



The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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(L-R) Amy Johns, who won one gold, two silver and a bronze medal in rifle shooting, Team Florida's Leader Joel Frank Sr. and bronze medal winner in senior archery, Don Osceola.

Team Florida Returns Triumphant From NAIG

Amy Johns, Don Osceola Bring Home Five Medals

BY PEGGIE REYNOLDS
Contributing Writer

COWICHAN, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA — Amy Johns, Steven Johns-Ashley, Kyle Henry, Don Osceola and Robert Delorimiere represented Team Florida at the 2008 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG), held in Cowichan, British Columbia, Canada, Aug. 3-10.

These five joined thousands of their fellow athletes to compete in NAIG, which take place every three years. During the games, indigenous peoples from across North America celebrate their cultural heritage and sporting abilities during the weeklong competition.

Amy Johns' four medal wins in rifle shooting and Don Osceola's bronze medal in archery brought the spotlight to Team Florida. Johns earned medals in the senior rifle shooting division in the following events: standing position, gold medal; kneeling position and aggregate/overall ranking, silver medals; and prone

position, bronze medal.

Following three full days of rifle competition at the Cowichan Fish and Game Facility, the final medal ceremony took place on the evening of Aug. 8. With Team Florida coaches, staff, supporters and her teammates cheering her on, Johns received her four medals.

Don Osceola also earned Team Florida a medal during the NAIG competition. He took home the bronze in the senior division for traditional archery.

Following his win, the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) of Canada interviewed Osceola. APTN is a Canadian-wide television and broadcast network that airs and produces programs made by, for and about Aboriginal peoples; and Osceola's win put him in the national spotlight.

The remaining eight athletes who rounded out Team Florida's roster competed in a variety of events: Steven Johns-Ashley, bantam rifle, Kyle Henry, juvenile rifle and Robert Delorimiere, senior golf.

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Naples Community Celebrates Their Culture and Heritage

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

NAPLES — Members of the Naples Community gathered at the residence of Doug and Sandy Osceola on Aug. 15 to celebrate their cultural heritage and provide their children with an opportunity to learn about their ancestors from their elders.

The day's activities began with Tammy Billie cleaning, cutting up and preparing deer meat, supplied by Ingraham Billie Jr. and Tahama Osceola. The children watched intently as she instructed them in each step of the process of preparing the meat they would eat later that afternoon.

Pedro Zepeda employed the skills of his ancestors in teaching the youngsters the art of wood carving. Using a dry piece of cypress, Zepeda slowly transformed the piece of wood into an alligator. The finished product resembled those created many years ago by his forefathers as toys for the children and then souvenirs for the tourist trade.

A small crowd gathered around Tribal elder Ingraham Billie Jr. when he began to talk about his birthplace in Charlie Tigertail's camp deep in the Everglades 79 years ago.

"My father, Ingraham Billie Sr., learned the ways of the medicine man and devoted his life to caring for his people, even after he adopted Christianity," Ingraham Jr. said.

"I remember my family hunting and fishing for

Please see NAPLES ♦ Page 2A

Youth Enjoy Summer Filled with Many Exciting Activities

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — The Immokalee Seminole Ranch and Recreation Dept. spent months planning a summer program that began on June 4. Alternating their efforts, staff members from both departments created a diverse program of activities that sparked interest from youth of all ages throughout their summer break.

"By pooling our resources, we stretched our finances and created a think tank of ideas and past experiences," said Immokalee Recreation Dept. Director Johnny Boone. "You might say it was a matter of what does and does not work."

The itinerary included bi-weekly fun days, a mini-water park set up at the ranch, a weekly movie day, skating, bowling, trips to the beach, supervised games and sporting events.

"Children always lean toward certain things, but it is important to balance their activities with creative learning experiences," Immokalee Ranch Director Kenny Joe Davis said. "When I see children's eyes open in wonder, hear them ask questions and laugh with joy, I know that we're on the right track."

Field trips to kid-friendly entertainment complexes including Boomers, Sunsplash Family Water Park, King Richard's Family Fun Park and the IMAX® movie theater, broke up the routine. In addition,

Please see SUMMER ♦ Page 2A

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School Staff Host Open House

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students, faculty and parents geared up for the school's second school year with an Open House, held Aug. 14.

With approximately 166 students enrolled this year, Principal Russell Brown said he hopes this year will be as successful as the last.

"We wanted to give students an opportunity to meet their teachers and find out what supplies they need and to bring them, as well as give families and parents an opportunity to meet their kids' teachers and find out what the rules are and procedures at cetera for the school year," Brown said. "It also gave the families and children a chance to meet all the different departments at one time."

Mom Carrera Gopher took her son, Justin, one of 17 students starting kindergarten this year, to the Open House.

"It is a new experience for the both of us," Gopher said. "I am excited and slightly nervous. I am excited because my son is starting his first year of school and all of the new opportunity for him, but nervous because my baby is going to school now and he is growing up."

Kindergarten through fifth grade Seminole history and Creek Substitute Teacher Jade Braswell said she is looking forward to another year. However, she also admits some of the curriculum poses challenges.

The Brighton resident said she continues to enjoy growing, exploring, and learning the Seminole culture.



Mahala Madrigal fills out paperwork for her son, Joshua.

Dissecting information, making changes and including information as well as tailoring the curriculum based on grade level are all a part of the transition into each new school year.

"I enjoy it all and jump at the opportunity to teach because I feel you cannot really know who you are until you know where you come from," Braswell said.

Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal Council Meets in Big Cypress

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Tribal Council met on the Big Cypress Reservation Aug. 27 for a special session. They passed 33 resolutions on the agenda, including:

Resolution 15: Service line agreement (3,915' x 5') between Embark FKA Sprint-Florida Inc. and Seminole Tribe of Florida for location of a telephone cable to the home site of Larry Howard - Brighton Reservation;

Resolution 16: Service line agreement (450' x 5') between Embark FKA Sprint-Florida Inc. and Seminole Tribe of Florida for location of a telephone cable to the home site of Daniel Sunez Sr. - Brighton Reservation;

Resolution 17: U.S. Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service Grant Application to fund the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Bird Habitat Enhancement Pilot Project for Tribal FY's 2009 and 2010;

Resolution 18: U.S. Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service Grant Application to fund the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Tribal Wildlife Management Program Proposal for Tribal FY 2009;

Resolution 19: Grant Application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for funds for the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Water Pollution Control Program;

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BILLIE SWAMP SAFARI WINS "BEST GUIDED TOUR AWARD" FROM FLORIDA MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR FIFTH TIME ♦ 3A

◆ NAIG

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Johns-Ashley just missed the medal mark in three categories, archery's standing position, prone position and aggregate, coming in fourth in all these events. Henry placed ninth in the juvenile rifle's standing position event and 11th in both the prone position and aggregate. Delorimiere placed 12th overall in the senior golf competition.

Behind the scenes, both in Florida and at the actual games, the coaches have played a vital role in Team Florida's success. The archery coaches, Steve Young and John Waterhouse, and the rifle coaches, Joe Frank, Richard Henry and Rhonda Roff, provided instruction, technical support and encouragement to all of the athletes.

The athletes and coaches paid many of their own travel costs to attend NAIG. The financial support of dozens of businesses, organizations, Tribal governments and individuals from across the U.S. helped cover the additional expenses involved in sending the team to the games, which Team Leader Joel Frank Sr. (Chef de Mission) expressed gratitude for.

The next Indigenous Games will take place in Milwaukee, Wis. in the summer of 2011. Preliminary reports in the coming weeks, months and years will determine who will make the journey to represent Team Florida.



Peggie Reynolds

Don Osceola, who won the bronze medal in senior archery, and Sam Johnston from Team Yukon.



Peggie Reynolds

Team Florida's (L-R): Rhonda Roff, Steve Young, Joel Frank Sr., Richard Henry, Kyle Henry, Joe Frank and Amy Johns look on during one of the games.

◆ Naples

Continued from page 1

their meat," he continued. "They planted gardens in the hammocks in the swamp and grew corn, sweet potatoes, bananas, pumpkins, beans, squash and sugar cane. We didn't have refrigerators or freezers."

"During the growing season, my people raised and dried their vegetables in the sun and hung them in the top of the chickee or gathered them in palmetto baskets for storage. They made jerky out of the deer for the times when we had no fresh meat."

Bringing the girls together around the cooking fire, the women worked to prepare the meal. Tammy Billie encouraged the youngsters to join her and learn how to make sofkee, bananas, corn on the cob, Indian stew and fry bread and fry sweet potatoes and venison. Up to their elbows in flour, they had a wonderful time and waited anxiously for their first pieces of fry bread to come out of the pan.

Meanwhile, Tahama Osceola started the pumpkin bread, which brought everyone together. As she worked, she talked about how she learned from her mother and her aunts the way to cook, sew and bead. She told the young girls that they must learn these things now, so that they will be able to



Judy Weeks

Tribal elder, Tahama Osceola (Back, Center) and her daughter, Wanda, (Second from Right) show the young ladies how to make pumpkin bread.

carry their heritage to the future generations.

As the girls cooked, the boys joined Pedro Zepeda and he taught them the basics of archery. It didn't take long before even the youngest hit their targets.

By the time the meal concluded, nearly every member of the Naples Community spent the remainder of the afternoon recalling the past and sharing the elders' experiences with their future generations.



Judy Weeks

Pedro Zepeda transforms a piece of cypress into a wooden alligator.



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Malcolm Wallace learns how to handle a bow under the watchful eye of Pedro Zepeda.



Jennifer Ramos

Immokalee's youth examine a portion of their day's catch in the Big Cypress canal.

◆ Summer

Continued from page 1

tion, the ranch sponsored a trip to the Miami Seaquarium and the Recreation Dept. treated the group to a day at Busch Gardens in Tampa.

The youngsters also threw themselves hook, line and sinker into a fishing contest

on the banks of the Big Cypress canal.

"Catching my big fish was awesome," exclaimed Billy Fewell, who landed a bass that weighed about 12 pounds, earning him a fishing pole, tackle box and gift card.

Upon their return, the kids attended a short awards ceremony and dinner at the Immokalee Casino where each participant received a gift card.



Jennifer Ramos

Alex Garcia gets ready to jump off the diving platform at Sunny Lagoon.



Jennifer Ramos

K.J. Davis finds out if he can do eight bows on the mechanical bull.



Jennifer Ramos

The Preschool students and teachers participate in a day at the Immokalee Ranch's mini-water park.

◆ Council

Continued from page 1

Resolution 21: Atronic Americas, LLC Master Lease Agreement; Ratification;

Resolution 22: IGT Multi-Hand Poker Intellectual Property License Agreement; Ratification;

Resolution 23: WMS Gaming, Inc., Progressive Agreement; Ratification;

Resolution 25: Ratification of the Seminole Tribe of Florida filming permission letter granting the RTL group permission to film a television show on the Big Cypress and Hollywood Seminole Indian Reservations;

Resolution 26: Bass-Unter Fire & Security Systems, Inc., Alarm Monitoring Agreement for Hollywood Reservation - Senior Center; Ratification;

Resolution 27: Approval of deduction from mid-month per capita payments;

Resolution 28: Approval of a business lease for office space between Seminole Tribe of Florida (lessee) and Poal WK Taft, LLC (lessor) for National Indian Training Center and Housing Dept.;

Resolution 29: Sal's Home Inspection, Inc. D/B/A R&S General Contractors change order number two to standard form of owner and contractor agreement for relocation of the Florida Seminole Business Compound on the Hollywood Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 30: Standard form of agreement between owner and contractor where the basis of payment is a stipulated sum of \$288,003.70 between the Seminole Tribe of Florida and Close Construction, Inc., for the

Brighton Preschool renovation on the Brighton Reservation;

Resolution 31: Approval of the Title V FY 2009 Funding Agreement with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service under PL. 106-260 Title V of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA);

Resolution 32: Approval of agreement with Moss and Associates, LLC for construction of improvements at Seminole

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino - Hollywood;

Resolution 33: Approval of agreement with Cambridge Specialty Construction Corp. for Butler building expansion at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino - Tampa;

Resolution 34: Approval of agreement with W.G. Yates & Sons Construction Company for construction of the parking garage at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino - Tampa;

Resolution 35: Approval of the Seminole Tribe of Florida Tribal Council Housing Policy;

Resolution 36: First Amendment to the Animal Care and Regulation Ordinance;

Resolution 37: Employee Informed Choice Ordinance of the Seminole Tribe of Florida;

Resolution 38: Tribal Freedom of Association Ordinance of the Seminole Tribe of Florida;

Resolution 39: Trespass Ordinance of the Seminole Tribe of Florida;

Resolution 40: Ratification of the execution of lease schedules 13 through 25 to the master lease agreement with PDS Gaming Corporation; limited waiver of sovereign immunity.

