

Great time at 4-H camp

By Ashley Aguilar
Spilyay summer reporter

What do you do when a group of 4-H campers strive for your attention? The answer is, you give it to them.

Wow. During the two weeks at 4-H Culture Camp was the best experience I had all year. Working with the children was the best. All the kids are sweet and so well mannered.

I'm glad they could find a place where they feel comfortable about being a kid. Although some

out of the litter labeled me as mean, I hope they find that I was doing my job to the best of my ability without trying to ruin their fun. I enjoyed listening to them talk about their sense of what was important in their lives.

The classes taught the children how to bead, make baskets, listen to old stories, ride horses, learn about their health and express their feelings through natural art. I joined in with the kids in the classes and found it was still fun to do the stuff that they were learning. Every year I learn something different. This year I figured out how to create art using nature's makings with pine cones, twigs, leaves, plants, etc.

In the previous years I've always managed to make good friends, Valerie and Carina in 2001, Jenny in 2002, Delores, Cassie, Vernon, Fred (kitty), Justine, Isabel and CeCe in 2003. It was a good year this year, and the counselors were great. They were really nice and enjoyed my company as much as I enjoyed theirs.

Bedtime was hard. All the kids just ate, boosting their energy levels and making themselves more active.

I have to admit it was fun yelling, "Turn those lights off - it's time for bed." And listening to them giggle around to each other in the dark.

I'd have to say some of the girls just thought they were so sneaky it was funny. This little girl (I'll call her Miss L) just thought she was quiet, saying, "Meet me in my tent after the counselors fall asleep, okay?" The other counselors and laughed at Miss L and said, "You can be a little sneakier than that. Next time don't say it as loud." The girl counselors laughed and thought that her actions were cute.

Oh my gosh the horses were tight. I love riding horses, I just can't find the time to do it. Harry brought his horses and they were so cool. The only negative part about them was when they were trotting, it hurt my bum, but when I get them running that's when the fun begins. The horses were well trained and very obedient to the rider.

My favorite part of camp was swimming in the ice-old water when it reached 97 degrees in the shade. In its own sort of way it rejuvenated my energy and cleansed my spirit.

The absolutely worst thing about camp was when all the campers left. I could no longer hear their conversations, laughs or footsteps, just the wind blowing through the trees and the other counselors packing up to leave.

I can't wait till next year, because 4-H Culture Camp is something that I look forward every year.

Toe Ness: What kind of snacks do computers eat?
Answer: *Microchips*. Yikes!

Spilyay Speaks

Rodeo success

The Simnasho Rodeo held on July 19 was successful due to many volunteers and the professional rodeo crew.

The Suppah family sends a special thanks to you all.

Endurance race crew: Jacob Frank, Missy Scott, Aaron Culps, Billie Suppah, Buffy Hurtado and Family, Dez Hurtado

Raffle ticket salespeople: Annette LeClaire, Three Warriors Market, M/M Butch Hurtado and Family, Missy Scott, Fudd Suppah, Rena Suppah, Leland Thompson

Rodeo crew: Evaline Patt, Hobo Patt, Ray Roba, Trevor Hurtado, Jabar Davis, Captain Moody, Jacob Frank, Chuck Dick, Robert Heath, Custer Wells, Vern Heath, Delvis Heath, Johnny Smith, Daniel Gilbert, Tad Skaggs, Edward Heath, Larry Scott, Leslie Bill, Johnson Bill, Fire and Safety, Fire Management, Annette LeClaire, Butch Hurtado, Colliers (bull fighters), Mike Alps for bulls, Jake Grossmiller, announcer. Match race: Vernon Spino

Thank you

Family and friends,

I'd like to thank one and all for helping us. We lost two family members and it was a great loss for my cousin Bearcat and mom Rose Mitchell.

Everyone in the pink palace would like to thank the singers that came and helped after we lost our little brother. It helped us out a lot and we that stayed here are listening and helping one another to keep strong.

Hodzie, Perry, L.T., Mouse, Mit, Rose Mitchell, and Frankie Kalama Jr.

A good cause

My name is Walsey Thomas. I am proud to announce that I have been selected with many others to attend the Ninth Annual Poets Convention of Famous Poets in Orlando, Fla., winning awards as well as a chance to win \$15,000.

I am the son of Lavena Ike and Ronald Thomas. I have three sisters, Raylene, Dena and Daisy, and I am the only boy. I attend Madras High School and I will be a senior this year. After I graduate I plan on joining the Marine Corp and go on in life from there.

So far I am alcohol and drug free and plan on keeping it that way. I'd like to encourage kids

my age and younger to live a good life. If I win at Orlando, I want to use the award money to help with my college plans in the future, and I plan to keep on writing as well.

I have written a lot of poems. I like to express my feelings through them. My poems are about love, family, friends and things that have gone on in my life, the feelings I have.

I entered one of my poems in a contest and was selected to attend this event. I would very much appreciate it if I could get some donations to help me out on my trip. I feel this is a good experience for me. It inspires me to keep writing poetry and I am glad people like my poems. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Sincerely
Walsey J. Thomas

Wrong dog

Another family member was taken from us this past week. It was a precious family pet belonging to my grandson and daughter. The dog was hand-raised and pampered by the kids.

His name was "Ah-roo." When you asked him what his name was, that's how he answered you, "Ah-roo."

Police killed him, because they believed a report from some kids that Ah-roo had bitten a child. To me it was unbelievable.

Because of this, my precious pet was shot and tested for rabies. It turned out the dog that actually attacked the kid was a rottweiler. The owner hid it, but later was allowed to tie it up.

It was a small comfort to my kids and I who remain heartbroken. What a time to have this happen. We just finished burying my grandson's father, Corwin Howtopat, and their hearts and feelings were raw and tender from their recent loss.

