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The Last Time

In September of 1970, I was hanging out at Port Everglades Cut, diving for lobsters. After I caught my quota, I decided to take the long way around and look at the Stranahan House. So I took my boat up *Ha shee he ma shee* (New River) and to my surprise, as I approached the familiar old building, there stood Mrs. Stranahan.

Since I knew her fairly well, I yelled out to her and she recognized my face. She motioned to me to park my small motorboat at her dock. We carried on a conversation, talking about many people who were still alive or gone. I asked her if she wanted any lobsters and she took two. She invited me in on the porch for some soup. I can recall how frail she looked.

Her eyesight was beginning to fail. She reminded me of Katherine Hepburn in the way that she tried to control her speech. But you could understand her very well. Her hair was gray and up in a perm — exactly the way she looked when I first remembered seeing her in my earliest years of life. I was about three years old, I recall.

It was the last time I saw her alive. She died a few months later after a long life of public service to her community and the Seminole Indians.

Mrs. Stranahan, Miss Sheldon, Mrs. Abbey and others formed an organization known as Friends of the Seminoles. Mrs. Stranahan may very well have been the first person to buy me the first real leather sole shoes for my feet.

Many people my age on up were friends with Mrs. Stranahan and hold her dear to our hearts. She surrounded us with love, truth and the assurance that tomorrow will be good. And up to now it has been. And maybe our good fortune will continue.

The only thing that made me mad about Mrs. Stranahan and Mrs. Abbey was they told my mother and grandmother never to buy me a bicycle. So I had to walk to school. Finally, on my 12th birthday, Laura Mae and Max Osceola bought me a bicycle and I thought that was very cool.

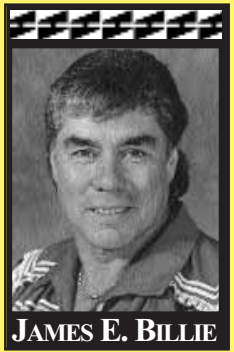
I found out years later that Mrs. Abbey had lost a child who was hit by a car while riding a bicycle and this was the reason they felt I shouldn't have one. I didn't understand it at the time. But I do now.

I'm sure many of us Seminoles who will be attending the celebration will have our own special memories about Mrs. Stranahan. You can ask each one and they'll probably have a different story to tell.

Myself and other young men will pole long dugout canoes up to the dock to commemorate Mrs. Stranahan and the Stranahan House 100-year anniversary. This will probably be the first time since the early 1900s that Seminole Indians will be canoeing up *Ha shee he mah shee* to visit the Stranahan House.

It will be an interesting evening to see who is still with us and can remember Mrs. Stranahan. She will forever live on in the minds of the Seminoles. We consider Fort Lauderdale and the surrounding areas as our home.

— James E. Billie is publisher of the *Seminole Tribune* and Chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.



JAMES E. BILLIE



Early last century, Seminole Mammy Jumper poled the New River to the Stranahan Trading Post.

New Audit Ordered Hard Rock Project Grinds Forward

By Charles Flowers
HOLLYWOOD — After more than a month of in-fighting, and questions over details of the financing and other agreements the Tribal Council had made with Hard Rock developers over the past nine months, the Council passed three resolutions on March 13 to move the project forward.

The first resolution authorized the Tribe to seek a \$40 million “bridge loan” to keep construction moving on the Hollywood development — the larger of the two projects with its 750-room hotel, café and casino. The primary lender, AllFirst Bank, requires the Tribe to post \$15 million in cash as collateral for a \$30 million line of credit. A second lender, Commercial Financial Corp. of Maryland, an affiliate of Baltimore-based Power Plant Entertainment, has also agreed to approve a \$10 million line of credit.

Part of the lengthy resolution specifies that “upon closing of the AllFirst loan coupled with the construction that has already commenced on the Hollywood project, the pre-finance phase as that term is described in the development agreement and the financial services agreement shall end with respect to the Hollywood project.”

See COUNCIL, page 9

Tribal Council Shoots Down Gulfstream Jet

By Charles Flowers
HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Tribal Council voted 4-1 this week to terminate an agreement to take delivery of a Gulfstream V corporate jet. Chairman James E. Billie cast the lone dissenting vote.

The resolution said the move would cost about \$3.5 million, including a \$2 million charge by the company. Moments before, a different resolution to approve a \$50 million financing package for the \$42.5 million aircraft died before being submitted to a roll call vote.

After the Chairman asked for a reading, Big Cypress Rep. David Cypress said, “I’m going to say ‘no’ anyway.”

Vice-Chairman Mitchell Cypress added, “I have a problem with the \$50 million.”

With two “No” votes already declared, Billie asked for the resolution terminating the contract to be read. After a motion by David Cypress and a second by Max Osceola, it passed.

The audience in the Council auditorium, which has seen their share of fireworks in recent months over licensing and financing of two Hard Rock Cafés/Hotels/Casinos in Tampa and Hollywood (see related story), was momentarily stunned.

It was not clear how the Council’s decision would

See JET, page 11

State Agrees To Meet With Florida Tribes

By Charles Flowers
WASHINGTON, D.C. — The State of Florida has agreed to meet with legal representatives of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians in mid-May, *the Seminole Tribune* has learned.

The location has not been set, but the agenda is clear: negotiations that could lead to a gaming compact between the State and each of the two Tribes. If successful, those negotiations could end more than 12 years of costly litigation between the Seminole Tribe and the State of Florida over what role, if any, the State should play in regulating Tribal gaming in Florida.

“I think they need to make a reasonable effort as though they want to meet with us,” Seminole General Counsel Jim Shore, said cautiously. “The only difference in a non-compact state and a compacted state is the willingness of a lender to lend the money in that situation. ... (If) a compact comes in later it will be developed in such a way that it can go to new games, Class III if it ever comes.”

The meeting resulted from a letter sent to the Tribes in January covering the scope of gaming allowed under federal rules in Florida. The letter essentially certified the games currently played at the five Seminole casinos in Hollywood, Coconut Creek, Immokalee, Brighton and Tampa, and the one Miccosukee casino in west

See COMPACT, page 4

Pithlachocco: Saved Again

■ Logging, De-mucking Threats Thwarted
By Peter B. Gallagher
TALLAHASSEE

— The lake the Seminole Indians called Pithlachocco (place of boats) ducked two more threats from state government agencies, recently, further ensuring the protection of the world’s largest aboriginal canoe site.

Responding to articles in the *Seminole Tribune* and threats of lawsuit from at least one environmental organization,

state officials have reaffirmed Gov. Jeb Bush’ decision of last August to halt controversial deadhead logging on Florida lakes, including Pithlachocco (Newnan’s Lake) east of Gainesville. Logging proponents had hoped

See LAKE, page 11

Tribal Canoes Will Cruise Two Events

By Peter B. Gallagher
When Seminole Indians first emerged from the isolation of the everglades and swamps of South Florida at the turn of the century, they found friendship and respect at two historic Florida trading posts. Ivy and Frank Stranahan of Fort Lauderdale and Ted Smallwood of Chokoloskee provided food, shelter, clothing and commerce to the Indians, during uncertain frontier times, at their respective establishments on either side of the River of Grass.

This month, the Seminoles will take part in two colorful events that will recreate the past and honor the historic sites where Indian and white man first shook hands in Florida.

Seminole Tribal Chairman James E. Billie will lead a flotilla of Seminole dugout canoes along Fort Lauderdale’s New River, Saturday March 24, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of **Stranahan House**. Then he will lead his musical band in a special concert for a \$100 a plate audience at a gala dinner and concert beginning at 6 p.m. on the grounds of the Victorian mansion west of Las Olas Blvd. Guests

can tour the House, which is now a museum and view the unimproved site, next door, where the Tribe and the City of Fort Lauderdale plan to construct a fabulous waterfront park named for the Seminoles and Stranahan.

Then, a week later on Saturday March 31, the Chairman will lead Seminole canoes through The Ten Thousand Islands up to the Chokoloskee beach site of the **Smallwood Trading Post** for a day of fun, music and contests titled “Seminole Indian Day.” In addition to free admission to the store museum and the re-enactment of Indians arriving to trade pelts and plumes for flour and cloth, several Seminole style contests will be conducted (clothing, baby, motorcycles and arts and crafts). Slated to perform at the 10 a. m. to 6 p.m. event are Cowbone, Two Large Guys, Bobby Hicks, C.W. Colt, J. Robert, Hollywood Dave, Raiford Starke and Chief Jim Billie.

For more information about Stranahan House call (954) 524-4736. The Smallwood Store can be reached at (941) 695-2989. Historian Patsy West has put together a package of stories about Stranahan House for *Tribune* readers on Page 3.



**Special Festival
Edition Inside**

Editorial

On Misinformation

***James E. Billie**
It's unfortunate that the *Orlando Sentinel* misinforms its readers about the Seminole Tribe's land purchases in Osceola County. Even the local politicians seem misinformed. Maybe it's just the Seminole Tribe who are intellectually and politically literate about the law that Congress passed in 1987.

The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) is the law of the land and any reporters or politicians acting in gaming and trust land or any part of this Act need only call your Congressman and let him read you IGRA and what the Seminole Tribe can and not do when purchasing land in the United States. You will find we can purchase land anywhere in the United States and World where it is legal, just like any other citizen.

The Partin Ranch borders Lake Tohopekaliga (*we will gather together here*) and gives birth to the great Kissimmee. The name Kissimmee originated between the 1750s and 1850s when soldiers were pursuing Seminoles along the shores of Lake Tohopekaliga and commenced to massacre the Indians when a brave Seminole woman began screaming "Kish-a-me. No kill. Kish-a-me. No kill!"

Miraculously, the soldiers did heed to her offer and this lady sacrificed herself to save the remaining Seminoles who escaped to the wild lands along the shores of what is now known as "kish-a-me" or Kissimmee River.

This lake is also the origin of the Seminole's legend of the Kissimmee River. It is about a man who eats a fish found in a

hollow log from the water. Though he is warned never to eat anything out of place, he eats the fish and turns into a huge snake. He crawls down to Okeechobee Lake and then to the Gulf, leaving a winding river in his path.

The towns known as Orlando, Hollywood, Apopka, Leesburg, Ocala, Lakeland, Winter Haven, Winter Park, Mount Dora, Avon Park, all the way up to Gainesville are all areas where people known as Seminoles and Miccosukees and Tequestas – and many other groups of indigenous peoples – used to inhabit.

We Seminoles purchase land for our use and we follow the zonings and proper permittings and strive for whatever is legal and available to the Seminole Tribe or any other citizen of the United States. When the proper time arrives and proper planning is in place, we will stand before the community like any other citizen and make our requests to be received or denied.

We Seminoles are not down on our reservation condemning the misinformed people, nor are we here to intimidate anyone or upset the members of the Central Florida community in any way. The majority of us are good ol' Southern Baptist God-fearing people. And I am a little embarrassed under God's eyes about what I've been reading in the *Sentinel*.

We invite our neighbors in Osceola County to visit and get to know us for who we really are and not to judge us by the writings and ravings of the misinformed. Sho naa bish.

— **James E. Billie has been publisher of the Seminole Tribune and Chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida since 1979.**



Ka wa yet oken eshkepek ka yo le chou

Precious Life's Lesson

More precious than diamonds or gold or any mundane substances and materials is a life, whether it be the life of an unborn infant or a long lived adult. This is a lesson taught us Seminoles very recently.

On a typical winter Friday afternoon – I was in South Florida – I officiated a funeral for Cayman Jay Cypress Frye: "A Beautiful little baby boy was born prematurely and passed away shortly after birth," his grandmother Jeanette said.

His parent's names are Danielle Jumper and Charles Frye. He had three living grandmothers: Grandmother Jeanette Cypress, Great Grandmother Agnes Cypress, and Great Grandmother Susie Jim Billie.

Baby Cayman came to this world and brought us much happiness, although his stay was very short. We cried because we loved him and we miss him very much. "Parting is such a sweet sorrow" but reunions are much sweeter. I know that the baby is in Heaven just bursting and overwhelmed with excitement knowing that he will see his Mom and Dad one day in Heaven when that day comes.

David in the Bible said "I cannot bring him back but I can go to him." It is our prayer that God's Salvation does not pass us by.

I sang for little Cayman a Charlie Daniels country classic *Little Folks* and it seemed very appropriate. Leroy King and his wife sang *Sweet By and By*. It was sad as we bid farewell to baby Cayman. We gave our first and last farewell handshake by sprinkling sand over his little tiny casket, lowered into the grave..

A beautiful array of flowers donned the little grave as we stood and breathed our goodbyes to Cayman. The blue sky above us seemed to say "this is not the end, this is only for a little while."

I wrote a song for my Granddaughter Kirsten, but I don't think she would mind sharing it with Cayman: It's called "You're My Little Angel"

*You're my little angel
You put gladness in my heart
You're my little angel
You put gladness in my heart*

*Ev'ryday I want to hold you
In my arms
There's no other way that can
Keep us apart*

*You're my little angel
You can cuddle up to my heart
You're my little angel
You can cuddle up to my heart*

*You're my little angel
You put joy in my heart
You're my little angel
You put joy in my heart*



COWBONE

ing husband, father, and grandfather. He had sons and daughters and grandchildren. In his eulogy, Wonder Johns spoke of how Fred loved and taught his children about the ways of life: raising cattle, basketball, football and boxing. But most of all he showed his love and care for his children to love God and church.

Fred was an innovator and motivator. He taught his own children to be at their best both physically and spiritually. "He also exhorted other people to care for themselves – so they can be in good health," Howard Micco, said.

Fred's dad and mother were both servants of God. Billy Osceola was the first Southern Baptist preacher among the Seminole Indians in Florida. He was also the first Chairman of the Seminole Tribe. People like Fred Osceola made the Seminole Tribe what it is today.

Fred and his brother Jesse used to come to Big Cypress on many occasions; their father brought his family with him when he was preaching at Big Cypress First Baptist Church (those were the good old days, yes it was). After church many of us boys played basketball across the road from the church. The goal was a make shift basket made from tomato basket nailed to a tree, but we sure had lots of fun.

Fred was a stout, powerful young man. I believe he had the stature for a football player but he didn't limit himself to one sport was good in all sports that he played. I remember when he'd steal the ball with his quick hands. I believe that's why he was a good trainer and coach in the sport of boxing.

Fred had been a diabetic for a long time (as many of us are in the Seminole Tribe). He did the best he could to live with it. Many times he would encourage other people to be careful with their diet.

Today, Fred is in Heaven where there are no more sorrows and pain, where there is no more suffering and no more tears. Jesus said, "where I am there you will be also" John 14:3.

Carolyn Crenshaw taught us the other night at First Seminole Baptist Church in Hollywood "there is no last goodbye for Christians". Fred Osceola, baby Cayman and many more are waiting in Heaven for you and I.
Hem-mun-ala-ka

— **Cowbone is Seminole singer and songwriter Paul Buster**



Fred Osceola 1943 — 2001

Not long after we said goodbye to baby Cayman, another precious Seminole life ended, though this man had been fortunate to live for 57 years. "I fought a good fight, I have finished my course. I have kept the faith," II Timothy 4:6 So, once again we gathered at the cemetery to bid farewell to a life-long Tribal citizen and resident of the Brighton Reservation.

Fred Osceola parted from this walk of life and went to Heaven on March 9, 2001. His body was laid to rest at Big Cypress Cemetery on the afternoon of March 12, 2001. He was a wonderful lov-

Editor: The LaBrees would like to thank you for the wonderful "The Legend of Artist Guy LaBree" insert of the *Seminole Tribune*! Colin Kenny did a great job of writing. His research dedication was obvious and we loved the Raiford touch about "The Pallett!"

Thanks to Melissa Sherman for the art layout and Pete Gallagher for the final touch. Double appreciation from us to Mr. G for coordinating the reception in St. Petersburg the evening of Feb. 22. His choosing Moses Jumper Jr. as emcee and

print was excellent and we hope you will post a copy of his poem in the *Tribune* so those who were unable to attend can share it.

Alan Jumper's monologue was touching and funny. We love you too, Alan! Frank Thomas singing "The Barefoot Artist," with Colin's back-up was cool, and the Seminole Youth Dancers were priceless.

We appreciate Betty Mae Jumper's attending and speaking about Guy and the boys.

The Guy LaBree Family, Arcadia

Unwise Business?

***Seminole Tribune**
"What kind of wise business decision is that?" Chairman James Billie asked after the Tribal Council voted 4-1 to terminate an agreement that called for the delivery of a nearly \$50 million piece of aluminum called a Gulfstream V.

On its face, it was not a great call. Giving up an estimated \$3.5 million — which a mere 12 years ago would have constituted one-third of the Tribe's annual budget — for essentially nothing. Plus the loss of face and credibility that breaking a contract always means. Such deeds send shudders of doubt through other prospective partners. Then there are the costs — and potential million-dollar losses — associated with holding onto the Gulfstream IV, the older, smaller corporate jet the Tribe was set to sell as soon as the financing package was approved.

Council observers were perplexed. But maybe they didn't look deeply enough.

The problem with the Gulfstream V financing was all about timing, and the tendency of governmental bodies to act like Old Testament Lords — they giveth and taketh away.

At the previous Council meeting, after a rancorous month of accusations and prophecies of doom, the Council approved the most ambitious development and financing plan in its 44-year history — \$300 million worth of Hard Rock Café/Hotel/Casino complex in Hollywood, and about another \$100 million for Tampa.

So far-reaching in its scope and potential, the Hard Rock plan grew like an amoeba, leaving no Tribal business, loan or economic enterprise unaffected. Loans and raises were suspended. Travel and other normal costs of doing business began to require expertise in foreclosure dentistry. Budgets were cut, including those of voting Councilmen.

Finally, on March 13, the Council gave its blessing to the Hard Rock it had seemingly blessed before. The following Tuesday, they took away their blessing from the Gulfstream V, a purchase they had previously endorsed.

It may have had less to do with the merits than the marriage.

— **The Seminole Tribune is the official newspaper of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.**

What About The Drums?

***Herman Begay**
My family and I have worked and traveled with Douglas Spotted Eagle, as a part of Voices of Native America and Native Rites dance groups and many of you may know me. I would like to say what is in my heart and on my mind.

In April of 1999 I was asked to travel to Gathering of Nations Powwow in Albuquerque, NM. I'm a singer and dancer in the powwow circle and my excitement was to see all the drum groups and dancers coming together from all over the world. Starting at noon and ending at around 2 a.m. for two days, Doug, Herwin (my son) and I recorded. At the time Doug was heavily involved in the release of the Voices CD so he asked me and my son to go through all the songs recorded and select what we thought was good.

After taking the recording equipment back to my house we listened to about 150 songs and we picked 16 songs of the popular groups and also groups which we believed to have songs with spirit and emotion that made the dancers dance. It was a very hard decision because all the Drum groups were excellent. This process took about four or five months.

We returned our selections back to Doug and he showed us how to master it at the Native Restoration Studio, which we did; that turned out to be the easy part. A record was produced by Tom Bee's Sound of America Records (SOAR) "Gathering Of Nations."

Then; we received an e-mail informing us that this CD had won a Native American Music Award (NAMMY). We received another e-mail informing us of the nomination in the

Native American Category of the GRAMMY. I felt good about the awards because of my hard work on the album but my emotions were mixed because I started to wonder if the Drum groups on the album had been notified and wondered where they fit in with all this recognition.

In my opinion the lead singer of each Drum group on the album should have been invited so when the GRAMMY was awarded there would have been a presence of Native Americans.

I want everyone to know that when I worked on this album I did it out of respect and honor for the very talented and gifted Native American Powwow Singer and Song makers. As of today I do not have a NAMMY or GRAMMY in my house even though my name is right next to Douglas Spotted Eagle. No bigger, no smaller.

I felt I needed to express my feeling because I have yet to see the names of the Drum groups and only a lot of focus on one individual. This makes me wonder if everyone is aware of what type of music is on this album.

I believe the awards should have gone to the Drum groups (The Tribe, Wild Horse, Sage Point, Seekaskootch, Southern Cree, White Clay, Stoney Park, The Boyz, Fly'n Eagle, Bear Springs, High Noon, Maskquaki Nation, MGM, Painted Horse, Northern Cree, Trail Mix).

They are the true producers of these songs. My intentions are not to diminish the recognition given to or the accomplishment of Tom Bee or Douglas Spotted Eagle. For what it is worth, this is what I need to get off my chest.

— **Herman Begay is a powwow drummer and music producer.**

letters/e-mail

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Editor: I'm looking for a copy of an out of print book titled "Basic Seminole Piercing." I am learning the technique and need more information. If someone in the community has a copy and would be willing to sell it, please e-mail me. Thank you.
Kaye Gray, Naples, Kgray4736@aol.com

Editor: Hello, I am a resident of Maine who recently discovered the beautiful patchwork designs of the Seminole tribe. I am very excited about this art and would like to obtain patterns for designs, quilts, clothing, or any other items. Are there experts on this subject that I could correspond with or books I could buy? I dearly love to quilt and would love to learn about Seminole work. The bright, simplis-

tic color placements are very inspiring to me. I hope there is someone out there who could help me.
Grace Jaqua, chickadee04976@yahoo.com

Chief Billie: My most heartfelt thanks goes to you and the Seminole Tribe of Florida, for the beautiful arrangement of flowers at the funeral of my great uncle, Tom Palmer. As a former Chairman of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, his contributions to his people were many. His last conversation with me, concerned the Seminoles of Florida. He had hoped that we could be viewed as all the same family. I had explained that my flutes were well received and I was treated with equality. The arrangement was further proof to the family that the future of all

Seminoles is at the heart of Chief Billie.
LisaJean Mann, *Seminole Herbs/Arrow Flutes*

Editor: This was very informative. Was looking for the St. Pete DNA happening and found much more. Was at your museum a couple years ago and it was remarkable. Thanks for the experience.
Becky Cushing, Kissimmee, sasacush@prodigy

Editor: I just wanted to tell you that I found your website very interesting to read. I am glad you are in the lemon tree business. I would love to see lemon trees, but living in Nova Scotia I have never had the chance. Long may the Seminole Nation thrive.
Catherine Young, Halifax, NS, Canada
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READY TO TRADE Seminoles in dugout canoes on their way to Stranahan's House on the New River. CA 1904.

Cloning The Canoe

Half a century has passed since cypress dugout canoes served as the major method of transportation for the Seminoles of southern Florida. Most canoes were left on the banks of rivers or pulled up to landings in remote camps where they eventually rotted from disuse as their owners opted for Model T Fords.

While a few Seminole canoes continue to be made by a dwindling number of Seminole artisans today and are used as teaching tools and in cultural exhibitions, one type of canoe that will come down New River is very significant to Broward County's maritime history, the history of Stranahan House, and to the Seminole Tribe.

In 1927, Dr. Ray W. Burch, a local dentist, found a beautifully hewn 30-foot long Seminole canoe abandoned on the shore of New River "several blocks west of S. W. 7th Avenue." Burch (no relation to Tom Burch of "wet blade" fame) left information that appears to tie the canoe to the family of Annie Jumper Tommie who, by the mid 1920's, lived on the North Fork of New River. Burch took the abandoned canoe home and in 1951 he painstakingly began its restoration.

In 1952 the canoe was given to a local park. Unfortunately it was initially left outside and again began to weather. It was donated, in the early 1970s, to the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Exposed to the elements once again, the canoe further deteriorated. By the 1980s, Chairman Billie realized that drastic measures were necessary in order to preserve the integrity of the (by then) fragile canoe. He had it fiberglassed. He then had several molds pulled off the original canoe.

Clones of this canoe, one of the most valuable of the Seminole Tribe's cultural artifacts, will be used in the Seminoles' reenactment at the Stranahan Trading Post March 24 and at Ted Smallwood's Store in Chokoloskee March 31. This canoe has traveled a remarkable route since it was carved from a huge cypress tree and launched on New River for its maiden voyage. In fact, it would not be surprising if it, like Stranahan House, was 100 years old!

The original Jumper/Tommie canoe now resides in the Seminole Tribe's Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum at Okalee Village on the Hollywood Reservation.

Trading On The River

The City of Fort Lauderdale owes much of its history in the latter decades of the 19th century to the lucrative trade in furs, alligator hides, and plumes with the Seminole Indians.

Even before Frank Stranahan arrived in 1893, the historic site on New River had been established as a maritime trade area. Near this site, the Bay Biscayne Stage Line would establish their ferry across New River, the Stranahan Trading Post would be built, and Frank and Ivy would build Stranahan House, now celebrating its 100th year.

At this site "on a certain moon" in 1887, the trading schooner *Cornelia* would arrive at New River from Jacksonville loaded with trade goods and freshly brewed whiskey. It would move up river and anchor. The area Seminoles would be waiting on the shore. As trading got underway, the Seminole men would unload salted and rolled alligator hides, egret plumes and alligator teeth. Hides would be measured against a rule on the side of the boat. The women would come aboard to examine the calico dress goods and beads. Sacks of grits, rice, and corn meal, and 100-pound bags of salt for curing hides were always in demand. Goods were purchased by the trader in Jacksonville and Nassau, Bahamas.

In 1893, Frank Stranahan was hired as the manager of the Bay Biscayne Stage Line Camp and the New River ferry. He met the family of Old John Jumper who lived on the river nearby in the Coolie Hammock area. When Stranahan established his trading establishment on the river, he provided thoughtful accommodations for his clients. A boat slip allowed the Indian families to dock off the fast moving river and load and unload their supplies at a quay. A shelter was also provided for overnight visits, but most camped near a slough near the present day Broward County library.

The fall of 1900 was a great season for alligator hunting. In October Stranahan received 2,000 alligator hides from Seminole hunters and expected to have another 1,200 - 1,500 from their November hunt. A settler recalled that in one day Stranahan might pay out as much as \$1,500 for alligator hides, alligator eggs, baby alligators; furs of otter,



Stranahan's Trading Post faced the New River. The home is now a museum.

raccoon, and fox. The Seminoles' needs in 1900 were cloth, hand-cranked sewing machines, coffee, lanterns, rifles and ammunition, salt; skinning knives, draw knives for large woodworking projects, axes, and cross-cut saws.

It was recalled that the Seminole women bought their prized blue-spangled-ware enameled cooking pots and pans from Stranahan's. Sundry items purchased were fancy straw hats, bowler hats, vests, gold and silver-washed fobs and chains; beads and earrings for the women; candy and early sodas. All of these items arrived in heavy crates and boxes, salt and flour. Employees from some of Fort Lauderdale's first settlers, white and black, tall the area families and carted them to storage.

The area families of Robert Osceola, Charlie Willie, Old Charlie, and the Jumper/Tommies were regular customers while others came from as far away as the Big Cypress and Okeechobee. Imagine how the news spread that Frank Stranahan had a new shipment of trade goods! In a few hours' time, the news would have reached the big Seminole settlements located at Pine Island, Long Key and Big City Island in the Everglades west of New River. By the next day, canoes could be seen, 30 or 40, filled with families, their dogs in the bow, sailing eastward on the river toward the Stranahan Trading Post.

—Author Patsy West is a Fort Lauderdale based Historian who founded the Seminole/Micosukee Photographic Archives.

Hangin' With Mrs. Stranahan

I have known Mrs. Stranahan since I was about five years old. She taught me lots of things that I didn't know about in the white man's world. She taught me Sunday School and read the Bible to me. Mother made us all take a bath and change into clean clothes before we went to Mrs. Stranahan's. We'd take a bucket of water from the pump, dip the water out and soap up. Mother would drop us off at a movie on Las Olas Blvd. on Saturday afternoon. We would see the movie twice, then walk over to Mrs. Stranahan's house.

It was interesting because Mrs. Stranahan couldn't climb the stairs in her house. She sat on a chair and pulled something and it lifted her up all around the house and we would sit in chairs and look at the river. We would yell to the people on the boats, "Where you going?" A lot of the boat people knew us and they'd come near shore and throw us candy. Sometimes

ladies would bring Mrs. Stranahan used clothes for us kids.