If you need a reporter or you would like to submit an article, birthday wish or poem to *The Seminole Tribune*, please contact the Editor-In-Chief Virginia Mitchell at (954) 985-5702, Ext. 10725, fax (954) 965-2937, or mail to: The Seminole Tribune, 3560 N. State Road 7, Hollywood, Florida 33021



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HOLLYWOOD



(L-R) Minnie Doctor and Betty Osceola begin their preparations to make the dolls, and teach the students the time-honored techniques of Seminole doll-making.

Culture Dept. Holds Doll-Making Classes

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Culture Dept. held classes so Tribal students could learn how to make a large man doll, a doll of a horse and a smaller man doll to sit on the horse. The classes took place on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays during the last week of August and first week of September at the DSO Building.

Attendees, including Leisset Baker, Hailee Osceola, Raevin Frank, Jordan Billie, Jennifer Holdiness, Katelyn Young, Pat Bowers, Maydell Osceola, Annie Tiger, Cornelia Osceola, Bonnie Motlow, Jo Motlow North, Cindi Adair and Donna Turtle, took the classes to learn more about doll making, as well as share their knowledge and stories.

Betty Osceola, Maggie Osceola and Minnie Doctor taught the classes. Class attendee and Tribal Language Instructor Donna Turtle said with these classes, the Tribe's culture lives on.

"Maggie, Minnie and Betty are the doll-makers and they teach so that others will learn," Turtle said.

Instructor Betty Osceola said she has made dolls for about 20 years. She added that she started making horse dolls much later in her doll-making career.

"The final project can take days to be complete," Osceola said.

She said after making the man doll or horse, the students then made patchwork for the clothes and sewed it on before their project's completion. The instructors showed the younger students how to make a traditional Seminole doll first before moving on to this more advanced project.

The teachers constructed the dolls and horses with Palmetto fiber, cotton, wooden rods and different color yarn or thread.

A handpicked group of Seminole Police Dept. officers, Dee Turing, Oscar Baez, Bobby Betz and Michele Daza, also helped out. The officers assisted the classes each night by cooking traditional Seminole foods for the participants to enjoy.



(L-R) Cindi Adair and her Grandmother Cornelia Osceola participated in the class to learn and practice the traditional doll-making craft.

Passport Services Offered to Tribal Citizens

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — For the first time ever, the Seminole Tribe offered citizens a chance to get their passport applications processed onsite at the Hollywood Auditorium on Aug. 13.



Alice Billie waits for her pictures so she can turn in her completed application. She also applied for her 9 month old daughter's passport at the event.

Miami Passport Agency employees set up a mock office to assist Tribal citizens through the application process to either renew, or obtain a passport for the first time. Passport Examiner Louis Cordoba said his office processes most applications in a post office or courthouse setting.

"This is a first-time initiative that the passport agency has done," Cordoba stated.

He also said the Miami office processes applications that come by mail. However, by coming to the Tribal offices, he said himself and other colleagues could better assist Tribal citizens through the process, and also answer any questions they had.

Big Cypress Administrative Projects Officer Nery Mejicano coordinated the event. Mejicano also took passport photos for those applying.

Mejicano said since the Tribe now owns the Hard Rock, an international corporation, more Tribal citizens travel to other countries. Stephen Bowers of Hollywood said he looks forward to using his passport to do just that, and hopes to visit Hard Rock Hotels in other countries.

Mejicano said he worked on bringing the passport agency directly to the Tribe for nearly a year. In addition to the Hollywood stop, Tribal citizens from reservations and communities farther north can attend the second



Stephen Bowers has his passport picture taken because he said he hopes to use his passport to travel to travel internationally and see some of the Hard Rock Hotels around the world.

passport session, to be held at the Tampa Hard Rock on an undetermined future date.

Those who do not have a birth certificate can contact the Tribal Secretary's Office to obtain the necessary information so they can begin the application process to get a passport.

Council Holds Special Session Meeting

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Tribal Council convened on the Hollywood Reservation on Aug. 15 for a special session meeting. They passed four resolutions on the agenda, including:

Resolution 4: Termination of business lease no. 48 (Hollywood Mobile Estates Limited) - Hollywood; Reservation;

Resolution 5: Application for registration of the trade name Seminole Estates as a fictitious name by the Seminole Tribe of Florida with the Florida Department of State; Ratification;

Resolution 6: United Community Management Corporation property management agreement with the Seminole Tribe of Florida; Ratification;

Resolution 7: Authorization of Tribal Council to open a new checking account for Seminole Tribe of Florida D/B/A Seminole Estates at First United Bank; Ratification.

Board Convenes for Special Meeting

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Tribal Board of Directors met on the Hollywood Reservation on Sept. 10 for a special meeting. They passed six resolutions on the agenda, including:

Resolution 5: Authority to offer the return of the authority for the operation of the Big Cypress Rock Pit to the Tribal Council;

Resolution 6: Approval of Buddy Levy as General Counsel;

Resolution 7: Approval of Timber and Forest Products Harvesting Policy;

Resolution 8: Approval of granting a limited waiver of sovereign immunity for p-card with Fifth Third Bank;

Resolution 9: Approval of lease with Johns Family Enterprises, LLC; and,

Resolution 10: FY 2009 authorization for continued funding of corporate operations.

BIG CYPRESS Swamp Safari Wins Fifth 'Best Guided Tour' Award Readers of Florida Monthly Magazine Honor Tribal Park

BY CINDY MALIN
Billie Swamp Safari

BIG CYPRESS — The readers of *Florida Monthly* magazine have voted Billie Swamp Safari as offering the best guided tour in Florida for the fifth year in a row.

"We are honored that the readers of the magazine nominated and chose Billie Swamp Safari for this prestigious award for a fifth time," said park director Ed Woods. "We are proud to be able to offer such a unique and educational experience to park visitors."

The magazine surveyed readers, asking them to nominate and vote for their choices for the 2008 Best of Florida awards. More than 600,000 votes came in to honor Florida's best.

Florida Monthly will officially reveal their 13th Annual Best of Florida winners in the magazine's October 2008 issue. The complete list of winners will appear on www.floridamagazine.com, *Florida Monthly's* website for the entire year.



FT. PIERCE Ft. Pierce Youth Attend Play, Pizza Party

BY VALERIE MARONE
Contributing Writer

The Family Services Dept. and Ft. Pierce Liaison Sally Tommie teamed up to sponsor a pizza party and trip to see a play for Ft. Pierce youth on June 20.

The youth attended a pizza party at the Fort Pierce Field Office, followed by an onstage production of James and the Giant Peach at the Riverside Children's Theater in Vero Beach. The youth reported having a wonderful time and would like to attend other plays in the future.

HOLLYWOOD

Carnival-Themed Constitution Day Marks 51 Years Tribal Event Commemorates 51 Years of Constitution

BY FELIX DOBOSZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Tribal families took part in a carnival-themed 51st anniversary of the signing of the Seminole Constitution and Corporate Charter on Aug. 23 at the ball field.

The entire west side of 64th Ave., directly across from the Seminole baseball field, turned into an amusement park for kids of all ages to enjoy. An assortment of carnival rides, as well as a small petting zoo and pony rides, kept the kids entertained leading up to the evening's extravaganza — a 30 minute fireworks display.

Tribal citizen Everett Osceola brought some of his children to try out some of the fun carnival rides. However, he said he also wanted them to give thanks for those who came before and made such celebrations possible.

"If it wasn't for our elders who fought for a Constitution to give us the power we have now, the wealth we have now, the casinos ... we wouldn't have what we have today," Osceola said. "When I was younger we rarely didn't have any of this."

"We shouldn't really just have one certain day, we should be celebrating that every day and be grateful to our elders," he added.

The Hollywood Recreation Dept. also organized different games for those in attendance to compete in. The youngsters gravitated more to the friendly horseshoe and free throw basketball competitions.

Francisco Rodriguez and Ariahe Osceola took first place in the 11 and younger and 15-17 year old free throw competitions, respectively.

Meanwhile, skateboarders Luke Baxley Jr., Richard Primeaux, Tameron Wilcox and Joel Puente used the outdoor basketball court to practice their sport of choice as DJ Zack "TRUTH" Battiest provided the crowd with playing CDs.

Directly behind the outdoor basketball stands, attendees could watch a video presentation of last year's 50th anniversary spectacular, which took place at the Hard Rock Live on Aug. 21. Seminole Broadcasting's award-winning media team produced the video.



Richard Primeaux bungees up and down during the Constitution Day festivities on Aug. 23.



(L-R) Luke Baxley Jr., Richard Primeaux, Tameron Wilcox and Joel Puente practice their skateboarding skills on the outdoor basketball court.



Rice, Mary and dad, Mari Osceola, take a break from the festivities and get a bite to eat.



Kids enjoy the rides at Hollywood's Constitution Day celebration.



Junior Battiest (R) hands son, DJ Zach Battiest (C), the next CD selection as a fan looks on.



(L-R) Alani Frank, Maryjane Osceola and Xiora Osceola enjoy the Pirates Revenge ride together.

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IMMOKALEE

Community Celebrates the End of Summer with Party

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — All of the major departments servicing the Immokalee community spent weeks organizing the End of Summer Block Party so Immokalee's youth could enjoy one last major event before beginning the new school year.

"This is Immokalee's third Summer Block Party and I see a vast improvement each year," Immokalee Board Liaison

Delores Jumper said. "The participation of the departments has been extraordinary and the youngsters are deriving a lot of benefit from their efforts."

The daylong activities began at 9 a.m. on Aug. 15 with a nature walk led by Immokalee's Asst. Board Liaison Edward Aguilar and Eric Sanders of Billie Swamp Safari. The two guided the children along the woodland trails behind the community, pointing out interesting characteristics of the region and native plants, including the poisonous ones and those used for food and medicinal purposes.

"The bark of the willow tree contains a small quantity of acetaminophen, which is the active ingredient in several medications for the relief of minor aches and pains, as well as headaches," Aguilar said. "Our Creator provided our ancestors with natural sources of food and medicine for survival."

Reaching their final destination at the Karen Cypress Recreation Park and Ball Field, Family Services' Aftercare Specialist Fred Mullins met the group. He gave a brief presentation, followed by a question and answer portion, which emphasized the challenges facing today's youth.

"Your ancestors knew how to live with the land and survive the daily challenges of gathering and growing food, building shelters, doctoring the sick and protecting themselves," Mullins said. "Today's challenges are much the same, but we approach them in a different manner."

"One of the biggest enemies that will confront you is alcohol and drugs," contin-



Family Service's Aftercare Specialist Fred Mullins (R) makes a presentation about alcohol and drug prevention.



Joseph Walker prepares to shoot the tunnel at the skateboard park.



(L-R) Alexis Jimmie and Jaylee Jimmie cool off on the water slide.



