



“Check” out Mitchell Cypress, Coach Schnellenberger, page 5.



Veterans gather at Big Cypress, page 13.



Homecoming court, page 5.



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More Canoes Emerge From Pithlachocco

Tribe Demands Protection

By Charles Flowers
GAINESVILLE — Another seven Indian canoes were found recently on Pithlachocco (Newnan’s Lake), where more aboriginal craft have been discovered than anywhere else on earth.

As the lake waters recede further into the winter drought, an archaeologist estimates “hundreds” more may emerge from the drying lakebed.

And the Seminole Tribe of Florida wants the cultural site protected.

“This site is of critical significance, not only to the history of the Seminole people, but to all Floridians,” said Tribal Anthropology & Genealogy Director Dr. Patricia Wickman. “The Seminole Tribe of Florida intends to do everything in its power to protect this magnificent evidence of its heritage.”

At press time, Wickman was in Tallahassee conferring with state officials about Pithlachocco, where nearly 100 canoes are strewn about a two-mile stretch along the northeastern shore of the state’s fourth largest lake.

Lake side resident Dale Crider, who was at the center of the storm that erupted this summer when several canoes were damaged during a dead-head logging operation permitted by the state, discovered the new canoes while scouting the area in preparation for a visit by Secretary of State Katherine Harris.

Harris, whose duties include oversight of the Division of Historic Resources (DHR), was scheduled to meet at Pithlachocco with Seminole Chairman James Billie. However, the visit was delayed when Harris, who certified Florida’s controversial election results, became involved in the now-contested Presidential race.

“I went out about 300 yards from my house and found a depression in the lake where there was a canoe upside down,” Crider, a retired state game biologist said. “I believe it was made of cypress. Since then, I’ve found five more in the same area, along with some pieces I believe to come from another canoe.”

If confirmed, the number of ancient canoes found at Pithlachocco would number 96. DHR director Janet Snyder-Matthews had more than 50 of the canoes radiocarbon dated. The ages ranged from 500 to 5,000 years. The oldest canoe predated the Biblical boatman Noah. No more than 22 aboriginal canoes has ever been found in one place before.

However, Crider and others believe there could be many more.

“I think there may be more canoes at the south end of the lake,” said Crider, who has lived on the lake since 1970.

East Side High teacher Steve Everett, whose students were part of the first major discovery, agreed. Along with local archaeologist Ray

See CANOE, page 11



RUNNING GIRLS: (L-R) Sisters Jo Jo, Mercedes and Tasha Osceola rank among the state’s best.

Osceola Sisters Place In State Track Meet

By Ernie Tiger
TITUSVILLE — The Osceola Sisters track trio of Tasha, Jo-Jo and Mercedes has been making its presence known in District, Regional, and State High School Cross-Country meets. At the State meet recently held at Brevard College in Titusville the trio placed as follows: JoJo 26th, Mercedes 28th, and Tasha 90th. The State event had 158 competitors

Commenting on the varying tracks run at the district, regional, and state levels Mercedes stated, “They were tough tracks to compete on but TY Park in Hollywood was the toughest track for me to compete on because of the home pressure.” All three sisters improved their lap time at each level of competition.

The Osceola girls, daughters of Tribal Ambassador Joe Dan and wife Virginia, attend Sheridan Hills Christian School in Hollywood where they all participate in several sports.

“I also play basketball at my school and jog before the race for conditioning,” said Tasha Osceola who placed seventh at the regional track final held at Larry Thompson Park. Mercedes placed first at the regional meet with JoJo following in second.

Council Holds Active Session

By Dan McDonald

HOLLYWOOD — Natural gas exploration, stock cars and drainage easements were just some of the highlights of a wide ranging Tribal Council meeting that ran for over eight hours at the Auditorium, Nov. 8.

The Council agreed to issue a permit to Adair International Oil & Gas Co., to explore the Big Cypress Reservation for natural gas deposits.

“It won’t cost the Tribe anything and if the gas is found, it could possibly be used to supply the power plant that the Tribe is developing,” Hollywood Board Representative Carl Baxley explained to the Council.

After working out a few issues regarding who would monitor the company representatives as they performed their exploration work, the Council approved the permit.

The Council also approved a drainage easement on land near the Coconut Creek Casino property. By approving the right of way easement, the plans for developing that land can proceed.

In other action, the Council heard a motion to have the Seminole Tribe sponsor NASCAR driver Tina Gordon, who races in the Slim Jim All Pro Series. The Alabama driver is moving up from American Speed Association (ASA) races and will run five NASCAR Busch Series events this coming season.

“We think we can get the most bang for the buck by sponsoring her,” George Johnson, Director of Real Estate Services said after the meeting. Johnson, who once drove racecars, is doing the research based on his knowledge of the racing industry.

“She (Gordon) is the only woman running, and we can sponsor her car, and have an on-board camera with the Tribe’s logo on it for \$75,000.”

The Tribe could sponsor Gordon’s car for her first Busch Series race at the Daytona International Speedway on Feb. 17. The decision must be made within ten days. Currently the Miccosukee Tribe sponsors two NASCAR drivers and has received a lot of exposure through its support.

In other action, the Council:

*Approved a music license agreement with Broadway Music, Inc., (BMI) for the Coconut Creek Casino.

*Tabled a proposal to allow Joe Osceola Jr. to set up a title loan business on the Tampa Reservation.

*Approved the amended development and financial services agreement with Power Plant Entertainment LLC for the financing of development projects on the Hollywood and Tampa Reservations.

*Approved an agreement with Florida Design Contractors, Inc., to construct a water re-pump station on the Big Cypress Reservation.

*Rescinded an agreement with Lodge Construction, Inc., to construct a composting site on the Brighton Reservation, and voted to approve a \$360,000 contract for the same job to Spring Lake Services, Inc.

*Approved \$170,000 for Wharton-Smith Inc., to construct a fire protection well and water line extension for Okalee Village on the Hollywood Reservation.

*Tabled a \$59.9 million agreement with Jordan Jones & Goulding, Inc., to design and construct water and wastewater facilities for the Hollywood, Tampa, Fort Pierce, Brighton, Big Cypress and Immokalee Reservations.

*Approved a billboard contract with American Outdoor Advertising.

*Agreed to spend upwards of \$1 million to purchase 12 lots adjoining Tribal property in Hollywood.

*Approved numerous home site leases for Tribal citizens.

See COUNCIL, page 4

Seminole Elders Recall Blood Decisions

By Virginia Mitchell
Five Seminole Tribal elders – members of the original 1950s Tribal Constitution Committee – still remember the critical discussions and meetings – many of them under the shade of the old Council Oak – as the Tribe organized and staved off the termination threatened by the federal government.

Jimmy O’Toole Osceola, Betty Mae Jumper, Laura Mae Osceola, Frank Billie and Mary Bowers sat down with the *Seminole Tribune* recently and reminisced about those days and the discussions regarding blood quantum. The following are their stories

with Bill Osceola. When he came back we would go over what was discussed.

Frank worked as a mechanic for Jack Lewis, a white man from LaBelle, who was building roads on all the reservations. Mr. Lewis explained to us of the agency’s intent. Many of us did not have jobs; some of us would work in fields for a day’s wage.

Constitution committee members were Frank Billie, Jimmy O’Toole Osceola, Bill Osceola, Billy Osceola, John Henry Gopher and Toby Johns. Some of the elders tried to attend the community meetings but not all the time, such as Buffalo Jim

See ELDERS, page 7



Jimmy O’Toole Osceola remembers the past.

Jimmy O’Toole Osceola, Panther Clan

At the time of trying to become organized I was a resident of Big Cypress. I assisted Frank Billie, taking count of individuals and families. I was appointed because I could understand some English and keep records. Frank had a job and a car so it wasn’t hard for him to get around. Some of the meetings were actually held at Frank’s home and I was to count the hands, which would be raised when they agreed or disagreed. I attended all the community meetings in Big Cypress, but when Frank traveled to Hollywood I didn’t go. Frank had money from his job and he stayed

Chief Billie, Tiger Tiger Grammy Nominees

SANTA MONICA, CA. — Seminole Chief Jim Billie and Miccosukee rockers Tiger Tiger were among first-round nominees for the 43rd Annual Grammy Awards announced recently by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, Inc. (NARAS).

Chief Billie’s latest Sound of America Records (SOAR) album, *Seminole Fire*, received two nominations, for Best Spoken Word Album For Children and for Producer of the Year (John McEuen). Tiger Tiger was nominated for Best Rock Album with their Warrior label release *Southern Exposure*.

The new Best Native American Music Album category category nominees include Keith Bear, James Bilagody, Black Eagle, Black Lodge Singers, Robert Tree Cody and Xavier Quijas, Joseph Fire Crow, Lakota Thunder, Lawrence Laughing, Monument Valley Singers, Northern Cree (three), Delbert “Black Fox” Pomani and Thomas Duran Jr., Verdell Primeaux and Johnny Mike, Red Bull, Joanne Shenandoah, Siksika Ramblers, The Tribe (two), Delphine Tsinajinnie and Young Bird.

Quantum Added Later

Four Years After Constitution Ratified

By Peter B. Gallagher
The original Seminole Tribal Constitution Committee spent much time discussing the Tribal blood quantum issue. In fact, research recently conducted by Chairman’s Assisitant for Governmental Affairs Charles Helseth shows the controversy was not settled by the time the original Tribal constitution was ratified in 1957. According to Helseth, “The original membership clauses, contained in Article 2, expressly stated that no blood quantum or place of residence was required for membership.”

In fact, the primary requirement for membership was enumeration on the Census Roll of the Seminole Agency on Jan. 1, 1957.

See QUANTUM, page 11

Editorial

A 'Racist' Concept

*** Jack D. Forbes**
 The racial concept of "blood quantum" (degree of "blood") started in 1705 when the colony of Virginia adopted a series of laws denying civil rights to any "negro, mulatto, or Indian" and defined those terms as "the child of an Indian, and the child, grandchild, or great grandchild of a negro shall be deemed accounted, held, and taken to be a mulatto." Thus both a person of American race and a person of half-American race (a "half-blood") were treated as legally inferior persons.

Colony after colony and state after state followed Virginia's example in using blood quantum to determine who deserved the privileges accorded to white persons. For example, Alabama's code stated "all negroes, mulattoes, Indians and all persons of mixed blood, to the third generation inclusive, though one ancestor of each generation may have been a white person, whether bond or free; shall be taken, and deemed incapable in law, to be witnesses. . . . except for or against each other." North Carolina possessed a code which prohibited marriages between white persons and "an Indian, Negro, Mustee, or Mulatto. . . . or any person of Mixed Blood to the Third Generation."

In 1866, Virginia decreed that "Every person having one-fourth or more Negro blood shall be deemed a colored person, and every person not a colored person having one-fourth or more Indian blood shall be deemed an Indian." (This is perhaps where the one-quarter blood concept used by the Bureau of Indian Affairs originated).

The Federal government began to also use "degree of blood" in the latter part of the 19th-century, especially in relation to enrollment before the Dawes allotment commission. The use of "full," "one-half" etc. at that time was both an extension of the

previous racist system and a step in terminating Native tribes. Persons with greater amounts of white ancestry were assumed to be more competent than persons with lesser amounts. The white blood entitled an Indian citizen to greater privileges, including being able to have "wardship" restrictions removed, being able to sell property, acquire the right to vote in state and federal elections, and so on. Thus it may be that many persons chose to exaggerate their amount of white ancestry when enrolling. Persons without white ancestry were restricted persons, with the Bureau controlling their financial lives. It was also expected that when a person became "competent" (white enough) he would no longer be an Indian and that process would eventually terminate a tribe's existence.

Thus the recording of blood quantum is both a product of white racism and a plan wherein Native nations are expected to vanish when the white blood quantum reaches a certain level. For this reason alone, the use of blood quantum is exceedingly dangerous for Native Nations today.

Only recently, changes in the way the BIA calculates and invalidates a Certificate of Degree of Indian or Alaska Native Blood (CDIB) were proposed by the Secretary of the Interior.

The possibility exists that numerous persons of full American indigenous racial ancestry will be counted as mixed-bloods and that, gradually, American Indians will be eliminated as a people as they marry non-Indians or currently non-Federally recognized Natives. This is a form of self-termination. If you are concerned about these issues, contact Karen Ketcher of the BIA at KarenKetcher@bia.gov.

— **Jack D. Forbes**, *Powhatan-Delaware, is a professor of Native American Studies at the University of California-Davis.*

Dear President Clinton . . .

*** Joe Dan Osceola**
 As current Ambassador and former President of the federally recognized Seminole Tribe of Florida, I would like to add my name and that of the Seminole Tribe to the long list of those who support executive clemency for Leonard Peltier.

There is no need for me to repeat the disturbing facts of this case and the inequities of the justice system that has imprisoned an innocent man for so many years. Those facts have been clearly debated and exposed many times, most notably in works by Peter Mathiesson, Robert Redford, and other prominent chroniclers of the human existence.

The history of the Seminole Indians also contains instances of wrongful imprisonment, not the least was the fate suf-

fered by the great Seminole warrior Osceola. Captured under a flag of truce, thrown into a dungeon, he died in a U.S. military prison. Today, he is regarded by historians as one of the greatest Americans in history, imprisoned for defending the honor of his people.

Nothing is worse than an innocent man convicted. Nothing is more important than the tenet that one must be found guilty "beyond all reasonable doubt." For Leonard Peltier, and many world leaders, prominent artists, political leaders and common Americans who have called for his release, justice is long overdue.

— **Joe Dan Osceola** *is Ambassador of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.*



Peter B. Gallagher

Yah tah boochathe'

Tribal Citizens Speak On Blood, Clans

Editor:

Having read and heard the comments made by various individuals regarding the change in blood quantum for citizenship in our Tribe, I am compelled to offer my views on the subject as well. Everyone has a valid point and everyone is justifiably vexed at the discussion but, it was coming one day and we knew it.

I am a full blood born to a Miccosukee-speaking father and a Creek-speaking mother. As a young child, I had the fortune to be exposed to so much of our culture and tradition through my great-great-grand's; great-grand's; grands, aunts, uncles and cousins. They all taught my siblings and I that "Seminole, you are born and Seminole, you shall be till the day you die." There was no distinction made between the full-, half- and quarter-bloods. We were taught that no good came from denying the human being that exists at the core of all of us.

I grew up observing the prejudice our own people had for those who were less than a full blood. The comments, the ostracism, and the blatant disregard expressed and displayed by other Tribal citizens toward those individuals always bothered me. As a youngster, I had numerous discussions with my elders regarding this attitude. But, I was always comforted by the wisdom of my grandfather, Andrew Bowers, Sr. He constantly reassured me that everyone was to be respected first as a human being before we thought anything else about anyone. Why? Because, basically, we were all the same inside and out; no one was greater than the next when people were all viewed from the same level.

Does it really matter if someone is less than half-Seminole? Personally, I have always viewed it that even if you're less than one-fourth the Seminole blood doesn't stop flowing. Lesser quanta may not be able to join the Tribe but, the Seminole part doesn't put on the brakes and stop there because governmentally, you can't be placed on the citizenship roll. It is a sad situation that much of our culture and traditions have fallen by the wayside, but our Tribe and its heritage isn't defined by a chosen few. Those who proclaim to be more traditionally based and culturally rooted so they know what is good for us as a people, are no more right than I am wrong when it comes to defining anyone as a Seminole. And to feel that there exists a necessity to restrict quantum to half and a clan to maintain a Tribe is not a very sound justification for any means.

The Tribe exists because of the people. The citizenship roll is what defines this Tribe's existence. We are fortunate that no one on the founding committee felt that just full bloods or only those speaking Miccosukee or Creek could be enrolled. If they had, the Seminole without much of a legacy. We are very fortunate that everyone was considered and the diversity that we now

have in our Tribe isn't just occurring, it continues.

I doubt there would be very much if I led the fight to limit the quantum to full bloods and clan for membership. I'm not particularly optimistic either about the lineage of the Seminole people but, I also believe that self-genocide is not the answer - literally or figuratively.

We have enough opportunities within and without the Tribe to concern ourselves with to worry whether or not the quarter newborn has a clan and is deserving to say a Seminole. Who's to say that he or she will not grow up in the ways and teachings of our people, speaking the languages, possibly to be hailed as the greatest Seminole leader ever?

But, if the people need to define our citizenship requirements more stringently, then speak once and for all by placing the consideration on a referendum to all eligible voting Tribal citizens. Let the people decide the issue of membership.

Lastly, I would ask that all Tribal citizens consider the issue seriously before making a judgment. Look at your families closely and think about your histories. After all, we are the products of ancestors who came together as a means of survival. We are a "melting pot" of tribes who fought to escape the forced genocide of the U.S. Government. We are many bloods flowing together. If our ancestors had pursued selective breeding practices, would you be here?

And one does not make us a person and one does not make us a Tribe. We must decide for ourselves if we want to survive as Seminole people. Is our pride enough to keep us strong, or are we losing our way to the economic gains of the Tribe? Just what is the motivation for this discussion?

**Gloria Wilson
Snake Clan
Hollywood Reservation**

The Tribune wants your opinion!

on Tribal citizenship, blood quantum and Seminole clans

**Write Seminole Communications
6300 Stirling Rd, Hollywood, FL 33024.
or
email tribune@semtribe.com
or
call Virginia Mitchell at (954) 967-3416**

Let us know what YOU think!

Congratulations Jarrid Smith!

Editor:

Your article on Oct. 20, 2000 about the High School Rodeo held in Big Cypress was nice reading. I was very sorry to you to know that my 15 year old son Jarrid Lee Smith, first grandson of the

late Fred Smith, also participated in this rodeo, as a Bull Rider. He rode but didn't score. He saw the article and wanted me to let the paper know.

Camellia Smith

e-mail

tribune@semtribe.com

Editor:

Why must one have at least 1/4 Seminole blood in them to qualify as a Tribal citizen? I am 1/16 Seminole and I am the one, not my grandfather, who wishes to know about this part of my history. When I first learned that I had a Seminole heritage, I was elated, and then when I found out the qualifications, it was heartbroken. America is made up of so many peoples and I am so happy to be a part of one of the native cultures. I do not mean to judge the Tribe, or disrespect it, but no matter what blood I carry in my body, I know that I will be Native American always, and no-one can take that from me. Sincerely, an injured soul.

**Sarah Rumbaugh
Duncannon, Pa.**

Editor:

I received the scarf I ordered on the Tribe's Marketplace, and it is beautiful. Thank you very much.

**Renee Angel
RAngel5172@aol.com**

Editor:

I am doing a report on the Seminole Indians. The three main topics of my paper are burial desecration, religious rights being threatened by the government and how the white people have destroyed the habitat that used to be abundant to the Seminole people have had to find a new way to feed and support their families. I have heard the rumor that the Lakewood Park Elementary School is built on a burial site, but am not sure if this is true. I also need any information on the threat of the government regarding the Seminole religious ceremonies and the banning of any herbs that may be used. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

**Dianna Dashner.
St. Petersburg
DDASH91636@aol.com**

Seminole Tribal Liaison Stephen Bowers replies:

Since the Seminole never really kept burial site records as we do now, there is no real way of saying where someone was buried. In the old days, a Seminole was buried above ground because when we would dig a gravesite

there would be water easily found because of the high water level. So we put our dead in a makeshift coffin of cypress branches and at each end of this makeshift coffin two long branches would be placed. Here you would hang the deceased's belongings (clothes, rifle, knife, cooking utensils the deceased used while alive, etc.) over the coffin.

Because of health concerns due to the decaying of the body, we started covering the body with dirt but we still buried the deceased with all his belongings - the reason for looting of gravesites. Many areas that may have Seminole mounds have been protected by the State (Pine Island Ridge, Snake Warriors Island, etc.). I do not have any information on Lakewood Park Elementary site; it is conceivable for a burial site to be there since the Seminole people roamed all over this state.

In reference to religious ceremonies, all Indian tribes that still practice their tribally specific ceremonies are protected by the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, which was passed by Congress in the early '90s. Tribes that still practice the use of peyote in their ceremonies are protected by that same Act of Congress. There is no herb that we use that is banned; it is just difficult to find those herbs because of encroaching development to where those herbs used to grow naturally.

Finally, with respect to the Seminole having to find a new way to feed our families, I don't think our ancestors ever thought everything would remain the same as the white settlers kept coming and coming to Florida. What is great about the Seminole is our ability to adapt to various situations and our ability to use the white man's laws to our advantage. An example is our situation with gaming. Let's face it - there are not too many places in Florida where large groups could live the way our ancestors did.