Mrs. Stranahan would give us a big bowl of soup for supper. We'd fight for the couch. Who ever got there first got it! We would all sleep in the living room of her house: Mary Bowers, Agnes Parker, Mary (Charlotte) Tommie, Willie Tommie, George Huff (Storm), Okay Tommie, Moses Jumper, and sometimes Juanita Billie, Annie and Agnes Billie, and Elizabeth Buster.

Sunday morning after breakfast Mrs. Stranahan would take us home to the reservation and teach Sunday School at the old wooden church by the road. She taught us right from wrong and how to behave when we went places. She was a great influence in our lives. She explained to us the 23rd and the 100th Psalms and worked with us so that we could memorize them.

We only stopped going to Mrs. Stranahan's when we went away to school at Cherokee, North Carolina."

—Betty Mae Jumper was the first Seminole to graduate from high school and only elected Chairwoman of the Seminole Tribe (1967-1971). She was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Florida State University.



Betty Mae Jumper



Betty Mae (middle) sings at Stranahan Park.

Ivy Stranahan: Friend Of The Seminole

Education was all-important to Ivy Stranahan. Coming to the frontier community of Fort Lauderdale in later 1899 from Lemon City (North Miami) as a newly certified teacher, she had only begun to realize her dream of teaching when she married Frank Stranahan in 1900. In those days women had to quit professions such as teaching when they married.

While Frank Stranahan took his life in the New River during the Great Depression, Ivy threw herself deeper into Seminole welfare projects, especially those involving children. In 1934 she began an organization called the Friends of the Seminoles which was important for making known the Seminoles' needs and accomplishments in local newspapers.

Throughout the 1930s she continued to encourage Seminole children to seek the benefits of education. She enticed them with a Camp Fire Girls program, Easter egg hunts and parties at the beach.

So it must have been a most happy day for Ivy Stranahan when, some 35 years later, she would be told by a young, determined Seminole teenager named Betty Tiger that she wanted a formal education. As soon as the Seminole's Special Commissioner arranged to send Betty to Indian Boarding School at Cherokee, North Carolina with Betty's cousin Mary Parker and brother Howard Tiger, Mrs. Stranahan sprang into action gathering up warm clothing, shoes, and spending money for the first Seminole students aided by her affiliate organizations, the Fort Lauderdale Women's Club and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Betty kept up a strong correspondence with her friend and mentor Ivy Stranahan during the long and sometimes lonely school years. What a sense of fulfillment Ivy Stranahan must have experienced as Betty Mae Tiger (Jumper) and Agnes Parker graduated. The young women then continued their education at nursing school with Betty returning to Florida to help her own Seminole people.

When the Seminoles faced termination as a tribe by the United States government in 1952, Ivy Stranahan was ill, but supportive. She sent letters to Washington in opposition to the termination efforts. With strong backing from avid supporters such as Ivy Stranahan, the Seminole Tribe escaped forced termination and was allowed to move toward formal Tribal organization.

As Seminole students came home to Hollywood Reservation Boarding Schools and Seminole students were finally admitted to local schools, Ivy Stranahan and the other club women became aware of another situation. The children were learning that there were amenities that they enjoyed in school, but that they did not have on the reservation. There was no warmth in their open-air chickees in the winter, no running water and flush toilets, and little electricity. Greater Fort Lauderdale was experiencing growth, so the



Ivy Stranahan taught Sunday school and helped collect shoes, clothes and even houses for Seminoles.

timing was right for the club womens' clever strategy. They sent out pleas in the newspaper asking for the donation of unwanted cottages that would fill the reservations' housing needs. At night electrical wires were raised and the little wooden houses were trucked down the streets of Fort Lauderdale and Pompano on their way out to the Hollywood Reservation.

The next challenge was for the Seminole families to obtain funds to make the necessary renovations and improvements on their new homes such as plumbing, electrical service, kitchen appliances. They were not eligible to get loans because they lived on federal reservations and therefore did not own the property. The Friends of the Seminoles and the local club women took pledges from an enthusiastic community in order to set up a revolving fund that would allow Seminole families to draw loans from a special account.

Ivy Stranahan, then up in years, old some real estate and placed that money in the revolving fund. These efforts, which resulted in houses, roads, and eventually a subdivision on the reservation, aided the Seminoles significantly as they moved toward Tribal organization. Indeed, the government was very impressed with their progress and the Tribe achieved formal recognition as the Seminole Tribe of Florida in 1957.

Ivy Stranahan, or organizations that she founded, supported, or sponsored, provided a personalized approach to Seminole welfare, a valuable project to which she dedicated her life from her base of operations at Stranahan House.



Ivy and Frank Stranahan share a moment in the sun. This was Fort Lauderdale in the 1920s

Old Annie Jumper Tommie

Old Annie, born in 1856, lived at Pine Island west of Fort Lauderdale. She came to live with her family on the North Fork of the river. Hers was the last Seminole camp within the city limits of Fort Lauderdale. It was there that Annie and her family were frequently visited by Ivy Stranahan as she attempted to interest the children in learning to read. The city fathers wanted the Seminole camp to move away as Fort Lauderdale grew. In fact, the Tommies did not own their homesite and it was only a matter of time until the property was sold and the family was evicted.

The Dania (now Hollywood) Reservation was opened in 1926. It was largely due to Ivy Stranahan's efforts that the reservation was not utilized only for "sick and indigent Indians" but established as a permanent haven for Seminole families. Not willing to wait for Annie's family to face eviction from their campsites, Mrs. Stranahan drove Old Annie and her family to inspect the property at Dania.

She then persuaded them to leave the North Fork camp and take up residence at the reservation (which was actually the site of one of their old seasonal campsites, Big City Island). The Jumper/Tommies became the first residents of the newly-created reservation.



Old Annie had roots in Fort Lauderdale. CA 1922.

Fort Clinch: Forgotten Platoon Survived Attack In Isolated Post

During the Seminole Wars (1817-1858), the United States Army built forts across the peninsula of Florida. In this exclusive, ongoing Seminole Tribune series, correspondent Yolanda Ponce De Leon reports on the role these forts played in the battles that were - in their time - the longest and most costly military campaigns ever fought by the United States.

By Yolanda Ponce De Leon

INGLIS — On the morning of April 11, 1836, at a little before dawn, Seminole Indians attacked the men at a blockhouse on the Withlacoochee River. Unaware, they had been surrounded by 150 to 200 Seminoles the soldiers only discovered their plight upon hearing the sounds of shooting.

"The engagement lasted one hour and three quarters," recounted a Dr. Lawrence, who was present at the siege and recounted the attack in a letter which appeared in Samuel G. Drake's *Aboriginal Races of North America*.

After beating off the attack, the blockhouse was safe. But the men were unaware the outside world did not know they were stationed at the mouth of the Withlacoochee.

"On Jan. 21, 1836, Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott commanding the army of the East, was left in charge of Florida," writes Tom Knotts in *History of the Blockhouse on the Withlacoochee*, (*Florida Historical Quarterly* Vol. 49).

"By the time he arrived to Florida in March, he had developed a plan which he hoped would end the war. There were three forces available in Florida: One at Fort Drane, another at Fort Brooke, and a third at Volusia. Each was supposed to move toward the cove of the Withlacoochee where it was believed the enemy would be entrapped and defeated."

Maj. Gen. Scott placed Maj. John McLemore in charge of logistics. He proceeded to write to Col. James Gadsden and informed him that at McLemore's post, which was Fort Dabney in Suwanee Old Town, there were stores and a boat, which could be used for the transport of the supplies on the Withlacoochee.

"The letter was received on March 23 or 25, and answered March 25," writes Knotts. "Gadsden was very explicit and covered the situation thoroughly in his communication. He pointed out the three armies would probably meet near the cove by March 29 or 30. McLemore was to rendezvous by March 30, but if no contact was made by April 4, he could withdraw, since the forces would then be moving south."

The company, which would man the post on the Withlacoochee, was a militia from Jefferson County. The officers under McLemore's command were James M. K. Hollaman, captain; Joseph McCants, first lieutenant; L. B. Walker, second lieutenant; and Samuel W. Barrington, third lieutenant. The group also had 55 privates, two musicians and a commissary.

"Under the direction of Maj. McLemore," writes Samuel Pasco author of *Jefferson County, Florida 1827 - 1910, Part II*, which appeared in *Florida Historical Quarterly* VII, "12 beeves were driven up and slaughtered and kiln-dried and 600 or 700 bushels of corn were collected. These provisions were loaded on a barge 90 feet long and a flat, with barricades as a protection against the Indians.

"The detachment proceeded safely to the mouth of the river and coasted along the Gulf coast to the mouth of the Withlacoochee, where they expected to meet Gen. Scott or a courier from him with orders. Volley guns were fired in accordance with a pre-arranged signal, but there was no response and they continued on their way up the river in accordance with their orders and repeated the signal at the place where further instructions were looked for but again there was no response."

What Gadsden had not realized was the length of time it would take for the letter to arrive to McLemore and then for him to proceed to the mouth of the Withlacoochee. He arrived by April 4, but by then all the troops had already left on their mission with Gen. Scott to scour the Withlacoochee.

"April 4 was the last day he (McLemore) was supposed to remain in the area unless he received orders to the contrary," says Pasco. "McLemore, however, decided to construct a blockhouse and to leave a force of approximately 40 men; thinking, perhaps, such an armed fortification eventually would be of some assistance to the army.

The men went to work on the fortification on April 4, 1836.

"They selected a suitable location on the south side of the river about twenty miles from its

mouth," says Pasco. "And commenced to build a blockhouse for sheltering the provisions and defending themselves against attack. The walls were raised eight feet high that night before they slept and it was finished in seven days with a covering of pine bark."

While the blockhouse was being built, there was no sign of Seminoles. All was quiet. The blockhouse was completed on April 10. McLemore left and promised he would return to relieve the men at the post in seven to eight days.

But, fate was against the men. McLemore arrived at Suwanee Old Town, but was stricken with a fever and died shortly thereafter. No one knew the blockhouse existed and the men who had arrived with him at Suwanee were discharged and left without telling anyone of the men at the Withlacoochee.

"We had just completed building the blockhouse, and dug out a spring near the edge of the fort," recalled Dr. Lawrence.

Monday, April 11 was when the Seminoles attacked. The battle lasted till about 11 a.m. and then the Seminoles retreated.

"The attack was renewed after dark," writes Pasco. "They (Seminoles) built fires 200 or 300 yards from the blockhouse in all directions and the war whoop sounded all through the night. The fighting commenced again the next morning and lasted four or five hours."

On April 13, Eli Sealy was killed during the morning attack by an Indian rifle fired from the opposite side of the river. "On April 15, we were attacked by a body of the savages who had completely surrounded us," wrote Dr. Lawrence. "We computed the number 4 to 500, though we have since heard Powell (Osceola) had 1,000 to 1,500 of them. This was the hottest engagement we had during our stay on the Quithlacochee (Withlacoochee). They fired their guns by hundreds at the same moment at our blockhouse, and succeeded in taking our only means of escape, our boat - which they took down the river and destroyed after the battle."

The battle lasted close to three hours and three men were injured. The Seminoles took the flat boat, cut it in pieces and rejoiced around it all night. Most of the Seminoles had concentrated in this area since they were aware Gen. Clinch was scouring the Withlacoochee looking for them. Osceola, whom the white men called Powell, was one of the Seminole war chiefs present during the attack on the blockhouse.

"Osceola had begun life in the Creek country of Alabama," says John Mahon author of *History of the Second Seminole War*. "At the time of his birth his mother was married to a white man named Powell, but there is no evidence Osceola was Powell's son. He did have white blood in his veins, his great-grandfather, was the redoubtable Scotsman, James McQueen."

"In 1818 Osceola's family settled among the Tallahasseees, where he grew to young manhood known as Tallahassee Tustenuggee. He was a little below common height, elegantly formed, with small hands and feet, and he displayed great skill in all physical games. His face was described as thoughtful and cunning, with piercing eyes, chiseled lips, and having a mild, sweet expression."

The attack continued with the Seminoles being led by Osceola.

"On the 24th they fired blazing arrows into the roof and set it on fire," writes Pasco, "while they, the Seminoles, poured volleys of bullets against the house. The only water with which to extinguish the burning roof was a hole by the side of the blockhouse and this was available only at high tide. The water was drawn from this hole in a quart tin bucket tied to a line. The Indians directed their shots against the line and the bucket but the fire was extinguished before it injured the main body of the building."

During the attack three men were wounded and the men at the blockhouse believed they killed 40 to 50 Indians. This was never confirmed.

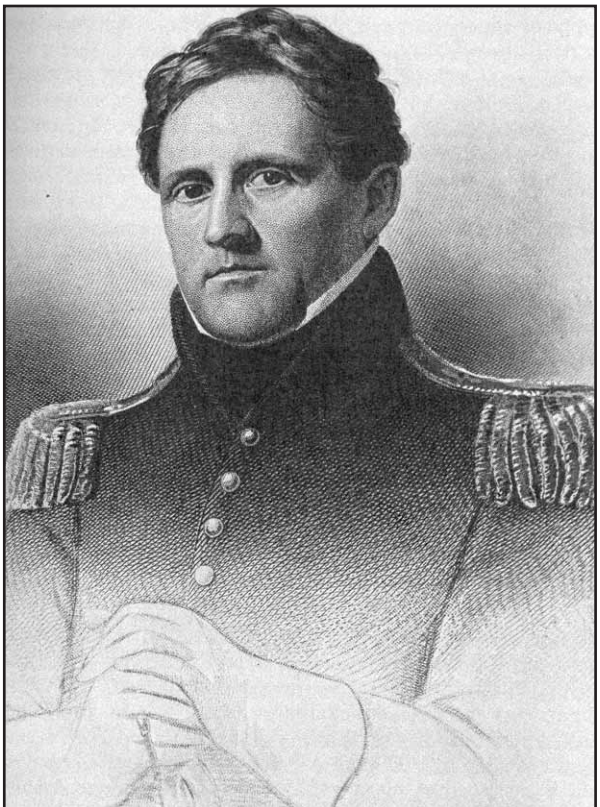
"Capt. Holloman saw the necessity of protecting the water supply," added Pasco. "So on the 3rd of May, he arranged to have a few posts set up in the edge of the river in a ditch, which had already been dug. While he (Holloman) was thus engaged (in having the posts built), Captain Holloman was shot in the back of the neck and instantly killed. The work was abandoned, and at night the body was taken into the blockhouse, sewed up in some tent cloth with rocks to sink it and put in the river. It was not safe to attempt any other mode of burial."

The Seminoles kept attacking the men at different intervals. But this was not the soldier's only concern. They were running low on provisions, food

and ammunition.

"The officers were 21 days living on corn, without salt or meat, and the men about 28 days," says Knotts. "The casualties at the blockhouse were light considering the amount of fighting that took place over a period of six weeks."

"Apparently the three wings of the army were searching west-central Florida, according to General Scott's plan, many of the Indians normally found in that area were on the banks of the lower Withlacoochee harassing the small band at the blockhouse."



Gen. Winfield Scott set the plan in motion.

"The troops, after a month of this continual attack, knew plans had miscarried since Maj. McLemore had not returned as he had promised. Ammunition and food were almost exhausted; the corn was moldy from exposure to the rain."

They felt they were left to their luck. Lt. Walker, who was in charge after the death of Capt. Holloman, decided it was time to try to contact the outside world. On May 10, three men were picked by a lot to go for help. They were Sgt. John M. Leek, John Rogers, and John Riley.

The three men escaped the fort in a leaky canoe and reached the Suwannee, but once the Seminoles spotted them they headed in a northwesterly direction, arriving finally at St. Marks about May 20. They informed Gen. Leigh Read. He immediately raised an army of 80 men and went to their rescue in the Minerva, a large barge.

"On May 22, they reached the mouth of the Withlacoochee and at night ran the boat up the river to the blockhouse," says Pasco. "The boat made a lot of noise as it went up the river. The soldiers had to get up into the timber on the banks and saw logs, limbs and branches which obstructed the passage. The Indians heard all the noise and assumed large reinforcements were on the way, so they made no attack upon the blockhouse or the rescuing party."

"By morning the boat was out of the river with Lt. Walker and his men safe on board. Then the Indians built big fires along the coast and danced the war dance with yell of defiance and shouts of victory."

This ended the siege at the blockhouse on the Withlacoochee.

"The Indians most likely destroyed the structure immediately, as was their custom," says Knotts.

This is how and why a fortification existed on the mouth of the Withlacoochee. People were impressed with how the men were able to subsist on so little and survive the constant attack. The Indians believed witchcraft and silver bullets were making the small band invincible," says Knotts.

After the men left the blockhouse the U.S. Army went back and garrisoned the fortification once again. So what was once known as the blockhouse on the Withlacoochee became Read's Depot.

"This post was established by Brig. Gen. Leigh Read on Oct. 22, 1836 on the north branch of the Withlacoochee River between 15 to 20 miles from the mouth," says John Cusick, Curator for the P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History. The Library obtained the information from the U. S. Army Command Returns, Fort Clinch on the Withlacoochee River, Oct. 1836 - May 1842. "At this time, the post had about 192 men."

"Fort Clinch was originally known as Read's

Depot," says Toni Collins, President of the Levy County Archives Committee.

This was because Read not only garrisoned the fort in Oct. 1836, but had led the rescue of the men at the blockhouse in May 1836. He successfully removed the men without one gunshot being fired.

Later, the post became known as Fort Clinch, named after Gen. Duncan L. Clinch.

"Gen. Clinch was born in North Carolina in 1787, and had entered the army as a lieutenant direct form civil life in 1808," says Mahon. "Although his service during the War of 1812 was undistinguished, by the spring of 1819 he had risen to be colonel of the 8th Infantry Regiment. Fat and muscle combined, he weighed in the neighborhood of 250 pounds. His face was fine and open, his manners and dress not ostentatious. He was kind to his soldiers, and especially tender with the sick and wounded."

"Gen. Clinch fought in the Battle of the Withlacoochee where the U.S. Army suffered a great loss and soon after resigned from the army on Sept. 21, 1836. During all his years in the army, he was never given full command of Florida. After his resignation was accepted, he went to his plantation in Georgia to live the rest of his days."

The fort - some experts believe - was probably named after Clinch in honor of his retirement.

"As far as I know there was no conflict around Fort Clinch," says Frank Laumer from The Seminole Wars Historic Foundation. "That part of the Withlacoochee wasn't an area where they seemed to have any particular encounters with the Seminoles. There isn't anything critical in the area for a fort to be built and garrisoned there. A lot of these forts were simply built as supply depots so that every 20 miles they put up a fort with a palisade around it so they could hold horse feed and supplies for the men. This way they wouldn't have to go 100 miles for supplies. In a sense, it's like setting up a store for the troops. So they were called supply depots."

"I don't know if it (Fort Clinch) had much of a structure. Some of these so-called forts were simply palisade walls. I don't believe the fort was permanent. Fort Clinch was one of the most obscure forts. Most of those forts were pretty obscure and were only used for a very short periods of time."

From the U. S. Command Returns other officers in command of Fort Clinch were as follows: Brig. Gen. Read relinquished the command of the post to Maj. James J. McIntosh in October 1836. Maj. J. J. McIntosh relinquished command of the post on Dec. 3, 1836 on which day Maj. J. Wilson assumed command. At that time there were still 200 men located at the fort in 1836.

"The most probable reason why the fort existed there was because Andrew Jackson had a grid system and divided Florida into sectors," says Collins. "So every 20 square miles a fort would be erected. The distance was one day's march from the last fort. Each fort was named by a number. The fort was in existence until May 1842."

This was not the only fort named after Gen. Clinch. There were two others.

"The second Fort Clinch was established in 1849," comments Betty D. Waller, local historian and long time resident of Fort Meade. "The fort, built on the site of the first fort, was not maintained. Also, during those years there was relative peace amongst the Seminoles and whites. But as a strategic point it was important and its perfect drainage and general healthfulness were advantages appreciated by the military authorities."

The final Fort Clinch was located on Amelia Island. Construction began in 1847, but it really was finished until the Civil War. It was never really used during the Seminole Wars, but was of great importance during the Civil War.

While he never lived to see the value of his decision, experts feel McLemore was right in setting up Fort Clinch. The Seminole Wars might have ended on the spot if Gen. Scott, instead of scouring the Withlacoochee, had returned to his first original point of contact.

The Seminoles, aware of Scott's plans, stayed in the area of the mouth of the Withlacoochee and attacked the little blockhouse. In the end the fort was garrisoned many times and did serve its purpose to the U. S. Army.

"Today Fort Clinch would be located in the town of Inglis in Levy County," says Collins. "The area is privately owned and is in an area of timber land. It would be located two miles southeast of Inglis on the Withlacoochee River."

For further information regarding Fort Clinch, please contact the Bronson Library at (352) 486-2015.

Next: Fort Bassinger.

Seminole Tribal Citizens Star In TV Documentary

MIAMI — Seminole Tribal citizens will be featured in a television documentary that will air soon in Miami and may well be broadcast all over the nation.

"From Exploration to Exhibition," a half-hour Emmy Award-winning film starring several Seminoles, produced by Leslie Gaines' Wild Tracks Productions, will air at 6 p.m. April 1 on WPBT-TV Channel 2 in Miami.

Vanessa Frank, Samuel Tommie, Jericha Tommie and William Cypress Jr. are prominent in the film during a Calusa Indian Village re-enactment scene.

Part of the Florida Museum of Natural History's Expedition Florida project, the film recently won a 2000 Regional Emmy Award from the Suncoast Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. The film takes viewers behind-the-scenes as teams of scientists, curators and artists transform remarkable discoveries such as a 14-foot-tall mammoth skeleton, a 200-year-old albino crayfish, and ancient Calusa Indian masks and fishing tools into museum exhibits.

"From Exploration to Exhibition" is the first in a series of Expedition Florida programs and was shot at various sites beneath the Aucilla River; on location in Florida's largest underground cavern; and at a replicated Calusa Indian fish camp constructed for the film on a Southwest Florida mangrove beach.

Additional scenes introduce the viewer to Powell Hall, the museum's new exhibition and education center. At Powell Hall, exhibit designers and artists explore

new and imaginative ways for visitors to interact with the museum's collection of artifacts and explore lifelike natural habitats.

Gaines, president of Wild Tracks Productions, directed the film. In 1998, Gaines won four Emmy awards for his documentary projects *Black Bears and Biodiversity* and *The Gulf of Mexico: America's*



Seminole William Cypress Jr. plays Calusa part.

Shining Sea. He also received an American Indian Film Institute Best Music Video nomination in October 1998 for his direction of *Ways of the Glades*, written and performed by Seminole Indian Chief Jim Billie. Gaines is currently working with Director Dan Bramm and Producer Peter Gallagher on the Chief Jim Billie DVD project.

In December 1998, *Ways of the Glades* was selected for screening at the 1999 Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah. In June 1998, *Black Bears and Bio-*

diversity won First Place Broadcast Awards from the Outdoor Writers Association of America in the Conservation and Environment and Natural History categories.

Expedition Florida is a multimedia project that introduces Floridians to the natural wonders of the state's past and present with the hope of preserving them for the future. These programs also will be edited for use as Expedition Florida "Wild File" shorts already being aired by public and network television stations throughout the state. In addition, the Expedition Florida web site, expeditionflorida.ufl.edu, brings an expanded multimedia version of this natural to a new generation of potential natural history buffs, school children and museum visitors.

Expedition Florida is sponsored by Babcock Ranch of Punta Gorda. The 90,000-acre wilderness is an active cattle ranch, and is home to many species of rare and endangered wildlife, including alligators, black bears, bison, whooping cranes, Crested Caracara and the occasional Florida Panther. The ranch offers swamp buggy and bicycle tours.

Additional sponsorship is provided by Forever Florida. The 4,700-acre wilderness preserve and working cattle ranch is located just south of Kissimmee. Visitors may take guided nature tours on horseback, aboard comfortable coaches or covered wagons. Overnight horseback trail rides also are available, where visitors can experience scenic Florida flat woods, enjoy campfire meals and spend the night in an authentic chickee hut. For more information, visit the web site, www.foreverflorida.com.

Compact

Continued from page 1

call on March 6 moderated by George Skibine, director of Indian Gaming Management for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to set a meeting.

Previously, Skibine told the *Tribune* that if the State did not come to the table, it would mean "they will definitely decide to litigate...to the death."

Skibine said the two-day meetings, which will likely be in Tallahassee May 15-16, are just an extension of the process. One day would be set aside for the Miccosukee Tribe to meet with State of Florida officials. The second day would be for the Seminole Tribe.

Asked what the meeting signifies, Skibine said, "It cannot speculate on what the State of Florida might do."

However, the March 13 letter from BIA to Gov. Jeb Bush's assistant general counsel Daniel Woodring confirming the meetings set forth the agenda for a series of issues the State has agreed to define regarding Tribal gaming.

"We agreed that the informal conference will reconvene on May 15, 2001 for the Seminole Tribe and on May 16, 2001 for the Miccosukee Tribe. Prior to that date the State of Florida agreed to submit a letter requesting clarification of specific issues arising from our Jan. 19 letter regarding the scope of gaming in Florida. That letter should be received by the Department of Interior on or about March 20, 2001. Also, the State has agreed to submit a proposal

regarding its contemplated regulatory and oversight role in the regulation of Class III gaming for the two tribes. That proposal is expected on or about April 30, 2001."

Two more signs of cracks in the icy relations between the parties came out of the conference call, according to Shore and other participants. First was that the lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court two years ago by the State of Florida and joined by the State of Alabama against the U.S. Department of Interior, was held in abeyance pending the negotiations.

Secondly, Asst. Florida Attorney General Jon Flogau, who has represented the State of Florida in the most recent case between the Seminole Tribe and the State to reach the U.S. Supreme Court, reportedly requested information on the 24 states that have compacted with Indian Tribes located within their borders.

"Our position has always been what it is," Flogau told the *Tribune*. "We're in it for the long haul." When asked to assess where the meetings and discussions are heading, he said, "It's heading to a conclusion in Federal District Court in Tallahassee." That's the venue for the suit filed by the State against then-Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt in 1999.

More states have compacted with Indian Tribes than have not, Skibine said. Some states, such as Oklahoma, do not allow Class III gaming. And others have no federally-recognized Tribes with trust land on which they could consider gaming.

"I think it's moving," Shore said. "At least we have a timetable that we can follow."

Community News

Video Shoot At Billie Swamp

By Janice Billie

BIG CYPRESS — Two separate video filming crews arrived at Billie Swamp Safari on the warm and sunny morning of Feb. 22 to film footage for two diverse projects.

Martin B. Main, a professor of wildlife ecology and conservation at the University of Florida's research station in Immokalee, is producing an educational video series about Florida's wetland environments. The video series is a component of the Florida Master Naturalist Program. One of the videos focuses on matters encompassing human society and wetlands. The video will illuminate changing societal views, past and present, and how they have influenced conversion of wetlands, and more recently, the emphasis on conservation and restoration. Professor Main wanted the Seminole Tribe to have a voice in this video.

The shoot took several hours and included footage of the various wildlife in the Swamp Safari preserve and an interview with Lee Tiger, tourism consultant for the Tribe. Some of the points covered in the interview concerning the Seminole Tribe were the historical importance of wetlands for resources, economic importance, water issues affecting the Tribe due to South Florida development and benefits or conflicts related to Everglades restoration. A restored Seminole camp located in one of the isolated hammocks surrounding the Swamp Safari provided a starkly beautiful backdrop for the interview and the rest of the Billie Swamp Safari preserve served as a perfect location for Professor Main's video.



Crew interviews tourism consultant Lee Tiger.

