



Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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Undefeated Lady Seminoles Take Championship Title

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

ATMORE, Ala. — Brighton's Lady Seminole claimed the Native American Softball Association (NASA) slow-pitch softball championship the weekend of Aug. 14-15 in Atmore, Ala.

The team consists of players Laverne Jones Thomas, Amanda Smith, Farah Jones, Mary Huff, Jo "Boogie" Jumper, Wendy Bowers Riley, Carla Gopher, Ginger Jones, Reina Micco, Kasey Baker, Juanita "Jo Jo" Osceola, Diane Smith and Linda Tommie. Head Coach Jason Thomas leads the team with the help from Assistant Coach Tombo Riley.

The weekend-long competition kicked off with the Lady Seminole going head-to-head with team Chata.

"It takes weeks of practice to get into the physical shape to play a weekend-long tournament," Coach Thomas said. "Game one was going to set the pace for the entire tournament."

The Lady Seminole started strong in the first inning with seven runs which consisted of six walks, four hits and a home run by Mary Huff. With a final score of 16-4 against Chata, the Lady Seminole put

▢ Please see NASA on page 2A

Youth Honored for Scholastic Achievements

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

TAMPA — Tampa students were recognized for their academic achievement Aug. 18 at the annual incentive award ceremony, held at the Tampa Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

"The spotlight is on the children tonight," Brighton/Tampa Tribal Council Rep. Andrew Bowers Jr. said. "Good work and keep it up."

The Education Dept. welcomed the community and began the evening with guest speaker, Captain Kipper Connell of the Seminole Police Dept.

Connell touched on four major topics pertaining to education and success: communication, potential, decision-making and perspective.

Connell explained to the students that "communication has a lot more to do than just words."

"Know the message you want to send," Connell said.

He encouraged the students not to let obstacles or other people limit their expectations and achievements.

Director of Education Emma Johns presented Tampa Education Advisor Stephanie Johns with a

Tribal Council Convenes in BC

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Tribal Council gathered for a special session on the Big Cypress Reservation on Aug. 19. They passed 34 resolutions on the agenda including:

Resolution 22: Honeywell Avionics Protection Plan (HAPP) agreement for corporate operators with Honeywell International, Inc.; ratification;

Resolution 25: Ratification of the Seminole Tribe of Florida filming permission letter granting Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen (ZDF) permission to film a television show on the Big Cypress Indian Reservation;

Resolution 26: Ratification of the Seminole Tribe of Florida filming permission letter granting Evolution Film and Tape, Inc. permission to film a television show on the Big Cypress Indian Reservation;

Resolution 27: CBS Outdoor, Inc., bulletin advertising agreement for Billie Swamp Safari;

Resolution 30: Cancellation (write-off) of outstanding Tribal Council loans to deceased Tribal members;

Resolution 39: Redline Media Group, LLC, personal services agreement for Seminole Indian Casino-Hollywood;

Resolution 40: The Seminole Tribe of Florida Native Learning Center approval of the Native American Housing Block Grant Program under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, ratification of execution of application and submittal; limited waiver of sovereign immunity; and;

Resolution 41: Amendment No. XXI to Constitution and Bylaws Seminole Tribe of Florida; to amend Article II, Sections 1-8 and to repeal Article II, Section 9.



Shelley Marmor

Members of the Seminole Police and Emergency Services Departments join some of Hollywood's Tribal youth for the approximately 1.5 mile walk through the Hollywood Reservation. The walkers started their route on the ball field and made their way through the reservation to commemorate National Night Out to Prevent Crime, now in its 26th year.

Community Walks for National Crime Prevention Event

BY SHELLEY MARMOR
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Police Dept. (SPD) joined forces with departments including Emergency Services, the Boys & Girls Club and Seminole Security to host the Tribe's second annual National Night Out to Prevent Crime event on the evening of Aug. 31.

The event, though only in its second year within the Tribe, celebrated its 26th anniversary this year.

To commemorate the event, people throughout the country turned their porch lights on and left them on all night in a show of solidarity for the officers and emergency services personnel that keep their communities safe.

Other common events that took place include parades, rallies and walks. Both this year and last year, the Tribal employees from the Hollywood Reservation hosted a walk, which began on the ball field.

Prior to the approximately 1.5 mile walk through the Hollywood Reservation, guest speakers including Robert North Sr. of the Boys & Girls Club and Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. thanked community members for participating in the event.

Rep. Osceola also thanked the parents for bringing

their children to the event.

"I'm glad to see all these kids here," he said. "That means you care."

He also reminded the attendees to be thankful to the SPD, Emergency Services and Seminole Security members who serve the Tribe, saying "they help us and they protect us."

SPD Operations Lt. Powell Morris, a nine year veteran SPD employee, also spoke at the event prior to the walk beginning.

"We can't do it alone," he said. "We need the help of the community for this to be successful."

After the walk the participants made their way back to the ball field for dinner, a raffle and entertainment from Tribal citizen Paul "Cowbone" Buster and the Cowbone Band.

Started in 1984, National Night Out to Prevent Crime aims to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for anticrime programs, strengthen police-community partnerships and send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized, according to the official event website, www.nationaltownwatch.org.

For more information on National Night Out to Prevent Crime please call (800) NITE-OUT or visit www.nationaltownwatch.org/nno.



Shelley Marmor

Following speeches from Tribal officials, the National Night Out to Prevent Crime walk gets underway.

E-la-mash-ke Che-ke Recovery House Opens its Doors

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Hopes, dreams and years of planning were finally re-

warded when the ribbon was cut during the opening ceremonies of E-la-mash-ke Che-ke three-quarter House in Big Cypress on Aug. 19.

Loosely translated, E-la-mash-ke

Che-ke means "to help oneself house." This new facility will impact the lives of the community members in numerous ways, according to Family Services Dept. Director Helene Buster.

"Family Services is about building, nurturing and repairing families," she said. "Today our prayers are answered with the establishment of the three-quarter house to provide structured living facilities for Tribal members in recovery as they make the transition from the rehab to home life."

"Our primary goal is to assist in returning people to their homes without returning them to their previous lifestyle," continued Buster. "Recovery from abuse is a long, but rewarding road and we are dedicated to helping you make the journey."

Excitement filled the air as the crowd watched Buster and Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress raise their enormous scissors and cut the barrier at the entrance to this important stepping stone in the process to recovery.

"This is a place for people to strengthen themselves through responsibility and make measurable progress that they can take home and use to build a new life for themselves and their loved ones," said Rep. Cypress.

Following the Tribal leaders into the building, the community members took a guided tour with Family Services Dept. representatives Debra Ray, Jodi King, Raymond Yzaguirre and Harold Baxley.

Once inside, outward appearances proved to be deceiving. Four large, two-man bedrooms can accommodate eight male Tribal citizens at a time with separate quarters for a manager. Spacious, attractively decorated common areas, state of the art kitchen facilities and private bathrooms await the residents. A technology area, meeting, conference and classrooms complete the layout.

Working closely with the construction team, Assistant Family Services Director Debra Ray said, "Foreman and Project Manager Charlie Paoli has been an indispensable force in coordinating our set up. A member of Carter Clough's Administrative Services staff, Paoli made a personal commitment to meeting our needs and we are extremely grateful to him."

Vocational Community Liaison Jodi King added: "Chris Lawrence with Five Points donated a major portion of the landscaping and sod, which have transformed this building into an attractive living facility."

"The three-quarter house will strive to put tools in the kits of our clients and help them to learn to use the tools that they already possess," said Buster. "Observing self progress creates a path to future success. They can feel safe here as they work, advance their education and become productive citizens of the community."

Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max

▢ Please see RECOVERY on page 2A



Rachel Buxton

(L-R) Family Services Dept. Director Helene Buster, Assistant Director Debra Ray, Counselor Harold Baxley and Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony at E-la-mash-ke Che-ke.



The Lady Seminole win first place in an undefeated championship run in the NASA tournament, held Aug. 14-15 in Alabama.

NASA

From page 1A

themselves in great position into the second game. Game two was a high scoring game against the Thriller. Huff hit yet another home run, accompanied by Reina Micco who hit one deep for an easy home run.

With a final score of 23-4, the Lady Seminole headed into game three against one of last year's rivals The Players.

"The game could not have been more perfectly matched, as both teams offered up a rock solid defense rarely seen in these types of tournaments," Thomas said.

Going into the fourth inning, the scoreboard remained empty until Amanda Smith made a hit, putting her into scoring position. Wendy Riley followed hitting a double, bringing Smith home for the first run of the game. The Lady Seminole held The Players off, winning 7-0.

Game four saw the Lady Seminole against the home team, and perhaps the toughest teams of the tournament, the Poarch Creek Girls.

For the entire game the Lady Seminole were neck and neck with the Poarch Creek Girls in perform-

mance. Neither team managed to get on the scoreboard. It wasn't until the fifth inning that the Lady Seminole made their mark and brought in 11 runs. With a major win of 14-1, the Lady Seminole were sent directly to the championship.

The championship brought a bit of a twist with the Poarch Creek Girls making a comeback to face the Lady Seminole yet again.

Both teams fought hard in the championship slugfest. When the Lady Seminole scored, the Poarch Creek Girls scored. In the seventh inning the Lady Seminole finally managed to get up by 15 runs. With the championship in their sight, the Lady Seminole had to endure one more at bat from the Poarch Creek Girls.

The Poarch Creek Girls were able to close the gap a bit, trailing only by 10, but it just wasn't enough to keep the Lady Seminole from being named NASA champions.

"Some of the woman on Lady Seminole have been playing in [NASA] since they were 18," Thomas said of her team, which has players as old as 33 now.

"With only one prior championship on the mantle, they were more determined than ever," he added about his winning team.

INCENTIVE

From page 1A

farewell gift as she herself gets ready to go back to school to complete her four-year degree.

"It has been a wonderful experience getting to know you all," Stephanie Johns said. "It has been a wild ride."

Students were presented with academic awards for grades and attendance. They also received backpacks with their names embroidered on them to start the new school year with.

Emma Johns announced the theme "Raising the Bar" for the 2009-2010 school year. She said her department also created a theme for parents this year since education starts in the home.

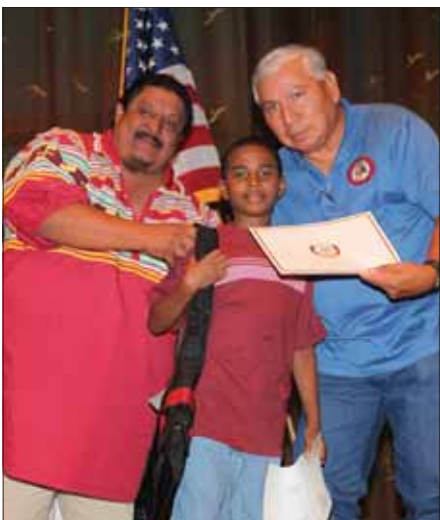
"We're here to help but we also need your help," Emma Johns said to the parents.

Tampa Liaison Richard Henry congratulated the students and praised the parents.

"Parents you deserve a round of applause," Liaison Henry said.

Rep. Bowers closed the awards with a final thought to the students.

"Not everyone has to go to university," Rep. Bowers said. "Get something that will carry you through life. Go become something."



Cavan Guzman (C) receives his award for attendance from Tampa Liaison Richard Henry (L) and Brighton/Tampa Tribal Council Rep. Andrew Bowers Jr. (R).



Becky Bowers (R) of the Education Dept. presents James Williams Jr. (L) with a new backpack to help him prepare for the upcoming 2009-2010 school year.

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RECOVERY

From page 1A

B. Osceola Jr. also offered his thoughts on recovery and the facility itself.

"The journey to recovery begins in many places," Rep. Osceola said. "Everybody makes mistakes. Today we put the key in a door that will open upon a positive future for the entire community."

Beginning with Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Tribal leaders took turns congratulating the Family Services Dept. staff for their dedication and commitment to the communities they serve.



(L-R) Family Services Dept. Director Helene Buster and Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress tour the spacious living facilities at the Big Cypress facility.



Large common areas with state-of-the-art facilities will give residents an opportunity to transition to independent living.



Family Services Dept. Director Helene Buster announces the opening of the three-quarter house in Big Cypress. The house is designed to provide self-help within the aftercare program.



Tribal Liaison William Osceola thanks everyone who participated in creating this haven within the Big Cypress community.



Through the E-la-mash-ke Che-ke three-quarter house, Tribal citizens in recovery will learn how to make a successful transition back into their community.

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Community

A



A museum patron looks at a photography exhibit by artists Neal Ambrose Smith and Jaune Quick-To-See Smith. In the photo installation the artists challenge viewers to examine how they stereotype people based solely on physical appearance.

'Unconquered Imagination' Exhibit Showcases Native Artistic Talents

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Throughout the last seven months, six contemporary Native American artists have had an opportunity to display their work in an exhibit entitled "Unconquered Imagination" at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum at Okalee Village.

Running through Nov. 29 exclusively at Okalee, the artists' works have displayed a spin on visual sovereignty through art, Ah-Tha-Thi-Ki Museum Director Anne McCudden explained.

"This exhibit has given the artists a chance to get their work out there," McCudden said.

She said although the exhibits have no direct ties to the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the name reflects on the strength, courage

and perseverance shown by many Tribes in the midst of political, military and psychological struggles throughout the centuries.

"It is different than what we usually do," Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Curator of Exhibits Saul Drake said of the exhibit. "I do not think people expected us to put that type of thing together."

"Our exhibit team did a really good job as far as design and flow with this project," he added. "People who really want to come and see a contemporary art exhibit could enjoy it."

The featured artists include Jaune Quick-To-See Smith, Larry McNeil, Neal Ambrose Smith, America Meredith, Will Wilson and Erica Lord.

As a renowned guest curator and Navajo Indian Tribe photographer Wilson also contributed his work and helped create the idea for the artists chosen. He said the goal of his work and the exhibit is to "produce images and sensory experiences which convey representation of by and for American Indians."

There are also plans for an exhibit catalog.

Art educator and community organizer Wilson explained that his work offers a glimpse into the complex contemporary plight of Native Americans that have become alienated in society and from their land.

Jaune Quick-To-See Smith is an internationally renowned painter, printmaker and artist. Her work is known for containing strong, socio-political commentary within its imagery. She has been creating abstract Native American paintings and lithographs since the 1970s using a variety of textures and mediums.

McNeil uses photos expressing an emphasis on American mythology. He has won numerous awards including the National Geographic All Road Photography Award for his photography work.

Fellow photographer Ambrose Smith has had his work in dozens of galleries, exhibitions and conferences across the U.S. and worldwide. He also has public collections in close to 10 U.S. cities.

Cherokee Nation member and past San Francisco Weekly Painter of the Year Meredith infuses her native language into her work. She works in pen and ink, serigraphy, monotype printing and beadwork, with her primary on painting with acrylic, egg tempera, gouache and watercolor.

Lord is an interdisciplinary artist who uses both academic and vernacular subjects and processes. Her work examines the trials and roles of Native American woman as well as explores the stereotypes and representations of Indian people through the use of photography and video.

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum at Okalee Village is located at 5716 Seminole Way next to the Hard Rock Improv at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino's Seminole Paradise Facility.

For more information please call (954) 797-5570 or (863) 902-1113.



Exhibit attendees can see Jaune Quick-To-See Smith's 1996 mixed media collage "Indian Men Wear Shirts and Ties" at the "Unconquered Imagination" exhibit, on display at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum at Okalee Village through Nov. 29.

Vietnam Veteran Stephen D. Bowers Remains A Leader Within Tribal Community

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Twenty-one year Tribal employee and war veteran Stephen D. Bowers is known as a leader among both his people and for his country.

At the age of 60, he has worked on the front lines and behind the scenes for change and prosperity in his community as well.

In order to become the success he is today however, the leadership skills and work ethic he has learned came early on in his life. The family cattle farming business was one major family custom and influence.

"It has been a tradition [Seminoles] have had for years and years," the Hollywood resident and father of one explained. "It was all about sharing a friendship and closeness between us that a lot of kids now cannot relate to."

The roots of the business run deep for the Bowers family as President Richard Bowers Jr., Big Cypress Board of Directors Rep. Paul Bowers Sr. and Bright-Tribal Council Rep. Andrew Bowers Jr., all cousins of Bowers, are cattle owners and handlers presently.

He said he still remains hopeful and optimistic for the future of the one time economic giant of the Tribe although economic hardships forced his late father, Casey, and mother, Stella Mae, to sell out their own community stake in the 1960s.

As he entered adulthood his career path and responsibilities would continue to develop and further establish his political views.

After graduating from McArthur High School in Hollywood in 1967, and briefly attending Broward College, he was drafted by the U.S. Army to fight in the Vietnam War. At that time the average serviceman was only 19 years old.

"Going to school you do not know what you want to do or what you want to be. In going to the Army I knew what I was going to be doing," Bowers explained. "I also thought to myself, here I am an able bodied man capable of helping out."

"I was ready to go and was assured," he continued. "I felt, I am a warrior and this is my country too."

While serving he received sergeant status and had limited combat action performing enemy observation watches in remote and rural locations. A family death would bring him back to the U.S. with an honorable discharge in 1971.

"I want people to know that I am proud of my service," he emphasized. "I think every Tribal member that served is also equally proud of their service too."

He said he also remains proud and in support of our current wartime troops in Iraq.

In the 1980s he began to establish himself as a fixture for change in the Tribe doing work as a recruiter/work coordinator through the Neighborhood Youth Corps. The program helped youth and teens with jobs, performance and development.

The idea for the Tribal Color Guard also fell into place around this time. The original members include Tribal Council



Chris C. Jenkins

Stephen D. Bowers

Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Board of Directors Rep. Paul Bowers Sr. and Bowers himself.

Bowers said the concept took off in popularity because of frequent requests at pow-wows, fairs and other major functions in Florida and across the U.S. where a Seminole Tribe presence was needed. As an active member presently along with Board Rep. Bowers, he said often-times the demand for the group outnumbers the time available.

Nowadays, the newlywed also holds the role with the Tribe as liaison to the Governors Council on Indian Affairs.

His responsibilities involve establishing relationships with state agencies in Florida on educational, agricultural and other levels assisting in Native American affairs. He also remains actively involved with military related events and activities within the Tribe.

"What I am trying to do here with my time now with the Tribe is help work for our veterans and service them," Bowers said. "I enjoy my ability to go to meet various senators, representatives, and other groups to represent the Tribe."

"I want people to know we as a Tribe are also interested in the needs of the state of Florida and I want to continue to humanize us," he concluded.



Stephen Galla

(L-R) A Child is Missing founder Sherry Friedlander receives the donation check from Vivian "The Texas Tornado" Villarreal at a presentation held Aug. 31 at Okalee Village.

Tribally-Sponsored Vivian Villarreal Donates \$5,000 to Children's Charity

BY ELIZABETH LEIBA
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Women's Professional Billiards Association (WPBA) Tour professional pool player Vivian "The Texas Tornado" Villarreal donated a check for \$5,000 to the Fort Lauderdale-based nonprofit organization A Child is Missing in a presentation held at the Okalee Village on Aug. 31.

Villarreal, who is sponsored by the Seminole Tribe of Florida, said she was pleased to be able to contribute money to a cause she believes in.

"Every year, I try to raise more and more money," Villarreal said. "If I can help anybody it makes me happy. It's

a blessing."

Sherry Friedlander, founder of A Child is Missing, accepted the check and thanked Villarreal for her donation.

"It's wonderful to have your own community recognize you," Friedlander said.

Her organization also presented Villarreal with a plaque in appreciation for her fundraising efforts. Tribal Programs Officer Bobby Frank also accepted a plaque from Friedlander on behalf of the Seminole Tribe.

A Child is Missing was founded in 1977 as a community-based organization to locate children within the first few hours of disappearance. For more information please log on to www.achildismissing.org

Chairman Meet and Greet



Chris C. Jenkins

Chairman Mitchell Cypress (R) and Representative Kendrick B. Meek (L), who has served Florida's 17th congressional district since 2003, at a meet and greet at the Tribal Headquarters on Aug. 26. In anticipation of the 2010 midterm election Rep. Meek, whose district encompasses much of eastern Dade and Broward Counties, announced in January of this year his intentions to run for Mel Martinez's soon-to-be vacated U.S. Senate seat.

Tribal Citizens Enjoy Annual Water Day Event

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Six slides, a dunk tank and a back-to-school raffle giveaway were primary attractions at the fourth annual Water Day event, held at the Big Cypress Community Center on Aug. 12.

In addition to backpacks and school supplies being

distributed, two of the approximately 65 youngsters in attendance won prizes during the raffle drawing. Cassie Alexander, 9, won an iPod® Touch, while Johnnell McInturff, 13, was the recipient of a Nintendo® DSi game console.

However, the water activities were the main feature at the event, with many of the attendees making their way to the dunk tank, water tag maze, double Slip 'n Slide® and the other water games and rides.

The attendees also had the chance to ride on six water slides including a dual water slide known as the Big Kahuna, which Leslie Leiva, 15, said was her favorite water ride at the event.

"I had an awesome time on the water rides," Leiva said. "My favorite ride was the Big Kahuna because when you flip down the slide, it felt like you were going to go over it."

"All of us kids had a wonderful time and I hope we can have it again next year," she added.

Roy Pendleton, a supervisor with the community center, said he was thoroughly pleased with the event turnout.

"The kids had a great time staying wet all day," Pendleton said. "It was refreshing that they got to enjoy all this great food and activities we had for them. This is a nice way to wind down the summer as the kids get ready to hit the books."



Naji Tobias

(L-R, Front Row) Alyxander Pilgrim, 7, and Darius Friday, 10, engage in a playful water gun fight with (L-R, Back Row) Kale Osceola, 7, and Tyrus Billie, 13, at the fourth annual Water Day event, held Aug. 12 at the Community Center.

Fire Rescue Dive Team Practices Life-Saving Skills

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Members of the Tribe's dive rescue squad took part in training at the Seminole Paradise lake as part of a monthly, organized training session on Aug. 24.

The training session allowed the divers to get in some basic practice, exercise, conduct an equipment review and team discussions, Fire Rescue Dept. Capt. Robert Curtis explained.

Fire Rescue Dept. Chief Joe Sorrentino leads the five-year-old program, which specializes in water-related emergency rescues involving vehicles, drownings, canal rescues and black water operations. Dive trainings also take place at various locations throughout the Tribe's reservations.

"This is one of those jobs that there is not a need for everyday, but when the time comes you had better be ready to go," Curtis said. "All these guys have made the commitment that they are going to go out to do the job no matter what. We are in the business of rescuing people."

As an avid swimmer and rescue diver, Curtis has also been a part of the Tribe's Fire Rescue Dept. ranks for the past two years. He and 22 others make up the squad.