(L-R) Randee Osceola, Randeon Osceola, Alexis Jimmie and Destinee Jimmie decorate the Housing Dept.'s cardboard display at the End of Summer Block Party.

ued Mullins. "Your best weapon is learning how to say 'No' and turning to your family and community for the support you need to exert self control. You have the power to build a bright future for yourself, your Tribe and your descendants."

Prior to visiting the display booths set up by various Tribal departments, Asst. Immokalee Recreation Dept. Director Virginia Garcia-Sanders handed each of the youngsters a report card with the participating departments' names on it.

"As you travel from booth to booth, we need you to listen, observe and grade us on our efforts," said Garcia-Sanders. Our theme is "Be on the A Team" and that applies to us, as well as you. If you like what you see, give us an 'A'; but if we need improvement, you need to let us know."

Departments including Family Services, Health, Education, Library, Recreation, Immokalee Youth Ranch, Housing, Utilities, Culture and Seminole Police dispersed information and tools that will benefit each student's education. The Recreation Dept. provided each student with a gym bag that they quickly filled with "Education All Star" T-shirts, school supplies, educational aides and arts and crafts materials.

The Seminole Police Dept. (SPD) and Immokalee Housing Dept. set up two of the most popular booths at the event.

At the SPD booth, department employees captivated a large audience as they made a presentation of the tools of their trade, talked about youth involvement in crime prevention and public safety issues. The



Immokalee's Asst. Board Liaison Edward Aguilar (R) offers the youngsters the opportunity to smell the wild mint growing beside the trail.

Immokalee Housing Dept. had the children use markers to decorate two cardboard houses which they will display in their offices.

The Immokalee Youth Ranch supported the "Back to School Blast Off" by supplying water slides, bounce houses and other water park favorites. Their carnival-style concession met with the approval of children of all ages.

In addition, several of Immokalee's more daring athletes took turns showing off their skills in the recently-opened skateboard park. Several of the youngsters already joined the extreme sport's training club and were showing off their new skills. Helmets have been ordered and signups were taken for Skater's Nation, which stands for Seminole Kids Advancing Tribal Extreme Recreation for a Sober Nation.

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IMMOKALEE

Seniors Learn Home Security Tips at Seminar

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Seminole Fire Rescue and the Seminole Police Departments (SPD) provided a seminar on home security at the Senior Center on Aug. 28. The main purpose of discussion was home security tips to enhance individual safety.

Crime Prevention Officer Tom Faherty's opening remarks set the tempo for the SPD presentation.

"Don't allow yourself to become an accomplice to thieves waiting for the opportunity to take advantage of you," Faherty said. "Something as simple as a broomstick in a sliding glass door track or locking a window open at no more than four inches, can make the difference in home invasion."

Highlights included proper exterior lighting, motion detectors, remembering to remove keys and lock vehicles, securing lawn mowers, four-wheelers and bicycles and adequate yard maintenance. A well kept yard indicates occupancy, according to Faherty, who also advised the seniors to never let anyone know when they are home alone.

"When traveling, you need to prepare your residence for your absence," said Faherty. "Timers that activate interior lights at sundown deter breaking and

entering. Someone should be designated to collect mail and newspaper delivery and make frequent inspections of your premises."

Representing Fire & Rescue, Paramedic Bob Levy addressed safety factors within the residence. Extension cords, overloaded outlets, blocked exits, flammable materials near lights, faulty cooking appliances and unsecured area rugs represent common household safety problems. Improper placement or lack of maintenance of smoke detectors and fire extinguishers intensify the situation, he said.

"With the current threat of tropical storms and hurricanes, many people overlook the obvious when installing storm shutters," said Levy.

He suggested regular shutter checks and always leaving one area unsecured as a second emergency exit. In the event of a calamity, the main entrance might get blocked with foreign debris, flooding or a fire hazard that could prevent departure. Levy recommended designating a safe meeting place outside for household members to congregate and administer to emergency needs as soon as possible.

Faherty went on to explain the importance of having a portable generator in the event of a power outage.

"Portable generators can make the difference between life and death," explained Faherty. "In addition to supplying power for oxygen and medical purposes, they provide for refrigeration, lighting, temperature control and cooking."

"Never place a generator inside your home, garage or close to your air conditioning unit," he added. Carbon monoxide poisoning is a common cause of death from these mistakes.

Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar directed a question to Levy regarding 911 responses to emergency situations on the reservation.

"Frequent delays have occurred during the past because the emergency operators hesitate to dispatch assistance without considerable prior information," she said. "Because of stress and language barriers, calls are sometimes made by a third party who is unable to provide immediate answers. What can we do to get a faster reaction time?"

Levy responded: "Immokalee does not have its own ambulance service. Fire and Rescue and SPD coordinate with outside facilities. Unfortunately, the training for 911 operators on methods of gathering information does not necessarily meet the needs of your community. This is a matter that we are currently addressing and solutions are being devised."

"During 911 remains the fastest means of emergency assistance for Immokalee," he added.

At the end of the presentation, event organizers encouraged the seniors to sign up for home security and safety inspections.



Judy Weeks
SPD Crime Prevention Officer Tom Faherty talks to the Immokalee seniors about home security.



Judy Weeks
Pedro Zepeda displays a small canoe and alligator as examples of Seminole woodcarving during his "Seminole Moments" presentation about sculpting.

Zepeda Discusses Sculpting's Evolution at 'Seminole Moments'

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Pedro Zepeda of the Ah-Tah-Thai-Ki Museum gave a "Seminole Moments" presentation, as part of the museum's ongoing lecture series, on sculpting at the Immokalee Senior Center during a luncheon on Sept. 3.

"Until recent times, the product of Native American skills received the designation of crafts or utilitarian usage," said Zepeda, who studied art at Stetson University in Deland, Fla. "References to these items as art forms were rare exceptions."

Passing two books around the room, he introduced his audience to *Art without Reservations* and *Allan Houser's Native American Art*. As one of the first teachers at the American Indian Art Institute in Santa Fe, N.M., Houser opened new avenues of thought on cultural skills and recognition of artistic talent.

"Sculpting describes the transformation of raw materials into functional or decorative objects," Zepeda said. "This holds true whether carving wood or stone, molding clay, casting bronze or weaving baskets."

"The term 'pottery' applied to vessels for holding," he added. "And over centuries, it took on many shapes and sizes."

Holding up a crude clay bowl in its bone dry stage,

Zepeda pointed out that original Seminole pottery possessed form and function, as well as unique decorative elements. Even the simplest object represents the expression of its artist who created it with his or her hands and imagination, he said.

The discussion covered traditional and modern methods of molding clay, carving wood, shaping palm-leaf and sweetgrass baskets. References to patchwork patterns and beadwork enhanced the art forms. The same materials with different applications reflect the talents and culture of the individual artist. An example was beadwork from various regions depicting diverse Native American cultures.

Zepeda used a small canoe, alligator and spoon for examples of typical woodcarving employed by the Seminoles to create functional objects and trade goods. His descriptions included the selection of a large tree for a dugout canoe to a small sapling for a wooden spoon or tourist souvenirs. He also made comparisons between traditional and modern tools ranging from fire, stone and bone to metal and eventually power equipment.

Following a question and answer session, Zepeda explained the Ah-Tah-Thai-Ki Museum aims to create programs, such as "Seminole Moments," to teach Tribal citizens the traditional practices of their culture.

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BRIGHTON



(L-R) Chastity Harmon, Alexis Gopher and Thomas Bearden sell baked goods to raise money for S.W.A.M.P. Submitted by Valerie Marone

Youth Prevention Committee Holds Bake Sale, Car Wash

BY VALERIE MARONE
Contributing Writer

BRIGHTON — During their summer break from school, about 25 members of the Alcohol/Drug Youth Prevention Committee, a program of the S.W.A.M.P., or Seminoles Without Addictions Make Progress, conducted a bake sale and car wash to raise funds for S.W.A.M.P. activities.

The fundraiser took place in the parking lot of the Trading Post on June 28. All proceeds benefitted S.W.A.M.P. and the youth plan to use the monies raised to do community service projects.

The youngsters baked, frosted and packaged cookies, cupcakes and brownies with "Say No To Drugs" message cards on the day before the sale. On the day of the bake sale and car wash, they got their hands dirty with assistance from the Seminole Shine Mobile Car Wash, which let the participants use their equipment free of charge.



(L-R) Justice Baker and Sunni Bearden wash cars during the fundraiser. Submitted by Valerie Marone

Meet SPD Officer Vanessa Baker

SUBMITTED BY THE SEMINOLE POLICE DEPT.

BRIGHTON — Seminole Police Dept. (SPD) Officer Vanessa Baker has worked for the department for almost six years. She works as a road patrol officer on the Brighton Reservation.

Baker also serves the Tribal community by regularly putting on ATV safety classes, and by participating in a mentoring program.

As part of this program, she keeps in touch with Tribal teens who have asked for help in staying drug and alcohol free. In addition, she monitors their progress in school and socializes with them, allowing the teens to contact her any time for advice, or just to talk.



Submitted by SPD
Officer Vanessa Baker

Baker was born in Seattle, Wash., and moved to Okeechobee, Fla. in 1989. She graduated from Okeechobee High School and then began her law enforcement career as an auxiliary officer with the Okeechobee Police Dept. She went through the police academy at Indian River Community College in Fort Pierce, Fla.

Her husband, Ronnie, also works in law enforcement. When off duty Baker said she enjoys remodeling her home, reading and going to the beach. Baker is also the mother of 11-year-old Tribal citizen Tyler Osceola.

The Seminole Police Department has its motto, "Caring for Your Community," lettered on the side of each patrol vehicle. To showcase this care, the department will submit articles in each edition of *The Seminole Tribune* to showcase its officers who performing this important task.

MICCOSUKEE

Grandparents Honored at Miccosukee School Production

BY SHELLEY MARMOR
Staff Reporter

MICCOSUKEE — Nearly all the students from the Miccosukee Indian School donned their finest beach wear for The Beach Boys-themed Grandparent's Day musical production, held at the school on Sept. 5.

Students from the day care class through the sixth grade performed a song and dance routine to one of the hits made famous by surf-rockers, The Beach Boys. The songs included "Surfin' USA," "Good Vibrations," "Surfin' Safari," "Be True to Your School" and "Do It Again."

School Principal Tom Albano said school staff selected the songs to help the about 50 grandparents in attendance remember fond memories of their younger years. Albano said this year's attendance topped that of all previous years, admitting "we actually had more grandparents there than we've ever had."

Miccosukee Tribal Chairman Billy Cypress, who Albano called "a grandparent many times over," welcomed the students as well as the Miccosukee Tribal citizens and Seminole Trail community members to the event.

"Look to your grandparents," Chairman Cypress said to the students. "They know many things about yesterday, today and tomorrow."

Prior to the event, the students practiced their song and dance routines for about a month in their music class with Teacher Rosie Cipolla.

"All the students take music here, and they rehearsed in their music class," Albano said. "Sometimes they would also rehearse in their regular education class."

The Grandparent's Day production, now in its ninth year, has in previous years featured the songs of Elvis Presley and The Beatles, and also the Mother Goose rhymes.

Albano said next year's production might feature the hit songs of 1960s girl group Diana Ross & The Supremes; however, he said Cipolla, who coordinates the production, has not yet finalized plans.



Submitted by Shelley Marmor
Cameron Osceola from the third grade class performs The Beach Boys' 1966 No. 1 hit song, "Good Vibrations."



Submitted by Shelley Marmor
The day care class donned their finest beach wear for the performance of "Surfin' USA."



Submitted by Shelley Marmor
Second graders (L-R) Katrina Bowers and Amarys Huggins during their class's performance of "Do It Again."



Submitted by Shelley Marmor
(L-R) Memphis Billie, Kenyon Tiger and Effie Tiger, from the kindergarten class, during the "Surfin' Safari" performance.

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Education

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Native Book Review . . . 3B

B

Charter School Hosts Reps. Before Student Elections

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Pemayetv Emahaky Charter School students and staff learned a lot about Tribal government and the election process on Aug. 28.