I tried explaining this to the officer and sanitarian. It fell on deaf ears. They shot my pet yards away from my home with family present.

They killed the wrong dog because of someone's lie. My grandson felt the pain of another family loss all in one week. I tried in vain to explain to my heart broken kids that Ah-roo went to take care of their dad and was happy and would be taken care of, but every time they go outdoors there's something missing. Emptiness. No more barks on happy greetings form their pet.

Ah-roo was a timid, gentle

dog who loved to wrestle and play with the kids on our lawn. He loved kids. While you're busy shooting dogs on the rez because they're seen as a nuisance, please remember that these dogs may be beloved pets and family members also. Pets who are faithful, watchful and are kids' playmates and protectors (as was Ah-roo).

Myrna Frank

Need to meet

I am a tribal member and I feel that my constitutional rights as a tribal member and human being are being violated and it continues into my job site, as well as wandering into all of the Agency District people's lives. We do have a Constitution and By-Laws book that is supposed to be law to our land.

Our Agency District has not had a meeting for well over one year. Although I did ask my Agency District representatives, it was always an answer of, You need to ask Nelson Wallulatum. I asked Garland, Zane and

Bernice: When did this start, a person never had to ask the Chief for a meeting (at least, long as I have been attending the Agency District meetings.) And I continued to explain that I thought they didn't want to give the Agency District a meeting, since we spoke up against abuse of tribal dollars, spoke up on police issues and other political happenings. I never received a response from any of my district representatives. I still think about how unfair it is to the Agency District tribal members, and how they shy away from giving us any meetings, whether it's to update or communicate on community issues. I then am beginning to wonder if they are just avoiding us so that it isn't recorded on record. Maybe Agency District people can start attending the Simnasho and Seekseequa meetings, after all, are we not supposed to be all one people? When it's budget time, yep, Agency District gets a meeting.

Maybe that sends the message loud and clear. I tend not

to want to believe this of all of them, but since I have been employed in the ASC-TC office I will say that my precious letters are not a form libel or lies. I feel like putting up a box that read "Questions you always wanted to ask about Tribal Council Office but were afraid to ask."

I am hoping now that Garland Brunoe is the Tribal Council Chairman, the district would get some meetings.

So my tribal council representatives of the Rez, don't take this article to heart but try to have some heart.

Respectfully Submitted,
Emma M. Smith

An apology

To whom it may concern:
I would like to apologize to the arresting officers, the Tribal Court system and the community for my behavior while under the influence of drugs and alcohol. I'm not only sorry but truly regret all my actions.

Thanks for your time.
Anthony M. Mitchell Jr.



We wanted to let you all know that you made our wedding day a very special one, and also that it could not have been such a great occasion if you were not all there to lend a helping hand. We want to thank our early morning decorators, Alicia Adams, who is always there in time of need, thanks so much, and Liana Tom and Rena Adams-Smith and family. Thanks to all the nice gentlemen at the Full Gospel Church, and to Pastor Hunt. A big thanks to my sister

Jolene Soto for the wedding cake. Thank you to our new aunt Diane Fuller. Thanks so much to Kiko and Luis Garcia. We can't forget Ron Palmer for performing the ceremony, not only that but waiting for us as we were running an hour and a half late. Thank you, Emily Yazzie. Thanks goes out to our flower girls Michaela Adams, Muirinn Adams-Guijosa, Carolina Garcia, Isabel Garcia, Damita Soto and Soraya, and to Traci Lei. Thanks to the groomsmen Rigo Briones, Gar-

ret Suppah, Adriel Pineda-Soto, Carlos Reynoso-Soto, Damian Reynoso-Soto and Tyler LeClaire. To our little guy Izraii Mendez- you did a great job being the ring bearer. Susan Matthews also for helping out with all the details. Thanks to our friends who drove to be with us. We would like to say thank you to everyone for being there and witnessing our new beginning.

Sincerely, **Mr. Jose "Rami" Ramirez and Mrs. Joy Ramirez**

Birthday wishes...

Look who turns "sweet 16" - Happy Birthday Raylene Ike-Thomas Aug. 19. Love from your mom Lovie, brother Walsey, Sister Dena and Daisy.

Happy Sweet 16, Raylene Ike-Thomas. We are all wishing you a happy birthday. Love the Ike family

Happy birthday Dad, from Selena.



Editorial cartoon by tribal member artist Travis Bobb.

Be careful: danger level for wildfire is extreme

By Suzi Macy
Fire Prevention Technician

The last few weeks have brought very hot weather to our area, and the fire danger level is now at extreme.

The extremely hot temperatures, mixed with the afternoon winds, have left the trees and other vegetation critically dry. This includes conditions in the higher elevations as well.

When the fire danger level reaches this point, fires can start very easily, and a small fire can escalate into a large wildfire event in a short period of time. This is a situation all of us should be concerned with.

At this time all open fires are prohibited within the boundaries of the Warm Springs Reservation. This restriction includes campfires at designated sites

within Dry Creek, Trout Lake and Indian Park campgrounds.

Sweathouse and other ceremonial fires will be allowed on a case-by-case basis after an on site inspection by Warm Springs Fire Management personnel.

All woodcutting has also been suspended till further notice. These restrictions will remain in place until there is a significant change in the moisture level and

the fire danger levels return to a more normal state.

Homeowners are advised to make sure that the defensible space around their homes is in place.

Cut all weeds from around your home; move your woodpile at least 30 feet from your home. Remove all debris from around your home and make sure your trees are limbed.

A defensible space is one of the best ways to help you survive a catastrophic wildland fire event. Please be careful and report the first signs of any fire to 911. We must all do our part to protect our community and natural resources from the devastating effects of a wildland fire. Remember what Smokey Bear says: Only you can prevent wildland fires.