

HAMPTONS NEWS

For Immediate Release:

Hamptons Contact:
Anii Brown, Owner
Single Red Female
631.875.7120
SingleRedFemale@gmail.com



Philly Contact:
Ahlia Love, President
The Peoples' Festival Committee
215.248.3544
PeoplesFestival@yahoo.com
www.PeoplesFestival.org



S.O.S
support our sister



Single Mother Strives to Rebuild Home after Devastating House Fire

Southampton, NY, August 28, 2012—Staysea Lee Hutchings, a resident of Southampton, New York, and a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, lost her house and its' entire contents in an electrical fire that rapidly swept through her home on the Shinnecock Indian Reservation, on Tuesday, August 7th. A single parent, she shared the home with her 10-year-old daughter Go-Gi-Sgk So-Qui-Li Isadora Dimalanta, also known as Nunah. Fortunately, neither was the home at the time of the fire.

Staysea grew up in Philadelphia, where she left behind a successful career in the entertainment industry to raise her daughter on her Nation's aboriginal territory of Shinnecock. Prior to the fire Staysea left her job after 11 years as the Tribe's Enrollment Director to focus on her own home-based social media consulting company and to spend more time with her daughter. However, with the loss of her home as well as recently being laid off from her part-time job as WIA Tribal Liaison, she is now effectively unemployed. Thankfully, Staysea's lifetime of humility and kind acts has won her the support of many friends and family who have been eagerly been offering lodging, clothes, and fundraising efforts to help this family get back on their feet.

Most recently, in a karmic act of kindness, Southampton homeowner Osnat Gad has offered to donate Staysea a 2,140 square foot house. It is estimated to cost up to \$40K to move the structure roughly seven miles from its Noyac property to Staysea's residence at 80 Montauk Highway—not counting any necessary structural adjustments. However, this is a challenge that Staysea and her friends hope to meet through fundraising efforts in time for she and her daughter to be in the home by Christmas.

Staysea is grateful to all those who have offered donations thus far. While everything is a need, she is quickly running out of space to keep items during this interim period. That said monetary donations and donations of home improvement services are strongly encouraged to help with the costly effort of this house-moving project. Support is also needed for the many upcoming fundraisers and other donor opportunities, which will be announced as they are planned. Please see donation information below.



"Support Our Sister SOS

Check & gift card donations may be sent to:
Staysea Lee Hutchings | PO Box 3116 | Southampton, NY 11969
Paypal donations may be made at www.PeoplesFestival.org



"Cause"



WORD:
Writers to converge
on East Hampton for
Authors Night. **B1**



PERFECT PEAK:
The Southampton Breakers
play their best when
it matters most. **C1**

The Southampton Press

EASTERN EDITION

www.27east.com

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 2012

ONE DOLLAR



Firefighters at the home on the Shinnecock Indian Reservation on Tuesday afternoon.

DANA SHAW PHOTOS

Family Home Is Lost

Intense fire destroys
house on reservation

BY SHAYE WEAVER

The Gardner Homestead, which stands at 80 Montauk Highway on the Shinnecock Indian Reservation, was engulfed and gutted by a fire on Tuesday morning.

The 99-year-old house, which belonged to the Gardner family for generations, had survived the 1938 Hurricane and had been the home to seven families over several decades.

"I'm heartbroken," said 26-

year-old Brandon C. Gardner, who has lived in the house in the past. "It meant a lot to us."

Staysa Lee Hutchings, who has owned the house for 11 years with her 10-year-old daughter, Go-Gi-Seg See-Qui-Li Dimalanta, said Wednesday she lost everything in the fire: "I don't know what to say—it still hasn't sunk in yet."

Ms. Hutchings said she was

See **FIRE**, Page A9



Man Dies After Jet Ski Mishap

Drowning victim found Tuesday

BY MICHAEL WRIGHT
AND COLLEEN KEYNOLDS

A 29-year-old man drowned in Mevex Bay on Sunday evening after he lost control of the Waverunner-style jet ski he was operating and it overturned. A woman riding on the back of the watercraft was unharmed in the spill and was pulled from the water by other boaters, but the man could not be found. Neither was wearing a life vest.