Two of the Tribe's most knowledgeable in those subject areas, Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith and Brighton Board Rep. Johnnie Jones, spoke to the students and staff as they got ready to have Student Council elections. Both shared their thoughts on the Tribal election process as well as their job duties, responsibilities and commitments.

Rep. Smith said he had a humble start as he began his career in Tribal government, but admitted that the respect he holds within the community contributed to him occupying his current position.

"We are here to help people and help make our reservation better; I want to try to take care of everybody," he said. "We have come a long way to get where we are at now and I am glad to be representing Brighton."

As one of the leaders for the Tribe in major business deals, Rep. Jones' role involves everything from the Tribe's thriving cigarette and tobacco shops and Trading Posts to its beef and cattle operations. Jones said the Tribe currently ranks fourth in the state of Florida and 12th in the U.S. in cattle production.

"One of the goals we, on the Board, have is that whatever we can do to help the community helps you all," Rep. Jones said.

Just in time for their own elections, which took place on Sept. 19, he reminded the students and future leaders of their roles placing an emphasis on leadership and selflessness for the entire group.

"As a student you all must have goals for what you all want," Rep. Jones pointed out. "Remember that your work is for the school and the other kids."

Pemayetv Emahaky teacher and Cultural Education Program sponsor Jade Braswell said the school's election will simulate an actual adult's campaign. She recalled last year's election included all the bells and whistles including campaign posters, buttons, petitions, pens and speeches, just like the campaign strategies employed by those running for Tribal Council and Board seats. The school logo and its mascot were just two of the major issues students decided by voting last year.

Braswell said she has assisted with teaching the students about the election and campaigning process since the school opened its doors last year.

"It is important, but challenging, in teaching some of the younger kids," Braswell explained. "The honor of being voted for and the travels, et cetera, get the students really excited and involved."

School Principal Russ Brown said holding Student Council elections will help those students who will eventually go on to serve as Tribal representatives an early start.

"Being a leader is not for everyone, but this process opens up the door for them to learn whether they fit into that role," Brown said. "I think it is a great educational experience for them."



Chris C. Jenkins
Brighton Board of Directors
Rep. Johnnie Jones



Chris C. Jenkins
Brighton Tribal Council Rep.
Roger Smith



McGruff the Crime Dog (C) joins the youth, Ft. Pierce Liaison S. R. Tommie (L) and members of SPD, at the first annual Back to School Pizza Party on Aug. 12.

Back to School Party Held for Ft. Pierce Community Members

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

FT. PIERCE — Community members, guests and Tribal educators took part in the first annual Back to School Pizza Party, held at Chupco's Ranch on Aug. 12.

With the school year right around the corner, Fort Pierce Liaison S.R. Tommie said the event "was designed to be fun and educational."

Liaison Tommie, who helped host the event, and other organizers distributed school supplies to the youngsters, while face painting and other activities kept them entertained. "Education is one of those things you can do for yourself and it is free," Liaison Tommie said.

Members of the Tribe's Education Dept., including Director Emma Johns and Higher Education Advisor Linda Iley, also attended the event. The two offered words of encourage-

ment to the youngsters and played educational games with them.

"We want to encourage them to do their best this year, and inform them about the services the Education Dept. provides, and let them know we are here for them," Iley said.

Liaison Tommie added that the Ft. Pierce community has the highest per capita attendance rates of all Tribal communities and reservations. She said members of her community take education to heart and value its importance.

"There is no reason why every one of us can not do something that is going to be accounted for positively in our lives," Tommie said.

Hope Sneed, Crystal Sneed, Marty Tommie, Sherree Tommie and Karissa Tommie also received higher education acknowledgements at the event.



Education Dept. Director Emma Johns (C) with community youth.

Tribal Citizen Kaylynn Pewo Earns Her GED

BY JASMINE PORTER
Adult Vocational Administrator

HOLLYWOOD — Kaylynn Pewo isn't the average 19-year-old. She has overcome many obstacles in the last couple of years; however, she recently reached an academic milestone after many struggles.

After dropping out of high school, her motivation to obtain an education dwindled, and her goal of receiving a diploma seemed further and further away.

But instead of putting it off or giving up, Pewo focused all her energy into completing the Seminole Tribe of Florida's General Equivalency Diploma (GED) Program. On May 19 her hard work paid off when she received her GED.

Pewo said the hardest part about getting her GED was keeping up with the work and her studies, and having the will power to complete it. She also admitted she could overcome these difficulties because she had a lot of support.

"I knew that if I didn't try hard enough, I knew I wasn't going to get it," Pewo said. "I knew that it was within arm's and encouraged me. They told me that once I got it, I will feel so much better and college would be so much easier to get into since I have my GED."

Pewo worked on her GED by meeting with a tutor several times a week, doing homework, testing, and studying. She now plans to use the skills she learned toward attending a cosmetology school in Ft. Myers.

For all those out there working on achieving their GED or thinking about it, Pewo offered valuable advice.

"You can do it," she said. "And once you get it, you will feel so much better about yourself."

For more information on how to obtain a GED, please call (954) 989-6840, Ext. 10557.



Submitted by Jasmine Porter
Kaylynn Pewo

Ahfachkee School Students Receive Incentive Awards New Principal Walt Swain Meets Community Members at Fun-Filled Event

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — More than 200 people attended the annual Incentive Awards, held in the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium on Aug. 21 — just in time to motivate students for the start of a new school year.

Students in grades pre-kindergarten through 12th received their awards to a packed-house crowd of parents, family members and friends.

The Ahfachkee School's new Principal Walt Swain (Cheyenne River Sioux) also had a chance to meet the community at the event. Swain formerly served as the Indian Education Director in the Tacoma, Wash. area, where he represented more than 500 students in 115 Tribes.

"Other Tribes do not put as much of an effort into celebrating education," he said. "I want to take Ahfachkee to the new level. We need to be

putting kids at the next level and it starts now at a young age."

The South Dakota native recently relocated to the Sunshine State from Tacoma with his wife of 17 years, Lena, and three children, Zane, Stephen and Allie. Swain said he and his family received an impressive welcome to Seminole County as he transitioned into his new position.

"It has been an honor that the Tribe chose me to come in and help represent this community," Swain said. "I want to be here for a long time."

In addition to meeting their new principal, Ahfachkee's students and the event attendees listened to a speech from Tribal citizen Jarrid Smith, graduate of Florida Atlantic University, and former football player. Smith spoke about family values, Seminole pride and culture, his college experiences and future goals in life, including earning his master's degree in communications this December.

"You never know what you are going to be doing in life," he said. "Even if college is not for you there can be other things to accomplish and achieve."

Big Cypress Education Advisor Patrick McElroy emceed the event, his seventh Incentive Awards ceremony. He said his hard working staff continues to make the ceremonies easier to coordinate each year. According to McElroy, the number of award honorees has doubled in the seven years he has assisted with the event.

"Education has become a lot more important, and it is being promoted very well in the Tribe also," McElroy said.

**More Photos and
Award Recipient's List
Page 2B**



Big Cypress Education Advisor Patrick McElroy (Center, Back Row) announces the 3.76-3.99 GPA Incentive Award recipients.

Chris C. Jenkins

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



Freedom Edition | Black, H2, 2008, 25 Passenger



Chrysler 300 Lambo | White, 2008, 12 Passenger



Tribal Edition | White, H2, 2008, 22 Passenger



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



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Lamborghini | Yellow, 2008, 2 Passenger

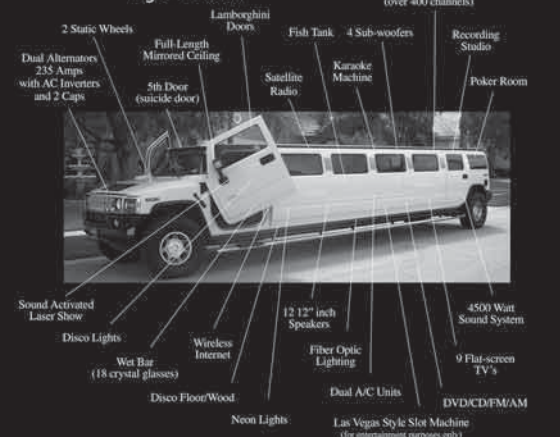


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AHFACHKEE SCHOOL

Ahfachkee's Incentive Awards Recipients

Higher Education: Megan Otero
High School Graduates: Benny Hernandez, Trisha Walker
GED: Kaylynn Peko
Kindergarten Graduates: Charla Balentine, Richard Billie Jr., Charla Billie, Jalycia Billie, Breanna Bowers, Elise Brown, Charli Frye, Leilani Gopher, Kylen Jumper, Tash-sho-tah-che Jumper, Rickardo Rodriguez, Alena Stockton, Martha Tiger

Perfect Attendance: Ethan Balentine, Elisah Billie, Jathaniel Brooks, Dalton Koenes, Dayra Koenes, Kaitlin Osceola

Straight A's: Ahnie Cypress-Jumper

Three or Less Days Absent: Darlah Cypress, Quenton Cypress, Ramona Jimmie, Bradley Osceola, Sarah Osceola, Savannah Tiger, Tequesta Tiger

All A's and B's/3.99-3.76 GPA: Bionca Acosta, Cassandra Alexander, Elisah Billie, Eliza Billie, Eynna Billie, Graysun Billie, Leana Billie, Sabre Billie, Thomlynn Billie, Jathaniel Brooks, Gloria Brooks, Alyssa Burnett, Chaney Curry, Darlah Cypress, Dawna Cypress, Kegan Cypress, Steven Frank, Romeo Garcia, Leslie Gopher Jr., Kevin Ivey, Michelle Jimmie



Chris C. Jenkins

The school's pre-kindergarten Incentive Awards recipients.

Jonessa Jones, Katessa Kirkland, Sierra Kirkland, Daya Koenes, Candalar Landin III, Jessica Lopez, Mika Lopez, Chaska Osceola, Emmitt Osceola, Kaitlin Osceola, Brendan Otero, Justin Roff, Trisha Walker, Annabelle Whiteside
3.75-3.0 GPA: Charles Alexander III, Christian Alexander, Christopher

Alexander, Ricky Joe Alumbaugh, Chelsey Alvarado, Jonah Alvarado, Malari Baker, Ethan Balentine, Tana Bear-Osceola, Katherine Bert, Roderick Bert, Jazmine Billie, Levi Billie, Nataasha Billie, Shawna Billie, Stevie Billie, Tyrus Billie, Troy Cant, Jose Cisneros Jr., Jacob Cotton, Anthony Cypress, Dasani Cypress, Michela Cypress, Mya Cypress, Myron Cypress, Quenton Cypress, Sydney Cypress, Renee Engel, Bianco Fernandez, Marco Flores, Hershel Frank, Colby Herrera, Marley Herrera, Katrina Huggins, Susie Jim, Monique Jimmie, Precious Jimmie, Katinna Jumper, Kaylee Jumper, Dalton Koenes, Andre Landin, Haden Littlebear, Margie Lugo, Trevon Marks, Anthony Oliver, Emely Ortiz, Tia Osborne, Bradley Osceola, Sarah Osceola John Robbins Jr., Destiny Robbins, Thoya Robbins, Ignacio Rodriguez, Leandra Rodriguez, Carlos Romero, Hanna Smith, Savannah Tiger, Tequesta Tiger, Abraham Tigertail, Trinity Williams, Echo Wolf, Silver Wolf

Pre-K Certificates: Carlos Bermudez, Caleb Billie, Kobe Billie, Katrina Columbo, Valholy Frank, Kamari Ivey, Barbara Jimmie, Ramona Jimmie, Billie, Cnaan Jumper, Hehcho-ye Jumper, Alani Marks, Adrian Mendoza, Leo Osceola-Onco, Brandi Osceola, Cale Osceola, Dacia Osceola, Camden Rhymes, Liberty Robbins, Willie Smith, Amaya Solano

Awards and certificates: Tana Bear-Osceola, Kobe Billie, Levi Billie, Mahala Billie-Osceola, Jathaniel Brooks, Gloria Brooks, Elise Brown, Kamari Ivey, Kevin Ivey, Hehcho-ye Jumper, Tash-sho-tah-che Jumper, Jessica Lopez, Mika Lopez, Trevon Marks, Brendan Otero, Annabelle Whiteside



Chris C. Jenkins

Guest speaker and Florida Atlantic University graduate Jarrod Smith.