Curtis explained that the canals on either side of Snake Road on the Big Cypress Reservation just off I-75, has been a hot spot for rescues throughout the years. The intersections of Henry Osceola Road and Northwest Canal Street with Snake Road have proven to be some of the most challenging areas on the road.

Because dives are never done in clear water, some of the challenges divers face include entanglements and mask black-outs. To help aid the divers as an extra set of



Chris C. Jenkins

Dive rescue squad member Jorge Valdes inspects his gear before a practice dive in the lake at Seminole Paradise.

eyes, back-ups personnel assist from the shore.

"There is no feeling or way to explain diving into water and not being able to see where you are going," Curtis pointed out about the canals and other bodies of water throughout the reservations. "This is a very dangerous aspect of fire rescue; that is why the training is so strenuous."

One strong supporter of the program has been veteran Fire Rescue Dept. Operations Chief Robert Suit. He has more than 40 years experience under his belt, including more than 30 years with Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Station 14 in south Miami.

"I was so glad we got this off the ground, especially in BC," he pointed out. "It takes a special group that can come out and do this especially since most of the diving is done by feel."

Requirements to be in the program include being a firefighter, being open water certified, passing a cumulative swim test, treading water for at least 15 minutes, participating in off-duty trainings, performing a rescue tow and taking 40 hours of dive rescue classes.

Divers are also required to take a yearly standardized field test and attend the off-duty training sessions with only two absences allowed throughout the year. The last major dive rescue for the group came occurred during the 2008 holiday season.

For more information on the program please call (954) 410-0484.



Chris C. Jenkins

(L-R) Divers Jonathan Gluck and Drew Layne receive instructions from fellow Fire Rescue Dept. employees on the shoreline.

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Independence Edition | Red, H2, 2008, 25 Passenger



SoBe Edition | White, Cadillac Escalade, 2008, 21 Passenger



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

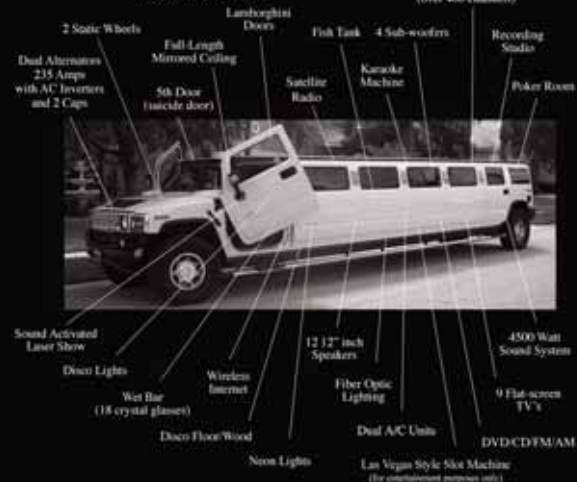


Mercedes Benz | 2008, 4 Passenger



Rolls Royce | White, 1963, 3 Passenger

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The Gibbs Family, the featured musical guest act, close out the Rock the Rez service on Aug. 16 with a rendition of their song "I am A Friend of God."

New Testament Church Hosts Rock the Rez

Attendees Enjoy Festivities at Back to School Event

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — There was plenty to do at the Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church on the weekend of Aug. 16-17 at the Rock the Rez event, a back-to-school bash function.

The about 70 attendees had numerous options; some played video games while others took advantage of the water slides and engaged in a series of races to cool off. Nearby, others competed in a pickup touch football game and the more adventurous types took on the rock climbing device.

Claude Jean-Jacques, a 17-year-old visitor from Hollywood Christian Church in Hollywood, took part in many of the Rock the Rez activities. He said it was a pleasant and exhilarating experience.

"It was my first time here," Jean-Jacques said. "I liked it when a lot of my fellow youth were willing to come out and have a good time."

After working up an appetite engaging in some physical activities, attendees made their way to the dining hall for dinner. Following, they went to the church sanctuary for the evening's entertainment, courtesy of gospel rock bands Airborne and The Gibbs Family.

Airborne took the stage first, performing a slew of praise and worship songs including "You Are God," a signature tune of this musical act.

The Gibbs Family, which consists of James Gibbs, Vernon Gibbs, Natasha Darnah and Timothy Gibbs, was the main attraction for Rock the Rez. Performing rock gospel tunes such as "Here I Am to Worship," "I'll Fly Away" and "I am A Friend of God," the audience was clearly moved by the message behind the songs.

Fittingly, it all tied in to a message of inspirational provided by Mike Riddering, the youth pastor for

Hollywood Community Christian Church.

"When we try to do something ourselves, we're going to fail," Riddering encouraged the attendees. "If you're trying to fight life's battles yourself, then you need to know that God has provided people around you to hold your hands up. You need people around you; you can't do this alone. Without God, we are weak."

Vernon Gibbs, who has been a part of the Titusville, Fla.-based rock gospel band for the past 13 years, was visibly touched by the service.

"This was an effort to do anything necessary to get the kids in church and off the streets," Gibbs said. "I think lives have been changed in a positive way. I like to believe we put a smile on peoples' faces. God has blessed us to be a blessing to others."

The Gibbs Family returned the next day to New Testament's Sunday morning service, and the conclusion of Rock the Rez.

Reverend Arlen J. Payne, pastor of the New Testament Baptist Church, was the speaker on that Sunday morning, Aug. 17. Rev. Payne touched on the importance for youngsters to "grow strong and be filled with wisdom."

He followed with some words of wisdom for the school-aged children.

"We encourage the kids to work hard, to read and to learn everything they could in trying new things," Rev. Payne said. "Also, we want our kids to be well-versed so they could be focused in school each day."

The Sunday service concluded with a gift for the youth participants, a messenger bag they can use to carry books, lunches or even a laptop.


Riddering called Rock the Rez one of "the greatest events that has happened" to him ever.

"It's kind of a neat thing," he said of about the kids." We're raising up the next generation; it's all about the kids."



Gospel/rock band Airborne play their signature song "You are God" as they inspire Rock the Rez attendees at the New Testament Baptist Church.

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Youngsters Treated to Spa Day by Departments

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Pooling their resources, various Tribal departments from the Immokalee community co-sponsored "A Day at the Spa" for students in preparation for the new school year.

Booths were set up in the Immokalee gym on Aug. 20 at 10 a.m. so the youngsters could get in some relaxation before starting the 2009-2010 school year.

The children spent the ensuing four hours participating in a wide variety of activities and received a raffle ticket at each booth they visited. Tickets were drawn at the conclusion for gift bags containing educational materials.

Lacking the proper facilities, necessity became the mother of invention.

Without a shampoo chair and sink, the picnic table in front of the gym and garden hose with nozzle made excellent substitutes. Laughing with delight, the children anxiously awaited their turn for a shampoo and rinse that they won't soon forget. Volunteers from the Recreation Dept. and Community Care for the Elderly administered the service, followed by a comb out and head massage.

Next stop were the long lines formed to take advantage of two professional hair stylists from nearby Eddie's Hot Spot Salon. Both boys and girls were eager for the opportunity to receive a trim, bob, Mohawk or fashionable hairdo for their first day of school.

A quick once-over by staff members from the Tribal Clinic preceded a discussion concerning H1N1 virus prevention, symptoms and treatment.

The Fitness Dept. pampered their young clientele with warm wax treatments to condition their hands and nails, and provide a deep cleansing action. Taking turns



(L-R) Mr. Eddie of Eddie's Hot Spot Salon cuts Raymond James Mora's hair into a Mohawk for his first day of the 2009-2010 school year.



(L-R) Tracey DeLaRosa of the Fitness Dept. pampers Alexis Aguilar with a chair massage.

in the chair, they also received a back, shoulder and neck massages.

The Education Dept. supplied a full manure, which included some very artistic nail painting and adornment appropriate for both girls and boys.

Advice on physical fitness, proper hydration and exercise came along with a supply of arm sweats, drink cups and athletic devices from members of the Recreation Dept. Meanwhile, a stop at the Housing Dept. booth rewarded the children with dental supplies, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, soap and scrubs; all to promote a healthy lifestyle.

The Seminole Police Dept. gave an informative presentation on stranger danger, safety at the bus stop, emergency procedures in the event of an accident and bicycle and pedestrian traffic rules.

Dividing the group for a hygiene presentation, the girls received instruction from the Health Dept. representatives, while staff members from both the Nutrition and Family Services Departments educated the boys.



Vanessa Aguilar (R) submerges Jack Aguilar's hand in a warm wax bath to condition and deep cleanse his hands and nails.



(L-R) Immokalee Education Dept. Director Victoria Soto provides Aaliyah Mora with a complete nail manicure.



(L-R) Cartaya Billie receives a shampoo and rinse treatment from Immokalee Recreation Dept. Aide Susan Davis on the picnic table in front of the Immokalee gym at the "A Day at the Spa" event on Aug. 20.

Crowd Wowed at Illusionist's Magic Show

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — A wide variety of magic tricks proved to be awe-inspiring for the attendees at the Mid-night Magic event on Aug. 12.

The sequences, assembled by magician Gary Midnight, included an instance in which he could be seen sticking a set of torches through his body.

Not only that, but the Boynton Beach, Fla.-based illusionist pulled rabbits out of a fire and had birds popping out of balloons, among other tricks.

For Tribal citizen Waylon Micco, 17, the show was nothing short of impressive.

"I liked when the magician made the playing cards invisible," Micco said. "Sometimes I like to play with cards for the fun of it. When the magician threw the cards up, it just came up like magic and popped up out of nowhere."

According to Midnight, who has 24 years of experience in the field of magic, the attendees were speechless after seeing his tricks.

"I saw that 'wow' look on their faces," Midnight said of the approximately 20 kids in attendance.

"Illusions aren't real, but they look like it," he added. "It was great to see the kids having a good time and seeing that magic happen right before their eyes."

Performing for celebrities such as Celine Dion, Dan Marino and members of the band Led Zeppelin, one particular trick that stood out was when Midnight asked Zakevia Green to pick up a card from a deck of 54.



(L-R) Magician Gary Midnight performs a trick for Zakevia Green during his show on Aug. 12 at the Big Cypress gym.

box, he took Green's card and put it a white bag. The bag, interestingly, also contained a bird, which served as the premise for the magic to occur.

What the participants didn't know was that a talking hand came in the bag as well, which Midnight pulled out after performing a bag trick.

Just a minute after going through the bag, the talking hand, as well as the white bird, came out.

Amazed by what she saw, Zakevia didn't know what was going to happen next.

To everyone's surprise, of all the 54 cards Midnight had at his disposal — he got the other 53 from the box — the card Zakevia picked out emerged from the talking hand and was accompanied by the bird.

"I believe in magic," Zakevia said after showing the participants the card in question.

Carlton Banks, a Big Cypress Recreational Dept.



Tribal citizen Waylon Micco, 17, watches in amazement as magician Gary Midnight pulls a playing card seemingly from thin air.

Aide, was appreciative of Midnight's willingness to come perform for the youngsters at the Big Cypress Gymnasium.

"The kids were shy at first, but as the show went along, they relaxed a bit and were really into the show," Banks said. "You could tell they enjoyed themselves."

Micco said he couldn't agree more with Bank's observation about the event.

"I was happy I came to the show, it made me feel really good," Micco said. "Magic does happen. I saw that right in front of me."



Tribal storyteller Billy Walker (L) entertains the Tribal children with a slew of Seminole stories during the pizza party, held at the Big Cypress library on Aug. 31.

Billy Walker Reads to Children at Pizza Party

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — It's safe to say the kids who attended an afterschool pizza party at the Willie Frank Library on Aug. 31 enjoyed themselves.

However, the main event at the party was the storytelling session, courtesy of Tribal citizen Billy Walker.

A member of the Panther Clan, Walker told participants stories such as "The Chickee Hut" and "Why You Shouldn't Go Hunting By Yourself," in addition to spoken word pieces about an alligator and a dog, a deer and rabbit and a box turtle and two hunters.

"Don't be afraid," Walker said to the Tribal youngsters when talking about "The Chickee Hut." "No matter who you are, everybody's special."

The children also got a chance to earn prizes for correctly answering questions in the Mikasuki Word Bee quiz session, implemented by Walker. In the game, the youngsters answered a series of questions in which they identified the Creek names of several animals including bird, frog, pig, house and otter.

"It's getting our children involved in reading books," said Barbara Oeffner, the library director. "They had an opportunity to learn about their culture, so we used the Seminole books to show them more about the Mikasuki language."

The most popular quiz question of that day was about the Creek translation for the word bird.

"Fus-wv," said Tribal youngster Mariah Smith, who got the answer correct and won a DVD from the library.

Oeffner said she was enlightened by the fact that Clans are carried on by a descendant's mother, as Walker told everyone there. Walker also explained that in the matriarchal system, no two people from the same clan can marry.

As far as hunting is concerned — Walker is also a hunter at the Billie Swamp Safari — he told the Tribal children it's always a good idea to hunt with a group of people and not alone in his re-telling of the story "Why You Shouldn't Go Hunting By Yourself."

In this story a hunter, defying the elders' request to not go hunting alone, gets disoriented in the woods since all the cypress heads and trails looked the same. The hunter was apparently lost in the woods, even though he thought he knew where he was going and had to ask a tree for guidance.

Walker's moral to the story was that if anyone desires to navigate an unknown area alone, then danger may arise.

"The ancient stories are the richest in Seminole history and they teach us the lessons that are important in life, as far as character building is concerned," Oeffner said.

Oeffner said she was pleased with how the function turned out.

"It was great to have Billy out here," she said. "I think it's a wonderful thing to preserve the Seminole stories and pass them on to the younger generation, so that they will be in touch with their Native American history."



(L-R) Stephen Bowers, the Tribal veteran's liaison, Tribal veteran John Huff, Vietnam Veterans of America-Florida State Council Vice President Ben Humphries, Big Cypress Board of Directors Rep. Paul Bowers Sr., Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Tribal veterans Sammy Gopher and Jack Smith Jr. with the commemorative flag that the troops flew over war zones in countries including Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan.

Veteran's Organization Honors Chairman

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Ben Humphries, vice president of Vietnam Veterans of America-Florida State Council, presented Chairman Mitchell Cypress with an appreciation plaque for the Tribe's contributions to the Support Our Troops golf tournament, held last November at the PGA Club in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

The presentation took place on Sept. 3 at the Big Cypress Family Investment Center Conference Room. The event's purpose was to raise funds for the shipment of care packages to troops in Iraq. As a result of the function, about 5,000 individual packages were sent to Iraq, with all the troops receiving their items in time for the 2008 holiday season.

The U.S. troops in Iraq honored the Seminole Tribe of Florida with a commemorative flag, which was flown over war zones in countries such as Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan. It was sent to the Tribal veterans in appreciation for their support.



(L-R) Vietnam Veterans of America-Florida State Council Vice President Ben Humphries presents Chairman Mitchell Cypress with a plaque of recognition for the Tribe's contributions to the Support Our Troops golf tournament, held in November 2008 at the PGA Club in Port St. Lucie, Fla. Proceeds were used to purchase care packages for troops serving overseas.

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Birthday Surprise Party Held for Liaison Aguilar

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — More than 200 well-wishers filled the entertainment pavilion at the Immokalee Casino to celebrate 64 years of Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar's life in a surprise celebration of her birthday on Aug. 14.

A corridor of family and friends from throughout Florida formed out of sight of the entrance in anticipation of the honored guest's arrival. As she opened

the door, the crowd burst into a chorus of the song "Happy Birthday." The startled look on Liaison Aguilar's face was testimony to a well-kept secret.

Overcoming her initial shock, she explained that she was tricked into coming to the casino and had no idea what was awaiting her.

"My son tricked me by saying that we were going to check out some brand new slots that had just arrived," Liaison Aguilar said.

"Looking around the room, I feel as though my life is passing in front of my eyes," she added. "In your faces I see family, friends, childhood companions, fellow community members and co-workers. It gives me great pleasure to have so many of you here to share my birthday."

Following a steady stream of hugs, congratulations and birthday wishes, the lights were dimmed for a video presentation of photographic memories. The audience watched as Liaison Aguilar grew from a small child on her mother's lap into a mother with a family of her own, and eventually a grandmother.

Many of the older photos evoked memories of camp life for the elders and the gradual transition that has taken place within the Tribal communities during the past half century.

"We are one family and we care for each other," said Chairman Mitchell Cypress. "On occasions like this, I like to think back to our first meetings and the many people

who influenced our lives. Elaine and I go back a long way and share memories of our mothers, her brother and growing up in Big Cypress. Those were hard times, but good times."

Passing the microphone around the room, mutual experiences, fond memories and hilarious anecdotes were shared by Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress, Immokalee Board of Directors Liaison Delores Junior, Big Cypress Board of Directors Rep. Paul Bowers Jr., Ft. Pierce Liaison Sally R. Tommie, and a host of close friends, confidants and co-workers.

Eventually taking center stage, Pete Aguilar, Liaison Aguilar's husband, paid tribute to the many years he had shared with his wife and the mother of his children.

"We have seen the sunshine and the rain; laughed together and weathered the storms," he said. "She has made it all worthwhile."

The party centered on a turtle theme, an animal which Liaison Aguilar admitted to always having a fascination of. With turtles a focal point at the event, attendees also dined on the enormous cake in the shape of one of these animals.

Saving her gifts for last, Liaison Aguilar held up their contents to share with the partygoers. Beautiful patchwork clothing, beaded jewelry, a ceramic turtle, purses, a custom photo album, wall hanging, a box with a hand crafted wooden cross and a hand-applied and embroidered quilt were among the many tokens of appreciation.



Elaine Aguilar holds up one of the gifts she received at her party.



Chairman Mitchell Cypress (L) and Big Tribal Cypress Council Rep. David Cypress (R) join Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar (C) in celebration of her 64th birthday.



Elaine Aguilar and her son, Edward, hold up a hand-appliqued and embroidered Seminole quilt that she received as a birthday gift at her surprise party, held Aug. 14 at the Immokalee Casino.



Caniah Billie (L) and Jack Aguilar (R) wish their grandmother, Elaine Aguilar, a happy birthday.

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Families Enjoy Labor Day Weekend Roller Dance

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Children and families from Big Cypress attended a roller dance on Sept. 4 in the gym to kick off the Labor Day weekend.

There was a host of kids skating around for three hours, with activities such as the Limbo and a boys and girls race for them to partake in.

"It's a great thing for the kids to enjoy themselves in a family setting on a Friday night," said Rhonda Roff, who came to the event with her husband, Joe Frank, and their two children, Valholy Frank, 6, and Justin Roff, 13. "The roller dance was good, clean fun for all the families that came out."

The final game of the evening was musical plates, a version of musical chairs. During the game, the skaters were instructed to move around until the music stopped and then find a plate to sit on. However, there were more participants than plates and whoever didn't find a plate on the roller rink floor was eliminated from the game.

Stan Frischman, Big Cypress assistant Recreation Dept. director, was the event's emcee and coordinator.

"We believe in providing fun, safe family activities," he said. "This wasn't just for the kids; it was an opportunity for families to get together and interact with each other outside of the home. The kids actually got to see the fun side of their parents."

He and his staff were also responsible for converting the gymnasium into a roller rink for the event.

Roff gave a positive assessment of Frischman's organization of the roller dance function.

"Stan [Frischman] makes it fun for the kids and he makes sure they have a good time," Roff said. "He obviously knows what he's doing; he does it very well."



Tribal citizen Stephanie Vargas, 9, skates her way through a Limbo game at the Big Cypress roller dance, held on Sept. 4 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.

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BIG CYPRESS — Billie Swamp Safari is offering a 50 percent discount off the regular ticket price of a Swamp Buggy Eco-Tour if you come dressed in a Halloween costume during the entire month of October.

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Submitted by Jessica Osceola

Jessica Osceola shares the experiences of criminals from the 1800s by imprisoning herself in Key West's public stocks.

Naples Community Members Visit Florida Keys

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

KEY WEST — Members of the Naples community met in Key West Aug. 14-16 for a weekend vacation that combined relaxation with community spirit, bonding, fun-filled activities and a wonderful learning experience.

More than 50 participants descended on the Westin Key West Resort to establish a home base for the multitude of opportunities to explore this island paradise. Placing emphasis on the fact that Key West is the southern most point in the U.S. and Cuba is only 90 miles across the Florida Straits, the theme for the dinner extravaganza, held the evening of Aug. 14, was Havana Night. For hundreds of years, Cuba played an important role in the economy of the Florida mainland and created a market place for the first Seminole cattle industry.

Each morning the group met for a private breakfast banquet and then made plans for the day's activities. Dispersing in small family groups, they traveled around at their own pace and occasionally exchanged information about their experiences.

Unfortunately, a tropical wave arrived overnight and created unfavorable conditions for scuba diving, snorkeling and a glass bottom boat ride. High seas and intermittent rain gusts would not permit these planned excursions; however, the group quickly adapted to the situation and turned their focus on the rich history of the area.

A highlight for all ages was the sea aquarium with its vast array of aquatic life. Spectators were able to enjoy a trip to the bottom of the sea and get up close and personal with a wide variety of creatures without getting wet. The children were especially intrigued by the collection of shellfish and marine life, which was placed at their fingertips for an up close and personal experience.

A great deal of time was spent taking in the atmosphere of the Key West Shipwreck Historium® Museum with its unique maritime heritage. Re-enactors and artifacts brought 500 years of history to life for an afternoon adventure. The livelihood of the early pioneers once de-



Jessica Osceola

A U.S. military officer stands guard over the coastline at Key West's famed Mallory Square at sunset.

pend on the salvage of ships that sank on the treacherous Florida Keys reef and deposited their cargo at the bottom of the sea.

The U.S. acquisition of Florida from the Spanish had a tremendous impact on the Seminoles and was instrumental in the three Seminole Wars and forced exodus to the western territories. Being pushed south by the intrusion of settlers and the U.S. military, the Seminoles found a ready market for their trade goods in Key West.

Taking in the sights at Fort Zachary Taylor, which was built during the Third Seminole War and a prominent outpost during the Civil War, gave an insight into Seminole history. The U.S. Custom House, built in the 1820s, served as an official port of entry for more than a century and now houses an art gallery and vast collection of historical data.

No vacation to the Keys would be complete without an evening visit to the historic waterfront at Mallory Square. The family entertainment included street musicians, mimes, jugglers, pirates and a chance to rub elbows with Key West's colorful locals and fellow tourists alike.

The group shared an awe inspired moment as they watched a bronze covered soldier hold up the American flag at sunset in tribute to all who have served and are currently serving in the various branches of the U.S. military.



Jessica Osceola

Dominic Osceola-Lugo examines a starfish at the sea aquarium.

Boys & Girls Club Board Attend Planning Retreat

BY ROBERT C. NORTH SR.
Contributing Writer

KEY WEST — This year's Boys & Girls Club Strategic Planning Retreat took place in Key West Sept. 3-4.

The goal of this planning session, which took place through underwriting from Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., was to construct a Boys & Girls Club multi-year plan.