A woman also riding the craft was rescued.

His body was not recovered until Tuesday afternoon, when it was found by other jet skiers at the mouth of Burnet's Creek, half a mile from where the accident is believed to have taken place and from where searches had been looking on Sunday evening and throughout the day Monday.

On Tuesday evening police identified the man as Elesterio Ubbise, of the Astoria section of Queens.

A woman who lives near the accident scene said she spoke to the missing man's brother and that he told her they were originally from the African nation of Mozambique. She said he told her that his brother was a strong swimmer and very athletic. The woman, who asked not to be identified, said she did not know who the other person on the jet ski with him was but said she was "an attractive blond" and guessed that she was in her early 20s. She said the brother had told her that they had been drinking alcohol but were not intoxicated.

Calls of a missing jet skier on Mevex Bay came in to Southampton Town Police on Sunday evening shortly before 7 p.m. By 7:30 p.m., dive crews and police boats from agencies across the South Fork and were scouring the bay in search of the man. The

See **DROWNING**, Page A9



The body of the missing man was recovered on Tuesday afternoon.

DANA SHAW

FIRE: Shinnecock Family Left Homeless When House Is Guttled

FROM PAGE A1

driving home from dropping her daughter off at the airport when she received a call from her friend, Denise Smith-Meacham, who has been staying with Ms. Hutchings. She said Ms. Smith-Meacham had just come home to discover the blaze.

Mr. Gardner said he didn't know about the fire until the fire department arrived.

According to Southampton Fire Chief Rodney "Chip" Pierson, the single-story house was "pretty much gutted on the inside."

The fire started in Ms. Hutchings's bedroom just after 11 a.m. and traveled to the adjoining rooms, he said. "When we got there, we started an exterior defensive attack, meaning we put it out from the outside since the

inside was too far gone," he said.

Chief Pierson said the blaze was mostly contained, "but any time you lose a house, it's a bad thing," he said. "It got going pretty quick on us. We arrived four minutes from dispatch—that's really quick. The fire had a lot of fuel."

Mr. Gardner and Ms. Hutchings said the blaze appears to have been an electrical fire that started at an outlet and then spread to a mattress. The chief said he does not know the cause of the fire, but that the Southampton Town fire marshal's office is investigating.

In addition to the Southampton Fire Department, the North Sea Fire Department stood by at Southampton's headquarters, and the Hampton Bays Fire Department responded with a routine rapid intervention team,

solely to search-and-rescue of other firefighters in distress if needed. The Sag Harbor Fire Department also responded with a RIT once Hampton Bays was called into service. Chief Pierson said help was brought in for extra manpower because of the heat and the time of day—it is difficult for some volunteers to leave work, he said.

But now, Ms. Hutchings is left with nothing—except her mother's flag. "The fire marshal asked me if there was anything in the house that I wanted, and the one and only thing that was able to be retrieved was my mom's flag," she said softly.

Her mother, Isadora C. Hutchings, née Randall, was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and died three years ago. "Everything else was destroyed and unsalvageable," she said.

Mr. Gardner, who lives nearby a half mile across an open field from the homestead, said the house was built in 1922 and was passed down by his mother, Tracey Gardner-Pace. He said he lived in the house for 15 years and sees the devastation as a sentimental loss. "It is a pretty big loss for our family," he said. "We lived in poverty there, and once it started getting better for us and we became middle class, we built a new house. Sometimes I would go back and look and say, 'Wow, that's where it all started.'"

At the moment, Ms. Hutchings and Ms. Smith-Meacham are staying at the Enclave Inn in Southampton and hope to tear down and rebuild. "That, I have to figure out," Ms. Hutchings said. "The Creator has the plan, and I'm along for the ride."