Chris C. Jenkins

(L-R) Kindergarten Teacher Bernadette Schyvinch discusses class activities and curriculum with Minnie Tigertail.

Parents, Students, Teachers Attend Ahfachkee School's Open House

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — With the 2008-2009 school year underway, students, their families and members of the faculty and staff, attended a meet and greet during the Ahfachkee School Open House, held in the cafeteria on Aug. 25.

Ninth-12th grade English and science teacher Angela Proctor said 60 percent of this year's curriculum will come from the computer system Plato® Learning. This system will provide personalized instruction, technology-based teaching tools and standards-driven assessments to manage academic improvement, according to the plato.com website.

Proctor, who joined the Ahfach-

kee School's faculty this year, said the other 40 percent of the instruction will come from hands-on teaching.

"I just want to keep the kids coming through, reduce the dropout rate and see them graduate," Proctor emphasized.

In fact, the Ahfachkee's attendance has improved with 43 high school students enrolled for the 2008-2009 school year. This number marks Ahfachkee's highest high school enrollment since the school relocated to its current location in 1991.

In addition, Instructional Aide Trisha Reis said the school has changed a lot with the implementation of technology-based programs like Plato® Learning, class size growth, and more programs to offer

since she last worked for the school four years ago.

"It is exciting to be back in the area," she said. "I really love and have missed working with the kids and the environment also."

President Richard Bowers Jr. attended the event and offered words of encouragement to the students and teachers as they began their school year.

"We want to make sure all our youth are educated because they are our future," President Bowers said. "Everything that will be done over the course of this year is very appreciated from our teachers."

He also gave some words of advice to the students, telling them to "pay attention in class, listen to your parents, eat your food and behave."

NATIVE BOOK REVIEW BY RAMONA KIYOSHK

[Editor's Note: Ramona Kiyoshk is a freelance writer and member of the Ojibway First Nation of Walpole Island, Ontario. The opinions she expresses are her own. She can be reached at satin.moccasins@gmail.com.]

As I finished the last page of *Ragged Company*, the newest novel by Ojibway wordsmith Richard Wagamese, I thought, "What a neat book."

Upon reflection, it hit me that I just finished reading what may become one of the most important works of modern fiction.

Writers who make a living at their craft don't like the pressure of being compared to icons from the classics, but book columnists need a measuring stick, or some other frame of reference to help their readers relate. So, at the risk of blasphemy, I will venture into that unholy turf. *Ragged Company's* sweeping landscapes, larger-than-life characters, and the author's passionate grasp of the day's social issues reminded me of the best of John Steinbeck.

The belly of homelessness is split open, spilling out guts, blood and revulsion. Not for the squeamish. Each of the four main players comes from a place that no human being should ever inhabit: Seedlings with possibility left unattended, shunted to the wayside in a country that professes to care for its weak and its children. That sentiment is voiced mightily by Digger, one of the homeless characters, as he rages when his illiterate friend, Dick, goes missing in the downtown jungle and the police are reluctant to help.

The city that provides the backdrop for this drama is not named, but there are hints that it could be Toronto, Canada.

While the story is wrenching, there is redemption. Not as a big blinding light at the end, like Paul on the road to Damascus, but flowing through the story, from beginning to end. It is manifested differently in each member of the coterie of homeless friends.

There is kindness in Amelia, an old Native woman, whose street name is One for the Dead. She is a former residential school inmate and makes it her business to take care of the weak and ill she encounters on the street. Double Dick Dumont, Métis, fleeing abuse and grinding poverty, and carrying a terrible secret, cannot read or write.

Still trapped in childhood, he brings an innocent charm to all he befriends. Timber, a tall, nervous loner, is drawn reluctantly into the group by motherly One for the Dead and the childlike Dick. The most verbal and the one the others look up to for his worldly wisdom, is

Digger, a former carnival worker who now rifles through dumpsters for salvage.

Rounders, they call themselves, and they live by the code of the street, behaviors developed to ensure survival in their treacherous world. They are tough, ragged and wily. They probably smell, but this is referred to only a couple of times.

This unlikely aging quartet roams the streets by day, offering each other companionship and protection, and sharing smokes. A bottle is always handy, snug inside someone's coat. They visit the mission, drop-in centers, soup kitchens and other spots where the homeless gather. At night they go their separate ways to spend the dark hours alone. It is their personal time. The

men have their secret places and Amelia goes to a shelter, where it is safer for women.

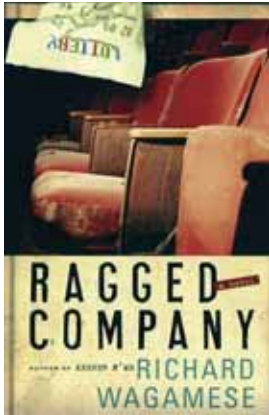
For almost 15 years, this is the drill. Then an evil cold snap arrives, taking down some of the street people. Seeking warmth and shelter, the foursome decides to hole up inside a downtown movie theatre, and end up watching a foreign flick with subtitles. Going to the cinema becomes a weekly event for the group, providing a break in their bleak routine and creating lively discussions.

It is also where they meet Granite, an eccentric loner who will play a profound part in their luck, which is about to change dramatically. Soon they will be tested and their private demons will become unleashed. If they are to stay together and survive, they will need more faith and fortitude than the street ever demanded.

All the elements that played a role in author Wagamese's own tortured journey are present: loneliness, hunger, homelessness, addiction and despair. Granite, the man the group met at the movies, is a journalist who left behind a high-profile career for anonymity. Richard Wagamese is himself an acclaimed journalist who struggled to free himself of the Muse, like one fights to be free of a clinging mistress and in the end, marries her.

Mostly this is a story about love, loyalty, and going home. To read it is to become swept up into the lives of some extraordinary people. *Ragged Company* will shake up your attitudes about the homeless and less fortunate. It will force you to take a closer look at your own value system. It may make you a more loving person.

The humanity of all the players defines this story, and when all is said and done, it is what may save them. Richard Wagamese is a great storyteller and a writer to watch, so brace yourself for an amazing read.



Ragged Company
By: Richard Wagamese
Category: Fiction
Format: Hardcover, 376 pages
Publisher: Doubleday Canada
Publication Date: August 2008
Price: \$29.95

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Sports

C

Labor Day Weekend All-Indian Golf Tournament Held

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

NAPLES — Competitors in the All-Indian Labor Day Golf Tournament teed off at 8 a.m. on Sept. 1 at the Valencia Golf Course. Players representing several reservations participated in the event, sponsored by the Big Cypress/Immokalee Recreation Depts.

Players paired off in teams of two for a full 18 holes of golf, with a closest to the pin incentive on four of the holes.

Drawing Trey Boone for a partner proved a stroke of good fortune for golf enthusiast, Charlie Cypress, whose years of experience frequently place him in the winner's circle. Competing against an all adult lineup, 12-year-old Boone and his partner swept everyone off their feet with a first place finish.

Seminole Tribal citizen Boone began playing golf at age 6 and said he lives and breathes the game. He recently returned from Scotland, where he participated in the Junior European Golf Championship on May 29. The competition included young athletes from many nations and Boone placed 36th in the world.

"I love the game and head for the links whenever I get the chance," Boone said. "It's always a great day when you get to play with your friends."

Rounding out the places, the team of Ricky Doctor and Keeno King took second, Raymond Garza Jr. and Virginia Billie came in third, Mondo Tiger and Ray Yzaguirre Jr. placed fourth and Johnny Boone Jr. and Cicero Osceola claimed the fifth spot.

George Grasshopper received closest to the pin honors on hole 4; Johnny Boone on hole 8; Trey Boone on hole 12 and Keeno King on hole 17.



Judy Weeks

Keeno King earns the closest to the pin honors on hole 17 at the Labor Day Golf Tournament, held Sept. 1.

'Heavy Hitters' Battle it Out at Hard Rock Live

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Seminole Warriors Boxing and Main Events sponsored seven bouts in "Heavy Hitters" as part of ESPN's Wednesday Night Fights, at the Hard Rock Live on Aug. 13.

The event brought two of the sport's high risers, "Mean" Joe Greene (20-0, 14 KO's) and Joel Julio (33-1, 30 KO's), back into the spotlight.

With one loss between them and a more than 80 percent knockout ratio in their professional fighting careers, they brought their A games to their matches. They faced seasoned contenders in the super welterweight and light middleweight divisions.

Greene, a crowd favorite and Warriors' star fighter, said he came in feeling confident in the main bout. His last action was a ninth-round TKO win against Joshua Okine back in April.

In "Heavy Hitters" he was defending his North American Boxing Organization title and laying claim the vacant North American Boxing Association's light middleweight title. Greene also continued his push toward a world title shot.

His opponent, Jose Miguel Torres (20-4, 18 KO's), used the fight to bounce back after losing a hard-fought bout against Charlie Jose Navarro by unanimous decision in June.

In a battle to the end, Greene staved off Torre's advances in what looked like a street brawl filled with knockdowns, tie-ups, slips, holding and hard-pounding shots throughout. With active hands and jabs as well as combo work, Greene went on to earn a unanimous decision win in 12 rounds: 118-107, 118-107 and 119-106.

"I expected everything that happened," Greene said after the fight. "He kept coming and I never really sensed he was hurt."

Greene, however, expressed his respect for his opponent's skill.

"He is a really experienced fighter and a world-class fighter," Greene added. "He is the sharpest and

Please see BOXING • Page 2C



Judy Weeks

The 2007-2008 Board of Directors: (L-R) Paul Bowers Sr., Ivan Bruised Head, Melissa Gopher, Naha Jumper, Lizzie Dixey, Jeff Johns, Toi Andrews, Josh Jumper, Adam Turtle and Moses "Biggs" Jumper Jr., who all received acknowledgement at the banquet, held Aug. 24 at the Junior Cypress Entertainment Complex in Big Cypress.

EIRA Recognizes 2008 Champions at Banquet

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) held its 2008 Awards Banquet on Aug. 24 at the Junior Cypress Entertainment Complex. Climaxing a weekend of rodeo activities, the event drew a large crowd of Native American athletes.

At the banquet, EIRA President Paul Bowers acknowledged the efforts of all the participants in the 2008 season.

"Sportsmanship and teamwork are the foundation for good rodeo," said Bowers. "Whether your teammate has two legs or four, it takes hard work to develop the skills necessary to compete and all of you are champions in my book."

Youth Event Director Moses Jumper Jr., along with Jr. Seminole Rodeo Queen Ashton Baxley and Jr. Miss Seminole Brianna Bowers, presented the 2008 awards.

The Grand Champion in each event received a hand-tooled trophy saddle displaying the EIRA logo with their event title stamped on the leggings. The Reserve Champions each took home an engraved gold and silver trophy buckle bearing the association's emblem.

Stock contractor and past EIRA president Marty Johns received recognition for the vital role he plays in supporting the association. He provides quality stock, announcers, judges, bull fighters, pickup men and arena labor for all of its performances.

"I watched some of you take your

first step into the arena, saw you pick yourself up out of the clay many times and now look forward to seeing you compete at the [Indian National Finals Rodeo]," Johns said.

Acknowledging the important crew members that make rodeo possible, Johns made presentations to the pickup men, Spook Whidden and Clint Boney, as well as the bull fighters, John Copsey, Randel Osceola and Chris "Weasel" Forrest. Fritz Brewer came forward representing the judges and announcers.