Boys & Girls Clubs Regional Vice President Lorraine Orr posed the question to the Tribal Boys & Girls Club Board and Staff members.

"Where will the Tribal youth and Boys & Girls Club be 25 years from now?" she asked. "What would be your perfect 25 year plan?"

Many participants envisioned a world without crime, violence and Indian reservations free from alcohol and drug abuse. A short term goal of meeting participants was for all Tribal departments and programs that serve Tribal youth to work and plan more closely together.

"We are here to plan for a better world for our Tribal Youth ... now and in the future," said Rep. Osceola. "If we do not put all these ideas down on paper now, the ideas may never become a reality."

By the end of the two day session, long and short term plans were developed and recorded. The final step



Velma Osceola

Tribal Boys & Girls Club Director Robert C. North Sr. meets with Boys & Girls Clubs Regional Vice President Lorraine Orr.

to the planning process was to determine what the time frame would be to execute all of the plans and ideas sketched out by conference participants.

"This planning process was pretty intense and required a lot of concentration," said Seminole Boys & Girls Club Chief Professional Officer Jo Motlow North. "But our Tribal youth are the future of the Seminole Tribe so it was well worth all the time and effort."

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Seminole Tribe of Florida Board of Directors membership includes North, Rep. Osceola, Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress, Hollywood Board of Directors Rep.

Marcellus Osceola Jr., Tribal General Counsel Jim Shore, Okalee Village Manager Leona Poore, Community Liaison/Seminole Police Department Diane Buser, Chief Volunteer Officer Roger Nisley and Hollywood Hard Rock Hotel & Casino General Manager Larry Frank.

These board members provide leadership and direction to the continued development of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and act as liaisons between the Seminole Council and the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

For more information about the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, and how your youth can become involved, call (954) 964-5947 or check out the website www.seminolebgc.org.



Velma Osceola

L-R Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. and Hollywood Board of Directors Rep. Marcellus Osceola Jr. provide their input during a meeting.

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President, Princess Recognized at Crow Fair

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

CROW AGENCY, Mont. — Two of the Tribe's most distinguished citizens took part in the rich heritage and pageantry of the 91st annual Crow Fair, held Aug. 13-17.

Joined by hundreds of participants and spectators from throughout the U.S. and as far away as China and Australia, Board of Directors President Richard Bowers Jr. and Miss Florida Seminole Princess Brittany Smith were guests of honor at the event.

Celebrating the legacy of the estimated 12,000-member Crow Indian Tribe, participants displayed full regalia throughout. Smith and President Bowers took part in the grand entry, pow-wow and parade.

"It was exciting knowing I was the first to be a part of this type of a celebration," Smith said. "I enjoyed the people and teepees."

The fair has also become known throughout the decades for its abundance of teepees set up on the camp fairgrounds and is referred to as the Teepee Capital of the World.

Only a month after receiving the Miss Florida Seminole Princess title on July 18, this was 19-year-old Smith's first public appearance as princess. She was also the first Seminole princess to represent the Tribe at the annual affair.

"I wanted to show our princess a perfect example of a traditional culture and how [the Crow Tribe] enjoy a good time among themselves," President Bowers said. "It is what we come from also."

President Bowers also received a war bonnet from Crow Sundance Chief Haywood Bigday Sr. The elder is also a storyteller, lecturer and the uncle of Anna Bowers, the wife of President Bowers. She is a member of the Shoshone Bannock Tribe, and a descendant of the Crow Nation.

"It is such a big responsibility and honor," President Bowers said of the recognition. "I thought about it all day and night before it all happened."



Chris C. Jenkins

(L-R) Board of Directors President Richard Bowers Jr. wears a war bonnet presented by Crow Nation elder Haywood Bigday Sr., as well as other Crow Nation members, before the two men prepare for the ceremonial walk during the Crow Fair grand entry.

The headpiece was a welcoming gesture and honored the President for his leadership in the Seminole Tribe. Tradition holds that the rare acknowledgement also places a special blessing over the recipient's family and their Tribe.

The trip was the second visit for Bowers into Crow Country.

In a ceremony held in the village of the fair, a special song known as a "family song" announced Bowers to all in attendance as part of the extended family of the Crow Nation.

"Just to be a part of that type of encampment and be back in that environment, I really enjoyed," said Anna Bowers.

Crow Tribal elder Haywood Bigday Sr., 71, has been a performer and attendee in the fair since the age of 10. He has been a camper each year on site for the last 40 years and said he enjoys meeting people and the cultural focus.

"[Crow Fair] has been my life over the years and I enjoy it even though it only comes once a year," Bigday explained. "This is our life and culture. The children of the next generation get to see this and I hope parents are teaching them about it."

The legend of the Crow Fair dates back to 1904. The festivities were created to allow the Crow Indian Tribe members to take part in an agricultural fair to display their livestock, produce arts and crafts, and maintain their cultural heritage and customs.

An All-Indian Championship Rodeo also highlighted the weekend.

Crow Tribal member Alford Walks also has profound generational ties to the yearly gathering. Walks, wife, Roberta, and daughter, Nora, 5, have been a part of the event for many years maintaining its tradition. All three were a part of the activities.

"I am proud to be a Crow Indian," Walks acknowledged. "I really like to dance and meet all the different types of people. I also like seeing the similarities between us and other Tribes."



Chris C. Jenkins

(L-R) Miss Florida Seminole 2009-2010 Brittany Smith with 2009 Ms. Crow Nation Lucretia Birdinground at the 91st annual fair.



Colleen Henry

(L-R) Kaylin Henry, Linda Henry, Linda O. Henry and Alana Henry at the Grand Canyon West's Eagle Point site.

Tampa Community Members Travel to Las Vegas

BY RYAN WATSON
Contributing Writer

Each summer several Tampa community members participate in a weeklong trip to a destination outside Florida. This year's community trip, which took place Aug. 8-15, brought Tampa's Tribal citizens to Las Vegas, Nev. and several nearby cities and destinations.

The week's activities began early morning on Aug. 10 with a trip to the Hoover Dam, just about an hour's drive from Las Vegas. Even the 100-plus degree temperature didn't prevent the group from enjoying a tour of the hydroelectric generating station named after Herbert Hoover, who played a vital role in its assembly.

"It was a great experience to tour inside the Hoover Dam," said April Simmons, Tampa community secretary. "It was an experience that my kids will appreciate for the rest of their lives."

for the rest of their lives."

Tribal citizens enjoyed a lunch sponsored by Hoover Dam Tours before retreating back to their suites at the Mandalay Bay Hotel & Casino on the famous Vegas Strip.

The next activity on the agenda took place on the afternoon of Aug. 11 at the Red Rock Mountain Cowboy Sunset Barbecue. Community members were given the option of taking a bus tour of the mountain or an up close and personal view on the horseback riding trail.

"It was a very scenic and tranquil ride," said Mayra Simmons, Tampa Director of Recreation.

The evening concluded with a sunset barbecue and marshmallow roasting.

"The barbecue dinner was a nice ending to the evening," Simmons added.

On Aug. 12 the community departed at 6 a.m. for a tour of the Grand Canyon West, where they were greeted by members of the Hualapai Tribe.

"It was very interesting to meet with other natives from a different part of the country," said Tampa's Kaylin Henry.

The Hualapai Tribe owns the touring rights to the Grand Canyon Skywalk, a 4,000-foot high glass platform that descends outwards into the canyon so visitors can walk out on it and see only the canyon below them.

"We were put here because it was considered a wasteland a long time ago and we were not supposed to survive," said Hualapai Tribal citizen Dempsey Wellington. "We were supposed to become extinct. But we survived off it and we share stories about all the natives in the area."

The more brave members of the Tampa community had the opportunity to walk out on the Grand Canyon Skywalk.

"I'm not usually afraid of heights but I was scared on the skywalk," Henry said.



Ryan Watson

Ryan Thomas prepares to ride the Red Back Mountain Horse Trail.

SEEKING ORAL HISTORIES FOR MUSEUM COLLECTION AND VETERAN'S MEMORIAL BUILDING EXHIBIT

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is seeking to conduct oral history interviews with Seminole veterans and family members of veterans. The interviews will become a part of the existing oral history collection of the Tribal Museum. In the interview, you may choose what you would like to speak about. If you give permission, the interview might be considered for use in the exhibits to be created within the new Veteran's Memorial Building in Brighton. We hope that Seminole veterans will share stories for the benefit of current and future generations, as we look to honor your dedication and service.



To participate contact:

Elizabeth Lowman
Oral History Coordinator
Phone: 863-903-1113 ext. 12210
elizabethlowman@semtribe.com

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA
AH-TAH-THI-KI
MUSEUM
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EducationB



Trail community youth have fun on one of the two water bounce houses at the annual Trail Back to School Bash, held Aug. 31 outside of the Trail Field Office.

Chris C. Jenkins

Community Attends Annual Back to School Bash

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

TAMiami TRAIL — Just in time for back to school, Trail community members attended the annual Back to School Bash, held Aug. 31 at the Trail Field Office.

Open to grades K-12, the fun-filled event was held for the first time at the field office facility. According to Trail Liaison William Osceola, the gathering is normally held at the nearby Miccosukee Resort.

"We decided to have it here because we have more space and we plan to also have more events," Liaison Osceola said.

Upcoming plans at the complex include an end of the school year bash, wellness conference and fish fry.

"The kids also loved being here and you can see it in their GPAs," Liaison Osceola observed. "They are excited about the learning center and cannot wait to get here."

During the event, attend-

ees enjoyed a carnival-themed atmosphere complete with two water bounce houses, a bungee ride and carnival foods. Those in attendance also received T-shirts, backpacks and some even went home with raffle prizes.

"It is something they really liked," Liaison Osceola continued. "We built this [facility] just for them to have events like this."

Tribal citizen and mother of six, Chawndra Billie, said her children enjoyed the event, especially all the water activities that cooled them down.

"They really liked it and liked the swimming," Billie said. "It was also nice because it was outside and it was a nice, calm setting."

Hollywood and Trail Education Advisor Will Bacon said the event was a success and hopes to have similar events held at the Trail Field Office.

"It was wonderful in working with William [Osceola's] office and getting the word out about this event," Bacon said.



Chris C. Jenkins

(L-R) Hollywood/Trail Education Advisor Will Bacon and Trail Liaison William Osceola call out the winning numbers during the raffle drawing.

New Education Programs Implemented in Naples



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Students Dominic Osceola-Lugo and Patsy Veliz receive homework assistance from Meg Donelli at the Juanita Osceola Center computer lab in Naples.

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

NAPLES — For the first time, a variety of education programs are being implemented at the Juanita Osceola Center for the benefit of Naples community members.

With the advent of the 2009-2010 school year, a teaching staff has been assembled to give homework assistance Monday through Thursday from 3-6 p.m. Tutoring arrangements can be made for Friday with instructors paying special attention to test preparation and individual subject areas.

Study groups are being organized by grade level and the teachers are able to separate their students into individual classrooms by utilizing the conference, office and common areas to their advantage. Preschool and kindergartners will be exposed to educational exercises and activities to enhance their skills in preparation for their future requirements.

Craft workshops continue to be scheduled for Thursdays and include youth and adult participants, who make regular use of the facilities and often remain on task until closing at 8 p.m. Current projects include the creation of clothing, jewelry and basket items to be sold at the American Indian Art Celebration at the Big Cypress Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in November. Proceeds of the sale will be used to purchase materials for future workshop projects.

With the installation of equipment in the newly created computer lab, an exciting project is taking shape. Computer classes for Adult Tech Education are being organized and several applicants have already signed up for the first sessions which will be held on Tuesdays.

Students Receive Education Incentive Awards

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — The 2008-2009 Immokalee education incentives awards distribution took place at the Back to School Block Party on the afternoon of Aug. 20 in the courtyard of the Administration Building.

Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar congratulated the young scholars on the completion of another milestone in their educational career.

"Education is not a gift or entitlement," Liaison Aguilar said. "It is something you must earn and will be one of your most valuable assets. You can achieve goals through education that would otherwise be out of your reach."

"You will have challenges in your life," she concluded. "Education will help you deal with many of the issues that arise and no one will be able to take it away from you. The Seminole Tribe has come a long way in the past 50 years and we are depending upon you to take us into the future."

Immokalee Education Advisor Victoria Soto then introduced the Class of 2009 high school graduates, Bonnie Davis, Demi Garza, Hortencia Yzaguirre and Edward Yzaguirre.

"In recognition of their achievement, they are receiving a commemorative clock and special incentive award," Soto said. "This is an important milestone in their careers and we sincerely hope that it will represent a beginning of a bright future in which they will strive to reach their potential."

Everyone involved in the Parent Advisor Committee (PAC) for 2009 was acknowledged for their effort with a special thank you to President Rhonda Nunez, Vice President Deloris Alvarez and Secretary Sylvia Marro.

Soto also told those in attendance about some of her department's vital members.

"In preparation for the 2009-2010 school year our Education [Dept.] staff has increased and we are looking forward to working with our students and parents for a very successful year," she said before introducing her assistant Bianca Serpas, Receptionist Adelina Gallegos and Higher Education Recruiter Diana Rocha.

Ft. Pierce Youth Gear Up for New School Year

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter



Rachel Buxton

(L-R) Cousins Flarrisha Berthier and Anthony Pollack at the back to school event in Ft. Pierce on Aug. 13.

FT. PIERCE — The Ft. Pierce Tribal community said goodbye to summer vacation and welcomed the approaching school year at their back to school bash held Aug. 13 at the Chupco Ranch.

"Education is the key to a successful life," Ft. Pierce Liaison Sally Tommie said.

Tribal youth and their families enjoyed a dinner catered by All About Food of Pompano Beach, Fla. as they listened to music and received the reassurance that the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Education Dept. is behind them 100 percent.

"We just wanted to make sure that you know education is here for you," Education Dept. Intervention Specialist Carine Eugene said. "Anything you need, please call us."

Residents received magnets that included contact information for the Education Departments located on all the reservations.

Eugene also spoke to the Tribal youth about tutoring services that are available if needed.

Higher Education Advisor Linda Iley congratulated the parents for all their hard work in helping the youth succeed educationally.

Iley also recognized Ft. Pierce resident Remus Griffith, who recently received his associate's degree from Keiser University and will be heading to Hobe Sound Bible College in the fall to pursue his bachelor's degree in business.

Quentin Tommie, a Class of 2009 high school graduate, was also recognized for recently being accepted into Miami International University.

"The important thing is we have a goal," Iley stressed. "There is life after high school. The Tribe needs you."

Students received backpacks filled with the necessary essentials for the new school year, including a dictionary, pencils, folders and paper.

"Feel free to call us," encouraged Eugene. "We are ready and willing to help you, the students, be successful this year."



Rachel Buxton

Tyjone Scott receives his new backpack

INCENTIVE AWARDS

Tribal Youth Get Groovy at Incentive Awards Ceremony

BY RACHEL BURTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Brighton's best of the best were honored for their impressive academic achievements Aug. 20 at Brighton's annual incentive awards presentation, held in the gymnasium.

With the 1960s theme of "Peace, Love and Happiness," the Education Dept. staff took the stage dressed in tie dyed T-shirts. Event emcee John Madrigal introduced Tribal dignitaries before bringing them on stage.

"This is your day to shine," Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Andrew Bowers Jr. said, dressed in 1960s attire with a tie dye peace sign shirt and bandana on his head. "We're going to have a groovy time."

Brighton Board of Directors Rep. Johnnie Jones Sr. joked with the kids, asking them if they were ready for school to start.

"Ready or not it's coming," laughed Rep. Jones. "I'd like to congratulate you all and keep up the good work."

Education Dept. Director Emma Johns also congratulated the students and thanked the parents for all their hard work in supporting their children.

"What an outstanding year we've had," declared Johns. "Students, without your parents, you wouldn't be here."

One-by-one the students were recognized for their hard work academically. They received certificates, medals and trophies, all declaring that they completed a successful school year.

All Tribal youth received a backpack with their name embroidered on it to help them start the new school year prepared.

The day following the awards, the Tribal youth and entire Brighton community enjoyed a carnival complete with a Ferris wheel and flying swings.



(L-R) Education Dept. Director Emma Johns presents Erik Garcia with his academic award for all A's and B's.



(L-R) Howard Howard, Brighton/Tampa Tribal Council Rep. Andrew Bowers Jr. and Rachel Burton all out for the 1960s-themed awards ceremony.



(L-R) Alyana Tommie and Chloe Chalfant enjoy the Ferris wheel ride at the incentive awards carnival.



Alexis Aguilar (R) reads the education award she just received from Immokalee Education Advisor Victoria Sota (L).

AWARDS

From page 1B

Passing out the August 2009 "Education News Handbook," Soto encouraged everyone to study its contents and familiarize themselves with the valuable information that can assist in a successful new school year. Information was provided for enrollment in programs to

enhance homework, tutoring, library accessibility, adult education and higher education opportunities.

Each of the students from kindergarten through high school received a book bag for the upcoming school year. Incentive awards and certificates with recognition for grade point averages (GPA) were distributed at the informal event.

In lieu of an incentive awards banquet, the students and their families participated in a weekend adventure to Busch Gardens in Tampa from Aug. 14-16.

Immokalee Incentive Awards Recipients

Kindergarten: Willie Smith, Mercedes Davis, Cameron Garza, Kobe Billie, Randeon Osceola, Spencer Aguilar and Kaden Grimaldo.

First Grade: Brandon Frank - 3.63 GPA, Ezekiel Roberts - 3.24 GPA, K.J. Davis - 3.05 GPA and A&C, Priscilla Alvarado - 3.22 GPA and A&C, Raymond James Mora - Effort, Eli Alvarado - 3.17 GPA, Kenau Correa - 3.0 GPA, Shyanna Escobar - 3.06 GPA and A&C.

Second Grade: Carlos Romero - 3.09 GPA, Jack Aguilar - 3.82 GPA, Janessa Jones - 3.64 GPA, Jillian Rodriguez - 3.5 GPA, Joshua Colon - 3.36 GPA and A&C, Lindsey Posada - 3.58 GPA and Three or Less Days Absent, Brendán Otero - 3.77 GPA and A&C, Amber Alvarado - Effort, Cartaya Billie - 3.79 GPA, Deslinee Jimmie - Effort, Gherri Osceola - 3.6 GPA and Three or Less Days Absent, Edward Aguilar Jr. - 3.49 GPA, Issiah Alvarado - 3.59 GPA and A&C, Nicholas Correa - 3.36 GPA.

Third Grade: Allyson Yzaguirre - 3.46 GPA and Three or Less Days Absent, Haylie Holloway - 3.05 GPA, Brandon Otero - 3.77 GPA and A&C, Amber Alvarado - Effort, Cartaya Billie - 3.79 GPA, Randeon Osceola - 3.6 GPA and Three or Less Days Absent, Jon Jimmie - Effort, Zephaniah Roberts - Effort.

Fourth Grade: Alycia Mora - Improved GPA and A&C, Dennis Gonzalez Jr. - 3.24 GPA, Improved GPA and Perfect Attendance, Ethan Aguilar - 3.54 GPA and A&C, Kyle Alvarado - 3.46 GPA.

Fifth Grade: Alphonso Alvarado Jr. - 3.38 GPA, Cleofas Yzaguirre - 3.42 GPA, Etza Mora - A&C, Joeli Frank - 3.97 GPA and A&C, Kenny Davis Jr. - Perfect Attendance and A&C, Lauren Posada - 3.52 GPA and Improved GPA, Nehemiah Roberts - 3.47, Damion Escobar - 3.32 GPA, Three or Less Days Absent and A&C, Keniya Yzaguirre - 3.6 GPA, Chelsey Alvarado - 3.71 GPA.

Sixth Grade: Ellyse Frank - 3.6 GPA, Esyra Frank - 3.48 GPA, Jade Tapia - 3.1 GPA and A&C, Vanessa Billie - Effort, Aaron Alvarado - Effort, Ashley Faz - 3.52 GPA and A&C, Larissa DeLaRosa - 4.0 GPA, Perfect Attendance and A&C.

Seventh Grade: Christopher Briscall - Three Days or Less Absent, David Billie III - A&C, Juliza Martinez - Effort, Mshageed Jewell-Davis - Three or Less Days Absent.

Eighth Grade: Alexis Aguilar - 4.0 GPA, Damian Garcia - Effort, Robert Yzaguirre - Effort.

Ninth Grade: Chad Mellow - 3.13 GPA, Charlie Osceola - Advance Class, Honor Class and Perfect Attendance, Jordan Rodriguez - Three or Less Days Absent, Starz Sanchez - 3.25 GPA, Advance Class and Honor Class, Taylor Boone - Effort.

Tenth Grade: Chasandra Storm - Effort, Nikki Davis - Improved GPA, Whitney Osceola - Improved GPA.

Eleventh Grade: Celsa Alvarado - Advance Class and A&C, Esmeralda Billie - Effort, Spencer Garcia - Effort.

Brighton Incentive Award Recipients

Higher Education Awards: Zena Simmons, Heather Peterson.

2009 High School Graduates: Amber Craig, Emily Cortez, Tall Bird Pewo, Damen Bert, Allyson Billie.

Perfect Attendance: Kamani Smith, Krysta Burton, Deliah Carrillo, Cheyenne Nunez, Jennifer Tommie, Destiny Nunez, Tavis Jumper, Lance Howard, Bakari Micco, Jayce Smith, Wyatt Youngman, Lewis Gopher, Jr. Emily Cortez, Kano Puente, Jaden Puente, Brydgett Koonitz, Ashlee Gopher, Frank Huff, Hunter Strickland.

Three or Less Days Absent: Hunter Howard, Ty Huff, Caroline Micco, Billy Yates, Layne Thomas, Crysten Smith, Tyler Osceola, Jaide Micco, Everett Youngblood, Heith Lawrence, Aliana Micco, Elizabeth Dehass, Robert O'Donnell, Rylee Smith, Ruben Burgess, Rayven Smith, Layton Thomas, Jessi Osceola, Quinton Tiger, Lauren O'Donnell, Ryan Osceola, Conner Thomas, Camryn Thomas, Erik Garcia, Daniel Nunez, Jr. Kirsten Doney, Joshua Tiger, Billy Bailey.

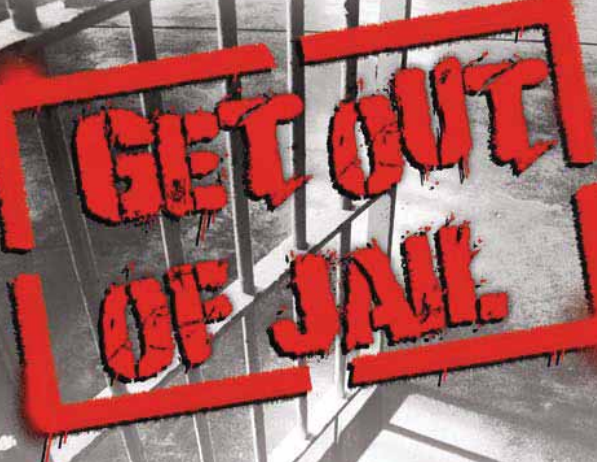
Straight A's All Year: Aniya Gore, Alyana Tommie, Destiny Nunez, Kamani Smith, Jaden Puente, Stevie Brightley, Kano Puente, Kiana Tommie, Lauren O'Donnell.

