York (FDNY) and Port Authority firefighters lost their lives.

Casey also explained the tradition of the "5-5-5" message to all city fire stations.

"Long before radios and pagers, FDNY used the fire alarm telegraph system to announce the line of duty death of a firefighter," he said. "The signal 5-5-5 was transmitted and rang in all of the fire stations along with the number of the telegraph alarm box closest to the incident. The station bells, that were used to notify firefighters of a fire, would toll five times; repeated four times."

At 9:59 a.m., the time of South Tower Collapse, District Chief Frank Ransdell called the personnel to attention and to salute the flag. Simultaneously, a record-



Firefighters from Station 108 salute the U.S. flag as they listen to the "5-5-5" tribute to New York's firefighters and police officers who died on Sept. 11, 2001.

ing of the "5-5-5" message was played over a rescue unit's speaker system.

After the salute, Firefighter Sergio Acosta read the Firefighter's Prayer: "When I am called to duty, wherever flames may rage, give me the strength to save a life, whatever be its age. Help me embrace a little child before it is too late, or save an older person from the horror of that fate. Enable me to be alert and hear the weakest shout, and quickly and efficiently to put the fire out. I want to fill my calling and to give the best in me, to guard my every neighbor and protect his property. And if according to God's will, I must answer death's call, bless with your protecting hand, my family, one and all."

Hollywood Participates in Fire Prevention Week

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Community members young and old came together on the Hollywood Reservation Oct. 8 to learn and practice fire safety in the home as part of third annual fire safety activities.

The Seminole Fire Rescue Dept. took center stage throughout the day beginning with a morning puppet show presentation, fire truck tour, and fire hose demonstration for the 2-4 year old preschoolers.

In celebrating National Fire Safety Week, which runs Oct. 4-10, this year's national theme was "Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned."

"Throughout the year we have already been doing our Risk Watch Program on fire safety with the kids. These types of activities are a recap of some of the things they have been learning," said Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue Fire Prevention Division Inspector Bruce Britton. "The kids are excellent when it comes to fire drills but many fatalities come at residential homes because of the lack of practice and knowledge."

The Seminole Fire Rescue Dept. has also been encouraged by the level of community involvement with this initiative.

"We are continuing to get very positive feedback from this event from the teachers, parents and seniors in this community," Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue Fire Marshal David Logan said. "We want to also increase our outreach program to get other Native American programs involved as well."

Later, the day's events concluded with a meet and greet among Tribal and community families and members of Fire Rescue.

Food and informational materials were available along with a fire extinguisher training station, emer-

gency vehicle tour and a cone/fire hose training station.

Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. also made a guest appearance presenting the Fire Rescue Department with a framed emergency commemorative picture of firefighters memorializing 9-11, by artist Ray Kelly. He also dedicated and read a poem to the crew in attendance entitled "Up From the Rubble" by poet Edward R. Cook.

"Fire Prevention will help save lives," Rep. Osceola said to those in attendance. "This is the first time I have had to attend this and for these men and women to come and share with our community proves they are people and they are human too."

"This is also a way to get together and put a personal feeling on things and let our community know [Fire Rescue] are here to help," he further expressed.

According to the National Fire Prevention Association the majority of fatal home fires occur when people are sleeping. Smoke can also put an individual into a deeper sleep rather than wake them. It is important to have a mechanical device such as a clock or smoke detector in close proximity to the bedrooms as a warning of a fire to ensure waking up.

In addition, nearly two-thirds or 63 percent of all fatal victims of fires are children 5 years old or younger playing near or around fire.

The story behind National Fire Prevention Week began on Oct. 8, 1871. There were two major fires in the U.S. in the states of Illinois and Wisconsin. The "Great Chicago Fire" destroyed 17,000 buildings and killed 250 people. About 800 buildings were lost and 1,182 people also died in a forest fire in Peshtigo, Wis.

The week commemorates those past tragic fires and brings fire safety awareness to the general public using a global theme.

Up From the Rubble

We removed the rubble piece by piece, when we saw the red, white and blue.

Our nation's flag was dirty and torn, and we knew what we had to do.

We untangled the ropes that held her high, and unburied the damaged staff.

We pulled it free and then we found, that the pull was broken in half.

We tied a snap ring to the top, and slipped the rope inside.

So we could raise old glory, and restore American pride. We stood the pole and propped it up, and the flag we started to raise.

We could not see the top of the staff, through all the smoke and haze.

When the flag had finally reached the top, we could not believe our eyes.

For the slack in the rope was taken out, and the flag continued to rise.

We could not figure out the cause, through our own contemplation.

But we think we had help from above, to help restore our nation.

So back to work we went, removing twisted steel and rod as we pulled together once again, to be one nation under God.

—Poet Edward R. Cook



Chris C. Jenkins



Chris C. Jenkins

Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max Osceola B. Jr. (R) presents a framed emergency commemorative picture of firefighters memorializing Sept. 11 to members of the Tribe's Fire Rescue Dept.

Fire Prevention Techniques Taught in Immokalee

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Members of the Seminole Fire Rescue Dept. visited the Immokalee Reservation on Oct. 12 in recognition of Fire Prevention Week. The seminar took place at the Senior Center and Administration Parking lot at 11 a.m.

Fire Inspector and Investigator Lieutenant Robert Brown said: "We have come here today to make you aware of the eight risk factors that we are teaching to your young people through the school system and community assemblies. As parents and grandparents, you can enforce these learning techniques in the home and together we may have an opportunity to avert tragedy."

Brown explained that the information Fire Rescue provides is appropriate for all age groups, with the manner of presentation varying according to the audience. His department has also implemented a monthly Risk Watch Program at the Ahfahkee School, four preschools and five Elder Affair Centers. The curriculum covers the following topics: prevention of fire, burns, poisoning, falls, choking and strangulation together with safety programs for firearms, motor vehicles, water, bicycles and pedestrians.

Introducing Inspector Bruce Britton and Sparky, the nationally recognized fire mascot puppet, the group was treated to a stage presentation. Sparky and his five puppet friends demonstrated the program being used in the schools and delivered important information for



Judy Weeks

Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Assistant Maria Billie learns how to properly use a fire extinguisher.

the audience benefit and armed them with the materials necessary for reinforcement of emergency tactics in the home.

While the group shared a cookout luncheon prepared by the Seminole Fire Rescue Dept. officers, Chief Fire Marshall David Logan directed them to a table of valuable information, teaching aids, smoke detectors and small gifts that help to establish fire awareness and safety procedures.

A demonstration of the proper use of fire extinguishers presented an opportunity for hands on training. Setting a gas grill on fire, the participants took turns deploying the extinguisher.

"Heat, fuel and oxygen are necessary for a flame," Lt. Brown said. "Take away any one of these and the fire is gone."

"Smoke detectors are your best friend and will scream to warn you about a fire. Meanwhile, your fire extinguisher will just hang on the wall and not say a word," continued Lt. Brown. "Assess the emergency and take appropriate action to save lives first and avert damage second. You can acquire new possessions, but lives are precious and cannot be replaced."

Seniors, community members and employees were given an opportunity to watch a demonstration of the fire truck and used the water pressure from the hose to knock down cones. One of the participants couldn't resist the chance to blast Seminole Police Dept. Officer Ed Michaels with water as he reset the targets. From that point onward, everyone was fair game.



Judy Weeks

Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar (C) leads a group of seniors, parents and employees in acquiring fire prevention teaching aids for use with their youngsters.

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Community Hosts Weekend Prayer Gathering

BY NAJH TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Tribal citizens from the Big Cypress and Brighton reservations united together at the Big Cypress Entertainment Center, taking great pride in the third annual Intercessory Prayer Gathering on Oct. 10.

As participants sang praise hymns in harmony and listened to the series of songs from the Brighton youth group, they prepared themselves to hear words of inspiration.

The keynote speaker was Pastor Salaw Hummingbird, who paid a visit to Big Cypress from Oklahoma. Tribal attendees received Hummingbird's message, as he encouraged all "to hold on to God's vision" for their lives.

"Prayer is very important to all of us," Hummingbird said to the participants. "When we surrender to God, He saves our lives. He doesn't change our Indian ways of life."

The message was followed by a closing prayer, in which the Tribal pastors laid hands on Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Brighton Council Rep. Andrew Bowers Jr. and Big Cypress Council Rep. David Cypress.



Tribal ministers lay their hands on (l-r, Seated) Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Brighton Council Rep. Andrew Bowers Jr. and Big Cypress Council Rep. David Cypress at the conclusion of the Big Cypress Intercessory Prayer Gathering.

"As Chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, it gives me great pride to be a part of something that shall outlast all of us and keep us close to God," Chairman Cypress said. "To pray is easy. Just talk to the Lord as if you are sitting right next to Him in your living room. Speak honestly as He knows your heart and will always hear your prayers....Just have faith."



The Brighton youth group perform a skit entitled "Set Me Free" as part of a presentation at the Big Cypress Intercessory Prayer Gathering.

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Ahnie Jumper's steer tipped the scales at 671 pounds during the 4-H Club's second steer weigh-in on Oct. 11.

Seminole 4-H Club Members Weigh-In Steers

BY NAJH TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Seminole 4-H Club members began their steer season with encouraging results at a weigh-in on Sept. 14 and another taking place on Oct. 11.

A total of 35 steers from the Big Cypress, Brighton, Wood and Immokalee Reservations were checked out at the first weigh-in, with only two coming in at less than 500 pounds.

Mary Jene Koenes, cultural assistant for the Ah-fachkee School, said it's typical for that to happen at this early stage.

The steer season started in July with the shipments of cattle. At that point, Koenes said the steers can weigh all the way up to 1,300 pounds.

"Some of the steers, when they come in at first, are rough," explained Mike Bond, 4-H extension agent for Big Cypress. "They're not tamed or domesticated yet."

Bond gave the youngsters in the 4-H program some pointers on how to improve their steers as the season rolls along. He told them to work with their steers on a daily basis, giving them food, water and proper attention, and walking them.

He also encouraged the 4-H youth to "try out different feeds for increased protein." This helps with weight gain.

"It gives the kids an opportunity to see how much weight they need to gain with their steers," Bond said. "They get 150 days from the time of the weigh-in to improve their weight."

Steers at the initial weigh-in were anywhere from 6-9 months in age.

Bond said he will be available to the 4-H club on an as needed basis.

The 2009-2010 steer season concludes in March 2010, when the Big Cypress 4-H Livestock Show is slated to occur.

Seminole 4-H Steer Club Weigh-In Results

Immokalee – Sept. 12

Nehemiah Roberts, 790 pounds; Kenny Davis Jr., 745 pounds; Jessica Lopez, 677 pounds; Aaron Alvarado, 626 pounds.

Brighton – Sept. 13

Drayton Billie, 635 pounds; Breanna Billie, 601 pounds; Erena Billie, 722 pounds; Rayven Smith, 640 pounds; Ashton Baxley, 722 pounds; Kalgary Johns, 658 pounds; Kelton Smedley, 765 pounds; Cyrus Smedley, 583 pounds; Marshall Tommie, 800 pounds; Blake Baker, 660 pounds; Marshall Brown, 732 pounds; Skyler Burke, 566 pounds; Justin Osceola, 540 pounds; William Bearden, 658 pounds; Jewel Buck, 638 pounds.

Big Cypress – Sept. 14

Dalton Koenes, 464 pounds; Dayra Koenes, 465 pounds; Ragan Osceola, 464 pounds; Tana Osceola, 656 pounds; Alison Herrera, 524 pounds; Anthony Joe, 680 pounds; Christopher Joe, 508 pounds; Jacob Cotton, 971 pounds; Blevyns Jumper, 685 pounds; Ahnie Jumper, 971 pounds; Andre Jumper, 743 pounds; Chebon Gooden, 651 pounds.

Hollywood – Sept. 14

Taylor Fulton, 503 pounds; Kenny Deschene, 753 pounds.

Big Cypress – Oct. 11

Dalton Koenes, 550 pounds; Dayra Koenes, 551 pounds; Ragan Osceola, 581 pounds; Tana Osceola, 736 pounds; Alison Herrera, 611 pounds; Anthony Joe, 786 pounds; Christopher Joe, 568 pounds; Jacob Cotton, 739 pounds; Blevyns Jumper, 774 pounds; Ahnie Jumper, 671 pounds; Andre Jumper, 820 pounds; Chebon Gooden, 694 pounds.

Helene Buster Opens House to Guests

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Helene Buster opened her newly built house on the Brighton Reservation to friends and family Sept. 21 at a housewarming gathering.

The four bedroom, four bathroom, two-story house was built by the Seminole Tribe Construction and Development company and decorated by design consultant Stephanie Dillon of SMD Interiors, based out of Hobe Sound, Fla.

"She said she wanted 'rustic,' not 'cowboy,'" Dillon said of Buster's decor wishes, which she also referred to as "very elegant."

At Buster's request, the beautiful home is welcoming with warm neutral shades of brown. A large antler chandelier hangs in the foyer upon entering the house, just above a dual-sided fireplace leading into a small living space with family pictures on the wall.

Just off from the living space is what can be considered the great room with dark brown tones and wooden accents. The coffee table and end tables resembled large native drums.



The great room, decorated with Native flare, is welcoming with warm accents and hues.

Across from the kitchen is a dining room big enough to fit the entire family with a large wooden table that can accommodate 16.

An office with an oversized wooden desk can be found upstairs along with what might be called the music room with Elvis Presley prints and even a gold record hanging on the wall.



Helene Buster's new four bedroom Brighton residence.

Rachel Buxton

An outdoor balcony sits off of the master bedroom with French door access. The balcony overlooks the backyard and chicken.

The master bedroom is complete with a master bathroom with his and her vanities and a spa tub to relax in.

Buster was unable to be present but had dear friend Mary Jo Micco help out with refreshments for guests.

Visitors toured the home, some even taking pictures to capture the elegance.

Dillon said Buster hopes to make her new home in Brighton her permanent residence.

National Geographic Films TV Show at Billie Swamp Safari

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Billie Swamp Safari is a highly regarded facility, as far as National Geographic magazine and Spectrum Productions are concerned.

The media collaborative, which shot a variety of footage and scenes of the safari from Oct. 4-12, plans to air a docudrama/reality show based on the attraction early next year.

Cindy Malin, marketing consultant for Billie Swamp Safari, said she has been working closely with Spectrum Productions for more than a year to get the show to happen. The premise of the show, Malin said, is to showcase the care and maintenance of the animals at Billie Swamp Safari.

In addition, the docudrama plans to highlight the Billie Swamp Safari staff and how they go about conducting their work.

"Spectrum loves the fact that Billie Swamp Safari is a Seminole Tribe entity," Malin said. "The location in the Everglades and the abundance of wildlife really impressed the staff at Spectrum and National Geographic. But what really got things working for us is the character and personality of our staff."

Billie Swamp Safari Director Ed Woods is not used to being in the spotlight. Nonetheless, if an opportunity comes for Woods to promote Billie Swamp Safari, the generally laid-back director would certainly be willing to do it.

"Each day here at the Billie Swamp Safari, it always changes," Woods said of his work environment. "You never know what Mother Nature's going to do. It's our job to keep the public away from danger in case unforeseen circumstances happen."

One thing's for certain, footage from the Florida panther remains discovery, which occurred on Oct. 5 — the first actual day of filming from Spectrum/National Geographic — will appear on the pilot show.

Guy Nickerson, director/executive producer of Spectrum Productions, said he was impressed with the amount of footage he and his crew were able to shoot, including the panther finding. He compared the Billie Swamp Safari experience to Africa, a continent widely known for having the best safaris and most exotic wildlife in the world.



Three National Geographic filmmakers revel in the vast elements at Billie Swamp Safari, where the crew shot footage for a soon-to-be named docudrama.

"If you want to go anywhere in the United States to film a show like this, the Everglades is the place to do it," Nickerson said. "I hope people will get exposed to Billie Swamp Safari before they consider going elsewhere. There's so much wildlife right here in their backyard."

Nickerson, who first visited the safari back in 1998, said he was impressed not only with its features, but the experience he had with Henri Billie and Daisy Jumper. Nickerson, who regarded the two Tribal citizens as "warm, gentle and sweet," said he fell in love with Billie Swamp Safari because of that. He said it's a primary reason why he's come back several more times since his initial trip.

In 1998, Nickerson highlighted Billie Swamp Safari for Jack Hannah's show *Into the Wild*.

For two seasons — in 2003 and 2008 — Nickerson returned to the safari and filmed the area for exposure to Discovery Channel's *Adventure Camp*. And just last year, the filming of *Adventure Camp* at Billie Swamp Safari landed the show a Daytime Emmy®-award nomination for best children's series.

The docudrama, which has yet to have an official title, is set to become the first of its kind in television history, according to Nickerson. It is slated for release in either late January or early February 2010.

"Of the 500 [estimated] episodes I've done in my career, the fact that [Henri Billie and Daisy Jumper's] names still stick with me speaks volumes of the warmth and character they displayed when they were here," Nickerson said. "To me, the Seminoles are some of the greatest people you'll ever meet."

Also in the footage may be the Billie Swamp Safari trip taken by a group of 94 people from Tampa's Trinity School for Children.

The school students came to the safari on Oct. 8 for an overnight trip to learn more about the Seminole culture. The students got to ride on the swamp buggy and take a tour of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, among other activities. Staying at the Billie Swamp Safari chick-ees, the Trinity students and chaperones took full advantage of what the safari had to offer. One thing the Trinity School enjoyed was a gator wrestling show, hosted by Shea Hayley.

Sonia Spoto, the Trinity School's assistant principal, said the trip was an eye opening experience for everyone involved.

"Our school is a big believer in going out into the community and learning by doing," Spoto said. "Coming to Billie Swamp Safari allows our kids to become involved in their world and learn from their community."

The docudrama pilot, if successful, may turn into a series on the National Geographic Channel.

"I want the whole world to know about the animals, the Florida panthers and the Seminoles," said Woods, who added that Billie Swamp Safari "couldn't have dreamed of a better marketing plan than this."

"We're sitting in the heart of Seminole Country," he added. "It's a dangerous environment sometimes, but we're here to educate people about the plants and animals here. For me, that's what it's all about."



A camera man from National Geographic (L) films an alligator wrestling match between Billie Swamp Safari tour guide Shea Hayley (R) and an alligator at the Billie Swamp Safari alligator pit.

Florida Panther Remains Found Near Billie Swamp Safari

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) discovered a male panther carcass north of the Billie Swamp Safari at Big Cypress on Oct. 5.

It was determined by the FWC that the panther, which was about 6 years old, died from a case of intraspecific aggression. Intraspecific aggression is a natural phenomenon, resulting in serious injury or death, which occurs when male panthers compete for territory.

According to Ed Woods, the Billie Swamp Safari director, a FWC helicopter was able to track the panther's collar via a GPS device.

It was revealed that at about 9:30 a.m., during a telemetry flight, the FWC received a mortality signal from the incident location. The deceased panther, Woods said, was collared at the time of discovery.

"[The panther] wasn't moving, so they contacted us to take them to the site," Woods said of the FWC.

Officers from the Seminole Police Dept. were there to assist as well, traveling by swamp buggy to reach the incident scene. SPD Officer Charles Dachtion, who was at the discovery site that day, explained how the FWC was able to locate the mortality.

"As the FWC got the signal, it indicated that the cat hadn't moved for several hours," Officer Dachtion said. "What it means is that either the panther's collar malfunctioned or the panther died."

Interestingly, representatives from Spectrum Productions and National Geographic magazine, who came to Billie Swamp Safari for a filming production, were on hand to catch some footage of the discovery.

It was the first day of filming for Spectrum and National Geographic — the media organizations were at Billie Swamp Safari Oct. 4-12 to shoot for a docudrama, which is slated to air early next year.

"You never know what's going to happen," said Guy Nickerson, director/executive producer of Spectrum Productions.

According to Woods, the male panther was killed by a larger one not long before the discovery. Woods offered a detailed description of how the male collared panther died.

"You could tell that a larger panther killed it just by looking at teeth marks and holes on its head," Woods said. "There were lots of scratches on it from a fight they had. When two panthers are fighting each other, one of them ends up on its back and tries to claw its way off the attacker."

Woods added that the deceased panther was found with "split claws," with the larger panther's hair stuck in the victim's claws.

"That's how we knew it was a panther fight," Woods said.

Widely known as the most endangered land mammal in North America, there are less than 100 panthers left, according to Woods. Most of the panthers, Woods said, are located at the Big Cypress National Preserve Area in Florida.

Statistics from the FWC show that 16 panthers have died this year alone. This was the second death on the Big Cypress Reservation in 2009. Both were cases of intraspecific aggression.

It was revealed that the panther's carcass, which did not have a kinked tail or cowlick, was later placed in a freezer at the FWC Naples Field Office. After being transported to Gainesville, Fla. for a necropsy, the remains of the panther's carcass were designated for deposit with the Florida Museum of Natural History, according to the FWC.

"I've never seen or heard of anything like that," Nickerson said. "To actually see how the panther got killed made me realize how wild it actually is here at Big Cypress."



Billie Swamp Safari tour guide Shea Hayley (C) gives members of the Florida Panthers hockey team an alligator wrestling demonstration during their visit to the attraction on Sept. 8.

Florida Panthers Hockey Team Enjoys Trip to Swamp Safari

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The National Hockey League Florida Panthers hockey team paid a visit to Billie Swamp Safari on Sept. 8.

Mike Dixon, Panthers services manager, accompanied 20 players to Big Cypress as they got the opportunity to tour the facility.

During the 20 minute airboat ride the players got to check out many of the safari's animals including alligators, birds and bison.

Following the airboat ride was a 90 minute long swamp buggy ride, highlighted by a tall ostrich that scared the majority of the Panthers' players.

Toward the end of the swamp buggy ride, the players had a big surprise. Shea Hayley, a Billie Swamp Safari tour guide, told them that they would get to watch an alligator wrestling show.

As Dixon and the 20 players gathered around the gator pit, Hayley, a certified alligator



Florida Panthers hockey team players take an airboat ride during a visit to Billie Swamp Safari. Players had the opportunity to see animals including alligators and bison.



Players from the Florida Panthers hockey team take a swamp buggy ride at Billie Swamp Safari on Sept. 8.

wrestler, performed a series of tricks for the group, including a sequence in which Hayley opened and closed the animal's mouth.

At the conclusion of the show, Hayley took some time out to let each of the 20 Panthers sit on an alligator and hold its mouth, which was taped shut to ensure the safety of the Panthers players.

"That was pretty awesome, especially getting to work with the Panthers players," Hayley said. "It was neat to tie up an alligator for them. They've never seen that before."

Hayley expressed delight that the players visited Billie Swamp Safari:

"Everyone knows the Florida Panthers, but the players will remember me because they got to hold and sit on an alligator for the first time," Hayley said. "It's one of those moments that you just don't forget in your lifetime."