A brief assembly of the 2007-2008 officers and directors gave the association members an opportunity to express their gratitude to the men and women who have volunteered their time throughout the year to make the EIRA possible.

All Grand Champions in the Sanctioned Events will represent the EIRA at the 33rd Annual Indian National Finals Rodeo (INFR) in Las Vegas on Oct. 2-5. Averages earned at the Regional Finals held on Aug. 22-23 determined the sudden death winners who will accompany the champions.

The Broadcasting Dept. compiled highlights of the season and projected them on a screen at the front of the banquet room. Exceptional rides, near catastrophes and bloopers brought gasps and cheers from the audience.

The annual meeting and election of officers and directors took place following the banquet dinner and presentation of awards. Newly elected officials will assume their duties immediately upon their return from the INFR in preparation for the 2009 season.



Boogie Jumper (R) tells Jr. Seminole Rodeo Queen Ashton Baxley (L) that she will take her Barrel Racing Championship Saddle to the Indian National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas.

More Photos and Results • Page 2C

Big Turnout at Bowling Center for Tribute to Gibby

BY FELIX DOBOSZ
Staff Reporter



Felix Dobosz

Bobby Frank throws a ball down the lane at Gibby Bowers Memorial Tournament, held Aug. 16 in Davie, Fla.

DAVIE, Fla. — About 90 Seminole citizens competed in the annual Gilbert "Gibby" Bowers Memorial Bowling Tournament, held Aug. 16 at SparcZ Bowling Center, to honor the memory of one of the Tribe's best bowlers.

President Richard Bowers Jr. said his nephew, Gibby, once bowled a perfect game.

"He's one of the guys that bowled a 300 one time," President Bowers said. "He was in a bowling league and when you bowl a perfect game they give you a big ring that commemorates 300."

While no bowlers in this tournament had a perfect game, Kevin Tommie and Crystal Weimann took first place with a combined score of 321 in Regular Doubles. In the Senior Division, David Jumper won first place for the men with a score of 498, and Mary Gay Osceola received top honors in the female category, scoring 509.

With a little help from the Tribe, Eugene and Mary Bowers annually organize and sponsor this tournament in tribute to their son. Gibby's older brother, Philmon Bowers, said his brother loved competing in the sport. He also said Gibby taught his family and friends how to bowl better by sharing his winning techniques with them.

Tribal citizens, including Mitch Osceola, said attending the tournament keeps Gibby's memory alive.

"I don't bowl too much; I'm more of a golfer," said Osceola. "But I like to bowl at these memorial tournaments, especially this one, because it's a way to remember my friend Gibby and pay tribute to his family."

Osceola added that everyone who knew and bowled with Gibby liked him.

More Photos and Results • Page 2C



Student Mollleetha Gomez (R) takes aim at roping a calf training model under the watchful eye of teacher Jimmy Carter (L).

Pro Rodeo Cowboy Hosts Breakaway Clinic

Jimmy Carter of the PRCA Teaches Students at Fred Smith Arena

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Tribal citizens and rodeo enthusiasts from all across Florida got the chance to learn more about calf roping from a professional at the Fred Smith Arena on Aug. 13.

Jimmy Carter of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, a 20 year veteran to the sport, held his first Breakaway School for 22 pro-teen through adult students. Carter taught them about roping's unique aspects as well as some tricks of the trade by using both calf training models and live calves.

He said he wanted to emphasize the basics of how to succeed in the sport using horsemanship and sportsmanship.

"I work with them on how to make their horses better," Carter explained. "As a roper or rider you have to be prepared before you ever go into the box."

"I also help them to focus on how to be a good sport, and learn from their mistakes," he added.



Jimmy Carter of the PRCA

Mollleetha Gomez participated in her first class, saying it looked like fun and piqued her interest.

"Coming up through the high school ranks I wanted to see what it was like. I liked it and was interested in trying it," Gomez said. "Like anything it is going to take a lot of practice though."

Carter, a former champion in the Southern Calf Ropers Association and trainer of two National Finals Rodeo horses, has taught classes for students of all skill levels, from beginners on the pee-wee circuit through the juniors who have mid-level skill.

He said most students face two constant obstacles: the positioning of their arms for delivery when roping and the consistency in catches.

Despite these challenges, Carter admitted he loves teaching.

"I really love seeing them progress," he said.

He teaches two to three clinics per year in Florida and said he enjoyed teaching the class at the Fred Smith Arena, calling it "one of the best facilities in the state of Florida."

Teams Compete in Annual 'Hot Dog' Tournament

BY FELIX DOBOSZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — A total of 12 teams of Tribal citizens representing Hollywood, Brighton and Big Cypress competed in the third annual Ike "Hot Dog" Jumper Memorial Basketball Tournament, held in the Hollywood gym on Aug. 15.

The competitors played in one of four categories: 9 and younger coed, 14 and younger boys and 17 and younger girls' and boys' divisions. This year's all-Indian tournament, sponsored by the Seminole Recreation Dept., had a single elimination format.

In the 9 and younger division, Hollywood took first place, while Brighton claimed the top spot in the 14 and younger boys' competition. In the 17 and younger division, the Seminole Outlaws took first place for the girls and Hollywood claimed top honors for the boys.

Hollywood Recreation Dept. Basketball Coach Carlos Adamson presented awards to all the winners.

Ike "Hot Dog" Jumper is the late son of Rosetta Jumper. He passed away in 2004.

Results from the Third Annual Ike "Hot Dog" Jumper Memorial Tourney

9 and Younger Coed

1. Hollywood, 2. Brighton (White), 3. Brighton (Red)

14 and Younger Boys

1. Brighton, 2. Hollywood, 3. Big Cypress

17 and Younger Girls

1. Seminole Outlaws, 2. Big Cypress, 3. Brighton

17 and Younger Boys

1. Hollywood, 2. Brighton, 3. Big Cypress



Dribbling down the court, Hunter Osceola plays tough at the Ike "Hot Dog" Jumper Memorial Tournament, held Aug. 15.

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Last Softball Game, Picnic of the Summer Held

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

NAPLES — Members of the Naples Community took part in the End of the Summer Picnic and Softball

Game, held Aug. 16 at Vineyards Park. The event drew children, parents and grandparents eager to participate in this last gathering of summer before the youngsters went back to school.

With a wide variety of ages to draw on, Naples Activities Coordinator Sandy Osceola had her hands full dividing the group into two teams. Evenly dispersing the "young" and "old," she made sure everyone received an equal opportunity to participate.

By the time the players made their way to the field, the teams continued to swell with late arrivals. Finally the big moment arrived and everyone got ready to play ball.

The spectators set up a cheering section that showed no partiality and bolstered the spirit of each individual player, regardless of their team.

In the meantime, the cooks lit the fires on the grill and the smell of picnic favorites such as hamburgers and hot dogs began to draw the players from the field. The community members rapidly filled the pavilion for a picnic and social gathering as they recalled summer vacations and made plans for their fall activities.

Photo By Judy Weeks

Left: Courtney Zepeda coaches her daughter, Kaley, during the warm-up before the last softball game of the summer in Naples.



Judy Weeks

This starting lineup represented only a portion of the Naples community members who participated in the end of the summer softball game, held Aug. 16 at Vineyards Park.



Steve Young

Huston Osceola took out two bucks, one valued at six points and the other valued at seven, during the Labor Day weekend hunting trip to Bang's Paradise Valley Hunt Club in Erhardt, S.C.

Youngsters Learn Hunting, Survival Skills Hollywood Recreation Dept. Takes Tribal Youth on Two Trips

BY STEVE YOUNG
Hollywood Recreation Dept. Coordinator

Staff members from the Recreation Dept. took several youngsters on two trips during the Labor Day holiday weekend.

On the first trip, Huston Osceola, Kanavis Cypress, J'Forest Cypress, Jonathan Bowers and Devan Bowers traveled to Erhardt, S.C. for a hunting safari.

The kids woke up before the sun even came up at the early morning hour of 4:30 a.m. each day, and hunted until about 10 a.m. They went back for more hunting from 4:30 p.m. until the sun set.

During the middle of the day, they spent their time fishing in the two ponds on the Bang's Paradise Valley Hunt Club property and playing ping pong or pool. Some of the kids also stayed busy by practicing their shooting skills on paper targets, while the adults supervised.

Huston Osceola, 14, took out two bucks, one valued at six points and the other at seven points with his custom Remington .243 rifle. Osceola donated the freshly cut venison chops to more than 15 families in

the Hollywood community.

Two of the other boys had a chance at one buck each, but it just didn't work out for them this time; they missed the shot.

On the second trip, members of the Recreation Dept. took Trevor Osceola, Jonathan Frank, Justin Frank, Bledge Cypress and Raymond Osceola to Lakeland, Fla. for a survival training class.

Tampa Liaison Richard Henry created and sponsored the program, which has taken place the last weekend of every month since January, and will continue through December.

The youngsters had a great time learning how to make tools for eating, drinking and cooking, and learned how to cook some of the wild game they hunted. They also learned how to make snare traps, create weapons and make fire by rubbing two sticks of wood together.

Tribal citizens, ages 11 and younger, can participate in the program, and need a parent chaperone to attend these outdoor trips. For more information, please call Hollywood Recreation Dept. Coordinator Steve Young at (954) 989-9457.

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THE HEALTHY SENIOR

BY FRED CICCETTI

Q I usually get a bit light-headed when I stand, but this feeling is much worse when I get up from the dinner table. I don't drink. Any ideas?

A There's a possibility you have "postprandial hypotension," or, in layman's language, low blood pressure, after you eat a meal. This is a senior malady; few younger people experience this. Other possible symptoms include dizziness, blurred vision, nausea and fainting. I recommend going to a doctor to have your symptoms checked.

When you eat, blood pours into your digestive system. To maintain your blood pressure, your heart pumps more often and your blood vessels constrict. But these compensatory mechanisms don't work for some people.

To help prevent postprandial hypotension, eat small portions several times a day and limit high-carbohydrate foods such as potatoes, rice, pasta and bread.

There's another form of low blood pressure called "postural hypotension" that affects some people when they stand up. Also called "orthostatic hypotension," this is especially common in older adults who are more likely to use high blood pressure drugs. When you experience postural hypotension, blood pools in your legs.

Low blood pressure is commonly caused by drugs for high blood pressure, surgical medications, anti-anxiety agents, diuretics, heart medicines, antidepressants, narcotic painkillers and alcohol.

Other causes of low blood pressure include dehydration, heart failure, heart arrhythmias, shock from infection, stroke, severe allergic reaction, major trauma, heart attack and advanced diabetes.

The effects of hypotension can lead to falls, which can be serious for seniors. Here are some pointers for avoiding the dangers of low blood pressure:

- When arising, let your feet hang over the side of your bed. Then flex your toes up and down about a dozen times. Stand up slowly. Count to 10 before you start walking. This is a good idea whenever you get up from lying or sitting for more than 20 minutes.
- Crossing your legs while sitting upright may also help increase blood pressure.
- Some experts define low blood pressure as readings lower than 90 systolic (the first number) or 60 diastolic (the second number).
- However, low blood pressure is relative, so doctors often define blood pressure as too low only if there are symptoms.
- In many instances, low blood pressure isn't serious. However, it is important to see your doctor if you have hypotension symptoms, because they sometimes can point to serious problems. Chronic low blood pressure may increase the risk of Alzheimer's-type dementia in some older adults.
- Low blood pressure without symptoms rarely requires treatment. In symptomatic cases, doctors address the primary problems such as heart failure. When hypotension is drug-induced, treatment usually involves altering the drug regimen.
- It is possible to raise blood pressure when that is required. Here are some ways:
 - Eat more salt. However, too much sodium can cause heart failure, especially among seniors. Don't increase your salt without consulting with your doctor.
 - Drink more water. Fluids increase blood volume and help prevent dehydration.
 - Compression stockings used to treat varicose veins may help reduce the pooling of blood in your legs.
 - There are also medications your doctor may prescribe.