Editor:

My wife Marlene and I had the honor to be guests of the Chief at the Reservation recently along with our good friend Hollywood Dave and some visiting friends from England. We had a great time and met with Swamp Owl. We were sorry to hear that Swamp Owl had met with an

accident and would appreciate it if someone could let him know our thoughts are with him and we hope he enjoys a speedy and full recovery. Thanks.

**Sir Andrew Shaw
St. Petersburg
ikam@earthlink.net**

Chief Billie:

Your website was very important to me because without it I would be getting an F on my report. Thank you very much.

**Becky Carter
Greenleaf, WI
Beekyue_18@yahoo.com**

Chief Billie:

Several years ago I was given a copy of a wonderful "Seminole Prayer" supposedly written by a Seminole on the Brighton Reservation. There was no name recorded as the author. I have written two novels, and though I am still in the process of seeking a publisher, I would very much like to have this prayer printed in the front of the books when they are published. Therefore I need to know who wrote this to ask permission to have it printed in their name. My two novels are titled *Seminole Heart* and *Seminole Sunset*. The following is the "Seminole Prayer."

O' Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear me! I am small and weak, I need your strength and wisdom. Let me walk in beauty, and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset. Make my hands respect the things you have made, and my ears sharp to hear your voice. Make me wise so that I may understand the things you have taught my people. Let me learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock. I seek strength not to be greater than my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy . . . myself. Make me always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes, so when life fades as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame. So be it!

Thank you for any help you can give me in this matter.

**Charlotte Martin
Oxford, Fla.
lynnmar10@mail.com**

See EMAIL, page 4



Reflections By Patsy West

Dressing For A Wedding

Sandra Satterlee from Poteau, OK, e-mailed the Seminole Tribune to find out what a Seminole woman's wedding dress might have looked like between 1900 -1930 for an alternative high school class project. Historian Patsy West provided the following answer.

While there is no distinctive fashion statement "wedding dress" for the Seminoles, if a woman were married at the Green Corn Dance or at a tourist attraction, her dress would have been new and the finest dress she had.

The Green Corn Dance was the traditional annual socio/religious/political event held in June far out in the Big Cypress swamp. All people were new, fine clothing and a marriage held there was a big event.

Because tourists had such a fascination over the idea of a Seminole marriage ceremony and very few people had observed one, the Seminoles who were hired by tourist attractions in Miami were persuaded to hold some marriages in public. It is known that some of these were legitimate marriage ceremonies, while others were staged with couples already married. Interestingly, these events generally had the paid attendance of leading

medicine men from Big Cypress.

One blockbuster "Indian wedding" was held at Musa Isle Indian Village tourist attraction in June 1926 between Tony Tommie and Edna Johns. It was a major success for the promoters, and also brought in additional income and benefits for the Seminole participants. This particular event was locally significant in that it held the City of Miami's tourist season over for several weeks. Since the tourist attraction weddings were the only photographed Seminole marriage ceremonies, they are the only visual images of Seminole attire for a "wedding."

If a couple missed a Green Corn Dance ceremony, they could still be married during the year more privately. A man's uncles would take him to the bride's camp and meet with the bride's uncles and mother, who were the bride's clansmen.

At a private wedding such as this, the couple wore their everyday clothing. After a brief discussion with the elders about their duties, they were considered married.

A man was considered ready to marry when he could hunt and take care of chores in the camp thus proving he could take care of a family. A woman

needed to know how to cook, sew, and wash clothes. They both would need to know how to plant and tend garden plots.

The woman received gifts from her future husband, necklaces, silver ornaments, and also wedding gifts which would set them up in housekeeping, such as pots and pans, perhaps a hand-cranked sewing machine and cloth, and other camp life necessities.

Most often the elders (uncles and aunts) did the matchmaking and the couple had to comply. The Seminoles' culture is matrilineal (descent is from the woman's clan) and residence was matrilineal, meaning that the husband lived in his mother-in-law's camp. At first, they would stay in the chickee (the thatched house) where the bride had always slept. Later, the husband would build a separate chickee for them in camp.

The camp's fire was laid in the cooking chickee. Logs were laid in the traditional Seminole manner radiating out like the spokes of a wheel. At the time of the marriage, a ceremony took place at the cook chickee. The new husband would cut four large logs (two was a ceremonial number) and add them to the existing logs. He would also cut a pile of firewood for the campfire.

— Reflections, Number 183.



An early 1920's wedding ceremony at Musa Isle Indian Village tourist attraction. The unidentified bride is in the center.

Good Turkey, Bad Turkey

Thanksgiving is a fairly new concept to the Seminole Tribe, introduced some time during the early 1900s. Given all of the rapid changes that have taken place over the last 100 years, add the myths, the forgotten truths, the tears and the smiles that go along with the Thanksgiving idea, and the Seminole People appear to have embraced this new feast day here in Florida. Like all things new, it's a good idea to break them in a little to make them fit comfortably.

One way the Tampa community has found to make November fit is to have a Powwow for the non-Indian community. The annual Thanksgiving Powwow, hosted and sponsored by Bobby Henry, has turned into one of the Tampa area's must-go-to events. This year, there was news feature coverage by FOX news star reporter Nancy Alexander. Nancy was a recent guest host of the Regis Philbin show.

Proceeds from the event go towards the feed and care of the village animals and grounds. This year brought the *Oyate Yaji* (One Family) dancers and *Dakota Travelers* drum group from Prairie Island, Minn., and vendors from as far away as Arizona. In an ongoing effort to educate the public, it's a way for the non-Indian community to come and experience a little bit of Indian Country.

Another big way is the community dinner. This year the Tampa community reserved half of the downtown Ybor City restaurant in downtown Ybor City to sit down and share a meal. There were around 200 people from the Brighton and Tampa reservations seated in a spacious classic moor style dining hall with a stage set with four chairs in anticipation of the Flamenco dancers that were waiting in the wings to step out and stomp their feet. The Flamenco dancers were upstaged by the "traditional" Seminole raffle. There was a lot of laughter and good-natured teasing as women went up to claim 200-piece tool sets, and men to claim toilet paper and tea sets.

If any message of Thanksgiving tradition comes down through the years, it is that you can apparently make it what you want. It has become the day when America sits down with their families to reflect on what they have to be thankful for. The Seminole Tribe is one very big family that knows and enjoys how to do that part well. Getting together with your family and friends, young and old. Not to anyone else's style or step but to their own.

HISTORIC FOOTNOTES

For around 376 years, the United States of America has built on the myth of pious Pilgrims, the friendly Wampanoag Indians, and Squanto who showed the reverent settlers how to plant corn. Then, mysteriously, all the Indians disappeared, leaving all of this land for the new Americans to spread out on.

However there is very little mention of the Puritan Pilgrims' real intentions to take the land, by murdering the men,

women, and children of the Wampanoag nation. This is best illustrated in the written text of the Thanksgiving sermon delivered at Plymouth Mass. in 1623 by "Mather the Elder." In it, Mather the Elder gave special thanks to God for the devastating plague of smallpox, which wiped out the majority of the Wampanoag Indians who had been their benefactors. He praised God for destroying "chiefly young men and children, the very seeds of increase, thus clearing the forests to make way for a better growth", i.e., the Pilgrims. Inasmuch as these Indians were the Pilgrims' benefactors, and Squanto, in particular, was the instrument of their salvation that first year, how are we to interpret this apparent callousness towards their misfortune?

Just 44 years later they were making proclamations like this:

THE FIRST THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION - JUNE 20, 1676:

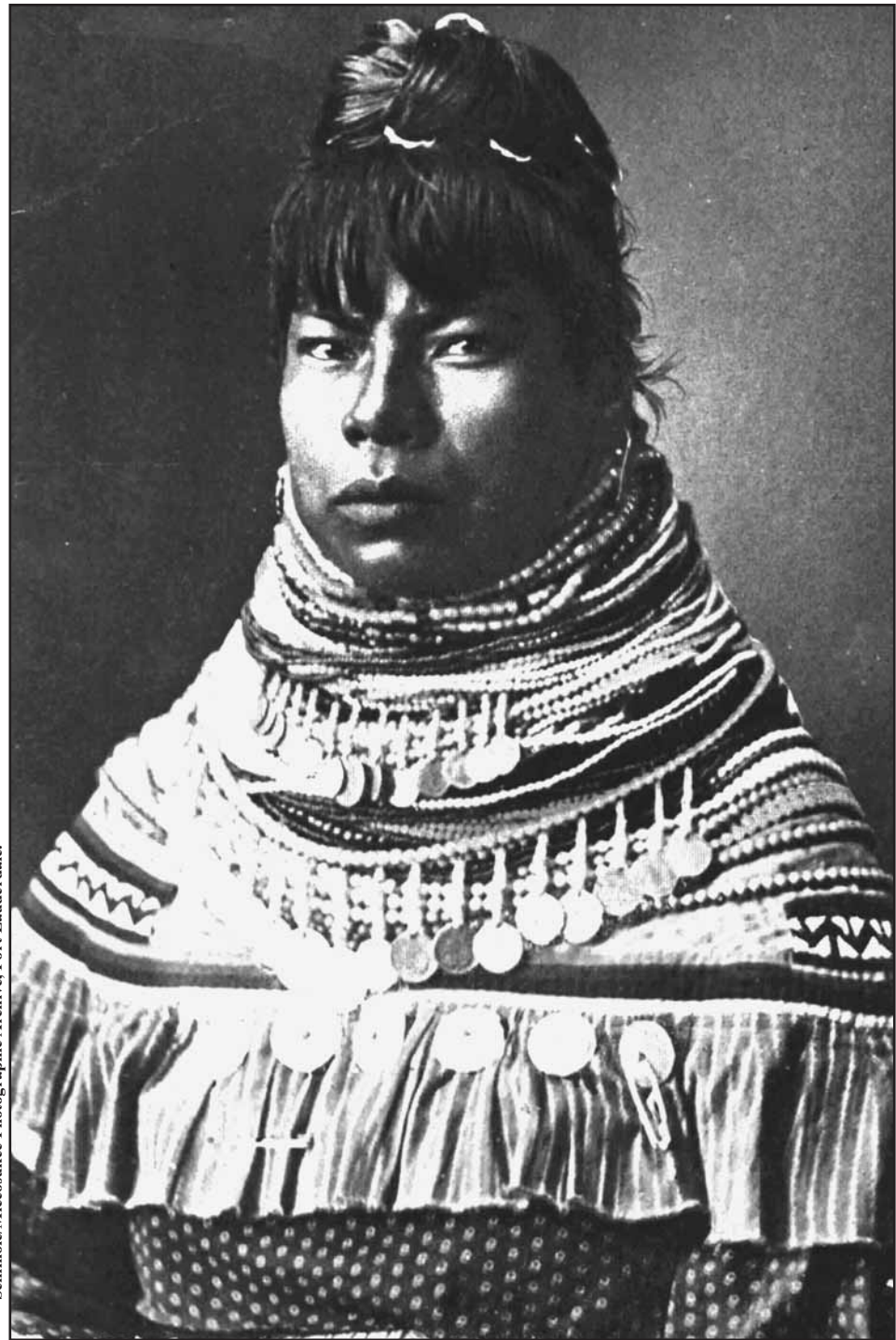
"The Holy God having by a long and Continual Series of his Affective dispensations in and by the present Warr with the Heathen Natives of this land, written and brought to pass bitter things against his own Covenant people in this wilderness, yet so that we evidently discern that in the midst of his judgements he hath remembered mercy, having remembered his Footstool in the day of his sore displeasure against us for our sins, with many singular Intimations of his Fatherly Compassion, and regard; reserving many of our Towns from Desolation Threatened, and attempted by the Enemy, and giving us especially of late with many of our Confederates many signal Advantages against them, without such Disadvantage to ourselves as formerly we have been sensible of, if it be the Lord's mercy that we are not consumed, It certainly bespeaks our positive Thankfulness, when our Enemies are in any measure disappointed or destroyed; and fearing the Lord should take notice under so many Intimations of his returning mercy, we should be found an Insensible people, his not standing before Him with Thanksgiving, as well as lading him with our Complaints in the time of pressing Afflictions:

The Council has thought meet to appoint and set apart the 29th day of this instant June, as a day of Solemn Thanksgiving and praise to God for such his Goodness and Favour, many Particulars of which mercy might be Instanced, but we doubt not those who are sensible of God's Afflictions, have been as diligent to espy him returning to us; and that the Lord may behold us as a People offering Praise and thereby glorifying Him; the Council doth commend it to the Respective Ministers, Elders and people of this Jurisdiction; Solemnly and seriously to keep the same Beseeking that being perswaded by the mercies of God we may all, even this whole people offer up our bodies and souls as a living and acceptable Service unto God by Jesus Christ."

— Mark Madrid (Creek) is a Seminole Tribune correspondent based in Lakeland.



MARK MADRID



BEADS GALORE: "A Seminole Indian Bride" Postal card.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Provides Training Workshop

By B. Secody

BIG CYPRESS — On Oct. 21, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum staff provided a cultural workshop for the Big Cypress Tribal and community citizens. The event was held at the Frank Billie Center with several artisans providing the classes. Participants were given kits with all supplies needed for the particular item that was being demonstrated so that everyone could make their crafts along with the demonstrators. Approximately 50 people from Big Cypress, Hollywood and Brighton were on hand to take advantage of the valuable training being provided throughout the day.

The first demonstration was basket making provided by Pedro Zepeda.

popular items taught during the workshop.

David Blackard provided a class on women's 19th century clothing. Blackard, who is a noted historian for the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes, demonstrated the early design of clothing and provided information to the group on the designs and their meaning. Early clothing was designed to be functional for living in a mosquito-infested area of sawgrass.

The group broke for lunch, with many of them heading to Billie Swamp Safari for a sample of traditional cuisine.

During afternoon sessions, Jason Wolz presented a class on Southeast Bandolier Bags. He demonstrated beadwork done on fabric which was somewhat more complicated than the other crafts.

Brian

Zepeda provided an expert demonstration on the "long shirt," a coat traditionally worn by men.

As the afternoon came to a close, Marty Bowers provided the final demonstration. He taught the group how to make sofkee. Sofkee is a morning drink served hot. It is made with cornmeal, rice, guava or flour — depending on the cook's preference. He demonstrated the use of the fire ashes in making the drink. Many of the native participants already knew this technique, but to non-tribal members, the demonstration was very interesting.

The attendees commented on



Beautiful handiwork adorns this small bandolier bag.

The group was shown the basic concept of basket making and did well following along with Zepeda.

Another popular item that was demonstrated to the group was traditional moccasins. David Mott provided the demonstration. This was one of the most

successful of the day and appeared pleased with the various demonstrations provided, as well as the items they had successfully created. The group thanked all presenters and spoke of looking forward to the next workshop provided by the museum staff and visitors.



The start of a basket, as demonstrated by Pedro Zepeda.

Community News



Former Marine Ed Woods shows a visitor one of several Florida panthers at Billie Swamp Safari.

Safari Becomes Training Ground

Story and photos by B. Secody
BIG CYPRESS — Recently, Billie Swamp Safari was turned into a military training ground as 16 National Guard members came to the isolated attraction for a session on dealing with swamp critters including poisonous snakes and alligators.

The training program came about when Lt. Bruce of the Miami National Guard met Chairman James Billie and expressed his dilemma to the Chief about the lack of training resources in South Florida and the need for his men to learn as much as possible about venomous snakes, treatment for snake bites and other reptilians they would encounter in such swampy terrain. Even the training areas available to the National Guard in South Florida are limited and lacks the resources needed for serious tactical maneuvers.

The group was invited to seek the training at the Safari, where they worked under the guidance of Ed Woods, who as a former Marine, was more than willing to oblige with training the weekend warriors.

The group was given valuable information and demonstrations about reptiles and mostly venomous snakes — which they had never had the opportunity to learn about. They received in-depth training on survival skills in the Everglades. Another session will take place in the weeks to come to continue the training, and update the men on new methods, tactical skills and information needed.

After a day of vigorous exercise and maneuvers, the men were treated to an alligator wrestling demonstration and poisonous snake show and received a tour of Billie Swamp Safari. Ed stated he enjoyed providing the training, and most of all

enjoyed cajoling the Lieutenant, who had been a Marine, but had re-enlisted in the Army (National Guard).

The joking was all in fun, however, and both the National Guardsmen and Safari Staff look forward to meeting again in the near future.

Ed manages to keep his head full with the responsibilities he shoulders daily — keeping things running smoothly at the attraction, from calming a new buggy driver to overseeing plans for expansion of the area. Although he is in constant demand from other staff, tour groups and businesses he deals with, he still manages to take the time to spend with an excited young boy who has discovered the panther exhibit, and answer the child's many questions. He states he loves his job at Safari and enjoys all the various assignments he has taken on since coming on board as site manager.



Wild elans roam the flowery Safari jungles.

Council

Continued from page 1

- *Approved a billboard to be placed on the rear of Carl Baxley's property.
- *Approved to modify a business permit issued
- *Approved a business permit issued to Jimmy Osceola that will allow him to sell hot dogs and soft drinks at the chickee constructed on his Hollywood lease.
- *Tabled a resolution by Jimmy Osceola to hold kick boxing, wrestling and boxing events at the Laura Mae Osceola Stadium in Hollywood and other Tribal venues.
- *Tabled a resolution by Jimmy Osceola to authorize a wholesale alcoholic beverage distribution company on the Hollywood Reservation.
- *Approved a food vending concession stand for Emma Urbina on the Brighton Reservation.
- *Approved on numerous land leases on the Brighton Reservation.
- *Voted to have Rebecca Yzaguirre replace Jennifer Martinez on the Immokalee Land Use Commission.
- *Approved a 3-to-5 acre lease to Kenny Davis to start a squash farm on the Immokalee Reservation.

- *Approved a permit to Clarence Motlow to open and operate a vehicle washing and detailing business on the Tampa Reservation.
- *Approved a permit to the Maggie B. Osceola Native American Pow Wow on the Tampa Reservation.
- *Approved a resolution to allow Nicodemus Billie Sr., to operate an arts and crafts shop on his Big Cypress property.
- *Approved a 5-year, \$90,000 lease for cellular towers on the Big Cypress and Brighton Reservations.
- *Approved the purchase of five lots in the Ford Center Subdivision at the Big Cypress Reservation.
- *Approved two resolutions that contract with McGladrey & Pullen, LLP, certified public accountants, to provide fiscal year audits of all Tribal owned casinos.
- *Approved a \$25,000 loan to Mike Smith to purchase cattle.
- *Approved a feasibility study for a golf course on the Immokalee Reservation.
- *Approved several Water Department proposals, including adding \$3,605 Tribal funds to \$68,499 EPA funds for supplies and laboratory analysis of surface waters on the reservations, approved funds for a boring map and renewal of a review and design contract with Hyde & Associates.

Email

Continued from page 2

Chief Billie:
 I am making contact with one of the prime grocery store chains located here in Arizona. It is Basha's Stores, which already has a strong working relationship with Arizona Tribes. I am proposing an Exclusive Native American Food Section in this particular store. Across America we do have a high Native American population in the urban settings of America. Basically we would be selling to ourselves. I would bet that somewhere in the Greater Phoenix area, one of your Tribal people is really hungry for their own native foods. I think that this idea's time has come and it will bring profits to your native enterprises, increase employment and instill pride in our Native People and create success with our Native Food Companies. Is this too far fetched? Will it work? I have written to other tribes, Inter-Tribal Agriculture Council, Tribal Bottled Water Companies and put it on Native Message Boards to see if I can receive referrals and letters of support for such an effort. If you don't think it will work, just disregard this email.

Terrance H. Booth, Sr.
Phoenix, Az.
t_booth_sr@hotmail.com

Dear Chief Jim Billie:
 I have a deep and abiding respect for you and your people. When my father and uncle were young and lived in Miami,

they ran away a great deal from abuse and neglect and ran to the Everglades. Your ancestors took them in. They learned how to wrestle alligators, work with snakes, and grow up to be honorable loving men. They lived in the Everglades sporadically until their father found them each time and then they would go back as soon as they could. When they were older my father ran to the oceans and my Uncle Charlie to the Everglades. My Grandfather is buried out there and my father is deceased since 1981. I want to thank you and your Tribe and ancestors for being the loving kind people you are. I believe in running away and being taken in was what stopped the cycle of abuse. For that my Mother, I, my half-sister and my Brother, Bob, I, my half-prefer the Indian way to the way of white people. Thank you for preserving your culture and language so that it can be passed on.