A's & B's All Year: Aliana Micco, Caroline Micco, Layne Thomas, Aleina Micco, Aidan Tommie, Keely Billie, Daniel Nunez, Jr. Dax Haught, Nailen Billie, Julia Smith, Robert O'Donnell, Erik Garcia, Keely Billie, Dante Thomas, Mallorie Thomas, Donovan Osceola, Joshlynn Micco, Krysta Burton, Danyelle Bormel, Camryn Thomas, Garrett Thomas, Gage Riddle, Shyla Gopher, Jacee Jumper, Rumor Juarez, Dakota Malcom, Malcom Jones.

Grade Level Recipients:

Eleventh Grade: Jewel Buck, Hayden Roberts, Elizabeth Dehass, Ceejay Billie, Ryan Osceola, Tenth Grade: Ashton Bagley, Alicia Nunez, Ty Huff, Kristina Osceola, Farrah Lyle, Ninth Grade: Reese Bert Jr., Stevie Brantley, Eighth Grade: Jaryaca Baker, Matthew Dehass, Justin Osceola, Austin Sampson-Fisher, Cody Tiger, Kasandra Baker, Amelia Nunez, Lauren Osceola, Desiree Snow, Quinton Tiger, Alexander Buck, Destiny Nunez, Janet Smith, Garrett Thomas, Seventh Grade: Kiyler Baker, Frank Huff, Jessi Osceola, Joshua Tiger, Everett Youngblood, Skyler Burke, Jaide Micco, Raina Robinson, Acaelynn Youngblood, Kirsten Doney, Brianna Nunez, Randy Shore, Sixth Grade: Justice Baker, Lewis Gopher, Bracton King, Deandrea Osceola, Ty Pierce, Layton Thomas, Joshua Bormel, Tatiana Herrera, Airanna Nunez, Delaney Osceola, JT Smith, Jennifer Tommie, Larissa Cortez, Anthony Johns, Daniel Nunez Jr., Tyler Osceola, McKayla Snow, Fifth Grade: Jonathan Bormel, Ashlee Gopher, Harley Johns, Rumor Juarez, Cheyenne Nunez, Imilakiyo Osceola, Trista Osceola, Rayven Smith, Yopakiyo Osceola, Michael Garcia, Chastity Harmon, Tyra Johns, Brydgett Koonitz, CW Ortiz, Desmond Shore, Royce Smith, Allison Gopher, Elizabeth Johns, Kalgary Johns, Spawn Loudermilk, Donovan Bennett, Ruben Burgess, Eric Garcia, Shyla Madrigal, Sean Osceola, Jaden Puente, Kelton Smedley, Bethany Billie, Deliah Carrillo, Dax Haught, Apolonia Nunez, Alexis Osceola-James, Lanie Sedatol-Baker, Crysten Smith, Drayton Billie, Robert Fudge, Odessa King, Samuel Osceola, Diamond Shore, Jerry Smith, Third Grade: Ivess Baker, Brian Bishop, Bly Davidson, Martina Herrera, Morgan King, Logan Ortiz, Cyrus Smedley, Camryn Thomas, Krystal Tenejes, Edgerrin Billie, Jonathan Buck, Marquis Jones, Jaylynn Jones, Bakari Micco, Isaac Osceola, Rylee Smith, Layne Thomas, Elijah Billie, Chloe Chalfant, Reed Gopher, Rodolfo Juarez Jr, Mason Micco, Joseph Osceola, Hunter Strickland, Aiyana Tommie, Second Grade: Ridge Bailey, Jarrett Bert, Danyelle Bormel, Lance Howard, Caroline Micco, Lucas Osceola, Mariah Smith, Luzana Venzor, Alyke Baker, Keely Billie, Krysta Burton, Drake Lawrence, Joshlynn Micco, Kano Puente, Conner Thomas, Billy Yates, Blake Baker, Nailen Billie, Alicia Fudge, Aleina Micco, Robert O'Donnell, Gage Riddle, Aidan Tommie, Oscar Yates; First Grade: Jahbain Arnold, Waylynn Bennett, Redheart Billie, Nyah Davidson, Alexis Gore, Malcom Jones, Dakota Micco, Lauren O'Donnell, Jason Sampson, Julia Smith, Mallorie Thomas, Jaylen Baker, Bevin Billie, Santiago Billie, Edgerrin Burnett, Aniya Gore, Jacee Jumper, Sage Mellow, Madison Osceola, Tanner Shore, Kamani Smith, Aleah Turtle, Laila Bennett, Myron Billie, Dalence Carrillo, Shyla Gopher, Hunter Howard, Aliana Micco, Janessa Nunez, Ozzy Osceola, Calliout Smith, Dante Thomas, Araya Youngblood; Kindergarten: Billy Bailey, Alek Betscher, Mariah Billie, Tayla Burns, Kyle Entry, Josiah Garcia, Justin Gopher Jr., Haylie Huff, Malak Micco, Kaiden Sampson, Jayton Baker, Aubee Billie, Isaiah Bishop, Davin Carrillo, Shella Francis, Kiowa Garcia, Alonie Gore, Kobe Jimmie, Norman Osceola, Morgan Yates, Ramone Baker, Kanyon Billie, Daven Buck, Brandon Entry, Dathan Garcia, Jagger Gaudin, Caylie Huff, Heith Lawrence, Ryanna Osceola, Tiger Youngman.

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INCENTIVE AWARDS



(L-R) Tribal citizens Sydnee Cypress and Natamah Robbins ride the Ferris wheel on the night of the Aug. 21 at the incentive awards carnival, held Aug. 21 in the parking lot of Billie Swamp Safari.

Big Cypress Holds Incentive Awards Carnival

BY NAJIB TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS—Students of all ages from the Big Cypress community received educational incentive awards at a ceremony held Aug. 21 at Billie Swamp Safari.

This year, event organizers wanted to do something that strayed from the traditional awards dinner banquet so they opted for a carnival-themed ceremony.

"For the last few years, it was a chance for the community to see the kids that were honored for their achievements," said Angie Hurt, advisory assistant for the Big Cypress Education Department. "But this year, we just wanted to go with a different style. It worked out well."

As the mastermind behind the carnival idea, Patrick McElroy, the Big Cypress Education Department's advisor, worked very hard to ensure everyone in attendance enjoyed themselves.

It's safe to say that it happened, as evidenced by the many smiles seen on faces of children, adults and event workers alike.

A vast array of rides was available for carnival attendees, including a Ferris wheel, a triple-lane giant slide and many more.

Tribal citizen Monique Jimmie, 15, described her experience at the carnival.

"I enjoyed myself on the Ferris wheel," Jimmie said. "It was great to look at the view of the whole carnival. I had a great time doing that."

The rides weren't the only thing everyone was excited about, however. Each child from the Big Cypress community received

incentive awards as an honor for completing the past school year, which included a variety of monetary prizes.

Demitia Ivey, the Big Cypress Education Department's office coordinator, was the go-to person for event details both prior to and during the Incentive Awards Carnival.

But it wasn't Ivey and McElroy that spent time planning this function alone.

Angie Hurt, Big Cypress Education Department's assistant advisor, was a big help as well, among several other Big Cypress Reservation employees.

"We all worked together as a team," Hurt said. "When everyone is on the same page, there are a lot of incentives that comes with it. The kids got to see that and as a result, they had a great time at the carnival."



Jared McInturf, 9, rides the bull for an impressive 24 seconds at the incentive awards carnival.

Big Cypress Incentive Awards Recipients

Straight A's (4.0 GPA): Shana Balentine, Elise Brown, Osianna Crespo, Marley Herrera, Alyssa Osceola, Evanne Pratt

3.76-3.99 GPA: Charles Alexander III, Cassandra Alexander, Ricky Joe Alumbaugh, Terri Baker, Richard Billie Jr., Akira Billie, Carlee Billie, Hunter Billie, Jalycia Billie, Leana Billie, Sabre Billie, Annie Jumper-Cypress, Romeo Garcia, Lellani Gopher, Chloe Hendrickson, Kevin Ivey, Kylene Jumper, Tash-sho-tah-che Jumper, Katesa Kirkland, Sierra Kirkland, Alyssa Noah, Emmitt Osceola, Kaitlin Osceola, Ryanne Pratt, Destiny Robbins, Thoya Robbins, Rickardo Rodriguez, Justin Roff, Alena Stockton, Abigail Tigertail, Chynna Villareal, Alonzo Wargolet, Gianna Wargolet, Karito Wargolet, Annabelle Whiteshield, Julian Yescas

3.00-3.75 GPA: Bianca Acosta, Christian Alexander, Christopher Alexander, Rubi-Anne Alexander, Malari Baker, Ethan Balentine, Tana Bear-Osceola, Katherine Bert, Roderick Bert, Asiana Billie, Cypress Billie, Elisah Billie, Eliza Billie, Eyanna Billie, Graysun Billie, Jon Billie, Rayel Billie, Thomlynn Billie, Levi Billie, Abiaka Bowers, Breanna Bowers, Sierra Bowers, Jathaniel Brooks, Gloria Brooks, Deforest Carter, Jose Cisneros Jr., Jacob Cotton, Adrienne Cypress, Caitlin Cypress, Dariah Cypress, Dasani Cypress, Dawna Cypress, Destiny Cypress, Kegan Cypress, Michaela Cypress, Mya Cypress, Nia Cypress, Quenton Cypress, Raini Cypress, Ryan Cypress, Sydnee Cypress, Tai Cypress, Ashley Escobar, Bianca Fernandez, Marco Flores, Steven Frank, Bluesky Friday, Darius Friday, Tianna Garcia, Leslie Gopher Jr., Stephanie Hall, Colby Herrera, Brittany Huff, Katrina Huggins, Bradin Jim, Precious Jimmie, Christopher Joe Jr., Anthony Joe, Callie Joe, Jason Jumper, K'ahna Jumper, Captain Jumper, Kelcie Jumper, Dalton Koenes, Dayra Koenes, Canadelario Landin III, Andre Landing, Reginald Ling, Haden Littlebear, Jessica Lopez, Mika Lopez, Katheryn MacElroy, Trevon Marks, Natalia Martinez, Clayton Millicew, Anthony Oliver, Emely Ortiz, Bradley Osceola, Chaska Osceola, Ragan Osceola, Sarah Osceola, Symphany Osceola, John Robbins Jr., Breanna Robbins, Mazzy Robbins, Rheannon Robbins, Ignacia Rodriguez, Juan Salazar, Derrick Tiger, Savannah Tiger, Tequesta Tiger, Catlin Tommie, Reagan Whitecloud, Trinity Williams, Echo Wolf, Silver Wolf, Troy Yecas, Chasyn Yescas

Perfect Attendance: Eyanna Billie, Graysun Billie, Ryan Cypress, Tash-sho-tah-che Jumper, Chasyn Yescas

Three days or less: Richard Billie Jr., Akira Billie, Carlee Billie, Elisah Billie, Justina Billie, Deforest Carter, Caitlin Cypress, Tyler Cypress, Bluesky Friday, Colby Herrera, Bradin Jim, Christopher Joe Jr., William Jumper III, Katesa Kirkland, Sierra Kirkland, Alyssa Osceola, Kaitlin Osceola, Symphany Osceola, Skylar Tommie

Improved GPA: Graysun Billie, Sierra Bowers, Destiny Cypress, Tai Cypress, Darius Friday, Colby Herrera, Darren Jim, Callie Joe, Alyssa Noah, Emely Ortiz, Juan Salazar, Derrick Tiger, Chasyn Yescas

High School Diploma: Cody Billie, Aaron Cypress, Dawna Cypress, Bianca Fernandez, Stephanie Hall, Steven Hannahs, Brittany Huff, Alyssa Noah, Jerrilyn Tsoosie, Christina Wilson

Honors Classes: Rayel Billie, Ahnie Cypress-Jumper, Jason Melton II

Advanced Classes: Asiana Billie, Rayel Billie, Elise Brown, Dawna Cypress, Colby Herrera, Kevin Ivey, Annie Joe, Callie Joe, Alyssa Osceola, Amaya Solano, Annabelle Whiteshield

Awards and Certificates: Shana Balentine, Thomlynn Billie, Sierra Bowers, Elise Brown, Troy Cantu, Chloe Hendrickson, Kamari Ivey, Kevin Ivey, Annie Joe, Callie Joe, Alyssa Osceola, Amaya Solano, Annabelle Whiteshield

Pre-K Award: Cameron Alexander, Nicholas Andrews, Athena Bert, Caleb Billie, Keaton Billie, Sontino Billie, Evol Buck, Elijah Cook, Evan Cypress, Harmony Cypress, Tauni Cypress, Lauren Doctor, Barbara Jimmie, Angelle Melton, Cale Osceola, Charlie Osceola, Dacia Osceola, Daleen Osceola, Gabriel Porter, Aleah Rodriguez, Timothy Tigertail, Anthony Wells

Kindergarten Award: Mahala Billie-Osceola, Hermoine Calderon, Katrina Calumbo, Valholy Frank, Kamari Ivey, Ramona Jimmie, Canaan Jumper, Hetchoo-ye Jumper, Alani Mercer, Adrian Mondoza, Leo Osceola Onco, Brandi Osceola, Camden Rhymes, Amaya Solano, Skylar Tommie, Kaylie Yescas

Effort Award: Malachi Baker, Anthony Balentine, Lariah Balentine, Keifer Bert, Marvin Billie Jr., Ronnie Billie Jr., Akol Billie, Alfred Billie, Arnold Billie, Chief Billie, Corbin Billie, Dannee Billie, Eagle Billie, Jazmine Billie, Natasha Billie, Redheart Billie, Shawna Billie, Stevie Billie, Tiffany Billie, Tyrus Billie, Matthew Bluebird, Aiden Bowers, Alanis Bowers, Alyssa Bowers, Jean Capricien, Chancy Curry, Billy Cypress III, Stanley Cypress IV, Aileen Cypress, Alec Cypress, Alexander Cypress, Anthony Cypress, Charles Cypress, Danvin Cypress, Dillon Cypress, Ian Cypress, Jalen Cypress, Kira Cypress, Michael Cypress, Mirra Cypress, O'sha'ne Cypress, Tomyra Cypress, Kanavis Cypress-Williams, Renee Engel, Herschel Frank, Charl Frye, Jorge Gooden-Harden, Daylyn Hall, Ko'Oshee Henry, Nauthkee Henry, Terance Hill, Nathaniel Jim, Rashawn Jim, Susie Jim, Michelle Jimmie, Monique Jimmie, Hudson Jumper, Katinna Jumper, Kaylee Jumper, John Lamb, Robin Landin, Dare'rick McInturf, Jared McInturf, Trent-Daryl McInturf, Rodni Mercer, Rayce Noah, Tia Osborne, Mario Osceola, Rebecca Osceola, Rowley, Thalia Pacheco, Taylor Pratt, Cooper Rivers, Jonathan Robbins, Leandra Rodriguez, Carlos Romero, Eric Sanders Jr., Clayton Sanders, Kory Sanders, Hannah Smith, Martha Tiger, Kellie Tigertail, Tony Tigertail, Demetria Tigertail, Derick Toho, Darnil Jae Tommie, Nena Waggerby, Uriah Waggerby, Nigel Wells, Erik Wilson

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INCENTIVE AWARDS

Students Receive Awards at Ceremony

BY ELIZABETH LEIBA
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD—Students from the Hollywood community received awards in recognition for their scholastic achievements at the incentive awards held Aug. 15 in the Hollywood Gym.

Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. congratulated the children for their hard work and perseverance.

"We're here to recognize and reward success," Rep. Osceola said. "The late Billy Cypress was our first Seminole to get a college degree. I remember he said 'education pays.' And today it pays but in the future it's going to pay more."

Education Dept. Program Manager Tony Bullington thanked and congratulated the parents and grandparents for supporting their children's educational goals.

"In a very real sense these awards probably should be handed to you," Bullington said. "If it weren't for you pushing and plodding and getting them up in the morning and making sure they have everything they need, we probably wouldn't be here."

Higher Education Advisor Linda Iley presented the 2008-2009 higher

education award recipients. Next the awards were given for excellence in kindergarten through high school.

Rep. Osceola's closing remarks reminded the students of the importance of education.

"The future is now; the future is tomorrow," Rep. Osceola said. "I can't tell the future but I know I'm with the future of the Seminole Tribe."



(L-R) Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. presents an incentive award to kindergarten Arissa Cypress at the Aug. 15 ceremony.

Hollywood Incentive Award Recipients

Kindergarten: Grace Martinez, Aurora Two Shoes, Janae Bankston, Leon Edouard, Horeci Cypress, Lyle Osceola, Rafael Ramirez, Sisto Vennabala, Eden Billie, Anissa Cypress, Yalek Martinez, Michael Harvey, Justina Martinez, Jaeta Stewart, Jay Bowers, Jarred Cypress, Faith Johns.

First Grade: Chasyn Yescas, Kiylen Jumper, Anthony Gentry, Silas Madrigal, Irissa Young, Joey Puente, Cedric Martin, Destiny Diaz, Brendan Latchford, Gordon Jumper, Krishawn Henry, Tyree Jimmie, Kaden Young, Jason Cypress Jr., Chandler DeMayo, Kaiya Drake, Marcie Osceola, Rubie Osceola, Jaiylin Mowatt, Italia Sisto, Teijo Smith.

Second Grade: Joseph Diaz, Phoenix Sun, Jumper, Caitlyn Billie, Robert Stivers Jr., Mary Stivers, Jerome Stivers, Zoey Puente, Adrianna Bell, Boryalis Cypress, Kian Madrid, Grant Osceola, Matthew Osceola Jr., Sheldon Osceola, Brooke Kiers, Katrica Haglins, Maleah Smith.

Third Grade: Kasera Cypress, Bradley Latchford, Chahom Osceola, Cady Osceola, Tyler Blodeau, Samuel Sanchez, Kariann Young, Franklin Jumper, Kyler Bell, Pernell Bert, Anya Baxley, Cecil Johns, Druitt Osceola, John Osceola, Clariessa Avila, Elizabeth Frank, Donavin Spiva, Luke Baxley Jr.

Fourth Grade: India Harjo, Savannah Redbone-Osceola, Janay Cypress, Arianna Primeaux, Merice Billie, Tai Cypress, Di-loy-yo Billie, Brady Latchford, Raylon Eagle, Cameron Osceola, Audrianna Sirota, Jesse Sanchez, Richard Primeaux, Aariah Bowers, Raylene Stewart, Chloe Smith, Kenzie Motlow, Kyrell Josh, Rylee Osceola.

Mila Osceola, Brent Frank, Skyla Osceola, Ashley Osceola.

Fifth Grade: Fairuza Aziz, Knananochet Osceola, Alexander Escobar, Tameron Wilcox, Rebecca Vasquez, Cotton Vasquez, Jackie Wille, Natamah Robbins, Cameron Jumper, Marsha Osceola, Elizabeth Osceola, Kiana Bell, Ethan Cypress, Kanavis Cypress, Gerret Osceola, Devan Bowers, Shania Johns, Eden Jumper, Damian Frank, Carson Knaby, Tyson Osceola.

Sixth Grade: Julia Billie, Jennie Eagle, Dorian Jumper, Tristan Wilcox, Nicholas Jumper, Brian Blodeau, Jonathan Idie, Brooke Osceola, Cameron Osceola, Silver Wolf, Toss Young Jr., Brianna Blais-Billie, Elden Osceola, Della Harjo.

Seventh Grade: Cheyenne Kippenberger, Jack Osceola, Adahma Sirota, Dakota Josh, Gabrielle Billie, Echo Wolf, Anissa Osceola, Paul Billie, Joslyn Cypress, Derrick Tiger, Aaron Osceola, Trevor Osceola.

Eighth Grade: Brandtley Osceola, Darian Cypress-Osceola, Vcenv Bowers, Zechariah Lacey, Clarissa Jumper, Maleah Isaac, Joseph John, Dominique Motlow.

Ninth Grade: Amelia Sanchez, Tucamah Robbins, Tyler Hajochee, Cindi Adair, Huston Osceola, Braudie Blais-Billie.

Tenth Grade: Whitney Osceola, Kristen Billie.

Eleventh Grade: Shelli Osceola, Jordan Osceola, Heather Kippenberger, Talena Castillo.

Twelfth Grade: Krystle Young, Victor Osceola, Shelby Dehass, Jerilyn Tosie, Elliot Frank, Spencer Battisti, Sheyanna Osceola, Meghan Osceola, Audrey Osceola, Arelinda Jordan, Rhiannon Tiger.

Higher Education: Christine McCall, Phelicia Hughes, Kurya Kippenberger, Agnes Billie Motlow.



Kindergarten teacher Ms. Duncan (R) welcomes Alice Osceola to Pemaaytv Emahakv and her classroom.

Charter School Teachers, Students, Parents Meet at Open House

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON—Teachers were grinning ear to ear as they got to meet their new students for the 2009-2010 school year at Pemaaytv Emahakv's Open House, held Aug. 20 at the school.

"We are ready for our third year," Guidance Counselor Jeanine Gran said. "It is going to be exciting."

Students checked in at the tables set up in the breezeway to find out who their teacher would be before heading to the newly-built cafeteria for freshly baked refreshments.

Students then made their way to their classrooms, where they met their teachers and received any last minute preparation instructions.

"It's a lot to think about... trying to get everybody organized and make sure they have the right supplies," said mother of four Laverne Thomas.

Pemaaytv Emahakv has much to offer this new school year including the addition of sixth grade.

There are 205 students enrolled in the school, with 23 sixth graders.

"In addition to sixth grade we are going to try something new with our fourth and fifth graders," Principal Russell Brown said. "We are departmentalizing our teachers, and each teacher is going to focus on a specific subject matter."

Pemaaytv Emahakv has many scheduled events for the school year including several history-related field trips where the students will visit various historic campsites on the Brighton Reservation.

The Seminole Tribe Health Dept. was on hand at the Open House event to help educate and prepare students in regards to the H1N1 flu, also known as Swine Flu. The Health

Dept. passed out hand sanitizer to help get the word out about preventing the spread of the disease.

"We're very excited about the upcoming year," Principal Brown said. "We've missed the children so we're ready to get them back."



(L-R) Erik Garcia and mom, Rita McCabe, go over last minute school supply lists with fifth grade teacher Mrs. Finney.