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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

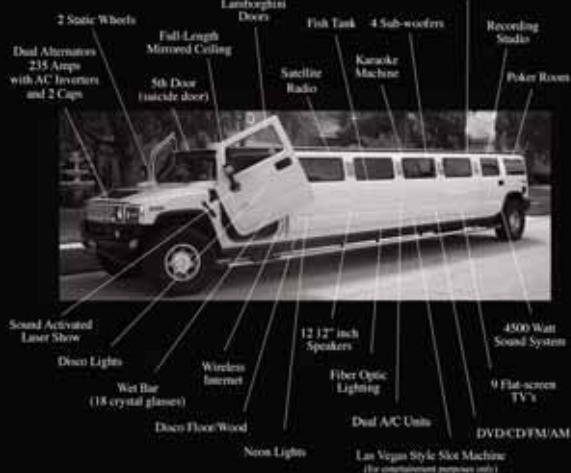


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Seminole Moments Presents History of Cattle

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

TAMPA — Tampa Tribal citizens and employees got a lesson in the history of cattle during the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum-sponsored Seminole Moments lecture series presentation, conducted by Brighton's Willie Johns on Sept. 16 in the Tampa Field Office conference room.

During his speech, Johns took the attentive audience through hundreds of years of history, leading into the Native Americans' involvement in the cattle industry.

"A lot of people can't fathom that Florida was the founder of horse and cattle," Johns said. Johns introduced the first Spanish explorer to Florida, Juan Ponce de Leon, in his lesson and explained how he stumbled upon the Calusa Indians, only to quickly be shunned.

Johns then jumped more than 100 years in time to discuss the late 1500s when the Spanish leader Menezes started what has become known as one of the oldest continuous ranch and farm lands in North America, La Chua Ranch located in Florida.

Listeners learned that pre-1700s Miccosukee and Creek Indians were already cohabitating with the Spanish in Florida. Cattle became a prominent means of survival for the Indians.

"We never went hungry," Johns said. "We knew the trails and land."

Then in the 1700s the infamous Indian Chief Cowkeeper resided in what is now known as Micanopy, Fla. with his Tribe raising an abundance of wild cows.

Johns explained how the string of wars took a toll on the native settlers, saying many Seminole cattle were confiscated during wartime.

Throughout the years the Seminoles had to regroup and reestablish their ties to the cattle industry.

"Native Americans gravitated to agriculture and cattle real fast and were natural at it," Johns said. "Al-



Rachel Buxton

Willie Johns takes listeners through hundreds of years of cattle history.

ways go back to what we're good at."

Johns talked about how the Seminoles had to fight the government in establishing land for their cattle and had to survive fencing laws passed in 1910 that created boundaries — something the Seminoles were not accustomed to.

"Open pastures were the past," Johns explained. "Our trails were no more. The Seminoles were at the mercy of the government."

The federal government eventually bought land to be handed to the Seminoles that is now used in cattle production, making the Tribe the third largest cattle producer.

"The cattle always fell on us," Johns joked. "Don't know if it was dumb luck or good luck."



Rachel Buxton

Allen Huff thanks wounded Army sergeant Joel Tavera, 22, for his service to the country.

Seminole Tribe Gives Back, Support Troops

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

TAMPA — The Seminole Tribe of Florida gave back Oct. 9 as they participated in a golf charity event held at the MacDill Air Force base in Tampa to raise money for the Tampa Fisher House.

Before teeing up at the golf course Tribal citizens took a tour of the Tampa Fisher House Oct. 8 to get a better idea of how they are making a difference in people's lives.

The Fisher House is a no-cost housing facility that is available to families of wounded soldiers and veterans going through rehabilitation.

"It is intended to be a home away from home," Manager of Tampa Fisher House Paula Welenc said.

The Tampa Fisher House opened in July 2007 and is one of 43 such homes located across the nation and overseas in Germany.

On the tour, the Tribal citizens received a guided walkthrough of the 21 suite communal living space that is completely supported by members of the community.

During the tour, the Tribal visitors were able to meet a wounded soldier whose family is benefiting from the Fisher House and contributions made by individuals and organizations, including the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

"The Fisher House and Department of Veterans Affairs provides that wonderful structure for the house but it is community groups like the Seminole Tribe that put the heart into the Fisher House," Welenc said. "It is organizations like the Seminole Tribe that show our families that the community is throwing their arms around them during this trying and difficult time."

The Tribal guests were introduced to Joel Tavera a 22-year-old Army sergeant who is undergoing treatment for life-altering injuries including severe brain trauma injury, blindness, loss of his right foot below the knee and massive burns on more than 60 percent of his body.

"When I saw Joel it was like seeing some of the people I saw in hospitals in Vietnam," Army veteran Stephen Bowers said. "It's very heart wrenching. Your heart goes out to them and you're glad to be a part of this Fisher House tournament."

Tavera's father and mother have been guests at the Fisher House for a year while Tavera undergoes rehabilitation at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital.

"It's a good thing that we have a place like the Fisher House," Tavera's father, Jose, who is on leave from the U.S. Navy without pay, said. "The families here are going through the same kind of pain we are going through. In a way it is like a therapy for us being able to talk. We can com-

fort them or they can comfort us."

When the doctors allow it, Tavera is able to spend a night with his parents at the Fisher House.

"The Fisher House is a nice place to get away from the hospital," Tavera said. "Being stuck in the hospital kind of gets to you. I'm extremely happy and thankful."

The next day at the golf charity tournament called Tee For Our Troops, the Seminole Tribe was represented by two teams that included Tampa Liaison Richard Henry, Jackie Smith, Allen Huff, Mitch Osceola, Joe Osceola Jr., Stephen Bowers and his wife, Elizabeth.

"They have been so incredibly generous," golf tournament organizer Valerie Casey said. "Their donations and participation is so heartfelt. It's invaluable to know there are so many people like the Seminole Tribe out there willing to come out and contribute."

One hundred percent of the donations and proceeds that the Tampa Fisher House received from the charity event along with any and all other donations are used strictly for the creature comfort needs of its guests.

"The Seminole Team is here and we're known for being unconquered and undefeated," Bowers said. "But mainly we are here to have a good time and support our troops."



Rachel Buxton

Army Veteran Joe Osceola Jr. continues to support his troops by playing in the charity Tee Up For Our Troops golf tournament.

Co-Founders Reflect on USET 40th Anniversary

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — In conjunction with the 40th Anniversary of the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) annual meeting held at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel in October, some of the founding members discussed the organization's origin, impact and future in Seminole Country and nationwide.



Chris C. Jenkins
Former two-time Tribal Chairman and USET President Howard Tommie

Created in October of 1968 and incorporated in 1969, USET co-creators Joe Dan Osceola, the late Fred Smith Sr. and Betty Mae Jumper all helped pioneer and structure the organization.

Since its inception it has been dedicated to promoting Indian leadership, improving the quality of life for American Indians, and protecting Indian rights and resources on Tribal lands, according to USET's official website, www.usetinc.org.

What began with four original founding Tribes, Seminole, Miccosukee, Mississippi Band of Choctaw and the Eastern Band of Cherokee of North Carolina, has now grown to 25 federally recognized Tribes across the U.S.

The major goal shared among all the Tribes remains that of unification in order to facilitate communication with the federal government. Strength in Unity became the organization's slogan upon its creation, and has remained to this day.

"From the beginning my thought was you can break one arrow but you can't break many of them," USET co-founder and inaugural President Joe Dan Osceola emphasized about the strength in numbers and support among other Tribes.

"The biggest reason to organize was because we were never able to get enough money from the Oklahoma health program we were originally under," he continued. "We also wanted to get more of the Native



Seminole Tribune Archives
The Seminole delegation has an impromptu meeting with Secretary Lujan during hearings at the nation's capital.

Americans' input from the southeast. We were getting very little on the education and healthcare front."

In a past interview with The Seminole Tribune, former Tribal Chairwoman Betty Mae Jumper talked about the origins of USET.

"When we first started, we did not know where we were going," she said. "[We had] no money and no place to meet."

"I can truly say it was an honor to know that I had a little part in it," Jumper added. "I was the first secretary of the organization and an original signer of the first Constitution."

Former USET President Howard Tommie discussed why the founders wanted to form a unified Tribal organization.

"The main goal we wanted was to get into the mainstream for help as a Tribe," Tommie said. "When I took over in 1971 my main goal was self-determination. If we failed we would fail as a Tribe, if we succeeded we would as a Tribe."

Another former USET president, Joel M. Frank Sr., who now serves as director of the Government Relations and Grants Formulation and Compliance Dept., gave his reasons for supporting USET.

"My interest was in improving the overall health of the community both mentally and physically," Frank said.

All agree that economic development, education and healthcare were and continue to remain hotbed topics of interest for the organization and among Native people.

The 1975 passage of Bill 638, also known as the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, initially helped many Tribes to reach their goals. The act enabled Tribes to establish contracts with the federal government to run programs, including health care.

The law also allowed Tribes with funding contracted from the federal government to run their own health programs as long as they followed the guidelines for Indian Healthcare System programs.

Osceola said others' contributions have



Chris C. Jenkins
Former USET President Joel Frank Sr. talks about his tenure in office and the 40th anniversary celebration.

also proved pivotal in the survival and prosperity of USET while facing growing pains in its early years. He credits Chief Phillip Martin of the Mississippi Band of Choctaws, Calvin Sanders of the Miccosukee Tribe, former USET Program Director Key Wolf, James Meredith, Horst Grabs and Johnson Lee Owle for their early influence and sacrifices.

In reaching the 40 year milestone, many of the former architects of the conglomerate have varied views for its future.

"We are proud of the self-determination aspect where all the Tribes are now truly the decision makers," said co-founder, current member and Miccosukee Tribal Chairman Billy Cypress. "We are proud of our size and now we have economic development, advancement in education and healthcare."

Joel M. Frank Sr., however, said USET's true strength has not yet been shown.

"USET is a viable, strong organization, but how it is used and how we motivate each other on how to use it is yet to be seen," Frank said. "I feel it is still looking to create and maintain a united front."

For more information please call (615) 872-7900 or log on to www.usetinc.org.



Seminole Tribune Archives
Members of USET meet and greet at the organization's reception.

Students Learn the Importance of Fire Safety

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Staff from Brighton's Fire Rescue Dept. educated the Pemayetv Emahaky Charter School and Brighton preschool students on Oct. 6 during Fire Prevention Week, which is observed nationally Oct. 4-10.

During the presentations the students learned ways to protect themselves from the dangers of fire.

"In an emergency situation you really don't have time to think about what you want to do," Lt. Robert Brown said. "You really only have time to react."

Lt. Brown, along with fellow firefighters and paramedics, conducted demonstrations and tours of the vehicles to help teach the students how to react in the event of a fire emergency.

The students were shown the different equipment firefighters use during rescues, including sledge hammers, the Jaws of Life™ and fire extinguishers. Some of them even got to try on a firefighter outfit, complete with the jacket and mask.

In addition, several Fire Rescue Dept. paramedics talked about what they do in an emergency situation and showed off their medical equipment.

The students then had the opportunity to climb in and explore the inside of the fire-rescue vehicle. The preschoolers got a chance to turn the sirens on and speak into the CB radio while pretending to dispatch someone to an actual emergency.

The Charter School students also enjoyed a puppet show put on by members of the Fire Rescue Dept. which reinforced



Rachel Buxton
Talena Holata, assisted by Lt. Robert Brown, uses the fire hose to knock down the cone.

the importance of the "Stop, Drop and Roll" and "Get Low and Crawl Out" techniques that should be used in the event of a fire emergency.

"The theme for Fire Prevention nationwide is 'Stay Fire Smart,'" Lt. Brown said. "The most important thing is if you smell smoke in your house, you need to get low, get beneath the smoke and get out of your house."

"If your clothes are on fire you need to stop, drop and roll," he continued. "Those are the really important things to recognize and be aware of."

The children also got to test out the fire engine water hose by shooting it at orange safety cones and knocking them down.

"The little kids really had a good time with that and they did a good job with it too," Lt. Brown said.

For more information on Fire Prevention Week please visit www.firepreventionweek.org.



Rachel Buxton
Inspector Bruce Britton and his partner Sparky teach students fire safety basics.



Rachel Buxton
Lt. Michael Dolnick (C) is back home with his crew after spending a year serving active duty in Germany for the US Navy.

Fire Rescue Lt. Dolnick Returns Home After Serving His Country

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Employees from Brighton Fire Rescue Station 7 welcomed one of their own, Lt. Mike Dolnick, back home from serving active duty in the Navy Oct. 1 at the Brighton firehouse.

"We're glad to have you back," Station 7 Chief Bryan Stokes said to Lt. Dolnick.

Dolnick was greeted with many hugs, handshakes and thanks for his service when he returned to Fire Rescue Station 7.

"I'm back with my guys again," Dolnick said. "And my uniform seems to fit a little bit better."

Dolnick was deployed in September 2008 and sent overseas to Landstuhl, Germany as a Navy Coreman Petty Officer 2nd Class at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

Dolnick became part of the Deployed Warrior Medical Management Center (DWMCC) while serving in Germany. The DWMCC is the only one

in the world and is responsible for tracking patients as they are hurt down range while serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"It was a challenge every day," Dolnick said referring to treating war patients. "When you see it on a daily basis it takes a lot out of you; it makes you humble."

Dolnick returned home to Florida in the beginning of September and said his experience overseas will only help him in his career with the Tribe.

"I'm happy with life, I'm happy living and doing what I do because there's no reason for me to complain," Dolnick explained. "It is going to help me be a better person, be a better paramedic, be a better employee for the Seminole Tribe of Florida."

Fire Rescue Chief Donald DiPerrillo dropped by Brighton for Dolnick's first day back on the job.

"We're proud to have you back," Chief DiPerrillo said. "With your accomplishments I think the Tribe's very thankful as well."



Rachel Buxton
Lt. Michael Dolnick returns to active duty for Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue.



Board of Directors President Richard Bowers Jr. (Third from Left) joins family members of the late Frank Billie Sr., (l-r) granddaughter, Claudia Doctor, great-grandson, Sontoin, daughter, Wanda, brother, Ingram, and granddaughter, Sue-Jane Burton, after presenting them with a plaque of appreciation for his service and dedication to the Tribe.

Tribal Board Convenes for Special Session

Rev. Frank Billie Sr. Remembered at Meeting



Chris C. Jenkins

Frank Billie's brother, Ingram, reflects on his brother with Board of Directors members and those in attendance at the meeting on Oct. 7.

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Board of Directors members met for a special session on the Hollywood Reservation Oct. 7.

Before the meeting commenced, the members took the opportunity to recognize the numerous accomplishments of the late Reverend Frank Billie Sr. with a custom designed plaque in his honor given to his immediate family. Also, the third floor conference room in the Tribal headquarters President's office was named in Billie's honor.

"He was a man to look up to and you could tell he was a special man," Board of Directors President Richard Bowers Jr. said of Billie. "He was very important to the Tribe and where we are today."

Tribal Treasurer Mike Tiger also recalled memories he had throughout the years he knew Billie.

"I got to know him early on and he was an honorable man and a very respectful man," Tiger said. Billie passed away in September at the age of 96. He is credited as one of the main architects for the Tribe as well as Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.

There were also five resolutions passed from the agenda including:

Resolution 5: Request for amendment to the Seminole Tribe of Florida Tobacco Ordinance;

Resolution 6: Approval of lease of citrus groves with English Interests, LLC;

Resolution 7: Ratification of agreement for the creation of Seminole Construction I LLC and Seminole Construction II LLC;

Resolution 8: Fiscal year 2010 authorization for continued funding of corporate operations; and,

Resolution 9: Approval of credit card policy.



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Tribal Citizens Present Student Art at FSU

BY ELGIN JUMPER
Contributing Writer

TALLAHASSEE — Enthusiastic storytelling, student film screenings, art presentations and poetry readings, were placed firmly in the forefront of the Seminole Culture Day held Oct. 6 on the campus of Florida State University (FSU).

Native flutist and storyteller Gordon Oliver Wareham, as well as myself — exhibiting my first short film — presented creative works at the event. Contemporary paintings and poetry readings also took place.

The people involved in the organizing and funding of the presentations were Dr. Andrew Frank, Dept. of History, Dr. Jonathan Grandage, Dr. Kevin Koko-moor and Dr. Neal Jumonville, FSU History Dept. chair.

The departments of history as well as that of the arts and sciences aren't just about planning and funding presentations for the FSU students.

"In the letters I write to thank people for helping with this event, I try to express how much these things mean to the university and to the Seminole Tribe," Dr. Grandage said. "We both know this isn't just about history; it's also about the future of the land and the people we love."



Submitted by Elgin Jumper

Elgin Jumper and Gordon Oliver Wareham are speaking to Cajun cuisine by FSU professors, following the presentations.

Dr. Andrew Frank also had encouraging words and a kind thank you afterwards:

"Thanks again for coming to FSU and sharing you and [Gordon Oliver Wareham's] talents with us," Frank said. "In the short time since you left, many students have found ways to express their appreciation. It is amazing how much your presentations affected them and demonstrated the vitality and strength of contemporary Seminole culture."

Dr. Grandage continued: "I look forward to working together towards the common goal of educating the students of the state of Florida on the creativity and continuity of Seminole past, present, and future."

The Seminole Culture Day event was so rewarding and so encouraging! I myself am proud and honored to be a part of the presentations and events now being held on the FSU campus.

As I was speaking to the crowds, I could clearly see that faculty and students alike showed a genuine interest and fascination for the presentations. A unique relationship between the Seminole Tribe of Florida and FSU is now being developed, nurtured, and promoted; as a result, the future is a very promising place.

"I greatly enjoyed you and Ollie's presentations," remarked FSU student, Katie Tiger, after the event.



Submitted by Elgin Jumper

(L-R) Gordon Oliver Wareham prepares to play his flute at the Seminole Culture Day on Oct. 6 as Dr. Jonathan Grandage introduces him.

Fire Prevention Week Reaches BC Community

BY NAJIB TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Students and staff from the Ahfachkee School, as well as the Big Cypress and Im-mokalee Preschools, took advantage of the opportunity to engage in the second annual Fire Prevention Safety event.

Help Oct. 9 at the Big Cypress Public Safety building, participants were able to see a puppet safety show, courtesy of the Seminole Fire Rescue Dept. In addition to that, they took a tour of a mock city called Safety City, which consisted of a fire station, a police station, a school and a hospital. Seminole Fire Rescue Dept. Lt. Robert Brown, who said the Safety City props were built by Brighton's fire rescue crew, explained the exhibit's purpose.

"When the kids go into the city and they get lost, we want them to know there are places they can go to that are safe," Brown said. "They can get help at these locations, if needed."

Students and staff from the three schools took a full tour of the public safety building, including a look at where all the firefighters and paramedics meet for duty plans.

Belinda Long, a first grade instructional aide at the Ah-fachkee School, gave the Safety City glowing reviews. Long added that she's "never seen this before" in her 13 years of working in the school system.

"It's amazing and wonderful for the children to receive an education about safety," said Long, who previously worked in the Collier County School District. "The props, the music and the vocabulary that the Seminole Fire Rescue displayed with the kids were enjoyable. It's very refreshing that the Seminole Police Department and Fire Rescue took the time out to let the kids know that."

All of that was just the beginning of what the Seminole Fire Rescue had to offer.

Students from the Ahfachkee School and the Big Cypress/Im-mokalee Preschools learned to put out a fire with a fire extinguisher. Also, they took a tour of an emergency medical services transport vehicle, equipped with such features like a stretcher, a medical box and a host of basic rescue tools.

Toward the end of the event, participants had the chance to take an extensive look at a Seminole fire truck and use a water hose for practice.

"It's a positive experience for the kids to see another career opportunity and it just lets them know we're here to help," said Daniel Alonso, a Seminole Fire Rescue firefighter/EMT. "Maybe in the future, they would find an interest in this profession."


Lazzlow Billie, a pre-kindergarten student who attends the Big Cypress Preschool, briefly summed up his experience at the event.

"I love this place," Billie said of the Big Cypress Public Safety building.



Najib Tobias

Dalton Koenes (C) puts on bunker gear with assistance from Seminole Firefighter Daniel Alonso (L) and Paramedic Alex Fernandez (R).



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New Testament Baptist Church Pastor Hosts Book Signing

Reverend Arlen J. Payne Releases ‘Consider His Ways’

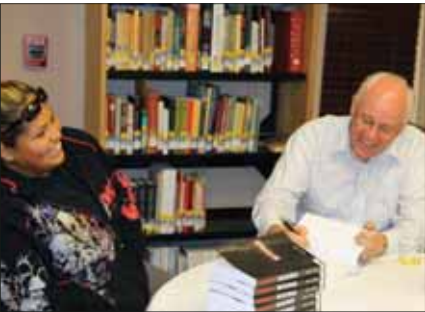
BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Reverend Arlen J. Payne, pastor of the New Testament Baptist Church at Big Cypress, released a book titled “Consider His Ways” and held a signing on Sept. 15 at the Willie Frank Library.

Largely based on the scriptural texts in the Bible, Payne said the release was never intended to happen.

Since beginning his ministry work with the Seminole Tribe in 1990, Payne began to write a series of personal journals to help him become an effective representative of the Tribe. When friends later found out about it, they encouraged Payne to publish a book from his journal writings.

“When I started it out as a journal, I wanted to keep this going,” Payne said at the book signing



(L-R) Tribal citizen Glory Diaz receives a signed book from Reverend Arlen J. Payne, pastor of the Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church, at the Willie Frank Library on Sept. 15.

event. “The book is not designed to be an end, but a starting point. I really hope the book is a blessing to those that pick it up.”

For one thing, many who have already received a copy of Payne’s book will remember one of his favorite Bible passages, Psalm 29:2, which states “Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.”

“It makes you stop and think about the big picture of life,” said Gretchen Debree, the library’s special projects curator. “But that’s just how I look at it. The book may mean different to someone else.”

Judy Baker, a Tribal citizen from the Hollywood Reservation, spoke highly of Payne’s book. In fact, while at the book signing, Baker made sure to pick up 11 books so she could distribute them to interested readers at the Hollywood Reservation.

She gave an account of not only her experience with Payne, but how his book can have a positive effect on a reader’s life.

“I learned a lot from Pastor Payne in his time as the pastor of Chickee Church,” Baker said. “When he gets on the Bible, the Word of God is what he expounds on all the time. He doesn’t give his opinions out, so when he says, “Consider His Ways,” he really means it.”

“Buyers of this book will have a better outlook on life and can grow in the Lord just by reading it,” she said.

The mass release for “Consider His Ways” is slated for Nov. 10, with the book to be available at Wal-Mart, Target, amazon.com and Christian bookstores everywhere. The audio book will be available online at www.tatepublishing.com/bookstore.



Gretchen Debree, special projects curator for the Willie Frank Library, takes a quick glance at Reverend Arlen J. Payne’s new book, “Consider His Ways,” at book signing event.



Members of the Big Cypress Seminole Housing Dept. celebrate Tony Moya’s last day of employment on Sept. 24 with a luncheon and going away party. (L-R, Seated) Moya received a special award from Chairman Mitchell Cypress commemorating the work he accomplished throughout his career with the Tribe.

BC Housing Department Employee Moves On

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

Housing Dept. director.

BIG CYPRESS — For Antonio Moya, a lot has been accomplished in his nearly three year employment with the Seminole Tribe.