Sandy Lunge-Benedict
Hollywood
slbchoctaw@hotmail.com

Webmaster:
 You have a spectacular website! My mother, Frances DeVore, who was a guest of honor at the meeting pictured on the front page on your Tribune website, loves the Tribune. She loaned me her copy that she got at that meeting and I wrote a brief about it. (I write for the *Ocala Star-Banner*, too. My work appears in the Neighbors section that comes out on Wednesdays.) Frances would like information on how to subscribe to the

Tribune. Her address is Frances DeVore, P. O. Box 175, Reddick FL 32686. Thanks.

Carol Markett
Ocala
fcmarkett@skybiz.com

Business Manager Dan McDonald replies: *You can order the Tribune over the Internet, by the way. Just go to www.seminoletribe.com, click on marketplace and find the Tribune link.*

Chief Billie:
 Can you please send be a picture of the Seminole Tribal flag for my Social Studies report? I need to print out the flag. By the way thanks for all of the information on the Seminoles. Thanks a lot.

Matt Angst
Yanke69943@aol.com

Webmaster Melissa Sherman replies: *I just e-mailed you a photo of the flag, Matt. Good luck!*

Editor:
 Perhaps, you can help me out here. The folks at Erna Nixon Park in Melbourne are rehabilitating an injured baby osprey — they are looking to name the bird. I was thinking that the Seminole word for osprey would be a place to start. Any ideas? Thanks,

Paul Garfinkel
www.ashleygang.com

The Miccosukee word for osprey, Paul, is nee-thek-empee

Guests Impressed With Wet Blade

By Dan McDonald
BIG CYPRESS — Melaleuca, tropical soda apple and smut grass took center stage as approximately 50 range managers, chemical company representatives and government officials met at Big Cypress to attend a demonstration of the Burch Wet Blade vegetation management system.

Most of those at the Nov. 9 gathering at the Herman Osceola Gymnasium were being introduced to the Wet Blade system for the first time and came away impressed with the presentations made by scientists who have been using the innovative system to combat a host of invasive plants in Florida.

According to Skroch, X-ray and carbon-14 research has shown the Wet Blade system puts up to 30 percent of herbicide into the root system of plants, compared to one to two percent for broadcast spraying. But, scientists are also using the Wet Blade for a more ecologically sensitive control, as explained by DeValario.

"We've had great success controlling tropical soda using a fungus that only attacks the soda apple," said DeValario. "Even under bad weather conditions, the system works."

"The Wet Blade is the key to making bacteria systems work. It's a very effective tool."

Along with herbicides, the Wet Blade can also apply fertilizers and plant growth regulators. One study currently underway in Mississippi is using the Wet Blade to apply an enzyme to soybean plants. It's this versatility that has researchers eager to study the Wet Blade.

After the scientific presentations, guests were shown a brief demonstration. Using a blue marking dye, Burch Company officials ran a Wet Blade equipped tractor and lawn mower through some heavy roadside weeds. The dye showed how the fluid is deposited directly onto the cut plant stems.

Later, guests were taken to two test plots prepared using the Wet Blade on Sept. 28. One plot, located on the Miccosukee Reservation's Seminole land lease, showed the Wet Blade's effectiveness at treating smut grass.

"This is really astonishing," said Allen Huff, the Seminole Tribe's land use manager. It was Huff's interest that led the Tribe to invest in the Wet Blade. "Smut grass is one of the worst problems we have in pastureland in Florida."

"It really is taking over the range land. Cattle won't eat it, and it was impossible to control before the Wet Blade. Now, we can get 100 percent control. And, it doesn't harm the Bermuda grass under the smut grass."

Others who witnessed the demonstration agreed. "It's a clearly a breakthrough invention that is going to have a major impact on vegetation management. I wish I had invented it!"

Frank Dowdle, a research agronomist with U.S. Sugar Corporation said he agrees the Wet Blade is an effective tool.

"It's something that will have a lot of applications," Dowdle, who helps manage U.S. Sugar's 180,000 acres, said. "In our case, I think it would be good to use on our citrus orchards, where you could treat the weeds with one application of herbicide and not have to come back for 5 or 10 years. It's certainly something worth another look."

For more information on the Wet Blade, visit the company's web site at www.wetblade.com, or call (336) 667-9196.



Allen Huff shows dead smut grass, while the Bermuda grass was unharmed by herbicide.

Robert Eplee, recently retired director of the USDA's National Plant and Health Inspection Service, detailed his career as the nation's foremost expert on invasive weeds. Now a consultant with the Burch Company, Eplee told the guests an invasive plant need not be from a foreign country.

"An invasive plant is any plant that comes from somewhere where it's not to somewhere where it's never been and where it's not wanted," Eplee explained. "There are an estimated 8,000 invasive plant species in the United States today, and they devour about 39,000 acres per day."

"That's why the Wet Blade is such an important tool. I like to say the Wet Blade is a solution in search of problems. It's got the potential to treat many of the invasive species that are so destructive to land managers."

What has Eplee and others excited is the product of inventor Tom Burch, who has spent over a decade perfecting the Wet Blade. Essentially, the Wet Blade is a rotary mowing blade that fits on brush hogs or conventional lawn mowers. But, the Wet Blade carries a small bead of fluid along the bottom cutting edge.

As the Wet Blade cuts vegetation, the fluid is deposited on the stem of plants. Because plants rely on a process called xylem (pronounced zyllum) cavitation — which instantly draws fluids back into the root system to preserve sugars, enzymes and moisture when a plant is cut — the fluid from the Wet Blade is also sucked into the stalk.

"It's this reaction that allows the Wet Blade to be so effective in controlling vegetation using herbicides," explained Walt Skroch, who retired after a 30-year career as a professor of horticulture at North Carolina State University. Skroch, a Fellow of the Weed Science Society of America, is now a consultant for the Burch Company and is responsible for mixing the herbicide cocktails to treat noxious plants.

Swamp Fever: Horse Horror

By Tommy Benn
HORSE PASTURE — Out here they call it "swamp fever."

In the laboratory, they call it Equine Infectious Anemia.

In a dying horse, it's known, simply, as EIA. Fear of EIA looms among horsemen just like the AIDS virus among hookers.

EIA is primarily spread through blood-to-blood contact from large biting insects: horseflies, deer flies, and mosquitoes.

There is no cure nor vaccines to protect horses against EIA. A horse infected is infected for life. Some horses may die within a week after infection; most remain symptomless carriers, until major stress or lower resistance allows the virus to take hold.

An infectious viral disease that affects only the equine species, EIA was first reported in France in 1843 and first detected in the United States in 1888. It is an incurable disease characterized in three distinct forms: acute, chronic and inapparent. In the acute state, many horses will run an extremely high fever, show signs of animal depression, progressive weakness loss of weight, and swelling of the legs, brisket and abdominal areas. Many of these horses become extremely ill and die.

And it is not an easy death. Horses that are classified as chronic have usually recovered from the acute type of EIA. Acute and sub-acute forms may last for a week or maybe a month. The most common is the inapparent carrier state. The equine horses appear to be healthy, but still carry the virus — potential sources of infection to other horses.

Pay attention, Florida. Over 90 percent of EIA cases occur in the "hot zone" states bordering the Southern Atlantic Coast, the Gulf of Mexico, Mississippi River, Texas and Oklahoma. This is due to a large amount of deer flies and horseflies and a large number of untested horses.

The Florida Department of Agriculture has implemented a regulatory program to control the disease, requiring annual testing on all equine moved from their farm of origin.

All horses imported into the state, or moving within the state are required to have a negative EIA report conducted within the previous 12 months. Foals under six months of age must be accompanied by the dam with a current negative EIA test within the past 12 months.

Horses at public or private assemblies must have a current negative EIA report conducted within the previous 12 months. This includes boarding stables, pastures, horse shows, rodeos, trail rides, fairs, racetracks or any other public or private assemblies.

All horses, other than those sold for slaughter must have a current negative EIA report conducted within the previous 12 months for change of ownership. This includes both public and private sales, trail usage, gifts and rental or leases.

All horses used for breeding purposes must have a report of a negative EIA test conducted within 12 months prior to breeding.

Any horse disclosed as positive for EIA on an official test will be permanently identified as a reactor by a freeze brand on the left side of the neck. The equine will then placed in a permanent quarant



SILENT CARRIER: Does this horse have EIA?

fine on an approved premise.
 Or sold to slaughter.
 Or sold to slaughter.
 Dead.

Like AIDS, the best prevention for EIA is staying away from non, tested — and known infected — horses.

Listen to me, friend: do not list your equines co-mingle with untested horses or horses of unknown EIA status.

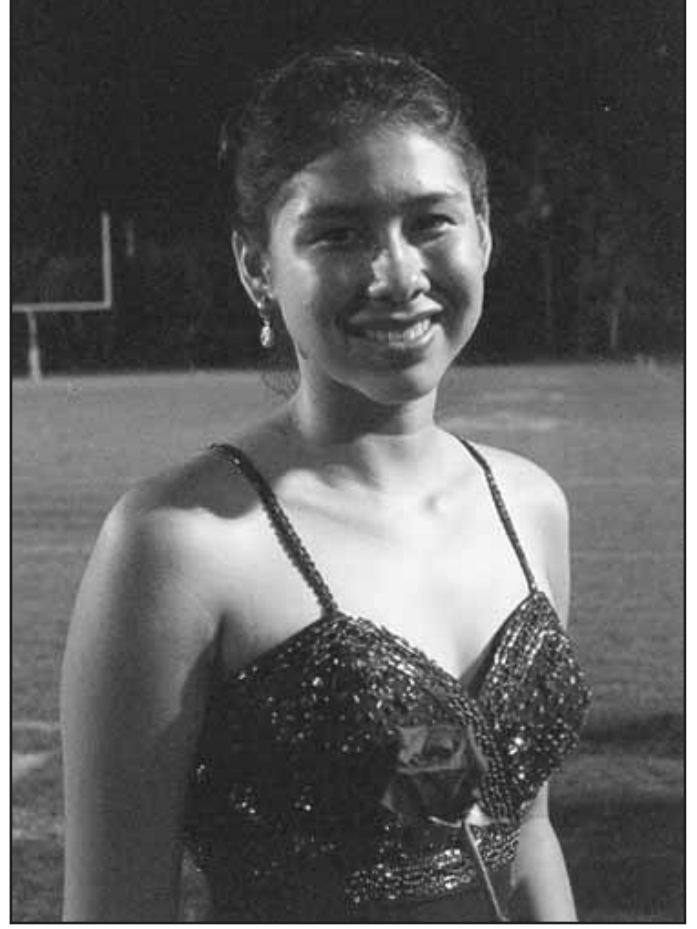
Violators this provision of this section will be guilty of a second degree misdemeanor and be subject to fines up to \$10,000 for each offense.

With an estimated equine population over 350,000 statewide and a capital investment in the equine world of over \$7 billion, EIA is a big business threat. From the racetrack to the cow pastures and show rings, from backyard pleasure pastures to the big time rodeo arena, no horse — not even our own "Cracker" horses that have been in Florida since Ponce de Leon's second voyage in 1521 — is immune.

EIA protection is not just a good idea. It's the law.

Community News

Desiree Jumper: Clewiston High Homecoming Queen Candidate



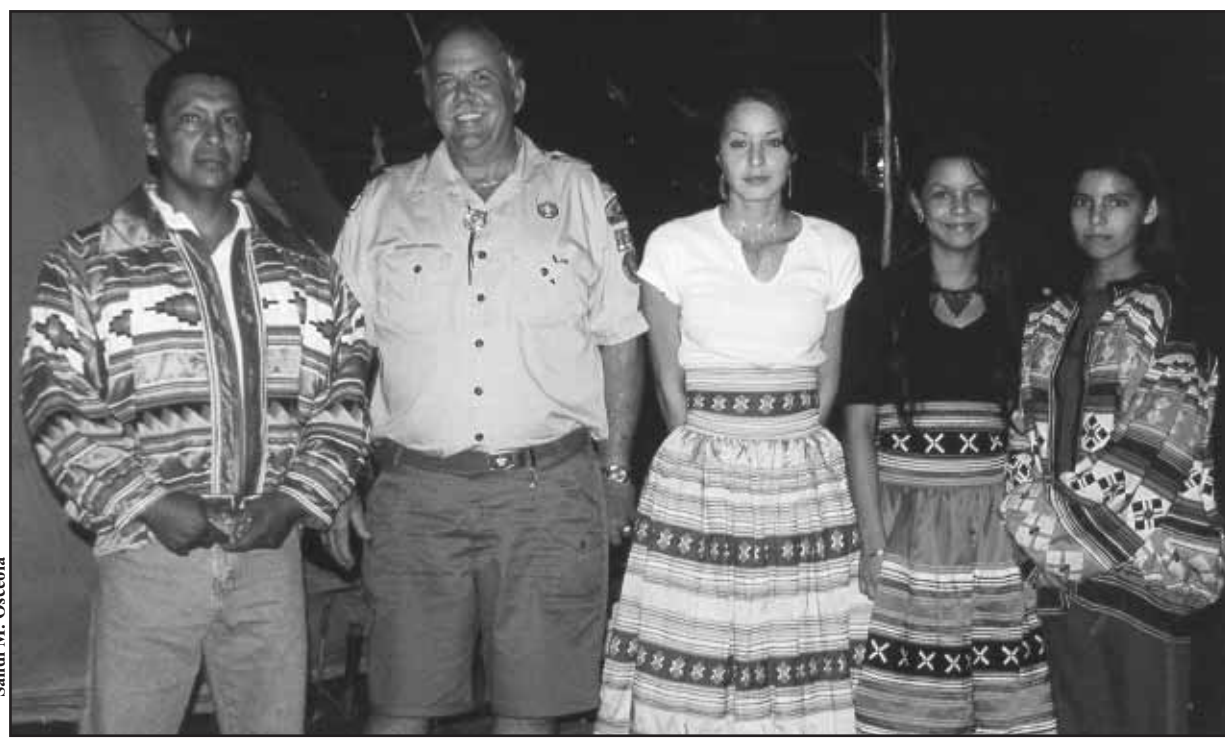
By Janice Billie
CLEWISTON — Amidst the backdrop of home town Americana, our reigning Seminole Princess, Desiree Jumper was once again in the spotlight for her beauty, poise and ability to represent herself and the Seminole Tribe in a shining light. As a candidate for the Clewiston High School Homecoming Queen, Desiree and nine other candidates were featured during halftime ceremonies at the high school's homecoming football game on the evening of Nov. 7.

Desiree, 17, is the daughter of Jeanette Cypress and Danny Jumper and stepfather Danny Tommie. She has attended Clewiston High for the last four years and maintained a B average. Her plans after high school are to attend college and her career plans are to work in the education field.

Escorted onto the field by stepfather Danny, Desiree made a memorable showing. Although she didn't win the title of Homecoming Queen, she still holds two other titles. Her nomination for Homecoming Queen is one of several honors she has received this past year. As mentioned earlier she is the current Seminole Princess and she also holds the title of Miss Sugar from the Clewiston Sugar Festival.

"Being nominated and recognized at the school where I spent some very good times is a great finish to my high school years," says Desiree with grace and a radiant smile that explains why she has won the favor of previous contest judges.

Desiree Jumper displays her radiant Seminole smile.



Osceola family and Rachel Billie pose with Cub Master after performance.

Brighton Culture Exchange With Cub Scouts

By Sandi M. Osceola
BRIGHTON— Kevin, Keyah, and Lysandra Osceola along with Rachel Billie dressed up in Seminole regalia for the Cub Scout Pack 125 of Wellington, FL Campfire Ceremony on Nov. 4. Approximately 200 scouts and family members attended.

Kevin Osceola and family, on the behalf of the Seminole Cultural Dept., participated in the ceremony by sharing some Seminole Tribal history. Keyah Osceola gave a special sign language performance of the Lord's Prayer.

Dusty McGee, Assistant Cub Master, thanked the Osceolas for coming out and sharing some of their culture with the group. Some of the scouts admitted to having never seen a Native American before.

Thanks go to the Brighton Cultural Department for its assistance in supporting this event.

Community Death Halts Stomp Dance Exhibition At Museum

By B. Secody
 A weekend of fun and festivities at the Ah-Tah-Thi-ki Museum in Big Cypress was short lived due to the untimely death of a community citizen. As the Seminole culture dictates, there is to be no dancing or festivities upon hearing of a death of a community citizen.

The museum had scheduled the Seminole Arts Celebration, which was to include the exhibition as the Seminole Stomp Dance exhibition. Some community citizens and their families came to fulfill their obligation to provide food and drinks to those tourists who would still be showing up at the museum. As it turned out, there were many groups that toured the little traditional camp — built behind the museum depicting the old way of life. Also located back behind the museum is a mock Overseer Corn Dance Ceremonial grounds. Since no outsiders are allowed at the actual Corn Dance Celebration, the Seminoles have chosen to share certain aspects of the ceremony with visitors.

On Nov. 25, Nancy and Jennifer Billie, Michaelene Cypress, Linda Frank and Lydia Cypress

fired up the campfire under the cooking chickee and began preparing food for those tourists who made their way through the village. Most everyone had questions for the Tribal citizens, who made the guests feel welcome and invited them to return again some day. Most of the guests were from other countries such as Germany, England, Austria and various parts of Europe. Even though they all hailed from elsewhere, they all share the same interest in the indigenous peoples of Florida: the Seminole Indians. Many of the tourists purchased food and drinks and just enjoyed the day. No one even asked why there was nothing else going on, or why no one provided any type of dances.

According to Brian Zepeda of the Ah-Tah-Thi-ki Museum, tourists will be able to enjoy dancing at the upcoming Kissimmee Shootout, which will be held on the first weekend of February.

Condolences go to the family of William Jumper of Big Cypress who passed away recently in Big Cypress.



(L-R) David Cypress, Mitchell Cypress, FAU Coach Howard Schnellenberger, Danny Tommie.

Seminole Tribe Donates \$50,000 To Help FAU Sports Program

By Libby Blake
HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Tribe of Florida recently presented a \$50,000 check to Howard Schnellenberger, Athletic Director of Florida Atlantic University (FAU), for its sports program. Schnellenberger had approached the Tribe about a partnership between the two entities.

According to Danny Tommie, "The Chairman, Council, and Gaming Department decided to honor his request in an effort to continue to give back to the community for the support of the Tribe."

FAU is expanding its sports program and is looking for local support in this effort.

Schnellenberger told the Tribe of his commitment to actively recruit Tribal high school students for the various sport programs including the new football program. He believes there are a lot of talented athletes within the Tribe, which would bene-

fit his program and provide the students a college education.

Tommie added, "FAU has been known for its baseball program and for providing quality academics. Howard is looking to expand the sports program, especially the new football program, and wants to do that locally with some focus on looking at the outstanding athletes within the Tribe."

Schnellenberger is a former head coach at the University of Miami, where he won that school's first national title. He also coached at the University of Louisville, and was an assistant coach under Don Shula with the Miami Dolphins.

Mitchell Cypress, President and Vice-Chairman, David Cypress, Big Cypress Council Representative, and Danny Tommie, representing the Chairman's Office and Gaming Department, presented the check to Schnellenberger.

Cecil Johns Appreciation Dinner

By Ernie Tiger
DAVIE — Family and friends gathered at the Signature Grand in Davie to show appreciation for Cecil Johns' lifetime achievements. Johns has long been an active member in his community on the Hollywood Reservation.

Attendees took the opportunity throughout the night to show their appreciation of Cecil and recall stories from the past of this remarkable man's dedication to his community.

"Scripture John 15:13 'No greater love than a man, that lays down his life for his friends and brothers.' I think when I read that scripture it depicts what kind of man Cecil really is," said Moses Jumper Jr. as he handed a special plaque to Cecil.

Youth from the community lined up one after another to show their appreciation. They presented Johns with Seminole jackets, baskets, and other articles to show thanks for his support during their athletic career.

Cecil Johns, who was born on the Brighton Reservation Sept. 13, 1935 to Toby and Rosa Johns, spent most of his younger life excelling in sports. This past year, he was inducted into the prestigious



Cecil Johns (L) accepts plaque from Moses Jumper Jr.

Tribal Hall of Fame for being an extraordinary track and field runner. Hall of Fame inductees are proudly displayed at Hollywood Recreation where they can be seen by many to inspire athletic motivation in generations to come.

In 1983 Johns was elected President of the Seminole Tribe of Florida serving one four-year term. While in office he sponsored many athletic programs for youths. Many of those sponsored credit Johns for teaching them through athletics how to excel in their business careers today.