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PEMAYETV EMAHAKV STUDENT HONORS

Bi-Weekly Awards Distributed for Aug. 24-Sept. 4



- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| Kindergarten
Mrs. Duncan – Diego Meras
Mrs. Pearce – Kalyan Hammill
Mrs. Webber – Hannah Moss | Second Grade
Mrs. Ball – Malcolm Jones
Mrs. Clements – Blake Baker
Mrs. Moss – Shyla Gopher | Fifth Grade
Mrs. Dobbs – Trevor Thomas
Mrs. Finney – Crysten Smith |
| First Grade
Mrs. Davis – Janylen Baker
Mrs. Johns – Jaylon Billie
Mrs. Ringstaff – Davin Carrillo | Third Grade
Mrs. Pryor – Keely Billie
Mrs. Williams – Aleina Micco | Sixth Grade
Mrs. Hudson – Michael Garcia
Mrs. Wells – Taylor Holata |
| Fourth Grade
Mrs. Paige – Chloe Chalfant
Mrs. Tedders – Rudy Juarez | EOE
Mrs. Bond – Logan Ortiz | |

Students Attend Back to School Block Party in Immokalee

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — The courtyard in front of the Administration Building in Immokalee turned into a beehive of activity on the afternoon of Aug. 20 as preschool through high school students gathered for the Back to School Block Party.



Ozzie Garza shows off his back to school T-shirt at the block party in Immokalee.

The fun-filled activities included games, contests and relays sponsored by the Recreation, Immokalee Seminole Ranch, Family Services, Education, Culture, Library, Seminole Police, Emergency Management,

After School Programs, Health and Nutrition Departments.

On the more serious side, "Education is the Key to Success" established the theme for the event. Parents were acknowledged for their efforts during the previous school year and encouraged to support their children on the path to success. T-shirts were distributed bearing the slogan "Raising the Bar in 2009."

Healthy snacks, fruit and an agenda for proper eating habits were dispensed at the Health Dept. booth along with an opportunity to win prizes at the Feed the Hungry Monster bean bag toss game.

School, art and education materials were piled high on the Family Services Dept. table in anticipation of a productive school year. It didn't take long for the youngsters to fill their new book bags.

Divided into age groups, the cement squares of the side walk became the perfect pallet for the "Chalk It Up" art contest. Aspiring artists transformed the building entrance into a gallery of amazing colors, traditional and contemporary art forms.

Numerous young scholars took home prizes when they excelled at the Family Services Department's "Name the States and Capitals" competition.



Isaiah Garcia creates artwork during the event on Aug. 20.



The Hollywood students enjoy the laser tag fun house and bounce house slide at the back to school event on Aug. 20.

Youngsters Enjoy Summer Blast Before Start of New School Year

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — More than 70 Tribal youth, from toddlers to teenagers, attended the annual Back to School Summer Blast at the Hollywood Gym Aug. 20.

New at this year's event were a laser tag fun house and bounce house slide, replacing face painting and

animal balloon-making from last year.

"I liked the slide because of all the flips and fun on it," said Tribal youngster Arek Jumper.

The Hollywood Recreation Dept. Youth Center sponsored the event.

"I was very impressed with it and thought it went very well," said Hollywood Recreation Dept. Youth Center Supervisor Patricia Stirrup.



Tampa youth wait in line to receive back to school supplies provided by the Tampa Recreation Dept.

Tampa Youth Gear Up for Back to School

BY RYAN WATSON
Contributing Writer

LAKE LAND, Fla. — The Tampa Recreation Dept. organized the first Annual Back to School Jam on Aug. 22 at the Lakeland property.

The event was created to get Tribal youth energized about the upcoming 2009-2010 school year.

"We wanted to get the kids excited about school

again after all the summer activities," said Tampa Recreation Dept. Director Mayra Simmons. "We thought this would be a good way to get them motivated to do well in school."

Activities at the event included the climbing wall, bounce house and water slide, as well as kickball, sack races and a water balloon fight.

Each child received a custom-made back pack stamped with the Tribal logo. The evening concluded with a door prize giveaway of school supplies.



(L-R) Sisters Thomlynn and Alice, along with dad Thomas Billie chat with Principal Walt Swan (C) about what to expect during the 2009-2010 school year at Ahfachkee.

Ahfachkee Begins New School Year

BY NAJLI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Chairman Mitchell Cypress said he takes much pride in the Ahfachkee School at the Big Cypress Reservation.

In essence, Chairman Cypress expects all Ahfachkee staffers to uphold the school's primary objective: making its students and the overall environment "happy."

"I'm happy to be a part of the [Ahfachkee] school and I hope we have a good one here," Chairman Cypress said to all the Ahfachkee staffers during the Aug. 12 meeting.

He also said one of the essential components to making the school a success is to promote a team concept amongst the parents, students, faculty and teachers.

During an open house meeting, held Aug. 12 in the school cafeteria, teachers and staff members were enlightened by this message.

"Together, everyone achieves more," said Dale Grasshopper, assistant to Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress. "It takes all of us working together and we need to show that dedication to the youth we come in contact with."

Staffers were reminded about the importance of promoting education for the betterment of the Seminole Tribe of Florida's future.

It's something that's dear to the Chairman's heart, as he's adamant about seeing the Tribal students graduate from the Ahfachkee school. Not only that, Chairman Cypress desires for the Ahfachkee youth to continue their education in college and then operate the Big Cypress Reservation in the future.

Welcome Back

As the Ahfachkee School students and parents entered the school facility on the afternoon of Aug. 20 they received items including rulers and crayons to get them ready for the school year.

Eight days after the all-important meeting, the Ahfachkee staff did everything they could to carry the school's team vision.

Not only did all of them go out of their way to welcome the Ahfachkee students and parents, but they presented the guests with a vibe that felt like being in a comfortable home.

"It's a good working atmosphere," said Antonio Wright, who's entering his first full year teaching at the Ahfachkee School. "We have a strong group of teachers here. We're looking to bridge the gap with the community and make a positive change in the lives of our kids."

Walter Swan, the Ahfachkee School's principal, could be seen striking up conversations with several students and their parents. Fittingly, Swan let the guests know that the staff will make sure they have an enjoyable experience not only for the open house, but throughout the school year as well.

"Ask all the questions you want and make sure you get all the answers you need," Swan said to the children and families just before they embarked on a tour of the school.

While students and parents got to take a closer look at the school's campus, four Ahfachkee School teachers spent some quality time tending to the Ahfachkee Culture Camp's garden area.



(L-R) Students Janessa Jones, 8, and Willie Smith, 6, walk into school on the first day, welcomed by SPD Clerk Shani Billie.

Jeannette Cypress, the school's traditional preservation program director and language teacher, checked on the status of the banana and aloe plants. With clear and breezy weather present at the Culture Camp, it was encouraging for Cypress to see that the plants were in good shape.

It's something that many of her students will be learning about, as she passionately discussed the academic course with three fellow teachers, Danielle Jumper-Frye, assistant director of the Traditional Preserva-

tion Program, Mary Jene Koenes, language specialist, and Tabitha "Sissy" Cook, research specialist.

All four colleagues were visibly relaxed and vibrant as they absorbed not only the elements of the Culture Camp, but what would happen right after that.

As the foursome walked to the E-la-pon-ke Language Room, she spoke to each other about the origins of the Native American culture before Tribal citizen Quentin Cypress, 14, entered the classroom to pay a quick visit.

The eighth-grader was one of several students who stopped by for the Open House event. He briefly talked about the class.

"It's one of my favorite classes because I get to learn about my own culture," Cypress said. "There are some great teachers in the Culture Department at Ahfachkee. I think I'm going to learn a whole lot from them this year."

Later, it was on to the social studies room, where Wright helped get students and parents acclimated not only to his teaching style, but to the positive atmosphere that he set for the classroom. Tribal student Taylor Pratt, 16, is one of the students in Wright's social studies class.

Taylor's father, Big Cypress First Baptist Church Pastor Bruce Pratt, feels comfortable with him being in the class under Wright's tutelage.

"Mr. [Antonio] Wright will let us, as parents, know where the students are at in their progress," Pratt said. "He's a good communicator, that's for sure. I think my son will learn a lot from him this year."

Following the tour, attendees dined together and several won gifts from a raffle.

Ft. Pierce Liaison Sally R. Tommie, also execu-



The Ahfachkee School faculty and staff after the conclusion of the open house function on Aug. 20.

tive assistant to Chairman Cypress, said she is confident about the staff's ability to provide the students the best education possible this year.

"Everything you do will make a difference in the lives of our young children at the Seminole Tribe," Tommie told the teachers prior to the Open House ceremony. "I know you will have our children's best interests at heart."

First Week of School

There is a new addition to the Ahfachkee School this year. The change of classes each period, plus the availability of seeing different teachers throughout the day, proved to be refreshing for students and staff alike.

For the first three days of school, students from grades 6-12 were given a half-day for the purpose of piloting the class and teacher changes. That, in addition to a hearty breakfast served to students before their first period classes, was addressed in the welcome announcement on the school's first day, Aug. 24.

"It's something new we're starting here," said Lu Salter, the Ahfachkee School's media specialist. "The middle and high school kids are excited about the new changes. The faculty and students are excited as well."

After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, students were given a set of instructions on how to navigate between the class periods. The middle and high school students are given three minutes to switch from class to class.

There are seven periods in the school day, plus homeroom and an end-of-the-day Primetime Session. This is the final class period of the day where students can go over classroom and homework assignments with an assigned teacher, similar to a study hall.

"Remember, we are Ahfachkee Seminole Warriors," Salter said to the students just before they began their first class that morning. "You make us strong and an education makes us Seminole strong. Be respectful, responsible and ready to learn."

For the smooth transition to occur, however, some of the Ahfachkee teachers sacrificed their weekend time and came in on Sundays to make it happen, Swan said.

"Everything's been going smoothly for the first day of school," Swan said shortly after the middle and high school students were released at 12 noon that day. "Our staff has done a great job preparing for the students. They're putting in the time and effort necessary to ensure the success of our kids."

Swan was encouraged about the school's transition to the changing of classes.

"This move is age-appropriate and nobody's really gotten lost, with the help and support of all our staff," Swan said. "It's a really good start we have here; it's only going to get better."

Health



Gina Allardyce (L), Tribal personal trainer, works closely with several preschool students as they learn hand-eye coordination during a game of throw and catch at the Get Fit Day event, held Sept. 4 in the Big Cypress gym.

Community Emphasizes Health at Get Fit Day

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Fun, fitness and fundamentals were the three primary objectives for Get Fit Day on Sep. 4.

As preschool children, ranging in age from 1 to 4, from the Big Cypress and Immokalee Reservations gathered around the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium, they quickly saw all three goals come to fruition.

Gina Allardyce, the Tribal personal trainer/gymnastics specialist for Big Cypress, directed the toddlers in a series of exercises on the morning of the event.

It all started with stretching and warm-ups, which focused on the youngsters standing up and sitting down a few times, followed by the flexing of their arms, ankles and wrists. After that was done, it was on to the planned activities for the 90 minute fitness session.

Allardyce and her fitness team assembled five stations, which consisted of soccer relays and goals, a bean bag and ring toss, a parachute drill, a circuit training procedure and a dice game. All of the activities keyed in on similar developmental skills, such as hand, eye and foot coordination, agility and self-confidence.

In the soccer relay drill, the children were instructed to dribble the ball with their feet and go from one cone to the next. After that, they learned to kick the soccer ball into a goal.

Next up was the bean bag and ring toss. Since this focused primarily on hand-eye coordination, the youngsters were taught by fitness trainers to throw the bag with their hands and into a bean bag box.

With the ring toss, meanwhile, the ring had to be thrown into a post, designed as the letter X.

The excitement continued with the circuit training obstacle course with several activities. The Big Cypress and Immokalee preschoolers navigated through the cones and crawled through a tunnel, which was followed by the Hula hoops that they jumped in and over.

The parachute drill is actually a team building exercise that keys in on agility and hand-eye coordination. Allardyce, who began these training activities about eight years ago, talked about how this drill was done.

"When I tell the kids to go up and down with the parachute, they are not only improving their agility and coordination, they're building their arm and leg strength when doing that," Allardyce said.

More strength building opportunities arose on a set of dice. It may not sound like an activity appropriate for Get Fit Day, but perhaps it was the most beneficial of all the exercises.

With the preschoolers and their teachers sitting down on the gym floor, Allardyce rolled the set of dice. One die was filled with numbers and the other one told the kids what exercise they had to

do. For example, if the number 6 and jumping jacks showed up together, all the kids would do 6 jumping jacks.

"The kids think they're having fun and playing around," said Michelle Ford, Immokalee Preschool center manager and bus driver. "But what they don't know is that they're getting fitness training and it's geared toward their age group."

Big Cypress/Immokalee Fitness Dept. Program Director Neil Prager echoed Ford's sentiment, saying working with the preschoolers "made my day."

"Get Fit Day breaks up monotony, which gives us a substantial amount of quality time with the kids," Prager said. "I look forward to working with the kids in these kinds of settings."

A 15 minute snack break took place after the activities so the youngsters could eat and rehydrate. They then returned to their exercises one last time before the event concluded with Allardyce giving each participant a chain for their efforts and calling them "champions."

"I commend the preschool teachers for being supportive of their kids at this event," Allardyce said. "The preschool students are gaining self-confidence, physical exercise and all-around fun."



(L-R) Preschooler Swan Kimble, 1, engages in a game of soccer with Neil Prager, program director for the Big Cypress/Immokalee Fitness Dept.

Participants Honored at Weight Loss Luncheon

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Fifty-four Tribal citizens and community members were recognized for their weight loss efforts at the 16-week Big Cypress health initiative.

Charlie Cypress and Myra Jumper took first place in the Tribal men's and women's categories, respectively. In the community members division, Billie McDonald and Michael Hopkins took top honors, receiving recognition for their efforts at the Weight Loss Luncheon, held Aug. 13 at the Community Center.

The turnout was a success, the whole room was full," said Edna McDuffie, the community outreach coordinator for the Big Cypress Reservation. "We think that they've learned something valuable from our presentations. We hope they keep up with what we've taught them."

Big Cypress Nutritionist Suzanne Fundingsland offered some nutritional health tips during the event and spoke about the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. She also spoke about the importance of eating meals with the family.

She pointed out that family meals can offer an opportunity for parents to act as role

models in healthy eating. It's ideal, according to Fundingsland, for parents to put food on the table and sit down with their children together in the family meal.

According to studies conducted by the Tribal Health and Family Services Departments, eating family meals together frequently — five or more per week — will increase the likelihood children will eat fruits and vegetables rather than unhealthy foods.

Interestingly, however, if families dine together less than three nights per week, children are more likely to engage in substance abuse.

A Seminole Health Dept. study shows that 65 percent of Seminole youth, ages 7-18, said they wish they could eat more with families.

With that being said, pleasant, relaxed and healthy family eating reportedly makes everyone at the table happier about their futures.

And an active role in keeping weight down as much as possible is one component of that.

The 54 honorees present were not only enlightened by the presentation, they received news of the amount of weight lost since the initial weigh-in.

The weight loss results garnered special recognition for 20 of the attendees, as there were five places each for Tribal males, Tribal females, non-Tribal males and non-Tribal females.

The Seminole Shape Up Program operates for three 16-week intervals, with the Weight Loss Luncheon being held three times per year at the conclusion of the Shape Up sessions.

Seminole Shape Up Program Winners

Tribal Citizens: Men: Charlie Cypress, 12 lbs.

Tribal Citizens: Women: Myra Jumper, 18 lbs.

Community Members: Men: 1. Michael Hopkins, 42.5 lbs., 2. Jesus Lizarraga, 27.5 lbs., 3. Lamar Gallegos, 20.5 lbs., 4. Waltus Carter, 20 lbs., 5. Earl Kirkland, 19 lbs.

Community Members: Women: 1. Billie McDonald, 20 lbs., 2. Marilyn Jumper, 17 lbs., 3. Elizabeth Lowman, 14 lbs., 4. Heather Galassini, 11 lbs., 5. Yvette Bowman, 10 lbs.

Stress Reduction, Massage Therapy Workshop Held

BY SHELLEY MARMOR
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Tribal Education Department's Adult Vocational Program sponsored a stress reduction and massage therapy workshop at the Community Center on Aug. 17.

Eleven-year licensed massage therapist Samantha Nye led the workshop, the third one she has conducted for the Tribe. During the workshop she began by having the participants identify things that stress them out.

Attendee Mark Billie, a Tribal outreach worker with the Family Services Dept., admitted he sometimes gets stressed out with the pressures of his job. But he explained how he works at finding a good balance and not getting overwhelmed when trying to deal with other peoples' problems.

"A lot of times I get caught up in it," Billie admitted. "But I've learned how to separate myself."

Nye also took the time to point out that there is a form of stress called "eustress," sometimes referred to as "good stress," that has positive effects in people. She said good stressors help to motivate individuals to get things done in their lives.

After identifying and discussing stressors, Nye then led the group in a meditative exercise. Following that she gave a discussion on reflexology and massage, which she said both help facilitate stress reduction.

She explained that during reflexology the feet are massaged to promote a beneficial effect on other parts of the body and promote overall health. A prevalent modality in Chinese medicine for thousands of years, reflexology works by massaging different zones on the feet which have effects on different body parts, organs, systems and more.

The participants then administered a self-massage to their necks, a common place people hold stress.



Workshop instructor Samantha Nye draws lines on her feet to show attendees the different zones utilized during a reflexology treatment.



Workshop participant Mark Billie administers a self-massage on his neck as instructor and 11-year licensed massage therapist Samantha Nye checks his technique.

Tribal Fire Rescue Dept. Successfully Extinguishes Big Cypress House Fire

BY JOHN COOPER, DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF
Contributing Writer

BIG CYPRESS — The Seminole Tribe's Fire Rescue Dept. responded to a call in Big Cypress where firefighters extinguished a fully involved house fire on Aug. 2.

The occupants were able to escape the fire, which consumed much of the home's

interior. No one was injured during the incident.

Firefighters kept the fire away from a car parked in the driveway, and managed to save the overall structure. However, much of the home's contents were destroyed by the fire and smoke.

The Housing Dept. assisted the occupant with an alternate place to live during renovations.



(L-R) Firefighter/EMT Bryan Russo and Capt. Robert Curtis of Rescue 2108 administered lifesaving techniques to an on-duty member of the Hollywood Hard Rock Hotel & Casino's security team on Aug. 9, helping save the employee's life.

Fire Rescue Saves Security Employee

BY DISTRICT CHIEF FRANK RANSEDELL
Contributing Writer

HOLLYWOOD — Two members of Rescue 2108, Capt. Robert Curtis and Firefighter/EMT Bryan Russo, responded to a call from the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino for an on-duty member of hotel security who was experiencing an acute onset of chest and back pain on the evening of Aug. 9.

The crew recognized the possibility of an aortic aneurysm, which is a weakened and bulging area in

the aorta, the major blood vessel that feeds blood to the body.

Because the aorta is the body's main supplier of blood, a ruptured aortic aneurysm can cause life-threatening bleeding. In fact, an aortic aneurysm is fatal in about 95 percent of all patients.

The Fire Rescue crew provided advanced cardiac life support and expeditiously transported the patient to nearby Memorial Regional Hospital where he underwent emergency surgery and survived.

THE HEALTHY SENIOR **BY FRED CICETTI**

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

Q: I've been getting bruises lately and I can't remember hurting myself. Should I see a doctor?

A: A tendency to bruise easily is common when you age. It's especially common among women.

A bruise, also known as a contusion, occurs when the tiny blood vessels under your skin break after being struck.

When you bruise, the blood leaks under the skin and leaves a black and blue mark; the harder the impact, the bigger the bruise. As the blood is reabsorbed by your body, the bruise goes away.

You can enhance healing by elevating the injury and applying a cold pack for 30 minutes at a time for a day or so after you are injured. After there is no swelling, a warm compress can accelerate re-absorption.

Blood thinning medications can contribute to bruising. So you might bruise more easily if you take Plavix® or Coumadin®. Aspirin® will have a similar effect. The thinners allow more blood to pool under your skin. So, if you're taking one of these drugs, what seems like a harmless bump against a coffee table, could lead to a nasty bruise.

Some dietary supplements can thin your blood, too. Be careful if you are consuming more than normal amounts of fish oil, Ginkgo biloba, ginger and garlic.

It's easier to bruise if your skin is thin. With age, your skin becomes thinner and loses some of the fat that protects your blood vessels. Corticosteroids are known to make your skin thinner, so these drugs can make you more bruise-prone.

Aging capillaries contribute to bruising, too. Over

time, the tissues supporting these vessels weaken, and capillary walls become more fragile and prone to rupture.

There is a special type of bruising, Bateman's purpura, which is usually seen on the back of the hands and forearms. Unlike everyday bruises, the bruises you get with Bateman's purpura are not tender and last longer. They start out red and become purple. They darken and then, in time, they fade. They can last for weeks.

This condition, also known as "atactic purpura," is usually seen in seniors. It is caused by blood vessel walls that have been weakened by years of exposure to the sun. In addition, the skin is sun-damaged and thin.

Daily application of alpha hydroxyacid lotions to the skin have been shown to increase skin thickness up to 15 percent in patients with sun-damaged thin skin. This occurs through the stimulation of collagen production, the skin's natural support protein. For women, the hormone progesterone in lotion may also help.

Most bruises are not a cause for concern. However, certain symptoms — unusually large or painful bruises that seem to have no cause, abnormal bleeding elsewhere, sudden bruising after beginning a medication — should be checked out by a doctor.

These symptoms may mean that you don't have enough platelets in your blood. Platelets help your blood to clot.

You can take steps to prevent bruising from falls and collisions. Here are some: always hold the handrails on stairways, don't stand on a chair to get reach an object, clear floors where you walk, mount grab bars near toilets, tubs and showers, place non-skid mats, strips, or carpet on all surfaces that may get wet, put night lights and light switches close to your bed, tack down all carpets and area rugs, close cabinet doors and drawers so you won't run into them and be especially careful around pets.

Every Minute Counts When it Comes to Strokes and TIAs

BY BRIAN BROWN, CHIEF OF EMS DIVISION
Contributing Writer

[Editor's Note: Brian Brown is the chief of the EMS Division for the Seminole Tribe's Fire Rescue Dept. The opinions he expresses are his own. If you would like to ask a question, please write to brian-brown@semttribe.com.]

Do you know what a stroke or a TIA is? Do you know the signs and symptoms of a stroke? Do you know what to do in case you or a loved one is suffering from a stroke?

I hope that after you read this article you will be able to answer yes to these questions and have the knowledge and understanding of what steps need to be taken in order for you to prevent your chances of having a stroke or having a successful outcome when you or a loved one is faced with a stroke emergency.

What is a stroke and what is a TIA?