Also present and accompanying the first film crew were representatives of Air Jamaica. Introduced to the Seminole Tribe and Billie Swamp Safari by Andy Sims & Associates, Inc. of Fort Lauderdale, the Air Jamaica crew was shooting footage for an in-flight film. The film will highlight different places in Florida that are off the beaten path, and give tourists a guide to locations that are a world away from Disney or Busch Gardens but no less attractive with their own unique offerings.



BLOWING RETREAT: Sonny Nevaquaya plays a newly-made flute at the recent Flute Retreat.

Flute Retreat At The Safari

By Janice Billie

BIG CYPRESS — The 2nd Annual Florida Flute Retreat was held at Billie Swamp Safari Feb. 22 – 25. Conceived and produced by Sonny Nevaquaya (Comanche) and his wife, Tribal citizen Christine Nevaquaya, the retreat provides a valuable and unique opportunity for anyone interested in learning the art of making an authentic Native American flute.

Encouraged by the success of the first retreat the Nevaquayas resolved to offer it once a year.

Sonny is a renowned master flautist who learned the art of flute making from his father "Doc" Tate Nevaquaya, also a famous master flautist and one of the Seven Legends of the Comanche Tribe of Oklahoma. Sonny has performed at the inauguration of George Bush and has lectured on flutes and Indian music from Oklahoma to Florida. He creates his own flutes and music and has several CDs and tapes available for sale upon request.

Participants in this year's retreat included beginners and seasoned flautists, many of whom were returning participants. First-timers made replicas of the plains flute while the returnees and others with woodcarving experience made duck flutes. Sonny stated that this year's lessons differed in that he was able to go more in depth about the techniques and as a result more extravagant flutes were crafted.

Amid the sounds of tropical birds and the east wind blowing through the fronds of the palm trees, Sonny sat under the shade of a chickee imparting what he feels is a gift to be shared with anyone willing to take the time and interest to learn an art that can truly enrich one's spirit.

Sonny and Christine stated they are looking forward to the 3rd Annual Florida Flute Retreat



Florida Flute Retreat participants work on their instruments.

planned for Feb. 20 – 24, 2002. For more information contact: Sonny Nevaquaya at 954-665-3255 or Christine Nevaquaya at 954-966-6300, Ext. 1462.

Brits Shoot Chief! First For Safari

By Charles Flowers

BIG CYPRESS – A two-man British documentary crew flew around the Big Cypress Swamp in an airboat recently, shooting Chairman James Billie on his own machine, making wake and blowing wind.

The Chief agreed to demonstrate the craft, and a big-wheeled swamp buggy for the Oxford-based crew who were making an episode of an eight-part series for the European Discovery Channel.

The subject: Extreme Terrain.

The pair had just come from the mountains of Colorado, where they rode a Sno-Cat, and before that the "urban jungle" of Los Angeles, Calif., where people park their cars on six lanes of freeway and battle "road rage." To adapt, one man built a submarine.

But none of these terrains possessed the hostility – and need for ingenuity – of the Florida swamp. Sometimes full enough of water to float a canoe, sometimes not. To navigate the fickle terrain, Seminoles built shallow-draft canoes out of cypress trees and poled them. Later they added speed.

"Not only their traditional ways with dugout

canoes, but airboats," said producer David Wilcock, as he rested under a chickee at Billie Swamp Safari. "As the chief said, 'It's no better than a dugout canoe, it just does it faster.'"

The 20th century Seminoles – and others who would come after – would also adapt aircraft technology, and the military knowledge that came after the world wars, to the "unpredictable" terrain of Big Cypress and the Everglades. They would reverse-mount an airplane propeller to produce an airboat capable of skimming along the surface of shallow swamps, and adapt high-off-the-ground buggies that resembled the "6x6's" used by the British army.

"We came here specifically because we knew we would find them here," Spire Films director and videographer Rob Alexander said. "The Seminoles were here before there was anybody. Life has evolved here to where swamp was as close to a friend as anything."

The series, which the pair said uses action to tell the stories, will be broadcast on Discovery Europe this fall. If it's successful there, it may be picked up by the Discovery Channel in the United States.



James Billie solos through the swamp.

DNA Honors Elder

TAMPA — Discover Native America and the Seminole Tribe honored Annie Jimmie with an honor song on Sunday March 4 during the pow-wow. Annie Jimmie was recognized for being a role model to Seminole women and as one

of the oldest elders living today. Ms. Jimmie was honored for her stories, patchwork and contributions to the community. Ms. Jimmie is a member of the Bird Clan.

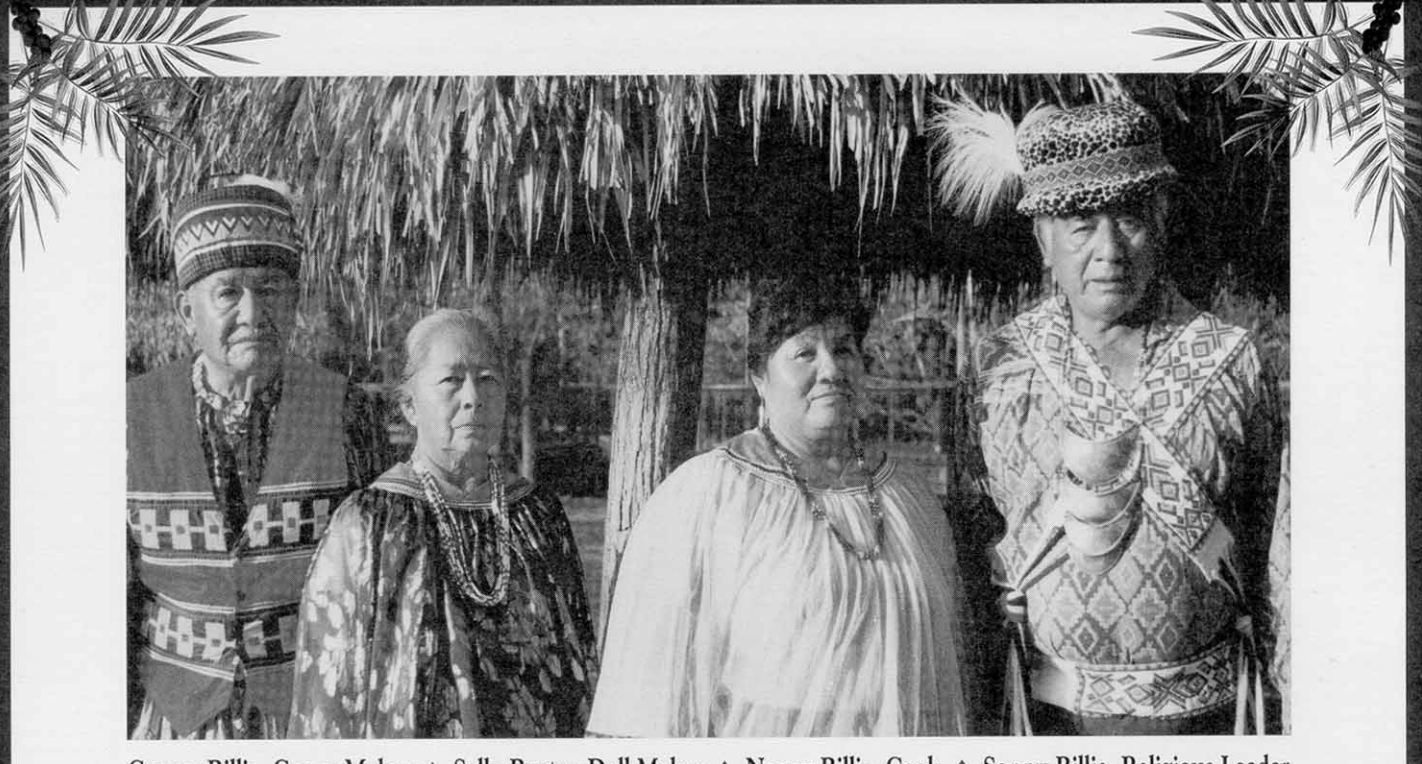
Water Restrictions Hit Seminole Communities

HOLLYWOOD — On March 28, Phase III water use restrictions will go into effect for residential users in Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties and portions of the Lake Okeechobee Service Area (Lee, Hendry and Okeechobee Counties). The rules apply regardless of water source and aims to achieve a 35-45 percent reduction in water use. The South Florida Water Management District governing board public meeting, on March 21, will determine the details of the restrictions.

Landscape irrigation and car washing will be reduced to one day per week on specific days depending on address. Businesses such as commercial car washes, agricultural operations and golf courses will share the burden. Local and regional enforcement

will be increased and violators will be fined. Please be aware that further restrictions may be issued if the drought continues, so it is in all of our interest to conserve water now.

The Water Resource Management Department and the Utilities Department of the Seminole Tribe will be working with the District on the final rules. If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to call the Water Resource Management Department: Hollywood office: (954) 967-3402 Brighton Field Office: (863) 763-4128 Big Cypress Field Office: (863) 983-2157 Or, you may visit the District website at www.sfwmd.gov or call them at (800) 662-8876.



George Billie, Canoe Maker ♦ Sally Buster, Doll Maker ♦ Nancy Billie, Cook ♦ Sonny Billie, Religious Leader

The Big Berry Moon Festival

with **Sonny Billie**

Seminole/Miccosukee Religious Leader

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9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

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Traditional Dancing Patchwork Craft Booths

All activities are free with admission to the AH•TAH•THI•KI MUSEUM, \$6.00 Adults, \$4.00 Seniors and Students, Children under 6 are free.

The AH•TAH•THI•KI MUSEUM is located west of Fort Lauderdale on the Seminole Big Cypress Reservation. Take I-75 (Alligator Alley) to Exit 14, then north 17 miles. For information call (863) 902-1113 or (954) 792-0745

Big Berry Moon Festival Set

By Yolanda Ponce De Leon

BIG CYPRESS — The First Big Berry Moon Festival by the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, will be held on Big Cypress Reservation March 24 - 25.

"The festival is an opportunity for the Museum to have some additional features we usually don't have," says David Blackard, Director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. "This includes traditional food and storytelling and above all it is an opportunity for people to meet Sonny Billie, the Seminole/Miccosukee religious leader.

"Sonny will be leading a troop of dancers in traditional Seminole dancing. It's unusual for outside people to see Seminole dancing, but this will give the greater public an opportunity to experience Seminole heritage.

"Also, we will have a Seminole costume competition led by Brian Zepeda, Operations Manager for the museum. Carol Cypress, the Executive Director's wife, will lead Storytelling. The traditional food and

the craft demonstrators will be on a continuous basis throughout the day.

"The festival is called the Big Berry Moon Festival because back in the old days their (the Seminole) calendar instead of being divided into months was divided into moons. This particular month in March is the Big Berry Moon. So we just named this particular festival after the month that we are holding it in. Sonny came up with the name."

All activities are free with admission to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, which costs \$6 adults, \$4 seniors and students. Children under 6 are free. The festival hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is located west of Fort Lauderdale on the Big Cypress Reservation. Directions to the museum are as follows: Take I-75 (Alligator Alley) to Exit 14, then north for 17 miles.

For further information on the Big Berry Moon Festival, please call (863) 902-1113 or (954) 792-0745.

Tribe Hosts Meeting on 'Race and Change'

By Charles Flowers

HOLLYWOOD — The suddenly famous DSO Building was the host site for a multi-cultural "Meeting on Race and Change." The title came from a book by former *Miami Herald* columnist and now Florida Atlantic University writer-in-residence Kitty Oliver, *Race and Change in Hollywood, Florida*. The book was created from oral histories — 42 stories told word-for-word by the actual people who lived them. Four of them were there, in the flesh.

Race and Change — the book — left out the oldest race of people in Hollywood — Seminole Indians. The Tribe was represented at Race and Change — the meeting — by Mildred Bowers and

as "Pedro" from Havana, and decided several fights later that "Peter" might make life easier. He now chairs the Sister Cities International program.

There was also Guithele Ruiz, from Haiti, who learned what it meant to be black in America when a storekeeper sprayed Lysol after his dark-skinned customers had left.

"I worked for a large retail company. I won't say the name. I was visiting a store, and I heard one of the store managers say, 'Them Haitians. I don't like them coming into my store. They need to be sprayed.' It really hurt me. He didn't know I was Haitian."

Mrs. Ruiz would later become an administrator with the City of Hollywood



Tommie Jumper Hawk (left) with NCCJ Chair John Ruffin.

Another City of Hollywood employee, Kee Eng, said he could believe another reason for Oliver's book — that it will reflect the ethnic diversity of the United States by 2025. But he is not satisfied with diversity alone.

"While diversity is good, inclusion is the key." A first-generation Asian-American, he once felt he could almost go toe-to-toe with Indians like the Seminoles in terms of discrimination.

He cited alien land acts and alien exclusion laws passed in the late 18th Century to keep Chinese and other nationalities who had come to build the railroads from owning land. He called them the "only class of people" so treated by Congress. Then he heard about the Indian Removal Act.

The meeting was held in a children's classroom decorated with Cabbage Patch dolls dressed in patchwork and pictures of birds like American eagles with their Miccosukee-language name (hachee taa lamem).

A black man, Sherman Mosley, recalled how black families in Fort Lauderdale got to the beach at John Lloyd Park in Dania — by ferry from Port Everglades. He never thought of it as punishment.

"We never knew how bad we really had it." Although he noted that blacks were "red-lined" out of the best Eastside neighborhoods, they could still make it to the water.

"We went across in glass-bottom boats. Do you know how much people pay for that now?"

The fun stopped when he became the first black to pledge an all-white fraternity at Broward Community College.

And the lone, white, Anglo-Saxon participant — Bob Gossett — had his own story of discrimination, which he prefaced by saying, "It wouldn't fill the bottom of a cup." He was doing low-level legal work in a firm when he was berated for "not wearing a *yarmulke*" — a Jewish skull cap. Thing was and is, he's not Jewish.

Such recollections of second-class citizenship were not strange to the few Seminoles present. What was strange is that they were not in the book. NCCJ, the group that champions inclusion in meetings like this one, just got a bigger chickee.

The title could even use a little work: "We are all from somewhere else" ignored the one group that was not from "somewhere else."

as "Pedro" from Havana, and decided several fights later that "Peter" might make life easier. He now chairs the Sister Cities International program.

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Seminole In Alaska

'A Really Bad Headache'

"Seminole in Alaska" is an autobiographical series about a year in the life of Tribal citizen Linda Osceola Frederick and her family living in the Alaskan outback. This is Part 1 of 6.

My name is Linda (Osceola) Frederick, daughter of the late Ruby Clay of the Panther Clan. I would like to tell about some of my experiences here in Alaska.

headache was not really bad, but I just felt sick most of the time and could not work as much as I used to. I

In February, I finally got back into Fairbanks to do some shopping. While I was packing supplies into boxes at a friend's house, the buckles on my winter boots caught each other and I fell, hitting my head on the wall. It made a loud noise, and my friend came running to see what happened. I did not think I was hurt too badly, so we did not worry about it.

I flew back to the homestead and everything seemed about the same as usual. About a week later, I woke up early in the morning with a really bad headache. It hurt so much that I could not move or talk. I could only pray to Jesus to take the pain away. After a while the Lord had mercy and made the pain go down enough so that I could wake my husband and tell him we needed to get some help. That



Linda (Osceola) Fredericks

I drove to Fairbanks, Alaska in 1976 with my young son, Mike. He has since grown up and moved back to Florida. I came to Alaska to be part of my Christian group of which I am still a member. In 1979 I married Mike Frederick, and in 1983, our son, Philemon Frederick was born. My husband and I, along with several other families started homesteading remote homesites along the Tanana River in 1986. We moved out there permanently in 1992. In 1994 the others of our church moved back to Fairbanks, but we decided to keep living in the wilderness.

Our 40-acre homestead is located 70 miles west of Fairbanks, reachable by no roads. The only way to get there is by small airplane, or by riverboat in the summer, or over the ice and snow in the winter. We have had a lot of experiences over the years, but what I want to tell you about is what happened to us in the last year.

We thought big things were going to happen in the year 2000. For me and my family, that was certainly true. We started off the year at 65 degrees below zero on New Year's Day! We had all of the people in our area over for dinner. Not counting my own family, the total was six people. It was cold outside, but we were happy and full of hope.

In February of 2000 everything changed for me. Before then, I had a headache for five or six months, but did not know what it was. The

was about 4:30 a.m. My husband woke our son, Philemon, and told him to watch me while he walked to a neighbor's cabin about a half away. The neighbors were not there but they do have a radio telephone in the cabin. My husband finally reached somebody that could help.

The U.S. Army base near Fairbanks has a Blackhawk Helicopter which they use for emergency medical evacuations of people that live in the Alaskan bush. They said it could be there in about an hour.

— Next issue: A helicopter to Fairbanks, a lear jet to Seattle and a young boy's life begins to change.

Stevie Brantley Receives Award

Patrice Brantley, daughter of Theresa Boromei, placed fourth in her age division at the state spelling bee held Feb. 10 in Orlando. She received special recognition and a certificate for her achievements.

As a result of her finish, Stevie has been invited to attend the pre-teen Florida Scholarship and Recognition Program. The program will be held in Tampa July 20 - 22. This invitation only program is limited to 50 select young ladies 7 - 12 years old with high academic ranking, school involvement, and leadership abilities. Its goal is to help build self-esteem and the competition involves talent, speech, and a personal interview with each girl.

Stevie, a first grader,

attends Grace Christian School in Okeechobee where she has consistently received high marks in all her studies. She lives on the Brighton Reservation with her mother, stepfather Danny Boromei, brothers Joshua and Jonathan, and sister Danyelle Jamie.

"Stevie is and always has been a bright, beautiful child. We are all very proud of her and her latest accomplishment. We'll be rooting for her at the Tampa event and know she will do her family and the Tribe proud," said Theresa.

Added grandmother Alice Sweat, "I'm very proud of Stevie and all my grandchildren. I know she'll do good in Tampa and think it (the competition) will be good for her and help her grow as a person."



Stevie Brantley

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Hungarian Homage To DNA

By Adriana Sephora
ST. PETERSBURG — Innocence and trust filled my spirit at the Seminole Tribe's Discover Native America Powwow. I met many creative people, from Powwow dancers to makers of the fry bread. To a free-spirited individual who grew up in Eastern Europe, this weekend on the Eckerd College campus and around this beautiful waterfront area was as refreshing as it gets.

This was my second time at the DNA Powwow in St. Petersburg, volunteering at Chief Jim Billie's booth where we sold his merchandise, the *Seminole Tribune*, some T-shirts and the CDs of other artists and performers. Word must have traveled far and hung in the air since last year because we had a lot more visitors at the Chief's booth than the year before.



Author sells CDs at Powwow.

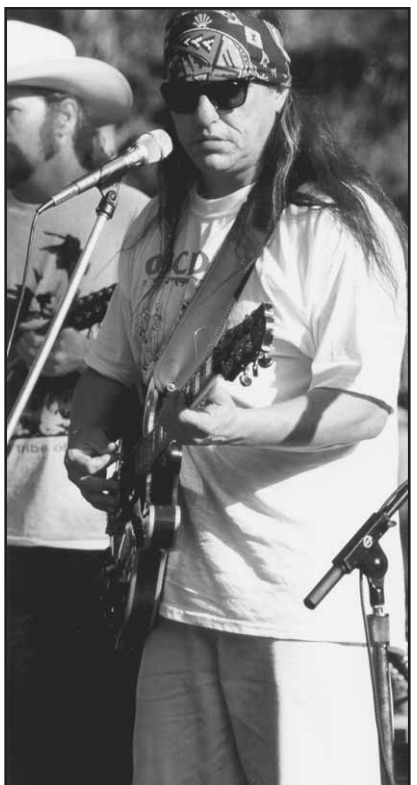
spend quality time with Keith Secola who is of Anishinabe heritage, from the Mesabi Iron Range country of Northern Minnesota. Today he lives in Tempe, Arizona with his family. He is a native musician, the creator of the contemporary Native anthem "NDN Cars", which is about the richness of being poor, or another crowd favorite "Fry Bread." (Learn more about Keith at www.secola.com) He is steadfast and generous in sharing his knowledge with everyone. He is an ambitious self-promoter whose business is humanity. He is building his legacy on the foundation of his cultural heritage, keeping up with the pace of ever-changing musical genres, and still, creating something of pure character. His art is already sweeping through the nation. People are opening up to his spiritual rock & roll. He approaches

es the material world with a sense of humor as a subtle way of making people think about, maybe even re-evaluate, the part they take in this world.

Keith has the aura of the Arizona desert; he brought it with him to St. Petersburg. After the Powwow we went for a walk on the beach of the Gulf of Mexico; New Orleans is to the northwest, Mexico is directly west from where we observed the ocean. Keith kept asking me for some tobacco that he could cast into the foaming water as an offering. I didn't have any on me. He bent forward, touched the water and then touched his lips. He was praying facing the ocean, absorbing the elemental energy.

It was time for me to head back south; my ride was already waiting for me. Keith and I walked back, ahead of us the wind currents formed dust snakes. I felt energized and purified in a special way. I was absorbed in gratitude.

— **Adriana Carcina**
Sephora is a freelance writer living in Hollywood.



Keith Secola rocks crowd.

Will McLean Festival Was A Gathering Of Moments

By Jan Glidewell
 "Please," begged festival director Margaret Longhill as Seminole Chief Jim Billie took the stage Sunday, "don't do the finger... anything but the finger."

But Billie, feigning innocence with the same animation with which he had faked-glowered at folk singer Valerie Caracapa a few minutes earlier as she sang a song poking fun at some of his better known exploits, smiled and waved his right hand, minus most of the ring finger he lost to an alligator last year.

But Billie, who arrived by helicopter just in time to contribute his thunderous bass voice to an hour of songs dedicated to his friend, the late Will McLean, already had joyfully taken the finger, preserved in a bottle, out of his pocket and shown it to eager bystanders.

It was a fitting end for more than 3,000 folk musicians and fans who gathered at the Sertoma Youth Ranch north of Dade City for the 12th annual Will McLean Music Festival.

For me, it was a festival of moments. The first came early on Friday evening, before the festival even began, when I happened on a screen room where singer-songwriter Joey Errigo had dropped in to harmonize with Dennis Devine and Rochelle Morris as they practiced gospel numbers from Devine and Morris' latest CD, *Devine & LaRoche*, for the next day's performance.

The music I heard there equaled the cost of admission, and the show hadn't even started yet. Some new combinations, some of them last-minute, brought proceedings to a dead stop while passers-by stopped to listen. Included was a flawless performance by Mary Ann DiNella teaming up on stage with her daughter, Jeannie, for the first time.

St. Augustine acoustic guitarist Clyde Walker passed up his usual solo act to bring friends Wayne Martin (fiddle), Dawn DeWitt (bass) and Ron and Bari Litschauer together as a pickup band that sounded like it had been performing together for years in an act highlighted by Walker bringing his wife, Lorelei, on stage to sing lyrics she had written.

One of the great functions of music festivals is that they bring together musicians who, because of the distances between their homes, don't normally combine to play together.

And so it went for two full days and most of two nights, as singers and instrumentalists moved from campsite to one of the four stages and back again.

Miami singer-songwriter Amy Carol Webb captured the attention of a normally restless and noisy dinner time crowd at 6 p.m. Saturday as

she moved them alternately to tears and guffaws of laughter with a style that *Billboard* magazine has compared to Carole King and Janis Ian. She received a standing ovation, one of very few handed out during the festival by discerning folk fans.

It's probably sexist or size-ist of me, and



BACK TO THE SWAMP: Chief Billie plays at Will Fest.

there is no disrespect intended, but I couldn't help noticing how mainstay Mindy Simmons and equally diminutive songsters Carrie Blackwell, Bonnie Bickerstaff, Shana Smith and Marie Nofsinger all but blew the speakers out and made it easy for people to find their campsites at night by simply listening.

And, as old folkies know, the campfires (in this case, camp lanterns due to the fire ban) are where some of the best music of the night takes place.

I wasn't sure who my campground neighbors were because I had arrived early, and I was saddened Saturday night when fatigue from a long day sent me headed for bed instead of for my traditional rounds of musical campsites.

After a shower I crawled into my van and my head had no sooner hit the pillow than I realized I was situated between sites occupied by singers James Hawkins, Simmons, and Steve Blackwell and one of my favorite groups, Myriad.

I went to sleep with my own private concert.

I guess I have to make a disclaimer here. I participate in the festival every year, acting as master of ceremonies for a few hours, and I don't usually write about events in which I participate. But I don't make any money (my paycheck for the festival goes to charity) and, for any given weekend, if I had to give up the writing or the music — you'd be reading something boring about my cats about now.

© St. Petersburg Times
 Published March 13, 2001

Seminole Foster Care Parents Needed

HOLLYWOOD — There is a certain pride, dignity and feeling of belonging among Native children who grow up in the tradition of their Tribal culture. The gift and right of tradition for Seminole children is important for their culture to survive. Some Seminole children in need of foster care are denied that gift.

Sometimes, due to child abuse or neglect, children need to be placed with families other than their own. One of the goals of the Family Services Program is to place Indian children with Indian families, so that they can remain among Tribal citizens in their own community or reservation.

Each reservation houses numerous Tribal members who are raising strong and healthy children, rich in cultural beliefs and traditional values. Some of these families have opened their doors and hearts to other children in need of

their strength and guidance, and given these children the chance to share in the traditions of the Tribe. It is a lot to ask, but remember how the elders have taught us to give back some of our knowledge and strength of caring, to stand firm in what we believe in, to help one another. The love for our people has been rekindled.

This can be the most meaningful and rewarding contribution you could ever make!

Please call now. Family Service Programs — Hollywood at 954-964-6338; Yvonne Courtney is the Tribal counselor. Big Cypress call 863-983-6920 and speak with Jane Billie. Brighton Reservation call Emma Johns at 863-763-7700. Immokalee ask for Billie Napper-Bodway at 941-657-6567. Tampa reservation call 813-628-0627 and speak with Tom Ryan, counselor.

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Wickman, Bowers Attend Battlefield Survey School

By E. Bowers
DAVISTON, AL — The Seminole Tribe of Florida was one of three Indian Tribes asked to participate in the Revolutionary War/War of 1812 Survey Field School, Feb. 26 — Mar. 2 at Horseshoe Bend National Military Park. The Survey Field School is a week-long training program in National Park Service survey methodology for participants in the Revolutionary War/War of 1812 American Battlefields Protection Program (ABPP), that includes State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPO), Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPO), and consultants.

Authorized in 1996, the study is modeled after the Civil War Sites Study Act of 1990. NPS assigned the study to the ABPP. The ABPP will be assisted by the Cultural Resources Geographic Information Services Facility (CRGIS), which will coordinate and oversee the field survey and data processing for the final report.

The goal of the study is to define the historical significance, conduct field surveys, analyze survey data, and develop preservation alternatives for the 853 identified sites. The sites mark events directly related to the Revolutionary War (Apr. 13, 1775 — Sept. 3, 1783) and the War of 1812 (June 18, 1812 — Feb. 17, 1815).

The Survey Field School participants, including Seminole Tribe representatives Dr. Patricia Wickman (Seminole THPO) and Elrod Bowers, Preservations Specialist, covered all aspects of the survey: "defining features" identification of battlefields and associated historic properties; Global Positioning System (GPS) mapping of the defining features; GIS on-screen digitizing of Study, Core, and Potential National Register boundaries; and submission of the survey data to the National Park Service.

The participants then applied the methodology to the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, the site of a bloody confrontation between General Andrew Jackson and the "Red Stick" (war faction) of the Maskókî Creeks on March 27, 1814. A peninsula on the Tallapoosa river, Horseshoe Bend was also known as *Chólocco Latabixé* (icho thlocco láta bi?i), or "Horse's Flat Foot."

In the months before the battle, approximately 1,000 Red Stick Creeks, including women and children, constructed a log and dirt barricade at the mouth of the peninsula measuring 5-8 feet high.



A cannon guards a monument in the pine woodlands atop today's Gun Hill.