The Southhampton Press

WESTERN EDITION



CHOW TIME:
The first-ever Great Food Truck Derby was a smashing success. **B1**



ON THE ROAD:
East Quogue resident Tara Farrell keeps on running. **C1**

www.27east.com

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 2012

ONE DOLLAR

Lost At Sea

Whale carcass washes up in Hampton Bays

BY ERIN MCKINLEY

The 30- to 40-ton whale, which was already dead and decomposing when it washed ashore late in the day on Friday, suffered substantial bruising to her left lateral side that was consistent with being struck by a ship, according to Kimberly Durham, a biologist and Rescue Program director for the River-

An approximately 57-foot-long female fin whale that washed up in Hampton Bays over the weekend was buried after a brief examination on the beach revealed significant bruising that likely led to her death, officials from the Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Preservation said this week.

See WHALE, Page A12



A decomposing fin whale washed up just east of Tiana Beach in Hampton Bays on Friday evening.

DANA SHAW

Drunk Driver Accepts Blame

Goss takes responsibility for death of 15-year-old

BY CAROL MORAN

Caroline Goss took the stand on Thursday morning, tears streaming down her face, and admitted to being drunk three years ago on the night she got behind the wheel of her Jeep and struck and killed 15-year-old Joseph Marino.

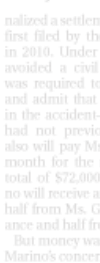
Sitting in the front row of the gallery, Dorothy Marino, the teen's mother, sobbed.

The emotional court proceeding, which lasted roughly a half-hour in Suffolk County Supreme Court, finalized a settlement of a civil suit first filed by the Marino family in 2010. Under the deal, which avoided a civil trial, Ms. Goss was required to take the stand and admit that she was at fault in the accident—something she had not previously done. She also will pay Ms. Marino \$300 a month for the next 20 years, a total of \$72,000, and Ms. Marino will receive another \$100,000, half from Ms. Goss's auto insurance and half from her own.

But money was the least of Ms. Marino's concerns. "I've said it before, and I'll say it again, there's no amount of

See MARINO, Page A7

Dorothy Marino



Staysea Lee Hutchings with her 10-year-old daughter's first Bible. Below, one of the burned rooms in the home.

DANA SHAW PHOTOS

Looking For Hope In The Wreckage

Family lost everything in fire

BY SHAYE WEAVER

Carefully stepping through the charred rubble of her home on Montauk Highway, Staysea Lee Hutchings noticed a book on the scorched, debris-filled floor. Picking it up, she realized it was her 10-year-old daughter's first Bible, which had been burned only on its corners, its pages nearly untouched.

Last Tuesday, Ms. Hutchings' home of 11 years, which sits hidden behind the smoke shops on the Shinnecock Indian Reservation, was engulfed and gutted by fire. She and her daughter, Go-Gi-Sgk So-Qui-Li Dimantana, lost everything.

After taking her daughter, who also goes by "Numah," to the airport, Ms. Hutchings came home to a disaster. Her friends Denise Smith-Meacham and hus-



band Lewis Meacham, who had been staying with her, said they came home to discover the fire, which appears to have originated from an overloaded outlet in Ms. Hutchings' bedroom. South-

ampton Town Fire Marshal Brian Williams said there was no indication of arson or accelerants, and that the outlet was overloaded by multi-

See FIRE, Page A7

Fire District

AUGUST 16, 2012 | THE SOUTHAMPTON PRESS

FROM PA

FIRE: Family Faced With Starting Over From Scratch

FROM PAGE A1

plug adapters, or piggy-backed power strips.

Now, a week later, Ms. Hutchings, the Shinnecock Indian Nation's former tribal enrollment director, who was instrumental in helping get the tribe federal recognition, according to Ms. Smith-Meacham, is left to clean up the mess and start over again—but not without help.