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MASTER TECH INSTALLATIONS

Immokalee Incentive Awards: 'Better Late Than Never'

By Gaile Boone
IMMOKALEE — "Better late than never" — that was the saying for the evening held back in August.

Education Counselor Norita Yzaguirre passed out the awards while PAC Vice President, Rhonda Rodriguez announced the categories for each recipient. In alphabetical order, the following were awarded:

Thomas Benson — 6th grade-Near Perfect Attendance
 Christian D. Benson — 4th grade-Perfect Attendance, B average
 Esmeralda Billie — 2nd grade-Mostly B's
 Taylor M. Boone — Kindergarten-Near perfect attendance, all A's and B's
 Justin Campos — 9th grade- B average in Honor classes
 Nikki Davis — 2nd grade-Perfect attendance, B average, Citizenship Award
 Bonnie Davis — 3rd grade-Improved GPA, Perfect Attendance, Star Writing Student
 Josie Davis — 5th grade-Perfect Attendance, Improved GPA
 Gary Frank — 6th grade-Improved GPA
 DeJong Frank — 2nd grade- B average
 Taylor Fulton — Kindergarten-All A's & B's
 Corey Garcia — 1st grade-Mostly B's
 Allison Garza — 5th grade-Improved GPA
 Amy Garza — 10th grade-Improved GPA
 Demi Garza — 3rd grade-B average
 Krystal Garza — 6th grade-Improved GPA
 Antonio Hernandez — 3rd grade-Improved GPA, Perfect Attendance, Working above his ability
 Cuahtemo Hernandez — 3rd grade-Perfect Attendance, B average
 Jessie Holdiness — Kindergarten-All A's & B's
 Jasmine Holdiness — 2nd grade-B average
 Brittany Huff — 3rd grade-B average
 Cassandra Jimmie — 2nd grade-B average



Computer winner Cuahtemo Hernandez had perfect attendance and a B average.

Spencer Jock — 2nd grade-Improved GPA
 Chad Motlow — Kindergarten-All A's & B's
 Cody Motlow — 1st grade-Mostly B's
 Courtney Motlow — Improved GPA
 Curtis Motlow — 6th grade-Improved GPA
 Randy Osceola — 3rd grade-Improved GPA, Perfect Attendance
 Jessica Osceola — 1st grade-Improved GPA
 Mallory Osceola — 6th grade-Improved GPA
 Patrick Osceola — 3rd grade-Improved GPA
 Rebecca Osceola — 3rd grade-Improved GPA
 Mauro Perez — 1st grade — Improved GPA
 Lorena Puente — 7th grade-B average
 Jordan Rodriguez — 1st grade-B average
 Jonathan Rodriguez — 5th grade-Mostly B's
 Joseph Rodriguez — 3rd grade-B average
 Starz Sanchez — Kindergarten-Near Perfect Attendance, All A's & B's
 Michael Shaffer II — 1st grade-Mostly B's
 Brittany Yzaguirre — 3rd grade-B average
 Marie Yzaguirre — 6th grade-B average
 Edward Yzaguirre — 3rd grade-B average
 Leonardo Yzaguirre — Kindergarten-All A's & B's
 Ray Yzaguirre III — 9th grade-B average, Perfect Attendance
 Daniel Yzaguirre, Jr. — 7th grade-Improved GPA.

At the end of the evening, a drawing was held for two computers. The winners were Cuahtemo "Allen" Hernandez, son of Jennie Martinez, and Justin Campos, son of Jimmy and Ada Holdiness.



Second grader Cassandra Jimmie had a B average.

DSO Library News

By Diane Diaz, Librarian
HOLLYWOOD — Come visit the spacious new library on the second floor of the Dorothy Scott Osceola Education Building on the Hollywood Reservation. With twice as much room and new shelving, there are lots of new books and materials for children and adults. These include study aids to help with research, language use, science projects or reports. Titles for every level and interest are here — alligators — skateboards — jets — bugs — gymnastics — rodeo — careers or powwows to name a few. Look for our displays of award winning story books, Native American tales among them *Seminole Diary*, *Coyote and the Grasshoppers*, *Clamshell Bay*, and a new collection of adult fiction, essays and poetry by Indian authors.

Newspapers and magazines are also a part of the library. You can browse through *Navajo Times*, *Indian Country Today*, *USA Today* and the *Miami Herald*, *Cowboys and Indians*, *Time*, *American Indian Art*, *BMX Plus*, *Glamour*, *Consumer Reports*, our very own award-winning *Seminole Tribune* and others in the comfortable adult reading room.



Library/Computer Lab Assistant Michael DiVitto Kelly.

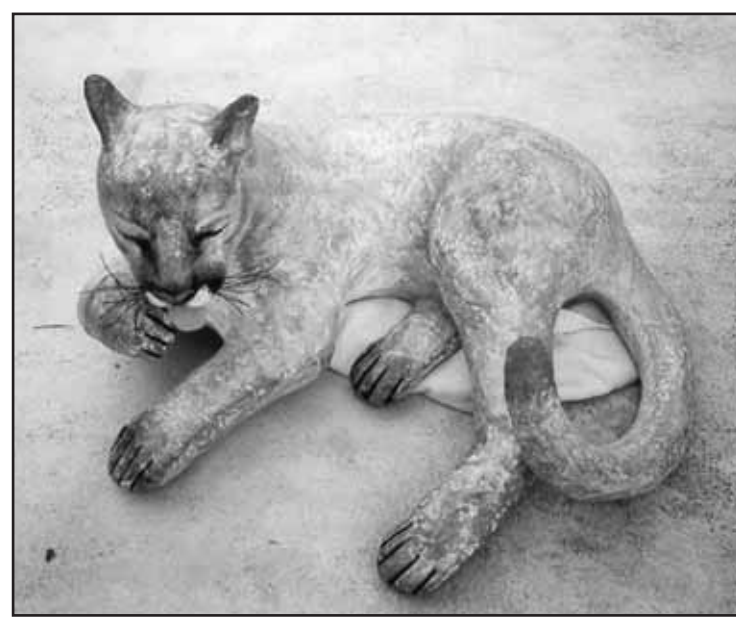
Last but not least is the new computer lab where you can try one of 50 CD-ROM's like Typing Instructor, American Indian Multimedia Encyclopedia, Math Workshop, Cross Words, or adventure with Carmen San Diego. Recently, Internet access was added so that there is a place to "surf the web" for news from Indian Country or CNN, shopping, chats or e-mail — whatever you are looking for. In addition, students can do research with our full text Internet "e-library" database and other university links. Staff will assist with any search needs or teach you how to use a computer or access the Internet.

When you come to the DSO Library you will also meet our new Library/Computer Lab Assistant, Michael DiVitto Kelly who was born in Cincinnati, Ohio and now lives in Hollywood, with

his wife Andrea and two children, 3 yr. old Ronan and 4 month old Fiona. Michael is currently a senior at Florida International University, studying advertising and art, and has gained valuable computer/business experience having worked for companies such as Reed Reference Publishing and Maxnet Technologies. Besides helping out the computer lab, you can also find him telling stories to the preschoolers and helping children after school as well as teaching them papier-mâché.

Michael began experimenting with papier-mâché in 1995 and has done many shows at libraries, cultural centers and nature centers throughout Broward County, as well as at the Blake Library in Stuart, Captiva Memorial Library in Captiva and private commissions. "I have focused on community and educational facilities to show and teach children about sea animals and papier-mâché." "I've always had a deep-sea appreciation for nature, especially the ocean," Kelly says.

In addition to the library story hours and after school programs, youngsters can also enjoy the many Seminole Culture program activities and receive homework assistance here on the second floor. For additional information please call 989-6840 — Diane Diaz x 1225 or Michael Kelly x 1226. Lots of interesting things are going on at the other reservation libraries too, so look for more library news in the next *Seminole Tribune*.



Papier-mâché panther created by Michael DiVitto Kelly.

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 Belle Napper-Bodway at 941-657-6567. Tampa reservation call 813-628-0627 and speak with Tom Ryan, counselor.

HAVE YOU BEEN INJURED?

- Automobile Accidents**
- Medical Negligence**
- Nursing Home Abuse/Neglect**
- Slip & Falls**
- Traffic Violations**



Anthony "Tony" Scalese
Tribal Member Pueblo of Isleta

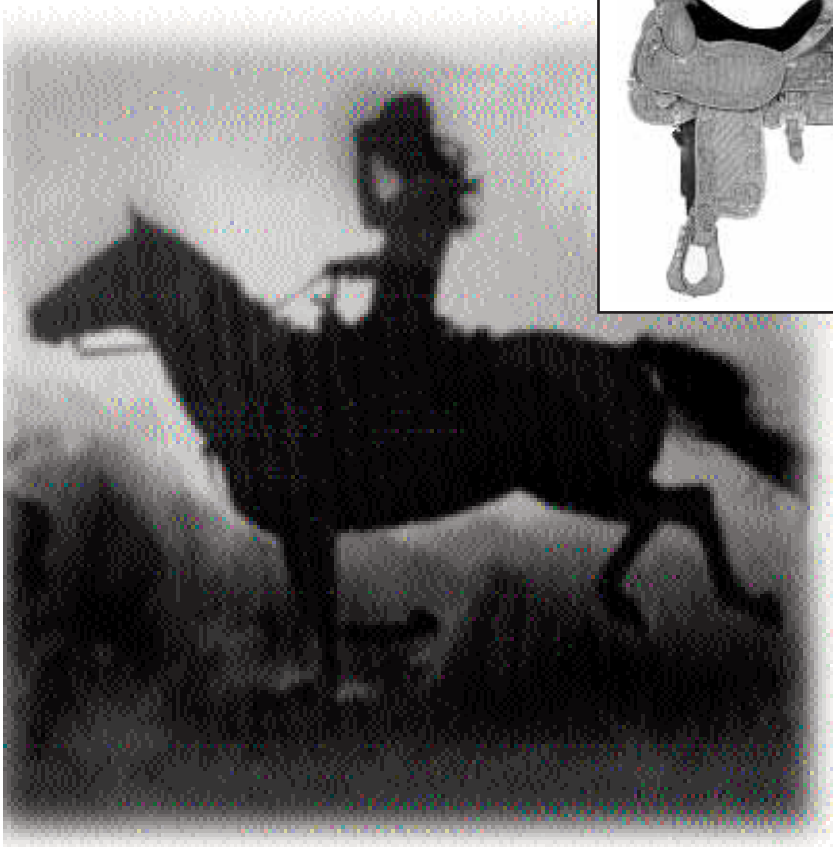
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Elders

Continued from page 1

and Charlie Cypress. During our meetings we had fundraisers, different individuals would cook for the meetings and sell food. This money was collected for the next meeting and money used for gas to travel to next meetings.

I can remember a trip to Tallahassee when we met the Governor. He had explained to us that there was money in the bank to help us with becoming organized and to use to our advantage. But the money was collected from Humble Oil Company paying for surveying reservation land for oil. This was in the early 50's and I can't remember his name but he invited us to his mansion for coffee and cookies. It was a mansion to us even though it was made out only of wood.

Miccosukees did not agree with establishing, but Mike Osceola did and he worked with us. He hung out with white people and was married to a white woman. His English was very good and some others from Tamiami Trail did agree and worked also with us.

There was going to be a trip to Washington and Jimmy Cypress and Henry Cypress were selected to go, with interpreters Laura Mae Osceola and Charlotte Osceola as well as Bill Osceola and Billy Osceola. Sometimes Juanita Billie would interpret.

We thought very hard on the quantum issues - we kept it on our minds and not on paper until we became more prepared. For in the 1950s we had a small amount of half-breeds amongst our population. Our first decision was to accept only full blood and we were taught not to marry other than your own kind. But then the more we discussed it, it didn't seem right to make children suffer for being either 1/2 or 1/4 Seminole Indian.

I remember Mr. Glenn, a fieldworker from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, saying, "When the Seminole Tribe becomes organized and they begin to fight with the government they will take away your authority as a Tribe, so you must be careful." We also were advised that if we didn't organize that we wouldn't have a voice in Tallahassee or Washington to be heard. It also gave us a better chance for our land settlement claim.

As I see many people today that want the money and benefits that they see the Indians have. So naturally they want a piece of the pie. And if that means intermarrying, that's what they will do.



Betty Mae Jumper, Snake Clan

We had three meetings about every three months on the blood quantum issue, getting organized, age to vote, etc. One meeting was held in Big Cypress, Hollywood and Brighton, this being before we actually became organized.

I argued on the blood quantum issue, for back then we only had Seminole; full blood, 1/2 white or 1/2 black, with no intermarriages with other tribes. If the woman was 1/2 Seminole I felt that it was unfair for her child to be not considered so then the blood quantum was decided to stop at the 1/4 quantum. The majority of Seminole people were either full blood or of 1/2 blood at this time (before 1950s). After then came when the half breeds began intermarrying with those other than Seminoles. So we didn't have any accepted of 1/4 quantum for there weren't any at that time of first organizing.

I explained with Moses helping me to convince the people that a 1/2 blooded Seminole might have a child and the child still has Indian blood. We kept explaining till they understood. I also discussed to go as far as 1/8, but the majority ruled to not to accept that quantum. We even demonstrated with an apple, cutting it in sections to make them visualize the portions. When they saw how small an eighth was they said it was too small so then it was decided to accept and stop at 1/4. I still didn't agree, but the majority ruled.

The spokesperson for Brighton was John Henry Gopher and Toby Johns, Big Cypress was Johnnie Cypress and Frank Billie and Hollywood was Bill Osceola and myself.

Kenneth Mormon, the BIA Superintendent at the time, advised us on how to become organized. I can remember many trips we took to Tallahassee in an old yellow Ford pickup truck. There we talked with the Governor at the time on what we were trying to establish, forming a recognized tribe. Moses Jumper Sr. was our interpreter back then. After returning from the Navy, he had more experience with English and understood better to interpret for us and to the Governor. We took one trip to Cherokee, N.C., and observed how the Cherokees held their council meetings and learned the duties of officers. We thought it would be hard from our first observations, but we continued to attempt and persevered as we went along.

Sheets of paper were issued and individuals had the opportunity to vote on becoming part of the tribe. Ballots requested the individual's name and to decide yes or no along with their signatures. Mary Bowers, Charlotte Osceola and myself gathered these. The majority had voted "yes" and those who voted "no," later on became part of the tribe. Those people who lived on Tamiami Trail did not pursue to join and voted "no."

Our first meeting was held in the spring of 1957 under the "Little Oak" (as we knew it then). All votes were read over to accept those that wanted to be part of the organization. Billy Osceola was Chairman, I was Vice Chairman and Charlotte Osceola was Secretary when we first established.

Charlotte dropped out before a year, then I took over. The following year we asked Laura Mae Osceola to uphold as Secretary and she accepted. These positions paid \$10 a day.



Frank Billie, Wind Clan

There was this Sioux man, Rex Green that helped us to get organized. He taught us as he had for thirty-five years to 350 other tribes. He spoke of the many percentages to us and his suggestions were for 1/2, 1/4 or 1/8. Our majority voted to accept the lowest - that being 1/4. Mr. Green is the same individual who later got the Miccosukees established. Rex worked for the BIA and was very knowledgeable on assisting groups.

At first there were only three reservations, Hollywood, Big Cypress and Brighton. We have grown to have three more as of today, they being Immokalee, Tampa and Fort Pierce. There might have been a little over 100 Seminoles and there was less Miccosukees back when we were attempting to organize.

Johnny Cypress, Henry Osceola and myself were trustees. Jimmy Osceola helped with keeping records of meetings and votes. When issues of any sort were discussed the final vote would be counted from a 60 per cent to 40 per cent, with majority winning. This percentage was adopted into our constitution.

An Indian woman that might have married a non-Indian could still live on the Reservation. But that man was to abide by our Reservation rules. If he maintained himself he could remain on the reservation with the Indian woman. There were incidents when some non-Indian men would take advantage of in-laws and they were asked to leave the reservation. And if the Indian woman wanted to go with him she could. This too was incorporated into our constitution.

I feel the 1/4 decision made years ago should remain for they are still part Seminole, but nothing lower to be part of the Seminole Tribe. I would agree to stay at the 1/4 blood quantum as when we had decided when we first established back in 1957.



Mary Bowers, Snake Clan

In the beginning we had many meetings, some at Big Cypress, Hollywood, Brighton and even down at Tamiami Trail. Visiting homes, camps, just about anywhere we could gather. And when we met there were only Indians present at these meetings.

Traditionally, you are taught that when an Indian woman has children, they inherit her clan. A child can not claim the clan of the father, only the mother's. But many half-breeds were killed so we didn't have such abundance of them among us back then. Teaching begins at home, so we were strongly advised to marry within our own Tribal people. But if an Indian woman did marry a non-Indian, she would be expected to live off the reservation.

Teaching begins at home, so we were strongly advised not to intermarry our own clan members and to marry within our own Tribal people.

In those days we had only a small quantity of half-breeds within our people. Many half-breed babies were killed or given up to others that wanted that particular child. But it was considered taboo for Indians to care and nurture one not full blood.

Some of our spokespeople were Billy Osceola, Toby Johns, Willie Frank, Bill Osceola, and Juanita Billie, and Charlotte Osceola would interpret for them.

We met in all areas, Big Cypress, Tamiami Trail at William McKinley village, Hollywood, and Brighton. Many Miccosukee that came agreed not to be a part of organizing, but one son of William McKinley - Lacey (as we knew him then was Larry) Osceola agreed and helped us to make others understand.

Those from Trail did not want religion, education or any monies from the government. Bill Osceola understood what the elders wanted, but he explained to them that one day the younger generation might benefit, so to reconsider the consequences.

Sure, we should have considered this issue from the very beginning, but we didn't have many half-breeds and we didn't have the situation that we are up against today.

Today, I feel strongly about the blood quantum issue and yes I would agree with making change. Accepting only 1/2 blood and clan name, if we don't attempt now the Seminole blood will thin out to nothing.



Laura Mae Osceola, Snake Clan

As the first Tribal Secretary/Treasurer I assisted with meetings and can remember many articles we spoke about. We looked at other tribes as well - some from Oklahoma and the Cherokees in North Carolina on the blood quantum issue. And

the more we discussed there were some of us that thought 1/2 was enough and others said 1/4.

The final decision was voted on to go to the lowest, that being 1/4. We were thinking of our future Tribal members and we didn't want them to be left out in all aspects of many benefits. It was made final, out of love for our next generations. This wasn't as low as other tribes might have passed, but we felt that we made the right choice. As Indians, we have always been helping one another along, this was part of our livelihood. So I feel that we made the best choice, for we were only looking out for our Tribe in the future.

Bill Osceola and myself could see that with many of our young it was quite evident someday our children might and did marry other than Indian. But there weren't very many Indians back then. Also, the younger ones at that time were pursuing an education, so they would be amongst many other than their own kind. Many attended public or boarding schools, as they are doing today.

Also an issue which I argued about, but which was never adopted into our constitution, was what if an Indian woman married other than an Indian. She should have to move off the reservation. But if the Indian man did the same he could remain. As explained back then, it was that the Indian man would not be able to survive out in the white man's world, so they stayed on the reservation.

Yet the Indian woman marrying a non-Indian must let the man be head of household. Since they already had the ability to function in the outside world, they could care and provide for his wife and family.

I remember Nancy Wareham (who had married a non-Indian) addressing the issue of The Bill of Rights, because she was being asked to leave the reservation. As a group we agreed to respect that bill and adopted it into our constitution, that if an Indian does marry other than Indian they can remain on the reservation.

We made it that you're living in the United States we all have rights and all the reservations are within the United States.

Thanksgiving Community Gathering

By Janice Billie

BIG CYPRESS — They came, they saw, they ate. Of course the Big Cypress Community members did more than that, but generally speaking, we came and feasted. Nov. 22 was the day and the Herman Osceola Gym was the site for this year's Thanksgiving Day meal and gathering.

The occasion was officially opened at 10 a.m. with a continental breakfast. However, most folks didn't show up until close to noon when the big meal was scheduled to be served.

Board President Mitchell Cypress, Councilman David Cypress and Board Representative Manuel "Mondo" Tiger spoke words of welcome and of their goodwill for this community. They all expressed enthusiasm for the opportunity to enjoy a good meal and spend some quality time with all the people who came out to celebrate this Thanksgiving Day. After an invocation by Paul Buster, a line immediately formed. This line seemed unending for a long time, but little by little everyone was served.