The barricade curved in such a way that attackers would be exposed to cross-fire. After camping northwest of Horseshoe Bend, near Emuckfaw Creek, the night before, Jackson set his men and artillery outside the barricade around 10:30 a.m.

Unbeknownst to the Creeks, Jackson had earlier that morning detached General John Coffee's brigade of 700 mounted men, 500 Cherokees, and 100 "friendly" Creeks to surround the entire bend and cut off any route of escape for the Red Stick Creeks.

Jackson bombarded the barricade with musket fire and three-pounder and six-pounder iron shot for two hours, with little effect. Meanwhile, a small group of Cherokees crossed the Tallapoosa river and stole a few of the many canoes lining the banks as a possible

escape route planned by the "Red Sticks." With the canoes, the Cherokees, "White" Creeks, and militia soldiers ferried across the Tallapoosa, set fire to the village, and attacked the barricade from behind. Seeing this, Jackson stormed the



The white sticks represent the barricades that exposed attackers to cross-fire.

barricade and slaughtered hundreds of "Red Stick" Creeks. A count, made by cutting the tips of the noses off the bodies, revealed 557 "Red Stick" casualties, with another 300-400 estimated to have been shot or drowned in the river.

The Battle of Horseshoe Bend was seen as a major victory against the Creeks by Andrew Jackson. However, the battle was important for the Seminole Tribe as many of the Creeks committed to fighting against the U.S. government went down south to Florida, joining their Seminole kin.

The task of the survey participants was to identify the defining features of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. Using the GPS, participants marked troop movements, and probable locations of the artillery hill, barricade, Cherokee crossing, Coffee's mounted brigade, and debated the possible location of other features described in the historical documents.

The locations were then transferred to the digitizer and plotted on USGS quadrangle maps. The groups also designated the core area: where the actual fighting took place; the study area: the battlegrounds plus other locations directly related to the fighting; and "potNR", the potential National Register boundaries which take into account the amount of land that has been compromised by development and erosion.

The Tribes were originally invited to provide an unobstructed view of the war. However, as the training progressed, input from the Tribes in areas such as translation, battle preparation, stories of the battle passed through oral history, and customs, proved critical in piecing together the study report.

Tribal representatives, such as Dr.



General Jackson's map of Horseshoe Bend.

Wickman, who were designated "points of contact" in the beginning, were seen as critical to the field surveys and recommended to join the surveyors in the field.

Presently, there are only three sites identified in Florida. Dr. Wickman has recommended more and will include them in her field survey to the National Park Service to ensure their preservation when the funding is available.

The field surveys are to be completed by Sept. 30, 2001 to ensure that the final report will be ready for Congress in Dec. 2001. The NPS indicates that the results of this survey will be critical to the long-range preservation of the sites and to a more accurate interpretation of the roles played by the Indians in these formative National Conflicts.

NOTE: Horseshoe Bend National Military Park has scheduled a "living history" event, March 24-25 on the battlefield site. Recreated Creek and Cherokee hunting camps and military encampments of Tennessee militia and United States regulars will be on display, as well as demonstrations of traditional Southeastern skills such as hide tanning, flint knapping and food preparation; flintlock muskets and smoothbore cannon demonstrations are also scheduled. For information on the 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. event, contact Interpretative Park Ranger Ove Jensen at (256) 234-7111.

Okeechobee Battlefield Festival Draws Attention To Saving Site

By Yolanda Ponce De Leon
OKEECHOBEE — "We are here today commemorating the largest battle of the fiercest war ever fought between the U.S. Government and the Native American people, the Battle of Okeechobee," narrated Billy L. Cypress, Executive Director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

The Okeechobee Battlefield Festival, Feb. 24 - 25, included a reenactment of the battle, vendors who sold arts and crafts, a live band and a dinner party. But, the event was really a method of drawing attention to saving the actual site of the battle that pitted 400 Indians against 1,200 soldiers led by future President Zachary Taylor.

"We are recognizing the distinct honor we received from the National Trust," stated Shawn Henderson, Chairwoman of the Battle of Okeechobee Festival Committee, detailing how the actual battle site was one of 11 sites placed on the historically endangered list.

"Development is all around and there's only

efforts to continue to maintain the political dominance of the Florida Indians in this area. Of course from here Sam Jones headed southwest and ended up in Big Cypress where, if you want to look at it that way, that's where he is today.

"I helped organize the first reenactment of the Battle of Okeechobee in 1987 and participated in the second in 1988, the third in 1989 and now in 2001. I located Zachary Taylor's campsite in 1987.

"You know the land is like a holy place. Places like these battlefields still sing the song of what happened to it. You know they are really unforgiving lands and yet there are beautiful places. And for people to come here it dawned on them they are seeing and standing where these people stood so many years ago."

Cypress added: "The importance of this battle is it was the largest fight in the Seminole Wars." Zachary Taylor, future president of the United States was here. Not to mention Sam Jones was really here. This really happened.

Because of the guerilla tactics of the Seminoles, there was never really a great many who got together at one time, Cypress said. But Sam Jones and the Seminoles must have thought these were desperate times and they stood and fought here.

"It was an honor to narrate this reenactment of the Battle of Okeechobee and be part of history. We hope the battlefield site will be preserved. We need to get the citizens of this county and other people all over the state to support it. I'm glad for the National Trust recognition. Hopefully it will help people see the light, help them save most of what you see here.

"We, the Seminole Tribe, are participating in trying to save this place. I can't speak for the Council, but I have spoken before with Chairman James Billie and he really is in favor of saving this place."

Billie expressed that thought when he spoke at a dinner that was part of the two-day celebration. "This was the biggest battle in the three Seminole Wars," Billie said at the dinner. "Now, it is getting the attention it deserves. We hope a part of the battlefield is preserved for future generation to enjoy."

Once the land is preserved, the Friends of the Okeechobee Battlefield, which is the group at the forefront of this fight, has many plans as to what to do with the battlefield site.

"What we are really hoping to do is build some sort of park, perhaps a museum and educational tours and have a lot of different kids come and actually be re-educated regarding the battle," stated Henderson.

"We didn't really stop trying to preserve the battlefield site," said Bob Carr, Director of the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy. "We just needed to try to get more interest in preserving the site. Now, since it is one of the 11 most endangered historical sites in the United States, we have been able to generate the support we need. There's more of an urgency to preserve some part of the battlefield."

"We have a petition for people to sign to preserve the battlefield. You think of all the people, over 40 Seminoles and U.S. soldiers who died here. So in that way the land is really sanctified. We don't think the land is honored in the way it should be. This is the only national landmark in Florida not protected.

"At this time, the entire battlefield is privately owned. There is no public area period. In that

sense it's the only privately owned historic national landmark in Florida. This is one of the principal things we are trying to change."

For more information on how you can help

in saving the Okeechobee Battlefield Site, please contact Shawn Henderson at the Friends of the Okeechobee Battlefield at (863) 634-2126.



The Battle of Okeechobee as depicted by painter Guy LaBree.

about half of the original battle site left. Since the National Trust announcement we've had an awesome response from the Seminole Tribe. Many Tribal representatives — like Kevin Osceola, Billy Cypress, Brian Zepeda and others — have come to our meetings. They have a great interest and I really feel this time things will press forward to save the site."

The Seminoles who participated in the reenactment were Brian Zepeda, Pedro Zepeda and Billy L. Cypress as the narrator.

The Battle of Okeechobee was fought Dec. 25, 1837, during the Second Seminole War. It was one of the fiercest battles fought and the outcome had a great impact on the future of the Seminole Tribe.

"First of all you have to keep in mind the tribe we call the Seminoles is made up of the Creek, Miccosukee, and probably remnants of other bands that preceded them," said Bill Steele, Historian for the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy. "The Tribe represents many people in the Southeast who had resisted European incursion against Native lands."

"All these people made their way to the north shore of Lake Okeechobee on that December morning in 1837. When you look at the Battle of Okeechobee and you look at people like Coacoochee, Sam Jones, Halleck Tustenuggee, or Alligator, you're looking at some of the hardest core individuals who ever lived in the tribe. When Zachary Taylor attacked it was in fact a sort of a last stand of all of the Native American people east of the Mississippi River.

"After the battle was fought, it was such a shock to the culture that nearly half the nation surrendered. So this was the beginning of the end of the ability to resist. Stand-up battles would end with Pine Island. After that we had guerrilla wars that were

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Operated by Grand Residents

Fort Pierce Community Headed For Homes

By Colin Kenny
PORT ST. LUCIE — It would have been worth it just for the chicken Amaretto, the mushroom-shaped roasted red potatoes or the cheesecake with fresh strawberries. But the Fort Pierce Tribal citizens who showed up at the Spring Hill Suites just west of here didn't come for the free feast. They came looking for a home.

It was a friendly dinner and at the same time, a serious get-together between Tribal officials and the 26 Tribal citizens with their families applying for housing on the so-far undeveloped Fort Pierce Seminole Reservation. At one end of the meeting room, there were architectural drawings of eight different designs of hurricane proof single-family homes to pore over. There were plans for beautiful three, four and five-bedroom one-story homes as well as a plan for a lavish six-bedroom, two-story dwelling. There was also a landscape plan of the entire Fort Pierce site that showed future residential and commercial lots as well as protected wetland and "passive woods" locations — and a ball field.

The dinner and meeting was held for Tribal officials, including Chairman James E. Billie and President Mitchell Cypress, and the 26 families applying for subsidized housing on the 60.5-acre Reservation as well as a presentation of the Fort Pierce Community Development Project. The meeting was hosted by Fort Pierce Tribal Liaison Sally Tommie.

After dessert, Chairman Billie banged his glass, stood up and addressed the crowd on the Tribe's commitment to immediately start developing at least half of the Tribal Trust land so people can live on it in single- and multi-family homes. He added a small caveat directed particularly toward the younger, would-be future apartment dwellers: "We're gonna have to learn to live with each other and not beat each other up. No drugs . . ."

At one point Chairman Billie asked Tribal Housing Director Joel Frank how many single-family units the Tribe is having built on the Fort Pierce

reservation. "Only building 20 at this point based on availability of funds," responded Frank.

The Chairman then declared that more funds would be made available to accommodate the rest of the applicants who showed up that night.

"Everybody who is on the list is going to get a house then," Frank announced to the gathering. The Chairman concluded by looking to provide for the future as the population of the Fort Pierce Tribal community increases: "At all times, we want to be on the look out for contiguous purchase of land."

Government Operations Officers Tim Cox stood up and announced negotiations are under way between the Tribe and the Fort Pierce Utility Authority (FPUA) to bring a waterline to the Fort Pierce Reservation at a cost to the Tribe of no more than \$1.1 million dollars. This, Cox said, would be more cost-effective than building a \$6.5 million water and waste-water treatment facility. It would also free up 6½ acres required to build such a facility for more homesites, Cox said. Cox, along with Gloria Wilson of Tribal Housing Planning and Development, had proposed negotiating with FPUA at the March 8 Council meeting in Hollywood.

The housing applicants were directed to participate in a lottery to determine who gets priority consideration for the available 28 single-family lots. Both Frank and Wilson advised the applicants to settle on a design choice without making any major changes.

"Don't redesign, it'll hold us up," said Wilson.

She said there have already been enough delays for this project since the 60.5 acres that touch U.S. 70 in St Lucie County was signed into Trust six years ago. For Wilson, it has been a lot of wrangling with an alphabet soup of State and Federal Agencies like HUD, the DOT, the EPA, as well as city and county officials paranoid about urban sprawl before



Fort Pierce Community members posed for this photo on May 16, 1996 when new reservation was established.

finally being in a position to develop the raw real estate.

"We got into it pretty bad on the site," Wilson laughingly remembers of one nearly knock-down drag-out encounter with a HUD official a couple of years back over bringing water and waste-water treatment to the reservation.

It wasn't just coming from Washington DC. "The County was pretty adamant about not providing us water and waste-water [treatment]. The Council's resolution on March 8 allowed the Tribe to negotiate to pay to tap into FPUA plus a contingency plan for the Tribe to build its own facility has eliminated much of that red tape," she said.

Then there was the EPA, who Wilson says showed up at the site during the rainy season and deemed over half of the reservation "protected wetlands" as well as "passive woods" leaving only 27.3 acres left for development.

When the lot and design selection was completed, Joel Frank instructed the applicants on the timetable. "Request for proposals will be going out next week. Contractors will be putting their bids in. The Council will then set a date on which they will view the contracts and make a selection."

Congressman Visits Clinic

By Colin Kenny
HOLLYWOOD —

Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. (D-New Jersey), who is on the House Indian Reorganization Committee, visited the Seminole Health Clinic, March 16. The tour of the facility was arranged by Tribal Counsel Jim Shore. The Congressman was accompanied by Tribal Liaison Steven Bowers and Tribal attorney Ross Holzman.

Pallone's clinic tour included a meeting with Tribal Health Director Connie Whidden, Health Administrator Terry Sweat, Environmental Director Anthony Thomas and Managed Care Director Robert North. Pallone told Whidden and staff he was purchasing for the re-authorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHIA) — legislation originally enacted in 1976 with the existing bill scheduled to expire at the end of this fiscal year. Rep. Pallone said he was travelling around consulting with various Indian tribes to build a consensus on key policy issues concerning IHIA.

Whidden told the Congressman the average Medicaid recipient gets a little over \$3,000 versus the \$1,000 and change the average Seminole Tribal citizen receives in federally subsidized health care. Sweat went on to say that the Seminole Tribe pays more per Tribal citizen than the average Medicare fund.

The Congressman also learned



Health Director Whidden speaks with Rep. Pallone.

that in addition to the 2,700 Seminole Tribal citizens, the Tribe provides health care to 1,000 to 1,500 "urban Indians" — Indians living outside of the reservation who are not necessarily Seminole — for which the Tribe gets no federal reimbursement.

"But not for the gaming revenue, the Tribe could not subsidize health care," Whidden told the Congressman. She added that health facilities become popular during the powwow season, when Indians from all over the country take advantage of the Seminole services their own tribes lack.

Pallone and Whidden both agreed the U.S. government has an obligation to subsidize health care for Indian tribes whether they generate revenue from gaming or not. "A lot of politicians want to put us in the main-stream, but we don't want that," Whidden told Pallone.

Pallone also discussed the Seminole diabetes problems with Diabetes Program Manager Suzanne Davis.

Council

Continued from page 1

Eric Cypress, a private attorney engaged by the Tribe to review the contracts, explained that the developers wanted to include the "pre-finance phase" tag to the Tampa Hard Rock project also. However, the changeover of the Tampa Sheraton Four Points to the Hard Rock — with a casino and café upgrades — has not moved through that phase. The designation, Dorsky said, would have obligated the Tribe to higher penalties in case of a default.

General Counsel Jim Shore told the Council that the developer has also agreed not to spend more than \$25 million of the \$40 million on the construction until the major financing package — \$410 million for both projects — comes back before the Council.

"The big package will be back in 60 to 90 days at which (time) the Tribe will have a chance to review it, to take it or not take it," Shore said.

Government Operations Officer Tim Cox told the Council the loan would carry an interest rate of 7.8 percent — more than 2 percentage points below recent loans. "So this is considered good?"

Chairman James Billie asked.

"Yes," Cox said.

"Real good?" Billie asked.

"Yes," Cox said.

Dorsky said the interest rate is also capped by the developer at 11 percent, if market conditions should change and push rates higher before the loans close.

"The developer will reduce its fee dollar-for-dollar" for any interest rate change higher than 11 percent. Dorsky also said the interest terms of the agreement could change in the event the Tribe is successful in entering into a gaming compact with the State of Florida.

Currently, both the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Miccosukee Tribe of Florida Indians operate casinos under the authority granted by the Indian Gaming

Regulatory Act, without the permission of the state. Attorney General Bob Butterworth and three governors have previously refused to compact with either Tribe.

However, state officials recently agreed to meet with both Tribes in May to discuss issues related to a compact. (See related story.)

Questions about the proposed interest rates on the loans, along with obligations on existing loans and ongoing businesses of the Seminole Tribe, had created a month-long stalemate which the Council's recent action broke. In February, a majority of the Council, led by Big Cypress Representative David Cypress, balked at passing an ordinance that would have created a Seminole Gaming Authority without Shore's approval. Eventually, the lenders relaxed the gaming authority requirement. Meanwhile, Shore and Dorsky reviewed all the contracts, and made several changes.

To solidify the changes, the Council at Shore's suggestion also passed a resolution rescinding three previous resolutions on the Hard Rock project.

The new agreement requires the Tribe to pay the Hard Rock developers 17 percent of gross revenue from the Tampa and Hollywood operations. Current gross revenue from those two casinos is about \$218 million.

In its previous meeting March 8, the Council passed a resolution allowing for a limited waiver of sovereign immunity, so that its new business partners could sue the Tribe in other venues besides Broward County — in the event of a default or other conflict that can not be resolved out of court. The new waiver allows the Tribe to be sued in federal, as well as state court.

Dorsky called the waiver, and the \$40 million loan it facilitated, a "normal commercial transaction."

Rep. Cypress was not through. After the revised Hard Rock resolutions were passed, he called for an audit of the Tribe by a "forensic accountant independent of the Tribal Council." The resolution calls

for an audit of "all expenditures of Tribal funds" for the past two fiscal years.

Chairman Billie asked: "You can live by that, right?"

Cypress replied: "I can live by that," then added, "I'm getting tired of people out there bad-mouthing everybody, acting like little kids running all over the place. We can't be having that. Everybody's going to follow, or nobody's going to follow. . . We've got to find out and let the people know where we're at. So, we could all live by it."

Cox said the audit would allow an accountant to "get a little deeper" than the current auditing procedures do. "So it's a good idea," he added.

The resolution, which calls for the auditor to report to Shore, passed 5-0. In other action, the Council this month . . .

Approved a revocable permit for Lonnie Billie to build a cellular phone tower on a four-acre site in Big Cypress. Cox told the Council that he had been in negotiations with Nextel and AT&T for another cell tower site there.

Approved a letter in support of Trail Liaison William Osceola, Don Billie and Theodore Billie seeking indigenous homesites in the Big Cypress National Preserve. The federally-controlled Preserve adjoins the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation on the south side. A limited number of five-year renewable leases are available.

Approved an agreement with Ormond Consulting Services to advise on the acquisition of Unisource Insurance, an insurance company the Tribe is acquiring.

Approved the regular status of 50 employees who have passed their 90-day probationary period.

Discussed the idea of rotating Tribal Council meetings to other reservations besides Hollywood. The idea was approved in theory at a Council meeting in June 2000.

— Colin Kenny contributed to this report.

Press Spooks Osceola County Officials On Land Purchase

See Editorial, Page 2

By Libby Blake
KISSIMMEE — The Seminole Tribe of Florida's latest land purchase in Osceola County has officials here up in arms and vowing to fight.

Over nothing. In an *Orlando Sentinel* story dated March 14 county officials were described as "taken off guard by the purchase." Not so, say Tribal leaders, who insist officials and the newspaper have long known about Tribal real estate buys in the county named in 1887 for the famed Seminole warrior.

The story left open a charge that the Tribe may be secretly planning to operate gaming on the property.

The land in question is, in fact, the second phase of the Tribal Council-approved acquisition of the Partin Ranch located between Kissimmee and St. Cloud. On Feb. 15 of this year an additional 1,121.45 acres was added to the 61.76 acres purchased by the Tribe on Feb. 14, 2000.

According to Tribal Realty Director George Johnson, who has handled the transactions for the Tribe, talks between the Seminoles and the Partins have been going on for several years. This, along with the initial purchase of land over a year ago, paints doubt on the Osceola County officials' claim of being "taken off guard."

Osceola County Commission Chairman Ken Shipley has been the most vocal in his protests of the purchase. He is convinced the Tribe has purchased the land to open a casino and has been off-quoted by the local media on the subject.

"It's a fight we can win," Shipley told the *Orlando Sentinel*. (Shipley did not reply to requests for comments from the *Seminole Tribune*.) Also not very talk-

ative is the *Sentinel*, whose editors were briefed last year on the purchase by General Counsel Jim Shore.

Tribal representatives have met with the *Sentinel's* editorial board, including Project Editor Manning Pynn, and answered all of their questions regarding the Tribe's land purchase. They have spent time over the last 18 months with the reporters and editors in a good faith effort to explain the Tribe's purchase, a courtesy most private purchasers of real estate do not extend to any form of media.

When pressed about where she got the idea that the Tribe planned a casino, April Hunt (author of the March 14 story) replied that Gary Bitner, a marketing expert hired by the Tribe, made comments to her about the Tribe's casino plans. Bitner denied having any conversation with Ms. Hunt.

When pressed about Bitner on March 15, Ms. Hunt back-pedaled claiming she was referring to comments Bitner made in a previous *Sentinel* story. "I never said a word about gaming. I don't believe I ever talked with April Hunt," said Bitner, who said his comments were limited to Tribal plans for a potential theme park on the site.

Bitner's statement is echoed by Realty Director Johnson, who says the one word never discussed or mentioned during any negotiations with the Partins was "casino."

"(Seminole Tribal Chairman James E. Billie) told me from the very beginning that he didn't want to hear the word 'casino' ever brought up. It's even stated in the contracts, which are public record should anyone want to check, that the Tribe will not develop the land for any purpose the Partins, who are very upright Christian people, would find morally or ethically objectionable," said Johnson.

The *Orlando Sentinel*, Ms. Hunt and Commissioner Shipley obviously have not done their research and consulted public records before printing their assumptions on what the Tribe has planned for the land, said Johnson.

Johnson also added that most of the land has been leased back to the Partin family for 10 years with renewal options when the leases are up. So that even if the Tribe wanted to develop it, they could not do it before 2011. Moreover, the many steps required to put the land in trust so that a casino might even be possible are prohibitive.

"From the Seminole point of view, it's ludicrous to think that this would be a casino," said the *Seminole Tribune's* Pete Gallagher, quoted in Hunt's March 14 story. "If they did turn it into a tourist opportunity, like Native American bread, I wouldn't be surprised. I'd be real surprised if there is even consideration for gaming."

Sentinel Editor Pynn said the Seminole visit to the newspaper's office and the explanations given by Tribal Counsel Shore were never relayed to news reporters like Hunt: "The editorial board doesn't talk with the reporters," he said. Gallagher said he had talked to Hunt several times previous to the March 14 article: "Each time I tried to explain the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act to her. But I guess it never sunk in. I doubt she has done a minute of research on the topic."

According to Gallagher, every reporter in that area is "dying to connect the Tribe to gaming, yet none of them can give you any reason why. None of them have bothered to research the law. And they keep calling back with the same old questions."

"I guess some of the politicians

want to use this issue to get votes or something," said Chairman Billie. "All they are doing is spreading some sort of fear."

Tribal reservations (federal trust lands) are the only sites where gaming casinos are permitted. Obtaining federal trust status for Tribe purchased land involves a very lengthy process and is not often granted on land non-contiguous with other reservation land. The nearest Seminole reservation to the Partin Ranch is in Tampa.

Federal trust status also requires permission from the local and state governments — okays that are highly unlikely.

In an exclusive interview with this reporter, broker Father Roberts, who helped the Partin family in their negotiations with the Tribe, said not everyone in the community is disturbed by the purchase.

"There are many people here anxiously awaiting the arrival of the Seminoles to the area. There's a real, true Florida Cracker welcome mat out for you," said Father Roberts.

Roberts said the area has been overtaken with developers since Disney came in more than 30 years ago. It was because of these developers he got involved.

The current patriarch of the Partin family is a fifth-generation resident and longtime friend to Father Roberts. The Partin family originally settled in the area in the mid 1850s and developed a relationship with the Seminoles nearby.

Part of the Partin Ranch abuts with Lake Tohopekaliga, the first lake in the chain of lakes that lead to the Atlantic Ocean. The Seminoles used the waterways for travel and commuting between camps.

Father Roberts, a deeply spiritual

man, said he knew from the first time he met with Chairman Billie and shook his hand the co-joining of the Partins and the Seminoles was providential. Roberts said the name of the lake has always been publicized locally as meaning "sleeping tiger." So when Chairman Billie came to first see the land he asked him what the word meant.

"Chief Billie gazed out over the land and the lake, chuckled, and said it meant a gathering place where we will meet again," said Roberts. "I knew in that moment that this was how it was meant to be. This land belonged to the Seminoles before the so-called pioneers, like Mike's (Partin) ancestors, came here. Since the Partins had no choice but to sell in order to pay the estate taxes, which have been artificially inflated because of Disney, Universal Studios, Sea World and others, I wanted to see that the area was historically and culturally maintained. That's why I got involved and asked the family to approach the Tribe."

The Partin Ranch was the first commercial cattle operation in the state. The original Partin settler was the one who introduced the Brahmas to the Florida cattle, both his own herd and the herds of the Seminoles. The Brahmas and hybrids of the breed are still used today by the Tribe's cattle program. "This long connection between the Partins and the Seminoles will continue now and into the future," said Roberts.

Several ideas for development of the property have been discussed by Father Roberts, the Partin family and Tribal officials. No firm plans are as yet in place but one thing is firm — there is not now or has there ever been plans for a casino.

— Peter B. Gallagher also contributed to this story

SPORTS

Fair EIRA Rodeo: A 'Point-full' Event

By Tommy Benn
HOLLYWOOD — Bill Osceola Arena and the Eastern Rodeo Association (EIRA) combined for lots of action, recently, at the annual Tribal Fair Rodeo.

Native American cowboys and cowgirls showed their riding and roping abilities in pursuit of the elusive event championship, ready for that equally elusive perfect ride or run or, at least, one fast enough for a trip to the window. Shawn Best won the "All Around" title for the Hollywood Rodeo and the horse trailer sponsored by the Hollywood Board and Council with his top finish in the bareback ride and his second-place finish in the Saddle Bronc event.

For the record: Mutton Bustin: Brantley Osceola, 30 seconds, 10 points; Deven Jones, 9 points; Tylor Tigertail, 8 points. **Calf Riding:** Huston Osceola, 71, 10 points; Ethan Gopher, 9 points; Seth Randolph, 8 points. **Steer Riding:** Justin Aldridge, 5.28 seconds, 10 points; Roy Stewart, 3.56 second, 9 points; Dayne Johns, 2.2 seconds, 8 points.

Junior Bull Riding: Jerome Davis, 9 points. **Beginner's Barrel Riding:** Sheyana Shelby DeHass, 18.23 seconds, 8 points; Ravenne Osceola, 20.46 seconds, 7 points. **Novice Barrel Race:** Jade Braswell, 17.03 seconds, 10 points; Mckenzie Johns, 17.48 seconds, 9 points; Kari Kroepflin, 17.79 seconds, 8 points. **Breakaway**

Roping: Rudy Osceola, 5.0 seconds, 10 points; Billy Joe Johns, 5.3 seconds, 9 points.

Bareback Riding: Shawn Best, 72, 10 points. Koty Brugh, Alex Johns, Adam Turtle, Micheal Henry and Robert Youngblood split ground money.

Steer Wrestling: Dean Conrad, 6.0 seconds, 10 points; Marty Johns, 8.1 seconds, 9 points; Robbie Chalfant, 9.1 seconds, 8 points; Rodney Osceola, 9.6 seconds, 7 points.



TAKE A BOW: Keith Isley and his trick horse.

Saddle Bronc Riding: Robert Simpson, 74, 10 points; Shawn Best, 71, 9 points. **Calf Roping:** Corbin Warren, 14.8 seconds, 10 points; Josh Jumper, 16.9 seconds, 9 points; Marty Johns, 23.0 seconds, 8 points; Billy Joe Johns, 23.5 seconds, 7 points. **Breakaway Roping:** Mindy Fish, 12.4 seconds, 10 points; Jo Leigh Johns, 14.7 seconds, 9 points. Ground money was split by Billie Tiger, Trina Bowers, Theresa Bowers, Tina Billie Clarissa Bowers and Shelby Osceola.