Spearheaded by her friend Ahlia Love in Philadelphia, an emergency fund, Support Our Sister (SOS), has been set up at PeoplesFestival.org and has helped to raise nearly \$2,500. The Stepping Stones Smoke Shop and Dairy Mart on Montauk Highway also has been accepting clothing donations. Several area churches are coming together to provide for the two families as well, including the Shinnecock Revival Center, which raised and donated approximately \$430 on Sunday, according to Tribal Council Chairwoman Dyani Brown.

Kings Chapel Church of God in Christ, on Hillcrest Avenue in Southampton, also paid for a week's stay at the Enclave Inn for the Smith-Meachams. Ms. Hutchings is currently staying with Ms. Brown. Ms. Hutchings said she has taken in friends and family

members over the years who have needed a place to stay, and that her door has always been open. But now in need herself, she is faced with the task of finding a home for herself and Numah.

Ms. Brown, who writes the "Agawam Notes" column for The Press, focusing on reservation life, said she set up the "SOS" Facebook group online, hoping to garner donations and support for her friend. "She's a wonderful person who always gives so much of herself," she said. "It's only right that we help. She does so much for everybody else that it makes you want to help her."

At nearly 500 members, the Facebook group has become a collection of community support and a powwow of sorts to plan the cleanup and rebuild the one-story house.

"So our first goal is to clear up what's left—to do that we need to get a Dumpster, and then we will need volunteers with shovels, brooms, rakes, hammers, gloves and heavy duty construction bags to help fill the Dumpster," Ms. Brown wrote this week. She said the cleanup most likely will start by Sunday, August 19, and in the meantime

friends and family will be looking for an affordable demolition bulldozer team to clear the frame.

The home, built in 1922, originally belonged to the Gardner family and had seen better days. Ms. Hutchings said she had been unable to get homeowner's insurance because of its poor condition. Each room in the home, except for the kitchen and living room, had only one outlet, which is why she had been using power strips.

According to Mr. Williams, the house is "totaled." Ms. Hutchings said the firefighters told her the flames reached at least 1,000 degrees because the tempered glass in her oven had shattered.

Most of the furniture in the 90-year-old house is unrecognizable or has been transformed into black heaps, wet from firefighters' hoses. The new windows, doors and insulation she had just had installed through Project Warmth, a United Way energy assistance program, have all been broken down by the flames.

But Numah's Bible still remains intact.

"She'll be happy," Ms. Hutchings said. "Now she still has it to read."

How To Help

To make a donation online, visit PeoplesFestival.org. The site accepts donations via PayPal, which allows the use of a major credit card or bank account.

Donations other than money may be sent to Staysea Lee Hutchings, c/o Stepping Stones, Shinnecock Indian Reservation, 46 Montauk Highway, Southampton, NY 11968.

Staysea's daughter, Numah, wears girls shirt size 14/16, girls pants size 12, and kids sneaker size 3½. Ms. Hutchings wears women's shirt size 16, pants size 14, and kids shoe size 9½.

Ms. Hutchings said gift cards would be helpful, but she is grateful for whatever comes her way.

Hospice Plan Prompts Angst

Neighbors worried about impacts

BY CAROL MORAN



QUOGUE GOING QUACKERS FOR RACE



Our Home, Our Heart—The Story of Staysea Lee Hutchings & Go-Gi-Sgk So-Qui-Li Isadora Dimalanta



*It'll all
be good.*

Staysea Lee Hutchings of the Shinnecock Indian Nation was born in Southampton, New York, and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she lived for 30 years, playing a vital part in the entertainment industry from 1984 to the mid to late 1990's. A humble, hard-working person, Staysea was most often found backstage at an event working as the glue to help keep the needs of the production or performers as her priority.



While residing in Philadelphia, Staysea always managed to maintain close ties with her family on the Shinnecock Indian Reservation where she visited frequently. In 2000 she moved to Shinnecock, where she worked on numerous projects, ensuring its completion even if it meant that her own personal needs had to be put on hold. One of her most notable achievements is the time and energy put into helping the Shinnecock Indian Nation gain federal recognition.