Billie Swamp Safari catered the big meal, delivering what seemed to be an endless supply of

food. The vans pulled up and unloaded too many times to count. No one went without seconds, or thirds. Included with the traditional turkey and stuffing was fried catfish, baked chicken, and ham. There was rice, sweet potatoes, corn, and green beans. There



Paper turkey decorates Mitchell Cypress' and Sonny Billie's table.

was also an assortment of pies for dessert. Judging by the many happy returns to the serving table, it is safe to say the food was more than up to par.

A staple of numerous special occasions, Paul Buster and his band Cowbone once again made themselves available to entertain the community members.

Paul and band members Solomon Cypress and Jessica Buster performed original songs and some covers of popular hits. They supplied an ear-pleasing backdrop for the event.

The gym was beautifully decorated. The tables were laden with bowls of fruit and Thanksgiving effects such as colorful paper turkeys. The atmosphere was one of good feelings and most everyone had a smile for everyone else. Tribal members and tribal employees pitched in plenty of time and energy to make this Thanksgiving Day one to remember.



Mr. and Mrs. Frank Billie enjoy a Big Cypress Thanksgiving.

Hollywood Community Gives Thanks

HOLLYWOOD — Members of the Hollywood Community joined together at the Seminole Gymnasium to celebrate Thanksgiving with family members and friends. Community members provided the buffet. Paul Buster, who has become a regular attraction at community dinners and other events, performed his music for the crowd's listening pleasure.

Turkey Shoot Results
(5-7 Boys) 1st Houston Osceola, 2nd J.T.; (8-11 Girls) 1st Nicole Osceola; (8-11 Boys) 1st Jackson Richardson; 2nd Roy Stewart, 3rd Garret Anderson, 4th Nelson Osceola; (12-16 Boys) 1st Josh Young, 2nd Joey Richardson, 3rd Clinton Holt, (Women) 1st Sonja Cypress (St. Barbara, 2nd Carol Osceola); (Men) 1st Chris Osceola, 2nd Ernie Tiger, 3rd Troy Tiger.

Jumpers At Home For Thanksgiving

By B. Secody

BIG CYPRESS — There's nothing like having the family together at home for the holidays and on Nov. 20, Josh and Happy Jumper arrived in Big Cypress from Oklahoma to celebrate Thanksgiving with their parents, Laquita and Moses "Big Shot" Jumper Jr., and their older brother Naha.

The start of their trip had them scrambling for phone numbers they could call to have a locksmith come out and open their truck door. In all the excitement of getting to the Tulsa airport to meet the Tribal jet, the guys stopped for a late breakfast and locked their keys inside the truck. The locksmith arrived just minutes before they were going to break the window.

Both of the Jumper brothers are attending school in Oklahoma. Josh, 21, is a Sophomore at Oklahoma State University, while Happy, 19, is a senior at Victory Academy in Henrietta. They reside together and spend much of their down time together as well. With both being avid bull riders and ropers,

they spend a lot of time practicing on weekends for upcoming rodeo events.

Josh reports that although he did not qualify for the upcoming INFR finals in Albuquerque, Happy qualified in the bull-riding category. They plan to travel to New Mexico to attend the finals with a myriad of other Tribal members who will also be participating.

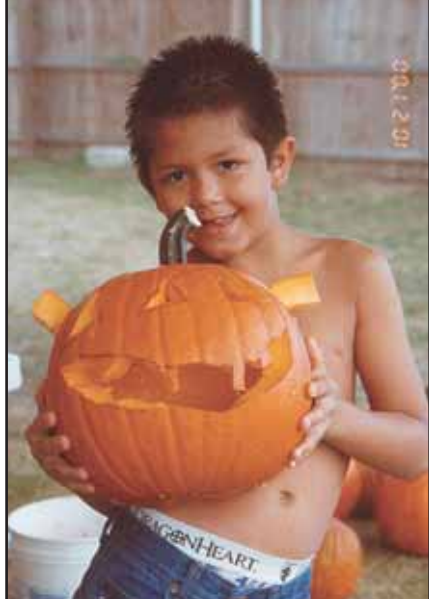
Laquita and Big Shot, parents of three successful rodeo riders and ropers, are proud of their sons and were excited to have them all home together - even for a few short days over the Thanksgiving weekend.

The boys even brought the family dog, a cute "weiner" puppy along with them, so he would not be home alone. They also brought along a friend from Oklahoma to share the holiday with them. Everyone had a good time, and the family enjoyed their time together - even though it passed much too quickly.

Tampa Community Halloween Celebration

By Gary Padgett
TAMPA — On October 21, 2000, the Tampa Community Halloween Party was held at the Seminole Community Center.

We all know that looks are not everything, so the Tampa Community Halloween Party also had competitions in horseshoes, pumpkin carving, obstacle courses, and apartment and house decorating.



Mathew Henry proudly shows work.

The winners were as follows:
Girls age 3-5: Ryanna Thomas 1st place, Brenna Walton 2nd place, Christina Clark 3rd place, and Jaime Jimmie 4th place. Boys age 3-5: Ricky Dillon 1st place, Andrew Doctor 2nd place, and Ethan Smith 3rd place.
Girls age 6-9: Phaydra Clark 1st place, Chani 2nd place, Tiffany Foret 3rd place, and Stacy Smith and Dyanie Henry 4th place (tie). Boys age 6-9: Joel Foret 1st place, Reese Doctor 2nd place, Matthew Henry 3rd place, and Jacob Santiago and Kyle Henry 4th place (tie).
Girls age 10-17: Jamie Henry 1st place and Tiffany Orellano 2nd place. Boys age 10-17: Brian Osceola 1st place, Nick Frank 2nd place, Devin Doctor and Joseph Santiago 3rd place (tie), and Kevin Frank 4th place.
Seniors: Bobby Henry 1st place and Nancy Frank 2nd place. Melody Osceola won the "King Contest".



(L-R): Spencer Jock and Anthony Hernandez 'hang out' under watchful eye of Velcro man.

Halloween Celebration '2000' Immokalee-Style

Next contest was the karaoke contest for the youth and adults: 1st place went to "Mela" Billie for singing her favorite song, "Bye, Bye, Bye" by N Sync. 2nd place went to duo of Cheyenne McInturff, and Christian Benson singing "Lucky" by Britney Spears. The adult category were: 1st place going to Merlin Miller singing "Cheeseburger in Paradise" by Jimmy Buffett, and 2nd place went to Raymond Mora singing "The Dance" by Garth Brooks. Our judges were Chris Marrero, Mary Sanchez, and Tommy Benson.

Finally, the kids enjoy the spider web activity and seem to make it look so easy. Here we have Spencer Jock, and Antonio Hernandez hanging out!
We had the special privilege of watching our own Seminole Officer, Deputy Shantel Shaw finally make it up the spider web to hang out with Taylor Boone.



Cute winners of the 3-to-5 contest show their costumes.

Tina Smith placed second and Trish Doctor took third. Phillip Smith won the "Queen Contest". James Henry placed second.

The obstacle course tested the competitors' speed and agility. Trish Doctor placed first, Colleen Henry second, and Melody Osceola third. Phillip Smith took first among the men followed by Paul Simmons and Ronnie Doctor.
Everyone worked hard decorating their houses and apartments, but it all came down to the top four in both categories. In apartments, Lilla Henry won first, Joannie Henry placed second, Barbara Sisneroz placed third and Debbie Henry took fourth. In houses, Phillip Smith won first, Penny Jimmie placed second, Barbara Sisneroz placed third and Debbie Henry took fourth.
The Tampa Community worked hard and had another successful Halloween Celebration. In addition to the Tampa Community, Richard Henry, the Tampa Liaison, would like to thank Alex Johns, Jack Smith Jr., Roger and Diane Smith, the Tampa staff, his secretary, Paul Simmons, Jerry Henry, Jimmy Osceola Jr., and everyone else who helped with this years haunted house.

Halloween In Brighton: Fun With A Message

BRIGHTON — Brighton residents celebrated Halloween with a week full of contests. The week was not only for Halloween, but also for red ribbon week. Departments were getting ready for best door, best posters, and pumpkin carving contest with the message that drugs are no good.
Pre-schoolers started the week off on Oct. 26 with their trick or treat by visiting the Seminole Tribal offices dressed in their costumes with hopes of getting bags full of candy.
Senior Citizens also had their dress-up contest as quite a few got involved in the contest and showed that there is still a little kid in us all.
On Friday, the office employees prepared for their annual costume contest held at the Brighton Field Office. The employees went out of their way to really get dressed up in hopes of winning that lucky category.
On Saturday, Oct. 28 the Brighton residents' Halloween carnival was held, consisting of cake



Delightful pre-schoolers visit the Brighton Field Office.

Big Cypress Halloween Fest Featured Pumpkin Sunset

Hey, at least you didn't have to chase it down. The Big Cypress Library and First Baptist Church hosted food sale booths. They served up a variety of foods such as fried chicken and pork chop dinners, fry bread, sofkee, hot dogs, chili and rice, pig feet and pickled sausage. Not too great for anyone on a diet but it sure was good.
Preschool and Headstart had a booth that sold Indian tacos, sodas and sweets along with selling tickets for a basketball shootout and the "jail". The Ah-tah-thi-ki Museum and the Seminole Board had the "Haunted Boardwalk". Something like the house, but not quite. Guests were shuttled over to the muse-

walks, costume contest, and different departments that set up booths to support their programs such as 4-H, Senior Citizens, Education, etc. They sold sausages, hamburgers and anything you could possibly want. Games for all ages such as the coin toss, dart throwing, hayrides, pony rides, dunking machine, wall climbing and moonwalk were provided for the very young. McGruff the Crime Dog was also on hand to visit the Brighton residents, and help them "take a bite out of crime."

Actually, the Seminole Police Department was the sponsor of the sponge throw. Tickets were 50 cents and various prizes were awarded depending on how good your aim was. A special guest of SPD was none other than McGruff the crime dog.
One of the most popular booths was the "money find" booth sponsored by Big Cypress Recreation. This consisted of a haystack with up to \$800 in Monopoly cash hidden inside. And guess what? You could redeem the play money for the real green!
One happy Halloweener found \$120 bucks! A 50-cent ticket bought one minute in the haystack and the line for this booth was not short. On the health conscious note, Big Cypress Clinic hosted a booth offering free blood sugar and blood pressure tests. That was in case you were eating too many candied apples. They also offered up some tasty free chili.
Cattle and Range gave away prizes to anyone who could skillfully rope a calf made of hay.



(L-R): Brian Zepeda and Jack Gordon man the Money Find booth.

um in an extra large horse trailer to walk the decorated boardwalk. The kids had a really good time getting spooked. The annual basketball shootout was held between the Seminole Board and the Seminole Council, alas once again the Board won.
"The Festival this year was very successful and made for an enjoyable evening." Big Cypress Board Rep. Mondo Tiger said. "Community participation and attendance was at an all-time high and it was just great to see everyone come together and have such a good time."
Congratulations to the Big Cypress Community for joining in and supporting an event that brought so many smiles to the kids in B.C. and the grown-ups as well.

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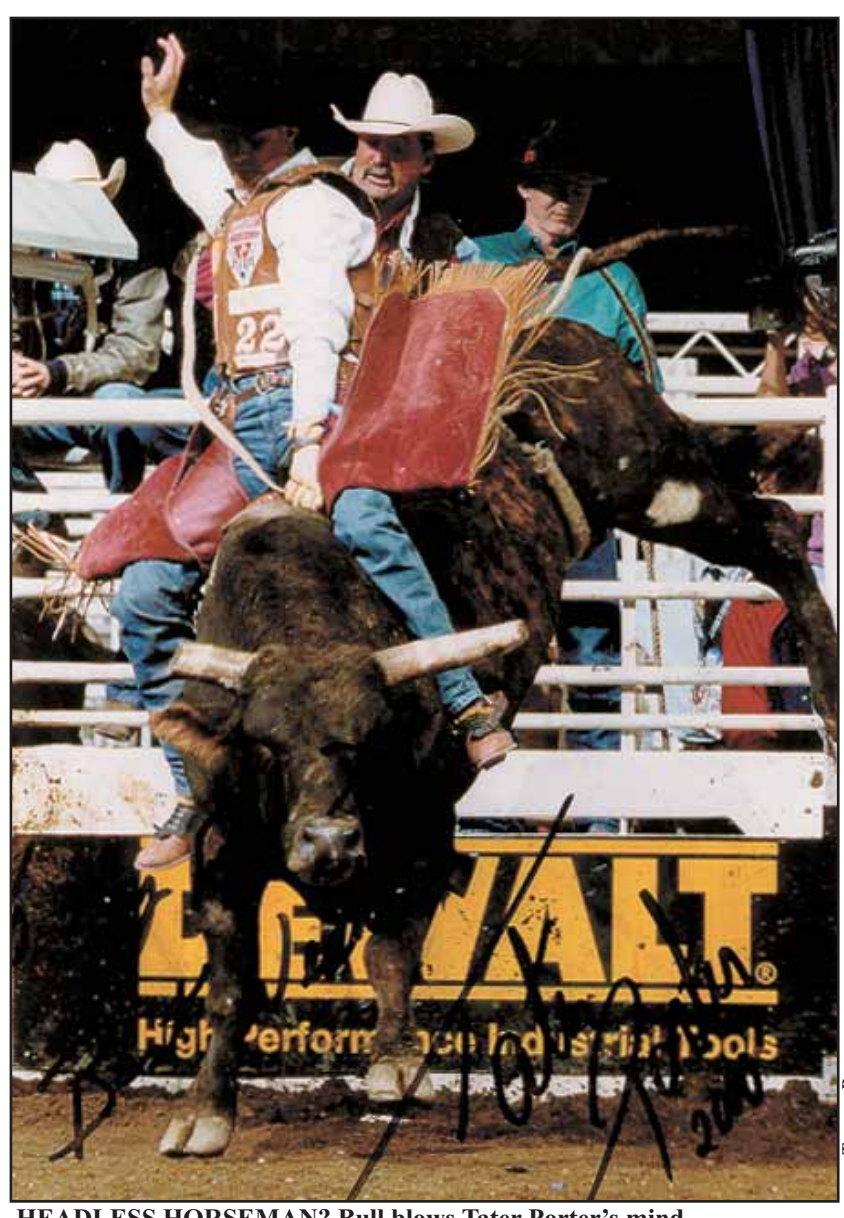
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SPORTS

Show Me The Money, Tater!

By Tommy Benn
LAS VEGAS — If you want to see the money from the Bud Light Cup World Championships you'd better head to South Florida. Kenansville is the home to 29-year-old Tater Porter, Florida's favorite bullridin' son.

and single event rodeo association high. Porter covered 56.7 percent of his bulls for the season, highest for a bull rider competing at all 29 Bud Light Cup events.
 Porter covered all five of his bulls to become the only bull rider to do so at the



Professional Bull Riders' \$41.6 million Bud Light Cup World Championship at the UNLV's Thomas & Mack Center. He won a career-high \$274,738, including \$225,000 as the PBR's average winner and PBR Finals Champion.
 Porter finished the finals with a total score of 449 points on five head, averaging 89.8 points on each ride. He scored 93 points by covering Don Kish's Copenhagen Cash in the short-go.
 "I knew what I wanted to do and what my goals were," Tater stated. "I stayed relaxed, and kept a positive attitude, and rode each bull jump for jump. I felt confident coming into the PBR Finals."

Chris Shivers won the Gold Buckle for taking his first BUD LIGHT CUP CHAMPIONSHIP with 9,138.5 points. Shivers rode all five of his bulls at the 1999 finals, but never had a qualified ride this year. Shivers had a fantastic 2000 season that included five BUD LIGHT CUP titles. He also recorded the most U.S. Tobacco Club 90 point rides with 12.

Porter was impressed with Shivers' performance.
 "Tater had five outstanding rides," Shivers said. "He got on six bulls (including a re-ride), and just rode better than everybody else. That's why he won first."

Tater, Best of Luck for the 2001 Professional Bull Riders Tour from the hearts of your Seminole rodeo friends. You are truly a champion.

HEADLESS HORSEMAN? Bull blows Tater Porter's mind.
 We may not be able to count votes on the presidential election, but we can count the points and prize money won by the tall, lanky Florida native, Tater. The Bud Light Cup season showed him ranked third with 7,333 points and earning \$411,732.82 in prize money. A PBR



DEER SLAYER: Micco Billie holds his eight point buck. Butch Cocroft (L) and Jimmie McDaniel look on.

Young Hunters Bag Their Game



Casey holds his gobbling prey, a Big Cypress turkey.

the lungs from about 80 yards away. McDaniel estimated the deer to be about 150 pounds.
 "Man was he excited," said Micco's father, who is Chairman of the Seminole Tribe. "We were all excited. It was a perfect shot!"
 "The funny thing is that I had arranged for Jimmie to pick up Micco from school for the hunting trip, but his mother didn't know that and was angry because she didn't know where he was. But, it turned out fine."
 "I remember I killed my first deer around age 11, so it's really great that Micco got his at this age. The honor goes to Jimmie and Butch."
 Casey McCall (Deer clan), son of Wanda Fay Bowers, bagged his first kill of a turkey with a 20-



Casey's turkey loses 10 pounds of feathers.

By Libby Blake
 Two young Tribal citizens bagged game on their first hunting adventure recently.
 Micco, Billie (Panther clan), son of Lesley and James Billie, landed an 8-point buck for his first kill, using a .243 rifle, Nov. 18 at 3:45 p.m. He had been taught the correct way to shoot the rifle only two days prior to the outing.
 Micco, 9-years-old, was hunting on Kelly Pond Plantation in Jefferson County, Fla., accompanied by Tribal Hunting Adventures Director, Jimmie McDaniel, and Butch Cocroft, Hunting Master at the Plantation. Micco hit the deer with a perfect shot to

Athletes Plan Indigenous Games

By Ernie Tiger
HOLLYWOOD — Members of the Community joined together at the Hollywood Gymnasium to express their interest in participating in the 2002 Indigenous Games. The Games, which will be held in Winnipeg July 25 through Aug. 5, 2002, will bring over 8,000 athletes from Alaska, Canada, and North America to compete.
 Topics that arose in the meeting that night mostly concerned the number of athletes, coaches, and chaperones that would be needed to go to the games. The early start on this meeting was to ensure that everyone would be notified of the Indigenous Games schedule and sites where potential athletes and volunteers could call to find information on what sports are available for competition. Most Athletic Area Directors (coaches) who have chosen to volunteer for these heavy responsibilities are assigned to the individual Seminole Reservations found throughout Florida to ensure that every athlete has a chance to get the proper conditioning needed

in competing in the games.
 Native Americans who are not Seminole Tribal citizens are still encouraged to call the nearest Seminole Recreational Facilities in their area for more information regarding the Games. Regulations for the games include a 13-year-old age limit. Officials have told participants to not let this deter you from getting your 12-year-old started in training for the games now.
 Fields that will be open for athletes will include: Archery, Basketball, Track and Field, Boxing, Canoeing, Rifle Shooting, Girl and Guys (Fast Pitch) Softball, Swimming, Martial Arts, Free-Style Wrestling, Volleyball, and Basketball. Other fields include Soccer, Badminton, and Volleyball. Rules and Regulations are still being drawn up for the games, but periodic drug testing -- three tests -- will start at the beginning of 2002.
 For more information, please call your local Seminole Recreational Facilities or Hollywood Recreation at (954) 989-9457.

Marty Johns In PRCA Finals

By Tommy Benn
BRIGHTON — Seminole cowboy Marty Johns was the only Seminole to qualify for the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) Southeastern Circuit Finals this year.
 Johns' first steal jumped in 3.8 seconds but drew a 10-second penalty by breaking the barrier giving Johns a first round total of 13.8 seconds. Not wanting a repeat performance, Johns was a little late leaving the box and never got a good chance to jump his steer for his second run. Knowing he wouldn't be able to stay in the average, Johns called for his steer and threw it in 4.3 second in a run for the day money. Unfortunately, he received a 10-point speeding ticket for breaking the barrier making his total 14.3 seconds for the final go-round.
 The Seminole Tribe of Florida Brighton Community leaders Jack Smith Jr. and Alex Johns hosted the PRCA Southeastern Circuit Pro Rodeo Finals at the Fred Smith Arena. The top 15 from these states vied for the championship in seven

events including rough stock events Bareback, Saddle Bronc, and Bull riding and timed events Calf Roping, Steer Wrestling, Team Roping and Women's Barrel Racing.
 The three-day competition awarded \$65,000 in prize money. Each Year-End Event winners received a trophy saddle from the Seminole Tribe of Florida.
 Debbie Johns and her support group had terrific dinner prepared for the Awards Banquet dinner. Alex Johns and his crew with J.R. Huff at the grill did an outstanding job as usual feeding all the contestants and their guests.
 The Seminole Tribe of Florida will host the 2001 PRCA Southeastern Circuit Finals at the Brighton Reservation. All the Southeastern Circuit Cowboys and Cowgirls agree that the Fred Smith Arena and the Seminole Tribe of Florida have the best facilities and are the friendliest host anyone could ask for.