Fred Ciccetti 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@thehealthyzev.com

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Swimming Pool Safety, Maintenance Taught at Clinic

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Tribal citizens and employees attended a swimming pool safety and maintenance class at the Big Cypress Family Investment Center on Aug. 15.

In this first-of-its-kind clinic, the Tribe's Environmental Health Dept. teamed up with MDM Aquatics Safety Training and Consulting to host this informative evening.

Environmental Health Dept. Program Manager Patrick Peck helped coordinate the clinic. He said with two drowning fatalities taking place within the Tribe in the last few months, the swimming pool safety clinic couldn't have come at a better time.

"We wanted to reach out to Tribal citizens and target those with new homes," Peck said. "We also want to reach those who are susceptible to safety issues, such as the Tribal elders."

David Duda of MDM Aquatics Safety Training and Consulting said he hoped to provide attendees with some basics knowledge about home pool care and safety precautions. He said drowning is the leading cause of

death for children under the age of 5, both in Florida and nationwide, validating the importance of such a class.

Duda also provided information on advanced pool care, including chemical treatments, filtration, and mechanical system operation and maintenance.

"We wanted to help Tribal members take care of their own pools and maintain them safely," Duda said.

Other topics included: proper pool operation, reducing risk in and around the water, preventing drowning, diving accidents, chemical hazards, slip and falls, and more.

Peck said he hopes the appeal of the clinics will catch on in popularity, and wants to make them permanent fixtures within all Tribal communities. He said he proposed a mandatory awareness and training course with the Housing Dept. because of the increase of home and swimming pool building taking place within the Tribe.

For more information on pool safety, please call Patrick Peck at (954) 965-1300, Ext 10325.



David Duda (L) of MDM Aquatics Safety Training and Consulting answers questions about pool safety and maintenance during the class, held Aug. 15 in Big Cypress.

Avian Influenza AKA Bird Flu: A Global Health Threat

Seminole Tribe's Environmental Health Program Establishes Task Force for Safety

SUBMITTED BY PATRICK PECK
Environmental Health Dept. Program Manager

Many know all too well the danger associated with hurricanes, tornadoes and bioterrorism. However, a new 21st Century health threat lurks on the horizon.

Pandemic flu, more commonly known as avian influenza or bird flu, has the potential to create a worldwide human catastrophe.

Avian influenza is a flu infection in birds. The disease concerns humans because no immunities exist to fight it. The virus that causes this infection in birds can mutate easily to infect humans. Such mutation can start a deadly, worldwide epidemic.

The Seminole Tribe Health Dept. has recently put together a task force made up of various Tribal departments with the intent to develop a hazard mitigation plan specific to the avian flu threat. This plan aims to minimize the health impact of Tribal citizens and employees.

In the event of an outbreak, the Seminole Tribe in partnership with the federal government, the state and surrounding counties, intends to: purchase and stockpile anti-viral medications, develop plans for the mass vaccination of its residents and employees and limit the spread of the disease, through local public health preventive methods.

These preventive methods can take form in the promotion of cough etiquette, frequent hand washing, social distancing, regular disinfection in the workplace, self-isolation (as in working from home) and curtailment of meetings.

Historically, avian influenza viruses infected pigs and mixed with pig influenza viruses. The viruses exchanged genetic information, which led to the formation

of a new virus. This new virus could then infect humans and easily spread from person to person. Previous flu pandemics have started this way.

The first avian influenza virus to infect humans directly occurred in Hong Kong in 1997. Authorities linked this outbreak to chickens and classified it as the

HSN1 poses a worldwide threat because the wider the area across which it spreads, the greater the chances of a worldwide outbreak.

Farmers and other people working with poultry, as well as travelers visiting affected countries, have a higher risk for getting bird flu.

Highly infective avian flu viruses, such as H5N1, have been shown to survive in the environment for long periods of time, and infection may be spread simply by touching contaminated surfaces. In addition, birds who recover from the flu can continue to shed the virus in their feces and saliva for as long as 10 days.

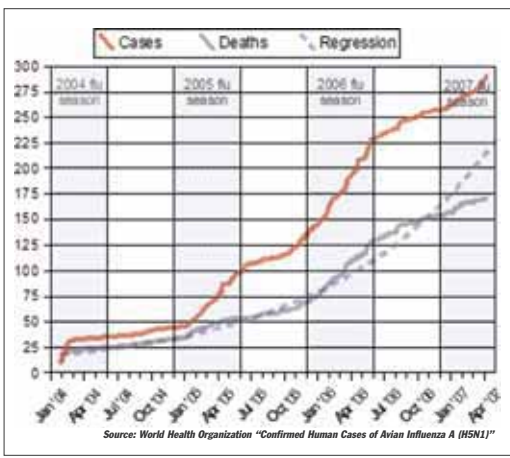
The virus can also spread by handling an infected bird and/or eating raw or undercooked poultry meat. Health care workers and household contacts of patients with avian influenza may also be at an increased risk of the bird flu.

Symptoms of avian flu infection in humans depend on the particular strain of virus. In case of the H5N1 virus, infection in humans causes more classic flu-like symptoms, which might include: cough (dry or productive), sore throat, fever greater than 100.4°F (38°C), difficulty breathing, diarrhea, runny nose, headache, malaise and muscle aches

Pandemics have occurred throughout human history, with three occurring within the last century alone. However, health authorities throughout the worldwide fear the H5N1 virus may evolve into a pandemic flu virus. Accordingly, nations throughout the world have mobilized to deal with this threat.

As a part of these mobilization efforts, the U.S. has adopted a similar course of action. States, counties, local jurisdictions and the Seminole Tribe are developing plans to address this threat.

Those who need more information on this topic should please contact the Seminole Tribe Health Dept. at (954) 962-2009.



avian influenza A, or H5N1 virus.

Since the Hong Kong outbreak, the avian influenza virus has spread across Asia, and in October 2005 appeared in poultry found in Turkey and Romania. To date, hundreds have contracted the H5N1 virus, and have died.

Some authorities have expressed concern that

some evening when you're too tired to cook. Soups and casseroles are especially good to freeze. Take advantage of prepared, nutritious foods. Purchase a freshly roasted chicken from the supermarket and round out the meal with some brown rice and a green salad, and fresh fruit or yogurt for dessert.

Cooking for fun and health at home

Cook with low fat methods such as baking, broiling, boiling or microwaving rather than frying.

Choose low-fat or fat free dairy products, salad dressings, mayonnaise and other condiments.

Serve fruit for dessert instead of cookies, cakes and ice cream.

Eat fruits canned in their own juice rather than those canned in syrup.

Get a list of your family's favorite healthy foods and always keep them on-hand.

The column is submitted to The Seminole Tribune by members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Allied Health and Family Services Departments.

Both departments welcome all questions and provide one on one counseling as well a group lessons on a variety of health-related topics.

For more information about this topic mentioned in this month's column, please contact the nutritionist or Family Services Dept. office on your reservation.

Hosting A Family Day Meal: A Day For Families to Eat Together

BY JULIE BENNETT BARROW & SUE FUNGSLAND
Family Services & Allied Health Departments

[Editor's Note: Julie Bennett Barrow is an intervention specialist with the Family Services Dept. and Sue Fungsland is a nutritionist with the Health Dept. The opinions they express are their own.]

Sharing a meal together is one of the most powerful acts in the world. What would a first date, a wedding, or a holiday be without sitting down together and sharing our lives over a meal? There is something about eating together that opens us up, and gets us talking and connecting like nothing else.

Eating together as a family provides the opportunity to truly connect, to talk about the day's events and discuss the things coming up in the future. Meals provide a special time to share ideas, model positive behaviors, create memories, instill values and stay connected. This article will explore some compelling reasons to make frequent family meals a priority in your home.

Why are family meals so important?

More than 10 years of research, as analyzed by a 2007 study conducted by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University, showed families who eat meals together five times a week will have youth who: are less likely to have friends who abuse substances; are at a lower risk for substance abuse; are likelier to get better grades in school and be happier about their futures; are more likely to abstain from smoking, drinking and drugs; and, are

less likely to snack on unhealthy foods.

Similarly, statistics on the website mattersmaller.org revealed that children from families who eat their meals together five times a week are more likely to eat fruits and vegetables and are one-third less likely to develop unhealthy eating habits.

What is the harm in skipping family meals?

The previously mentioned CASA survey also revealed that teens who dined with their families fewer than three times a week are 3.5 times likelier to abuse prescription drugs; three times likelier to have tried marijuana; and 2.5 times likelier to have tried cigarettes; and, 1.5 times likelier to have tried alcohol.

If that's not enough evidence, a survey of 119 Seminole youth, ages 7-18, at the Youth Camp's annual trip to Camp Kulaqua revealed 65 percent said they wished they could eat more meals with their family.

What are some tips to make family time at the table more successful?

Create traditions and habits where you eat at expected times and places and everyone in the family does their part; this includes: setting the table, preparing the food and cleaning up.

Always ask open-ended questions that do not have a "yes" or "no" answer, such as: What was the best thing that happened to you today? What's the worst? If you were principal for a day what would you change at school? If you could be any wild animal as a pet, what would it be? If you could hang out with someone

famous, who would it be and why?

Do not use this as a time to discipline or correct your kids for past events. Rather, use this time to share family stories, family values and family expectations.

Familiarize yourself with the latest information about drugs, alcohol, tobacco and sexually transmitted diseases so you can have compelling and factual conversations with your kids.

What are some Family Day tips from your nutritionist?

Children model your behavior

When you cook and serve meals at home, you can control the quality and quantity of your family's food choices. Kids tend to mimic their parents' attitudes about foods so the dinner table is a great place to be a role model.

Children don't perceive healthy eating as important if it is not something that they see you doing. Eat and serve sensible portion sizes. Be open to trying new foods and new ways of cooking foods.

Easy meals

You can keep meals simple, yet still nutritious and interesting, by sticking to nutrition basics. Offer your kids a variety of great tasting foods from the major food groups for any meal or snack. When time is of the essence, keep meals simple. It's easy to purchase a ready-made sauce or marinade and add it to sautéed chicken, beef or shrimp for a tasty main course.

Cook on weekends and double a favorite recipe, enjoying one meal now and freezing the other to enjoy

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Rita is a member of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. She is the granddaughter of Toby & Rosa Johns- "Bird Clan." Rita is well respected by her peers because of her knowledge of land, homes & investments. Call her for any questions you may have about your home or real estate investments. To her, it's all about buying Florida back.

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Freshwater Fish Kills Causes in South Florida and Prevention

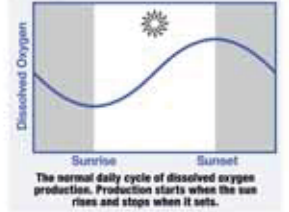
The sudden appearance of dead fish in a lake or canal causes considerable concern and alarm for most people. The first reaction is to suspect that somebody has poisoned the water body. However, most fish kills result from natural events. Too little oxygen in the water is the primary cause of fish kills in south Florida. Cold weather also results in kills of non-native tropical fish that have become established here. Fish kills resulting from the presence of illegal chemicals in the water are rare.



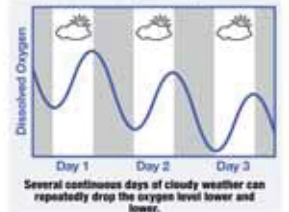
Causes of fish kills

• Lack of dissolved oxygen
Fish, like people, need oxygen to survive. Most dissolved oxygen (DO) in the water is produced by aquatic plants through photosynthesis, but some also enters the water directly from the atmosphere by diffusion. At the same time, however, oxygen is being removed from the water by the respiration (breathing) of fish, plants, and other underwater inhabitants. Decomposition of plant and animal matter in the water also consumes oxygen.