Team Roping: Marvin Bowers & Amos Tiger, 7.6 seconds, 10 points; Rudy Osceola & Cicero Osceola, 13.0 seconds, 9 points; Corbin Warren & Brandon Wright, 16.9 seconds, 8 points; Justin Gopher & Sampson Gopher, 17.5 seconds, 7 points; Reno Osceola & Rodney Osceola, 20.2 seconds, 6 points.

Barrel Racing: Tess Ducheneaux, 10 points; Holly Johns, 9 points; Ayze Henry, 8 points.



Misty Weekley carries American flag.

Big Cypress All-Indian Rodeo Results

By Tommy Benn
BIG CYPRESS — The Junior Cypress Arena at the Big Cypress Entertainment Complex recently hosted an All-Indian Rodeo. Seminole Tribal citizen Marty Johns' Marki Rodeo Productions supplied rough stock, bareback and saddle bronc horses, bulls, steer and roping calves. It was a big night for the Brighton resident, but he was ready to meet the challenge.

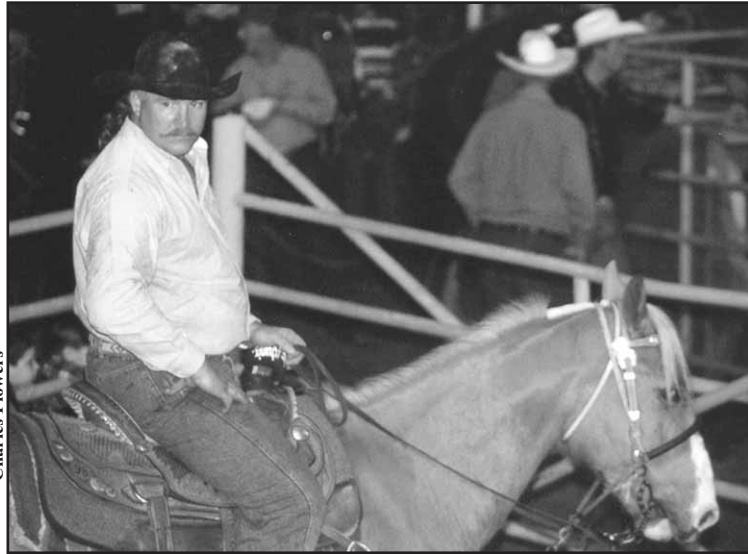
Riding and placing in all three rough stock events earned Shawn Best a total of 28 points for the evening making him the show's "All Around Cowboy."

For the record: Mutton Bustin: Nauthkee Henry, 20.35 seconds, 10 points; Tylor Tigertail, 13.21 seconds, 9 points; Brantley Osceola, 2.06 seconds, 8 points. **Calf Riding:** Ethan Gopher, 41, 10 points; Seth Randolph, 3.61, 9 points; Huston Osceola, 3.39, 8 points.

Steer Riding: Roy Stewart, 10 points; Justin Aldridge, 9 points; Randall Osceola, 8 points. **Junior Bull Riding:** Nick Jumper, 48, 10 points; Jerome Davis, 9 points. **Beginners Barrel Race:** Nauthkee Henry, 19.55 seconds, 10 points; Sheyanna Osceola, 20.22 seconds, 9 points; Shelby DeHass, 20.34 seconds, 8 points.

Novice Barrel Racing: Jade Braswell, 19.04 seconds, 10 points; Kari Kroepflin, 19.31 seconds, 9 points; Mackenzie Johns, 20.13 seconds, 8 points. **Breakaway Roping - 50 And Over:** Paul Bowers Sr., 10 points; Rudy Osceola, 9 points.

Bareback Riding: Alex Johns, 67, 10 points; Robert Simpson, 63, 9 points. **Steer Wrestling:** Marty Johns, 6.31 seconds, 10 points; Dean Conrad,

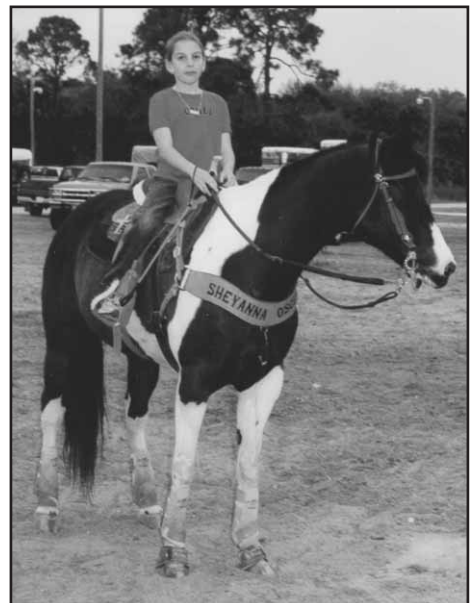


MARTY JOHNS: rider, roper, and rodeo producer.

15.09 seconds, 9 points; Jeff Johns, 24.23, 8 points. **Calf Roping:** Neff qualified. Marty Johns, Homer Coleman and Alfonso Tigertail split the ground money.

Breakaway Roping: Jo Leigh "Boogie" Johns, 10 points. Trina Bowers, Mindy Fish, Theresa Bowers, Billie Tiger, Tina Billie, Shelby Osceola, Carissa Bowers and Tracy Coleman split ground money.

Barrel Racing: Tess Ducheneaux, 18.18 seconds, 10 points; Jo Leigh Johns, 18.76 seconds, 9 points; Trina Bowers, 19.36 seconds, 8 points; Holly "Scooter" Johns, 19.37 seconds, 7 points. **Bull Riding:** Doug Fish, 77, 10 points; Shawn Best, 75, 9 points; Koty Brugh, 69, 8 points.



Sheyanna Osceola waits to run barrels.

Edmonson Tops Field At Brighton Rodeo

By Tommy Benn
BRIGHTON — All Around Edmonson while Naha Jumper finished second at the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) event held at the Fred Smith Arena during the Brighton Field Days celebration.

Edmonson took two first places, earning 10 points each. In the steer wrestling competition, Edmonson jumped his steer in 4.4 seconds. He also took top honors in calf roping, with a time of 12.8 seconds.

Naha Jumper took a pair of third place finishes to place second overall. The Big Cypress cowboy wrestled his steer in 7.2 seconds for third in that event, and had a run of 18.3 seconds for third in calf roping, earning 8 points each.

The rodeo was the first time Marty Johns brought his new Marki Rodeo Productions to the hometown crowd. Johns, the Brighton Board Representative, did his part and his stock

did its giving the rough stock riders all they wanted to handle and more.

The following are the results:

Mutton Bustin: Nauthkee Henry, 30 seconds; Trewson Pierce, 8:3 seconds; Lauren Osceola, 5:99 seconds. **Calf Riding:** Ethan Gopher, 57, 10 points; D. Jamie Gonzalez, 42, 9 points; Nathan Gopher, 8 points.

Steer Riding: Roy Stewart, 68, 10 points; Justin Aldridge, 64, 9 points. **Junior Bull:** Steven Billie, 70, 10 points. **Jasper Thomas,** 9 points. **Beginning Barrel:** Sheyanna Osceola, 15:46 seconds, 10 points; Nauthkee Henry, 15:82 seconds, 9 points; Taylor Johns, 16:39 seconds, 8 points.

Breakaway Roping — 50 and over: Billy Joe Johns, 5:9 seconds, 10 points; Paul Bowers Sr., 6:2 seconds, 9 points. **Novice Barrels:** Jade Braswell, 14:88 seconds, 10 points; Mckenzie Johns, 15:82 seconds, 9 points; Brooke Templeman, 16:94 seconds, 8 points.

Bareback Riding: Alex Johns, 69, 10 points. **Shawn Best,** 68, 9 points. **Steer Wrestling:** Howard Edmonson, 4.4, 10 points; Robbie Chalfant, 5.3, 9 points. **Naha Jumper,** 7.2, 8 points.

Saddle Bronc: Devon Richter, 68, 10 points; Jay Lewis, 65, 9 points; Robert Youngblood, 8 points. **Calf Roping:** Howard Edmonson, 12.8 seconds, 10 points; Corbin Warren, 17.0 seconds, 9 points; Naha Jumper, 18.3 seconds, 8 points.



Billie Joe Johns won 50-plus breakaway roping.

Breakaway Roping: Billie Tiger, 8.2 seconds, 10 points; Mindy Fish, Trina Bowers, Shelby Osceola, Carissa Bowers, Jo Leigh Johns and Thresa Bowers split ground money. **Team Roping:** Robert Simpson & Corbin Warren, 8.7 seconds, 10 points; Marvin Bowers & Amos Tiger, 10.7 seconds, 9 points; Cicero Osceola & Rudy Osceola, 12.1 seconds, 8 points; Justin Gopher & Sampson Gopher, 14.2 seconds, 7 points; Michael Henry & Robert Youngblood, 15.1 seconds, 6 points.

Barrel Racing: Tess Ducheneaux, 14.81 seconds, 10 points; Brenda Youngblood, 15.58 seconds, 9 points; Ayze Henry, 15.59 seconds, 8 points; Holly Johns, 15.62 seconds, 7 points.

Bull Riding: Koty Brugh, 85, 10 points; Doug Fish, 77, 9 points; Shawn Best, 75, 8 points.

Mercer wins Hog Hunt

BIG CYPRESS — A Board Hog Hunt was held on the Big Cypress Reservation starting on Feb.20. Board Representative Mondo Tiger coordinated the hunt. Prize monies were donated by Board President Mitchell Cypress and Council Representative David Cypress.

Monies went to the top three participants bagging the biggest hogs and also to the hunter whose hog had the longest tusks.

Winners were as follows: Heaviest Hog: 1st place — Donelda

Mercer with a 300 pound hog, 2nd place — Lonnie Billie 210 pound hog, and 3rd place — Naha Jumper 175 pound hog. Longest Tusk Winner was Naha Jumper. The tusks on his hog were 3 inches long.

Others participates in the hunt included Jason Grasshopper, Nathan Billie, Kenny Davis and Justin Davis.

"I would like to thank everyone who participated in the hunt. I would also like to thank Mitchell and David Cypress for their donations," said Mondo Tiger.



L-R: Cherilee Hanq and Tiffany Doctor show their awards.

Sports Banquet Held At Admiral Farragut Academy

By Janice Billie
ST. PETERSBURG — Two Seminole students attending Admiral Farragut Academy in St. Petersburg were among the students honored with letters in basketball at the school's Winter Sports Season Athletic Banquet.

Cherilee Hall of Big Cypress and Tiffany Doctor of Hollywood stood with their teammates on the Varsity Girls Basketball team as Coach Bill Ford lauded his team for their efforts and achievements and awarded them their letters.

"It was educational to coach a female team, they learned about basketball and I learned about women," said Coach Ford. The team achieved an 8-8

record for the year, which turned out to be the best record in the Academy's history. The team also honored their coach by giving him a miniature basketball paper-weight signed by the team. As she presented the gift Cherilee quipped to Ford, "now if any of us ever gets famous, you can show this and prove that you knew us when."

It is the third and final year for Cherilee at AFA and she is looking forward to graduating in May. She is planning to spend the summer at home and start fall classes at Intermont College in Virginia. Tiffany is a junior and this is her second year at the academy. Her plans are to return next year and graduate.

Swift Bird: Archambault Ends Fabulous, Controversial Career

By John Harjo and Brent Cahwee
BRANSON, MO. — College of Notre Dame's Jim Glosson sank two free throws with three seconds left on the clock to put his squad up by one point, 88-87, against the Huron (SD) Screaming Eagles in the opening round of the NAIA Division II National Basketball Championships, last week.

Suddenly, all eyes were on the man they call Swift Bird: Russell Archambault (Lakota Sioux) — the only Native American on the Huron team. The controversial Archambault, a senior playing his last game in a tumultuous collegiate career, took the inbounds pass . . . and missed his final shot. Huron finished the season 18-13.

Archambault led all scorers with 44 points.

The missed final shot is nothing to diminish one of the greatest careers of any American Indian athlete in history, rivaling the great Jim Thorpe in accomplishment. This season Archambault was "Player of the Week" for Jan. 7-13, first team All Dakota Athletic Conference 10 (DAC10) MVP, a first team All American and the NAIA Division II Player of the Year. (He was a second team All-American last season and he was a two-time All-State player, once in Minnesota and once in North Dakota, along with honors as a 1995 Parade high school All-American.)

Archambault's highest scoring game this past season was a 51-point house cleaning against Black Hills State on January 13th. His second highest scoring outing for the season was a 46-point onslaught versus Jamestown State. Suffering from mononucleosis, Archambault sat out the first seven games of the season and Huron started the season off 0-7. After his return they went 18-6.

Basketball fans might remember Archambault on the Minnesota

Golden Gophers team that made the 1997 Final Four. Unfortunately, the next season he was kicked off the team for violating team policy — leaving the hotel — after playing in 19 games. But the disciplinary measure remains steeped in controversy. The teammate who accompanied Archambault on the walk to get something to eat was only suspended briefly.

A few months later, Archambault played a key role in the Minnesota basketball homework scandal, which resulted in the release of the head coach and many athletic department administrators. A basketball tutor admitted to doing homework for members of the Minnesota basketball team. Archambault spoke out, as did other players.

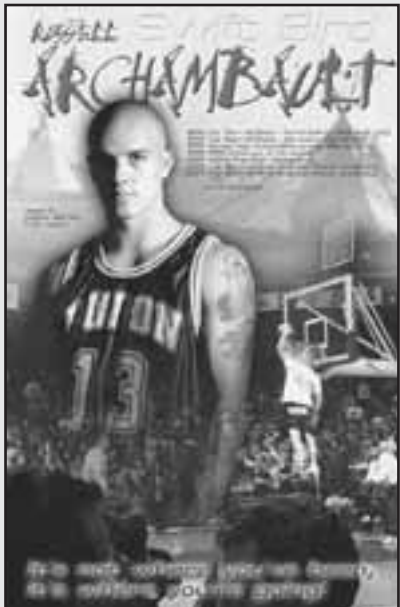
Archambault spent a year of recreational basketball while attending Oglala Lakota College in Kyle, SD, eventually transferring to Huron.

Archambault grew up around alcohol, abuse, and poverty on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in Fort Yates, ND. "I just wanted to get away . . . Basketball is an obsession, an outlet that I used to go to college . . . I used it for education and now I am where I want to be (a college senior)," Archambault said.

Scouts from the Phoenix Suns, Indiana Pacers, Chicago Bulls, and the Miami Heat have all been to watch his recreational basketball while attending Oglala Lakota College in Kyle, SD, eventually transferring to Huron.

Archambault also puts on "The Rocker," an all-night tournament to help kids who want to play basketball, learn to stay out of trouble, and meet some college players and good role models. He is a role model who conquered adversity, remained in school, and now looks toward a promising future.

— John Harjo (Creek/Seminole) and Brent Cahwee (Euclidean) are co-founders of www.ndnsports.com.



Poster celebrates-athlete's record.

4-H Sale

By Tommy Benn
BRIGHTON — It's in, all done, hammer down, sold at the 15th annual Seminole 4-H Livestock Sale. The 15th annual 4-H Show and Sale was a huge success for the Seminole Tribe of Florida's 4-H program and all those involved. Parents, children, grandparents, aunts and uncles — it seems everyone gets involved this time of year. It takes a lot of volunteers and extra help to make the show and sale work. Polly Osceola Hayes, 4-H Director, is sincerely grateful to those who lent a helping hand. She sends a special warm "Thank You" to all those who got involved. The weigh-in is always the hardest part of the pre-show. This year's eleven steers were turned back because they didn't make the weight. Two other steers were deemed unmanageable, and they were not allowed in the showing either. Several swine found themselves in the same category of not making weight and they too were disallowed from the judging. Swine had to weigh over 900 pounds to enter the show ring. The same ownership rule applied from last year's agenda — the steers had to come from a Seminole-owned herd either from an individual Seminole cattle operator or from one of the Tribe's Board cattle operations. Eighteen steers made it to the show ring. Swine had to weigh over 180 pounds to be accepted for the 4-H show ring in order to be judged. A total of 87 swine made weight. Four swine didn't make weight and were not shown. The annual sale dinner was served before the sale to get all the buyers in the right frame of mind. This year, as in past years, the task was left in the capable hands of Brighton citizen Debbie Johns. "To all those who helped with cooking, serving, or with the table and area decorations, thanks," said Johns. J.R. Huff, known as the "Master of the grill," grilled both pork and beef ribeye and ribs for the crowd. Kevin Osceola led the gathering with an invocation. Auctioneer Brian Trimble read the rules and conditions of the sale. The ring men, Don Robertson, Norman Johns and Larry Davis, took their assigned spot in the ring to spot the bidders. Benny Hernandez, Janice Garicas, Kenny Tommie and Raymond Mora kept the swine ready while Andrew and Kaye Bowers kept the swine in sale order. Leoma Simmons and Lizina Bowers handled the secretary chores. Teresa Bowers and Sherry Gore helped where needed.

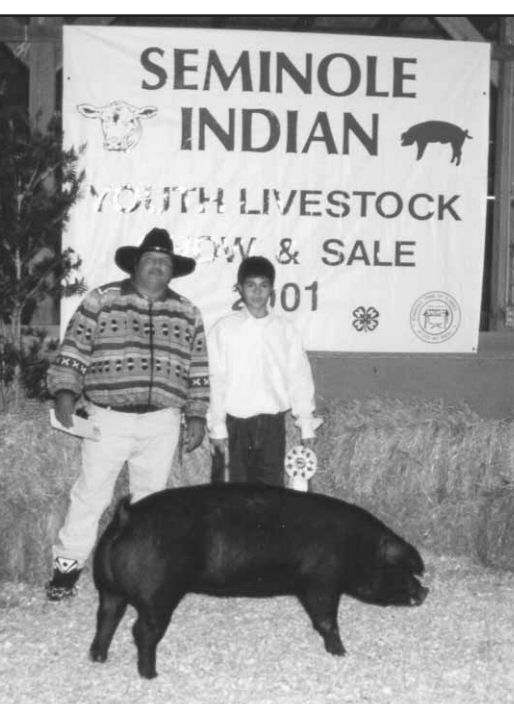


Pee-Wee Stockmen Cody, Joshua, and Quintin Tiger show off their steer.

A Peewee calf class, a first this year, had four entries giving the younger children an opportunity to learn how the shows work. This year's Grand Champion steer was owned and shown by Mary Huff. Huff's steer weighed 1,205 pounds and came from her Uncle Scott "Cotton" Baxley's Brighton herd. The steer weighed 740 pounds at the original weigh-in and gained 465 pounds in 226 days of feeding and conditioning leading up to sale time. The Reserve Champion Steer came from Brighton cattle herd owner Patty Waldron. It was purchased and shown by Holly "Scooter" Johns. Michael Daughtry judged the steers.

Most weight gain honors went to herdsman Clint Hutchinson whose steer gained 611 pounds — an average of 2.7 pounds per day. Swine number 398, owned and shown by Joshua Young, was judged Grand Champion Swine. It topped the scale at 305 pounds. Reserve Champion swine honors went to number 396 weighing in at 273 pounds and belonging to Roy Stewart. The 87 swine that made weight were judged by Audrey Beany. "I would like to thank the parents and community members for their involvement in making the show and sale another success," said Hayes. "Tribal Chairman James E. Billie, Councilman Jack Smith Jr. of Brighton, Davis Cypriss of Big Cypress, Max Osceola of Hollywood, and Elaine Aguilar of Immokalee; the Seminole Tribe of Florida Board President Mitchell Cypriss, the Board Representatives Alex Johns — Brighton, Mondo Tiger — Big Cypress, Carl Baxley — Hollywood and Delores Jumper — Immokalee, the parents for all their time and efforts the volunteer throughout the year."

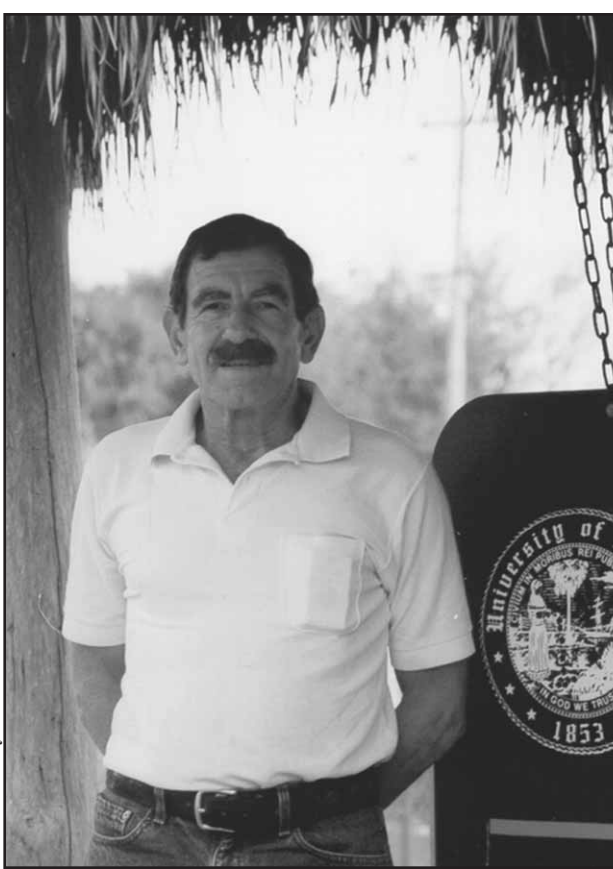
"The 4-H club members worked hard on their projects, this can be seen by the animals they bring in to the show ring. The 4-H projects are for many their first adventure to see these programs. The working youth of the Seminole Tribe of Florida will be our Tribal leaders of tomorrow. 4-H projects and programs are a great life experience for our children. It helps to lead them in the right direction, to make the right choices, and stay on the right paths, and to think for themselves. Again I thank you, one and all."



Grand Champion (front), owner Joshua Young.

Bo Knows Agriculture

By Tommy Benn
BRIGHTON — The Seminole Tribe of Florida's New Extension Agent Burl "Bo" Olswanger Jr. has relocated from Hernando, Miss. to Seminole Country replacing longtime agent Sabrina Tuttle who resigned to continue her education at College Station's Texas A&M University. Olswanger received his Bachelor of Science (Animal and Plant Science) in 1969 from Mississippi State University at Starkville. He received his Master's Degree (Science Education, Curriculum and Instruction) from the University of Memphis in 1985. To further his education Olswanger graduated from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. in 1994 and retired from military service at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Born in Memphis, Dec. 28, 1947, Olswanger answers to the handle of "Bo" A man of small frame and warm smiling face, he seems ready to meet the challenges of his new lot in life — officially titled the University of Florida Agricultural and National Resources Extension Agent for the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Olswanger will be working closely with Don Robertson (Seminole Tribal Natural Resource Director) and with Polly Osceola Hayes (Director of the Seminole Youth 4-H programs). Though he has never been employed as an extension agent before, Olswanger's work and education experience seems to have covered all the major areas for this job. Working with state, federal and local governments and learning their various rules and ways of work. Olswanger has a good grip on reality, having served as teacher, U.S. Marine and Army Officer, postal worker and — most importantly — 30 years service as a gentleman farmer. As a schoolteacher, he was the FFA (Future Farmers of America) advisor working with student projects and fundraisers, teaching horticulture and science at both the middle school and high school level. Bo joined the Marines in 1969, completing Officers Candidate School, and was commissioned a 2nd Lt. During his three years of active duty, he served 14 months in Vietnam discharged in 1971.



Tribe's new extension agent Bo Olswanger.

Returning to the family farm in Mississippi, Bo farmed various money crops: soybeans, winter wheat, milo, corn and peaches. He also became a certified tree farmer and did some aquatic farming (alligator and catfish). He followed and administrated a three-fold farm management plan one each for wildlife habitat, erosion control and timber farming. Teaching public school for six years he stayed active in many after school programs, including FFA advisor. Now relocated in Florida, Olswanger has hopes to purchase some agricultural property to continue his farming efforts. His home in Hernando, like much of South Florida, is growing and rapidly losing its agricultural roots and he is ready to make the move to a more rural area like Glades County. Olswanger is computer-literate and understands the importance of making deadlines. His working abilities either by himself, or with individuals or groups, should prove extremely helpful in his newly acquired position. Welcome Mr. Olswanger to the land of the Seminole, where the snake and reptile crawl and distance to anywhere is a way of life. The land that time and Mother Nature forgot, and where the Devil is afraid to venture: the Florida 'glades, home of the Florida Seminole!

Billie said, adding that it would not be cost-effective to lease a single airplane that could be anywhere in the world at a given time. "We're not going to lose money," Billie said. "We could save money by buying that airplane." He reminded the audience that another jet, the Falcon, was previously sold and the proceeds used to pay off a Tribal emergency. Cox said the Tribe stood to make a profit of \$8-\$9 million on the sale of the G-IV. "The G-V is a real nice airplane. It represents you very well in the world," Billie said. Cox and the Chairman argued that the G-V was cheaper to operate than the G-IV. Because of greater fuel economy, it could save at least \$100 per hour in operating costs. Last year, Cox said the G-IV logged 840 hours. The same flight schedule would have saved at least \$84,000, while carrying four more passengers per flight. Cox also said there was a seller's market for the plane, and that he could find a buyer within 60 days. But their arguments fell on deaf ears. "How about if we go flying into another country, like Nicaragua?" Vice-Chairman Cypriss asked at one point, an apparent reference to the Tribe's activities in that former Central American trouble spot. "It really depends on the purpose, rather than the destination," Hyatt said. Earlier, Cox had listed 11 flight activities which "must constitute 90 percent of the use of the aircraft." He said the G-IV flight logs for the last year showed the Tribe was "in compliance" with those uses.

Entertainment was provided by country and bluegrass bands Tater Hill, Borderline, Lane Price, Dillon Thomas, Cindy Hackney, Mitzi, and Nub & Company. Roberts Ranch is home to the oldest citrus groves in Collier County and the Red Cattle Company. Robert Roberts, along with wife Sarah and seven of their nine children (two were later born in Immokalee) and 300 head of scrub cattle, moved from Ona, Fla. to the area in 1914. The two-story home that is part of the museum site was built in 1926. The Roberts family helped organize and build the town's first church, First Baptist Church of Immokalee, in 1928. The original building was moved to its site next to the family home in 1990 to be included in the historic preservation project. Included among the various outbuildings on the site is a chickee. Local Seminole citizens built the recently added structure. It and the original are the only structures not original to the site. According to the Roberts family, they have always had a "neighborly relationship" with the Seminoles. Oldest son Dius Roberts had a store in Immokalee, Roberts Store, where the Seminoles would bring 'gator hides to trade.

ing the removal of 240 logs from the exposed lakebed by the Santa Rosa Beach logger L.C. Pinson, whose activities were stopped by Gov. Bush. Pinson later applied to log nearby Lochloosa Lake as well as return to Newnan's to retrieve 100 or so logs he had left when ordered to stop. A former treasure hunter, Pinson also offered his services with "ground penetrating radar" to aid the state in locating canoes. When DEP officials began processing Pinson's applications, Brumberg stepped into the fray. "Newnan's Lake will be the last lake on earth anyone will de-muck," Brumberg swears. The Sierra Club was ready to take legal action for an injunction against logging in Florida lakes. "There are no adequate environmental regulations regarding logging in lakes," says Tiana Burton, Sierra's Florida Issue Chair. "And there is really no law enforcement for this activity." According to this action, the Florida Attorney General issued a "flawed" 1999 opinion reinstating deadhead logging — banned in Florida for more than two decades. Attorney General Bob Butterworth based his opinion on the right of property owners to recover logs lost during waterfront lumber operations many years ago. The submerged logs are considered fine hardwood and have grown in value over the years. "That opinion concerned branded logs, only. Property where you could trace ownership," says Burton, who says Sierra may still file suit. "But not one of the logs removed from Newnan's Lake had a brand. I don't think they've found very many branded logs anywhere. This whole program needs to be sun-setted." DEP official Gordon Roberts, a supervisor of the deadhead program, was asked by the Tribune to produce a list of branded logs found since the program was reinstated last April 1. He declined.