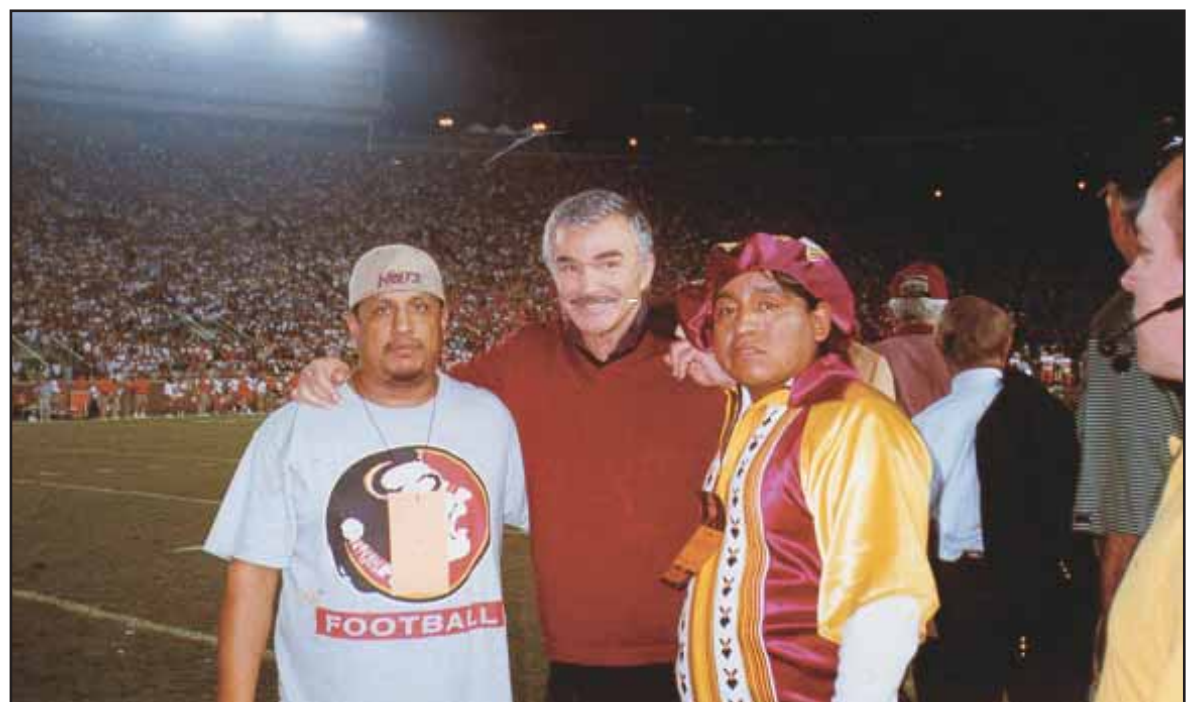
From the woods to the Westinghouse, Casey's Thanksgiving turkey dinner.

gauge shotgun. Casey, a 12-year old from the Hollywood Reservation, took a two-day hunting safety course, passing with flying colors, to earn him a hunting trip to the Big Cypress Reservation. David DeHass accompanied the lad on his adventure the day after Thanksgiving.
 Casey was hunting turkey, because he did not want to shoot his clan, says his mother. Since it was Casey's first kill, he had to learn the art of cleaning and cooking his turkey.
 "It turned out pretty tasty," said Wanda McCall. "Casey had to spit out a few pellets, but hey, it was his."

Tribal Member Bowls 641 Series In Nevada Tourney

By Libby Blake
CLARKE
CARSON CITY, NV — Tribal member Mary Tigertail bowled a 641 scratch series during team competition at the 16th Annual Carson City Native American Bowling Tournament held Oct. 27 - 29. The team she bowled with came in 5th place overall.
 Tigertail racked up the 641 series with games of 188, 219, and 234. This was a personal best series for her. She averages in the 160's in the local leagues in which she participates.
 Delwin McGowan, who is not a Seminole

Tribal member but lives and works on the Big Cypress Reservation, tied for 2nd place in the "A" Division Masters Event. He also bowled his personal best series of 888 scratch in that competition. The tie necessitated a roll off with McGowan ending up in the 3rd position. His league average is 183.
 Other Tribal members competing in the event included Joe Osceola, Mike Onco Jr., and Jamie Osceola. Several Tribal members who were scheduled to compete opted instead to attend a rodeo event in Las Vegas scheduled during the same weekend.



Burt Reynolds poses with Seminole Tribal citizens Kenny Tommie (L) and Richard Osceola on the Doak Campbell Stadium sidelines during Florida State University's 56-7 win over Clemson.

Outstanding Brighton Athletes

By Sandi M. Osceola
BRIGHTON — Seminole Youth from this reservation take pride and joy in the making of history in the Okeechobee area.
 Four Seminole Indian students - Keyah Osceola, D'Anna Osceola, Audrey Snow and Erin Willie - were members of the Yearling Middle School volleyball team that went the whole season undefeated - the first undefeated squad in the history of Okeechobee Yearling School.
 The Brighton Community congratulates these

girls for an outstanding season.
 The Community also wishes to congratulate Brian Arledge for his outstanding performance as a member of the Yearling Middle School Soccer team, which turned in a winning season this year.
 Brighton Councilman Jack Smith Jr. expressed his support of the Seminole Indian students as he attended a couple of these games. Councilman Smith stressed the importance of showing these youth that they count and we are proud of them.

No Account Recount

So here I am Raiford Starke. This week instead of showing up for the news the *Starkansaw Tribune*, I'm gonna report it. I've been holed up at the makeshift press center — on the first floor of the Starkansaw Municipal Government and Sausage Factory — with 300 other reporters. All our eyes are glued to the TV set watching the West Memphis County vote recount, live from the sixth floor.

It was definitely democracy in action — my Uncle Sam Quentin, head of the Demagogue party — holding each ballot up to a bare light bulb, eyes staring through the chads and pimples, the scrapes and tallywhackers, the gruels and conads, barking out the winner for each one, forming the words like flatulence from an old German Shepherd: "Grrrore!" "Buusssh."

And there was my girlfriend Lowella writing the result on a yellow legal pad, stained from the runny parmesan of the Little See-saws pizza molding at her elbow. My father, Alcatraz Starke, was on the other side of the table; he either nodded or objected with each bark from Uncle Sam.

Dear old dad is head of the Repablum party. And he objected each time Uncle Sam said "Gore." Uncle Sam let them all go. I only saw him reject one ballot — an old yellowed 1960s voting card.

"This is the ballot of John and Yoko," said Sam. "Rrrrrejected! Next . . ."

The "objected to" ballots then went into a special box, guarded by my high school Spanish teacher Cruella De Fluor, a giant of a woman with hands the size of Yogi Berra's catcher's mitt and a tendency to sing at the end of any event. She was humming up a storm. And I swelled with civic pride, among all the out of town reporters, at just how dog-gone fair and patriotic my home county could be.

Outside the complex, the Gore and Bush protesters were segregated from each other, as one side taunted the other from opposite ends of the street. The Gore people seemed kind of disheveled, disorganized and actually flea-bitten as they were haphazardly whooping and barking and waving makeshift signs that read — "Save the Unborn Chads" and "KIDS — Keep It Dimple Stupid." While the Bush brown-shirts were marching in New World Orderly lockstep with their various placards proclaiming everything from "Al Gore is an Eye Sore" to "You Don't Know Dick Cheney About Bush!"

Somebody tapped me on the shoulder. "Phone's for you," said a hack from the *Immokalee Informer*.

I put the phone on my ear and smiled. I could hear that familiar sounding node-ridden Elvis drawl crooning on the other end. "I got a little file in my pocket on my favorite ding-a-ling — who better do me a little favor before I send him to Sing-Sing . . ."

"Bubba, is that you?" I said in mock confusion, for I knew that indeed it was that ol' hammer swingin', brassiere slingin' ol' frat boy buddy of mine from Grope, Starkansaw — Bill "Bubba" Clinton. I knew what he was calling for. He wanted his good buddy Raiford to pull his legacy out of a sling again.

We exchanged a few barbs and good-ol'-boyisms until ol' Big Mac Chompin' Bubba finally got to the point. "Look here, good buddy, it's boogie time again. That Dufus Gore has darn near cost the Demagogues the election with his lame campaign. You'd think the first thing he would've done is ask Bro' Bubba for some help, but no-o-o-o — he wants to be his own man! Now we're stuck in this here pretzel lock, with G. Dubya's cajones staring us right in the face. So I need your help, good buddy. I need you to help tip the scales in our favor. I need you to go on a little fishin' expedition . . ."

He gave me directions to a place right on the edge of Starkansaw called Big Cypress.

I made an excuse to the fourth estaters watching TV and left on my car. Thirty minutes later, there I was with Gore's campaign manager, William Daley, in the hand counting chickee. There was veteran Seminole Color Guardsman Steven Bowers, at attention with his AKC 47 at ready, protecting the ballot box while Joe Don Billie, Daisy Buster, Jeremiah Hall, Henry John, Nancy Motlow and all the good citizen/volunteers of Big Cypress were counting the ballots one by one — "Thah me hen . . . touk lee hen . . . tou che chen . . ."

An honest, accurate, SLOW hand-count. Imagine that. Bill Daley and me knew right away that this dog wasn't gonna hunt. We needed to drum up some Gore votes and we needed to do it fast. Suddenly we heard some yelling from the alligator pit. We ran over and lo and behold saw an open gator box, chads strewn all over the place with Swamp Owl, Gator John and Swamp Esther wrestling ballot cards out of the hungry gators' mouths.

"These gators've swallered a lot of votes," said Owl. Poor Bill Daley looked like he was about to break down and cry. Where some people might see a bunch of cold-blooded, pea-brained reptiles, all Daley could see was a bunch of disenfranchised Gore voters. "We could have carried Florida with those," he bellowed.

"Not to worry," I said. I grabbed a couple of ballot cards stuck together with some minor indentations on them. "Gentlemen," I said to the Gore operatives, "You've heard of the 'butterfly' ballot, well out here in Big Cypress, we got a little thing called a 'med-fly' ballot. Observe."

I slapped that gator on the tip of his snout and he hissed and opened his mouth just enough for me to shove the "med-fly" ballot in. I slapped him again, he opened his mouth a little and I pulled the card out. "Well looky here," I said as I pointed the card out. "Well looky here," I said as I pointed near the beast's head, "Gator chads! Viola! Fourteen votes for Al Gore on one ballot!"

The fellows looked at the chads and then inspected the ballot cards. The gator's teeth had punched right through the boxes all around Gore's name. "Man," one of the operatives said in amazement, "I've never seen a ballot puncher quite like that!"

"Boy," I said just flashing him a gamblin' cracker's grin that only wished it had more teeth missing, "You don't know a dang thing 'bout gator fishin,' do ya?" And with that we grabbed up all the unpunched ballots and kept feeding them to the gator until we decided that we had made up for the missing ballots.

Now all we had to do was fax the results to Secretary of State Katherine Heiress in Tallahassee. It was almost five. I cranked up the 1987, oil paper, Sony brand, all purpose, grease-leaking, carpet-staining, squiggly-lined fax machine. Slowly, but surely, the paper that would change the country slid through the machine.

"It's done," I whispered into the phone. Bubba whooped and hung up.

I roared back to the Starkansaw government complex, and found the reporters whooping and hollering, pounding their keyboards like it was a tenderizing contest. I looked at the TV monitor and saw dear old Dad and Uncle Sam in a headlock. Ballots were strewn all about the room.

"What's going on," I asked the Immokalee hack.

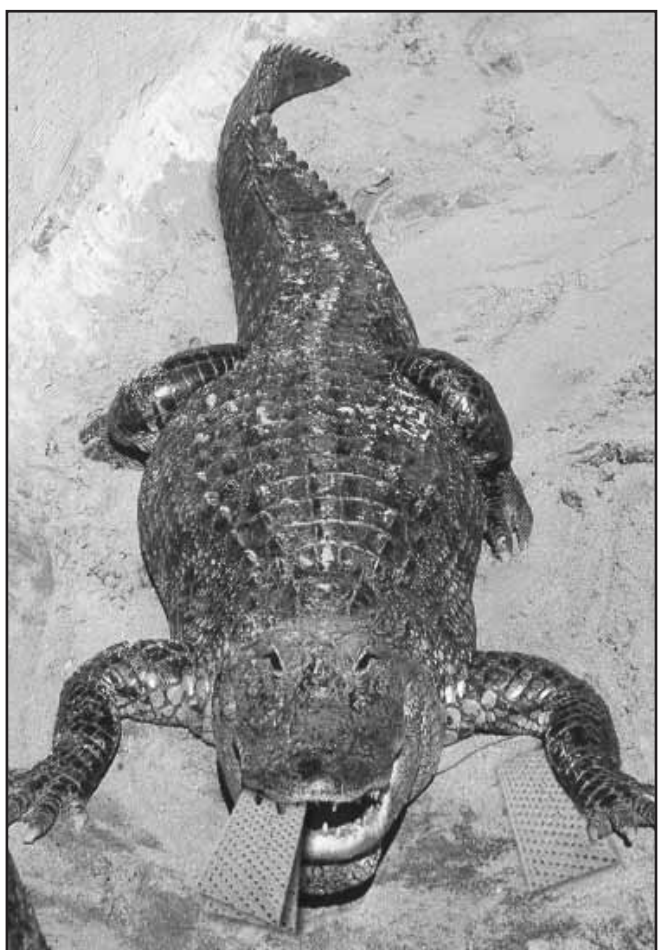
"Ms Heiress rejected the gator ballots. Got there two minutes late. Dubya is the winner."

"I can't believe it," I cried, "I refuse to believe it."

But it was true. The sickly operatic sounds of big ol' Cruella de Fluor, singing up a storm, could be heard through the walls.

Raiford Starke is a South Florida-based bluesman who is currently looking for a job on the Bush Cabinet.

RAIFORD STARKE



GATOR CHAD: How Al Gore won at Big Cypress.

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Canoe

Continued from page 1

McGee, Everett hopes to do a full-scale survey of the lake for canoes.

"He (McGee) feels there's at least 200 more out there," Everett said. McGee said, "That's just an estimate."

All of the first 87 canoes found, measured and excavated by state archaeologists were on the northeast edge of the 7,400-acre lake. That site was near an area used by Santa Rosa Beach logger Charles Pinson to haul out about 200 submerged timbers.

No Contest: The Canoes Lost

The conflict between the fragile canoes and the logging operation was no contest: the canoes lost. Then, in a split-decision, so did Pinson. After seven of the canoes were found damaged, Pinson was told he could not return to the lake. However, compliance officers from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) which issued his permit, would not revoke it, claiming they had no "in-the-act evidence" that Pinson had intentionally damaged the archaeological treasures.

In August, Gov. Jeb Bush issued a temporary ban on logging Florida lakes, and the DHR rejected Pinson's request to hire his own archaeologist and return to Pithlachocco to harvest another 100 logs he had left there.

The logging ban has remained in place pending a meeting with leaders of environmental groups, scheduled for early December. Bush and the Cabinet, acting as Trustees, could decide either to end the ban, or extend it to rivers, where most deadhead logging is done.

A similar meeting, held Nov. 6 with representatives of the Seminole and Poarch Creek (Alabama) Tribes, succeeded in gaining Tribal representation on DEP permitting decisions, and training deadhead loggers in cultural resources issues. Dr. Wickman made a presentation to loggers at the DEP's Dec. 1 meeting.

While Jim Miller, the state archaeologist, apologized for his oversight in failing to review Pinson's permit, Phil Coram, the DEP's chief of Submerged Lands, stubbornly not to the position that Pinson had not violated his permit, despite evidence that seven canoes were damaged.

"The bottom line is that the Department of State identified seven canoes that were damaged," Coram said. "It's likely that any heavy equipment or machinery or dragging of logs was likely to have disturbed some canoes simply because they were buried in the sediment and could have been unknown. Probably from our (DEP) perspective and Mr. Pinson, is did he damage flagged canoes?"

Everett, who said he gave a 2 1/2-hour deposition to a state official investigating the canoe damage, claims Pinson did exactly that. However, as Coram stat-

ed, the DEP is not convinced.

"After the site was marked (by state archaeologists) did he intentionally, willfully conduct his activities such that he damaged a marked canoe?" Coram asked, rhetorically. "That is information that is not clear to us."

As the state debates, more evidence of continuous occupation by Native peoples since the dawn of time mounts.

"How many more canoes do we need to find?" wondered Dr. Wickman, who also serves as the Tribe's Historic Preservation Officer. "The more we find the more we confirm what was obvious. We've got at least 5,000 years of occupation there."

She said that Pithlachocco, in pre-historic times, could have been a link between the lakes and rivers of the Atlantic Coast, and *chua* - the Seminole word for Payne's Prairie, which she translated as "a hole, or jug with no bottom." These seasonally wet areas could, in turn, have led early travelers to the Gulf of Mexico.

"You could get to the Ocklawaha, to the St. John's, to Silver Springs which is very important to the Seminoles," she said.

In the last millennium, Indians could have used it as part of an escape route.

"I see it as a staging area for tribes who were moving ahead of the Spanish, the English, or the French. I see this whole area becoming a staging area in the 18th Century."

Crider has another theory, in which Indians traveled through North Florida rivers and creeks, following trails made by alligators, using canoes like beasts of burden. He said he also found a wooden bowl, about 10 inches across, which he believes dates back hundreds of years, which Indians may have used to render native plants into nutritious food.

(Crider said he intends to make all of the artifacts he has found, including pottery, canoe fragments and what he believes is an ancient paddle with a pointed end for spearing fish, available to the Tribe. He has also proposed creating a Pithlachocco Museum to exhibit them.)

"I just feel Newnan's Lake has so much to give up right now, and the consciousness has peaked," Crider said.

Meanwhile, historic canoes and other artifacts which may be submerged in the muck and sediment of Pithlachocco, face another threat. The state Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has a plan to bulldoze 45 acres of muck from the southern end of the lake into "islands" to improve fishing.

Asked how this would square with the DHR's and Tribe's joint plan to nominate the entire lake for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, Dr. Wickman said: "It doesn't at all."

Charles Flowers, a freelance writer from Fort Lauderdale, has been following the Newnan's Lake canoe find since July.

Quantum

Continued from page 1

On March 27, 1957, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Chief of the Branch of Law and Order officially noted that the Seminole Constitution lacked the blood quantum the BIA had "suggested" to all tribes organizing to prevent termination:

"Section 2 makes all children born to a member of the tribe eligible for membership regardless of quantum of Indian blood or place of residence. It would seem to me that one restriction or the other should be placed on future membership since lack of restriction could eventually result in a very large membership roll."

"I have found no direct evidence that this recommendation led to the subsequent amendments to the membership

section," says Helseth. "However, by April 27, 1959, an Amendment requiring 1/4 blood quantum had been developed."

On that date, the BIA central office Tribal Enrollment Officer offered standard language that, in Section 4, stated that "Any descendant of one-fourth or more degree Seminole Indian blood born after the date of the adoption of this amendment by the Secretary of the Interior to a person whose name appears on the January 1, 1957 census roll shall be eligible for the enrollment upon written application to the Tribal Council."

Says Helseth: "This language appears to have been rejected by the Tribe."

More detailed language concerning blood quantum was developed in 1961. This language stated that any person seeking enrollment in the tribe who was born after the date of the adoption of

the amendment would have to meet a 1/4 blood quantum requirement, whether both parents were members of the tribe, whether one parent was a member of the tribe, or where the person seeking membership was born out of wedlock.

The amendment further states that "No person who is admitted to Tribal membership by adoption shall be eligible to hold an elected office in the Seminole Tribe of Florida." Changes in the membership ordinance, according to this amendment, are "subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, or his authorized representative."

This amendment to the Seminole Tribal Constitution was approved, by a Tribal-wide referendum on Aug. 14, 1961 and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on Sept. 18, 1961. It is the instrument which governs citizenship in the Seminole Tribe of Florida to this day.

AMENDMENT
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
OF THE
SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA

AMENDMENT V

Article II of the Constitution shall be further amended in its entirety as follows:

Section 1. All persons who are enrolled as members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida as of the date this amendment is adopted by vote of the adult members of the Tribe.