Since becoming the Big Cypress Housing Dept. assistant director on Oct. 2, 2006, Moya has played a role in the construction of approximately 300 homes Tribal-wide.

On Sept. 25, however, his time with the Tribe came to an end. Moya will begin a new career in the solar energy industry.

He admitted he will cherish the lessons he learned during his employment with the Tribe.

“Working with the Tribe was a personal experience for me,” Moya said. “I got to meet a whole lot of families in my time here.”

Prior to his employment with the Tribe, Moya’s background was primarily in commercial business construction. Moya said he used to be instrumental in the building of banks, offices and retail business centers before he came to the Tribe.

The move from commercial construction to a residential setting was something Moya saw as an opportunity to do something different from what he was used to.

“It’s made me more caring to the point I had to realize that building homes is a personal experience,” Moya said. “The Tribe gave me an opportunity that I had never experienced before.”

“At the Tribe, you need to be able to understand the needs and wants of each Tribal member,” he added. “It’s important that you offer the Tribal members the best possible options for them in regards to their housing needs, working within the Seminole housing guidelines.”

Most, if not all, of the new Tribal homes at the Big Cypress, Brighton and Hollywood Reservations — all of which Moya has had a hand in — are customized to each individual Tribal family’s liking. He said it was imperative that all the details and specifications met each family’s needs, whether those needs be solar panels or an in-home sauna.

“I’m proud of the fact that many of the Tribal members are in new homes right now,” Moya said. “It was great working with the Tribal members in designing and customizing their beautiful homes.”

Moya said much of his success within the Big Cypress Housing Dept. had to do with Holly Tiger Bowers,

As Bowers took on the director role, replacing Troy Clay in 2008, streamlining efforts have been made to ensure a smooth transition and process for the implementation and completion of housing projects Tribal-wide.

But for a brief time, Moya was named the acting director of Seminole Housing, overseeing a variety of projects at the Big Cypress, Brighton and Hollywood Reservations. The decision by Bowers to later move Moya to the assistant director role allowed him to focus solely on Big Cypress projects.

That move decentralized the Seminole Housing operations, which has thus allowed for assistant directors in Brighton and Hollywood as well.

“Holly (Tiger Bowers) has incredible leadership skills,” Moya said. “She has a strategy in which she was able to have a housing policy approved by the Tribal Council last year. Holly focused us on prioritizing our housing projects and she made us focus on improving the quality of the Tribal homes and communities Tribal-wide. She has the Housing Department in a great direction right now.”

One development Moya will always be proud of is the fact that Big Cypress will soon finish the construction of Hendry County’s first-ever solar powered home. The house, which will be owned by Tribal citizen Joe Frank and his wife, Rhonda Roff, will feature energy-saving solar panels and a net meter. These are designed to reduce the need for electricity, and also save them some money on their monthly electric bill.

“I’m very proud to have been part of this project,” Moya said. “It has all the latest energy efficiency technologies for a residence.”

The time spent with the Tribe has helped Moya land employment with Suntek, a Tampa-based solar panel manufacturer.

He will be expanding his career in another industry, but his impact with the Tribe has been felt by many in the Tribal community, including Chairman Mitchell Cypress.

“I’m hoping that all the Tribal members are happy with their homes,” Chairman Cypress said. “I wish Tony would have stayed longer to help us build some more homes. He was a very good employee with the Tribe. He’s a people’s person and that, along with his friendly personality, helped him to go out his way to get things done for the Tribal members. I wish him the best of luck in his future.”

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EducationB

Tribal Citizen Excels at Culinary Arts School

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

NORTH MIAMI — Student Jim “Jimbo” Osceola, a senior in management at Johnson & Wales University, assisted classmates in putting together their latest five-course culinary creation for invited guests on the school’s campus Sept. 21.



Chris C. Jenkins
Jim “Jimbo” Osceola

In a food presentation titled “Tasting India,” Osceola and his crew prepared a meal as part of their Foods of Asian Cuisine course. Throughout the course run the students have been introduced to a country or island, including Japan and Thailand. They then had to prepare a meal based on the cuisine of that location for a grade.

The courses featured traditional Indian favorites including an exotic fruit salad, carrot salad, a Parippu/Ladki soup, braised lamb, roasted duck and gulab jamun, a common dessert.

“This all has just been a realization of a childhood dream,” Osceola explained about his journey throughout the years he has spent perfecting his craft.

“We had a lot of things we wanted to do preparing the meal and we wanted to show off our skills,” he added. “It all worked out the way we wanted it to.”

His class instructor Chef Adrian Barber agreed.

“I thought Jimmy and the others did a very good job,” Barber said. “He is a good worker with a great attitude. His classmates enjoy him too.”

Osceola’s aunt, Morningstar, and niece, Letitia Foster, attended the meal presentation for support. Both are future hopefuls in the culinary program.

□ Please see CULINARY on page 4B

Education Dept. Hosts Back to School Orientation Event

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

NAPLES — The Education Dept. hosted a Back to School Orientation for the students of the Naples community and their parents on the evening of Oct. 1 at the Juanita Osceola Center.



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Immokalee/Naples Education Advisor Victoria Soto gives Tori Osceola her Back to School Bash T-shirt at the Naples presentation, held Oct. 1 at the Juanita Osceola Center.

A highlight of the event was recognition of Tori Osceola and Corinne Zepeda, who received awards for the core value of citizenship at the Community School of Naples during an assembly earlier in the day. Ten sixth grade students were nominated by their teachers and peers to receive these prestigious awards.

“We are very proud of these students and their positive contribution to our mid-

dle school community,” said Community School Administrative Director Kathleen A. Frances.

Following a pizza party, Immokalee/Naples Education Advisor Victoria Soto distributed Back to School Bash T-shirts and educational literature to the gathering. During a brief presentation, Soto announced plans for the Washington, D.C. trip scheduled for December for sixth through eighth graders and discussed the curriculum of the tour, method of transportation, chaperones and accommodations.

Marie Dufour of the Adult Educational Program provided information on GED classes, basic adult education with reading and math, writing skills, vocational training and computer fundamentals that are being offered at the center.

Higher Education Recruiter Diana Rocha offered to assist with evaluation and placement opportunities for anyone interested in continuing their education.

Tutor Coordinator Julissa Collazo congratulated the Naples community for having a very high grade point average among their students. She presented the various aspects of the tutoring program being offered for grade level and enrichment classes, homework and test score evaluation.

“By identifying the students strengths and weaknesses, the tutors are able to assist with the school curriculum, heighten test scores and achievements,” Collazo said.

A tutor representative, team leader and four teachers are currently providing services to the students in the Naples community and are available to attend conferences between the parents and schools.



Elizabeth Martinez

Students (L-R) Brady Rhodes, Ayana Tommie, Chandler Pearce, Cheyenne Fish and Layne Thomas take turns watering their freshly planted seeds.

Students Go Green to Preserve Culture

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Charter School Culture Dept. classes went green Sept. 15 and 17 as they planted a vegetable garden behind the school.

The Culture Dept. garden planting is just one more tool in preserving the Seminole culture, according to Culture Dept. history teacher Jade Braswell.

“A long time ago this is how it was done,” Braswell said. “Nowadays they can just go to the supermarket and get it. So this is just appreciation of what they have.”

Students planted a variety of vegetable seeds including cabbage, corn, pumpkin, collards, onions and peas.

Classes came out one at a time and lined up at arms-length apart and used their hands to pat their seeds into the soil. The students then took turns watering their freshly planted seeds with a watering pail that they passed down the line.

Throughout the harvesting, the Charter School students will occasionally water their crops and pick weeds during their culture class. Back in the classroom, they will learn the technical aspect to growing a garden and how a traditional garden was taken care of years ago before supermarkets. Students will receive worksheets to go hand-in-hand with their gardening project.

The plants will be harvested sometime in or near November and the classes will then be able to enjoy the vegetables they planted.

“It’s instant gratification,” Braswell said. “You feel proud of yourself and you work together as a team and get something accomplished.”



Elizabeth Martinez

(L-R) Marquis Fudge and Isaac Osceola rake the garden in preparation for planting seeds.

Ahfachkee Students Attend Literacy Day

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Literacy Day at the Ahfachkee School featured a wide array of exhibits in an effort to encourage both reading and culture at the event held on Sept. 29 in the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.

Some of the displays included an English exhibit titled the “Toolbox of Literacy” and a current events booth that featured international bakery foods from countries such as Spain, Denmark, China and India. The exhibit also included a collage depicting many of today’s happenings, such as the now-widespread use of the computer.

“The students are aware of having a global conscience through the Internet,” said Alison McCulloch, seventh grade current events/read-write teacher. “They get to explore all the possibilities, problems and solutions from the whole world.”

Seminole culture was also in the spotlight amongst the exhibits. One booth featured a video presentation, showing students’ accomplishments in the school’s culture class.

A science exhibit allowed participants to see dry ice on display. “Dry ice won’t melt into wa-

ter; it melts into a vapor,” said Ahfachkee Science Teacher Scott Back. “The warm water brings the gas up and makes the dry ice evaporate.”

Other booths at the event covered topics including truancy, physical education and Exceptional Student Education.



Naji Tobias

(L-R) Big Cypress Preschool student Jalee Wilcox, 4, builds a set of alphabet blocks at the Literacy Day event with the assistance of Ahfachkee School second grader Richard Don Billie, 7.



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Immokalee/Naples Education Advisor Victoria Soto congratulates Tori Osceola, Angela Osceola and Naples Liaison OB Osceola Jr. after Tori received a citizenship award from the Community School of Naples.

CHARTER SCHOOL

Students Take Field Trip to Brighton's Historical Marsh Cow Pens

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Students from Pemayetv Emahakv got a history lesson as they visited the Marsh Cow Pens on the Brighton Reservation Sept. 30.

Brighton resident Stanlo Johns spoke to the students about how the cow pens have been used for years in the handling of cattle.

"Many years ago, I was probably about your age coming up here," Johns said to the students.

Johns transported them to previous years when Brighton only had five usable pens, the Red Barn, Tucker Ridge, Bowlegs, 4H Pens and Marsh Pens.

The Marsh Pens was one of the last to be built and had about 900 cows going in and out at a time.

The students learned what it was like in a time when there weren't trucks or four-wheelers to herd the cattle.

"We didn't have trucks so guys would ride their horses from Red Barn to the pens," Johns said.

Once the cattle were corralled at the pens they were de-wormed, marked and dipped for ticks. Johns explained how the process could take several days for the cowboys so chickens and sheds were built for them to campout until the work was done.

The pens are pointed out where the dipping vat was once located, but is now buried due to the fear of arsenic.

The students then entered the pens to get a closer look. Inside the pens they saw the water sprayers which Johns said they used to hydrate the cows.

The Marsh Pens have been remodeled throughout the years with a few pens remaining from the 1920s and continues to be used today.

"We had to modify a lot of things to make it easier to work," Johns said.



Rachel Buxton

Stanlo Johns tells the students he has been coming to and working at the Marsh Cow Pens for more than 60 years.



Rachel Buxton

Stanlo Johns (C) explains the history of the Marsh Cow Pens as students get an inside look at their workings.

PEMAYETV EMAHAKV STUDENT HONORS



Awards for Sept. 9-18

Kindergarten

Mrs. Duncan – Leilani Burton
Mrs. Pearce – Jahcole Arnold
Mrs. Webber – Karlyne Urbina

First Grade

Mrs. Davis – Hyatt Pearce
Mrs. Johns – Alyssa Gonzalez
Mrs. Ringstaff – Destiny Elliott

Second Grade
Mrs. Ball – Mallorie Thomas
Mrs. Clements – Caillou Smith

Mrs. Moss – Jason Sampson

Third Grade
Mrs. Pryor – Alicia Fudge
Mrs. Williams – Aleke Baker

Fourth Grade
Mrs. Paige – Easton Moss
Mrs. Tedders – Michael Girtman

Fifth Grade
Mrs. Dobbs – Bethany

Billie Erika Garcia

Sixth Grade
Mrs. Hudson – Tamea Allen
Mrs. Wells – Donovan Osceola

ESE
Mrs. Bond – Jarrett Bert



Awards for Sept. 21-Oct. 2

Kindergarten

Mrs. Duncan – Kyra Toneyes
Mrs. Pearce – Shyla Holata
Mrs. Webber – Warrik Billie

First Grade

Mrs. Davis – Haylie Huff
Mrs. Johns – Aubee Billie
Mrs. Ringstaff – Jahbahn Arnold

Second Grade
Mrs. Ball – Dakota Micco
Mrs. Clements – Keira French

Mrs. Moss – Bevin Billie

Third Grade

Mrs. Pryor – Satie Rico
Mrs. Williams – Cady Osceola

Fourth Grade
Mrs. Paige – Layne Thomas
Mrs. Tedders – Rylee Smith

Fifth Grade
Mrs. Dobbs – Sean Osceola

Mrs. Finney – Martina Herrera

Sixth Grade
Mrs. Hudson – Zach Hudson
Mrs. Wells – Rumor Juarez

ESE
Mrs. Bond – Joseph Toneyes

Pemayetv Emahakv Students Dress for School Clothing Competition

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Charter School students donned their finest traditional Seminole attire Sept. 24 for their annual traditional dress competition held in the new cafeteria at Pemayetv Emahakv.

"Everyone looks so nice all dressed up in their traditional clothing," Principal Russell Brown said to the students.

Each grade took turns parading in front of the judges, modeling their colorful clothing. Seminole Police and Fire Rescue Dept. employees had the difficult job of judging the boys and girls, who were separated into different divisions for judging.



Rachel Buxton

Aiyana Tommie models her attire for the judges. She won first place for her grade level.

Some boys went all out, adding matching turbans to their outfits, while the girls completed their dresses and skirts with traditional beaded jewelry.

"Thank you so much for participating," culture/history teacher Jade Braswell said. "You all look really, really nice."



Rachel Buxton

The boys line up, showing off their traditional attire.

Traditional Dress Competition Results

Kindergarten

Boys: 1. Pharian Baker, 2. Caleb Burton, 3. Diego Mieras; Girls: 1. Tehya Howard, 2. Tatiana Torres, 3. Jahcole Arnold.

First Grade

Boys: 1. Norman Osceola, 2. Heith Lawrence, 3. Jahbahn Arnold; Girls: 1. Aleah Turtle, 2. Caylie Huff, 3. Ruby Osceola.

Second Grade

Boys: 1. Kamani Smith, 2. Tucker Johns, 3. Myron Billie; Girls: 1. Luzana Venzor, 2. Burgundy Pearce, 3. Jaccee Jumper.

Third Grade

Boys: 1. Conner Thomas, 2. Lance Howard, 3. Aidan Tommie; Girls: 1. Krysta Burton, 2. Cady Osceola, 3. Alicia Fudge.

Fourth Grade

Boys: 1. Diyami Nelson, 2. Ives Baker, 3. Richard Harris; Girls: 1. Aiyana Tommie, 2. Camryn Thomas, 3. Sunni Bearden.

Fifth Grade

Boys: 1. Drayton Billie, 2. Ruben Burgess, 3. Trevor Thomas; Girls: 1. Raylon Eagle, 2. Shae Pierce, 3. Deliah Carrillo.

Sixth Grade

Boys: 1. Rayven Smith, 2. Richard Smith, 3. Michael Garcia; Girls: 1. Calgary Johns, 2. Keyana Nelson, 3. Tyra Baker.



Rachel Buxton

First grade dress competition winners (L-R) Aleah Turtle, Caylie Huff, Ruby Osceola, Jahbahn Arnold, Heith Lawrence and Norman Osceola.



Rachel Buxton

The sixth grade Charter School girls pose in their outfits for the judges.

Tribal Career Development Program Students Graduate from Table Games Class



(L-R, Front Row) Tribal Career Development Program participants Ervina Capricien, Eugenia Osceola, Ashley Harjo, Gilbert King, Trudy Osceola and Melissa DeVito with (L-R, Back Row) Director of Table Games Jim Russell, Table Games Instructor Sharon Ahl and Regional Vice President of Table Games Joe Gialmo



(L-R) Trudy Osceola presents class instructor Sharon Ahl with a patchwork quilt made by her mother, Cornelia. Class participants Melissa DeVito and Eugenia Osceola assisted in the presentation of the unique gift.

BY ELIZABETH LEIBA
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Nine Tribal citizens learned the ins and outs of Black Jack, three-card poker, Pai Gow and Texas Hold 'Em in the eight week table game class held as a part of their training in the Tribal Career Development Program.

Graduation from this phase of the program was held at the Seminole Gaming Offices on Sept. 25 and students received certificates recognizing their proficiency in the games that form the backbone of the Tribe's casino operations.

Class participant Gilbert King said the class helped him to appreciate the casino workers more and also understand casino operations better.

"We didn't know anything going into this," King explained. "First I was kind of intimidated; now I feel confident."

Fellow class member Ervina Capricien believes learning about the casino's inner workings is critical for all Tribal citizens.

"We're so lucky and we just want more Tribal members to join," Capricien said. "It's your business and who's going to take care of it better than you?"

The Tribal Career Development Program was officially formed in 2004 and was initiated at the request of the Tribal Council. The purpose of the program is to

train Tribal citizens in gaming and hotel operations to prepare them for careers in management.

The program has two phases, which total about three years with exposure to the Tribe's hospitality and casino operations. This includes on-the-job training, specialized classroom training, seminars and development activities.

Instructor Sharon Ahl agrees that the knowledge of the casino industry is invaluable for Tribal citizens aspiring to management positions within the organization. Her students received a test every week and had to pass a final exam and audition to successfully complete the class.

"When they come in, they know nothing about gaming," Ahl explained. "The more they know about the gaming industry, the better."

For Eugenia Osceola, taking the class was a part of her overall goal to climb the ranks in casino operations. But she wishes that more Tribal citizens would take advantage of these opportunities.

"A lot of kids take this for granted," Osceola expressed. "If they understood about where their money was coming from, they would have a better understanding of life and how we run our government."

For more information about the Tribal Career Development Program please contact Director Betty J. Goosens at (954)797-5459.



(L-R) Tribal Career Development Program participants Melissa DeVito, Trudy Osceola, Gilbert King, Ashley Harjo, Ervina Capricien and Eugenia Osceola

Preschoolers Practice Fitness, Fun at Event

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — More than 35 Brighton preschoolers donned their bright yellow "Get Fit Field Day" T-shirts and took to the gymnasium to move and groove Sept. 18 at one of the Fitness Department's Get Fit Day events.

"It is so much fun work with these young little athletes," Tribal Fitness Specialist Gina Allardye said. "It brings us so much joy to see their smiling little faces."

Allardye positioned the preschoolers into a large circle to warm up.

The little ones danced and stretched to songs including the Beach Boys' hit "Surfin' USA." Allardye, with the assistance of members of the Recreation Dept., helped the preschoolers do arm circles and leg squats warming up for the real fun.

After stretching, the students were split up into groups and rotated around the gym to different workout stations that helped work on their hand-eye coordination, balance and general health. Stations included a beanbag toss, ring toss, obstacle course and soccer dribble drills.

The obstacles challenged students by having them jump in and out of hoops, leap over small barriers and crawl through tunnels to the finish.

At one station the students practiced their hand-eye coordination with the classic egg and spoon relay race. However, this time instead of a spoon they used a spatula which made the egg harder to balance.

For the soccer ball dribble drill, the students went one by one dribbling rainbow-colored balls down a lane and around a cone before making their way back to the starting line.

For real fun, members of the Fitness Dept. had a giant beach ball that took several students to push down the length of the gym. The exercise was spiced up by making rules such as the children could only use their heads to push the humongous ball.

"The kids are really getting the hang of it," Allardye said. "Their hand, eye and foot coordination has improved so much."

To commemorate their hard work students received pendants that read "Get Fit Champion" to hang on their walls.



Ashlynn Collins uses coordination in the soccer dribble drill.



Quincy Sampson gives it a big stretch to start the Get Fit Field Day event, held Sept. 18 in the Brighton gym.



Kobe Micco crawls through the tunnel during Get Fit Field Day.



Tribal Fitness Specialist Gina Allardye (L) gets Leviticus Roberts ready to use his hand and eye coordination in one of the Get Fit Field Day events.

CULINARY
From page 1B

"I come from a family that cooks and I am interested in making pastries," said Foster, who also admitted she wants to open her own bakery someday.

Oseola said he comes from a long line of cooks, which inspired him to pursue culinary school.

"I grew up at a time when we cooked. I am fortunate that way, and cooking was a way to connect and talk," he said.

Oseola admitted the desire to improve his skills as well as encouragement and support from family and friends played a big role in his three plus years of study at the institution.

"This is a very well-rounded education here and a lot of the students are also working full time in the industry," he mentioned. "Meeting people from other parts of the world has also been one of the best things to happen to me."

"At this point in



(L-R) Classmates Michelle Godreau and "Jimbo" Oseola prepare an exotic fruit salad before their guests arrive.

my life, after I turned 40, I said 'I am going to just do it.'" Oseola added of his decision to start school.

The 48-year-old Hollywood native said he hopes to graduate from the university in the spring of 2010.

He also owns the eclectic catering restaurant Café 44, located at the corner of State Road 7 and Stirling Road on the Hollywood Reservation. The restaurant is currently closed while Oseola finishes his education.

As head chef of the 3 year old eatery, he served generous portions of soups, salads, hot and cold sandwiches and a variety of chef specials. He said he hopes to eventually have a reopening sometime in 2010.

Johnson & Wales University is a private, career-oriented university. Known for its culinary arts, business and hospitality programs, the university is the largest food service educator in the world. The institution has four campuses in the U.S. including a North Miami location. For more information please call (305) 892-7000 or (866) 598-3567.



Chris C. Jenkins

"Jimbo" Oseola (L) speaks with a fellow student about the items on the raw food table. The table displayed all of the cooking ingredients used for the Indian foods presentation.

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Naji Tobias

Ahfachkee School English teacher Jordan Rosenberg (Second from Right) plays a game of stickball with the students at the Culture Camp on Sept. 21 during Ahfachkee Spirit Week.

Cultural Activities Reign Supreme at Ahfachkee School Spirit Week

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Ahfachkee's students showed their school spirit Sept. 21-23 as they got in touch with the Seminole Indian culture in a variety of ways.

On the first day of Ahfachkee Spirit Week, students, teachers and staff members enjoyed a few games of stickball.

That was followed by a storytelling segment on Indian culture, which resonated well with the Tribal students.

Spirit Week continued with a session featuring the Tribal students in their quest to learn how to play drums.

A door decorating activity and a show and tell segment were two other popular Spirit Week functions the students participated in.

On Sept. 23, the last day of Spirit Week, the students and staff members had a prayer session at the school's flag pole.



Naji Tobias

Jeanette Cypress cooks frybread for lunch on Sept. 21, the first day of Spirit Week.

Ahfachkee, Miccosukee Schools Receive ESE Academic Awards From BIE

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

The Ahfachkee School recently won two Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) awards, primarily for exceptional student education (ESE).

School Principal Walter Swan said each Ahfachkee special education student meets high standards in special education.