Cattle Drive Kicks Off Roberts Ranch Festival

By Libby Blake
IMMOKALEE — The 2nd Annual Roberts Ranch Round-up and Festival got started with a cattle drive, March 10. Over 30 cowboys and cowgirls drove two-dozen head of cattle from the Immokalee Seminole Youth Ranch to the Roberts' ranch. Hundreds of spectators lined SR 29 north through town as the procession, led by a horse-drawn covered wagon, meandered its way to the ranch to kick off the two-day celebration. The cattle were corralled at the original Roberts home site, the future site of the 15.2-acre Roberts Ranch Pioneer Museum. Tribal citizens participate in the cattle drive and festival because of their long association with the Roberts family. The Roberts family gave the Tribe the original 4.7 acres of land for the Immokalee Reservation and has had various dealings with the Tribe through the years. Collier County government added the Roberts Ranch to its system of history museums located in Naples and Everglades City. The festival was started last year as a fundraiser for the restoration of the original structures and to educate the public about the pioneering white man's way of life in Southwest Florida. The festival included walking tours of the home and surrounding structures, reenactments and story-tellers from Company B. of the 3rd Florida Infantry, storyteller Anna Jai Kingsley — a free African American woman from the period, and Seminole women under the chickee showing off their basketry and patchwork. Newly-elected Collier County



Tribal cowgirls prepare to move the herd north.

Commissioner Jim Colette welcomed everyone to the event and Immokalee. "Immokalee represents small town America and family values as we know it," said Colette. Entertainment was provided by country and bluegrass bands Tater Hill, Borderline, Lane Price, Dillon Thomas, Cindy Hackney, Mitzi, and Nub & Company. Roberts Ranch is home to the oldest citrus groves in Collier County and the Red Cattle Company. Robert Roberts, along with wife Sarah and seven of their nine children (two were later born in Immokalee) and 300 head of scrub cattle, moved from Ona, Fla. to the area in 1914. The two-story home that is part of the museum site was built in 1926. The Roberts family helped organize and build the town's first church, First Baptist Church of Immokalee, in 1928. The original building was moved to its site next to the family home in 1990 to be included in the historic preservation project. Included among the various outbuildings on the site is a chickee. Local Seminole citizens built the recently added structure. It and the original are the only structures not original to the site. According to the Roberts family, they have always had a "neighborly relationship" with the Seminoles. Oldest son Dius Roberts had a store in Immokalee, Roberts Store, where the Seminoles would bring 'gator hides to trade.



Seminole women show visitor their craftwork.



Head 'em up..... mooooooo.....ve 'em out!

Jet

Continued from page 1

affect the fate of the Tribe's Gulfstream IV jet, which had been promised for delivery to another buyer once the Tribe had taken delivery of the Gulfstream V (G-V) — a slightly larger, 17-seat model. Now that the Gulfstream V deal is apparently off, the Tribe could be jetless. "We're going to keep it," Billie said. "But to lose the \$3.5 million — what kind of wise business decision is that?"

Reasons for the decision were not immediately apparent. But the structure of the special meeting gave clues. Attorney Eric Dorsky and Government Officer Tim Cox were each asked to explain the financing and other particulars. A third expert in corporate jet financing, Townsend Hyatt, came all the way from Portland, OR, to discuss the options. Cox warned the Council that it would be more advantageous for the Tribe to take delivery of the G-V and then sell it. But Hyatt said that would trigger pre-payment penalties of about \$1 million, plus fees, if the Tribe financed the purchase with tax-free bonds. "It would not be favorably received," Hyatt said, adding that it would create "an awkward situation" for bond-holders, or other lenders. Allison Osceola, who works in Cox's office, asked if it would be an option to lease the G-V rather than sell it. Max Osceola said yes, it would. "The trouble is, it's a nuisance," Chairman

Lake

Continued from page 1

and Cabinet, sitting as the Board of Trustees, to reconsider the ban. Bush's staff, however, says no. Bush's decision was relayed by Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) ombudsman Benji Brumberg, who said flatly "Deadhead logging on lakes is over. I doubt it will be brought back before the Board of Trustees as long as he is governor." "Right now, it is the best way to go," said Bush's Cabinet Affairs aide Jose Boscan. "There are too many issues we need to resolve here first." Brumberg also announced that a permit to "de-muck" Newnan's Lake had been withdrawn by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) after a high level meeting of DEP and FWC lawyers in Tallahassee recently. Objections raised in *Tribune* stories by Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Dr. Patricia Wickman set the stage for a fight neither the DEP, nor the FWC wanted to join, said Brumberg. FWC officials sought to take advantage of low water levels to "re-energize" the lake by scraping muck from the lakebed. "They all seem to think it will help fishing, wildlife, water quality and all that," says Brumberg. "That may well be true. But the threat to any unfound canoes and other artifacts would make it difficult." Brumberg expressed irritation that the matter was even raised, given the controversy over more than 100 ancient canoes found last spring during a DEP-permitted deadhead logging operation. Radio-carbon tests have dated most of the canoes as 3,000 to 5,000 years old. Eight canoes were damaged dur-

Seminole Casino News

BRIGHTON SEMINOLE BINGO AND GAMING — Highway 721, Brighton Indian Reservation, Route 6, Box 611, Okeechobee, FL. 34974. (800) 360-9875.

The casino is offering Eggstraordinary Easter Jackpots for the first 15 days of April. Special Easter paper will be on sale from the floor clerk for \$2 per sheet in the bingo room. During the night games bingo with an "E" pattern (left, top, bottom, and middle row) through the Free Space) wins a jackpot \$400.



On Easter Sunday, April 15, packs will be \$15 and \$25 with \$150 and \$250 regular game payouts. The Eggstraordinary Jackpot, accumulated floor sales from the 1st through the 14th over \$200 from each night plus the floor sales from the night of the 15th, will be a Must Go.

Spring Fling savings will be offered on all packs every Friday in April. All packs will be \$10 and \$20 and still pay \$150 and \$250.

The latest poker room craze "Rack Attack" is coming to the Casino in April. Three lucky poker players will be drawn to select and rack as many poker chips as possible within 60 seconds from a pile of chips scattered on the table in front of them. Of course they will be blindfolded to add a little fun and increase the challenge.

To qualify and receive a drawing ticket, a player must buy into a main tournament on Tuesday, Saturday or the Sunday All Ladies tournament or be a poker player with an ace-full or better poker hand in a live action game, mini or main tournament. Drawing tickets will have the scheduled date of the event printed on them.

Rack Attack chips will include \$500 in Casino poker chips, \$30 in gift certificates for the Josiah Restaurant, free mini tournament pass, free drinks in the poker room for one month (excluding alcoholic beverages), a Mystery chip and a Joker chip.

COCONUT CREEK CASINO — 5550 N.W. 40th St., Coconut Creek, FL. 33073. (954) 977-6700.

One-year anniversary celebrations continue throughout the month with the following scheduled events: March 23rd — Center stage inside the casino: Recording artist Jessi James & Band from 9 p.m. — 1 a.m. performing top 40 hits.

March 24th — Center stage inside the casino: Cachet featuring Shelina from 12 p.m. — 3 p.m. performing top 40 hits and Latin mix. Michael Welch & Cutting Edge from 3:30 p.m. — 6:30 p.m. performing R&B sounds of the 70s and 80s. The Broward Brass Orchestra from 7 p.m. — 10 p.m. performing Big Band and Swing tunes. Latin recording artist Max Montana & Ocean Sound from 10:30 p.m. — 2 a.m. performing salsa, flamenco, samba, and meringue.

Outside the casino: Fireworks on the Casino Lake at 8 p.m. Majic 102.7FM Diner and DJ Joe Johnson from 7 p.m. — 10 p.m. playing oldies mix. Games, free hot dogs, soda and ice cream from 6 p.m. — 8 p.m. For the kids, Miss Paula will be doing face painting and Billy Joe Bob will be creating balloon animals from 6 p.m. 8 p.m.

March 25th — Center stage inside the casino: The Togetherness Band from 12 p.m. — 2 p.m. performing Reggae and Calypso. The Charlie Brown Band featuring Yvonne from 2:30 p.m. — 5:30 p.m. performing Jazz and a tribute to Billy Holiday. Shelly & The Fabtones from 6 p.m. — 9 p.m. performing hits from the 50s and 60s. Twice as Nice featuring Westley Stevens and Shelly Dartez from 9:30 p.m. — 12 a.m. performing pop, R&B, and Jazz.

Outside the casino: Antique and Classic Car Show from 12 p.m. — 5 p.m. Over 100 looks will be on display. There will also be "Celebrity Auto-A-Likes" on site. Prizes will be given away throughout Saturday and Sunday (trips, electronics, gift certificates, and cash). Free casino T-shirts and auto visitors will also be given out.

Danny Arbell and Prime Time will perform golden oldies March 25th from 12 p.m. — 4 p.m. during the car show. Radio personality Wolfman, from WAXY — FM, will emcee the weekend activities.

Harley-Davidson motorcycle promo from 12 midnight March 23 to 12 midnight March 25 — the first person who hits a \$200,000 or more jackpot at the casino will not only win the cash but the Harley-Davidson.

April festivities will kick-off spring and the Easter celebration. Two special performers planned for the month are Headway featuring Donna performing top 40 hits, oldies, and a little bit of country on April 15 from 7:30 p.m. — 11:30 p.m. and The Tommy Nehls Trio, one of Florida's hottest jazz performers, on April 29 from 1 p.m. — 5 p.m.

The jazz doesn't stop as the casino will give away a grand prize trip for two to New Orleans including hotel and airfare. Look for more April events in the April 13 issue of the Tribune.

SEMINOLE INDIAN CASINO OF HOLLYWOOD — 4150 N. S.R. 7, Hollywood, FL. 33021. (954) 961-3220 or (800) 323-5452.

April is full of excitement at the casino. Every Tuesday and Thursday get \$5 off the matinee bingo session. Every Wednesday evening is Triple nickel night with a \$15 admission price and \$5 off nite owl bingo. All day each Monday Ko Na Wi cardholders can receive triple points.

Easter Sunday, April 15, bingo will be closed for matinee and mini pack session to prepare for the night special giveaway. Starting at 5 p.m. the bingo doors open with 25 gift baskets to be given away during the evening session and 10 baskets during the nite owl. Manager's specials will be given out all day long.

Poker specials for April are still in the planning stages. Look for more details in the next issue of the Tribune.

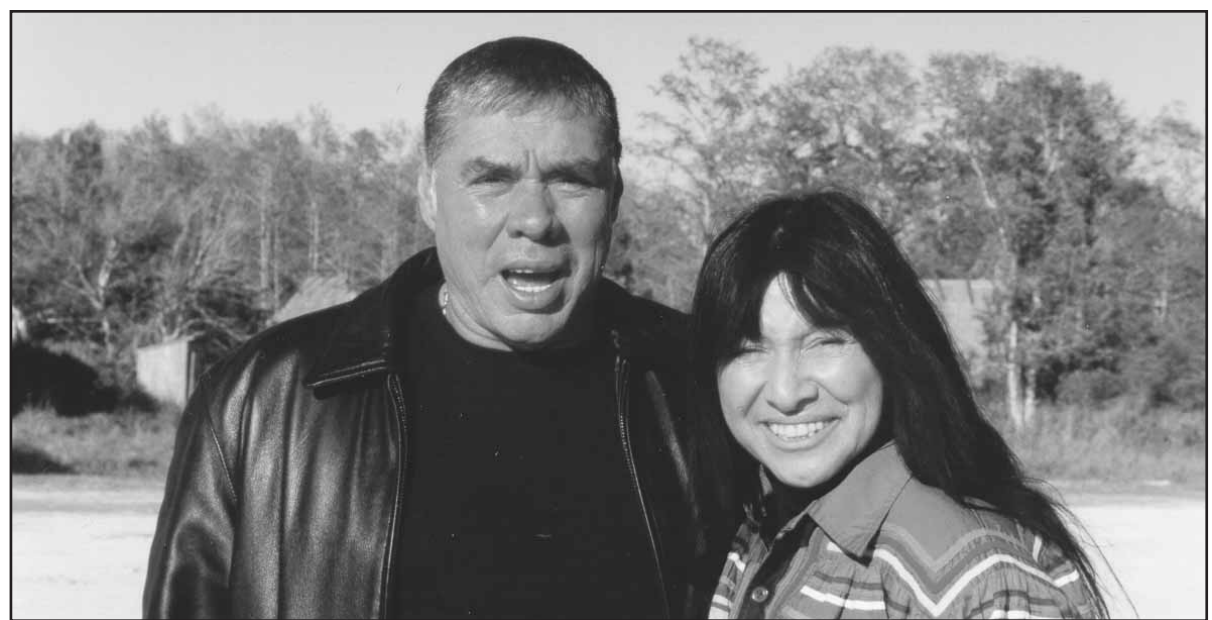
IMMOKALEE SEMINOLE INDIAN CASINO — 506 S. First St., Immokalee, FL. 34142. (941) 658-1313 or (800) 218-0007.

Immokalee Seminole Indian Casino has been celebrating its 7-year anniversary all throughout March. Since opening in Feb. 1994, the casino has become the largest attraction in southwest Florida.

Special promotions, including Jackpot Club Day March 10, St. Patrick's Day intermission special with Lucky Leprechaun Gold coins, free T-shirts, and free buffets, have been just a part of the celebrations.

The celebration will culminate March 31 when the casino will give away \$17,000 in drawing prizes plus \$58,000 in Bingo cash and prizes. Seven \$1,000 drawings will begin at 3 p.m. with a grand prize drawing for \$10,000 at midnight. Players still have the rest of the month to collect their drawing tickets.

Bingo packs will include 20 regular games paying \$1,199. Four Corner and Seminole Blackout consultations will also pay \$1,199. Bonanza and Super Jackpot will be a Must Go \$5,000 each. — *Compiled by Libby Blake*



Folksinger Buffy Sainte-Marie visited Big Cypress recently to tour Ahfachkee School and Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. She spent the night at the Billie Swamp Safari guest house and went airboating with Chief Billie.

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LICENSE PROBLEMS?
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Governor Takes Action Against Brown

By Tommy Benn
MOORE HAVEN — Gov. Jeb Bush ordered the suspension of Glades County Commissioner Avant Brown, as a result of Domestic Violence charges filed against Brown on Jan. 28 by the Seminole Police Dept., Brighton Reservation.
 Brown, 46, Vice Chairman of the Glades Board of County Commissioners has been charged on one count of alleged aggravated battery (domestic violence) and one count of alleged sexual battery. The allegations were made by a woman with whom Brown lived on the Brighton Seminole Reservation. The two share a child.
 The executive order signed Tuesday Feb. 27 by Gov. Bush suspended Brown from public office effective immediately. Brown is prohibited from performing any duties, official acts or functions of public office.
 Brown will receive no pay, allowance, enumeration or privileges of public office during the time of his suspension. The Governor's order came from the State Attorney's Fort Myers Office after the charges were certified.
 The State Attorney's office amended the initial charge to aggravated battery with a deadly weapon or causing harm when they determined the boots Brown was wearing at the time he allegedly



Avant Brown

kicked the woman to be a deadly weapon. The State Attorney added a third charge against Brown of third degree felony battery, bring a total of three charges filed against Brown.
 Brown was suspended by former Gov. Lawton Childs for nearly two months, April 15 through June 12, 1997, on a similar set of charges brought against the Commissioner following his arrest in Okeechobee on April 1 of that year. He was charged with aggravated battery and false imprisonment following a verbal confrontation outside a local nightclub in the city.
 In a special hearing before Circuit Judge Geiger, Brown pled "no contest" to a reduced two counts of misdemeanor battery and adjudication was withheld, leaving Brown's record clean.
 Geiger sentenced Brown to attend an approved mandatory anger management class and a year of probation for each charge (to run concurrently). Restitution of any hospital prompted by bills incurred by the victim was also ordered.
 Reduction of the charges and withholding of adjudication were reportedly in a letter the victim wrote stating she was the first to make physical contact. Local sources identify the victim to be the same person in both cases.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

MIAMI-DADE HOUSING AGENCY ANNOUNCES THE APPLICATION PERIOD FOR THE PUBLIC HOUSING, SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER, AND MODERATE REHABILITATION PROGRAMS.

Applications will only be accepted by mail at the Post Office Box listed below and must be postmarked during the open registration period which begins March 19, 2001 and ends March 30, 2001. Hand delivered applications will not be accepted.

Completed applications must be mailed to:
Miami-Dade Housing Agency (MDHA)
Post Office Box 421320, Miami, Florida 33242

Applicants will be notified that their applications were received. Should an applicant be determined ineligible for placement on the waiting list, MDHA will provide the applicant written notification of this determination and the opportunity for an informal hearing.

Placement of applicants on the waiting list for this registration period will be by lottery rather than date and time of application.

Miami-Dade County and Miami-Dade Housing Agency do not discriminate based on race, sex, color, religion, marital status, national origin, disability, ancestry, sexual orientation, age, pregnancy, or familial status in the access to, admissions to, or employment in housing programs or activities.

FAMILY INCOME LIMITS								
Income limits to determine eligibility of applicants are based on estimates of median family income for this area. These figures are updated periodically. (Source U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development)								
FAMILY SIZE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	\$25,000	\$28,550	\$32,100	\$35,700	\$38,550	\$41,400	\$44,250	\$47,100

APPLICATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT:

Miami-Dade Housing Agency
 Central Office • 1401 NW 7th St.
 Applicant & Leasing Center • 2925 NW 18th Ave.
 Coral Way • 2153 Coral Way
 Region 1 office • 5200 NW 22nd Avenue
 Region 2 office • 450 SW 5th Street
 Region 3 office • 26201 SW 119th Court

Team Metro Offices
 Stephen Clark Center • 111 NW 1st St. lobby
 Caleb Center • 5400 NW 22nd Ave.
 Kendall • 11820 Sherri Lane
 Melrose • 2340 NW 27th Ave.
 North Central • 18579 NW 27th Ave.
 Northeast • 1380 NE Miami Gardens Dr., 220
 Northwest • 15450 New Barn Rd., #301
 South • 10710 SW 211th St., Suite 1400
 University • 1409 SW 107th Ave.
 West Office • 3800 SW 137th Ave.

Miami-Dade County Department of Human Services/Neighborhood Service Centers
 Opa Locka • 16405 NW 25th Avenue
 Allapattah • 1897 NW 20th Street
 Culmer/Overtown • 1600 NW 3rd Avenue
 Edison/Little River • 150 NW 79th Street
 Wynwood • 2902 NW 2nd Avenue
 Naranja • 13955 SW 264th Street
 Coconut Grove • 3750 S. Dixie Highway
 Florida City/Homestead • 1600 NW 6th Court

All Miami-Dade County Regional and Branch Libraries

Applications will also be available in Spanish and Creole and alternative format (Braille and large print).

For more information, call:
305-638-6464 or TDD 305-638-6606



Health Corner

Virginia Mitchell Speaks At Midwifery Conference

By Mark Madrid
CLEARWATER, — In the early 1970s there was a large social movement in the United States that sought out the simple practical values of family lifestyles that had been mainstays of different Native cultures for thousands of years. With that movement came the resurgence of interest in the practice of natural childbirth and development in the study and practice of midwifery.

Midwife Alliance of North America (MANA) was founded in 1982 to help promote a quality of standards for training among the fast-growing ranks of emerging midwives. Today's midwives gather, yearly, at a national "think tank," to update themselves on a variety of subjects concerning the care and well being of childbearing women, their babies, and families. This year, the 18th Annual MANA conference was held in Clearwater Beach.

Tribal citizens Virginia Mitchell and her 8-year-old granddaughter Shelly attended at the request of licensed midwife Jeanne Madrid to greet over 300 midwives from around the world. The weather was perfect, the water was clear, and everyone was happy. It was a time to celebrate and relax while not being on call for the next delivery.

A grand total of 107,522 babies have been safely delivered by the conference attendees during their careers. The eldest midwife to attend was 96-year-old Margaret Smith from Alabama who has delivered 3,500 of those babies during her lifetime of work. Mrs. Smith is the author of the book *Listen To Me Good*, which chronicles her life as midwife over the last 75 years.

At the conference's opening breakfast commencement, Mrs. Mitchell's calm presence and strong voice offered a strong



Mark Madrid

L-R: Virginia Mitchell, Shelly Osceola, and Margaret Smith.

warm *este chvte* welcome to her homeland of Florida. She talked about her own mother who had given birth to 14 babies naturally, managing her contractions with the support of holding onto a tree. She went on to say even though most indigenous women now give birth in the hospital, there are still old ways practiced to help the woman and baby.

According to Seminole elders Mrs. Madrid has spoken with, the Seminoles started going to the hospital in the 1950s to deliver their babies. Before that time there were women who took on the responsibility of helping during the childbearing time. There are documented statistics that prove outcomes are better when left in the hands of women practicing the midwifery model of childbirth. After a half century of women going to the hospital and relying on the wonders of modern technology, it would appear difficult to remember that most births are normally risk free.

The Dangers Of Inhalant Abuse

By Nery Mejicano

March 18-24th is National Inhalants and Poisons awareness week, and this article is an effort to provide awareness to the communities of the risks and dangers involved in the use and abuse of inhalants.

What are inhalants? Inhalants are substances whose vapors can be inhaled to produce a mind-altering effect. Inhalants come in many forms, some which are kept in most homes and others which are easily available. Some of these are solvents such as paint thinners, degreasers and glue. Some others are aerosols such as paint, hair sprays, cooking and other vegetable sprays. In addition to these common inhalants there are a great number of chemicals that if inhaled, produce the same mood-altering effects.

Who are the inhalant abusers? Inhalants are often the first drug that young children use. Recent surveys indicate that about 6 percent of children in the United States have tried inhalants by the time they reach fourth grade. A 1999 Partnership for a Drug Free America found that although more parents are talking to their children about drugs, only few have talked to their children about inhalant abuse. In a

tracking study of drug abuse trends it was found that inhalants are an equal opportunity, dangerous drug. It showed, for instance, that American Indian children are more likely than average to have abused inhalants.

What are the short-term effects of inhalant abuse? When chemicals are inhaled, they travel very rapidly from the lungs through the blood to the brain. Within minutes the user feels the effects such as slurred speech, clumsy movements, dizziness and euphoria. At times the user may experience hallucinations, which can be very frightening, delusions and after prolonged use, drowsiness and a persistent headache.

What are medical consequences of using inhalants? The long term, chronic abuse of inhalants leads to serious damage of the brain and nervous system as well as other vital organs such as the lungs. The effects on the brain are the most serious — damaging those parts of the brain that control learning, movement and hearing. Some, if not most of this damage, is permanent and can not be reversed.

A serious hazard for inhalant abusers is what is called "sudden sniffing death." A single, prolonged use of inhalant can produce rapid and irregular

heartbeat, heart failure and death. Inhalant abuse can cause death in other ways such as asphyxiation, suffocation, or choking.

What are the symptoms of inhalant abuse? Unusual breath or chemical odor on clothing; Spots and/or sores around the mouth; Nausea and the loss of appetite; Slurred and disoriented speech; Drunk, dazed or dizzy appearance; and red or runny eyes or nose.

What can you do to prevent inhalant abuse? Educate yourself and your children about the dangers of these chemicals. Keep the channels of communication open with your children, so you are able to communicate to them the risk involved with the use and abuse of inhalants. Find out what help is available in your community, so that you may be able to intervene and get help before it is too late.

Following are the numbers for the Family Services offices on all of the Reservations. If after hours you may call the local SPD office or 911.

Family Services Office Numbers: Hollywood (954) 964-6338; Big Cypress (863) 983-6920; Brighton (863) 763-7700; Immokalee (941) 657-6567; Tampa (813) 628-0627; Ft. Pierce (954) 438-5812.

Weight Contest Starts With Nature Walk

By Maria Billie

IMMOKALEE — The Immokalee Weight Loss Contest got underway Feb. 1 with the official weigh-in held at the Gym. Forty-eight Tribal citizens and community members came out, signed up, stripped and stepped up to the scales.

Linda Beletso, Community Health Representative for Immokalee Reservation, weighed in the entrants. After a lively discussion by several of the participants who felt the scales were incorrect, official weights were documented and the contest was on.

Contestants have six weeks to lose as much weight as they can safely and naturally with diet and exercise. To start them off a field trip was scheduled for Feb. 3 to Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary.

Participants boarded a bus, provided by Immokalee Casino, for the trip to the sanctuary at 10 a.m. When they arrived, the group set off on a 2½-mile nature walk. The group got more than just exercise as Council Representative Elaine Aguilar gave an impromptu lesson in the gathering of roots, leaves, and bark for use in Indian medicine.

As the group walked along the



Maria Billie

The long walk to fitness began on a nature trail.

trail they also spotted owls, alligators and many different varieties of birds. Some of the rowdier walkers had to be reminded to be quiet so as not to scare off any of the animals.

After the walk, lunch was provided under some palm trees in a nice shady spot. It was very relaxing after the

midmorning walk on such a bright sunny day.

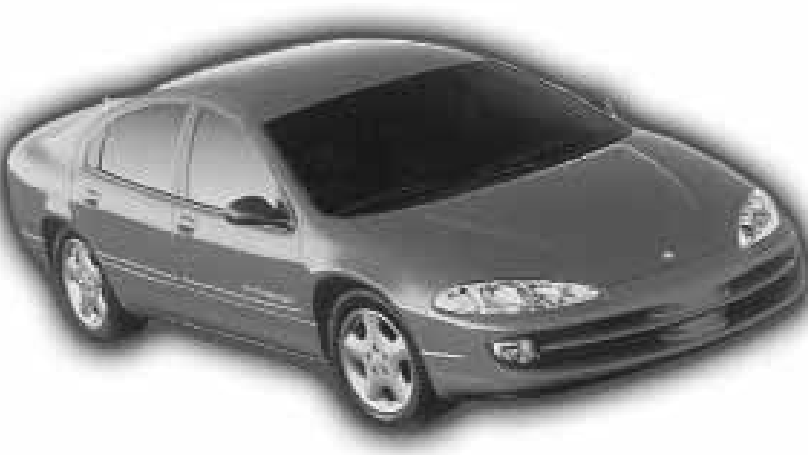
Other sponsors of the weight contest and nature walk included Elaine Aguilar and Immokalee Recreation. Winners will be announced at the end of the contest. Look for the results in the April 13 issue of the *Tribune*.

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Classified • Announcements

Happy Birthday



Happy Birthday March 20 (Sweet 16) **Phalyn Osceola**. Have a good one and Lots of Love Always Mom.

Happy Birthday March 17, 2001 to our crazy cousin "Sheech" you know who you are! Have fun but stay out of trouble. I know you will! From **Oppy, Aunt Doris, and the Otter gang**.



Happy Birthday to Cindy Osceola take care. We Love You Very Much **Leslie, Phylliss, and Jimmy**.

Happy Birthday, Big Sister, Love your **Brother and Sister**.

Happy Birthday to our Big **Aunt, Love, J.T. and Nelson**.

Happy Belated Birthday to **Milo,** Love Always **Carlene** and family.

Happy Birthday to **Resha Lee Doctor**. I can't believe your a 1/4 of century. I hope you have a very special year. Love your **Mom**.

Happy B-Day to my **Mommy**. I love you very much, your daughter, **MaiLani**.

Happy Birthday to **Kalani and Jaden Bankston**. Love Your **Mom!**

Happy Birthday to **James E.**

Billie: My Friend
You have given me courage,
That was not there. . .
You have given laughter,
That I can share. . .
You have given me feelings,
That are deep and true. . .
For that my friend
I will always love you. . .
Always,
"Shooting Star"

Happy Belated birthday March 5, to **Ye-te-pah-che** you know who you are! We Love you! You're the bomb! From **Shaw-ya-te** and **Ebe-le-ba-te**.