A stroke is an emergency medical condition where the cells of the brain become injured or even die due to a decrease or complete lack of nutrients and oxygen. A stroke can be caused by a clot obstructing the blood flow to the brain, which is called an ischemic stroke, or by a blood vessel rupturing and preventing the flow of blood to the brain, a hemorrhagic stroke.

When these vessels are not able to deliver blood to the cellular tissues of the brain, injury or death occurs in those locations of the brain causing mild to severe disruptions in normal body function. Stroke is the third leading cause of death for adults in the U.S. behind heart disease and cancer.

A transient ischemic attack, also known as a TIA, is labeled as a mini-stroke. This is a stroke caused by a clot that is temporary with symptoms that can occur rapidly and only last for a short period of time.

Unlike a stroke, when a TIA is over there is no permanent damage to the brain.

What are the signs and symptoms of a stroke? Some of the most common signs and symptoms

people display when they are having a stroke or TIA include: sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body, sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding, sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes, sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination and sudden, severe headache with no known cause.

What are some of the treatments for strokes and what should you do when you or a loved one is having the above listed signs and symptoms?

If you or someone else is having the above listed signs and symptoms, call Fire/Rescue immediately. The sooner the paramedics can transport the patient to the hospital, the greater the chances are for preventing permanent damage to the patient's brain.

When a patient arrives at the hospital they will be given immediate screenings and tested to see what type of stroke they are having. Then, the doctor will base their treatment for the stroke depending on whether it was caused by a clot or ruptured blood vessel.

Those who are having a stroke due to a clot in one or more blood vessels may receive "clot buster" medication injected into the patient's blood stream to break down the clot and open up the blood vessels. A common "clot buster" medication given is called tissue plasminogen activator, also known as tPA.

Those who are having a stroke due to a ruptured blood vessel may have to receive surgical intervention in order to fix the vessel and prevent further ruptures.

One way to help reduce your risk of having a stroke is proper prevention. If you have a medical history of high blood pressure, diabetes, or other diseases that could create blood clots or increase the pressure on the lining of blood vessels you should consult with your doctor to find out what type of special diet programs you need to follow and what type of activity restrains you need to adhere to.

Stroke education and prevention is the key element to reducing you or your loved ones chances of having a stroke emergency.

Tribal Environmental Health Program Offers Practical Solutions for Indoor Air Quality Problems

October is Indoor Air Quality Awareness Month

Oct. 2-8 is Asthma and Mold Awareness Week

BY PATRICK PECK, RS/REHS
Contributing Writer

[Editor's Note: Patrick Peck is the Tribal Environmental Health Program Manager. The article he contributed contains excerpts from an article that appeared in the Lincoln Journal Star newspaper. All other opinions he expresses are his own. If you would like to ask a question, please write to patrickpeck@semttribe.com.]

October is Indoor Air Quality Awareness Month and the week of Oct. 2-8 is Asthma and Mold Awareness Week.

During these times many people will evaluate how healthy their indoor environment is and whether or not their home and office are free of harmful indoor air pollutants.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida Indoor Air Quality division of the Seminole Health Dept. is here to provide you with information on pollutants which can affect the air and take steps to prevent these pollutants in the areas where you spend the majority of your time.

Molds, mildew, fungi, bacteria and dust mites are some of the main biological pollutants inside the house. Some, such as pollen, are generated outside the home. Mold and mildew are generated in the home and release spores into the air.

Mold, mildew, fungi and bacteria are often found in areas of the home having high humidity levels, such as bathrooms, kitchens, laundry rooms or basements. Dust mites and animal dander are problematic when they become airborne during vacuuming, making beds or when textiles are disturbed.

When mold spores land on a damp spot indoors, they may begin growing and digesting whatever they are growing on in order to survive. Molds can grow on wood, paper, carpet and foods. When excessive moisture or water accumulates indoors, mold growth will often occur, particularly if the moisture problem remains undiscovered or un-addressed.

There is no practical way to eliminate all mold and mold spores in the indoor environment; the way to control indoor mold growth is to control moisture. It is important to dry water damaged areas and items within 24-48 hours to prevent mold growth.

If mold is a problem in your home, clean up the mold and get rid of the excess water and moisture. Wash mold off hard surfaces with detergent, water and a disinfectant, and dry completely. Absorbent materials, such as ceiling tiles and carpets, can become moldy and may have to be replaced.

There are many ways to control moisture in your home:

- Fix leaks and seepage. If water is entering the house from the outside, your options range from simple landscaping to extensive excavation and waterproofing. The ground should slope away from the house. Water in the basement can result from the lack of gutters or a water

flow toward the house. Water leaks from pipes or around tubs and sinks can provide a place for biological pollutants to grow.

Put a plastic cover over dirt in crawlspaces to prevent moisture from coming in from the ground. Be sure crawlspaces are well-ventilated. For additional help, call your local Tribal Housing department.

Keeping basements, bathrooms and other rooms clean and dry. Use a detergent, water and a disinfectant to clean surfaces having mold on them. If carpeting or furnishings become wet, they must be quickly and thoroughly dried or discarded. Use exhaust fans in bathrooms and kitchens to remove moisture to the outside, not into the attic. Vent your clothes dryer to the outside.

Turn off certain appliances, such as humidifiers or kerosene heaters, if you notice moisture on windows and other surfaces.

Use dehumidifiers and air conditioners, especially in hot, humid climates, to reduce moisture in the air, but be sure the appliances themselves don't become a source of biological pollutants. Humidifiers, dehumidifiers and air conditioning condensing units should be regularly cleaned with a disinfectant such as chlorine bleach.

Keep humidity at acceptable levels of less than 50 percent, and make sure there's plenty of ventilation, especially in areas where moisture tends to build up. Raise the temperature of cold surfaces where moisture condenses.

Use insulation or storm windows. Storm windows installed on the inside works better than ones installed on the outside.

Keep doors between rooms open, especially doors to closets which may be colder than the rooms as this will increase circulation. Circulation carries heat to the cold surfaces. Increase air circulation by using fans and by moving furniture from wall corners to promote air and heat circulation. Be sure your house has a source of fresh air and can expel excessive moisture from the home.

Pay special attention to carpet on concrete floors. Carpet can absorb moisture and serve as a place for biological pollutants to grow. Molds can trigger asthma episodes in sensitive individual. People with asthma should avoid contact or exposure to molds.

To reduce asthma attacks keep homes, schools and child care centers clean. Use dust-proof, zippered bedding covers, keep pets away from sensitive people, reduce mold-inducing moisture and prevent cockroach infestation. Vacuums with high efficiency filters or central vacuum systems can help reduce the airborne dust generated by vacuuming.

Check your home and take steps to keep it free of biological pollutants. Being aware of possible problems will help keep your family safe and healthy.

For more information, please call the Environmental Health Office at (954) 965-1300, Ext. 10325.



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Sports

Tampa Tribal Citizen Competes in MMA Tourney

BY RYAN WATSON
Staff Reporter

LAKELAND, Fla. — Tampa Tribal citizen Nick Frank competed in his first grappling-only submission match on Aug. 22 at Lake Gibson High School in Lakeland, Fla.

In a grappling-only competition, neither athlete can use a strike move to take down their opponent. Rather, each must handle and control the other contender by utilizing choke holds and other hold techniques and counter moves to deter their competitor's hold attempts.

Frank, who has a black belt in Tae Kwon Do, said he was excited about his first grappling-only match.

"I started off in Tae Kwon Do which taught me a couple submission moves and from there I tried submission wrestling and I found it pretty fun," Frank said.

Frank lost the match by one point, but said he feels good about his martial arts future.

"This was just my first match so it can only get better from here," he said.

He and his brother, Aaron, have started teaching martial arts classes from 3-5 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesday in the Tampa community's recreation building.



Chris C. Jenkins

Big Town's Jerome Davis (C) goes in strong for the slam in the championship game against Toon Squad.

Basketball Competitors Remember Adam Billie in Games

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Now in its ninth year, the Adam C. Billie Memorial Basketball Tournament brought hoops teams and players from as far away as Oklahoma and the Carolinas to the Seminole Recreation Gym Sept. 4-5.

The annual all-Indian event, which memorializes the avid basketball fan and athlete Adam Billie, saw six men's and three women's teams taking part in the double elimination event.

Billie, who lived on the Big Cypress Reservation, would have turned 29 in December of this year. He passed away in 2000 at the age of 19 in a car accident.

"This is about making friends throughout the years and everyone getting together," older brother and tournament participant Jason Billie said. "I still remember every summer when he came back from boarding school he was in the gym and he constantly played."

"Every year this is special because it is Labor Day weekend and everyone could be somewhere else but they came here to the gym," Billie added.

In the opening game of the tournament, high expectations were set early in men's division action as Jason Billie and his Redsticks squad took on the B.C. Warriors.

The Redsticks controlled the game in the first half and held the lead throughout. The game heated up in the second half, however, with a late surge by the Warriors. Knotted at 61-61 inside of 30 seconds, the outside shooting heroics of the Warriors Greg Carter capped off the night. His team came out victorious 67-61, the final in overtime.

On the women's side, first round and championship action had the Lady Ballers face the Native Ballers. In the opener, the Lady Ballers controlled the tempo leading 33-8 at the half, and won handily in a run-leading, 41-8.

□ Please see BILLIE on page 4C



Najil Tobias

Damacio Green (C) shows camp participants, (L-R) Taylor Pratt, 16, Tyler Cypress, 14, Lane Savant, 9, Damacio Green Jr., 6, Iathaniel "Nanno" Brooks, 10, and Ryan Cypress, 15, the proper running formation during the camp, held Aug. 11-13 in Big Cypress.

Former NFL Player Damacio Green Hosts Football Camp

BY NAJIL TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Quickness, power and explosion. At a three-day football speed camp, held Aug. 11-13 at the Big Cypress softball field, the kids who attended learned all three.

They learned these skills from Damacio Green, a former National Football League (NFL) defensive back who played for three teams during the 1990s, including the Detroit Lions.

The 37-year-old, a Pahokee, Fla.-native and current Miami resident, spent quality time with six interested youngsters as they learned a slew of drills such as the skip lunge, the box hop and the warm down.

All of that, including the proper technique of running and the quick feet drill, gave the participants a renewed sense of confidence in the desire to get faster.

Green showed the participants that in order to run effectively, the chin must be tucked, with the chest out and the body slightly tilted forward to stay in a "drive phase" position.

The drive phase, Green said, allows the runner to accelerate to the point he can obtain his maximum speed in any given run. Also, it's imperative to have the elbows close to the body, with the hands positioned jaw-to-chest and buttocks-to-chest — it allows quick rotation with the hands.

The heel must be positioned over the knee for proper knee lift. In addition to being positioned in a three-point stance, the runner must learn to inhale, take off properly, working the shoulders.

It all provides for optimal speed, as evidenced by a run from Ryan Cypress, 15, from Big Cypress, Cypress, who received a speed boost as a result of the

camp, ran the 40 yard dash on two occasions; the first run clocked in at 4.9 seconds.

Realizing that he needed to apply the proper running technique on the next try, Green clocked Cypress at 4.69 seconds, a 2.1 second improvement. Taken on the final day of camp, Aug. 13, those two runs spanned just five minutes apart from each other.

"You can't run tense; you got to stay relaxed," Green told Cypress and the other five youth participants in a 10-yard quick feet drill.

Cypress used all of that to his advantage on the second run, in particular.

"As a football player, it will help you get to the ball faster," said Cypress, a 6-foot, 168 pound wide receiver.

He said he plans to play football this fall season as a sophomore at Hargrave Military Academy in Chatham, Va.

"Proper form will allow you to get some separation and distance from your opponents," Cypress said. "You'll be a better athlete once you get a hang of these drills."

While the quick feet drill and the 40 yard dash were highly important, it was perhaps the sled pull that the youngsters remembered most, including Lane Savant, a 9-year-old Tribal citizen of the Big Cypress Reservation.

As the kids learned to run with the use of a sled pull, Green instructed them to "get in a three- or four-point stance, with the chin and head down."

They also were taught to put the hands back toward the feet, with the arms and elbows straight, fingers upward and the buttocks up.

"That was my favorite one," Savant said enthusiastically.

The sled pull drill, Green said, represents "power and explosion." However, he admitted that "technique is everything."

After the speed drills concluded, it was on to the weight room at the Big Cypress Recreation Center. There, the campers were taught how to work on weightlifting exercises such as the power clean, the lat pull down, the bench press and the hip flex.

At the conclusion of workouts, Green took the time to give the kids some learning tips and encouraging words, reminding them to "stay focused."

"I want to see you improve and continue working on what you've learned in camp," Green said as the campers listened intently.

Green added some nutritional tips in his message to the campers.

"It's very imperative that you start eating right and getting a good night's sleep," Green said. "Start eating a lot of baked foods, vegetables and grilled chicken so you could have the proper intake. It helps you recover quickly and keeps you healthy."

Cypress said he hopes Green can come back for more Tribal clinics so he and others can continue to get better and faster.

"It was fun; it helped me a lot," Cypress said. "I wish it could have been longer."

And so does Green, who said he hopes he can come back to the Big Cypress Reservation and hold similar camps in the near future.

"I have a lot of knowledge to give to the kids," Green said. "Anyone who has the will to get better, I can give that to them. It's important that the youth gain knowledge of fundamentals at an early age. If I teach them how to run now, then they'll be much better because of it."

EIRA 2009-2010 Senior, Junior Rodeo Queens Crowned

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) crowned their 2009-2010 Queen Ashton Baxley, 16, and Junior Queen Ahnie Jumper, 10, during the Regional Finals Rodeo, held at the Junior Cypress Arena in Big Cypress on Aug. 29.

Retiring 2008 Queen Heather Peterson joined the EIRA Board of Directors in the arena for the official announcement and crowning ceremony. Transferring her sash to Baxley, Peterson also assisted with crowning the new queen.

Previously holding the junior queen position, Baxley made the same transition with Jumper. The two reigning finalists were presented to the audience.

In their new roles, the rodeo queens will lead the Grand Entry at the beginning of each EIRA performance, carry the flag, donate their time to charity and fundraising projects and represent the EIRA at official functions and awards banquets.

In this year's competition the junior entries needed to be 13 years old or younger and required a basic knowledge of Tribal leadership, medicine colors, educational objectives and horsemanship.

In order to compete in the senior division, the contestants had to be 14-18 years of age, and although not required, it is beneficial for the participants to have a background in rodeo competition. Horsemanship skills are a basic part of the curriculum and the young ladies were questioned at length about Tribal leadership, economy, agricultural programs, EIRA goals and personal educational endeavors. They each also submitted an essay regarding their qualifications and expectations.

Three young ladies threw their cowgirl hats in the ring for the current contest and brought a variety of traits forward to be evaluated.

Shelby DeHass, 18, is currently attending Troy University in Alabama, where she is a member of the rodeo team. She has a scholarship, is a member of the Florida High School Rodeo Association and is studying to become a physical therapist.

Nauthkee Henry, 15, grew up in the EIRA and Seminole 4-H programs. A sophomore at VanGuard School in Lake Wales, Fla., she said she loves sports and is looking toward a future as an attorney.

Ashton Baxley, 16, is a junior at Okeechobee High School and recipient of the Florida Writes Award. Her hobbies include barrel racing, horseback riding, sewing and Seminole crafts. She has a background in EIRA and Seminole 4-H.

She said she plans to attend Indian River State College and submitted an extensive essay on family values, responsibility and cultural heritage.

Each of the contestants rode their horses through a basic skills course, then traded animals and finally critiqued their own performances. All of the young ladies displayed good control, posture, balance, bit response, knowledge of tack and gaits.



Judy Weeks

The 2009-2010 EIRA Queen Ashton Baxley and Junior Queen Ahnie Jumper (C) are congratulated by (L-R) EIRA President Josh Jumper, 2008-2009 EIRA Rodeo Queen Heather Peterson, Wilse BruisedHead, Nauthkee Henry, Ayze Henry, Shelby DeHass and EIRA Secretary Melissa Gophers.

Rodeo Competitors Give Their All at Finals

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) members converged on the Junior Cypress Arena at the Big Cypress Entertainment Complex Aug. 28-29 to participate in the 2009 Regional Finals Rodeo.

The competitors traveled the EIRA circuit all year long, attempting to accumulate the points necessary to qualify for the competition at the 2009 Indian National Finals Rodeo (INFR) at South Point Casino in Las Vegas.

On Aug. 28, participants vied for the top 10 slots in each event during the long go process and racked up scores to be averaged with the short go for a chance at the regional finals championship buckles.

Average points from the two-day event will be added to the scores collected throughout the year to determine the year end champions, which will be announced at the 2009 banquet. Champions will represent the EIRA at the Indian National Finals Rodeo and will be accompanied by the reserve winners.

The finals proved to be a wild weekend of rodeo with extraordinary exhibitions and near calamities in almost all the events. Excitement rippled throughout the stands as spectators took turns cheering and gasping in disbelief as their favorite athletes risked life and limb before their eyes.

Brighton rodeo rider Jacoby Johns bested Oklahoma cowboy Cody Parker during the first round, but they swapped positions during the second night. Averaging their points, Johns won the championship buckle by a slim one point difference.

The horses were the winners during the first round of saddle bronc competition with no qualified rides. However, last year's champion, Tyler Humble beat out Ivan Bruised Head for the buckle in the short go.

Steer wrestler GrayWolf Herrera took a first over Naha Jumper and then returned for a second behind Dayne Johns with an 11.1 run in the short go. A quick average of the points moved Herrera in line to receive the buckle for the championship.

Two-tenths of a second put Naha Jumper ahead of Ivan Bruised Head in the calf roping event, but Al Tigerail's 15 second flat run in the short go.



Andre Jumper (C) somersaults to the ground in the steer riding competition.

slipped through the rope, it appeared to have cost him the points, until the results were averaged and 2 seconds brought home his buckle.

Shelby Osceola and Ayze Henry battled it out for first and second place respectively in the ladies' breakaway event. Leanna Billie's 6.3 second win in the short go held promise, but wasn't quite enough to upset Osceola's bid for the championship with a 4 second flat time.

Breakaway legend's division competitor Billy Joe Johns won the regional finals buckle with a 5.9 second catch just out of the box.

The steers were taking an unfair advantage in the team roping event until header Justin Gopher and heeler Gray Wolf Herrera came in at 10.9 seconds for first place. The duo then came back for the buckle on the second night.

A 16.865 and 16.172 second run for Loretta Peterson blew everybody out of the saddle and made her a shoe in for the championship in ladies' division barrel racing event. Carrera Gopher and Sheyanna Osceola qualified for the second place prizes and will be tough competition for the year end totals.

Bull rider Seth Randolph scored an awesome 84 points in the long go that earned him the buckle following no qualifying rides during the second event.

Junior bareback riders William Bearden and Andrew Holmes tied with 58 points, splitting the monetary prize. Flipping a coin for the buckle, Andrew Holmes came out ahead of the game.

Junior rodeo non-sanctioned events took place on the afternoon of Aug. 29 and were the place for rodeo fans who love action and suspense.

Mutton busters David R. Doctor, Myron Billie and Cameron Hollying all tied for first place and were close contenders on their second runs. Hollying's two 30 second scores gave him the necessary edge.

Frank Huff drew a rearing maniac in the pony riding, but managed to hold his own for the required 6 seconds. His 67 points beat out K-Dawg Smedley and Jobe Johns.

Calf rider Jobe Johns' 4.38 seconds earned him a buckle, but also an ice pack and wrap for his upper arm after being stomped by the animal. Johns however returned to take first place in the junior steer un-decorating event.

Chebon Gooden beat the buzzer by fractions of a second to take the senior steer un-decorating championship title. Meanwhile, the steers won the chute dogging event hands down.

Blevyns Jumper suffered a hard blow in the steer riding event when his mount slammed him into the side of the chute nearly knocking the wind out of him.

The good news was that he eventually made it to his feet and staggered out into the arena. The bad news was the fact that he qualified for a re-ride. Being a sensible young man, he declined and K-Dawg Smedley took the prize.

Junior bull rider William Bearden took home his second first place title for the day when he earned 58 points on a black and white spotted brute. Ernie Courson and Billy Foley were hot on his heels, but didn't quite cover his score.

When it comes to barrel racing, the Jumper family has made their mark. With 11 riders competing, Budha Jumper came in first in the 4-8 year old division. Her cousins, Kalgary Johns and Ahnie Jumper, took first and second, respectively, in the 9-12 year old division, while burning up their patterns.

Completing the barrel racing line-up, Nauthkee Henry had an impressive 17.823 points in the 13-17 year old division.

Out of nine contestants, Dalton Boney had the only catch in the junior breakaway event and took the championship with his 4.2 second run.



Saddle bronc rider Tyler Humble went on to win the regional finals championship buckle.



(L-R) Team ropers Justin Gopher and GrayWolf Herrera receive congratulatory handshakes from competitors and brothers, Naha and Josh Jumper, after winning at the regional finals roping event.

Seminole Smoke:
An odyssey of power, love and blood in the Seminole Wars

by
Claude Walker

"Seminole Smoke: An odyssey of power, love and blood in the Seminole Wars" tells the tale of Paul Turtle ("Yox-che"), a bicultural, bilingual 19th Century Seminole who rises from translator to guerilla strategist to diplomat. Paul Turtle has special gifts: stealth, inhumanly quick hands and an ability to create toxic smoke for any occasion.

The story spans 54 years, taking the reader under to the swamps of Florida, arid swamps of Mexico and corridors of Congress. Through Paul's eyes, the reader witnesses such pivotal events as the Negro Fort bombing, Andrew Jackson's invasion, Dade Massacre, Osceola's capture and the Black Seminoles' trek to Mexico. Paul wrestles with such issues as use of force, slavery and land ownership. The Seminole Wars mirrored the turmoil of a young United States struggling with identity, expansion and slavery. A war novel, love story and easy-to-follow history, "Seminole Smoke: An odyssey of power, love and blood in the Seminole Wars" is the first novel which spans the entire 50-year sweep of the Seminole Wars.

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Athletes Honored at Annual Sports Banquet

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Brighton's athletes were in the spotlight Aug. 13 as they were recognized for their hard work and dedication on and off the field at Brighton's annual sports banquet, held in the gymnasium.

Eincee and Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Andrew Bowers Jr. welcomed the athletes and their families.

"We're glad to have all these youngsters participating in these sports," Rep. Bowers said. "We believe it makes a difference in your life if you participate in sports."

One of Okeechobee High School's football coaches Melissa Tomlinson spoke to the youth on how education and athletics go hand in hand.

"Most of the time you have to start thinking about your academics to play football or anything else at college level probably at your ninth grade year," Tomlinson said.

Tomlinson stressed how being a good athlete requires being a good student and attending class to maintain a steady grade point average.

Special guest speaker and former professional baseball player and scout for the Cleveland Indians Mark Persails reiterated Tomlinson's message to the youth.