BIE figures back up Swan's statement, confirming that under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act, the Ahfachkee School met the requirements for the 2007-2008 school year.

In the BIE's latest Special Education Levels of Determination chart, the Ahfachkee School scored at 100 percent in the categories of participation rate, timeliness and accuracy of data reporting.

The findings, according to a letter the BIE sent to Swan, also evaluated information such as parent surveys, annual reports, state assessments, suspension/expulsion rates and least restrictive environment. As a result of the evaluation, the Ahfachkee School scored 10 out of a possible 12 points for Level 1 status, the highest possible ranking.

"An award like this doesn't just go to any school," Swan said. "It was a hard-earned achievement that we at Ahfachkee are very proud of."

As a result, the Ahfachkee School was recognized

by the BIE at the Bureau's Special Education Academy, held Sept. 15-17 in San Diego, Calif.

"It was a community-wide effort," said Andrea Jumper, an exceptional student education (ESE) instructional aide for the Ahfachkee School. "There were a whole lot of people involved in this achievement."

Jillian Francis, Ahfachkee ESE coordinator, couldn't agree more. She said she's "extremely proud to be working with the team" at the school.

Francis also credits Sarah Parker, the Ahfachkee School's previous ESE coordinator with helping the school earn the award. Francis, who's in her second year at the Ahfachkee School, replaced Parker during the 2008-2009 school year.

"She helped me transition into this position and she had a lot to do with the success of the ESE department," Francis said of Parker.

Francis, however, said the award "truly belongs to the students with special needs."

"They have worked really hard in their regular classes and have done well in them," Francis said.

The Miccosukee Indian School, located on the Tamiami Trail, was also recognized for achieving Level 1 status from the BIE.

"There are a lot of schools that are doing a lot of things well," Swan said. "It speaks highly of how much we are committed to continuous improvement in Tribal education."



Naji Tobias

The Ahfachkee School's exceptional student education (ESE) staff is the proud recipients of two educational awards from the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE).

Big Cypress Community Members Attend Education Dept. Open House

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Big Cypress Education Dept., in conjunction with the Willie Frank Library and the Big Cypress Cultural Dept., hosted the Big Cypress Education Open House, held Sept. 22 at the Family Investment Center.

Staff members from all three departments showed participants key features and elements of their respective departments at the annual event.

Some of these services include the Education Dept. offering afterschool services such as homework help, tutoring and GED reviews.

"The kids always look forward to [the event]," said Big Cypress Education Advisor Patrick McElroy. "It was a way for everyone to see that all of the departments are working together to meet the needs of the Tribal youth."

In addition, the Big Cypress library offers Tribal citizens free phone call and fax services, as well as the ability check out books at no charge. Library patrons can also use the Internet on the library's computers for free.

Big Cypress Tribal citizen Joe Frank attended the event to learn more about the services the Tribal departments offer the community.

"It's always good to meet the staff from these departments," Frank said. "It gives us a chance to talk to them outside of the office setting."



(L-R) Gabriel Peter, 6, wins a globe at the Big Cypress Education Open House as his mother, Cara Hendrickson, gives him a hug and kiss for his accomplishment.

Tribal Citizens Learn Digital Photography Skills in Class

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Seminole Adult Vocational Program began a six-session digital photography workshop on Sept. 21 at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

During the first class, held in the curatorial classroom, the participants learned the basics of using a digital camera.

Workshop instructor Gerald Connell also taught the attendees the proper use of the camera's basic functions, including the shutter speed, aperture and ISO.

Connell offered those in the class several tips on how to take crisp and clear photos. The ideas include moving the camera in as close to the subject as possible, taking vertical pictures, using the flash setting outdoors and knowing the flash's range.

Tribal citizen Toi Andrews showed Connell some photos she recently took, including a black and white photo of her 1-year-old son, Lane. The instructor gave her some constructive feedback.

"Your pictures came out clear," Connell said. "You already got a good handle on it."

The idea of taking a black and white picture of Lane stemmed from Andrews trying to learn more about her digital camera.

"We were at home one day and Lane just popped up in the living room," Andrews explained. "So I just decided to do something different with my camera and take it in black-and-white."

The second class in the series took place Oct. 26 and touched on historical and contemporary photography and the components of taking a good photo.

The remaining four sessions are slated to be held monthly at the museum.

For more information about the digital photography workshop series, please contact Marie Dufour with the Adult Vocational Program at (954) 989-6840, Ext. 10557/10558 or mariedufour@semtibe.com.



Naji Tobias

Class attendee Toi Andrews (L) shows photography instructor Gerald Connell the photos she recently took of her 1-year-old son, Lane.

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Health



(L-R) Lacksay Green administers a flu shot to Seminole Media Productions employee Mark Vogel-sand on Oct. 2 at the Big Cypress Family Investment Center.

Employees Receive Flu Shots

BY NAJIB TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — David Rojas, a Seminole Cattle Ranch operator, doesn't like needles. He said it feels like getting stung by a bee.

But Rojas knows that in light of the current H1N1 flu epidemic in the country, it's important to overcome one of his greatest fears.

He was one of many Big Cypress Tribal employees who received a flu shot on Oct. 2.

"Me and needles don't get along," Rojas said. "As a Cattle Ranch employee, I have to make sure I don't get sick out there in the field. I don't want to get anyone in my crew or anyone in my house sick."

Rojas, who travels to the Big Cypress Cattle Ranch every day from Montura, Fla., has an 11-year-old nephew he cares for at home.

The boy, who Rojas does not want to identify by name, recently suffered from a high fever. Not long after contracting the fever, the 11-year-old was diagnosed with the H1N1 flu — a great concern for Rojas.

"I think my nephew got that from school," Rojas said. "When he got home, he was feeling good. But later on in that day,

he had a bad headache and a 105 degree fever. My nephew stayed home and rested up after that."

Stephanie Henriquez, LPN, said any-one with children living in their home is at risk for contracting the virus. She added that those with a weakened immune system and/or a compromised respiratory system also have a heightened risk.

An associate of Maxium Health Services, a Ft. Lauderdale-based contractor with the Seminole Tribe, Henriquez offered some advice to everyone in an effort to safeguard them from the flu.

Flu season, according to Henriquez, began this month and can run through March of next year.

"Exercise, drink lots of fluids and get a proper amount of rest each night," Henriquez said. "Never go overtired. Your im-mune system will weaken."

Pneumonia shots were offered as well, but H1N1 shots weren't, as shipments of that vaccine are in the process of coming to the STOF reservations.

For more information on the seasonal flu, as well as the H1N1 flu virus, pneu-monia and other viral infections, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-tion's website, www.cdc.gov.



(L-R) David Rojas, an employee with the Seminole Cattle Ranch, watches nervously as Stephanie Henriquez, LPN, prepares to administer his flu shot.

Seniors Attend Lifeline® Presentation

BY NAJIB TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Big Cypress Senior Center hosted a Lifeline® presentation for its seniors on Oct. 7.

Scott Akin, an officer with the Semi-nole Police Department's (SPD) Youth and Elder Unit, said the Lifeline® device, classi-fied as a medical alert service, is a big ben-efit for the seniors to have.

With the SPD having three incidents in the past year in which seniors suffered fall injuries, according to Akin, Lifeline will be a welcome addition to Big Cypress commu-nity.

Recently, SPD ordered a demonstration model of Lifeline®, a personal help button that allows seniors to have quick access to emergency personnel. The demonstration, Akin said, will be on display in late October or early November.

"If the seniors had the Lifeline® but-ton when they fell, help could come quicker for them," Akin said. "But due to a backup system that we've had in place for several years, which is the 'R U OK' checks, the se-niors still received help in a timely fashion."

The 'R U OK' program involves mem-bers of SPD communicating with elders ev-eryday either by phone or in person to estab-

lish their safety and well-being.

As of now, only one Big Cypress senior has Lifeline® available at their home. How-ever, more seniors will receive the device in the near future. SPD's Youth and Elder Unit members are currently processing applica-tions for at least four Big Cypress seniors who want Lifeline®.

To qualify for Lifeline® assistance, Big Cypress seniors must meet a set of medical criteria, as set forth by the Seminole Health Dept. The seniors must also have land line phone service in their home in order to have Lifeline®, according to Akin.

With about 15 seniors listening to Life-line® representative Rosalie Okaty during the presentation, they are now aware of the benefits it provides for them, including peace of mind.

"It's a good service because we have a lot of Tribal seniors that are living alone," Akin said. "Many of them would qualify if they applied for Lifeline®."

According to Akin, seniors on the Hol-lywood Reservation also have Lifeline® ser-vices available, with a few of them already hooked up.

For more information on how to apply, please call SPD Officer Scott Akin at (863) 228-2733.

Health Dept. Holds H1N1 Flu Workshop

Big Cypress Community Tours Points of Dispensing H1N1 Vaccine

BY NAJIB TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — With the H1N1 virus running rampant worldwide, the Seminole Health Dept. held a workshop on Oct. 7, as efforts are being made to provide a vaccination for the virus.

According to Seminole Health Dept. officials, the H1N1 vac-cine should be available at all of the Seminole Tribe of Florida's reservations within the next few weeks.

The H1N1 workshop, held at the Big Cypress Public Safety building, focused mainly on preparations to set up PODs, or points of dispensing, on all reservations.

Adam Yankowitz, director for the Office of Emergency Op-eration in Broward County's Health Department, said right now, H1N1, also known as swine flu, is the only flu virus that's circulat-ing through the community.

"You're right on track," Yankowitz said to the workshop at-tendees, referring to the H1N1 POD setup. "You're right where you need to be at."

H1N1, classified as a mild viral strain by the Centers for Dis-ease Control and Prevention, has affected much of the Big Cypress Reservation, with the Ahfachkee School closing its doors on Oct. 6-7.

That, in itself, makes the POD setups paramount to the reser-vations. Tribal employees also performed mock inoculations during the walkthrough tour of the POD.

The POD setup consists of a reservation station that allows Tribal members and employees who are also potential vaccination patients to fill out a consent form to possibly obtain a vaccination. If approved for the H1N1 vaccination, the patients will be sent to a triage station, where a series of health questions will be asked to ensure a successful inoculation.

After that, patients will go to the dispensing station, where they will receive the inoculation. Following that, patients will be asked to remain at the POD for about 15 minutes to see if an adverse reaction to the H1N1 inoculation occurs. Patients will also receive information on how to prevent the spread of the virus.



(L-R) Seminole Fire Rescue Paramedic Daniel Rivers listens to Seminole Gaming Director Douglas Cox's lungs with a stethoscope while Seminole Fire Rescue Captain Jonathan Hedrick takes his pulse rate.



Education Dept. Director Emma Johns (L) receives a mock inoculation at the H1N1 POD workshop on Oct. 7.

According to Seminole Health Dept. officials all these steps are necessary for public health and safety purposes.

There are several types of vaccines that will be available. They include a flu mist/intranasal vaccine, which will be available for the first round of administrations. The actual H1N1 flu shot will be available for everyone else down the road — on an incremental basis.

There are five priority groups that qualify for the first applica-tion of H1N1 flu shots. Those categories, according to the CDC, are pregnant women, those taking care of children less than 6 months old, infants from 6 months to 4 years old, health care profession-als and children 5-18 years old with chronic medical conditions. Everyone else will have to wait until these groups are taken care of.

Seminole Health Dept. Director Connie Whidden offered some tips on how to deal with the H1N1 flu virus, as well as the seasonal flu and other viral infections.

"Stay calm, back up and do not panic," Whidden said. "If someone has the flu, make sure they stay home. It's a learning ex-perience."

Bob Tarrant, who was one of the workshop's speakers, pro-vided some parting thoughts on the H1N1 epidemic.

"Really, this is an opportunity for us to focus in on our pan-demic planning," Tarrant said. "Now, we have a chance to act on what we've been working on."

For more H1N1 information, please visit the Centers for Dis-ease Control and Prevention's website, www.cdc.gov.



(L-R) Carlos Cruz of the Buildings and Grounds Dept. gives Jeff Anderson information about data he placed on his H1N1 consent form. As discussed in the Oct. 7 POD workshop, the data entry station takes patient information to download vital statistics to Florida Shots, an organization that keeps track of all H1N1 inoculations.

Tribal Dept. Offers Tips for Rabies Prevention

BY JONATHAN VAZQUEZ
Contributing Writer

[Editor's Note: Jonathan Vazquez is the Tribe's animal control & wildlife officer co-ordinator. The opinions he expresses are his own. If you would like to ask him a question or make a comment, please e-mail him at johnathanvazquez@seminoletribe.com]

Rabies is a disease caused by a virus that lives in the saliva of rabid animals. This disease is most commonly trans-mitted through the bite of an infected animal. It is also possible to become infected if the animal's saliva gets into your eyes, nose, mouth, or an open wound.

Despite great advances in diagnosing and prevention, rabies is almost always deadly in humans who contract it and do not receive treatment.

Animals that can carry rabies are skunks, foxes, bats, coyotes, and most com-monly, the raccoon. Although raccoons are the most common wild animals infected, bats are most responsible for the trans-mission of human rabies in the U.S.

Of the domestic animals, cats are the most common domestic animal with rabies in the country. However, dogs are the most common domestic rabid animal worldwide.

In a society filled with lovable pets, it is not uncommon to have a case of exposure appear. It is up to us as guardians of these creatures to ensure their health and safety in our community. The Seminole Tribe's Environmental Health Department's Ani-mal Control Services hold numerous rabies clinics open to all Seminole Tribal citizens to ensure the health of all animals in the community.

As indicated in Section 8A of the Semi-nole Tribe's Animal Care & Regulation Or-dinance, any animal older than 4 months of age must be vaccinated against rabies. Sec-tion 9A requires all animals to be licensed by the Seminole Tribe of Florida once proof of vaccination has been submitted. These precautions have been put in place to mak-ing the communities safer for everyone includ-ing our pets.

If you have pets that need to be vac-cinated or registered, please contact the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Animal Control Dept. to find out about our next rabies clinic or to find another alternative. You can con-tact us at (954) 965-1321 or simply stop our Animal and Wildlife Service officers and ask any questions that you may have.

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SUBMITTED BY **CONNIE WHIDDEN**
Health Dept. Director

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In addition, please bring the bill to one of the STOF Clinics or mail it to the Health Plan Office.

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your bill can be processed. If you have any questions you may call the Health Plan and they will assist you.

Please also bring the bill to the STOF Clinic or mail it to the Health Plan Office for processing. We may ask you to sign a release form to allow the collection agency to speak with us about your bill and to obtain a copy of the bill.



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

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

If you currently have unpaid healthcare bills appearing on your credit report we will attempt to resolve these debts for you. Please contact Debi DeHass at (954) 962-2009, Ext. 10323 for assistance.

She will need a copy of your credit report listing the unpaid healthcare bills and a signed release form you giving her permission to contact the collection agency on your behalf to discuss your account and to obtain a copy of your bill for processing.



THE HEALTHY SENIOR BY FRED CICCETTI

[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@healthyseer.com. All Rights Reserved ©2009 by Fred Cicetti.]

Flu season in the northern hemisphere can range from as early as November to as late as May. The peak month usually is February.

However, this coming season is expected to be unpredictable because of the emergence of the H1N1 influenza virus or swine flu. The H1N1 has caused the first global outbreak and pandemic of influenza in more than four decades.

There is concern that the 2009 H1N1 virus may make the season worse than a regular flu season. It is feared that there will be many more hospitalizations and fatalities this season. The 2009 H1N1 virus caused illness in the U.S. during the summer months when influenza is very uncommon.

The 2009-10 flu vaccine protects against the three main flu strains that research indicates will cause the most illness during the flu season. The seasonal vaccine is not expected to protect against the 2009 H1N1 virus. A vaccine for 2009 H1N1 is being produced and may be ready for the public in the fall.

The 2009-2010 vaccine can be administered anytime during flu season. However, the best time to get inoculated is October through November. The protection provided by the vaccine lasts about a year. Adults older than 50 are prime candidates for the vaccine since the flu can be fatal for people in this age group.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates up to 20 percent of the population gets the flu each year.

The CDC also reports vaccination rates are better for those older than 65. About 7 in 10 seniors get their flu shots. You can get the flu vaccine from your doctor, at public health centers, senior centers, pharmacies and supermarkets.

For more than four decades, the flu vaccine has been strongly recommended for older people, but now some scientists say the vaccine probably doesn't work well for those 70

years old and older. About 75 percent of flu deaths happen to people in this age group.

Flu is a contagious illness of the respiratory system caused by the influenza virus. Flu can lead to pneumonia, bronchitis, sinusitis, ear problems and dehydration.

Droplets from coughing and sneezing spread the flu. An adult with flu can infect others beginning one day before symptoms develop and up to five days after becoming sick. Children, however, may spread flu for more than seven days.

The best way to combat the bug is to get the flu vaccine. You have to get inoculated annually because new vaccines are prepared every year to combat new versions of the virus. When you battle the flu, you develop antibodies to the invading virus, but those antibodies don't work on new strains. The vaccine does not prevent flu in all people; it works better in younger recipients than older ones.

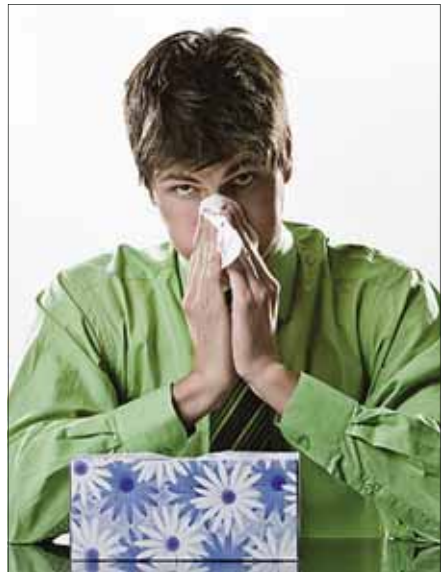
Contrary to rumor, you can't catch the flu from the vaccine. The flu vaccine is not made from a live virus.

The recovery time for the flu is about one to two weeks. However, in seniors, weakness may persist for a longer time.

The common scenario for flu is a sudden onset of symptoms, which include chills, fatigue, fever, cough, headache, sore throat, nasal congestion, muscle aches and appetite loss.

While nausea, vomiting and diarrhea can be related to the flu, these are rarely the primary flu symptoms. The flu is not a stomach or intestinal disease. The term stomach flu is a misnomer.

When symptoms strike, get to a doctor as soon as possible; the faster the better. There are prescription antiviral drugs to treat flu. Over the counter medicines can help relieve symptoms of the flu. You should also drink liquids to prevent dehydration, and sleep to bolster your immune system.



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- 10:45 Seminole Stomp Dancers
- 11:30 Critter Show
- 12:30 Yellowbird Apache Dancers
- 1:15 Raffle and Announcements
- 1:30 Alligator Wrestling Show
- 2:30 Star Search Contestant
- 3:00 Casper and the 602 Band

Saturday November 7 | Sunday November 8

- 11:00 AM Introduction and National Anthem
- 11:15 Seminole Stomp Dancers
- 12:00 Critter Show
- 1:00 Casper and the 602 Band
- 1:45 Raffle and Announcements
- 2:00 Yellowbird Apache Dancers
- 2:45 Alligator Wrestling Show
- 3:30 Star Search Contestant Winner
- 3:45 Casper and the 602 Band



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Sports

C

Rodeo Competitors Attend EIRA Yearend Banquet

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Brighton Veterans' Building was transformed into a ranch and rodeo atmosphere for the 2009 Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) banquet on the evening of Oct. 10.

Members of the EIRA have competed in rodeo competitions for the past year in an effort to accumulate sufficient points to become EIRA champions, reserve champions and qualifiers for the Indian National Finals Rodeo, to be held Nov. 11-14 in Las Vegas, Nev.

The red dust of the arena clay has cleared, the points have been tabulated and the winners were announced at the End of the Year Banquet. The 2009 champions received hand-somely tooled commemorative saddles and lifetime bragging rights for their accomplishments.

Engraved gold and silver buckles were presented to the champions of the non-sanctioned events, junior rodeo and reserve champions.

Ivan Bruisedhead and Leanna Billie participated in as many events as possible throughout the year and their skills, determination and hard work paid off when it was an-

nounced they accumulated the most points for the year. As men's and women's all around champions, they were presented with championship saddles.

Junior rodeo participants work to achieve the same goals and develop the



Ivan Bruisedhead (R) is named 2009 EIRA all around men's champion. (L-R) EIRA Vice President Paul Bowers Sr., Wilse Bruisedhead, Jeff Johns and Azye Henry were on hand to present him his commemorative saddle.



(L-R) EIRA Vice President Paul Bowers Sr. and Jeff Johns watch as Kalgary Johns is awarded a buckle by Calif Roping Director Wilse Bruisedhead for being named 2009 barrel racing champion for her division.

skills necessary to compete in the sanctioned events.

Kelton Smedley was named the 2009 boys' all around champion. Known to family, friends and rodeo fans as "K-Dog," Smedley has worked his way up from mutton busting to riding some of the meanest rough stock on the junior rodeo circuit.

The 2009 girls' all around champion, Kalgary Johns, started riding as a toddler and has tried her hand at a multitude of rodeo events from mutton busting to calf riding, roping and barrels.

During opening remarks, EIRA President Josh Junper said: "I want to begin by expressing my appreciation to our secretary Melissa Gopher and the Board of Directors, who have worked hard and made 2009 a success. This year we have added two new events to the roster and dedicated long hours to training and helping our youth develop their rodeo skills."

"Helping our youth to achieve their goals is one of our primary efforts," continued Junper. "We support college scholarship funding and our participants as they

□ Please see EIRA on page 5C



(L-R) Ivan Bruisedhead and Leanna Billie, the 2009 EIRA all around men's and women's champions, display their saddles.



EvalRay Stewart (C) from the 2-year-old class scores a point for the girls' team as the entire class crowds around the stick.

Preschoolers Play Traditional Stickball Games

BY SHELLEY MARMOR
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — About 75 students from the 1-, 2-, 3-, and 4-year-old classes at the Hollywood Preschool participated in a series of girls versus boys stickball games Sept. 23 on the ball field. The event took place in conjunction with the Indian Day holiday on Sept. 25.

After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in Mikasuki, the traditional game got underway with preschool instructors and aides, as well as Culture and Seminole Police Dept. employees, on hand to assist.

During the games, which lasted about five minutes each, the 3- and 4-year-old boys' teams used their sticks to grab and pick up the ball before throwing it at the large stick in the center of the playing field to score a point.

The opposing girls' teams had to prevent the boys' teams from scoring by keeping the ball away from them. The girls also had to throw the ball at the stick to score points, except they don't use sticks and picked

up the ball with their hands.

Neither the boys nor the girls in the 1- and 2-year-old classes used sticks during their games, as they lack the coordination to use them properly. They, however, still participated and all players used their hands to pick up the ball.

According to Preschool Parent Involvement Coordinator Dawna Bell, the children play a game similar to how the adults would play it, but said their games are a lot less rough. She said because stickball is such a physically aggressive sport the preschoolers only play about twice a year — once during the Indian Day holiday and again in February at about the same time as the annual Seminole Tribal Fair.