Happy Belated 21 Birthday to **Ms. Summer T. Osceola** you finally made it. Oh my God everybody look out she's an adult and she's on the loose. I hope you had fun on your special day, and stay out of trouble man. Love **Crystal, Aaron and Peter**.

Happy Birthday to **Kalani and Jaden**. I can't believe how big you little guys are getting. I hope that the both of you get every thing you want and need on your special day. Love **Crystal, Aaron, and Peter**.

Health Notice

From the Desk of Connie Whidden:

On April 1, 2001, you will need to start using your new Seminole Tribe Member Health Plan Card. Your new card works like the one you have, and

will have the head of household name and social security number on the card. Your new card must be presented each time you or one of your household dependents

(children) go to the doctor's office, dentist, or drug store-pharmacy. There will be a toll free phone number (866) 505-6789 on the back of your card if a provider needs to call to verify your health benefits or if you have any questions about your benefits. There will also be a toll free phone number (800) 228-3108 for SAV-RX should the pharmacy or you have any questions regarding your prescriptions.

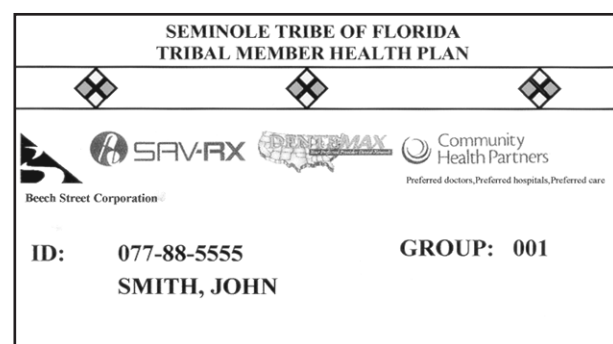
The new card will not effect the doctors or providers that you currently

see, as long as they are a member of one of the preferred provider organizations, BeechStreet, Community Health Providers, DenteMax, and SAV-RX.

When a provider calls to verify your health benefits, the provider will be asked if they are a member of BeechStreet, Community Health Partners, DenteMax, or SAV-RX.

The new card that you will receive will be more convenient to use since you will be able to go to your doctor, dentist, and pick up your medication at the pharmacy using one card. If you were to lose your card, please contact Madio Adjusting Company - the insurance company at (866) 505-6789.

Once you receive your new card, please discard existing Seminole Health Plan Card after April 1, 2001. Be sure not to throw away your Medicare or other insurance cards you may have.



Notices

Calling All Decendants — Of Sam Willie (Bird Clan) And Martha Jumper Willie (Panther Clan). We are having a planning meeting for a family reunion at the Miccosukee Resort on Tuesday, April 3, at 6:30 p.m.

The tentative date for the reunion is October. We will discuss a site and all of the necessary preparations at the time. For further information, please contact Christine Nevaquaya at ext. 1462; Dee Dee Sanders or Theresa Willie at (305) 223-8380. Volunteers are needed, so let us know.

Fire, Off-Road Restrictions — Superintendent John Donahue has announced all campfires and all open burning is prohibited on public lands within the boundaries of Big Cypress National Preserve. In developed campgrounds, above-ground stand-up grills using charcoal briquettes or propane may be used with extreme caution. Donahue also announced that the Concho Billy Trail (access point 3 on Turner River Road) will remain closed to off-road vehicles until further notice. Contact: Sandra Snell-Dobert (941) 695-2000.

A Call for Poems — Write a poem and win the \$1,000 grand prize! Hollywood's famous Poets Society is sponsoring a new poetry contest, open to everyone. There is no entry fee. To enter send one poem of 21 lines or less: Free Poetry Contest, PMB126, 1626 N. Wilcox Ave., Hollywood, CA 90028. Or enter online at www.famouspoets.com. A winner's list will be sent to all entrants. The deadline for entering is March 31.

Unity Founders Scholarship — Application deadline April 20, \$2,500

non-sustaining; Eligibility to college juniors or seniors majoring in journalism or mass communication at an accredited college or university. Award Criteria: 3.0 minimum cumulative grade point average. Demonstrated experience, interest or knowledge of multi-cultural issues in American society. For more information, please visit: www.unityjournalists.org.

34th Annual Howard Tiger Memorial Basketball Tournament All Indian Tournament — March 30-31. Adult Division (Men & Women) entry fee \$200 (make check payable to Seminole Recreation). Entry deadline: March 22. April 6, Old Timers Division (35 & over Men & Women) No Entry Fee. Entry Deadline: March 29. April 7, Youth Division (17 & Under, 14 & Under, 10 & Under) No Entry Fee. Entry Deadline: March 29. For more information or to enter your team, call Hollywood Recreation at (954) 989-9457.

Hoop It Up — Miami's 13th annual Hoop-It-Up Basketball Tournament returns to The Fair and Expo Center April 21-22 for two days of continuous basketball action for players ages 8 and older of all skill levels. Teams consist of up to four players (includes one substitute) and must register by Wednesday, April 11. Teams can register online at www.hoopitup.com or call (305) 655-3288 for discounted registration information. Forms for receive team entry are available at area Foot Locker stores. The entry fee of \$112 per team (\$148 for Top Gun division) provides each team at least three scheduled games. Spectator admission is free.

Contest Seeks Spiritual Poems

from Hollywood-area Poets — Great news for poets. The Texas Poetry Alliance is offering a \$1,000 grand prize in their annual spiritual poetry contest to the public. There is no entry fee and everyone is invited to submit a poem. Spiritual poems, which may be written on any subject and using any style, tend to inspire the reader, thus our desire for entries of a spiritual nature. To enter, send one poem 20 lines or less to: Free Poetry Contest, 3412 - A Moonlight Ave, El Paso, Texas 79904. Or enter on-line at www.freecontest.com. The deadline for entering is April 10. A winner's list will be sent to all entrants. The editors reserve the right to publish the winning poems.

2001 Chasco Fiesta Native American Competition Pow-wow — March 22, 25, Sims Park, Historic downtown New Port Richey, FL, on the banks of the Pithlachascotee River. Presented in cooperation with Bobby Henry. Iron Mountain Dancers, Aztec Fire Dancers, intertribal dancing, alligator demonstration, story-telling, Native American food, arts and crafts, and wildlife exhibit. Over \$10,000 in prize money. No admission. Friday 5-10 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-11 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Grand entry starts Friday 8 p.m., Saturday noon and 8 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. Native American dancers, drums, vendors, please contact Janice or Blaine Thomas at (813) 246-5554 or cell (813) 404-7652.

A.I.S.U. Springtime Pow-wow — March 30-April 1 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free admission to all, contestants will pay a registration. Special invited guests are Museum Artist Dana Tiger, Museum Artisan Dan Townsend, Seminole Medicine man Bobby Henry, Wrede's

Where Do I Get A New Insurance Card?

You may pick up your new insurance card at the following locations: Starting Wednesday, March 28th through March 30th.

Hollywood Health Department Clinic (954) 962-2009. Big Cypress Clinic (863) 983-5151. Brighton/Fort Pierce Clinic (863) 763-0271. Immokalee Field Office (941) 657-6567. Linda Beletso, Billie Napper-Bodway. TAMPA (813) 621-2811, Sue Harjo. Trail Seminoles - Miccosukee Health Clinic - Sallie Jim (305) 223-8380. Tribal citizens who live in Naples or out of the area/state will have their cards mailed to their home address.

The Health Department Staff will also have a table set up at the respective Reservation Field offices on dividend day in April. If you have not received your card by April 1, please contact the Hollywood Seminole Health Department Managed Care Staff at (954) 962-2009.

Wildlife Rehab, and The Florida Indian Center. Host motel: The Florida Motel, 691 West Tennessee St, Tallahassee, FL 32304, (850) 224-8161. Contact Criss Smith (850) 421-0068 or at azcriss@yahoo.com.

N.A.Y.O. Celebration at Big Cypress Gymnasium — Arena Flag Football with the Miami Dolphins v.s. The World.(Miami Dolphins: Billy Milner, Darrell Malone, Jim Klick, Lorenzo Hampton, Kerry Glenn, Jim Mertens, Elmer Bailey, and E.J. Junior. The World: Harvey Clayton - Steelers, Neal Colzie - Raiders, Van Waiter - Browns, Alfredo Roberts - Cowboys, Evan Cooper - Eagles, David Little - Steelers, Eddie Hill - Rams, Rene Thomason - Giants) Thursday, April 12 at 8 p.m. Free admission and free autographs. A free alcohol free activity.

N.A.Y.O. Golf Tournament at Clewiston Golf Course — Thursday, April 12. Four Person Scramble and Blind Draw. Register before 8:30 a.m. Shotgun start at 9 a.m. \$30 entry fee. \$2,500 added money. Lunch served following tournament. Call B.C. Recreation for info (863) 983-9659.

laale Chobe Tournament All Indian — March 30-31, \$1,000. Friday noon-6 p.m. Saturday safe light until 3 p.m. Two men team \$30 per man. Any questions, call George Grasshopper (863) 983-9659 or Noah Jim at (863) 983-9100. Sponsored by David Cypress B.C. Council Rep. and Mondo Tiger B.C. Board Rep.

11th Annual Seminole Indian Day — Saturday, March 31 at 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Smallwood's Store Museum, Chokoloskee Island, FL. You are cordially invited to join us at the 11 Annual Seminole Indian Day at the Smallwood's Store Museum. Come witness reenactments of trading done at this historic site by the Seminole Tribe of Florida, arriving via dug-out canoe. There will be a clothing competition, native foods and crafts. Entertainment will be provided by James Billie, Native Son and friends. Mark your calendar now! For more info, call (941) 695-2989.

Job Announcements

Job Title: A-Built/ CAD Drafter
Open Date: 11-7-00
Location: Utilities, Hollywood
Salary: \$28,000 with benefits.

Job Title: Gaming Inspectors (5)
Open Date: 10-31-00
Location: Gaming, Hollywood
Salary: \$28,000 with benefits

Job Title: HR Assistant /Background Investigator
Open Date: 3-7-01
Location: Human Resources, Hollywood
Salary: \$23,920 with benefits

Job Title: Maintenance Worker
Open Date: 3-7-01
Location: Building & Grounds, Hollywood
Salary: \$14,560 with benefits

Job Title: Nutritionist
Open Date: 3-7-01
Close Date: 3-21-01
Location: Health, Hollywood
Salary: \$35,000 with benefits/negotiable.

Job Title: Patient Accounts Coordinator
Open Date: 10-3-00
Location: Health/Hollywood Care, Hollywood
Salary: \$19,864 with benefits

Job Title: Patient Services Clerk

Open Date: 12-13-00
Location: Health/Managed Care, Hollywood
Salary: \$17,600

Job Title: Secretary
Open Date: 1-17-01
Location: Housing, Hollywood
Salary: \$25,500 w/benefits.

Job Title: Transporter
Open Date: 1-31-01
Location: Health, Hollywood
Salary: \$16,432 with benefits

Job Title: Tribal Clerk/Admin. Assistant
Open Date: 3-14-01
Close Date: 3-28-01
Location: Secretary Treasurer's Office, Hollywood
Salary: \$24,960 with benefits

Job Title: Counselor
Open Date: 10-17-00
Location: Family Services, Brighton
Salary: \$37,000 with benefits

Job Title: Surveillance Operator
Open Date: 3-7-01
Close Date: 3-21-01
Location: Gaming, Brighton
Salary: \$17,680 with benefits

Job Title: Gaming Clerk
Open Date: 2-28-01
Location: Gaming, Brighton
Salary: \$17,200 with benefits

Job Title: Medical Receptionist
Open Date: 3-7-01
Close Date: 3-21-01
Location: Health, Brighton
Salary: \$18,740 with benefits

Job Title: Maintenance Worker
Open Date: 12-6-00
Location: Building & Grounds, Brighton
Salary: \$14,560 with benefits

Job Title: Tribal Counselor
Open Date: 11-15-00
Location: Family Services, Brighton
Salary: \$20,300 with benefits

Job Title: Tribal Outreach/Worker
Open Date: 2-14-01
Location: Family Services, Brighton
Salary: \$20,300 with benefits

Job Title: Custodian
Open Date: 1-17-00
Location: Ahfachkee, Big Cypress
Salary: \$15,600 with benefits

Job Title: Maintenance Worker
Open Date: 1-31-01
Location: Ah-Tah-thi Ki Museum, Big Cypress
Salary: \$16,640 with benefits

Job Title: Medical Social Worker
Open Date: 2-14-01
Location: Family Services, Big Cypress
Salary: \$37,000 with benefits

Job Title: Permanent Sub. Teacher
Open Date: 1-31-01
Location: Ahfachkee School, Big Cypress
Salary: \$12.50 per hr with benefits

Job Title: Speech Therapist
Open Date: 12-27-00
Location: Ahfachkee School, Big Cypress
Salary: \$Negotiable with benefits

Job Title: Teachers Aide
Open Date: 1-31-01
Location: Ahfachkee School, Big Cypress
Salary: \$13,644 with benefits

Job Title: Transporter
Open Date: 2-22-01
Location: Health, Big Cypress
Salary: \$16,432 with benefits

Job Title: Cashier/Clerk
Open Date: 2-28-01
Location: Coconut Creek Smoke Shop, Coconut Creek
Salary: \$15,080 w/ benefits

Job Title: Surveillance Operators
Open Date: 3-7-01
Location: Gaming, Coconut Creek
Salary: \$17,680 with benefits

Job Title: Cultural Language Instructor
Open Date: 3-14-01
Close Date: 3-28-01

Location: Cultural Education, Immokalee
Salary: \$28,120 with benefits

Job Title: Surveillance Operator
Open Date: 3-7-01
Location: Gaming, Immokalee
Salary: \$17,680 with benefits

Job Title: Teacher Aide (3/4 yr. class)
Open Date: 2-7-01
Location: Preschool Program, Immokalee
Salary: \$18,150 with benefits

Job Title: Surveillance Operators (3)
Open Date: 3-7-01
Location: Gaming, Tampa
Salary: \$17,680 with benefits

If interested contact Human Resources at 967-3403 or fax resume to 967-3477.

Deadlines

Seminole Tribune

April 13 Issue • Deadline March 30
May 4 Issue • Deadline April 20
May 25 Issue • Deadline May 11
June 15 Issue • Deadline June 1

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Artist James Hutchinson Pays Visit To Seminole Tribe

By Dan McDonald

HOLLYWOOD — James Hutchinson, a renowned artist who earned much of his fame by capturing images of the Seminole Tribe, paid a surprise visit to the Hollywood Reservation March 1.

"I can't believe how much the Tribe

gophers, possum. We even ate armadillo, which is very tough. But, we'd chop it up and make stew. And, we ate a lot of tuna fish.

"Nothing could hurt us. We had a wonderful time."

After being on the reservation for some time, the Hutchinsons began to make friends with some of the residents, although they admit it was a slow process.

"The first year, I think they thought we were crazy," Hutchinson says. "They were thinking, 'What are these two young white people doing out here?' They thought we could be living in town with running water, which was a luxury, instead of living in a tent in an oak hammock.

"We were very sensitive to the Indian etiquette. For example, a man wouldn't go into an Indian camp alone during the day unless he was invited or accompanied by another man because the women were in the chickees all by themselves.

"The first year it was hard to really make many friends. But, that changed when a photographer from Stuart asked me if he could come take pictures of Joan and I for a story. I said yes, but made him agree to make copies for any Indian who he photographed. Many times, people would take pictures, but the Indians never got to see the pictures. This time he brought back 8x10 glossy copies a few weeks later. As we handed them out, I think a lot of

ice was broken.

"After a few years, I think everyone was delighted to see us. People who wouldn't talk to us before were now showing off their babies. I had men touch me on shoulder, which was a big deal.

"When the Sunday rubber-necks would come out, everyone would turn their backs. Joan and I did the same thing. I think we began to feel like we fit in and that made the whole experience special."

The pair began to develop some solid relationships with the residents and other Tribal members, and counted friendships with Billy Bowlegs III, Betty Mae Jumper and Tribal Chairman Billy Osceola.

"We knew Carol Bowlegs when she was 9 years old," Hutchinson says. "She was our interpreter. We have photographs of Eli Morgan, Billy's son, and Lena Morgan, a sister of Billy Bowlegs.

"Billy Bowlegs was a favorite friend. He lived in a hammock next to ours, and he ate breakfast with us most of the time. He had a garden away from his hammock. He had a dog that ate grapefruit. Anything we had, Billy ate. Anything we had to drink, he drank. He was a neat guy."

One of their strongest friendships was with Joe Dan Osceola, who was then the Indian Agent for Brighton. When the Hutchinsons visited the Hollywood Reservation, Joe Dan, now the Tribe's Ambassador, had a pleasant reunion.

"We go way back to when he was a striving artist," Joe Dan says today. "He lived on the bank of Harney Canal when I first met him. When I got back from college, he was there. Billy Bowlegs told me about them and Billy introduced us.

"Jim is one of the best artists around. I used to say about his work, 'he's a modern Remington.' I don't know what modern I want to depict Seminoles, but I'm glad he did. When I was President of the Tribe, I commissioned a couple of paintings.

"One was Osceola stabbing the treaty. Today it hangs in the Native Village in Tampa. Jim is a great painter and he and Joan are good friends. It's great to see him back in Seminole country."

Most of his work Hutchinson produced during his four-year stay wound up in private collections. Some was displayed at the New York World's Fair in the rotunda of the Florida Pavilion.

"The paintings were exploratory," Hutchinson says today. "I was awfully young then and really just trying to find my way. A lot of things were straight observational, almost illustrations.

"I painted everything I saw — kids playing, women cooking, washing clothes in ponds, men fishing, hunting. It was a great time. I thoroughly enjoyed those years."

After the first four years, Joan Hutchinson became pregnant with the first of the couple's two sons, which forced them to move back into Stuart.

50 paintings over a five-year period, earning \$2,000 per canvas. Just last month the University of Miami donated the paintings to the Florida Historical Museum in Miami. While he visited in South Florida, Hutchinson went to the Museum and inventoried his work.

"We were only able to find 30 of the original 50 paintings," Hutchinson said. "I think most of them were never properly displayed, and over the years they wound up hanging on the office walls of professors. Then, as the professors retired or moved on, the paintings went with them.

"I'd love for the Seminole Tribe's Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum to get the remaining paintings on a permanent loan situation. They really should be with Tribe. I plan on coming back to Florida next year and I'd love to work on getting those paintings for the Tribe."

Billy Cypress, Executive Director of the



OLD FRIENDS: James and Joan Hutchinson flank Joe Dan Osceola.

worked with the Seminoles. It would be great if we could display those paintings when the Tribe was going through such a transition."

The fact that Hutchinson lived through an era of transition is illustrated by one of the paintings produced under the Vining Davis grant. Oddly, it was the only painting rejected by the foundation.

"One night while we were on the Brighton Reservation, Joan and I were walking on a dirt road and we saw a strange blue light off in the distance," Hutchinson says. "We walked closer and closer and couldn't figure out what was going on. Finally, we got close enough. A group of people was huddled under an open chickee watching a TV.

"It had to have been one of the first TV sets on the reservation. I pointed that way, but the foundation rejected it. They said it was too modern and wasn't romantic enough, but I think it was just capturing a changing culture.

"And, look what the Tribe has become. It's marvelous the way things have developed. I'm pleased. I know the era we lived in Brighton is gone, but the Tribe is continuing. It's great to see. I'm happy. I feel I've returned where I belong. I can tell you this, we'll be back. Hopefully, next year when we can stay longer and visit more of the old places we used to remember.

"I know it won't be the same on Brighton. The first year, we lived on a hammock that was full of wild orchids. We didn't even touch a single one; we were so concerned about leaving everything the way we found it.

"After four years, we came back and that hammock had been plowed under. The Tribe had leased the entire field to farmers who were growing tomatoes. Well, I don't know what Brighton looks like today, but I'm sure it's not the same. But, hopefully we'll still get to see more old friends."



MEETING ON THE RIVER

grown and changed," Hutchinson said as he walked around the Tribal headquarters building where several of his paintings are on display. "When I was around, things were different. A whole lot different."

Hutchinson, 68, and wife Joan now live in Kapaau, Hawaii. But he recalled the time he lived and painted on the Brighton Reservation over 40 years ago. The opportunity came when Hutchinson was introduced to Dr. William Sturtevant, the Director of the Study of Southeast Indian tribes for the Smithsonian Institution. Sturtevant had himself spent many years of study on the Brighton Reservation.

Sturtevant backed the idea that Hutchinson should move onto the reservation to paint scenes of Tribal culture that were quickly disappearing. In May of 1960 the Tribal Council agreed to the proposal and two months later in July 1960, Hutchinson and his wife moved onto Brighton.

"We drove into an oak hammock in an old van pulling a flat trailer," Hutchinson said. "We used a tarp to make a shelter and we lived in that for over a year. In fact, a year later we got a tent and that was



HUNTER'S CAMP

a big step up for us. The tent had a canvas floor, and we lived in real luxury, especially after we got a cook stove hooked to a propane tank. Before that, we cooked on a camp fire like everyone else."

Those years of living on the reservation were full of interesting events for the young married couple as they sought to fit into the community.

"At that time, Joan's hair was jet black, and she wore it long," Hutchinson said. "She also wore traditional Indian clothing, and after a little while in the sun, most people couldn't tell her from the other Indian women. I think she took pride in that."

Joan Hutchinson, who had been a schoolteacher before her marriage, agreed the years spent on Brighton were exciting, recalling one night when a Florida panther visited their camp.

"James had left a painting out and the panther walked in the paint, then climbed up onto the top of our tarp and left foot prints all around. It was lucky no one was injured.

"Another time, I remember an old Indian gentleman walked past our camp. I was out in the field washing clothes like the Indian women. He stopped and watched me for a long time, then approached me. 'You're not an Indian, are you?'"

"I was so excited because it showed he really couldn't tell. I felt like we had really lived to fit in. For those four years we really did live the same life as the others. It was a great experience that I wouldn't trade for anything."

The Hutchinsons spent so much time at the reservation, which at that time had no paved roads and very little electricity, that they actually grew to dislike going into town.

"I had to go back into Stuart every couple of weeks to teach an art class at the Elliott Museum," Hutchinson says. "I'd earn \$16 a lesson, and that would keep us for a couple of weeks of living in Brighton. I actually got so I hated going back into town. It sort of ruined the mood.

"It was a whole different time. Every once in a while a plane would come over and we'd shake our fists at it. All the roads were dirt roads and in the evenings all the cows would come and stand on the road.

"When it rained, the snakes would come out and get onto the roads too. There were snakes, Lord yes. Rattlesnakes, mostly pigmy. We had an attitude about them. 'Mr. Snake, we won't hurt you if you won't hurt us.'

"We were young and thought we were indestructible," Hutchinson recalls about the experience. "We ate what the others ate — deer, box turtle,



ANNIE TOMMIE

But Hutchinson wasn't finished capturing Seminole scenes.

He received a grant from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundation, with matching funds from the Lowe Gallery at the University of Miami to produce



END OF THE WATER TRAILS

Museum, agrees that the paintings would be a wonderful addition to the Tribal collection.

"Hutchinson is perhaps the best-known painter who captured Seminole culture," Cypress said of his work. "He, along with Guy LaBree, are probably the two best painters alive today who have

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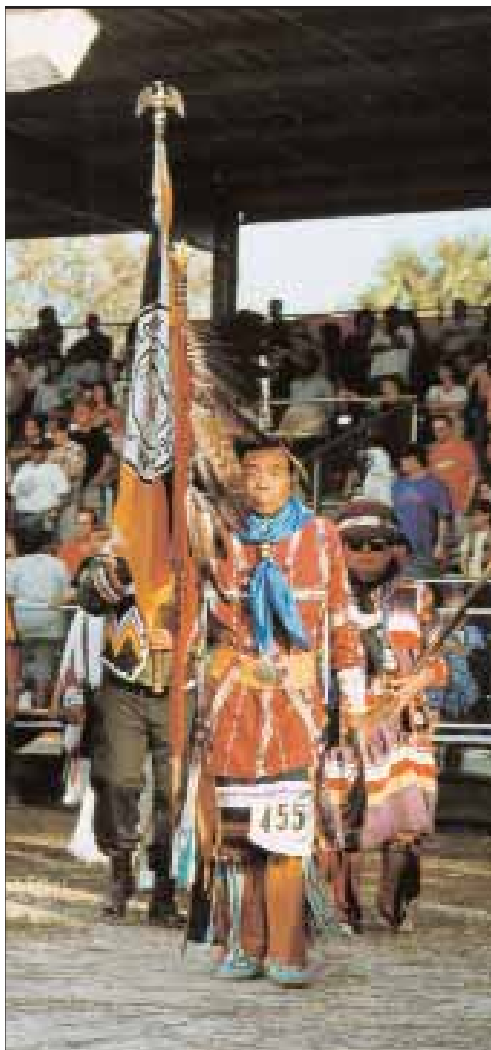
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Volume XXII Number 3

March 23, 2001

A Season Of Native Celebration

The colorful culture of the Seminole Indians was highlighted in proud display over the past few weeks, as the Tribal festival season swung through Florida in three big events. American Indian performers, vendors, artists and craftspeople from Canada to Mexico — and many reservations in between — joined the Seminoles at the annual Seminole Tribal Fair in Hollywood, the Brighton Field Days celebra-



Grand Entry at the Tribal Fair.



FANCY DANCER: Swirls of color and feathers excite DNA crowd.

tion and the Discover Native America in St. Petersburg.

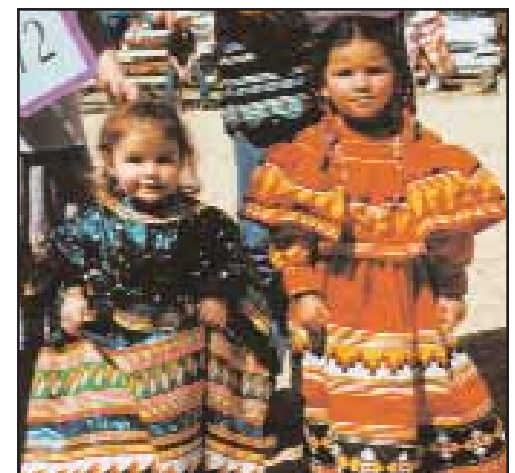
From the grand powwow entry at the Tribal Fair on the second week in February to the elaborate clothing contests at the Tribe's oldest event in Brighton the next weekend, to Cree folksinger Buffy Sainte-Marie's plaintive wails at Eckerd College's Dendy Auditorium, the first weekend in March, American Indian culture and entertainment was everywhere.

A full scale competition powwow provided the centerpiece for the Hollywood and St. Petersburg events. Several hundred dancers and drum circles spent days in contest at the respective events, many taking home prize monies, doled out in envelopes of cash at the powwow's end. The Seminole Tribal Veterans Color Guard, famous the

land over, lent a patriotic flavor at each Grand Entry in their fatigues and berets.

In a festival that stretches back more than 60 years, friends and tourists from around the Lake Okeechobee area stopped in at Brighton where the smell of frybread wafted over a week's worth of two rodeos, a pool tournament, canoe race, golf tournament, clothing and baby contests, Johnny U on his horse, Blue Earth and vendors on their way from Hollywood to St. Pete. Special guests this year included Seminole National of Oklahoma chairman Jerry Haney, Councilman Rich Deer and Color Guard veteran Willard Underwood

Chief Jim Billie and his Raiford Starke band of hot pickers headlined the



Brighton clothing contest.

See **FESTIVALS**, page 2



Fancy shawls decorate Tribal Fair Arena.



Comanche dancer in heat of competition.



It's a bird... it's a man!