"If you want to succeed in life and in sports make sure you make the right decisions," Persails stressed.

He touched on the importance of having passion. The former baseball player

said that in order to be good at something you must have the passion to be the best and have the drive to accomplish your dreams.

"Get the education, then get the passion, then get the work ethic, then you get the chance to achieve your dreams," Persails explained.

Persails brought Tribal youth and star

baseball player Sean Osceola onto the stage acknowledging that Osceola has the potential to be one of the best baseball players he's ever seen because of his passion for the game.

Camellia Osceola, daughter of the late Fred Smith, along with her children presented another Tribal star athlete with the



Jason Thomas

(L-R) Gym Coordinator Timothy Thomas presents Layne Thomas with a sports award for baseball and basketball.

Fred Smith Award also known as the Brighton Warrior Athletic Award.

"My father showed my family how to be a bunch of sports fans," Camellia Osceola said. "This award is given today in support of that kind of sports fan's spirit."

Camellia Osceola's son and former Florida Atlantic University football player, Jarrod Smith presented Amber Craig with the honorable award.

"You've had a lot of accomplishments this year," Smith congratulated Craig. "We're proud of you and everything you've done."

Craig was given a plaque with the quote "Success is sweet but its secret is sweat." Craig graduated from Boca Raton Preparatory School this past year with a sports resume of volleyball, softball and basketball. She also holds a black belt in Tae Kwon Do.

Rep. Bowers with the help of Tim Thomas of the Recreation Dept. presented Brighton's other athletes with recognition trophies for their participation in sports.

"There are two four letter words that play a big part in being a success," Rep. Bowers said. "Those words are 'hard work.'"



Jason Thomas

Elle Thomas receives her award at the Brighton sports banquet, held Aug. 13 in the gym.



Rachel Buxton

Moses "Moke" Osceola bowls a high score of 234 in the no tap game, securing second place.

Tribal Citizens Celebrate Labor Day with Bowling Tournament

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

OKEECHOBEE, Fla. — Tribal residents said good bye to summer as they sent their bowling balls down the lanes of Stardust Lanes in Okeechobee during the Brighton Labor Day Bowling Tournament held Sept. 5.

Tribal citizens received a warm welcome from the Okeechobee bowling alley with "Welcome Back Seminole Tribe" spelled out on the outside marquee of Stardust Lanes.

Stardust Lanes recently switched ownership and the new co-owner J.P. Desrochers, personally welcomed the Tribe to the lanes.

"It's great to have everyone back," said Desrochers. "Thank you to everyone for coming back."

Members of the Brighton and Ft. Pierce communities came out for the four game tournament sponsored by the Brighton Recreation Dept. Bowlers split into pairs for the tournament and bowled a regular game, 3-6-9, scotch double trouble and no tap.

Merle Billie with his partner Joni Johnson came out strong during the regular game claiming first place with a team total of 367. Billie held onto the first place title during the second game of 3-6-9 with his new partner Margaret Wilcox. Billie and Wilcox had a combined score of 474 putting them way ahead of Elbert Snow and Mary Jo Micco who took the second place finish with a team total of 427.

Snow and Wilcox teamed up for scotch

double trouble taking first place with a total of 428. Billie was pushed into the runners up position with teammate Marilyn Doney with a team total of 403.

With scores cleared and pins set up Kevin Tommie and Micco took the lead in no tap with a score of 477. Moses "Moke" Osceola and Mahala Madrigal trailed in second with 438.



Rachel Buxton

Suraiya Smith concentrates before sending her ball down the lane for a strike.

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Chris C. Jenkins

The women's division champion team, the Lady Ballers, with Jason Billie, (Third from Left) brother of the late Adam Billie.

BILLIE

From page 1C

However, in the championship game the Native Ladies got another shot for redemption and came roaring back. They would keep it close and make their move in the second half taking their first lead of the contest 38-37 with 3:30 left in the game spurred by a 20-12 run. The game went back and forth the remainder of the way, but the Lady Ballers would hold on as Tasha Osceola came up big for her team hitting two clutch three pointers with 3 seconds on the clock. This led to the team's 43-40 win.

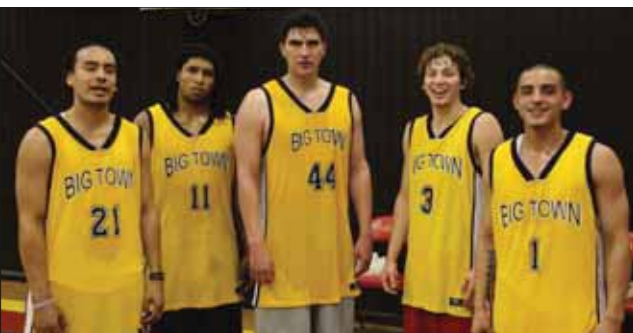
It was the first action for Osceola in the tournament since 2004 when she said it was good being back in the tournament.

"We got kind of lazy and thought we could walk through things," Osceola admitted about her team's performance. "[The Native Ballers] were still a pretty good team."

Osceola said she had a close relationship with her high school classmate, the late Adam Billie, saying "he was very supportive and was like a big brother to me."

The men's final had the Toon Squad facing Big Town. In a blow out, Big Town controlled the game from the opening tip, with their lead remaining in double digits throughout the game. They led 45-21 at the break and would cruise on to a 53-23 final score.

Jason Billie said there are plans next year to include a first time 30 year old and older, and 6 foot tall and under co-ed tournament as part of the 10 year celebration.



Chris C. Jenkins

The men's division champion team, Big Town. The team took top honors in the Adam Billie Memorial tournament.

Competitors Honor Randolph Clay's Memory at 13th Annual Tourney

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Tribal community gathered once more to celebrate the life of Randolph Clay in an all-Indian memorial pool tournament, which took place the weekend of Aug. 21-22 at the Hollywood gym.

The 13th annual event featured a youth, senior and adult division, with scotch doubles action as well as 8- and 9-ball play.

Tribal elder and mother of Clay, Betty Osceola, has played every year of the tournament and spoke to friends and family participating before playing began.

"I am glad you all came and here we are for yet another year," Osceola said. "We have been here doing this now for 13 years and I am glad we can still continue to remember him."



Chris C. Jenkins

Randolph Clay's mother, Betty Osceola, prepares to sink the 8 ball for a victory against Dale Grasshopper.



Chris C. Jenkins

Taylor Battiest concentrates on his next shot in a game of 8-ball during the Randolph Clay memorial tournament.

Hollywood Board of Directors Rep. Marcellus Osceola Jr. also made an appearance and provided gift cards to the tournament youth.

First year youth participant and novice pool player Tristen Wilcox said he picked up the sport through father, Leon Sr.

"I just wanted to place in the top five," Tristen Wilcox said.

Fellow participant and second year player Taylor Battiest said winning was his main goal. He said his late

uncle, Bobby Baker, got him into the sport. "I found out about the tournament through friends and did not have anything else to do so I came out to play," Battiest explained.

Randolph Clay's daughter, Brandé, said the continued community support each year for the tournament was nice to see. Her father was an avid pool player and enthusiast.

"He had the game so figured out and he was so good at it that he mastered it in certain ways," Clay said. "I remember being out in the poolrooms and getting lessons from him, although it is not my game."

"He was a really good person and was good to me," Clay added.

Results of the 13th Annual Randolph Clay Memorial Pool Tournament

8-Ball: Senior Men: 1. Gary Clay, 2. Daniel Gopher, 3. George Grasshopper; Senior Women: 1. Laura Clay, 2. Jane Freeman, 3. Juanita Osceola; Adult Men: 1. Charles Osceola, 2. Tony Bert, 3. Raymond Garza Sr.; Adult Women: 1. Phalyn Osceola, 2. Theresa Nunez, 3. Janel Billie; Youth: Boys: 1. Neko Osceola, 2. Joshua Boromei, 3. Jordan Baker; Youth: Girls: 1. Cheyenne Nunez, 2. Taigi Osceola, Melinda Gentry.

9-Ball: Adult Men: 1. George Grasshopper, 2. Raymond Garza, 3. David Cypress; Adult Women: 1. Phalyn Osceola, 2. Theresa Nunez, 3. Virginia Billie.

Scotch Doubles: Seniors: 1. Russell Osceola/Juanita Osceola, 2. David Cypress/Laura Cypress, 3. Billy Brown/Ether Buster; Adults: 1. Nick Tiger/Diana OnlyaChief, 2. Tony Billie/Jane Freeman, 3. George Grasshopper/Janel Billie.

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12:30 pm	Wii & Rockband Tourney Starts
1:00 pm	Horseshoe Tourney Starts
4:00 pm	Bingo starts
5:00 pm	Dinner

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Virgil Billie Remembered at Fourth Annual Memorial Basketball Tournament

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The 4th Annual Virgil Billie Basketball Tournament was played in stages at the Herman Osceola Gym in Big Cypress over a period of several months.



Judy Weeks

Geraldine Osceola takes the ball down the court.

Limited to Seminole and Miccosukee Tribal citizens, the first leg of the tournament was played on May 2 in Big Cypress. The adult men's and women's teams, comprised of players 18 years old and older, representing all of the south Florida reservations, competed in this leg.

There was an excellent turnout with seven teams vying for the women's championship title. The team No Pressure took the lead and won the final match up in two games. The Ball Hawks took second and the Hurricanes placed third.

You Don't Want It put up a hard fight against the opposing four teams and even-

tually claimed the men's championship. Dem Boyz and B.C. Men came in second and third, respectively. Donning their blue memorial T-shirts, the players paid tribute to the tournament's namesake, Virgil Billie.

The 35 and older legend's division players claimed the court on the evening of Aug. 21.

The Young Legends took the women's championship and Still Got Game triumphed for the men. Making sportsmanship a priority, both teams then challenged the younger generations to some practice games for a fun-filled evening on the court.

Players from Hollywood, Brighton, Trail, Immokalee and Big Cypress congregated at the Big Cypress Gym on Aug. 22 to participate in youth division play. Teams were formed for boys and girls 17 and younger and 12 and younger, and co-ed 9 and younger division.

With a diverse lineup of mixed players from several communities, the games took on a whole new aspect and sportsmanship played a major role in the outcome. Teammates competed and learned from each other, placing emphasis on the game, rather than team rivalry. Everyone came away a winner.

Born into the Otter Clan in 1958, Virgil Billie was the son of Roy and Minnie Billie of Big Cypress. His brother, Peter, recalled Virgil's life.

"Extremely small and in ill health

at the time of his birth, Virgil faced a difficult struggle for survival, but our father would not give up," Peter Billie said. "Our family helped him learn to walk, build his strength and fight for a normal lifestyle. Sports played an important role in that."

A familiar figure on his bicycle traveling around Big Cypress, Billie became a traditional chickee builder and spent most of his spare time playing ball on the outside court in the community. His love of sports gave him the strength of survival and these tournaments provide youngsters with an opportunity to thrive.

Billie's niece, Maggie Puente, explained the importance of having memorial tournaments.

"I was in a basketball tournament shortly after my uncle passed and my 6 year old son, Joel, asked me what a memorial was," Puente said. "I explained that it is a way to keep the memory of loved one's alive. He immediately asked me to start a memorial for his favorite Uncle Virgil."

"I didn't pursue it right away, but Joel wouldn't let go until I got things started," said Puente. "My uncle encouraged me to play ball and now I play in his memory."

Now turning 11, Joel Puente, recalled memories of his uncle.

"He played with me, made me laugh and took me fishing," he said. "I will always remember him playing ball and telling jokes."



Judy Weeks

The first place Hollywood Seminoles 17 and younger boys' team after the competition.



Chris C. Jenkins

Hollywood SPD operations lieutenant, game co-organizer and Team SPD captain Powell Morris lays out a pitch in the game against the Hollywood Tribal community.

SPD, Community Join Together for Fun on the Baseball Field

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Police Dept. (SPD) took on Tribal community members in a heated competition Aug. 22 on the Hollywood Seminole baseball fields.

In stifling, humid, 90-plus degree weather several teams participated throughout the morning and afternoon in a series of community baseball games for fun, exercise and bragging rights.

"A few officers approached me about getting a team together," said Hollywood Operations Lt., game co-organizer and SPD team captain Powell Morris. "Some of the guys on the front line said it would be a good idea to help bring the community together."

"We are here to have fun and get to know everybody," Morris added. "A lot of our officers also enjoy baseball and it helps in building camaraderie as well."

He said the games were played consistently in years past and hopefully will be re-established as a part of a renewed tradition with quarterly games on the schedule. The games have officials along with some teams choosing to wear uniforms.

Tribal citizens Maggie Frank, Leslie Osceola and Hannah Billie have also created their own teams.

"We want the community to get to know the police officers because we see them and deal with them in the casinos a lot," co-organizer, and Seminole Gaming Dept. official

Billie pointed out. "This type of thing breaks everyone out of their norm and allows them to have some fun and show their stuff also."



Chris C. Jenkins

Leslie Osceola gets a base hit for the Hollywood community team.

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Rising Sports Star Mad Bear Osceola Dominates on the Football Field

BY LEA OSCEOLA
Contributing Writer

MIAMI — The 2009-2010 school year is going to be a memorable experience and journey for young native talent Mad Bear Osceola.

He has entered into his senior year at G. Holmes Braddock Senior High, a 6A division school located in Miami, where Osceola is also a member of their varsity football team.

This is Osceola's fourth year with the Braddock Bulldogs' varsity football team and his second year as a varsity starter. He has played the linebacker and fullback positions, and is currently in the defensive end position.

Osceola has received the Coaches Award and the Linebacker of the Year Award while on the junior varsity teams as a freshman and as a sophomore at Braddock. He also received his varsity letterman in his sophomore year.

The Braddock Bulldogs varsity team earned the conference championship in Osceola's sophomore year. In his junior year, he received the All-County Honorable Mention, Coaches Defensive Lineman Award and his varsity letterman. His senior year is yet unwritten, but looks to be promising.

In the 2008-2009 school year Osceola played in a total of 10 games with an impressive 103 tackles - 48 solo and 55 assisted. He made 10 QB sacks, 22 QB pressures and 14 QB knockdowns. He also forced five fumbles and made four fumble recoveries.

He has received recognition and praise from his coaches throughout high school for his hard work and dedication to the team and Osceola is looking to have an outstanding football season ahead. Three colleges have already contacted his coaches as a possible prospect for their school, and Osceola has received a letter from a college in Ohio.

Osceola, 18, grew up in Trail and is a member of the Bird Clan. He is the fourth born to parents, Leroy and Cassandra.

Mad Bear grew up learning his traditional and cultural laws taught to him by his father. He has been raised the strong cultural values and has attended the ceremonial Green Corn Dance every year since he was born. He is also a skilled chicken builder. He has been working on chickens since he could carry a hammer.

In his free time, he can be found at his grandmother, Peggy Osceola's Indian village, working with his father.

When Osceola turned 14 and graduated to the ninth grade he realized he needed to challenge himself and decided to play high school sports, namely football. He had his parents consent, but with a few conditions.

They expected him to keep his integrity and not be influenced negatively by his peers at this new school and to not complain, but to work through the new adjustments to come. The cultural shock and challenges he'd face would be great.

Osceola happily exchanged his comfortable 7:30 a.m. wake up time for a 5:30 a.m. time so he could make it to class before the first bell rang at 7:25 a.m. The size of the 6A division school was also an adjustment. This was a big order for this young boy but he has been devoted to keeping his end of the bargain.

He has maintained his promise and found ways to balance his school life with his life at home. More importantly, Osceola has never sacrificed his value system.

He always carries himself with respect on and off of the football field.

He has proven himself yet again to be a hard worker, just as he did as a young boy. His is very devoted to his family and his passion for football. He has the love and support of his family and friends to sustain him throughout all his endeavors. Everyone is proud of all his accomplishments.

The family of Mad Bear Osceola would like for anyone and everyone to come watch him play at any of his football games. It's important for us as a native community to come together and support our young natives and to encourage them to live in a positive and influential way of life is the best support.

He will be playing in the following up-coming games: Oct. 1 Braddock vs. Coral Reef, 7 p.m. at Harris Field; Oct. 10 Braddock vs. Ferguson, 7 p.m. at Tropical Park; Oct. 15 Braddock vs. Coral Park, 7 p.m. homecoming game at Tropical Park; Oct. 24 Braddock vs. Varela, 7 p.m. at Tropical Park; Oct. 30 Braddock vs. Southwest, 7:30 p.m. at Tropical Park; Nov. 5 Braddock vs. Sunset, 7 p.m. at Tropical Park; Nov. 13 Braddock vs. South Dade, 7:30 p.m. at Harris Field.

For more information, his mother can be contacted through the Miccosukee Tribe's switchboard or e-mailed at CassandraOsceola@aol.com.



Photo Submitted by Lea Osceola
Mad Bear Osceola



Photo Submitted by Stephanie (Bowers) Hiatt

Stephanie (Bowers) Hiatt crosses the finish line after completing the run in the VV Triathlon, held Sept. 6 in Yankton, S.D.

Tribal Citizen Competes in Triathlons

BY ELIZABETH BATES BOWERS
Contributing Writer

Stephanie (Bowers) Hiatt, daughter of Stephen Bowers, entered her first triathlon in July in Sioux Falls, S.D., where she resides with her husband Jon, and her boys Tyler, 7, Caleb, 5, and Lucas, 2.

In the U of Okoboji Triathlon Hiatt first swam 0.6 miles in a lake, followed by an 18 mile bike ride, and then a 5.5 mile run. She finished in the top half of both her age and gender divisions.

She followed up her July event by competing in the VV Triathlon in Yankton, S.D. on Sept. 6. In this race, Hiatt finished ninth out of 26 in her age division and 21st out of 57 in the women's division.

When she is not looking after her family, she works out at a local fitness center several times a week. The center has a pool, exercise facility, and a bike path nearby. The center also offers daycare, so when the boys are not in school they have their own exercise room to use while mom is working out.

A typical practice run for Hiatt is between 6-10 miles, which she does several times a week. She also takes a master's level swim class twice a week, which helps her prepare for the swimming. With her new triathlon bike, she hopes to cut her 18 mile bike ride time down by at least 15 minutes.

Triathlons are multi-sport endurance events consisting of swimming, cycling, and running in immediate succession throughout various distances. Triathletes compete for fastest overall course completion time, including timed "transitions" between the individual swim, bike, and run components.

The demanding nature of the sport focuses primarily on persistent training in each of the three disciplines, as well as combination workouts and general

strength conditioning to ensure the highest levels of endurance, strength and power possible come race day.

It is because of this that proficiency in swimming, cycling and running alone is often not sufficient enough for success in the demanding sport of triathlons.



Photo Submitted by Stephanie (Bowers) Hiatt

Mom and triathlete Stephanie (Bowers) Hiatt (C) with her sons (L-R) Tyler, 7, Lucas, 2, and Caleb, 5.

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Hollywood Triumphs Against BC in Basketball Tournament

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Hollywood Seminole claimed bragging rights and the first place title after storming through the Big Cypress summer basketball tournament on Aug. 16.

The weekend competition, held at the Big Cypress gymnasium, featured seven teams in the boys' 17 and under age bracket, with a highly competitive atmosphere to go with it.

In the end, the Hollywood Seminole outlasted the Fort Lauderdale Ballers, 50-38, in the championship.

But it was anything but easy for the Seminole as Tony Burns and the Ballers, in some respects, made the title game much closer than the final score indicated. Just about three minutes into the contest, Burns hit a baseline jumper to put his Ballers team up 10-7. Followed by a Seminole foul, he made a free throw to extend the Ballers lead for four points.

That Ballers lead was short lived, as Hollywood's Demetris Allen connected on a three-pointer to tie the game up at 18 points apiece with 2:54 left in the first half.

The final two minutes of the first half provided the most excitement in the game, perhaps, with Hollywood taking a 22-21 lead with 1:34 left.

The first half ended with two free throws by Burns, who was fouled by Hollywood shortly before the buzzer sounded as he driving toward the basket.

Burns, a 5-9 guard from Westlake Prep School in Ft. Lauderdale, said his team "got a good feeling" going into the second half of the championship.

Hollywood felt even better after taking a 24-23 lead with 14:38 left in the game. The Seminole, despite a fierce comeback attempt from the Ballers, never lost the lead again.

But it wasn't until Allen's score off a post-up move in the paint that sealed the deal, putting the Seminole up 43-33 with 2:35 left in the title game.

"I guess we got too carried away in the second half," Burns said of his team, who finished with a 3-2 record in

the tournament. "Personally, I thought we were going to win but we played against a very good team. They just pulled it out in the end."

Allen, an incoming senior from Clewiston, Fla., assessed his team's performance in the championship game.

"We played hard, we played together and we weren't selfish," he said of his Hollywood team. "I like to play with my teammates because they just like to have fun. That's what basketball is all about."

The two teams played each other two games before the championship, as Hollywood, 4-0 overall, handed Ft. Lauderdale its first loss with a 51-33 victory.

That sent the Ballers into a matchup with the Brighton Seminole in an elimination game. The winner of that game earned the right to face Hollywood in the final, while the loser would be eliminated. The Ballers edged out Brighton, 33-31, after Burns banked in a game-winning shot at the buzzer.

Brighton, 3-2 overall, eliminated the Big Cypress Seminole, 2-2 overall, earlier in the weekend tournament for the right to play Ft. Lauderdale for the championship game.

Tri-County of Miami finished 1-2 overall in tournament play, while Martin Lakes, also of Miami, and Tyler's Team wound up 1-2 and 0-2, respectively, for the competition.

In the girls' 17-and-under bracket, three teams competed in tournament play - Big Cypress, Chastity's Team and the Lady J's. It was the Lady J's who won the girls' competition, defeating Big Cypress and Chastity's Team to finish with a 2-0 record.

Chastity's Team, 1-1 overall, posted a win over Big Cypress and a loss to the Lady J's. Big Cypress, 0-2 overall, lost to both the Lady J's and Chastity's Team.

The boys' 15 and under bracket featured three teams as well; Big Cypress, Martin Lake and Tri-County. Martin Lake, 2-0 overall, won the 15 and under tournament, with wins against Big Cypress and Tri-County.

Tri-County finished with a 1-1 record, with a win over Big Cypress and a loss to Martin Lake. Big Cypress, 0-2 overall, lost to Martin Lake and Tri-County.



Tony Burns of the Fort Lauderdale Ballers (C) heaves in the game-winning shot in a 33-31 victory over the Brighton Seminole, sending Ft. Lauderdale to the title game against the Hollywood Seminole.



Ryan Osceola (L) of the Brighton Seminole team attempts a shot as time expires in the first half of an elimination game against the Fort Lauderdale Ballers. The score was tied at 15 apiece going into halftime.



Hollywood's Demetris Allen (R) lays in perhaps the most important shot of the championship game, as the Seminole led the Ballers 43-33 with less than three minutes left. Hollywood (4-0) won the title game, 50-38.