"They don't really play it that often because it is a very physical sport," Bell said. "In reality the players really go at each other and anything goes."

Following the children's games, employees from the Culture Dept. took on members of the Seminole Police Dept. with the Culture Dept. triumphing.



(L-R) Jack Tiger and Jose Puente Jr., both from the 4-year-old class, scramble to pick up the ball with their sticks.

Mingo Jones Earns Black Belt in Ceremony

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

DAVIE, Fla. — Tribal citizen Mingo Jones celebrated a milestone on Sept. 12. Already an accomplished martial artist, he added one more discipline to his repertoire by gaining black belt status in the ancient Korean martial art Hapkido in a ceremony held at the International Hapkido Federation studio in Davie, Fla.

Joined by classmates Jason Meeks and Alex Nunez, as well as family members, Jones performed the necessary rites to attain his black belt and became the first known Seminole in the U.S. to achieve the high rank. It is a moment the Panther Clan member said he has been working toward since 2002.

"I have been gaining knowledge this whole time and climbing the mountain," Jones explained. "This discipline has taught me to harmonize."

"The hardest part of it all has been taking that initial first step. Now everything will become a lot easier," he continued.

To reach the black belt level in Hapkido there are four other colored belts to gain first — white, yellow, blue, and brown.

As a part of the ceremony Jones and his classmates took part in a series of tests called "tests of center." The exercises measure power, physical strength, calmness, spirit and balance.

There are also three levels and four ranks to attain master status in the discipline. Jones said he wants to continue on and become a master someday. He also holds a



Mingo Jones (L) concentrates as his classmates test his strength and balance.

first degree black belt in another more well known and popular practice, Tae Kwon Do.

Brighton Board Rep. Johnnie Jones Sr. attended the affair to support his brother, Mingo. He said he remembers his brother idolizing the legendary pioneer of traditional martial arts and Kung Fu, Lee Jun Fan, better known to the world as Bruce Lee.

"Ever since he got into Tae Kwon Do

years back this has been something he has wanted to do," Rep. Jones said. "Once he sets his mind to do something he does it. This has always been a part of the Jones family."

The road to such an achievement has been long for the 51-year-old who has over-

□ Please see JONES on page 3C

Big Town, Fab Five Claim Victories in Tigertail Basketball Tournament

Still Got Game, Native Ladies Take Top Spots in Legend's Division Play

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Many teams participated in the third annual Tigertail Brothers Basketball Tournament, held Sept. 17-19 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium. In the end, there were two overall winners, Big Town from the men's bracket and Fab Five from the women's side.

During the men's final, played on the night of Sept. 19, the Big Town squad scored 21 three-pointers during the title game against Brighton Recreation, leading to their 114-84 victory.

Big Town's Eric Beatty scored 28 points and six three-pointers, Jerome Davis, 27 points, three three-pointers, Amos Huggins, 26 points, six three-pointers, Jerome Huggins, 13 points, three three-pointers, and Shaun Dougherty, 10 points, four three-pointers.

"We just wanted to jump on Brighton as early as we could," said Beatty, who stands at 6'8". "They looked really tired from playing all day, so we just wanted to get the tournament early as quick as we could."

Though Brighton was completely dominated by Big Town in this high-tempo game, Daven Willis of Fab Five had no excuses for the end result.

"Big Town has a lot of big players," Willis said of the team, whose players have an average height of 6'2" compared to the average Brighton player at 5'9".

"The three-point shots were killing us in the first half," he continued. "With their huge size advantage over us we just couldn't match up with them. The better team won the tournament; that's all I can say."

On the women's end, Fab Five outlasted a gutsy Lady Ballers team en route to a 40-27 championship game win.

According to Crystal Yazzie, who led the Fab Five and scored 11 points in the final, one key factor helped her team win the game.

"We just played really good defense throughout the tournament," Yazzie said. "All I can say is that defense wins championships."

The tournament, dedicated to the memory of brothers Malcolm and Duane Tigertail, was organized by their mother, Minnie. The purpose of the competition is to celebrate the lives of the two young men, who passed away in 2000 and 2007, respectively.

Tigertail spoke passionately about her two sons, who she said both enjoyed the game of basketball.

"It means a lot to our family and friends to have a tournament like this every year," she said. "Malcolm and Duane's passion was always basketball, regardless of whatever reservation they could play on."

Tigertail added that she enjoyed watching all the tournament's participants compete, saying "it was like watching my two sons play."

In the Legend's Division tournament, held Sept. 17 for competitors 35 and older, Still Got Game, 3-0, went undefeated in the men's bracket as they beat out the Big Cypress Men, 43-21. The Big Cypress Men finished 1-2 in this tournament, while Brighton Boys was 0-2 in the competition.

As for the women's legends, the Native Ladies, 3-0, came away with the title in a win against the Big Cypress Women, 2-2. The third place team, Young Legends, finished 0-2 in the tournament.

Still, the records didn't matter to any of the competitors at the end. It was all about holding up the Tigertail tradition.

"It's a nice memorial where it brings people together," said Geraldine Osceola, who played on the Young Legends women's team. "We all had a good time and we appreciate Minnie Tigertail for putting this on because it has brought us all here in memory of Malcolm and Duane. We'll never forget those two legends."



Naji Tobias

(L-R) Tate Means, Autumn Monteau, Dionne Jacobs, Stephanie Huggins and Crystal Yazzie of the Fab Five team with Minnie Tigertail. The team went undefeated (4-0) in tournament play, winning jackets and bags as championship prizes.



Naji Tobias

Big Town's Jerome Davis powers his way for a lay-in for a 50-26 lead over Brighton with 2:56 left in the first half of the men's championship game.



Naji Tobias

Big Town went undefeated in the Tigertail Brothers men's tournament and earned the right to be called champions in this year's competition.

Halloween Classic Youth Basketball Tournament Results

14-17 Year Old Division

Boys: 1. BC, 2. Brighton, 3. Hollywood
Girls: 1. Hollywood, 2. BC, 3. Brighton

10-13 Year Old Division

Co-Ed: 1. Hollywood, 2. Brighton, 3. BC

9 Year Old and Younger Division

Big Cypress, Brighton, Hollywood teams all received medals for their participation



Ben Gonzalez

Hollywood's Grant Osceola (C), playing in the 9 and younger co-ed game against BC, manages to steal the ball from his opponents.



Ben Gonzalez

(L-R) Neko Osceola runs down the court after Ethan Cypress as he makes his way to his team's basket in the 10-13 year old co-ed division game.



Shelley Marmor

(L-R) Arek Jumper from the Hollywood team blocks Jessalynn Osceola of the Brighton team in a 9 and younger co-ed game.



Shelley Marmor

Terri Baker (L) of the Brighton team shoots the ball in the 14-17 girls' game against Hollywood.



Shelley Marmor

Kaitlynn Osceola (C) of Hollywood gets control of the ball and gets ready to make her shot.



Eastern Indian Rodeo Association champions (L-R) Justin Gopher and Naha Jumper take fifth place at the Immokalee Seminole Youth Ranch Round Robin, held at the John Jimmie Memorial Arena on Sept. 26.

Seminole Youth Ranch Hosts Team Roping Event

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — The Immokalee Seminole Youth Ranch kicked off a new season of team roping events with a round robin event at the John Jimmie Memorial Arena on Sept. 26.

Capped at #6 and Under by the U.S. Team Roping Championship (USTRC) classification, entries included 19 headers and 13 heelers.

“Without a covered arena, we are frequently handicapped during the summer months by rain and wet arena problems,” said Immokalee Youth Ranch Director Kenny Joe Davis Sr. “Now that the rainy season is behind us, we are looking forward to resuming our practice sessions, jackpots and team roping events.”

The steers were fast, but the ropers were ready and many made their catches right out of the box. As a one-head round robin, every header had the opportunity to rope with every heeler one time resulting in 247 team combinations.

The 2009 Eastern Indian Rodeo As-

sociation (EIRA) champion heeler Naha Jumper and reserve champion header Justin Gopher made a clean sweep of fifth place. They will be among the contestants representing the EIRA at the 2009 Indian National Finals Rodeo, held Nov. 11-14 in Las Vegas, Nev.

Every time a team completed a catch, each member earned a point for the down. At the end of the competition the total downs were tabulated and the headers and heelers with the most catches received the winning scores.

Timers were used for back up and five second penalties added for one leg catches and broken barriers. The roper with the fastest total time wins in the event of a tie. Less than a two second margin broke the tie for second and third place headers. First, second, fourth and fifth place heelers depended on the clock to establish their final placement.

The winners were as follows: Headers: 1. Alexi Benitez, 2. Jose Torres, 3. Willie Abrue, 4. Trouble Hagan, 5. Justin Gopher; Heelers: 1. Bear Weeks, 2. Pablo Delgado, 3. Justin Hawkins, 4. Hoelito Vigil, 5. Naha Jumper.

JONES

From page 1C

come a host of health issues in his past including drug abuse, diabetes, coronary artery disease, high blood pressure and situs inversus, a rare, congenital condition where major visceral organs are reversed in the body.

“The character and commitment to reach black belt status is very high,” Jones’ instructor Master Jeff Allen of the International Hapkido Federation pointed out. “He is an excellent student and a joy to teach.”

As a sixth degree black belt, Allen has been teaching the art for more than 30 years. He opened his school in 2001 with Jones joining soon afterward.

“We focus on real world application in this discipline and he likes that,” Allen noted of his student. “Mingo Jones is the pinnacle of what a black belt should be.”

Hapkido, meaning “harmony through body and mind coordination,” is the philosophy and techniques applied by combining physics, geometry, psychology and physiology. Requiring physical and mental coordination, Hapkido uses dynamic, below the waist kicks as self-defense against kicks and hand strikes.

For more information, please log on to www.hapkidoosool.com, or call (954) 229-7444.



Chris C. Jenkins

Mingo Jones puts on his black belt during the ceremony, held Sept. 12 at the International Hapkido Federation studio in Davie, Fla., as his classmates look on.



Chris C. Jenkins

(L-R) Master Jeff Allen, sister-in-law, Nancy, brother and Brighton Board of Directors Rep., Johnnie Sr., and sister, Judy, support Mingo Jones after he receives his black belt in Hapkido.

Third Annual Theda Osceola Softball Tournament Another Success

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — For the third year running, friends and family gathered in the spirit and memory of Tribal citizen and avid softballer Theda Osceola in the annual All-Indian Theda Osceola Co-ed Softball Tournament Oct. 9-10.

Teams from the Trail, Big Cypress and Hollywood Reservations, as well as out of town visitors from the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Tribe, participated in the four-team event with Theda Osceola’s son, Milo, as the organizer.

“She liked softball and it was a big thing to her,” Osceola explained of his mother. “Being together as a family and playing is one of my best memories of her.”

Before round robin tournament play began on the tournament’s opening day, Juanita Osceola gave an emotional prayer and speech about her sister, Theda.

“Thank you all for coming out and supporting this. Hopefully, it will continue to get better and better,” she said. “It is always good to do something like this in memorial and when we get together like this it is really good.”

Brother Howard Osceola threw out the first pitch of the opening game featuring the

host team the Super Seminoles (SS) out of Hollywood taking on Team Trail.

“She always liked to do stuff like play softball,” he said. “She always liked sports and this is in good memory of her.”

Both teams established some early excitement with a tie early in the fourth at 7-7 in a back and forth battle. Team SS would gain control in the latter innings however and squeeze out a 16-13 win.

On Oct. 10, single elimination playoff action began.

The Choctaw team from Mississippi, Team Mod Squad, came into the tournament championship game as the front runner with Tribal citizen and coach Mingo Jones organizing the group. They faced Team SS.

Mod Squad coasted through the round robin prelims and headed into the championship game undefeated.

They would dominate coming out with a convincing 15-5 win led by players Gavin Williams, Justin Willis, Mulfin Jimmie and pitcher Adam Lewis.

He said part of the key to his team’s success was their chemistry and often playing together in Mississippi for several months each year. Although it was his first appearance he explained that the core of the squad remained from their 2007 tournament team.

“I thought it was pretty fun for my first time,” Lewis said. “I just liked having fun and playing. It is fun to play against other Tribes.”



Chris C. Jenkins

Philmon Bowers of Team Trail takes a breather in between action.



Chris C. Jenkins



Chris C. Jenkins

Mike Onco gets a hit and runs toward first base in his game.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tournament organizer Milo Osceola (C) with the Theda Osceola championship team Mod Squad



Pittman Sampson focuses and wins first place with a score of 177.



Joyce Jumper Pix gets ready to send her ball down the lane for a high score of 181 in the 3-6-9 game.

Bowlers Remember Dawn Marie Snow Fertitta at Memorial Tourney

BY **RACHEL BUXTON**
Staff Reporter

OKEECHOBEE, Fla. — Friends and family gathered at Stardust Lanes in Okeechobee Oct. 10 to remember the late Dawn Marie Snow Fertitta at the 6th annual bowling memorial in her name.

More than 25 teams of two competed for the top score in four different games — two regular, one 3-6-9 and one no tap.

"I just love it because they came out here to remember my mom and have a good time," McKayla Snow said.

Upon entering the bowling alley a big banner with a picture memorializing the late Fertitta was on display along with her nickname, Bud.

"It was just an off the wall name that popped into my head," Fertitta's father, Elbert, said referring to the nickname he gave his daughter.

McKayla Snow started the day off with a song dedicated to her mother. Snow sang "I Miss You" by recording artist Miley Cyrus. She said she decided to sing it because Cyrus wrote that song in remembrance of her grandfather she lost.

Snow accompanied by her cousin, Rumor Juarez, sang another

song in dedication to her late mother; a song by country singer Alan Jackson titled "Sissy's Song."

"I was driving and whenever I



McKayla Snow throws out the first ball in the tournament, using her late mother's bowling ball.

heard it, it made me think of Bud and what happened to her," Elbert Snow said

Following the song and a moment of silence McKayla Snow took her mother's bowling ball and headed down to the lanes to throw out the first ball.

The bowlers then warmed up and the competition began going into the late evening.

Beverly Tommie and Kevin Tommie took the first place finish for the first regular game with a team total of 432.

Farrah Jones and Elbert Snow snagged the 3-6-9 win with a score of 444.

The third game bowled regular went to Patricia Wilcox and Pittman Sampson with a team total of 376.

The no tap first place finish went to Laurie Snow and Jerome Davis with a score of 473.

Throughout the tournament money was collected for a 50/50 drawing with proceeds going toward the Dawn Marie Snow Fertitta nursing scholarship that is given out each year to a graduating senior.

Door prizes were also given out adding to the fun.

The family of the late Fertitta would like to thank everyone that made the bowling memorial a great success.

Seniors Compete in Annual Martha Tiger Pool Tournament

BY **NAJI TOBIAS**
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Win or lose, it's safe to say that the 8th annual Martha Tiger Pool Tournament served as an active event for the senior participants.

Held at the Big Cypress Senior Center on Oct. 2, a host of seniors gave their all in the competition, which generally embodied what the late Martha Tiger, who passed away in 2001, represented when she was a Senior Center member.

Tiger was honored and remembered by the participants as a person who liked to shop and travel frequently. She also liked to play pool. All of that led the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Tribal leaders to host an annual pool tournament in Tiger's name eight years ago.

"[The seniors] just come out here and have a good time," Chairman Mitchell Cypress said. "We're here to celebrate the memorial of Martha, one of our senior citizens who had been here for a while. Her and her sister, Juanita, they were both very active. So that's why everyone comes out here."

Tiger's radiant presence even rubbed off on Cecilia Guzman, the Senior Center's site manager. Guzman, who began working at the Senior Center nine years ago, did not know Tiger for too long. But in the short time that Guzman did, she said Tiger had an effect on her.

"To me, personally, she's still in our hearts," Guzman said of Tiger. "The little bit that I did know her, I did learn to appreciate her. And this brings memories of her back."

The pool participants, who came from various reservations, enjoyed mingling with each other as well as competing.



Big Cypress Board Rep. Paul Bowers Sr. takes his shot in 8-Ball play.

Results from the Martha Tiger Pool Tournament

8-Ball

Women: 1. Laura Clay, 2. Jane Freeman, 3. Alice Sweat, 4. Louise Osceola, 5. Jenny Johns; Men: 1. Russell Osceola, 2. Joe Junior Billie, 3. Chairman Mitchell Cypress, 4. David Bowers, 5. Paul Bowers.

Scotch Doubles

1. Laura Clay and Joe Junior Billie, 2. Jane Freeman and Rudy Osceola, 3. Louise Osceola and James Cornelius, 4. Jenny Johns and Jonah Cypress, 5. Alice Sweat and Earl Kirkland.



Chairman Mitchell Cypress focuses on his shot in the 8-Ball competition at the Martha Tiger Pool Tournament.

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(L-R) Big Cypress Senior Center Site Director Cecilia Guzman, 8-Ball women's winner Laura Clay and Big Cypress Recreation Dept. Coordinator Steve Frost share a happy moment after the conclusion of the 8th annual Martha Tiger Pool Tournament on Oct. 2.

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EIRA

From page 1C

continue to strive toward educational achievements. Our past Rodeo Queen Heather Peterson recently graduated from college and Shelby Osceola, Shelby DeHass and Jacoby Johns are currently attending Troy University in Alabama."

Following an introduction of the 2009-2010 Rodeo Queen Ashton Baxley and Jr. Rodeo Queen Ahmie Jumper, special recognition was given to the bull fighters and pick-up men, who make great

2009 EIRA Champions

Bareback: Jacoby Johns; Saddle Bronc: Tyler Humble; Steer Wrestling: GrayWolf Herrera; Calf Roping: Ivan Bruisedhead; Lady's Breakaway: Shelby Osceola; Team Roping Header: Josh Jumper; Team Roping Heeler: Naha Jumper; Barrel Racing: Boogie Jumper; Bull Riding: Seth Randolph; Men's All Around: Ivan Bruisedhead; Women's All Around: Leanna Billie; Boy's All Around: Kelton Smedley; Girl's All Around: Calgary Johns.

Non-Sanctioned Champions: Mutton Busting: Myron Billie; Pony Riding: Frank Huff; Calf Riding: Jobe Johns; Steer Riding: Andre Jumper; Jr. Bull Riding: William Bearden; 4-8 year old Barrel Racing: Brighton Bauman; 9-12 year old Barrel Racing: Calgary Johns; 13-17 year old Barrel Racing: Acelyn Youngblood; Junior Breakaway Roping: Dalton Boney; Chute Doggin: Andre Jumper; Jr. Steer Undecorating: Blevyns Jumper; Sr. Steer Undecorating: Chebon Gooden; Jr. Bareback Riding: Andrew Holmes; 50 and Older Breakaway Roping: Billy Joe Johns.

Reserve Champions: Bareback: Cody Parker; Saddle Bronc: Ivan Bruisedhead; Steer Wrestling: Naha Jumper; Calf Roping: Naha Jumper; Lady's Breakaway: Mindy Fish; Team Roping Header: Justin Gopher; Team Roping Heeler: Shawn John; Barrel Racing: Carrera Gopher; Bull Riding: Koly Brugh; Mutton Busting: Norman Osceola; Pony Riding: Jobe Johns; Calf Riding: Kirkland Boney; Steer Riding: Frank Huff; Jr. Bull Riding: Andrew Holmes; 4-8 year old Barrel Racing: Budha Jumper; 9-12 year old Barrel Racing: Kelton Smedley; 13-17 year old Barrel Racing: Janae Braswell; Jr. Breakaway: Kelton Smedley; Jr. Bareback: William Bearden; Chute Doggin: Ethan Gopher; Jr. Steer Undecorating: Kelton Smedley; Sr. Steer Undecorating: Dalton Boney and Andre Jumper; 50 and Older Breakaway Roping: Paul Bowers Sr. & Tom Koenes.

Regional Finals Champions: Bareback: Jacoby Johns; Steer Wrestling: GrayWolf Herrera; Calf Roping: Naha Jumper; Lady's Breakaway: Shelby Osceola; Team Roping Header: Justin Gopher; Team Roping Heeler: GrayWolf Herrera; Barrel Racing: Loretta Peterson; Bull Riding: Seth Randolph.



Judy Weeks

(L-R) EIRA Rodeo Queen Ashton Baxley, EIRA President Josh Jumper, EIRA Vice President Paul Bowers Sr., 2009 all around women's champion Leanna Billie, Steer Wrestling Director Jeff Johns, Calf Roping Director Wile Bruisedhead, Team Roping Heeler Director Naha Jumper and Breakaway Director Azye Henry officiate at the 2009 EIRA End of the Year Banquet.



Judy Weeks

Acelyn Youngblood (C) receives the 13-17 year old barrel championship for 2009 by Wile Bruisedhead (R) under the watchful eyes of (Back Row, L-R) EIRA Vice President Paul Bowers Sr. and Steer Wrestling Director Jeff Johns.



Judy Weeks

The 2009 EIRA champions (L-R) Leanna Billie, Ivan Bruisedhead, Calgary Johns, Josh Jumper, Naha Jumper, Shelby Osceola, Boogie Jumper, Jacoby Johns and Seth Randolph are honored at the End of the Year Banquet.

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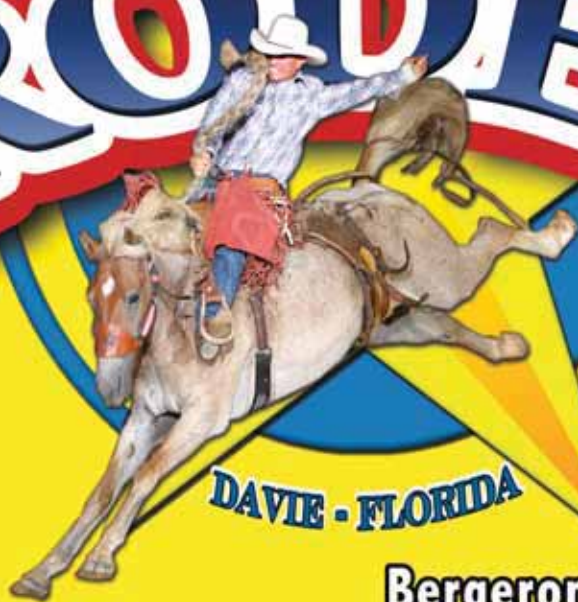
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Announcements D

BIRTHDAYS



Happy 12th birthday on Nov. 14, "Shy Girl" (Cheyenne Nunez).
Love always,
Mom, Dad, Daniel Jr., Courtney and Joleyne



Joleyne Rain Nunez, happy 1st birthday on Nov. 14. We love you very much!
Love,
Mom, Dad, Courtney, Cheyenne and Daniel Jr.