Little Mr. Seminole Kenny Davis and Little Miss Seminole Isabel Tucker.



Boys sport long shirts and turbans.

Festivals

Continued from page 1

Hollywood and St. Pete events. The Chief even performed a free concert at Tampa Theatre as part of the DNA promotional build-up. Tribal citizens Paula Bowers and Paul Buster (Cowbone) joined him, as did Bobby Henry and the Seminole Stomp Dancers from Tampa, storyteller Carol Cypress and the Seminole Youth Dancers. Both Miss Seminole Desiree Jumper and Junior Miss Seminole Jojo Osceola were in royal attendance, as was newly-crowned Rodeo Queen Scooter Johns. Gator handler Thomas Storm (also a member of the lost digit club) regaled the DNA crowd with his saurian mastery, as did Billie Swamp Safari

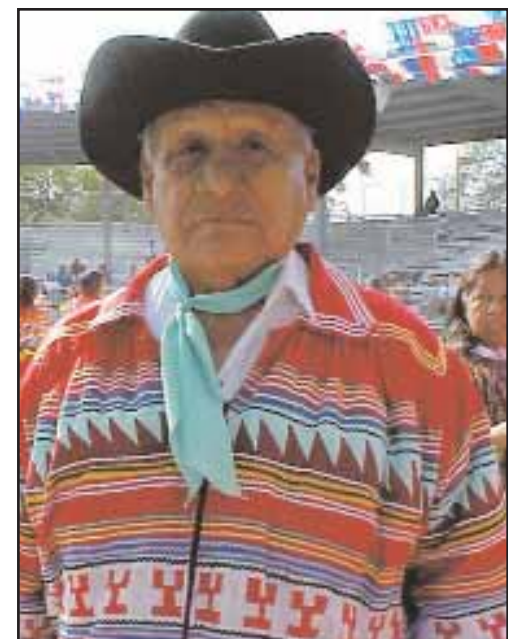
See FESTIVALS, page 5



William, Toby Johns, Mitchell Cypress and Carl Baxlev.



Tribal Ambassador Joe Dan Osceola poses with the royalty.



Contest winner Little Tigertail.



Jo Leigh Johns is a winner.



SEMINOLE SKIRTS: Clothing contest lineup.



Tiny dancer.



Fancy dance extraordinaire.



Desiree Jumper won 1st place.



Oklahoma Veteran leads Seminole Color guard (2nd row L-R) Paul Bowers, Mitchell Cypress, Timmy John, at Tribal Fair grand entry.



A patchwork quilt of Seminole girls on display.

Tribal Fair Contest Results

Children 1 years & under girls:

1st Dasani Cypress, 2nd Danyelle Boromei, 3rd Mila T. Osceola, 4th Phyllis Osceola, 5th Kasera Cypress, 6th Victoria G. Stivers, 7th Elizabeth Frank.

Children 1 years & under boys:

1st Brady Osceola, 2nd Bradford Osceola, 3rd Matthew Osceola, 4th Jaco Billie, 5th Ives E.P. Baker, 6th Kian Madrid, 7th Robert A. Stivers.

Children 2 years - 4 girls:

Breanna Billie, 2nd Crysten Smith, 3rd Diamond Shore, 4th Rayleen Osceola, 5th Kaylan Osceola, 6th Rumor Juarez, 7th Ashley K. Gopher, 8th Natornah B. Robbins.

Children 2 years - 4 boys:

1st Daniel Nunez Jr., 2nd Devon Jones, 3rd Michael Garcia, 4th Dante Tiger, 5th Nehemiah Roberts, 6th Imilakiyo Osceola, 7th Yopelakiyo Osceola, 8th Alonzo Warjolet.

Children 5 years - 7 girls:

1st Erena Billie, 2nd Brianna Nunez, 3rd Courtney Osceola, 4th Renee A. Stivers, 5th Jaide Micco, 6th Danni J. Wilcox, 7th Destiny Nunez, 8th Minnie Osceola.

Children 5 years - 7 boys:

1st Trevor Osceola, 2nd Brantley Osceola, 3rd Karlito Warjolet, 4th Tucamah Robbins, 5th Ricky T. Alumbaugh, 6th Randy Shore, 7th Osceola Cypress, 8th Wade Micco.

Children 8 years - 10 girls:

1st Melani Jones, 2nd Rhiannon Tiger, 3rd Hali Garcia, 4th Natasha Billie, 5th Meaghan Osceola, 6th Ravenne Osceola, 7th Deandra Tiger, 8th Cindi Adair.

Children 8 years - 10 boys:

1st Justin T. Osceola, 2nd Robert Frank, 3rd Clayton Hall, 4th Jordan Osceola.

Children 11 years - 17 girls:

1st Desiree Jumper, 2nd Stephani Hall, 3rd Jo Jo Osceola, 4th Tasha Osceola, 5th Trina Bowers, 6th Mercedes Osceola, 7th Nina

Frias, 8th Harmony Stewart.

Children 11 years - 17 boys:

1st Johnny Jones Jr., 2nd James Cypress, 3rd Joseph D. Osceola, 4th Clint Bowers, 5th Daniel Bullard.

Modern Traditional

Adult 18 years - 49 women:

1st Linda Storm, 2nd Oneva Jones, 3rd Rita Gopher, 4th Megan Yescas, 5th Diane Snow, 6th Laverne Thomas, 7th Marilyn Billie, 8th Cecelia Thomas.

Adult 18 years - 49 men:

1st William Osceola, 2nd Sandy Billie Jr., 3rd Roger Smith, 4th Bernard Robbins, 5th James Smith, 6th Bobby Frank, 7th Joey Micco, 8th Sampson Gopher.

50 Plus women:

1st Peggy Stivers, 2nd Mary Billie, 3rd Onnie Osceola, 4th Juanita Osceola, 5th Betty Osceola, 6th Lottie Baxley, 7th Josephine Villa, 8th Mary Sanchez.

50 Plus men:

1st Thomas Billie, 2nd Little Tigertail, 3rd Jimmie O. Osceola, 4th Jack Motlow, 5th Jimmy Smith, 6th Paul Buster, 7th Joe Dan Osceola, 8th Sammy Gopher.

Modern

Adult 18 years - 49 women:

1st Jo Leigh Johns, 2nd Erina Cypress, 3rd Oneva Jones, 4th Rena Frank, 5th Megan Frank, 6th Scarlett Young, 7th Rose Jones, 8th Jolene Burton.

Adult 18 years - 49 men:

1st Joey Micco, 2nd Morman Huggins, 3rd Tracey Smith, 4th Shane Buck, 5th Danny Wilcox, 6th Roger Smith, 7th Larry Smith.

50 Plus women:

1st Mary Billie, 2nd Louise Osceola, 3rd Pat Bowers, 4th Laura Mae Osceola, 5th Frances Osceola, 6th Betty Osceola, 7th Juanita Osceola, 8th Elsie J. Bowers.

50 Plus men:

1st Willie Gopher, 2nd Jimmy Smith, 3rd Joe Osceola, 4th Max Osceola Jr., 6th Stephen Bowers.

Traditional

Adult 18 years - 49 women:

1st Oneva Jones, 2nd Jo Leigh Johns, 3rd Rose Jones, 4th Ginger Jones, 5th Alice M. Billie, 6th Sara Osceola, 7th Mary Jane Billie, 8th Susie Osceola.

Adult 18 years - 49 men:

1st Dallas Nunez, 2nd Rufus Tiger, 3rd Daniel Nunez.

Adult Plus Women:

1st Juanita Osceola, 2nd Louise Osceola, 3rd Frances Osceola, 4th Onnie Osceola, 5th Mary Billie, 6th Betty Osceola, 7th Rosie Billie.

Adult Plus men:

1st Thomas Billie.

Little Mr. and Miss Seminole

Little Mr. Seminole Kenny Davis, 1st Runner-up Cameron Osceola, 2nd Runner-up David Nunez, Jr., 3rd Runner-up - Joshua Barome, 4th Runner-up - Trevor Osceola, 5th Runner-up - Haden Littlebear, 6th Runner-up - Brandtley Osceola.

Little Miss Seminole

Isabel Tucker, 1st Runner-up Breanna Billie, 2nd Runner-up - McKayla Snow, 3rd Runner-up - Brianna Nunez, 4th Runner-up - Mialani Perez, 5th Runner-up - Baylee Micco, 6th Runner-up - Chassidy Harjochee.

Fine Arts Contest Results

HOLLYWOOD - The Fine Arts Contest results, along with medium and age group, held during the 30th Annual Seminole Tribal Fair and Rodeo were as follows:

6-9 years old Mixed Media: 1st place - Josie Balentine, 2nd place - Deandra Tiger, 3rd place - Shawna Billie, 4th place - Terinna Cypress, 5th place - Ryan Cypress.

Pencil: 1st place - Laura Lee Tommie, 2nd place - Jesse Mitchell, 3rd place - Micco Billie, 4th place - Ayze Henry, 5th place - Rhiannon Tiger.

10-17 years old Acrylic: 1st place - Kimberly Alverado, 2nd place - Dawna Cypress, 3rd place - Zachery Battiest, 4th place - Ike Jumper, 5th place - Nick Jumper.

Mixed Media: 1st place - Stephine Hall, 2nd place - Chelsea Mountain, 3rd place - Michelle Jumper, 4th place - Nicki Osceola, 5th place - Ayze Henry.

Oil: (no entries).

Pen and Ink: 1st place - Jessica Buster (only entry).

Pencil: 1st place - Michelle Jumper, 2nd place - Christie Motlow, 3rd place - Chrystal Young, 4th place - Kaylann Pewo, 5th place - Tony Martinez.

Watercolor: 1st place - Zackery Battiest, 2nd place - Dayne Billie, 3rd place - Jessica Buster, 4th place - Michelle Jumper.

Photography: 1st place - Summer Billie, 2nd place - Heather Billie, 3rd place - Tony Martinez, 4th place - Brittney Smith.

18 and older Pen and Ink: 1st place - Erica North Deitz, 2nd place - Mary Gay Osceola, 3rd place - Noah Elias Jim.

Pencil: 1st place - Janice Billie, 2nd place - Victor P. Osceola, 3rd place - Mary Gay Osceola.

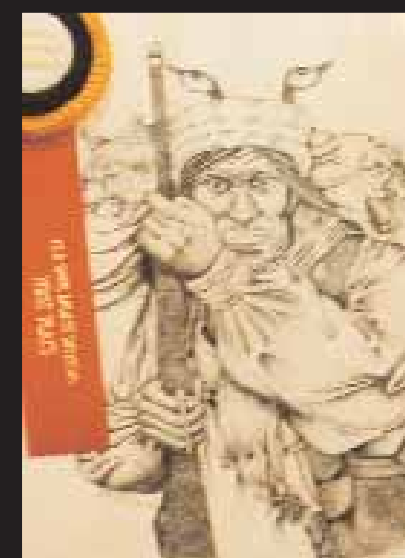
Watercolor: 1st place - Mary Gay Osceola, 2nd place - Vince Osceola.

Photography: 1st place - Jackie Osceola, 2nd place - Gordon O. Wareham, 3rd place - Elrod Bowers.

Acrylic: 1st place - Erica North Deitz, 2nd place - Jeff Johns, 3rd place - Mary Gay Osceola.

Mixed Media: 1st place - Gordon O. Wareham, 2nd place - Erica North Deitz, 3rd place - Noah Elias Jim.

Oil: 1st place - Pedro Osceola Zepeda, 2nd place - Noah Elias Jim.



Congratulations to Miss Isabel Maria Tucker for winning the "Little Miss Seminole" contest! I knew you could do it! We are so proud of you, Baby Girl!

Love you always, Auntie Ginger, Uncle Charles, Cousins- Rhiannon, Deandra & Brown.



Who's gonna win? It's in the numbers.



Oklahoma veteran Willard Underwood, Suraiya Youngblood and Seminole Tribal President Mitchell Cypress.



Brighton is famous for its contests.

Brighton Field Days 2001

Men's Clothing Contest Winners Traditional/Old Style

4 – 10 years old: 1st place – Catlen Tommie, 2nd place – Justin Osceola, 3rd place – Deveon Jones, 4th place – Daniel Nunez Jr., 5th place – Joshua Boromei.

11 – 17 years old: 1st place – Adam Osceola (no other competitors).

18 – 34 years old: 1st place – Dallas "Dusty" Nunez, 2nd place – Daniel "Boogie" Nunez, 3rd place – Sampson Gopher, 4th place – Larry Smith, 5th place – Mike Smith.

35 – 49 years old: (No entries).

50 years and up: 1st place – Thomas Billie, 2nd place – Willis Gopher, 3rd place – Howard Osceola, 4th place – Sammy Gopher.

Modern/Contemporary Modern Traditional

4 – 10 years old: 1st place – Daren Jim, 2nd place – Daniel Nunez Jr., 3rd place – Luis Gopher, 4th place – Nathan Gopher, 5th place – Joshua Boromei.

11 – 17 years old: 1st place – Cody Bert, 2nd place – Bryan Arledge, 3rd place – Adam Osceola, 4th place – Adrian Baker, 5th place – Nolan Gopher.

18 – 34 years old: 1st place – Jamie Smith, 2nd place – Vince Osceola, 3rd place – Daniel "Boogie" Nunez, 4th place – Howard Jimmie, 5th place – Sampson Gopher.

35 – 49 years old: 1st place – Steve Osceola, 2nd place – Parker Jones, 3rd place – Tony Sanchez, 4th place – Robert Youngblood, 5th place – Danny Tommie.

50 years and up: 1st place – Willie Gopher, 2nd place – Sammy Gopher, 3rd place – Stephen Bowers, 4th place – Thomas Billie, 5th place – Howard Osceola.

Women's Clothing Contest Winners Traditional/Old Style

4 – 10 years old: 1st place – Shyla Jones, 2nd place – Dannie Jae Tommie, 3rd place – Shiela Jones, 4th place – Meagan Jones, 5th place – Jenna McDuffie.

11 – 17 years old: 1st place – Sherrie Jones, 2nd place – (unknown), 3rd place – Stephanie Hall, 4th place – Brittney Smith, 5th place – Courtney Sanchez.

18 – 34 years old: 1st place – Jo Leigh Johns, 2nd place – Alice M. Billie, 3rd place – Suraiya Youngblood, 4th place – (unknown), 5th place – Rita Gopher.

35 – 49 years old: 1st place – Susie Doctor, 2nd place – Judy Jones, 3rd place – Linda Jones, 4th place – Diane Snow, 5th place – Donna Turtle.

50 years and up: 1st place – Louise Osceola, 2nd place – Rachel Billie, 3rd place – Juanita Osceola, 4th place – Agnes Cypress, 5th place – Mary Billie.

Modern/Contemporary Modern Traditional

4 – 10 years old: 1st place – Erena Billie, 2nd place – Brooke Osceola, 3rd place – (unknown), 4th place – Shyla Jones, 5th place – Brianna Nunez.

11 – 17 years old: 1st place – D'Anna Osceola, 2nd place – Brittney Smith, 3rd place – Stephanie Tiger, 4th place – Nickie Osceola, 5th place – (unknown).

18 – 34 years old: 1st place – Emma Johns, 2nd place – Jo Leigh Johns, 3rd place – Brandi Clay, 4th place – Suraiya Youngblood, 5th place – Charlotte Burgess.

35 – 49 years old: 1st place – Annie L. Osceola, 2nd place – Oneva Jones, 3rd place – Kay Braswell, 4th place – Linda Jones, 5th place – Judy Jones.

50 years and up: 1st place – Frances Osceola, 2nd place – Alice Snow, 3rd place – Mary Sanchez, 4th place – Rachel Billie, 5th place – Mary Francis Cypress.

Brighton Seminole Princess
Clarissa Randolph

Brighton Seminole Junior Miss
Mary Huff

Festivals

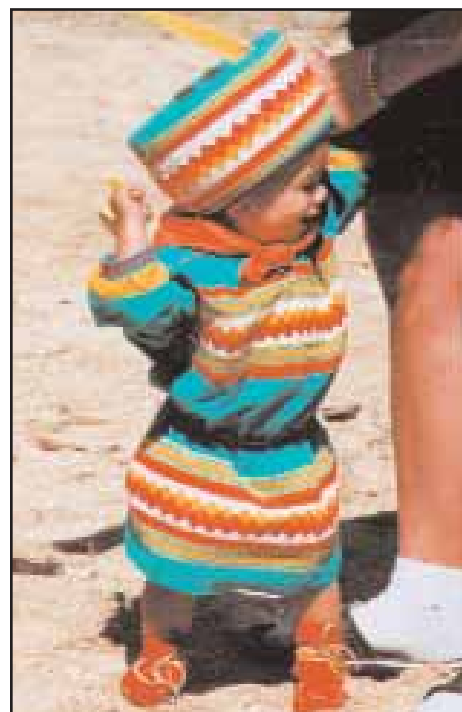
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avian expert Ray Beccera and his hawk.

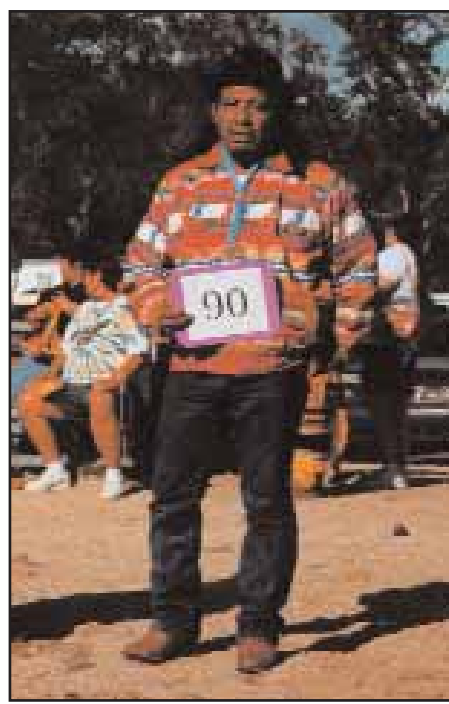
National performers in addition to the legendary Sainte-Marie, included the *a capella* native singers Ulali, folk rocker Keith Secola, Comanche flautist Sonny Nevaquaya, native reggae star Tchiya Ahmet, comedian Don Burnstick and storytellers Mahenwahdose at DNA and the Blackhawk Bues band at Tribal Fair; the Aztec Fire Dancers of Mexico City — Seminole festival favorites — performed at all three events, and gave a 30-minute exhibition to 8,000 people during a street dance in St. Petersburg on March 2.

A big thunderstorm on the morning of DNA's last day — first rain in three months in Pinellas County — threatened to ruin the weekend, but all festivities were moved inside Eckerd buildings and the powwow, children's village and music festival proceeded without a hitch. An estimated 25,000 people jammed the campus on

See FESTIVALS, page 6



Hot day, warm turban.



Sandy Billie Jr. in Men's Competition.



Modern traditional clothing combines art of two eras.



EAGLE DANCER: Graceful motions imitate the great bird during powwow exhibition at Eckerd College Arena.



Two young maidens show off pretty DNA smiles.



Ulali singers Soni, Buffy, and Jennifer.

Festivals

Continued from page 5

Saturday. Millions more followed the event on the Tribal website where Seminole design queen Melissa Sherman operated a cyberspace powwow for the third year. The week-long "Native Visions, Native Voices" film festival attracted record crowds, as did Guy LaBree's stunning exhibit of Seminole paintings at the St. Petersburg Museum of History, which ended last week.

As always, dozens of Seminole vendors graced the scene, with their brightly colored jackets and dolls. Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki and Okalee Museums provided cultural experts for the Living Villages. President Mitchell Cypress provided cigarettes for the drums and Councilman Jack Smith Jr. graciously provided 100 bales of hay to make the DNA powwow circle.

"People have all these questions about the Seminoles and other Indians," said Tribal Chairman James Billie. "All they have to do is come out and ask us. We hope these events are as educational as they are fun."

Photos by Libby Blake, Charles Flowers, Peter B. Gallagher, Robert Kippenberger, Dan McDonald and Yolanda Ponce De Leon.



Loaded down with beads.



Profile of dignity.



Rain forced Chief Billie's Sunday concert inside at DNA.



Seminole royalty in the grand entry.



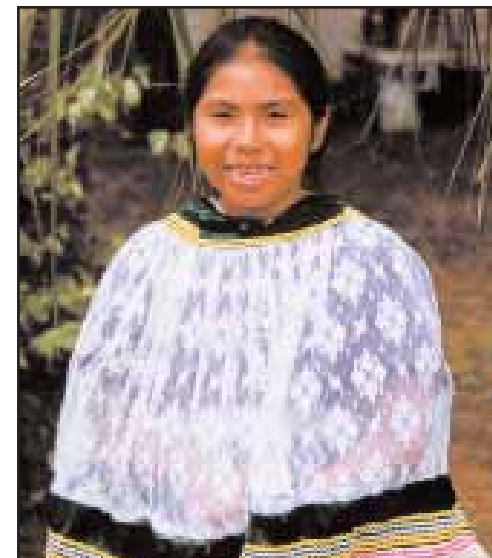
Begay the Navajo hoop dance champion.



Bird pocket.



GUARD DOLL: Surveying the scene.



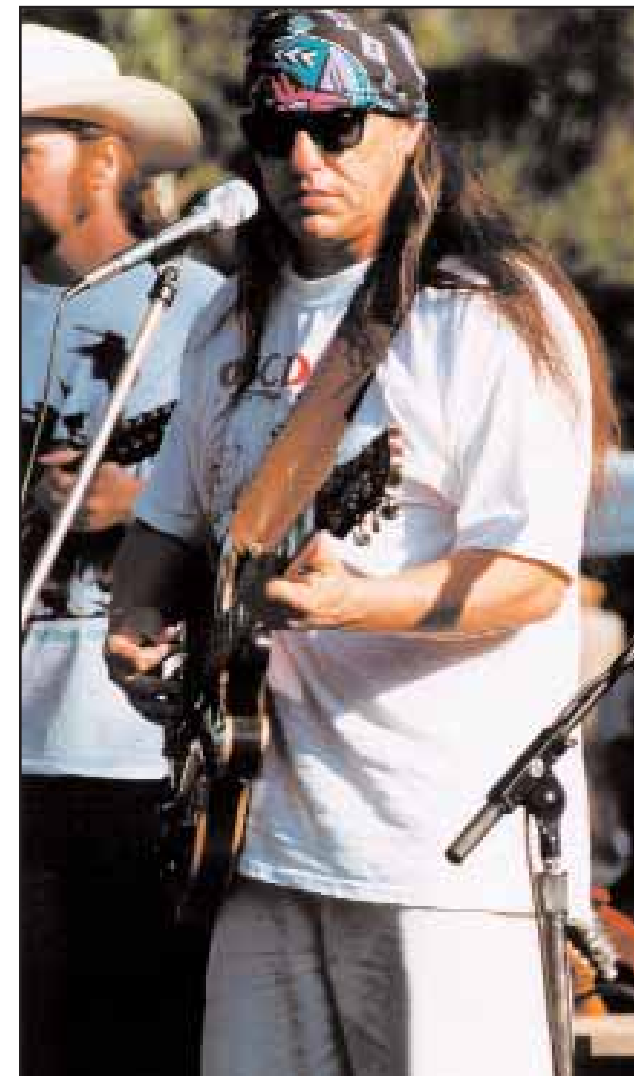
Caped competitor.



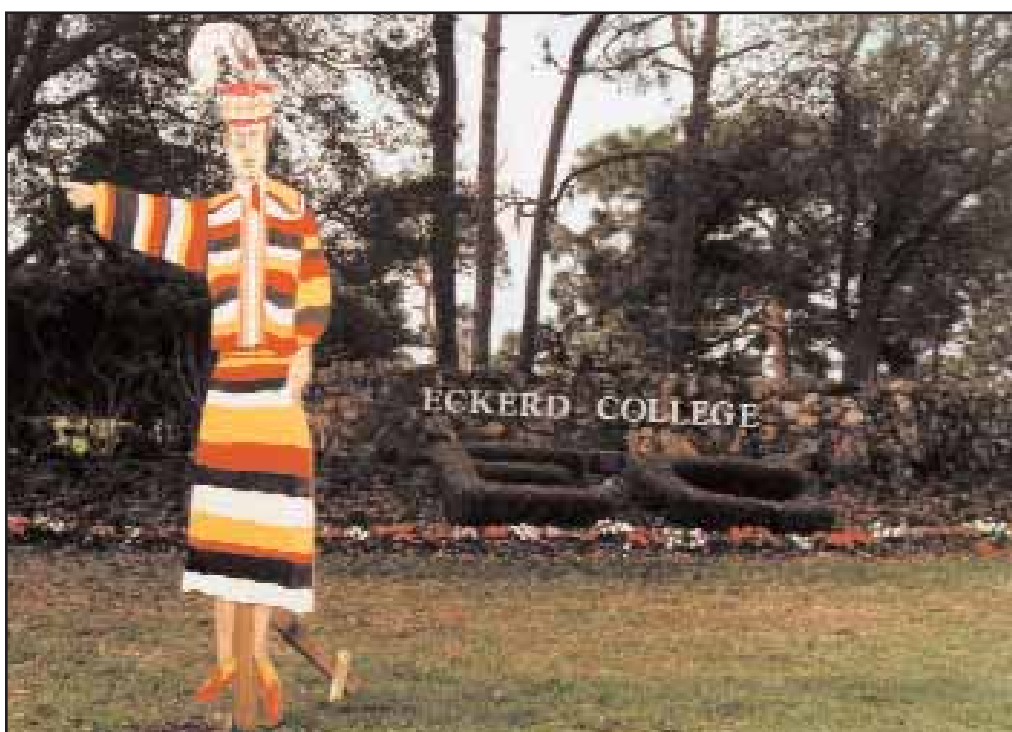
Buffy Sainte-Marie and guitar.



William Osceola's high step.



Wild Indian Keith Secola.



BIG INDIAN: Cicero points the way to DNA.



NATIVE REGAE: Tchiya Ahmet and the Light House band.



Powwow singer.



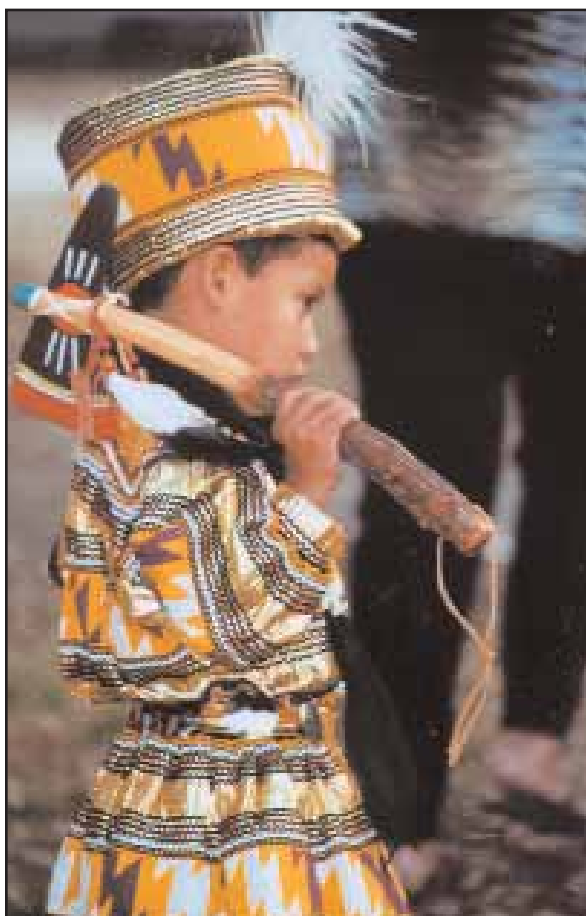
Youth dancer.



CULTURAL MEETING: Girl with balloon meets boy with feathers.



Action in the powwow arena is fast and furious.



Back scratcher.



Axtec power.



Waiting on the judges.