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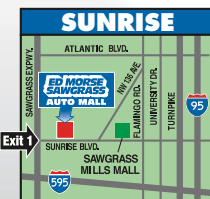
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AnnouncementsD

CONGRATULATIONS

Arnold and Maggie Garcia celebrated their 20 year anniversary July 30, 2009. The couple spent the weekend at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Tampa to commemorate 20 years of marriage. "They just don't make them like her anymore," said Arnold Garcia of his 20 year bride, Maggie.



Congratulations to **Daniel Nunez Jr.** on receiving A's and B's all year. We are very proud of you. Also your football team Stinnett Painting came in first place last season. Daniel, you played awesome and you always make us proud "Pops." Happy 13th birthday on Sept. 28.

Love always,
Mom, Dad, Cheyenne, Courtney and Joleyne

Congratulations **Cheyenne Nunez** on receiving the gold award for straight A's all year, perfect attendance and best Creek speaker. She also took first place in the 13th annual Randolph Clay Pool tournament for her age division. We are very proud of you, shy girl, for your track accomplishments this year: first place in Moore Haven, first place in LaBelle, first place at Pemayetv Emahaky, second place at Okeechobee High School and fifth place at the Hershey's track state meet in Altamonte Springs, Fla. You always make us proud.

Love always,
Mom, Dad, Daniel, Courtney and Joleyne



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday on Sept. 13 and Sept. 28 to **Baby Les and Kaylee**. Although I haven't been there for a minute, and even though I won't be for many more, I've never looked back with regret. As a person, I've made mistakes; as a man, I've erred in my choices; as a father, I know I could've been more. To me that's been life and I'm living it. I'm learning; but isn't life forever teaching? I share with each of you my highs and lows, always in truth. What I cannot give physically, I offer mentally and emotionally. The eyes may never see, but the heart is never one to look away. They two of you are beautiful and each of you is my heart's joy. I'll be thinking of you all. Be safe and have fun.

Forever home team,
Love always,
Dad (Leslie J. Gopher)



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POEMS

In the Open Sky of the Everglades
Set me in a breezy chickee with Gran'ma after all of life's conflicts, in the open sky of the Everglades, where the clouds perform their poetry, amidst the swaying ballet of the sawgrass, the crystal shimmers on the black waters, a painting to become enchanted by, to never look away, the graceful birds in flight to heaven, to which the angels incorporate golden praises. Sacred fires glow within an ancient village,

A Fool's Words
How does a fool give life to words a heart wishes to express?
Of course I can print them, but even then they may appear empty nonetheless
Beautiful, how this road of life has delivered my heart to you
For we were both strangers in the year of '92
Fortunate am I that once in a lifetime a princess is met I'll thank you mom and Randall, but isn't the Creator unique with the path for the two of us he set I doubt there's anyone who understands me better to this day
You've come quite a way from a shy little girl, with very little to say
Do you remember how you'd call me "Les" when you were mad?
Only for the night to fall, then you would come lay with me, "Dad"
Proud am I to hear that word being spoken in your voice
For me, just being a part of your life is a wonderful choice
I've been working on this poem for a good minute I wish you could see my smile glow with every word

No Longer A Slave
I walk away
Not cuz I'm a coward
But because I'm brave
No longer a slave
I've realized I can not win
By falling alongside a meaningless taunt
You scream
I walk—
You fight—
You die—
I cry
You befriend me

Bartering With a Story in 'Smoke Signals'
"During the 60s, Arnold Joseph was the perfect hippie," Thomas explains, "because all the hippies were tryin' to be Indians anyway." A blue sky with white clouds beyond Thomas and Victor, the roof of the reverse-only Indian car cuts diagonal near the top left of the screen on the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation in Idaho. Thomas's eyes are closed and his hands are clasped together in front of him. Victor is looking much-perturbed, thinking about another Arnold Joseph, his recently-deceased father in Phoenix, Arizona, but Velma and Lucy are enthralled by the story. Thomas holds his arm up, palm outward, as if he is taking an oath. Victor shakes his head no. "...his hair in braids with red peace symbols splashed across his face like war paint," Thomas continues, describing Arnold Joseph's photo in Life magazine. Thomas says Arnold was holding a rifle above his head, just before he clashed with a National Guard private, where a demonstrator holds a sign which reads: "Make love,

Tell Me
Tell me
Tell me about the good life
That Mr. Crenshaw used to preach about
The one that's in the book
The one the television speaks about
Tell me how my dad is doing
Tell me how my mom is doing
Tell me there's still a rez
Where every Indian has a braid in their hair
Tell me everyday is jumpin' like an old school cookout
Or a 93 Tribal Fair
Tell me that the whiskey still tastes as good
As when we poured it out for it
For the fallen in every hood
Tell me, do Pac and Biggie know any Corn Dance

The Richard the Third Portrayal
A Seminole arrayed in turban, plume, and colorful Seminole regalia is channeling Richard the Third while he searches the stage for a horse, a horse. He knows he will give his entire kingdom for that horse. And rightfully so, for a horse will take him far away from all this drama. He pauses, reflects on war, on roses, on imperfections. "You know, it's rather a struggle being a villain," he remarks. "Perhaps a fleet horse, a painted war pony. Anything! Wild horses, perhaps, an Indian car, some kind of Crazy Horse horsepower galloping into the sunset." Lo, in his hand a book of prayer, but is he a holy man? True ornaments, that's the way to tell a true holy man. Actually, he's a bad guy whose life is better days. And so, on the field of battle, enemy warriors enter the scene and make a pin-cushion of him with arrows. *They exit.*

— **Elgin Jumper**
September 2, 2009

signifying the beauty which emanates from the heart. Oh, set me in a breezy chickee with Gran'ma after all of life's conflicts, smiling and laughing in the morning joy, just like before, in the open sky of the Everglades, where the clouds perform their poetry, amidst the swaying ballet of the sawgrass.

— **Elgin Jumper**
September 3, 2009

I put in it
Closing my eyes, our treasured our treasured memories come alive
Cherishing each and every one, keeping them forever close on the inside
Vivid are you on a little green four-wheeler riding away
Then there's us two, you reeling in your first fish, hoping he don't get away
Blessed am I just to watch with the heart, for your beauty is all I'll ever see
Special you are, and magnificent you'll always be
You've created the feeling found in each word and in every line
You've given me a key to escape from these hands of time
In each day Kaylee, prepare for the next to come
Happy birthday kiddo; be safe and have fun
I love you no matter what, for "never" will there be a distance too great that this fool cannot give life to the words only "our" hearts can relate
Happy birthday,
Love always,
Dad (Leslie J. Gopher)

I cherish the bond
I walk away
Not cuz I'm a coward
But because I'm brave
No longer a slave
Addiction has taught that life is hard as f***
But to learn from the past
Is to teach one's self
How to enjoy tomorrow without regret
I walk away
Not cuz I'm a coward
But because I'm brave
No longer a slave
— **Markell Billie**

not war." Victor is mean-spirited, already in Phoenix, Arizona. He'd rather not hear about his father's arrest for attempted murder, plea-bargained down to assault with a deadly weapon, plea-bargained down to being an Indian in the 20th Century, nor his two years in Walla Walla. Thomas's story passes the test and the two embark upon their journey. And so, WE SEE an extreme wide shot of backwards-driving car moving left to right across the screen, as deep green trees and hills kiss the light blue sky and grey-white clouds. On that rez, you can hear Randy, the disc jockey on K-REZ radio, as if he had just stormed and occupied Alcatraz Island with all kinds of tribes. As they get out of the backwards-driving car in '98, when the movie came out, talking about passports, vaccinations, and foreign countries, I was in a vicious downward spiral, praying for renewal. Yet, never had a movie like "Smoke Signals," that is, a movie written, produced, directed by and exclusively starring Native Americans, been made before.

— **Elgin Jumper**
September 4, 2009

songs
Like we know their own
Is SPD still sweatin' every Seminole
Outside their own homes
Tell me do the old women still sew?
And do the young still ball
Tell me do you miss us like we miss you
And if you can really see all
Then forget this morning's shower
And what you thought you saw
Now
Tell me, is the war chief Osceola short or tall?
Tell me when my addiction will stall
Tell me
Tell me please, I gotta know
Before my number's called
— **Markell Billie**



SEMINOLE POLICE DEPT.

Brighton Lights Up for National Night Out

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Brighton community took a stand against crime Aug. 31 as they celebrated the second annual National Night Out to Prevent Crime event on the reservation.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida joined more than 15,000 communities across the country to take a stand against crime in an effort to make neighborhoods a safer place.

"It is a way to get the community and [Seminole Police] department on one page," Sgt. Angela Comito said.

National Night Out is a crime and drug prevention event that was started in 1984 by the National Association of Town Watch.

"Tonight is a little bit of awareness of how they can correct their homes and basically what they can do to protect themselves," Comito said. "We've had a lot of burglaries in the recent months and we want them to be prepared."

With the theme "Let's Prevent Crime Together," Brighton residents and employees from Seminole Police and Fire Rescue Departments enjoyed a spaghetti dinner prepared by Mary Jo Micco followed by a neighborhood walk where the community took to the horseshoe lit up by porch lights to show their support for the national program.

"It was different because it's not something you normally do around here to walk around the block," Miss Seminole Brittany Smith said. "It was interesting knowing how many people are out here in the commu-

nity that are willing to be aware of what they need to do for their own safety."

After the walk, the Seminole Police Dept. held a raffle where they passed out giveaways that would help residents remain safe and protected. Prizes included alarm systems and motion sensor floodlights.

Comito said community residents need to be aware of anything out of the ordinary happening on the reservation. She also recommended taking simple steps such as locking their home and car doors, and securing things in a shed to help prevent unwanted visitors.

National Night Out is designed to help bring communities together

and to strengthen their relationships while sending a message to criminals that neighborhoods are fighting back.

"It's been a good experience," Smith said about National Night Out. "It's important for the Tribe so they know what they need to do to keep themselves safe and their children."

The Seminole Police Dept. is stepping up their patrol with officers pulling 12 hour shifts. Tribal citizens should contact the Seminole Police Dept. if they have any questions or concerns. The department can be reached seven days a week, 24 hours a day at (866) 275-4847.



Community members of all ages take a stand against crime at the neighborhood walk during the National Night Out event on the evening of Aug. 31.

Rachel Buxton

SPD Youth & Elder Welfare Unit Serves Seminole Tribal Citizens

BY LT. JERRY MEISENHEIMER
Contributing Writer

[Editor's Note: Jerry Meisenheimer is a lieutenant with the Seminole Police Dept. The opinions he expresses are his own. If you would like to ask a question, please write to jmeisenheimer@seminoletribe.com.]

Recognizing that today's youth are the future of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, and that the elders are the ones who made that future possible, the Seminole Police Dept. has staff assigned to assist both of these groups.

The members of the police department have always endeavored to serve the Tribe's youth and elders by providing services to them like the youth-centric Drug Awareness Resistance Education program, commonly known as DARE, and the Are You OK, or RUOK Program, targeted towards seniors.

However, over the past year, SPD has created a special unit just for Seminole children and seniors. The formal name of the group is the Youth and Elder Welfare Unit.

It is divided between the south and the north. The south consists of the Hollywood, Big Cypress, and Immokalee Reservations, while the north covers Brighton, Fort Pierce and Tampa.

Lieutenant Jerry Meisenheimer supervises both the south and the north. The day to day operations of the unit are performed by Sergeant Angela Comito and her staff in the north, and Sergeant Bill Maynard and her staff in the south. Each of them has police officers, police services aides and a clerk reporting to them.

Youth programs include mentoring teenagers by monitoring their progress in school and helping them get through the important early years of social development. Two certified school resource officers are stationed at the Ahlachee School in Big Cypress and at the Pemayetv Emahak Charter School in Brighton. They not only are prevention officers, but also handle truancy issues and teach classes like DARE and the Gang Resistance Education and Training, or GREAT, Program.

In addition, the Youth & Elder Welfare Unit staff frequently puts on presentations at Tribal preschools on the different reservations. They also assist Seminole Fire Rescue Dept. with programs that promote fire and

safety issues.

This past summer, SPD members attended the various youth conferences and camps put on by the Tribe. There they assisted with security and taught classes to the children and the parents. They also went along on several field trip events this summer.

For several years now, Hollywood SPD has been very much involved with the Boys & Girls club on that reservation.

Plans are under way to convert the Brighton gym to a haunted house again this year at Halloween. The officers will also help keep the trick or treaters safe on the streets and will provide each one with a flashing light that can be seen by motorists.

Although just in its formation stages, plans are underway to create an SPD Explorers Program for community youth, ages 6-16. Anyone interested in knowing more about the program can contact Lt. Jerry Meisenheimer at (863) 697-9577.

In regard to the seniors, members of the Youth and Elder Welfare Unit accompany them on shopping trips and other outings. An SPD officer also travels along on senior trips to keep them safe and educated about the many dangers facing travelers today.

On a daily basis, members of the unit also check on the wellbeing of seniors and their homes. A program called RUOK is in place to make personal contact with each senior everyday to be sure they are doing well. SPD staff members also frequent the Hot Meals locations on each reservation to eat breakfast or lunch with the seniors.

As soon as a Tribal citizen is transported to a hospital due to sickness or injury, a member of SPD checks on the patient's condition, converses with relatives and provides whatever services are necessary to assist the family.

In the event of a Tribal death, the Youth and Elder Welfare Unit offers family members help during their time of need. They also assist in providing police escort service for the funeral procession.

These are just a few of the many functions of the SPD Youth and Elder Welfare Unit. If you have comments, suggestions, or wish to volunteer to assist, contact Sgt. Angela Comito (863) 634-1892 in the north or Sgt. Bill Maynard (954) 568-1647 in the south.

Police Chief William Latchford Graduates Tallahassee Executive Seminar Program

TALLAHASSEE — Nine senior senior managers from the 42nd Chief Executive Seminar graduated on Aug. 13 from the Florida Criminal Justice Executive Institute, including Seminole Police Dept. Chief William Latchford.

The graduates represent criminal justice agencies around the state who serve in a leadership role within their agency.

The seminar met for one week each month for three months at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) Headquarters in Tallahassee. Graduates took classes on topics such as succession planning, ethics, and implementing strategic change, and were required to complete an independent study to exam-

ine a contemporary criminal justice issue.

The goal of the Chief Executive Seminar is to prepare Florida's Criminal Justice leadership for the challenging and changing demands of the future. Class participants study trends and events that may affect criminal justice professionals and our state and develop new leadership skills to address and manage the changes that lie ahead.

The Florida Criminal Justice Executive Institute, established by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and affiliated with the Florida University System, was established in 1990 by the Florida Legislature, which recognized the need for an innovative and multifaceted

approach to educating and training criminal justice professionals.



Tribune Archive Photo
SPD Chief William Latchford

SPD Available for Drug Awareness Presentations

The Seminole Police Dept. Street Crimes Unit now offers Drug Awareness Presentations to the Seminole Tribal citizens and departments.

Topics include: Why people use drugs, Early warning signs of use, Methods of treatment, Negative effects on the human body and Drug identification.

Any Tribal citizen or department head who would like to schedule a presentation, please contact one of the Sgt. Scott Goodman, (863) 763-5731 for Tampa, Brighton, Ft. Pierce, and Sgt. Jarret Romanello, (954) 967-5100 for Hollywood, Big Cypress and Immokalee.

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Lt. Jerry Meisenheimer
Unit Supervisor
(863) 697-9577



Sgt. Angela Comito
North Unit Supervisor
(863) 763-5731



Sgt. William Maynard
South Unit Supervisor
(954) 967-8900



North Unit - Brighton, Ft. Pierce, Tampa



Ofc. Margie Carr
Tampa



Ofc. Darryl Allen
Brighton



Ofc. Holly Ramsey
Brighton



PSA Teresa Bass
Brighton

South Unit - Hollywood, BC, Immokalee



Ofc. Bobby Betz
Hollywood



Ofc. Marvin Stanley
Hollywood



Ofc. Mchele Daza
Hollywood



Ofc. Scott Akin
Big Cypress



Ofc. George Murray
Immokalee



PSA Deitra Turning
Hollywood



PSA Terry Tartshah
Hollywood



Clerk Shani Billie
Big Cypress

SEMINOLE POLICE DEPT.

SPD Citizens Police Academy Completes Third Week in Ten Week Series

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — In week three of a 10-week series, the Seminole Police Dept. (SPD) discussed the topics of street crimes, citizen complaints and K-9 units at the Community Center on Aug. 27. “These meetings are critically important to fight crimes in this community,” SPD Hollywood Street Crimes Division Sgt. Jarret Romanello said.



Hollywood Road Patrol Supervising Sgt. Leonard Noonan (R) answers questions regarding citizen complaints from the academy series attendees.

As a two year unit within SPD, the Street Crimes Division covers the Big Cypress and Immokalee Reservations specializing in eliminating the use and distribution of narcotics, contraband and controlled substances on reservation lands. According to Romanello, there are more than 30 active drug cases being investigated this year, close to 200 confirmed drug dealers in the SPD system and a 20 percent increase in prescription drug overdoses in certain areas. One targeted problem for attention has been in gang-related activities. “We have put a lot of emphasis on gang members because they are so dangerous in the communities,” he pointed out. To help aid the unit in the intelligence gathering process, Romanello said office briefings, e-mail, phone and community source agen-

cies and computer intelligence files are also important. “I think it is a great thing and it is allowing the community to see what the officers do and how they do things,” said Tribal citizen Charles Hiers Jr., a first time series attendee. “Our people need to get more involved and get to know these people,” Hiers added. “We have a great advantage that we can get to know them. They are here for us.” Hollywood Road Patrol Super-

four months, Cali, also made an appearance. As a seven year unit within the SPD, the K-9 division services the Big Cypress Reservation in the area of narcotics detection, as well as the Hollywood reservation with bombing and explosives detection. Morgan said dogs have always been a central part of his home and family life growing up so the transition and opportunity to work with them came naturally. “I have always had dogs and cannot remember not having one in my life,” Morgan explained. “Early on I was just amazed that I could hide somewhere in the woods and a dog could actually come and find me.” He stressed that trust remains pivotal in a good working relationship admitting, “If your dog does not trust you then they are not going to work for you.”



Brighton SPD K-9 Officer Jack Morgan practices search techniques using a tennis ball with partner, Cali.



Tampa SPD Sgt. Al Signore (R) discusses credit card fraud prevention at the Citizens Police Academy on Sept. 3.

Police Academy Week Four Concludes

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — In week four of the ongoing Seminole Police Dept. Citizens Police Academy series, officers discussed the topics of Crime Prevention and the Youth and Elder Unit at the Hollywood Community Center Sept. 3. SPD Sgt. Al Signore of Tampa Crime Prevention Division started off the evening with an introduction and history of crime prevention. “It all started out years ago, in England in 1729 with the principal of stopping crime,” Signore said. “To me it is about educating on how to protect yourself and your property.” He said it is a concept which developed in the United States in the 1960s gaining momentum and popularity in the 1980s and is known as a pattern of attitudes and behaviors directed at reducing the threat of crime and enhancing a sense of safety and security in communities. As a 40-year veteran of law enforcement, Signore has spent the last decade with the Tribe emphasizing several areas of crime prevention including residence and commercial safety inspections, identity theft prevention and new building building inspections. Some of the tips for protecting the home he offered included making sure outside doors and frames are solid, 1.75” metal or hardwood, trimming any bushes or trees that hide doors or windows and keeping ladders in-

side the home and not hiding spare keys under the door mat or in a flowerpot. Some tips for protecting personal information if lost or stolen include closing credit card and bank accounts immediately, contacting the three major consumer credit companies — Equifax, Experian and TransUnion — to place fraud alerts on credit reports and replacing driver’s licenses and other important government issued documents such as passports. “I liked it all,” Tribal citizen Hannah Billie said. “The crime prevention part has always held an interest for me.” Officers of the SPDs Youth and Elder Unit also spoke about the one year program created by Seminole Police Dept. Chief William Latchford. According to its mission statement the unit also serves to strengthen the relationship between the police department, Tribal elders and youth. “This unit and the police department have brought the community together,” Hollywood Seminole Police Department Youth and Elder Unit Officer Robert Betz said. “One of the main goals of creating this unit has been getting people in the community on the same page. Our consistency is one of the main keys.” The many functions of the unit include providing welfare checks on seniors to ensure their safety no matter the location, assisting with funerals and arrangements, developing relationships with Tribal youth through various programs, assisting seniors in their daily functions and activities and creating a strong, positive relationship within the Tribal communities.



(L-R) Chynna Villarreal, Eyanna Billie, Dayra Koenes and Thomlynn Billie, all 9 years old, at the Aug. 31 event.

Community Comes Together for National Night Out Event

BY NAJIB TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Barry Dodge, a lieutenant with the Seminole Police Dept. (SPD), had a message for the participants who attended the National Night Out to Prevent Crime event, held in the gym on Aug. 31. “Our main goal is to stop crime in this community and make the area a better place,” Lt. Dodge said. “We’re very proud at SPD to be working with your community and part of your family.” SPD, in collaboration with the Seminole Fire Rescue Dept., the Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club and the Big Cypress Recreation Dept., made sure the function, held for the first time at Big Cypress, had a family feel to it. National Night Out to Prevent Crime, scheduled nationwide for Aug. 4, was set to be held on Aug. 31 at all of the Seminole Reservations — Big Cypress, Brighton, Ft. Pierce, Hollywood, Immokalee, Naples and Tampa. The Big Cypress Reservation took advantage of a few initiatives from the national event, which centers on strengthening the community in the form of youth activities, cookouts and friendly visits from law enforcement officers, to name just a few. With food and drinks in great supply, participants were treated to a K-9 officer demonstration, presented by SPD. Officer Carlin Coleman ordered his canine partner, 7-month-old Glory, to sniff three cardboard boxes so the attendees could see which one of those boxes had a training aid in it. The training aid was intended to mimic the dog sniffing out narcotic drugs, and Glory’s ability to do so wowed the audience. After sniffing it out the canine received a golf ball reward for his work.

“When Glory smells the odor of a narcotic, she’ll sit and stare at the source,” Coleman explained. “That represents the presence of the odor she’s smells. It’s just a game to Glory; that’s what she likes to play.” Then it was on to a game of quickball, a relatively new sport that promotes hand-eye coordination and speed. Developed by Cal Ripken Jr., a Major League Baseball Hall of Famer, the sport is geared toward keeping youngsters active. With one pitch and one swing, many of the National Night Out participants, who consisted of children and adults, took part in the fun. “Baseball can become a stationary sport,” said Thommy Doud of the Boys & Girls Club. “When you play quickball, you constantly move around. It’s a great workout for those who play.”



SPD Officer Carlin Coleman and his canine partner, Carly, perform a sniffing drill in which the dog locates evidence.

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