Happy 4th birthday on Oct. 11 to Kadin J. Tommie. May God bless you with many more years to come.
Love,
Grandma (Virginia Tommie), Grandpa, Aunt Missy, and all your cousins, Doug, Dion, Klayton, Tai and especially your little Bubba

Happy birthday on Oct. 10 to Mary Anderson. I would like to wish my mother-in-law a happy birthday by saying, Mary I love you and want to thank you for helping me get my life and my family back together. Hope life has been a little better for you. I pray all your stress will disappear. I love you. Thanks "momma." You're the best!
Love always,
Carolee Anderson



Happy birthday Mary Ann and Maleah. Hey baby girls, sorry I had to miss your birthdays again. I just wanted to wish you two a very happy birthday and that I miss and love y'all very much. Mary Ann and Maleah, y'all just don't know what y'all mean to me. Mary Ann, I love your truck. We all can't be perfect. Should have been a Dodge! Just a joke there, baby girl!

Love you,
Your Dad (Virgil Doctor)
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In Loving Memory of Devin Mindy Cypress-Kimble

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Some say you're in a better place,
Yet I feel like someone made a huge mistake.
As time passes the pain worsens not being able to see your face,
Believe it or not I have yet to find my place.
Where do I go from here? How do I deal with losing my one true family?
My true believer, my cousin/sister
The one who truly cared for me and my son.
Devin, you are a phenomenal Seminole woman
And this world did not deserve you,
You're a true angel from above,
Who was sent here to show us how to love.
You are always in my heart and soul
No matter where I may go...

I love you, Dev!

Foochie 4-Life,
Carolee Anderson



In Loving Memory of Jathania Tommie

It doesn't seem like a year has gone by since you left us and your precious little boys.

From the days when you were small, you brought a lot of joy to the family, especially your big sister, Missy. You have left behind only some sweet memories to treasure.

Through the years, as you have grown, the dear-ness that's your very own, and for being you, brings more love than any words can measure.

On behalf of the Rev. Frank Billie's family, we would like to thank everyone who showed their respect, love and support during our loss.

Thank you to all the Tribal leaders, Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Vice Chairman Richard Bowers Jr., Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Andrew Bowers Jr., Big Cypress Board of Directors Rep. Paul Bowers Sr. and Hollywood Board of Directors Rep. "Marcy" Osceola

Jr., who spoke at the Home Going service for Rev. Frank Billie.

We would also like to thank Jr. Battisti for singing Rev. Frank Billie's favorite songs. Thank you to speakers Leroy King, James E. Billie and Rev. Arlen Payne.

We would also like to thank all those who labored long and hard over the open fire to prepare the meals.

Thank you for all your prayers and flowers. God bless you all.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Willie Frank Library on Big Cypress Reservation will be hosting Magic Week the second week of November. The week kicks off with the opening of "The History of Magic" exhibit and ends on Friday, Nov. 13, with the "I Love to Read Magic Show" performed at 4 p.m. by Magician John Robert.



Linda Frederick, formerly Linda Mae Osceola, Panther Clan, models the outfit she made that won grand championship honors in the Tanana Valley State Fair fashion show, held in Fairbanks, Alaska in August of this year.

The Women in My Life

Today I have five women in my life that mean the world to me. They are all a very important piece of the puzzle that keeps my mind straight.

Even though I have lost two pieces of my puzzle, I do know and believe that my life will eventually smooth out the missing pieces. But the two missing pieces will always be missed.

As I was saying, the women in my life today are very precious to me. And I believe every man has that special woman in their life. So I know I am very blessed to have five special women in my life.

As I write this today, two of those five women are very special as it is the month that God in heaven blessed me with my daughter, Mary Ann, and grand-

daughter, Maleah. Today is Oct. 4 and I would like to wish those two special women happy birthday. Today I know my puzzle will never be complete, so all I can do is thank God for all those special women he has put in my life.

I know I am not the best son, father or grandfather in the world. Now I realize what I have out there, it just gives me the motivation to be the best son, father and grandfather that I can be.

Those very special women in my life are Minnie Doctor, May Ann, Maleah, Cadence and Nettie Smith. The two missing pieces of my puzzle are Tiffany and Pamela.

I love y'all very much,
The Virg (Virgil Doctor)
Somewhere in Florida

POEM

Being A Seminole Indian

Being a Seminole Indian is where it's at
Being a Seminole Indian is what it's all about
Being a Seminole Indian is what all outsiders want to be
Being a Seminole Indian is knowing your blood
Being a Seminole Indian is nothing to play with
Being a Seminole Indian is being proud of who you are
Being a Seminole Indian is being a part of one big family
Being a Seminole Indian is taking care of business
Being a Seminole Indian is knowing who you are
— The Virg (Virgil Billie)
Somewhere in Florida

Please see
page 2D for
more works by
Tribal poets

POEMS

At the Battle

At the battle in the sawgrass, I had on tattered and tattered clothes. The War Chief couldn't believe it, so I was issued a feisty ol' snappin' turtle to ride. "Hey, wait up for us!" I screamed to the mocking-birds flying overhead. By now, I was wearing my ancient Athenian battle helmet and shiny armor and had a busted cap gun in hand.

Forever Black

Over time the hello's less'n
And misery loves company
So we toast to loneliness
Sharing the moment
Hard to smile
So I frown
Right foot then the left
My feet struggle to receive the signal
Coming from my preoccupied brain
The lights are low
Yet they're always shining
The curtains are drawn
Still the noise seeps thru
My mind wondering,
How can they laugh in such dreary
weather?
Another glance and I catch a ray of sun-
shine
Then it's gone just as quick as it came
Too short to be a memory
So I proceed with feeling like s**t
Another sip of the poison

Beautiful Sad Love

Her heart break hair cascades down
and she speaks of heartbreak. And yet she
never loses her ability to love. That time
we stole away together across the night and
she said that tenderness dwells on a dove's
wing and we would hold on despite the
storm. But I made her mad and she offered
me silence in return. I saw the fiery colors

In Memory of My Father (The Blues Man)

I remember him back in the day with the
Trail blues band
Eugene Bert my father,
Who they called the blues man
He was so special to me
His talent with music,
Was a beautiful sight to see.
When he was up on stage he was happy as
can be.
He will always hold a place in my heart.
And never be a distant memory.
You were the best dad regardless of the
choices you made.
Life has been hard since you've been gone,
A very, very difficult phase.

On the home front, when the poet received
word of this, he persuaded all the myths
and legends to generate, a re-imagined,
if you will, a Wordsmith, they called
him, a Wordsmith so spirited, munching
on pumpkin-bread, giggling and weeping
while wolfing down a large bowl of Indian
Stew.

— Elgin Jumper, Oct. 2, 2009

Another flick of the Bic
Another toot for the nose
I proceed with feeling like s**t
Over time the friends fade
The body can't take it
And misery loves company
So we toast to loneliness
Sharing the moment
Forever night I crumble into pieces
Crying dry tears
Over photographs of the times
All those times I made 'em smile
That times I stumbled across an inner me
The wasn't confined to one realm of mad-
ness
Where resting my mind was easy
And thoughts were pleasant
As of now there's no turning back
I've made my history
What it will be
Forever black

— Markell Billie

of the sunrise in her eyes, a sorrow. Then
I lost her, a lone nighthawk who weeps
in shrieks about a conflict with starlight,
which is a lost night to set aright, so she
sings a song across the dawn, where a sa-
cred fire burns, and is ever-nearer when it's
gone. And so, my heart accepts the quest
that was lost in the distance of that night.

— Elgin Jumper, Sept. 30, 2009

I know what you were going through I've
been there myself.
We sometimes take refuge in misery a
strange kind of comfort.
But no matter what happens in life
Happiness is there for us just waiting to be
embraced.
You never told me that you loved me. But I
knew you did.
Cause the bond between father and son is
so powerful,
With a lot of love to give.
Thank you for being my dad.
I will always hold your name up high,
And I will never ever forget the father that
I once had.

— Myron Cypress, Otter Clan

I Ain't Mad At You

I ain't mad at you for hating me for who I
Am, proud to be unconquered Seminole
from the
Family of Panther Clan.
Don't hate us congratulate us for our
instincts
To survive, five hundred years plus once
again
We're starting to multiply.
Like Uncle once said we're going to buy
Manhattan
Back one hamburger at a time, the legal
way not
Like your ancestors did committing crimes.
True that's the past but you'll mind sets the
old,
Manipulate, exploit simply be
Cold.
True history has not been forgotten and the
tables
Have turned, now that you wear that shoe
make
Sure that the lesson to be learned.
Our leaders will continue to bring us out
the
Dirt and acquire land, we are just rightfully
Getting back what's ours as we expand.
They went to your schools and learned very
well,
Brought that knowledge back to our reser-
vations
And our blazing trails.
Those great leaders of ours know you want
To see us down on our knees, but just as
our
Ancestors we stand tall even when it was
Scraps of commodities and blocks of
cheese.
To be on knees is where you belong,
Feeshakomeche don't like ugly and our
Ancestors get the last laugh for all
Your wrong.
We unconquered Seminoles won't forget
where we
Come from and appreciate what we have
today, thank
You great leaders for protecting us from the
Hands of greed the same their ancestors
displayed.
Some live in the fantasy thinking all is fine,
open
Your eyes because there are many Coward
T.
Jessups in this time.
Racism and discrimination is here to stay,
when
You finally see it reverse it on them and
give
Them a taste of that game they play.
They can dish it out but they can't handle it
In return, laugh in those cowards face
For their hatred that burns.
I ain't mad at you but trust this uncon-
quered
We will remain, our ancestors fighting
Spirit is in us just the same.

— Ike T. Harjo, Panther Clan

Not Alone

My mind is elsewhere now
As I let time fade to black
Night is falling fast and I'm dreading that
look back
My thoughts are racing mad
My caffeine high is making me anxious
My view is being obstructed by a thick fall
of rain
I'm a thousand miles from nowhere
Yet, I still feel the pain
I shake my head and blink my eyes and let
out a yawn
Seems like only moments ago I held her in
my arms
I shed a tear and whispered clear — my
last goodbye, and broke on down
Then, not after, there were
Lowering her into the ground
The slight drizzle of rain was a peaceful
sound
Along with somber signs and sad good
bye's
We laid her six feet and sent her off to be
with — the most high
In real time it's been months since she
left with my heart

Filmmaking Poem

FADE IN: Okay, quiet on the set!
Rolling! Speed! Action! Well, helicopter
hold lights up, but cookies change the
shape and you have gels but it's not for
your hair. And you have to be in shape,
'cause after you shoot something, you
have to capture it again. Lights! Camera!
Action! You're shooting all the time, but
never once do you hold a firearm, less it's
a prop or something'. And, mind you, don't
break the 180-degree rule. Remember:
sound is fifty percent of what you see.
What? Just tell a story with pictures, okay,
with imagery, and with resonance, for
angles and shots abound! Creating cohe-

A Powerful Voice

The world of the unconquered is where you
will find me.
Livin' my life to the fullest,
In the village of my people is my destiny.
Warriors in a land that is rightfully ours.
So take your thrones, gather your strength,
And let's break these chains and bars.
Learn your language and remember what
we are here for,
The Seminole Tribe.
And the blood that flows through our veins
is the ultimate score
A society of warriors with no love for any
others.
So choose your words wisely,
Cause my love is only for my Seminole
sisters and brothers.
The law of the Seminole warrior is the only
law that I perceive

Six months of misery
And now I'm just picking up the pieces
That were shattered and broken and almost
lost completely
I've been heading down this lonely road
without a passerby
Kinda glad I didn't see a face because it
gave my time to cry
But now I know I must move on
How easy the words are to say
But what gets me by is my faith
That I will see her face again someday
One fine day
As I snap back to reality and take a look
around
Comfort embraces my heart
And whispers I'm not alone
I went a thousand miles to nowhere
Yet, I never really left my home
The minutes were really days
The days were really months
The months turn to seconds
I had to mourn my own way
To understand God's lesson
I find peace now in all God's blessings
And I don't see her's watching over her child
— Markell Billie

sive climates for creativity. Cutaways and
Cut-To's and Cut! Attach your umbrellas
to lighting, while Directors, ADs, DP's,
Screenwriters, Editors, Producers, Grips,
and Gaffers create a teamwork that makes
the dreamwork! Even so, Sides are for
casting, and auditions, and not a flank.
So "Say it like a robot this time." Any
re-direct? What's the emotional arc? Oh,
just plan it, shoot it, and get out! For like a
car, cameras roll and even speed! And so,
you hold your booms with blimps attached,
and you string together scenes like the
glass beads of a colorful necklace, or like
placing the magical tiles to mesmerizing
mosaic. Then simply FADE TO BLACK.

— Elgin Jumper, Sept. 30, 2009

I am an outlaw to the rest of the world,
And I don't have no understanding for those
who hate on me.
Don't let the outside world deter you from
our powerful beliefs.
Remember the old ones,
But most of all remember how they set us
free.
Fearless warriors who took it from the
muscle.
Those were our ancestors!!!
And that's how we overcame the struggle.
So don't forget the powerful nature of our
ways.
Always remember our grandfathers,
And put your hater blockers on cause The
Seminole Tribe is here to stay.
(Remember me)
Just keepin' it real,

— Myron Cypress, Otter Clan

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS FROM SEMINOLE EMS

ALWAYS USE COMMON SENSE.

YOUNG CHILDREN SHOULD ALWAYS GO TRICK-OR-TREATING WITH AN ADULT.

NEVER TRICK-OR-TREAT ALONE. HAVE AT LEAST 2 BUDDIES GO WITH YOU.

PLAN YOUR ENTIRE ROUTE AND MAKE SURE YOUR FAMILY KNOWS WHAT IT IS.

MAKE SURE THAT YOU ARE WEARING A FLAME RETARDANT COSTUME.

WAIT UNTIL YOU GET HOME AND YOUR PARENTS CHECK YOUR CANDY BEFORE YOU EAT IT.

BE VERY CAUTIOUS OF STRANGERS.

ACCEPT TREATS ONLY IN THE DOORWAY. NEVER GO INSIDE A HOUSE.

BE SURE AND SAY THANK YOU FOR YOUR TREATS.

DON'T PLAY NEAR LIT JACK-O-LANTERNS.

VISIT ONLY HOUSES WHERE THE LIGHTS ARE ON.

WALK, DO NOT RUN.

WALK ON SIDEWALKS AND DRIVEWAYS.

CROSS THE STREET AT THE CORNER OR IN A CROSSWALK.

TAKE A CELLULAR PHONE AND WATCH WITH YOU IF POSSIBLE.

CARRY A FLASHLIGHT.

WEAR COSTUMES WITH REFLECTIVE MARKINGS, AND BRIGHT COLORS.

COSTUMES SHOULD NOT DRAG THE FLOOR.

COSTUMES SHOULD BE MADE OF FLAME-RESISTANT MATERIAL.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB



(L-R) Richard Billie Jr., Nicholas Andrews, Gabriel Hendrickson-Porter, Craig Huckabee and Elijah Cook test out their paper and tape shelter.

Ahfachkee B&GC Practices Team Building, Critical Thinking Skills

BY THOMMY DOUD
Contributing Writer

BIG CYPRESS — Have you and your friends ever been stranded on a deserted island with only a newspaper and a role of tape? Have you ever been asked to be part of a scientific team responsible for designing and fabricating a vehicle to safely land an egg or move a meteor from one galaxy to another?



(L-R) Harmony Cypress, Nicholas Andrews, Leo Osceola-Onco, Chyler Villarreal, Dacia Osceola, Trinity Williams, Eynna Billie, Chynna Villarreal and Daya Koenes work together to transfer a meteor from one location to another.

Most likely you haven't, but the youth attending the Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club at Ahfachkee have.

During the month of September, club youth were asked to put their critical thinking and team participation skills to work.

The first of many objectives was to create a shelter using only newspaper and a roll of tape. The structure had to be large enough to safely shelter the entire team. The participating youth were given the instructions and materials and asked to complete the task in 15 minutes.

Four teams, with members ranging in age from 6-13, joined forces to create their shelters. In the end all four teams successfully created appropriate shelters.

In another project titled "The Infamous Egg Drop," teams received three sheets of paper, a measured length of masking tape, 10 wooden sticks and a piece of string. The task was to create a vehicle to protect an egg from a drop of 10 feet.

Together, the youth worked diligently

to design and build their egg ships. When the vehicles were completed it was time to go outside to the testing ground. The youth gathered around and counted down as the egg ships took flight. In the end only a few teams successfully landed what the children called "Humpty Dumpty." However, they all had a good time working together on the project.

"Team building helps in creating a successful learning environment," said Ahfachkee Principal Walt Swan. "Ahfachkee teachers participated in team building and we are glad that Boys & Girls Club has made this a major focus of their activities. We have seen a better sense of cooperation and communication in our staff and students who have participated in teambuilding."

Team building plays a major role in the planning and development of the curriculum design at the Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club at Ahfachkee School. Activities are created to introduce to youth the fundamentals and importance of working together to reach a common goal.

Team building also encourages youth to define their roles in a group setting and promotes positive communication and participation in a safe environment.

For more information about the Boys & Girls Club at the Ahfachkee School, please log onto the www.seminolebgc.org.



(L-R) Chelsey Alvarado, Rynne Pratt, Daya Koenes and Chloe Hendrickson create their egg ship to successfully land an egg from a 10 foot drop

B&GC, Health Dept. Attend National Juvenile Diabetes Program Training

BY ROBERT NORTH SR.
Contributing Writer

CATOOSA, Okla. — The Boys & Girls Club (B&GC) and Health Dept. staff participated in a three day national training in Catoosa, Okla. for the development and implementation of a Big Cypress B&GC Diabetes Prevention Program.

The Indian Health Service, National Congress of American Indians, Boys & Girls Clubs of America and Nike, Inc., have partnered to create a program called On the T.R.A.I.L. to Diabetes Prevention aimed at reducing the onset of diabetes among Native American youth. T.R.A.I.L. stands for Together Raising Awareness for Indian Life.

The 12 week program is an innovative combination of physical, educational and nutritional activities that promotes healthy lifestyles and provides youth with a comprehensive understanding of diabetes prevention.

The Big Cypress B&GC at the Ahfachkee School is pleased to have been selected as one of the 40 grant recipients to participate in this exciting initiative.

"The T.R.A.I.L. diabetes prevention curriculum is designed to be a fun learning process for Indian youth," said B&GC Counselor and training participant Velma Osceola. "This is important because there is a high incidence of juvenile diabetes within native populations ... I think this program will have a positive impact on our Tribal youth."

In the program, participants will draw from Tribal traditions and history to learn about nutrition, food

choices and the impact of diabetes. They then apply decision making and goal-setting skills in the physical activity challenge and engage in service projects to improve healthy lifestyles in their communities. Woven throughout the program are self-esteem and prevention activities; community and family involvement is encouraged.

Seminole Health Dept. Nutrition Coordinator Toma Hunter, also a training participant, said she was impressed by the diabetes prevention curriculum.

"I really like that [the curriculum development team] specifically developed the T.R.A.I.L. curriculum for native youth and it encompasses their whole' health, with the spiritual, mental, emotional and physical components," Hunter said.

This will be the first time that the Big Cypress Reservation will be participating in this youth diabetes prevention program. The T.R.A.I.L. Program was instituted at the Hollywood Reservation B&GC in 2006 and then again in 2007, through a partnership with the Health Dept.

Osceola said she was equally impressed by the youth-oriented diabetes prevention material.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the On the T.R.A.I.L. to Diabetes Prevention program should please stop by the Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club at the Ahfachkee School during the afterschool activities, or contact Thommy Doud at (954) 410-0957.

For more B&GC scheduling and activities, please visit the club's website at www.seminolebgc.org.

Hollywood Boys & Girls Club Visits BC Fire Station, Police Dept.

BY ROBERT NORTH SR.
Contributing Writer

BIG CYPRESS — On Sept. 28 a group of staff and youth from the Hollywood Reservation Boys & Girls Club traveled to the Big Cypress Reservation to tour the Big Cypress Fire Station and police department.

This tour was a part of observing Fire Safety Week, and arranged by Fire Marshall Chief David Logan. The participating youth were given the opportunity to witness fire station and police department operations as insiders and were introduced to many of the firefighters and police officers who serve the Tribe.

There were many important facts that were shared with the youth by the firefighters and police officers regarding what type of training is needed to become a firefighter or police officer. Towards the end of the tour, the youth were able to witness several types of firefighting demonstrations and were provided with gift bags.

The Hollywood youth would like to tour the Big Cypress Aviation Dept. on the next field trip.



(L-R) Jay Bowers and Mariah Bowers learn how to hold the fire hose from Tribal Firefighter/Medic Daniel Allis.



(L-R) Della Harjo, Mariah Bowers, Thelma Bowers and Jay Bowers learn about the operations during a police dispatch from Seminole Police Dept. Dispatcher Angie Rodriguez.

SEMINOLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

SPD Educates About Dangers of Prescription Drugs at Class

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Police Dept. (SPD) and Tribal citizens in the community gathered once more at the Hollywood Community Center Sept. 17 for week five of the ongoing SPD Citizens Police Academy Series.

The topics on the agenda included information on prescription drug misuse and Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) scams and device skimming.

"You are all sitting here today in the middle of an epidemic here in South Florida," Sgt. Jarret Romanello of the Hollywood Street Crimes Division said to those in attendance.

Romanello began the evening with an informative presentation on what he said has become an epidemic in the U.S.

"More people are overdosing nationwide on prescription drugs than crack cocaine," he explained. "I applaud you all for coming here to learn how to keep your communities safe."

Romanello expressed that with such a lucrative, on-the-rise problem in the Sunshine State the three areas of emphasis in his department are: prevention, interaction and enforcement.

According to Romanello, there are five categories of controlled substances. Schedule 1 drugs are the most highly addictive of prescription drugs and are illegal to dispense. Schedule 2-4 encompass controlled substances that are highly addictive and abusive. Schedule 5 drugs are the least addictive.

Romanello also said South Florida has quickly taken on the status and title of the "Columbia of legal narcotics use and access" and become the "pain center capital of the world."

He said these labels stem from many factors including: easy access off of Interstate 95 north and southbound, highly populated areas, a high volume of doctors, and other assumed responsibilities saddled on police officers among the counties.

"This has become such a lucrative business that even gangs are now in on it," Romanello noted.

He spoke about the Schedule 2-4 prescription drug Oxycontin, saying it is one of the most commonly abused prescription medications in the U.S., and the most commonly found drug on the reservations. The drug ranks at number two in the U.S. on the abused prescriptions list, second to marijuana.

"This was stuff I did not know about and how rampant it all has become," said Tribal citizen and class attendee Charles Hiers Jr. "I am glad [SPD] is taking control to try to help our people."

I would like to see more Tribal members take part in this," he added. "It will only help protect our future."

Oxycontin, also known as Oxy, OC, Blue, Hill-billy Heroin and Oxy 80s, is an opioid analgesic medication made from opium-derived Thebaine, and used to treat moderate to severe pain. It elevates levels of the neurotransmitter dopamine, which is linked with pleasurable experiences. The average cost per pill ranges from \$8-\$15 on the street.

The drug can be obtained by prescription and through pharmacies in most cases. It can impair both the mental and physical abilities including: irregular breathing or respiratory depression, headaches, nausea, dizziness, seizures, low blood pressure and heart failure.

Romanello said the good news for South Florida residents is that a prescription monitoring program has been passed in Florida.