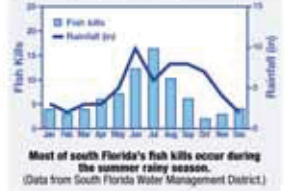
Fish usually require a minimum of 5 milligrams per liter (mg/l) DO for optimum health. Most fish can tolerate DO below 2 mg/l for short periods, but start dying when DO drops below 1 mg/l. Under normal conditions, the DO in a water body is lowest in the morning just before the sun rises. As the sun comes up and aquatic plants begin to photosynthesize, the oxygen level rises steadily and continues to do so until the sun sets. Then the DO level drops continuously until sunrise occurs again.



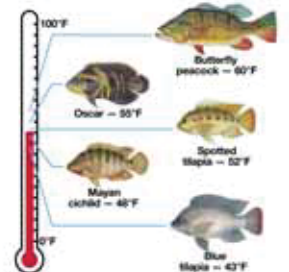
During cloudy weather with less available sunlight for photosynthesis, the DO may not return to the previous day's high. The next morning starts with a lower-than-normal oxygen level. If more cloudy days occur, the amount of oxygen can drop even lower.



Several other factors can contribute to low DO. The rains associated with south Florida's summer weather can wash large amounts of organic material (such as grass clippings and lawn fertilizer) into the water. Their decomposition will use up even more oxygen. In addition, warm summer water cannot hold as much dissolved oxygen as cooler water can.



• Low temperatures
Native south Florida fish are rarely killed by cold. However, more than 30 freshwater exotic fishes (fishes from other countries) are reproducing in Florida. Most of these species come from warm tropical climates and are less adapted to live here. During cold weather, water temperature may drop low enough to cause a fish kill. These kills are characterized by dead fish of only one to a few kinds of exotic species.



- Spawning stress**
Spawning stress is common in spring when most fish reproduce, although in south Florida many species continue to spawn throughout summer. A fish kill resulting from spawning stress usually involves adults of only one species.
 - Diseases and parasites**
Viruses, bacteria, and fungi are common causes of fish disease; fish parasites include various protozoans, crustaceans, flukes, and worms. These often cause visible lesions or sores on a fish's body, fins, eyes, or gills. A disease-related fish kill is often characterized by dead fish of only one species.
 - Algae blooms**
Blooms (rapid reproduction and spread) of algae may cause fish kills. Some algae are actually toxic, but most algae-related fish kills result from low DO caused when the algae rapidly dies off due to lack of sunlight and begins decomposing. An algae bloom is usually obvious as a visible scum or film of green or brown on the water's surface.
- A combination of various natural events is the cause of most fish kills. Any of these mentioned—such as low DO levels affecting fish already weakened by spawning stress or disease—can be contributing factors.**

- Human induced**
Man's interaction with his environment can sometimes cause fish kills. If pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizer are applied on land prior to heavy rain, chemicals washed into the water may kill fish. Excessive or improper use of aquatic herbicides may result in a kill as well. However, a fish kill following an aquatic herbicide application is usually caused by low DO due to decomposition of the treated vegetation, rather than directly by the chemical itself. These are the most common causes of human-induced fish kills.
- Chemical spills can cause fish kills too, but are rare. In these cases, there may be other dead animals present (birds, turtles, frogs, etc.), and there may be a visible "film" on the water's surface.

Preventing fish kills

- Do not chemically treat large areas of vegetation in or around a waterbody during hot times of year.
- Do not fertilize or use pesticides when and where heavy rains can wash material into nearby waters.
- Leave a buffer zone of vegetation along shorelines between uplands and water.
- Do not dump organic material such as leaves, grass clippings, etc. into or alongside waterbodies. These can increase nutrient loads immediately or when the water level rises and floods the decomposing material.
- If aeration is desired, use an air pump with underwater diffusers instead of fountains. An air pump circulates water deeper and more efficiently throughout the water column.

If a fish kill occurs

- Record the location, date, and time.
 - List affected fish and/or wildlife species, and estimate the numbers and sizes of each.
 - Observe any sores, lesions, or unusual coloring on affected animals.
 - Note recent weather patterns.
 - Note water level and color, and look for a "film" on the surface.
 - Look for large dead areas of vegetation around the waterbody.
 - Talk to surrounding property owners and identify any recent activity in or around the lake regarding herbicides, pesticides, or fertilizers.
 - Observe surrounding inflows for possible chemical spills.
- Even during the worst fish kills, some fish survive and will eventually replenish the population.**

Report hazardous substance spills
Florida's 24-Hour Hazardous Substance Hotline: 1-800-330-0519 or 850-413-9911.

Fish health diagnostics questions
University of Florida Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences: 352-392-9617, fishweb@ifas.ufl.edu/Contact.htm
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services: 321-697-1400 or 386-330-5700, doacs.state.fl.us/aifab/lab_sub_inubs.shtml



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The hiring of an attorney is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisement. Richard Castillo worked as a Public Defender in Broward County from 1990-1996 and has been in private practice for nine years. In 1995 he was voted the Trial Attorney of the year. He graduated from Capital University in 1989 and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1990, Federal Bar in 1992, and the Federal Trial Bar in 1994.

NCAI Voter Campaign Shows Natives Could Decide Election

SUBMITTED BY NCAI

WASHINGTON — The National Congress of American Indians' (NCAI) national Native Vote Campaign released data in late August confirming that Native American voters could influence the outcome of the presidential and congressional elections in key states. These states include Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada and Wisconsin; all states with high American Indian populations.

"While political analysts have been focusing on the Hispanic vote in Florida, Arizona and New Mexico, the Native Vote continues to be overlooked as a secret weapon in this election," said NCAI President Joe A. Garcia.

NCAI Native Vote Campaign's mission is to engage and build the political power of Native American communities by providing a strong Native voter turnout. Native Vote emphasizes participation and celebration of culture to engage and motivate Native people to register and vote on Election Day.

Native Americans are caucusing at both the Democratic National Convention and the Republican National Convention.

Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean spoke about the significance of Native Vote at the First Americans Caucus as the Democratic National Committee Convention (DNCC) convened in Denver.

"There are five senators who would not be where they are today without Indian Country votes," he said.

Dean also highlighted the need for young Indian people to get involved in the political process, including running for local office.

"The bigger issue is that it is time to assume your rightful place in the political system in this country," Dean told caucus members.

"It is necessary for American Indians to stand up in force to support those Republican, Democratic and Independent leaders who have honored this nation's commitments to Tribes, and to send home those leaders who have disregarded us," said NCAI Executive Director Jacqueline Johnson Pata.

She added: "The bottom line is that our political power and our national voice come from the voting booth. If we don't vote, no one is going to listen to us. If we don't vote, we lose the power to make a change."

NCAI Native Vote has a 20 state plan and is mobilizing in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Presidential swing states where Native Americans have the potential to provide the winning margin for either candidate (based on 2007 data from the U.S. Census Bureau):

Alaska	226 Tribes
	Native Voting Age Population — 81,762 or 19% of total population
	Polis show Alaska nearly even in 2008
Arizona	21 Tribes
	Native Voting Age Population — 224,846 or 6% of total population
	Polis show McCain with a slight lead in 2008
Colorado	2 Tribes
	Native Voting Age Population — 66,707 or 2% of total population
	Polis show Colorado nearly even in 2008
Michigan	12 Tribes
	Native Voting Age Population — 91,291 or 1% of total population
	Kerry won state in 2004 by 165,437
Minnesota	13 Tribes
	Native Voting Age Population — 57,598 or 2% of total population
	Kerry won state in 2004 by 98,319
Montana	7 Tribes
	Native Voting Age Population — 46,669 or 6% of total population
	Senator Tester won in 2006 by less than 3000 votes
Nevada	25 Tribes
	Native Voting Age Population — 39,329 or 2% of total population
	Bush won state in 2004 by 21,500; polis show Nevada even in 2008
New Mexico	22 Tribes
	Native Voting Age Population — 140,401 or 11% of total population
	Bush won state in 2004 by 5,988
North Dakota	4 Tribes
	Native Voting Age Population — 24,021 or 6% of total population
	Polis show North Dakota nearly even in 2008
South Dakota	7 Tribes
	Native Voting Age Population — 43,311 or 9% of total population
	Native Voting Age Population — 43,311 or 9% of total population
	Polis show McCain with only a slight lead in 2008
Wisconsin	11 Tribes
	Native Voting Age Population — 51,465 or 1% of total population
	Kerry won state in 2004 by 11,384

Alaska, Colorado, Minnesota, New Mexico and Oregon have Senate races where the vote from Indian Country could be the deciding factor.

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Announcements

NEW KID



Congrats to my sister, Samantha Osceola Hisler, and Lucan Frank, on the birth their new baby boy, **Zaiden Cory Frank!** I am so lucky to be an egooshee to baby Z, who was born Aug. 27, weighing 8 pounds, 13 ounces, and measuring 20 inches.

I love you guys,
Ciara Billie Guerue



To my new little cousin, **Zaiden Cory Frank**, welcome to our family! We share the same birthday on Aug. 27. I love you very much!

Love,
Melinda



POEMS

November 14, 2001

That night was so crazy:
Who would of thought,
That we'd get back together,
After all those years apart?
Everything was so perfect,
I'd never could believe,
That God could make a woman
I thought I'd never leave.
But as it turns out,
It was never meant to be,
We were just too different,
The s**t just got too deep.
If I could do it all over,
I'd only change one thing,
I'd love you like I was s'posed to,
So you wouldn't never leave.
I know I've done too many wrongs,
To try and make it right.
So I'll just sit back,
And let you live your life.
But remember when it all started,
That simple little date,
November 14, 2001,
When life handed us our fate.

Much love,
— **Russell "J.R." Osceola Jr.**
Feb. 18, 2008

They say learning our language is most important.

But I have to disagree.
What's the point of speaking Mikasuki,
If you can't sit under the Big Chickee?
What are we without a clan?
We're like people without a face.
If we're happy with just 25%,
We'll bring the end to our own race.
Now I'm as guilty as anyone else,
'Cause my own kids do not have a clan,
And there's so much they'll miss out on.
When I take 'em out to Corn Dance,
If you take a step back and observe,
You'll see where I'm coming from.
How can we make a child with a clan and a descendant,
But we'll recognize another who's only 25%?
Maybe it's just me,
But how does that protect our tradition,
With our future mostly 25%?
Hell, who's gonna carry our Medicine?
Anyone can learn to speak Mikasuki,
Only the elite can be part of a clan.

— **Russell "J.R." Osceola Jr.**
Big Town Clan
Aug. 15, 2008

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To our beloved **Byron Boy Osceola**,

We wish you a 4th happy birthday on Sept. 19! It seemed like forever ago when you were 3 years old, but we can finally tell you that you are now 4 years old. Your little personality has really made you an individual at such a young age; you're 4, going on 40.

We never know what you're going to do or say next, but one thing is for sure you always tell us that you love us, and you always hear those words from us. So keep on doing what you're doing — looking cute — and continue to make everyone around you smile when they see you, because that's what you do best.

From dad: I wish you would stay a little boy forever, but I can't stop the hands of time, nor would I want to. So knowing that you can't stay my little "mini-me" forever, I enjoy watching you grow into this little man.

I named you after the famous golfer, Byron Nelson. "Lord Byron" has done great things in golf that will never be duplicated and I already know you equally will be doing great things that will never be duplicated; one thing is just being you.

Happy 4th birthday from,
Dad (Mitch Osceola), Mom, Ryan and Conchade



Happy 2nd birthday **Melinda!** We are so lucky that you came into our lives to brighten every day that passes. We are so proud of the "little lady" you are blossoming into as you grow more and more each day.

We have been truly blessed to have been given a gift such as sweet as you.

Love,
Mommy and daddy (**Joe and Ciara Guerue**)



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— **By Linda Barnes**
Submitted by Mom, Wanda Bowers



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