Section 2. Any person of Seminole Indian blood whose name appears on the Census Roll of the Seminole Agency of January 1, 1957, may be enrolled upon written application if admitted to membership by a majority vote of the Tribal Council, provided that the Census Roll of January 1, 1957, may be corrected by the Seminole Tribal Council up to and including August 22, 1965.

Section 3. Any person of one-fourth (1/4) or more degree of Seminole Indian blood born after the adoption of this amendment both of whose parents are members of the tribe shall be enrolled as a Tribal member upon written application to the Tribal Council.

Section 4. Any person of one-fourth (1/4) or more degree Seminole Indian blood born after the adoption of this amendment of a marriage between a member of the Tribe and any other person may be enrolled if admitted to membership by a majority vote of the Tribal Council.

Section 5. A child of one-fourth (1/4) or more degree of Seminole Indian blood born out of wedlock after the adoption of this amendment to a Seminole mother who is a member of the Tribe may be enrolled by a majority vote of the Tribal Council if the child otherwise meets the requirements for enrollment.

Section 6. A child of one-fourth (1/4) or more degree of Seminole Indian blood born out of wedlock to a mother who is not a member of the Tribe and is not eligible to become a member may be enrolled by a majority vote of the Tribal Council if the mother file with the Tribal Council proof established in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida as to the paternity of the child and the person adjudged to be the father is an enrolled member of the Tribe and if the child otherwise meets the requirements for enrollment.

Section 7. In the event the applicant is a minor, the application may be prepared and presented by the parent or parents of the minor, or by any adult relative.

Section 8. The Tribal Council shall have the power to pass ordinances, which are consistent with and pursuant to this Constitution governing future membership, loss of membership and the adoption of members into the Seminole Tribe of Florida, which ordinances shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, or his authorized representative.

Section 9. No person who is admitted to Tribal membership by adoption shall be eligible to hold an elected office in the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

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Health Corner

Fitness Cruisers Take To The Seas

By Suzanne Davis
OUT AT SEA — A group of 21 Seminole employees and Tribal citizen fitness experts took to

Seminole people. This "Seminole Fitness" event, co-sponsored by the President's Office and the Health Department, featured a core group of exercise enthusiasts from Big Cypress, Brighton and Hollywood reservations. Of the participants, 10 hold national level fitness certifications, 5 have competed in marathons and all have been involved in numerous local 10K & 5K walks, weight training, aerobics and community fitness events.



Suzanne Davis



CRUISERS: Tribal citizens and employees pose after "Exercise" Cruise.

The day at sea began by boarding the ship at 9 a.m. for a full course breakfast to ensure ample energy for the demanding schedule to follow. Each participant rotated through four high voltage activities including an exhausting hour of "spinning" on the bicycles, weightlifting to music, a dynamic kick-boxing session, and yoga on the ship's deck which proved somewhat to be both exhilarating, yet relaxing at the same time. Two seminars, "Nutrition" and "Optimizing Your Fitness Potential" were held between workouts to offer a chance for everyone to catch their breath.

Another highlight of the day was President/Vice Chairman Mitchell Cypress' gift of a new pair of Reebok shoes and Seminole gym bag to each participant.

"I support the commitment these people have made to themselves with regard to their own health and appreciate their efforts in helping motivate others at home," said Mitchell, "I sure to say too that Martha Jones sure impressed me — she did more exercise than I did!"

Vicky Barogiannis, personal trainer for the Big Cypress reservation and instrumental in the organization of the event, felt the day was very motivational for all involved and a great opportunity to experience various forms of fitness.

"Diversity helps combat boredom when you're working on getting into shape," she stated. Barbara Billie concentrated on key information to bring back to her teen fitness program in Hollywood while Mable Haight and Jenny Johns focused

more on stretching exercises to use with the seniors at Hot Meals in Brighton.

Marylou Alvaredo, while not on the cruise, was busy at home studying to become a personal trainer and weight room instructor for the Immokalee reservation. Charles Hiers has participated in canoe and biking competitions worldwide. Helene Buster is now gearing up for her second marathon.

Brighton Reservation boasted more than 60 walkers in this year's March of Dimes walkathon in

Weigh-Out Produces 'Upscale' Returns

By Ernie Tiger
HOLLYWOOD — A new weight loss system has been found to help people shed those unwanted pounds. And no it's not metaboalite and no it's not Jenny Craig. So what is this dietary pill that's encouraging people to lose that unwanted weight? Actually this method of losing weight is not a drug of any kind, the motivation is yummy they crisp dollar bills. OK, they're not yummy but they can feed another hunger which most individuals won't pass up and that's spending.

For over the past year and a half, Recreational officials have tried to start programs to help people stay fit and live a more healthy active life. The Weigh-Out, which it has come to be called, started with little money in the program. But now, with 81 participants weighing every six-weeks for the exchange of pounds for money, "More and more people have been entering the diet trend, to battle it out for the most pounds shed" says Recreation's Bo Young.

The Recreation Department has taken many measures within the last year to encourage individuals to enter one of the many athletic programs they offer. Men's and Women's Softball, Basketball, Swimming, and weight training are just a short list of the programs that the Recreational Facilities have started to help keep members of the gym in shape. They also help keep youths out of trouble by encouraging them to do something constructive with their free time. The Gymnasium weight room which was just recently outfitted with more weights to fit the growing community will help individuals to get the proper exercises needed, to help one reach the physical goals set fourth.

For more information regarding the Weigh-Out contact the Hollywood Recreational Facilities at (954) 989-9457. Participants in the weigh out are encouraged to enter as soon as possible to help improve their chances in taking 1st, 2nd or 3rd in the six-week weigh-out time.

Why Is Fitness So Important?

Exercise is the single most effective way to help prevent or at least delay diabetes.

It is also vastly important in maintaining appropriate blood sugar levels in people who have already been diagnosed with diabetes. A good fitness routine, properly followed, can mean the difference between controlling your diabetes or your diabetes controlling you.

Okeechobee. These are only some of the examples of the burgeoning fitness revolution sweeping across the Seminole Tribe.

"The message is clear," said Connie Whidden, Health Department director. "Exercise, even a small amount, has a positive effect on every system in the body . . . we can all benefit from making it more of a priority in our lives."

Other participants included Marissa Baker, Vicky Barogiannis, Barbara Billie, Candy Cypress, Cathy Cypress, Mitchell Cypress, Suzanne Davis, Pauline Good, Mable Haight, Debbie Hamilton, Jenny Johns, Martha Jones, David Jumper, Edna McDuffie, Loretta Petersen, Irma Platt, Cathryn Terburgh, Michelle Thomas, Patty Waldron, Connie Whidden, and Mylyn Vedel.

Hollywood Weight Loss Contest Winners

From October 2 to November 9, 2000 winners are as follows:

Men's Division — 1st place — Jimmy John Osceola — 25.5lbs, 2nd — Daniel Gopher — 20.5 lbs., 3rd place — Glen Derrick — 14.2 lbs.

Women's Division — 1st place — Velma Osceola — 16.4 lbs., 2nd place — Penny Fontana — 5.6 lbs., 3rd place — Geraldine Osceola — 4.9 lbs.

Payout was \$50 per pound lost for 1st place, \$25 per pound for 2nd place, and \$10 per pound for 3rd place. Total pay out was \$2,938.50.

Next contest starts November 13 and goes till December 18. Everyone is invited to come by the gym and get started. Our personal trainer is available on request.

Congratulations to all the Winners!

the high seas Saturday Nov. 4 to improve their fitness levels and gain knowledge, information and expertise in the promotion of health and well being among the



Suzanne Davis

Kickboxers packing a punch.

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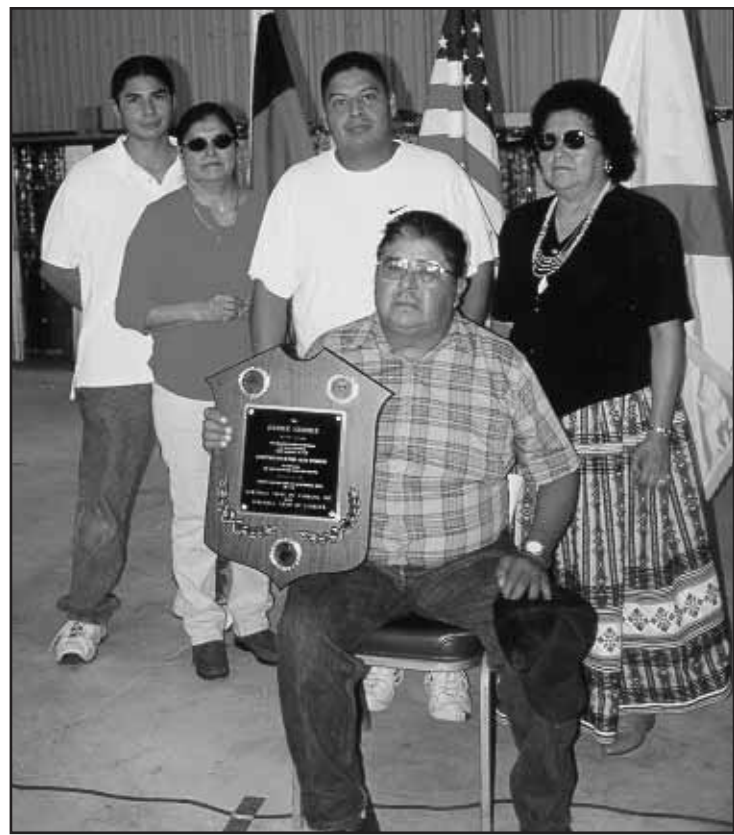
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* Kids under 12 sail free with full-fare adult cruise only. Advanced reservations and payments required. Certain restrictions apply to all these programs.
A \$5 per person round trip fuel surcharge is additional. Ship's registry Bahamas.

Veterans' News

Former Comanche Chairman Speaks To B.C. Veterans



Everett Osceola, Mary Jane and Paladine Willie, Eddie and Geneva Shore.

By Janice Billie
BIG CYPRESS — Tribal officials, featured guests, veterans of war, and community members gathered to celebrate the 13th Annual Veteran's Day Celebration at the Big Cypress Entertainment Complex on the morning of Nov. 9.

Presented by the Seminole Tribe of Florida to honor and remember our veterans of war, this annual event has become an area venue for non-tribal members and guests from all over the nation to do the same.

The celebration began mid-morning with the introduction of Wallace Coffey, the master of ceremonies. Coffey, a Comanche from Lawton, Okla., is a traditional announcer who emcees numerous Indian country events including conferences, pow wows, concerts, etc. He is an extral chairman of the Comanche and also holds a degree in education from Harvard. Coffey kept the audience engaged throughout the ceremonies with his charm and ability to tell a very good joke or two.

After the invocation given by the Rev. L.W.

Howard de LaBelle, who was also a featured speaker, Victoria Hernandez and Marvin Billie Jr. led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance at the Ahfackee School. Next, Henry Battiest, Jr. sang an emotion-stirring rendition of *God Bless the USA*. Following that delightful display of talent was Moses Jumper, Jr.'s reading of "Son of a Native Vet." Moses introduced himself as the son of the late Moses Jumper, Sr. a veteran of World War II, a man known and loved by many in the Seminole Tribe. Jumper also known as Big Shot by most tribal members, is a

gifted poet and this moving ribbon of words he composed for our veterans was a prime example of his talent. It is a true blessing to hear what can come from the heart and mind of someone that can weave words so beautifully.

changed from the official Veteran's Day of Nov. 11, to Nov. 9, so that guests were free to attend other celebrations. Seminole Tribe of Florida Chairman and Vietnam veteran James E. Billie and numerous other tribal officials gave inspiring remarks of appreciation to our veterans. Included among these officials were David Cypress, Max Osceola, Jr., Manuel Tiger, Elaine Aguilar, Deloris Jumper and Greg Maddox. The Junior Miss Seminole Princess, Jo-Jo Osceola, Miss Seminole Rodeo Queen, Jimi Lu Huff were also invited to give remarks. Noted speaker Dr. Patricia Wickman, Director of Anthropology & Genealogy with the Seminole Tribe, gave a short talk on her former and present conception of Native Americans fighting for a government that was not always on their side.

"How did the Native People reconcile fighting for a force that had been their greatest enemy?" Dr. Wickman wondered aloud. She came to understand that what made them fight was what had always made them fight, not politics or possession but simply, love for the land and love for their people.

Special guest, Capt. Kevin Mobley, USA, from the Dept. of Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute and Rev. L. W. Howard also spoke, honoring our veterans and our country.

Sally Rene Tommie gave a reading of "Four Hats to Remember." This reading explains the significance of a table set with the hats of the four branches of the armed forces: Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force. The set table symbolizes the members of these forces who are missing. They are called POW/MIA's. They are brothers. The setting and symbolism is as follows:

The table set is small, symbolizing the frailty of the prisoners against their oppressors.

The tablecloth is white, symbolizing the purity of their intentions to their country's call to arms.

The single rose displayed in the vase symbolizes the families and loved ones that keep the faith and await their return.

The red ribbon tied to the vase symbolizes the red ribbon worn on the lapel and breast of thousands who bear witness their unyielding determination to demand a proper accounting of our missing.

The slice of lemon on a bread plate is to remind us of their bitter fate.

The salt on the bread plate symbolizes the tears of the families who wait.

The four glasses are inverted symbolizing their inability to toast with us.

"Four Hats to Remember" encourages people to keep these soldiers and their loved ones in our hearts and prayers. This year Charles Hiers contributed a traditional Seminole turban to include Seminole warriors in this display remembrance.

Following the reading by Ms. Tommie, an impressive contingent of Ahfackee Elementary School students



Master of Ceremonie was former Comanche Chief Wallace Coffey

wanted to do something on Veteran's Day to honor Herman and other tribal members who were veterans. Unfortunately, Roy passed away before they initiated a formal time and place, but Jacob and Mitchell were determined to see it through and started what has now become a respected ongoing event, dedicated to our veterans. The day was eventually

thoroughly captivated the audience with their essay readings. It was apparent that they had practiced and put forth some effort to convey their understanding and their feelings of what this celebration was about.

The eight students who read essays were, Victoria Hernandez, 8th grade, Micco Billie, 4th grade, Stephanie Hall, 5th grade, Marlissa Ann Tiger, 5th grade, Alex Cypress, 5th grade, James Ballentine, 6th grade, Marvin Billie, 8th grade, and Benny Hernandez, 6th grade. Alex Cypress, Victoria Hernandez, and Micco Billie all acknowledged family members who are veterans.



Brighton veterans gather to honor those who fought for our country's freedom.

Brighton Community Honors Veterans At Annual Dinner

By Sandi McClenithan Osceola
BRIGHTON — The Brighton Community held its 2nd annual Veterans Day Dinner to honor all the Tribal veterans, past and present.

Rev. Wonder Johns, himself a veteran, gave the invocation after which Mary Huff sang the National Anthem.

Tribal officials were introduced, but due to a Council meeting, Board Rep. Alex Johns was the only official on hand. Johns thanked all the veterans who gave their lives and stated that this is a tribute to remember our veterans who served our country.

John Wayne Huff, Sr., who hosted this evening's ceremony, stated that we seem to have taken our veterans for granted. It's forgotten how it was for each of us. Some went to Europe, Vietnam and Germany. Some went in peacetime and some went during wartime.

"You young people need to ask these men how it was for them, some will talk about it. For me, it taught me discipline and self-respect. You didn't know who was your enemy or if you were going to wake up next morning," he said.

Huff also mentioned that the veterans have been considering acquiring a piece of land here on our reservation and constructing a building and monuments just for us. He said the Tribe could use the building for numerous activities and we

could maybe plant some trees in remembrance of lost veterans. He said he hoped that the Tribe will support them in our endeavor.

In closing, all Brighton Tribal Veterans stood on stage as the crowd stood and applauded our Tribal veterans.

Sammy Gopher	Europe	1966-68
Billy Micco	Panama	1968-70
John Huff Sr.	Vietnam	1967-69
Russell Osceola	Vietnam	1966-68
Stanlo Johns	United States	1959-61
Archie Johns	United States	1959-61
Joe L. John	Vietnam	1967-70
Gary Billie	Germany	
Jack Smith Jr.	Vietnam	1967-69
Dan Bowers	Vietnam	1964-68
Andrew Bowers	Marines	1967-71
Timmy Johns	Vietnam	1967-69
Eddie Shore	Greenland	1961-63
Johnny Osceola	Germany	1976-80
Wonder Johns	Germany	1957-63
Joseph Tuzer, Jr.	United States	1988-90
David Nunez	Navy	
Craig Gopher	U.S. Army	

Gone But Not Forgotten

Fred Smith	Germany	1963-65
Lester Gopher	Vietnam	1967-69
Roley Buck	Vietnam	1967-69
Bert Jones	Germany	1964-68
Charlie Gopher	Vietnam	1966-68

Veteran's Day

By Victoria Hernandez

I think Veteran's Day is important because it is a day to honor the people who fought for our freedom. Veteran's Day was first intended to honor the Unknown Soldiers who fought in wars starting with World War I. The day, Nov. 11th was chosen to remember the date that the Great War, World War I ended. Ceremonies took place on the 11th day in the 11th month, during the 11th hour to commemorate this important event. It was believed that World War I could be the last war. Sadly, many wars followed like World War II. In the year of 1954 Veteran's Day became a holiday because President Eisenhower made it a holiday to honor the people who fought for our freedom in all wars. It is important to remember that there are many individuals who perform important duties during wartime, such as nurses, doctors, cooks and the people who make the uniforms. They also deserve recognition on this very important day.

In my family, my uncle fought in the Vietnam War. His name is Pete McBroom. My grandfather was also a soldier and was ready to fight but thank God he did not have to. His name is Richard Knouse. I am really thankful they are alive and also thankful they helped me and I am glad I am their great-niece and granddaughter.

I would like to say thank you to all the women and men who have fought to keep us safe and free. So remember, if you know a veteran or see a veteran say thank you because if it were not for them we probably would not have the freedom to do lots of things we do today.

To all the veterans and individuals here today who were part of the wars of the past and those all over the country I extend my gratitude and utmost respect to you. I value my freedom and I hope that there will always be such brave and courageous people who will fight for this precious gift for the rest of us.

So remember, veterans and the individuals that are here today maybe some people don't appreciate y'all, but remember that down in your hearts I am thankful for what y'all have done.

Thank you all so very much.

Another highlight of the ceremonies was the Special Veteran Acknowledgement by Mitchell Cypress and Paul Bowers, Sr. This is a special honor given each year to a chosen Seminole veteran. The recipient this year was Air Force veteran Eddie Shore. He served from 1961 until 1965. Shore was not long on words but he did state that he served for four years in the Air Force. A sizeable group of family members were present to watch him receive the plaque and honors.

After a moment of silence o honor deceased veterans, the Seminole Honor Guard, all Seminole Veterans and guests were asked to come forward and receive the audience with a handshake -- a moment of respectful appreciation for all these veterans who have served to protect our country and our freedom.

The 13th Annual Veteran's Day Celebration came to a close with a 21-gun salute, Taps and a luncheon.

The following are students who were read by Ahfackee Students Micco Billie and Victoria Hernandez at the annual Veteran's Day Celebration in Big Cypress.

"The Peace Makers"

By Micco Billie

Children are the Peace Makers because grown ups want to make peace for their children. My dad wants peace for me in my lifetime. He fought in the Vietnam War to help bring peace. War in Vietnam was difficult. It was hard for the soldiers to sleep on rocks. It was scary at night too, because there were many creepy sounds. Sometimes, soldiers could hear footsteps, and they were afraid they would die. My dad was shot in the shoulder by a grenade in Vietnam. He still has a battle scar.

I like to read books about the times in the 1960s when my dad went to war. The books tell about making booby traps. For example, gas tanks were put in rat holes. When soldiers stepped on them, some died and others were wounded. Some military trucks had electricity in them to be used as booby traps, too. Sometimes, even babies carried booby traps that adults would place on them.

When I am older, I would someday like to go into the military so that I can help bring peace around the world. Remember that peace starts with the children.