He spoke about a new ordinance in the city of Dania Beach that has been enacted to ban pain management clinics, and said he hopes more cities will follow suit. However, currently there are no specific or special ordinances in effect requiring drugs to be secured or locked up in the home.

Romanello said plans are also in the works for an SPD-sponsored Community Bring Back Program for the proper disposing of prescriptions. He said the program will offer individuals the opportunity to drop off medications and prescriptions anonymously for proper disposal.

The night concluded with an alarming presentation by Hollywood Criminal Investigations Unit Detective Joaquin Ortiz on the newest trends in bank and credit card scams on the reservations, in Florida and nationwide.

Installing devices on ATM machines to retrieve debt and credit card numbers has regularly become the norm during the last 15-20 years, Ortiz said. He said the crime has spiked significantly in South Florida over the last two years with North Miami gangs heavily involved. The gangs are usually working in groups of four or more.

"These are things we all need to be aware of and conscious of because it is happening," Ortiz advised. "There are a lot of wonders with technology and it is all great but you do not know how much cyber crime has continued to improve."

Tribal citizen Ciara Billie-Guerue said she was pleased SPD brought such pertinent information to the Tribal community.

"I am glad that SPD is getting the word out there about things like this that we may have never known about," Billie-Guerue said.

Additional tips offered for protection include: shred papers and documents with any information of a sensitive nature which could be used for criminal purposes, keep tabs on credit card statements, keep regular tabs on how much money remains in bank accounts, put limits on withdrawal amounts and spending on your accounts, try to frequent ATM machines in heavily populated locations and while at ATM machines look for any out of the ordinary devices or possible hidden cameras.

To report illegal prescription drug sales or rogue pharmacies on the internet call the Pharmaceutical Drug Abuse hotline at (877) 792-2873. For non-emergency information on prescription drugs and their effects call the Poison Control Center at (800) 282-3171.

To report tips to SPD call the Crime Stoppers Tip Line at (866) 275-4847. All calls can remain anonymous.

SEMINOLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Citizens Police Academy Tackles Crime Scene Investigations During Week 6 of SPD Series

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — In week six of the Seminole Police Department's Citizens Police Academy Series, community members and department officials discussed the topics of crime scene investigations (CSI) at the Hollywood Community Center Oct. 1.

Five year Tampa SPD Road Patrol Lt. Jerry Herren gave eye-opening insight into the highly popularized subset of police work.

"When it comes to a crime scene investigation there are a lot of things that need to be done, unlike what you see on the TV when they just walk in and when they leave the crime is solved," Herren pointed out. "When I talk to police officers in teaching, I often will say 'Dress me slowly for I am in a hurry.'"

The retired Tampa Police Dept. CSI corporal and recognized industry expert said the popular saying simply means taking an investigation slowly is very important to solving a crime.

Tribal citizen Shani Billie said she enjoyed the presentation.

"I think it was all great for a better understanding," Billie said. "I really liked what he talked about and he summed things up pretty well."

The current SPD trainee has an associate's degree in investigation technology. She is also continuing her studies in criminal justice at Kaplan University.

Herren also said in his presentation that crime scenes are often broken down into various groups and an essential element to look for is the flow of the crime. Once officers have maintained control of the scene, and order with the victims, other officers, officials and the media are just a few vital factors they then have to consider.

He added that without control evidence is destroyed, assignments are overlooked, crimes go unsolved and the victim does not get closure.

"As a police officer I do not have the luxury of having a bad day," Herren said. "I deal with people's lives who are asking me to serve and help save them."

Also important at crime scenes are searches. Herren said there are three common types of searches, strip searches, which involve combing a specific area in one direction, grid searches, which involve duplicating or dividing a search area into different angles, and a zone search, consisting of dividing an area into different zones.

In the investigation of sex crimes and child abuse cases, Herren said there are several other facts to remember.

He indicated that prior to 1974 under Florida state law sexual crime charges only applied to penis-vagina contact. Currently, oral, vaginal, digital and anal contact can also be considered a crime. Herren also said that according to 2008 statistics every two minutes a person is raped in the U.S. Also, only 1 in 10 rapes will be reported and 1 in 6 boys and 1 in 3 girls will be sexually assaulted by age 18.

"Sex crimes are not crimes of passion, but of violence," Herren stressed.

Another point he mentioned was that any and all child abuse cases are considered felonies. Cases are measured on a one or three scale. One is the most serious involving permanent markings or disfigurement, while a three is the least serious involving non-permanent scarring or bruising.

Herren advised that examining a victim can play a significant role in solving crimes of an abusive or sexual nature as well. Hair can provide a lot of information regarding race, color or whether the potential suspect was human or an animal. Other areas to examine include the lips, forehead of a potentially abused youth, ears, neck or abdomen injuries.

There are also three ways to determine bruising which include glistening of the area, the degree of heat coming from the bruise — typically a bruise is 2-3 degrees warmer than the person's body temperature — and the bruises sensitivity to touch.



Tribal citizen and employee Hannah Billie takes notes during week six of the SPD Citizens Police Academy series.



Tampa SPD Road Patrol Lt. Jerry Herren (L) talks about possible clues to be found in a mock crime scene set up outside the Hollywood Community Center with Tribal citizens and employees.



Lt. Jerry Herren (L) discusses crime scene investigations, sex crimes and child abuse with Tribal citizens and employees at the class, held at the Hollywood Community Center Oct. 1.

Do You Need A Driving Class?



Your Police Department Teaches

First Time Driver Class – (Needed to get your Learner Permit)

Basic Driver Improvement Class – (4 or 8 Hour Program)

Advanced Driver Improvement Class – (12 Hour Program)

Aggressive - and Careless Driver Class – (8 Hour Program)

These classes taught on each reservation

To enroll fill out registration and return to Seminole Police Department

If you need any of the above classes, complete the information below and give to any Seminole Police Officer or bring it to Seminole Police Department. Richard Smith will contact you and set up the training class.

Most Insurance Companies accepts the Basic Driver Improvement Class and they will give you a 10% deduction on the cost of your policy for a three (3) year period.

Registration for Driving Course

Name: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____
Last First

Address: _____ City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Phone Number to reach you: (____) ____ - ____ Social Security Number (Last 4) _____

Cell Phone Number: (____) ____ - ____

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Do Not Fill Out If First Time Driver Class

Citation Number: _____ County: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Reason: ☐ Judge Ordered ☐ Elected ☐ HTO ☐ Insurance



Cut out and return to Richard Smith at the Seminole Police Department in Tampa



Indian Day

E



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal citizen Mike Micco puts the finishing touches on a soap carving at Hollywood's Indian Day festivities.

Hollywood Community Celebrates Indian Day

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — A two-day showcase of Native American culture, tradition and fun took place at Okalee Village's fifth annual Indian Day Celebration Sept. 25-26.

"For those outside of our culture we want them to get involved and learn more about us," said fifth year event organizer and Okalee Village General Manager Leona Poore. "I enjoy the other Native people and interacting with them."

In a host of festivities held throughout the Hollywood Reservation the Indian Day weekend featured alligator wrestling demonstrations, canoe racing, a doll making and a clothing contest. Participants also enjoyed wildlife shows, storytelling, musical acts, arts and crafts, native dance demonstrations and a performance from Native Comedian Vaughn EagleBear. The weekend was capped off with a golf tournament, a 2 mile walk/run, a horseshoe tournament, carnival, food tasting contest and a fireworks show.

"You could really call it all a lesson in cultural awareness," said Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max Osceola Jr. "We wanted people to come here and see our culture, crafts and even the alligator wrestling which used to be one of the main sources of income for us."

Rep. Osceola also spoke about and reflected on one of the Tribe's last founding members with the passing and funeral of Reverend Frank Billie Jr.

Osceola expressed his admiration for Billie, the last surviving member of the Tribe's original Constitution Committee. The late pioneer was instrumental in saving the Tribe from extinction in the 1950s as well. Osceola said Indian Day was a



Chris C. Jenkins

Miss Florida Seminole Princess Brittany Smith welcomes the guests in attendance at the fifth annual Indian Day celebration at Okalee Village.

definite part of Billie's overall vision.

Miss Florida Seminole Princess Brittany Smith made an appearance for the event at the Okalee Village greeting the guests on hand. She said spreading the word about Seminole culture through Indian Day is important to her.

"I want non-Tribal [citizens] to see that we, as Seminoles, are a strong and proud Tribe," Smith explained.

John Osceola, 9, said he had a lot of fun and enjoyed the weekend's activities.

"I liked everything," he said. "I liked

the carving, the culture, and the carnival rides."

The weekend also coincided with the annual golf tribute and memorial to late Tribal citizen and golf enthusiast Marcella Green. The tournament, which took place at Hillcrest Golf Course, featured a nine team scramble, blind draw, and long drive and closest to the pin contests.

"Before golf caught on with the Tribe, both [Marcella and her husband, Bob] were out here all the time on the courses," Tribal citizen and tournament organizer Mitch Osceola explained. "Indian Day is also a special day for all of us, not just Indians."

The first American Indian Day in any state was celebrated on the second Saturday in May of 1916 by the governor of New York. Many states celebrate the day on the fourth Friday in September. Currently, several states have designated Columbus Day as Native American Day; however it continues to be a day observed without recognition as a national legal holiday.

Hollywood Indian Day Contest Results

Canoe Races: 1. Jesus Lisarrage & Danny Allis, 2. Rachael Billie & Jackie Thompson, 3. Sunny Frank & Robert North Sr. Marcella Green Memorial Golf Tournament: 1. Jason Trinder, Jo-Lin Osceola-Trinder, Jamie Berman, Steve McDonald, 62, 2. Brett Green, Jeremy Bowers, Jackie Thompson, Steve Osceola, 65, 3. Mabel Doctor, Pete Russo, Ronnie Doctor, Brian Conley, 65.

Raffle Winners: Justin Emerson, Native American leather mask; Glennon Doyle, gator head; Nettie D Stewart, Hollywood Trading Post Gift Certificate; Tommie Motlow, Native Style sweater; Ollie Wareham, gift certificate for 3 day/2 night stay at Hollywood Hard Rock; Teresa Rubin, gift certificate for 3 day/2 night stay at Hollywood Hard Rock; Corina Frank Sanchez, gift basket; Diane Frank Seminole Hard Rock gift basket.



Chris C. Jenkins

Hollywood Board of Directors Rep. Marcellus Osceola Jr. warms up for competition in the horse shoe toss on the Seminole ball field during Indian Day events on Sept. 26.

Naples Celebrates Indian Day

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

NAPLES — Every day is Indian Day at the Juanita Osceola Center in Naples. Since opening the facility, the emphasis has been on teaching and enhancing the Seminole culture with classes designed for many age groups.

The Arts and Crafts Dept. schedules frequent workshops with age appropriate activities and is a gathering place for community members to work on their cultural projects. The center has been a bee hive of activity over the past several months while merchandise is being created for sale in Naples' booth at the American Indian Arts Celebration at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress.

All age groups have been participating in an effort to provide a well stocked market place for their cultural wares during the first week in November. Proceeds of the sale will be used to stock the center with supplies for future projects.



Judy Weeks

Tammy Billie (C) and her family lean back as flames shoot into the air at the Japanese Blue Grill.

The second annual Culture Day for the Naples residents took place Oct. 17. In view of the fact that the full roster of events closely duplicates the traditional Indian Day activities, the group opted for a non-conventional way to celebrate Indian Day.

Gathering at the Japanese Blue Fish Grill, members of the Naples community observed the culinary art of another culture from across the Pacific Ocean. Surrounding individual grills, the diners watched as chefs prepared their meal with expertise and showmanship entertainment. Children's eyes opened wide with wonder as flames leaped into the air, knives flashed like swords and eggs were juggled in the deft hands of magicians.

The gathering of approximately 50 community members took on a family like atmosphere as Naples Liaison OB Osceola Jr., circulated around the room. Filled with laughter and enthusiasm, the participants compared cooking over the open fire in a chickee to the centuries old extravaganzas taking place before their eyes.



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Brian Zepeda and Naples Liaison OB Osceola Jr. compare cooking over a Seminole campfire to a Japanese grill.



Rachel Buxton

Runners get ready for the signal to start the Indian Day Walk/Run.

Brighton Wakes Up for Walk/Run

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Writer

BRIGHTON — More than 40 Brighton community members woke up to a 5k morning walk/run Sept. 23-24 to take part in the Indian Day community walk, sponsored by the Seminole Health Dept.

"It is important for Tribal members to take advantage of the competitive walks, not only to reinforce a sense of community but to open themselves up to a new way of living" Barbara Boling of the Health Dept. said.

Kai Setty of the Recreation Dept. got walkers and runners warmed up by having a short stretching session prior to their take off. The walkers and runners completed a 5k trek, which is a distance of 3.1 miles.

"We are always happy to have so many

of our regular walkers and runners come out at 6 a.m.," Boling said. "We are equally happy to see so many new faces at these events."

The Indian Day walk is one of several planned community walks Tribal-wide that are part of the Seminole Pathways Walking Program. The program tracks the walker or runner's progress throughout participation in scheduled events. At the end of the program, awards and prizes will be given out to participants.

"We are working to challenge our participants to adopt a lifestyle that includes walking to maintain their health," Boling said.

For more information on joining the Seminole Pathways Walking Program please contact coordinator Edna McDuffie at (863) 983-5798 or visit www.seminole.com/walk.



Rachel Buxton

Brighton runners take off and pace themselves for their 3.1 mile run.

Non-Residents Celebrate Indian Day

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

OKEECHOBEE, Fla. — Non-Resident Tribal citizens, their families and Native American friends assembled at the Okeechobee Agricultural Center on Sept. 26 to celebrate Indian Day 2009.

Coordinating the occasion, Non-Resident Liaison Holly Tiger-Bowers and Seminole Media Productions Director Danny Jumper planned a roster of events that catered to all age groups.

Cultural heritage evolves throughout centuries and is a combination of the effects of environment, lifestyles, skills and spiritual beliefs acquired over many generations.



Trinity Bowers dances during the Nintendo Wii® tournament.



Dax Haught wins a Nintendo Wii® when he competed in the Rock Band® tournament.



Tiyan Anderson, 2, doesn't bat an eye when she takes second place in the modern category and third place in contemporary clothing category.



Examples of Seminole workmanship, including dolls and turbans fill arts and crafts tables.

Although graphic changes and exposure to multiple cultures have made it necessary for the Seminole people to incorporate the best from their ever-changing lifestyle, they recognize the need to preserve the roots of their existence.

Combining the old with the new, Indian Day activities and cultural events are one way to insure the preservation of the unique Seminole culture and language.

With the arrival of the participants, the arena became a bee hive of activity that closely resembled a cultural fair. Tables were laden with displays of arts and crafts indicative of Seminole tradition. Dolls, turbans, beadwork, sweet grass baskets, patchwork, clothing and woodcarving of the highest quality provided excellent examples of craftsmanship.

Fifteen artisans submitted a wide assortment of items varying in size, color and texture, but they all shared a few things in common — expert workmanship, attention to detail and cultural authenticity. From young adults to seniors, it was apparent the artisans took pride in their work.

This year's clothing contest comprised five categories: traditional, modern traditional, modern contemporary and jackets. Whole family units took part in the competition, which was divided into age groups.

With 119 participants entering nearly approximately 595 clothing ensembles.

Each article of clothing was modeled only one time or no duplication. All items were either new or in impeccable condition. The overall workmanship was of the highest quality and the judges experienced considerable difficulty in making their decisions concerning winners.

Senior women Alice Sweat, Louise Gopher and Connie Whidden showed extraordinary versatility in the design of their garments from ultra traditional to contemporary patterns that incorporated modern clothing styles with patchwork, ornamentation and a flare for the unusual. They set a high standard for the generations that are following in their footsteps, but are obviously learning from their example.

While there were few male adult entries, the design and attention to detail excelled in each presentation. It was a perfect example of quality over quantity. Parker Junes, Daniel Nunez Sr., Sandy Billie and Daniel Nunez Jr. appeared to have walked out of the pages of history.

Modeling their entries in the clothing contest, the adult women looked like mannequins from a museum in their traditional attire and used unlimited imagination in the creation of their garments. None of the fabrics or designs was alike and a great deal of attention had gone into coordinating the color combinations. A number of the contemporary shirts and jackets could have held their own on any fashion show runway.

Boys and girls from newborns to 17 years of age made up the bulk of the competition with some families being represented in each age group. All of the youngsters showed enthusiasm, were cooperative and some really liked to ham it up for the judges and camera crew.

Young girls in skirts and capes and boys in long shirts with turbans, leggings and silver ornamentation carried the judges back in time to another era in the history of the Seminole culture.



Parker Junes makes a clean sweep of first place in all five senior men's categories.

The entire clothing exhibition was an extraordinary display of Seminole craftsmanship and ingenuity.

The skillet throwing contest was limited to female entries and some of the contestants demonstrated a wicked arm as they attempted to propel their skillet to the furthest point. Flying through the air, rocketing into the chain link fence, skipping across the grass and slamming into the back of the bleachers, the cast iron skillet took their toll on their surroundings. Spectators rushed to avoid becoming targets. One young woman even managed to break the skillet.

The father and daughter team of Elbert and Wendy Snow made a clean sweep for first place in the horseshoe tournament after squaring off against five other teams. Their competition placed as follows: 1. Elbert and Wendy Snow, 2. Daniel Nunez Sr. and Salina Dorgan, 3. Ashley Wilcox and Quincy Wilson, 4. Myra Gopher and Kevin Osceola.

Straying from a cultural viewpoint, the younger generation had a blast competing in the Rock Band® and Nintendo Wii® dance tournaments. Playing guitars, drums and singing Karaoke, they took turns competing for scores tabulated by the computer. Agility and concentration were the key components for the dance contestants who synchronized their movements to the instruction panel. Rhett Tiger, Tobie Gopher and Dax Haught took home Nintendo Wii® games after achieving the highest scores for the day.

Games of chance have always found their way into every culture and the modern Seminoles are no exception. Bingo is always a favorite and found a willing crowd to play numerous rounds at the end of the day.

A delicious barbeque buffet was



Rita McCabe slings her skillet 42.7 feet in the Indian Day competition on Sept. 26.



Fondant was used to create Seminole patchwork and dolls on the three tiered Tribat-themed cake.



Elbert Snow, along with his daughter, Wendy, place first in the horseshoe tournament.



(L-R) Joshua Boromei and Drayton Billie model two different styles of traditional long shirts.



(L-R) Michele Thomas and Rose Jones show imagination in the creation of their garments.



(L-R) Connie Whidden and Alice Sweat deviate from the standard patterns in constructing their contemporary jacket and shirt.



(L-R) David Nunez Jr. and Sandy Billie look as though they walked off the pages of a history book in their regalia.



Young Seminole warrior Dwayne Billie Jr. takes first place in the 3-5 year old boy's traditional category of the clothing contest.



(L-R) Louise Gopher, Connie Whidden and Alice Sweat compete in the seniors' traditional category.

Brighton Keeps Traditions Alive at Indian Day

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Brighton community gathered together as a family Sept. 26 to honor their native history while celebrating Indian Day on the reservation.

"It's just a day that we can all just come together, the one big family that we are, [and] set aside all the differences," Junior Miss Florida Seminole Stevie Brantley said. "It just really brings us closer together as a Tribe."

Residents relaxed and enjoyed the day, also taking part in some friendly competition.

Brighton kept their culture and traditions very much alive and thriving in honor of Indian Day by including many traditional Seminole activities.

The men aimed for the target in archery, as the women participated in a frybread and pumpkin bread cook off. Both men and women showed their strength as they raced for the fastest times in pole peeling.

The children had their fun



Rachel Buxton

Sandy Billie Jr. shows his skill in the Indian Day pole peeling contest.



Rachel Buxton

(L-R) Aiyana Tommie and Alexis James mix the flour to make traditional fry bread.

as well taking part in activities put on by the Recreation Dept., including a football throw, 50 yard dash and skillet throw.

The Tribal youth also got to enjoy a mini-carnival, complete with rides and cotton candy.

"Indian Day means a bunch of us that we hardly ever see come together and participate in curricular events," Tribal resident Davey Snow said. "Basically, see people you don't see that much come together and have fun."

Tribal citizens also feasted on hamburgers and hotdogs, some even prepared by none other than Brighton Board of Directors Rep. Johnnie Jones Sr.

Brighton resident and museum Community Outreach Specialist Willie Johns said he hopes one day the Indian Day celebration will take place on one designated reservation with citizens from all reservations attending.

"I would really like to see it become a Tribal-wide deal where one reservation hosts all the reservations and everybody comes to it and we meet as a Tribe," Johns said. "I think that would be really fun."

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Naji Tobias

Tribal citizen Billy Walker opens an alligator's mouth during the Indian Day alligator wrestling show.

Big Cypress Celebrates Indian Day

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Many Tribal and community members from the Big Cypress Reservation enjoyed the vast array of Indian Day festivities Sept. 25-26.

The excitement began with the Indian Day Walk/Run, which took place just before sunrise near the East Canal Bank. After a prayer session, followed by a series of stretch exercises, the walk/run began.

A host of Tribal citizens partook in the 3 mile fitness challenge in which they traveled 1.5 miles each way, receiving Indian Day beads at the midpoint.

Marilyn Jumper, who finished first in the community runner's category, said she was pleased with the event's turnout.

"This encourages our Native Americans to get out and be active," Jumper said shortly after the walk/run. "It's a good opportunity for the Tribal members and inter-Tribes to come together and celebrate our national holiday."

Following the walk/run, a slew of activities took place at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena. Perhaps the biggest highlights of Indian Day at Big Cypress were the arts and crafts and clothing contests. The clothing contest featured traditional, modern and native traditional categories.

Competitors representing age groups ranging from newborns to seniors were decked out in Seminole regalia, which wowed the Indian Day attendees, including Van Samuels (Choctaw), the event's emcee. This was Samuels' second consecutive year emceeing the event.

"The Seminoles from Florida celebrate cultural diversity," Samuels said. "With all the cultural activities



Naji Tobias

(L-R) Louise Billie, Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress and Rudy Osceola finish the Indian Day Walk/Run together.

that still exist today at Big Cypress, the Tribal members here showed how important it is to pass these traditions to the Tribal youth and honor the Seminole elders who have paved the way. If not for the Seminole elders, we would not be here today."

Samuels, however, said of all the events that took place during Indian Day he was most impressed with how the Tribal youth understood the significance of the holiday.

"It's just fascinating and crucial for the future generations of Seminoles," Samuels said. "It's important for them because the culture lives on through them."

Other Indian Day events in Big Cypress included log peeling, archery and axe throwing competitions, sack races, running races and an alligator wrestling/styrtelling event hosted by Tribal citizen Billy Walker.

Big Cypress Indian Day Contest Results

Arts & Crafts Contest

Female: Ages 65 and older: 1. Virginia Tommie; Ages 55-64: 1. Cornelia Osceola; Ages 36-54: 1. Diane J. Snow, 2. Virginia Osceola, 3. Diane J. Snow; Ages 26-35: 1. Alice Billie; Ages 18-25: 1. Tasha Osceola; Ages 13-17: 1. Courtney Osceola; Ages 9-12: 1. Thomlynn Billie. Male: Ages 6-8: 1. Ko'Oshee Henry, 2. Ko'Oshee Henry.