Go-Gi-Sgk So-Qui-Li Isadora Dimalanta, fondly known as “Nunah,” was born on May 19, 2002. That same year Staysea and Nunah moved into the residence at 80 Montauk Highway, where stood the 90-year-old Gardner homestead that had survived the 1938 Hurricane and was previously home to seven families over several decades. After 11 years of working as the Nation’s Tribal Enrollment Director, Staysea resigned to take a leap of faith and focus on her own home-based social media consultant business, Smoking Horses. This also would allow her the opportunity to spend more time with her daughter. Staysea would rely on her part-time job as a WIA Tribal Liaison for American Indian Community House (AICH) where she volunteered for two years before being hired in 2007. However, in July 2012, AICH lost the federal grant and was forced to lay off all WIA employees.



“Support Our Sister SOS
Staysea Lee Hutchings”

Check & gift card donations may be sent to:
Staysea Lee Hutchings | PO Box 3116 | Southampton, NY 11969
Paypal donations may be made at www.PeoplesFestival.org



“Cause”

Our Home, Our Heart—The Story of Staysea Lee Hutchings & Go-Gi-Sgk So-Qui-Li Isadora Dimalanta

On the morning of August 7, 2012, Staysea saw Nunah off at the airport for a three-week trip to visit her father; and when she returned she found that the home she had built with her daughter over the last 10 years was gone. In addition, her most treasured possession, the flag that adorned the casket of her mother, US Air Force Veteran Isadora C. Hutchings, was charred and waterlogged and the honor medals melted.



Despite this setback, Staysea began preparing her home for the 66th Annual Shinnecock Powwow. Well

known on Shinnecock and throughout Indian Country as one who is always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need, Staysea has always been a popular and welcoming host to many vendors and participants of the nationally renowned event.



Prior to the fire, Staysea's focus was completing the final requirements to enroll Nunah, in the fifth grade at the Ross School. A private school located in Bridgehampton, New York. Staysea felt the Ross School would cater to the exceptionally creative ambitions of this talented 10-years-old. Unfortunately, the process of re-establishing basic living arrangements has put these educational plans on indefinite hold.



Since the news of this devastating fire, many friends and family have offered their support in honor of the humility and selfless favor Staysea has always bestowed onto others. Staysea and Nunah wish to acknowledge the many kind acts of friends and family who has eagerly offered clothes, food, lodging, and money as needed. However, this is only a temporary fix, as there are still so many needs yet to be met. Any and all support is greatly appreciated in helping to restore this family's sense of normalcy and well-being.

Thank You!



"Support Our Sister SOS"

Check & gift card donations may be sent to:
Staysea Lee Hutchings | PO Box 3116 | Southampton, NY 11969
Paypal donations may be made at www.PeoplesFestival.org



"Cause"



 **S.O.S** 
support our sister

Thanks to the generosity of Southampton homeowner Osnat Gad, Staysea and Nunah have the opportunity to rebuild their home by Christmas; however, we need your help! In order to prepare the property at 80 Montauk Highway and facilitate the 7-mile move of the donated home the following services are required.

- ◆ House Mover services
- ◆ Landscaping services
- ◆ Arbor (Tree) services
- ◆ Foundation Laying services
- ◆ Cesspool services

- ◆ Dumpster & removal services
- ◆ Electrician services
- ◆ Plumber services
- ◆ Carpentry services
- ◆ Home Inspection services

The move alone has been estimated to cost 40K, so any help offered in accomplishing these needs would be greatly appreciated. All services that are donated will be eligible for a tax write off. We understand times are hard, but every little bit counts!



To donate a service please email: staysealh@gmail.com

Check & gift card donations may be sent to:

[Staysea Lee Hutchings](mailto:Staysea.Lee.Hutchings@peoplesfestival.org) | PO Box 3116 | Southampton, NY 11969

Paypal donations may be made at www.PeoplesFestival.org