Fry Bread Cooking Contest

Female: Youth: 1. Sierra Bowers, 2. Natamah Robbins, 3. Callie Joe; Adult: 1. Beverly Alumbaugh, 2. Cornelia Osceola, 3. Almira Billie; Male: Youth: 1. Christopher Joe, 2. Anthony Joe, 3. Tucamah Robbins; Adult: 1. Joe Herrera, 2. Happy Jumper.

Clothing Contest

Family Division: 1. Almira Billie, 2. Virginia Osceola, 3. Alice M. Billie.

Traditional

Female: Ages 0-1: 1. Tommi Stockton, 2. Tahniah Billie, 3. Mary Sally Osceola; Male: Ages 0-1: 1. Byron Billie Jr.; Female: Ages 2-4: 1. Xiya Osceola, 2. Sarafina Billie, 3. Keiyana Osceola; Male: Ages 2-4: 1. Xazier Osceola, 2. Kadin Tommie, 3. Kassim Stockton Jr.; Female: Ages 5-8: 1. Harmony Cypress, 2. Alena Stockton, 3. Shana Balentine; Male: Ages 5-8: 1. Ko'Oshee Henry, 2. Tash-Sho-Tah-Che Jumper, 3. Adakai Robbins; Female: Ages 9-12: 1. Thomlynn Billie, 2. Sierra Bowers; Female: Ages 13-17: 1. Courtney Osceola, 2. Alisha H. Billie; Female: Ages 18-25: 1. JoJo Osceola, 2. Azye Henry, 3. Tasha Osceola; Male: Ages 18-25: 1. Byron Billie, 2. Wilson Bowers, 3. Ronnie Billie Jr.; Female: Ages 26-35: 1. Alice M. Billie, 2. Tommi Billie; Male: Ages 26-35: 1. Marion Tommie, 2. Kassim Stockton, 3. Billy Walker; Female: Ages 36-54: 1. Virginia Osceola, 2. Diane J. Snow; Female: Ages 55-64: 1. Louise Osceola; Male: Ages 55-64: 1. Thomas M. A. Billie; Female: Ages 65 and older: 1. Virginia Osceola.

Modern

Female: Ages 0-1: 1. Mary Sally Osceola, 2. Tommi Stockton, 3. Miah Osceola; Male: Ages 0-1: 1. Byron Billie Jr., 2. Landell O. Turtle; Female: Ages 2-4: 1. Keiyana Osceola, 2. Aniah Cypress, 3. Xiya Osceola; Male: Ages 2-4: 1. Leighton Jim, 2. Xazier Osceola, 3. Micah Stockton; Female: Ages 5-8: 1. Eliza Billie, 2. Marley Herrera, 3. Julia Smith; Male: Ages 5-8: 1. Adakai Robbins, 2. Tash-Sho-Tah-Che Jumper, 3. Skyal Tommie; Female: Ages 9-12: 1. Natamah Robbins, 2. Thomlynn Billie, 3. Sarah Osceola; Male: Ages 9-12: 1. Ethari Balentine, 2. Troy Yescas; Female: Ages 13-17: 1. Alisha H. Billie, 2. Natasha Billie, 3. Courtney Osceola; Male: Ages 13-17: 1. Tucamah Robbins; Female: Ages 18-25: 1. JoJo Osceola, 2. Tasha Osceola; Male: Ages 18-25: 1. Byron Billie Sr., 2. Wilson Bowers, 3. Ronnie Billie Jr.; Female: Ages 26-35: 1. Clea Billie Herrera, 2. Tommi Billie, 3. Alice M. Billie; Male: Ages 26-35: 1. Kassim Stockton, 2. Joe Herrera, 3. Marion Tommie; Female: Ages 36-54: 1. Almira Billie, 2. Virginia Osceola, 3. Diane J. Snow; Male: Ages 36-54: 1. William Cypress; Female: Ages 55-64: 1. Louise Osceola; Male: Ages 55-64: 1. Thomas M. A. Billie; Female: Ages 65 and older: 1. Virginia Tommie.

Native American Community Members

Males: Ages 0-1: 1. Aubrey Kirkland; Male: Ages 18-25: 1. Shaun Daughety; Female: Ages 36-54: 1. Celesta Osceola; Male: Ages 36-54: 1. Van Samuels; Female: Ages 55-64: 1. Dolly Tecumseh.

Pool Tournament

8-Ball

Seniors: Women: 1. Juanita Osceola, 2. Jane Freeman, 3. Louise Osceola, 4. Laura Clay, 5. Louise Billie; Men: 1. Daniel Gopher, 2. Charley LaSarge, 3. Roy Snow, 4. Gary Clay, 5. Jimmie Bert; Women: Jamie Onco, 2. Phalyn Osceola, 3. Theresa Nunez, 4. Arica Osceola, 5. Grace Martino; Men: 1. Randy Clay, 2. Ildy Garcia, 3. Leon Micco, 4. Mario Posada, 5. Mike Dewitt.

Scotch Doubles

1. Charley LaSarge/Phalyn Osceola, 2. Roy Snow/Theresa Nunez, 3. Angelo Claro/Arica Osceola, 4. Leo Onco/Jamie Onco, 5. Raymond Garza Sr./Virginia Billie.

9-Ball

Women: 1. Laura Clay, 2. Dale Grasshopper, 3. Connie Williams, 4. Marissa Cypress-Baker, 5. Theresa Nunez; Men: 1. Tony Bert, 2. Charley LaSarge, 3. Raymond Garza Sr., 4. Tony Billie, 5. Jesse Urbina.

Walk/Run

Walkers

Female: Ages 66 and older: 1. Louise Billie; Ages 55-65: Teresa Jumper; Ages 36-44: 1. Marcia Cypress, 2. Carol B. Osceola, 3. Noella Dyan O'Donnell, 4. Marissa Baker; Ages 18-35: 1. Clea Billie Herrera, 2. Jamie Onco; Male: Ages 55-65: 1. Jonah Cypress, 2. (tie) Rudy Osceola, 2. (tie) David Cypress; Ages 36-44: 1. Rob Landin; Ages 18-35: Michael Onco Jr.; Youth: Ages 13-17: 1. Spencer Jock, 2. Tucamah Robbins; Ages 6-12: 1. Natamah Robbins, 2. Brandi Osceola, 3. Adakai Robbins; Community Members: 1. Delwin McCowan, 2. Chris Hulbutta, 3. Harley Roberts, 4. Emilia Jumper.

Runners

Female: Ages 55-65: 1. Shirley Clay, 2. Mary F. Tigertall; Ages 36-44: 1. Cathy Cypress, 2. Almira Billie, 3. Rebecca Billie; Ages 18-35: 1. JoJo Osceola; Youth: Ages 6-12: 1. Romeo Garcia, 2. Chaska Osceola, 3. Tash-sho Jumper; Community Members: Nano Brooks, 2. Marilyn Jumper.

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Seminole Pathways walking program is available to Seminole Tribal Members and their immediate families, brought to you by the Seminole Health Department

*Some events excluded

*PATHWAY WEEKLY WALKS BEGIN

BIG CYPRESS

Tuesdays at 8a
Senior Fitness Trail

BRIGHTON

Thursdays at 8a, 12p & 4p
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

DIABETES WALK

November 14, 7:30a
USF

TURKEY TROT

Date TBA , Each Rez

JINGLE JOG

Date TBA , Each Rez

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



Ethan Billie takes second place in the young men's archery competition.



(L-R) Jack Aguilar and Damian Escobar paddle furiously toward the finish line.



Nicki Davis exhibits her modern skirt and cape before the judging panel at the Immokalee Indian Day clothing contest.



Troy Cantu places second among the youth runners at the Indian Day Walk/Run.

Immokalee Celebrates Indian Day

BY JUDY WEEKS
Staff Reporter

IMMOKALEE — The Immokalee Indian Day celebration spanned a three day period as community members participated in cultural activities.

The events got underway with the clothing contest on the evening of Oct. 8, and continued with traditional competitions through the afternoon of Oct. 10.

"Cultural awareness and preserving our heritage is important to the Seminole people," said Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar. "When your language and traditions are no longer practiced, you cease to exist as a culture. Our ancestors sacrificed a great deal in order that we might be here today. It is our responsibility to insure that future generations continue this legacy."

With the passage of time, clothing becomes modified by the availability of materials and styles change according to the environment and the artistic expressions of those who create and wear the apparel. Immokalee's clothing contest reflected nearly two centuries of Seminole attire, with models of all ages helping display the various styles.

This year's clothing entries were limited to solid colors in the traditional category and tie-dye, prints and solids were incorporated into the modern division.

It was required that all clothing be fairly new and exhibited only one time and on one individual. This was done in



(L-R) Kenny Joe Davis Sr., Raymond Yzaguirre III, Pete Aguilar Jr., Josie Davis and Randy Osceola enter the Seminole jacket contest.

an attempt to encourage the manufacture of new garments and insure the teaching of the art to the next generation.

The canoe races were held in the lake behind the community's houses on the evening of Oct. 9. Seniors were permitted to assist them as a team in the paddle boats, where they got plenty of exercise.

Divided into age groups, the canoe races were extremely competitive, and at times, hilarious. Over confidence took its toll on more than one team and two adult canoes flipped, making it necessary for the occupants to swim to shore.

Everyone roared with laughter when 10-year-old, Alicia Mora said: "I don't need any help. I've been doing this for years."

Unfortunately, her partner was a little beginner and lost her paddle with the first dip. Granted a "do over," the girls zig-zagged across the lake, eventually returning to the finish line where the crowd cheered their arrival.

"That is the kind of spirit and determination that made it possible for our ancestors to survive," Liaison Aguilar said.

The Indian Day Walk kicked off in the pre-dawn darkness with walkers and runners following a course around the reservation. By the time the event was completed, the sun lit up the sky and the participants gathered for a healthy snack, while Nutritionist Charlotte Porcaro encouraged



Tommye Billie models her Seminole patchwork skirt and cape.

them to take part in the Seminole Pathways Walking Program.

Immokalee Cultural Coordinator Amy Clay and her staff prepared a traditional Seminole meal over the fire, while the community members competed in the turtle races, axe throwing, shaker races, archery, log peeling, fan tacking and rib and chili cook-offs.



(L-R) Nancy Motlow, Bobbie Billie and Martha Billie compete in the senior Seminole patchwork jacket contest.



Kenny Joe Davis Sr.'s succulent ribs took the championship in the cook-off.

Porcaro encouraged



(L-R) Kenny Joe Davis Sr. turns the pole for Valene Clay as the bark flies and she wins the women's log peeling contest.



Immokalee Culture Coordinator Amy Clay lights the fire in anticipation of preparing a traditional Indian Day meal.



(L-R) Nancy Motlow and Raymond Yzaguirre Jr. arrive at the finish line just seconds after their competition, earning the duo second place.

Immokalee Indian Day Contest Winners

- Chili Cook Off: 1. Kenny Joe Davis Sr.
Rib Cook Off: 1. Kenny Joe Davis Sr.
Turtle Races: Children: 1. Remey Davis, 2. Brendan Posada; Seniors: 1. Elaine Aguilar, 2. Louise Motlow.
Archery: Ages 6-11: 1. Jack Aguilar, 2. K.J. Davis, 3. Kenny Joe Davis Jr.; Ages 14-17: 1. Trey Boone, 2. Ethan Billie; Adults: 1. Kenny Joe Davis Sr., 2. Michael Mata.
Shaker Races: Ages 6-11: 1. Shyanna Escobar, 2. Lindsey Posada, 3. Makayla Gonzalez; Ages 12-17: 1. Vanessa Billie, 2. Alexis Jimmie, 3. Lauren Posada; Adults: 1. Deirdra Hall, 2. America Martinez, 3. Valene Clay.
Log Peeling: Men: 1. Kenny Joe Davis Sr., 2. David Tahchawickah, 3. Raymond Yzaguirre III; Women: 1. Valene Clay, 2. Amy Clay, 3. Josie Davis; Seniors: 1. Martha Billie, 2. Nancy Motlow.
Fan Tacking: Ages 6-11: 1. Jack Tahchawickah, 2. Billy Walker, 3. Troy Cantu; Ages 12-17: 1. Alexis Jimmie, 2. Eliza Mora; Men: 1. Kenny Joe Davis Sr., 2. Ray Yzaguirre III, 3. David Tahchawickah; Women: 1. Valene Clay, 2. Amy Clay, 3. Josie Davis; Seniors: 1. Martha Davis, 2. Nancy Motlow, 3. Elaine Aguilar.
Axe Throwing: Ages 6-11: 1. Destinee Jimmie, 2. Kenny Joe Davis Jr., 3. Jon Jimmie; Ages 12-17: 1. Eliza Mora, 2. Alexis Jimmie; Men: 1. Kenny Joe Davis Sr., 2. Ray Yzaguirre III; Women: 1. Deirdra Hall, 2. Ashley Billie, 3. Amy Clay; Seniors: 1. Nancy Motlow, 2. Martha Billie, 3. Elaine Aguilar.
Canoe Races: Seniors: 1. Elaine Aguilar and Kenny Joe Davis Sr., 2. Nancy Motlow and Ray Yzaguirre Jr.; Women: 1. Josie Davis and Bonnie Davis, 2. Esmeralda Billie and Ashley Billie, 3. Amy Clay and Valene Clay; Men: 1. Kenny Joe Davis Sr. and Ralph Escobar, 2. Ray Yzaguirre III and Michael Mata, 3. Edward Aguilar and Randy Osceola; Ages 14-17: 1. Ethan Billie and Christopher Briscoll, 2. Cassandra Jimmie and Jordan Rodriguez, 3. Alexis Jimmie and Alexis Aguilar; Youth: 1. Kenny Joe Davis Jr. and Dennis Gonzales, 2. Troy Cantu and Jack Tahchawickah, 3. Jack Aguilar and Damian Escobar.
Indian Day Walk: Youth: 1. Kenny Joe Davis Jr., 2. Troy Cantu, 3. Damian Escobar; Native Community: Stephan Bagby; Women: Ages 18-36: Runners: 1. Lorraine Posada, 2. Victoria Mata; Walker: 1. Jennifer Ramos; Men: Ages 18-36: Runners: 1. Michael Mata, 2. Edward Aguilar; Women: Ages 37-54: Runners: 1. Mary Lou Alvarado; Walkers: 1. Cindy Aguilar; Men: Ages 37-54: Walkers: 1. Mario Posada; Senior Men: 1. Pete Aguilar; Senior Women: 1. Elaine Aguilar.
Clothing Contest: Traditional: Boys: Ages 4-8: 1. K.J. Davis; Ages 9-12: 1. Kenny Joe Davis Jr.; Adult: Men's Shirts and Jackets: Ages 18-54: 1. Kenny Joe Davis Sr., 2. Deirdra Hall; Women: Ages 18-54: 1. Josie Davis; Turbans: 1. Martha Billie, 2. Nancy Motlow; Modern: Boys: Shirts and Jackets: Ages 0-3: 1. Elijah Hall, 2. Kashmir Joiner, 3. Angelina Hall; Ages 4-8: 1. Ezekiel Roberts, 2. Jack Aguilar, 3. K.J. Davis; Ages 9-12: 1. Damian Escobar, 2. Paul Tahchawickah, 3. Kenny Joe Davis Jr.; Ages 13-17: 1. Alexis Aguilar, 2. Nicki Davis, 3. Alexis Jimmie; Ages 18-54: 1. Randy Osceola, 2. Pete Aguilar, 3. Ray Yzaguirre III; Seniors: 1. Nancy Motlow, 2. Bobby Billie, 3. Martha Billie; Girls: Ages 0-3: 1. Jaleesa Clay, 2. Shaylah Tahchawickah, 3. Mary Jane Martinez; Ages 4-8: 1. Jaliyah Arteaga, 2. Caniah Billie, 3. Aiyana Gonzalez; Ages 9-12: 1. Tommye Billie, 2. Lauren Posada, 3. Makayla Gonzalez; Ages 13-17: 1. Vanessa Billie, 2. Nicki Davis; Adult: Women: Ages 18-54: 1. Bonnie Davis, 2. Deirdra Hall, 3. Amy Clay; Seniors: 1. Nancy Motlow, 2. Martha Billie, 3. Alice Clay.



Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar (C) pits her soft shell turtle against Louise Motlow's gopher turtle and comes away with first place in the races.

Tribal Citizens Attend Indian Day Golf Tournament

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

NAPLES — Players in the Indian Day 2009 Golf Tournament took to the links at 9 a. m. on Sept. 26 at the Heritage Bay Country Club.

Open to Tribal citizens, their spouses, Tribal employees and invited guests, the competitors played in teams during the 4-man scramble. Drawing from a roster of seasoned players, each of the teams represented a formidable challenge.

Players traveled from Holly-wood, Brighton, Big Cypress, Im-mokaalee and Naples to participate in the competition.

"Our Native American culture has always had a close relationship to our environment and derived their livelihood from the land," said Raymond Garza Sr. "Spending the day in the sunshine and beautiful outdoor landscape of our homeland is a great way to celebrate our heritage."

A 27-hole course, the tournament was played on holes 13 through 27. From the time the first ball left the tee until the players sunk their last putts, the competi-tive spirit ran high in a good natured fashion. The greens were fast and the players were ready to meet the chal-lenge.

The first place winning team of John Madrigal, Jason Tommie, Billy White and James Tommie had a fabulous score of 15 under par, which means that they birdied nearly every hole.



Woody Doherty

(L-R) Billy White, James Tommie, John Madrigal and Jason Tommie won first place at the golf tournament with a score of 15 under par in the 4-man scramble.

It was no surprise when Ricky Doctor turned in the longest drive in the senior men's division. During the past several tournaments, he has put some amazing power behind the ball on some very difficult fairways. Joe Anderson and Virginia Billie were the longest drive standouts in the men and women's divisions, respectively.

Tabulating the Closest to the Pin (KP) shots on the par 3 holes for the senior men 50 and older category, Mondo Tiger and Kenny Campbell tied on the 13th hole. Then, Kenny Campbell came back to win on #17 and Tiger aced #21 with Lawrence Osceola showing them how it should be done on #26. All members of the same team, they held bragging rights for the day.

KP scores for the men's division were spread out with play-ers from separate teams. Cicero Osceola, Raymond Garza Jr., Joe Anderson and James Tommie made the winning shots. Virginia Billie excelled on behalf of the women.

Tournament winners were as follows: 1: John Madrigal, Jason Tommie, Billy White, James Tommie. 2: Lawrence Osceola, Mondo Tiger, Kenny Campbell, Jeremy Harrison. 3: Elliot Young, Anthony Young, Joe Anderson, Arthur Lieborwitz. 4: Mario Posada, Raymond Garza, Sr. 5: Ricky Doctor, Steve Frost, Bill Wilson, John Martin. 6: George Grasshopper, Troy Frank, Cicero Osceola, Ray Yzaguirre.



Woody Doherty

The golf team from Immokaalee of (L-R) Raymond Garza Jr., Mario Posada, Raymond Garza Sr. and Virginia Billie, placed fourth in the 4-man scramble at the tournament.

Trail Community Indian Day Walk



Michael Cantu

(L-R) Richard Keyser Jr. receives his Indian Day T-shirt from Allied Health Program Manager Suzanne Davis.



Michael Cantu

Tribal citizen Delores Osceola participates in the Sept. 19 Trail Indian Day Walk, held at the Miccosukee Village parking lot. More than 40 participants walked in the Holywood Health Dept. and Fitness Program co-sponsored event. The youth and adults walked 2.5 miles, while the seniors walked 1.5 miles.

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Naples Joins the Path to Wellness

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

NAPLES — Members of the Naples community received the map to guide them along the path to wellness when they attended the Indian Day Walk at the Sun 'N' Fun Lagoon Park on Sept. 12.

Gathering in the exhibition hall at 8:30 a.m., the group listened to a presentation by Health/Nutrition Educator Charlotte Porcero in which she introduced the Seminole Pathways Walking Program. Discussing the unlimited health benefits of walking, Porcero spoke about the project and distributed literature.

This is the first time Naples community members have been invited to participate in a program of this nature as a community effort and they displayed a great deal of enthusiasm. A schedule was established for weekly walks to take place on Wednesday mornings with participants meeting at the park at 6:30 a.m.

"Walking is one of the best things that you can do for yourself and we hope that providing you with incentives will keep you motivated," said Walking Program Coordinator Edna McDuffie.

Community Health Advocate Barbara Billie and Nutritionist Sue Fundingsland assisted in passing out Indian Day Walk T-shirts, healthy snacks and beverages at the event.

Even though a steady rainfall delayed the day's activities, it did not dampen the spirits of the participants. When the weather changed to a slight drizzle, the group grabbed umbrellas and headed for the boardwalk and woodland paths that surround the park. From babies in strollers to senior citizens, everyone started down the path to a healthier future.



A light rain couldn't keep Ingram Billie Jr. from participating in the Naples Indian Day Walk.



(L-R) Connie Slavik, Michelle Billie, Barbara Billie, Corey Billie and Maggie Porter do stretches to loosen up before beginning the walk at the Sun 'N' Fun Lagoon on Sept. 12.



Photo Courtesy of Seminole Broadcasting

(L-R) Linda Henry, Carmelena Macheveli and Kaylin Henry display their winning entries in the arts and crafts competition.

Tampa Celebrates Native Culture at Indian Day

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

LAKELAND, Fla. — The Tampa community became one as they celebrated Indian Day and participated in some traditional fun Sept. 26 at the Lakeland property.

"This was very exciting for Native Americans to come and gather and look around because when we all gather in one area it shows the amount of people and it shows all our families and they get to recognize each other and see each other and they communicate," Culture educator Herbert Jim said.

The day honored Native history in all aspects, ranging from traditional cooking to traditional demonstrations.

Tampa elder Bobby Henry put on a woodcarving demonstration and hosted a stickball game for the Tampa youth teaching them about their past.

"Kids growing and learning so we need to talk about cultures and histories and cookout and play stickball," Henry said. "Just anything you can think about that Seminole people do back in old days."

The youth also got lessons on how to make fire and how to knap arrowheads; the same activities their ancestors partook in.

While the youth learned about their culture the adults competed in an array of cultural activities including pole peeling, hatchet throwing, skillet throws and archery.

Prior to the actual Indian Day

celebration Tribal citizens created works of art to enter in the arts and crafts competition.

"Most of our ancestors would be really excited about today," Jim said. "It's been a long time since the people moved out to the cities. They're all scattered and nobody has been around to gather to do things like this."

After much fun, the residents dressed in traditional Seminole clothing to model for the much anticipated clothing contest.

"Today was a really good day," Jim said. "We had a lot more participants, a lot more students coming out participating in the arts and crafts. This is the biggest one yet."



Photo Courtesy of Seminole Broadcasting

Curtis Motlow takes aim at the target in the archery competition.

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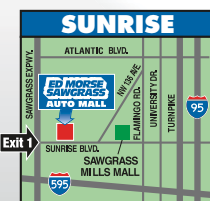
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