I would like to thank the veterans here today that helped protect America, and who fought to bring about a peaceful world.. Sho-Naa-Bisha

Chickee Baptist Church
 64th Ave. and Josie Billie
 Hollywood Seminole Reservation

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 Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 am
 Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm

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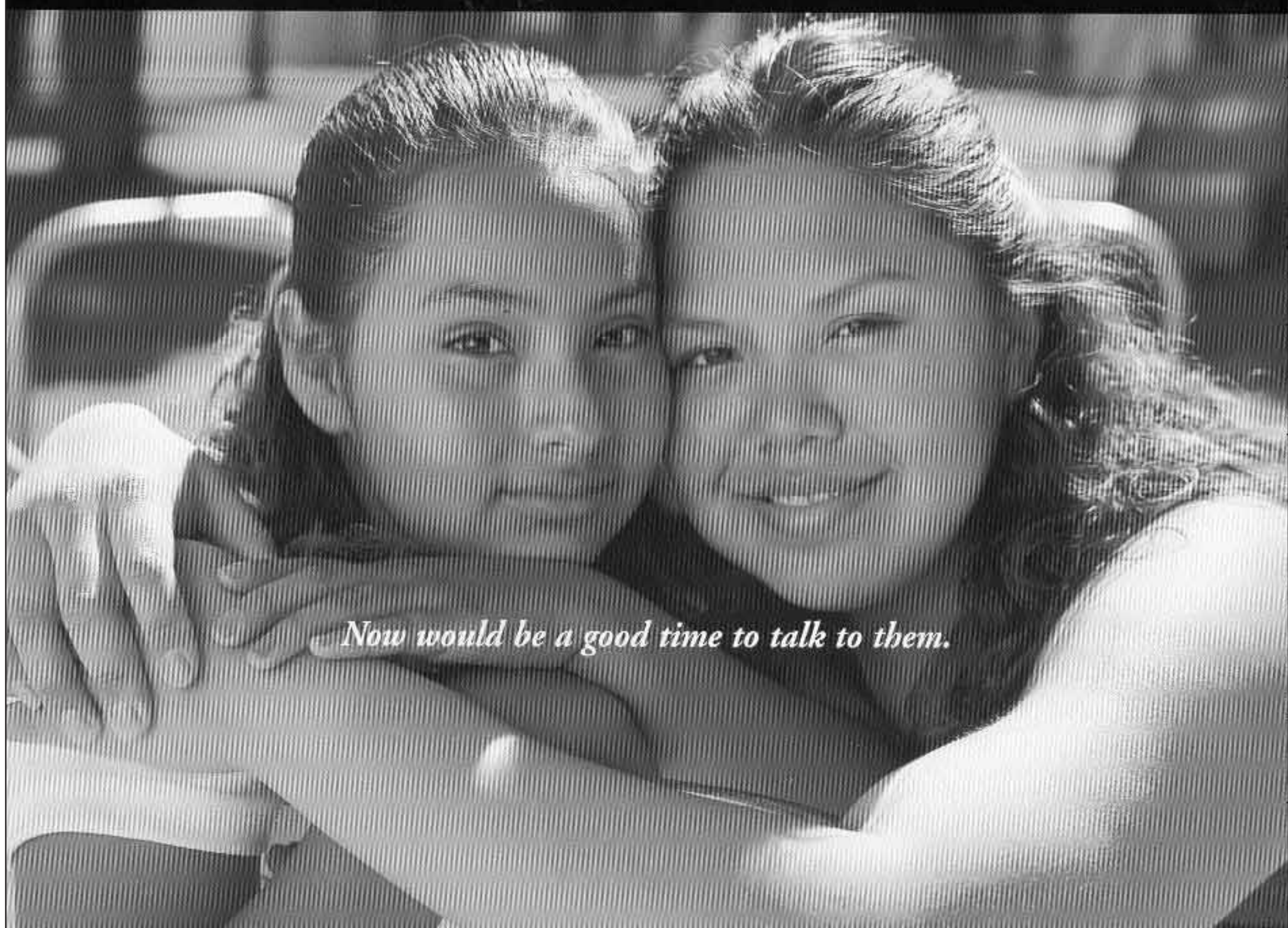
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In five minutes they will be on a school bus.
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Now would be a good time to talk to them.

Who is your child's best friend? What does your child do for fun? What did your child do at school today? Does your child know about drugs? These are a few simple things that a parent should know about their child. Take the time to become involved with your children and communicate to our youth that drugs are not a part of our Native cultures.

For more information on talking to your kids about drugs, please call 1.800.788.2800.

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Classified • Announcements

Happy Birthday



Happy Birthday to our Dad, **Jack H. Motlow**, Born 12-30-25 Otter Clan. **Much love from, Jo, Leoma, Bonnie, Tim, Tom and Grandkids; Austin, Astin, Erica, James, R.C. and Great Grandson Wyatt.**

Happy Birthday to **James L. Holt**. Much Love, Your aunts **Jo and Bonnie.**

Happy Birthday to **Timothy Motlow**, much love, your sisters, **Jo, Leoma, and Bonnie.**

Bryan Marcus Billie
12/17/91

When a son is born, he fills your life with so much happiness. It starts when you first hold him with pride and tenderness, and as he grows your loving feelings grow and deepens too. Your birthday is the perfect time to send you love to tell you how special you are. And to let you know how much it means to have you for a son. You are 9 years old today. Happy birthday!

Love you always, **Mommy (Joanne Osceola), Skully and Joanne.**

Happy Belated Birthday to **Brandon** who is a quarter of a century years old. I hope that you had a fun and exciting birthday, (sorry about having to put up with my grandpa, I wish you many more to come! Love, your Sis.



Happy Birthday to our Big Warrior! **Wyatt Hunter Motlow-North** Dec. 15, 1995. Have a very special time on your day. Hugs and kisses. Love, **Mom (Erika Deitz), Dad (Bruce Deitz), Dixie, Grandma, Grandpa, R.C., and Tina.**

Happy Birthday to **Wyatt Hunter Motlow-North**, our much loved Grandson. From **Grandma and Grandpa Motlow-North.**

Tribal Member Notice

Effective immediately, please know your Tribal enrollment number when calling the Secretary/Treasurer office for information regarding any loans, income verification or certificate of degree of Indian blood.

Knowing your number and that of your children will expedite your inquiry. This action is due to the increase of request by Tribal members on a day to day basis.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Secretary/Treasurer Office.

Deadlines

Seminole Tribune

Dec. 22 Issue • Deadline Dec. 8
Jan. 19 Issue • Deadline Jan. 5
Feb. 2 Issue • Deadline Jan. 26

Personals

Looking for Headdress

I believe that I am the 4th re-incarnation of Chief Small Riding Bull. In this body, I am a working class retired painter and decorator in England. I believe that it is soon my time to wander with the great spirits, but first I must win my feather. Please help me with this task as I do not know the ways of the Seminole Tribe, but when I saw your homepage I knew that you could help me with this calling.

I know that I must wear the headdress I once had in my former life, but there must be a great test before me to achieve this. I am willing to come to America so please listen to my words and consult with your inner most instincts with this request . . . if you think that you can help!

Thunder Hawk
Liverpool, England
thunderhawk@bigchief.co.uk

Man Seeking a Native Wife

I was wondering if you might direct me to the right tribe. I would like to see if I can find a Native American wife. My Great Grand mother was Seminole, and a very lovely person. If not, I am aware that there are Native American tribes that are financially disadvantaged, perhaps you might direct me to them.

This e-mail was sent with great respect, I hope you treat it as such.

Jerry Thacker
Evansville, Indiana 47728
www.freeyellow.com/
members4/wiggy71

This is a response to a personal ad that appeared in the paper on Oct. 20.

Dear Native Man: (Joe D.)

I am a single, smart, educated and physically gorgeous Native woman. I

do own my house, my car and have a very nice and responsible job. Sorry I do not like bacon, but you can certainly take me to nice restaurants. I am also used to having maids, so your idea of hiring someone to help us with the chores is appealing. You can watch all the football you want, that way I will have time to go out shopping with my friends, all you have to do is call me when the game is over. Thanks for the offer of fixing the lawnmower, but I believe the lawn service company makes their own repairs. Thanks for the offer of watching Wednesday night TV, but that's when my nail and massage appointments are usually made. If you want to meet me to see if we are compatible, please call my secretary at 1-800-GET REAL during working hours.

Candy Fluffy Tail

Respond to personals by e-mailing tribune@semtribe.com.

Notices

Meet at the Creek — Star party dates are Fri., Dec. 22th, Sat., Jan. 20th, Sat., Feb. 24th at Fisheating Creek Campground in Palmdale, Florida. Call to confirm at (941) 267-5664 or e-mail mar4181@yahoo.com.

Official National Cowboy Poetry Gathering — set for January 27 through February 3, 2001. Tickets are now on sale, for ticket information call (888) 880-5885 or visit the web site at www.westernfolklife.org.

National Indian Board Members Conference — December 11 – 13, 2000 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Presented by Falmouth Institute. Call (800) 992-4489 and mention code C100DBM for more info.

Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling Inc. Eighth Annual Conference — February 23 – 24, 2001 at the Hilton – Altamonte Springs (800) HILTONS or (407) 830-1985. For more

info contact FCCG at (407) 865-6200.

Wholiday — beginning November 17 and continuing through December 31 at Island of Adventure. www.universalsstudios.com. Contact Linda Buckley or Kena Lewis at (407) 363-8284.

Albuquerque Indian Market 2001 & SouthWest Art Expo — June 2 & 3, 2001 at the Creative Arts Bldg., New Mexico State Fairgrounds. Contact Robert Painter at (505) 836-2960.

National Association of Native American Studies National Conference — Feb. 12-17, 2001 at Houston Marriott Westside Hotel 13210 Katy Freeway, Houston, Texas 77042

OASIS Gift Show — Feb. 2-4, 2001 at the Phoenix Civic Plaza in Phoenix, AZ. Pre-registration deadline Jan. 5, 2001. For more information please call 800-424-9519 or www.oasis.org.

Ahfachkee School Christmas Program — You are invited to attend our Christmas Program at Ahfachkee School, which will be held on Dec. 21. Dinner will be served at 5:30p.m. and the show begins at 6:30 p.m.

Prayer-in-day — On Dec. 24th 2000 There will be a personal Prayer-in day for the Mother Earth. We will have two prayer times, 12 noon & 6 p.m. Eastern time. This way all Nations and Peoples will be as one with one prayer in our hearts! It is my hope that word of this will reach everyone, so if you can help spread the word it would be greatly appreciated. I am a simple person, a mother of two girls and married to a good man. This idea is not my own, but comes from my brother, Hawk and Grandfather. It is just my job to spread the word and I am honored to do so. Please feel free to contact me anytime for more info or questions. Barbara Milka (sisterhawk).

Poems

The way you and I came together seemed so crazy, as if by chance. Like the winds of fate blew a winter breeze into a summer night. Ever since that moment and the weeks that passed, we came to know each other more than any idea I ever had.

The time we spent together, just you and I Haunt my thoughts still, deep into the night. I can smell the scent of your skin, as if you were still here. And sometimes I swear that I can hear the sound of your voice, whispering softly into my ear:

Feeling the kisses that you gave, so soft and sincere. Always remembering the feel of your strong embrace holding me against your body so close, not even knowing if this was even right. The feeling of wanting you near, was something too intense, so much more than I wanted to face.

I remember our talks about nothing and everything under the sun, moon, and stars. Did you know that I never wanted them to end? Maybe I should have told you.

I'd always find a way to make you laugh or even just smile, falling in too deep all the while. The memories we made together and little moments shared, are a constant battle to leave in the past.

I remember realizing how much that I was wanting to keep you a part of this life of mine, for more than just a moment. Knowing all along that these moments might be all that I'll ever have. I wonder if you even realized how much you were making me feel.

The way that you were with me felt so good, but was it even real? Maybe it was or maybe it wasn't, I guess I'll never know. The times we spent together I think they're real special. So, I'm hoping that where ever you may go and what ever it is that you do that you let the thought of me come easily to you.

This is for the one who calls himself "Breeze." From someone who'll always care.
— **Eli Jumper**

P.S. Happy Birthday too.

Rod Was Not Spared

*I will never wake up to misery
And I will never say I'm hung over
From the previous wild night
Sunday is the Lord's day
My family and I will gladly praise God
Yes we will, with all of our might*

*I may never know what it feels like
To drink my pay and spill the baby's milk
For a weekend of chaos and turmoil
My daddy read the Bible to me
At our old chickee in the Everglades
A place we called home, our southern soil*

*In the mornings my mom sat by me
And sang those old Indian hymns
That she learned from the old swamp church
Swampbird stew over grits
She made for breakfast before school
She was my mentor, teacher, and my coach*

*Little mishaps and mistakes I've made
Were my own, not mom's or dad's
They made sure the rod was not spared
Travelin' the road of life
I look back and wish I could again
When the real days were still there*
— **Paul "Cowbone" Buster**

Seminole Casino News



Cordially invites you to our

Unveiling Celebration
"Portrait of the Seminole Clans Chief Billie"
by artist Donald G. Renner

With a personal appearance of
Chairman James E. Billie
of
The Seminole Tribe of Florida

Friday, December 15th, 2000
6:00 pm until 7:00 pm

Coconut Creek Casino
Cocktails & Hors d'oeuvres

RSVP by December 8, 2000
Ann Zebrowski
1-866-2CASINO Ext. 1031
Must be 18 years of age. No day care facilities are available.

Coconut Creek Casino
5550 NW 40th Street
Coconut Creek, FL 33073

In Memory

Rodeo Loses A Friend, Donald Parrish

By Tommy Benn

The Florida rodeo community lost one of its favorite sons when the Lord called Donald Parrish of Davis Florida home to the "Arena In The Sky" Nov. 4, 2000 Parrish 49 was born Jan. 29,1951.

He is survived by his wife Laurie of 24 years, sons Jake and Clint, daughter Selina, brothers Wayne and Doug and his parents

Rebecca and Ruffin of Wauchula, Florida Parrish was a partner in the 5-Star Rodeo Production Company, the largest Rodeo & Stock producer and promoter in Florida. He was a partner in the South East Cattle Company, an agricultural development company that specializes in roadway grassing, grass seeding and landscaping. Respected and admired by his business associates and peer he will truly be missed.

A tough rodeo competitor as a team roper Parrish would rope end, heads or heels. He was 5 Star Rodeo's senior pick-up man, and loved the sport and the people who made it.

Helping others was another spe-

cial gift he possessed. He was always there as true friend and never keep tally of favors owed. If you needed it, and Parrish had it, it was yours.

Another of Donald's passions was to help youngsters get started with their rodeo careers. By making them feel secure he could bring out their confidence in themselves. He

would reach a child's soul and help them find themselves. He truly loved to bring out the best in people. Bringing out the best in them brought him the greatest pleasure.

Donald Parrish will truly and surely be missed by a lot of people, as he touch so many peoples hearts and lives in his own all to short life.

This weekend's Southeastern Circuit Finals Rodeo 2000 was dedicated to Parrish who gave so much of himself to help so many others, in so many ways.

Don't think of Donald as gone. I like to think the Lord called him home to help make His place a little better. He's got the right man. Gods speed old friend!

"GOOD BYE OLD FRIEND, MAY YOU BE IN HEAVEN BEFORE THE DEVIL KNOWS YOUR'E GONE"

Diabetic Vietnam Veterans Sought

Acting Veteran's Affairs Secretary, Goyer announced Nov. 9 that Vietnam veterans with adult-onset (Type II) diabetes will be eligible for disability compensation based on their presumed exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides during the war.

In 1991, Congress passed Public Law 102-4, which set up a process in which the Institute of Medicine (IOM) reviews scientific literature on the health effects of Agent Orange. The VA secretary uses periodic IOM reports to decide whether to add more illnesses to those on VA's presumptive list for Agent Orange.

IOM's most recent report on Agent Orange, released Oct. 11, found limited/suggestive evidence of an association between diabetes and the herbicides used in Vietnam, including Agent Orange. Previous IOM studies found less evidence of a link.

Approximately 2.6 million veterans served within the borders of Vietnam or its adjacent waters during the war. It is estimated that 2.3 million are living today. About 20,000 veterans have been given VA disability compensation for problems related to Agent Orange.

VA estimates that more than 178,000 veterans will receive service-connection for their diabetes within the first five years under this recent decision. If estimates are correct, VA will spend an additional \$1 billion annually in disability compensation and need more than 350 additional employees to process applications.

The IOM report concluded that other, more traditional risk factors for diabetes in heredity, weight and sedentary lifestyle n far outweigh Agent Orange's risks.

About 36,000 veterans with diabetes are already recognized as service connected. In these cases, the diabetes mani-

fested itself during active duty or within a year of discharge. When cases of non-service-connected diabetes are included, one of every six patients in VA medical facilities already has diabetes.

Veterans who want to file a claim to have their diabetes recognized as being service-connected can call VA's toll-free number, 1-800-222-8387. Information should be available on VA's Web page, www.va.gov.

It will take several weeks in possibly until next spring before the final regulations implementing this decision are published. These regulations will then allow veterans to begin receiving VA disability compensation.

Last year, after an Air Force study found evidence of increased diabetes among some Vietnam veterans, the VA secretary asked IOM to delay a report which was nearing completion in order to include the latest information. That Air Force information was incorporated in IOM's October report, along with results from nine other studies.

PAOs should remind reporters and veterans that IOM found limited/suggestive evidence of a link between diabetes and herbicide exposure. VA wants to notify veterans of their benefits and alert them to an issue they should discuss with their doctors without conveying the false impression that everyone who served in Vietnam will get diabetes.

For media queries, local PAOs should be prepared to discuss local programs and services to benefit Vietnam veterans and diabetics. OPA fact sheets and other written products about diabetes may be useful in answering queries. Media questions specifically about the secretary's decision should be referred to OPA's media relations office (202) 273-6000.

If you have any questions, please call Stephen D. Bowers (954) 966-6300, ext. 1480.

Connie Haught: Seminole's High Flying Ambassador

By B. Secody
BIG CYPRESS — Anyone who has ever had the opportunity to fly the friendly skies aboard the Tribal corporate jet will surely admit they were treated like royalty. The flight will become a fond memory — not one to soon be forgotten.



Connie Haught will soon take more flight courses.

Upon boarding the plane, the first person to greet passengers is Connie Haught, who is the only certified flight attendant in the Seminole Tribe. First impressions are extremely important and almost always unforgettable, so one's first encounter with Connie is their first impression of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Connie, of the Brighton Reservation, is not just another pretty flight attendant. She takes her job seriously and does it well. She exudes charm and competence and makes every passenger, whether they are a Tribal member flying only a short distance back to school, or a distinguished visitor from another tribe or country — feel like royalty.

Connie's career is a challenge, being a single parent to four-year-old daughter, Skylar. But, Connie has plenty of family support and encouragement from her mom Mable, as well as her dad Michael Haught. Connie's parents are both very proud of her and offer to help out whenever needed. Connie states that she is usually home every night, and has a schedule of the entire crew tries to adhere to — barring unforeseen emergencies.

Connie began her career five years ago, when Chairman James Billie contacted her to see if she would be interested in the position. At the time, she turned it down. In 1998, Peter Vedel, who had been appointed the new chief pilot of the Tribal fleet — again contacted Connie and spoke to her about recon-

sidering the offer of flight attendant. Connie accepted. That was the start of a lucrative career as the Tribe's Ambassador of good will. Besides her movie-star good looks, she is always pleasant and makes sure the passengers are all comfortable and have what they like to drink. Meals are served on real china dishes, and crystal goblets adorn the white-cloth tables.

She even consults everyone on what movie they would prefer to watch. Often, when children are aboard, Connie plays one movie for the children and another for adults.

Connie is currently certified for service aboard a jet and including the Gulfstream IV — the jet owned by the Tribe. In February she is scheduled for training in Savannah, GA to upgrade her certification for the Gulfstream V. The training includes safety maneuvers such as fighting fires and exiting the craft in emergency situations.

When asked how many hours she flies weekly, she states that it would be impossible to say. Sometimes — however, not often — she is gone overnight and flies straight for several days, and other times she may go for a couple of weeks without going anywhere.

Connie feels it is important to spend as much time as she can with her daughter. Skylar attends Grace Christian School during the day while Connie is at work. She states there have even been times when Connie has hired a nanny to travel with her so Skylar could come along.

Connie says her flight crew is the best anyone could ask for. She reports the crew is very supportive of her status of being a single parent and tries to keep her schedule as normal as possible. The crew is very close knit and all get along wonderfully.

Connie, who is a 1987 graduate of Moore Haven High School, says she is fortunate to have this honor and does her best to represent the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

"I love what I do and always do my best," she says, adding the plane is actually for mem-



FLIGHT STAFF: (L-R) Sean Hogan, Connie Haught, Chris McGinley and chief pilot Peter Vedel.

bers, but is also used for business purposes on occasion. She feels every aspect of the Seminole Tribe is scrutinized and the aircraft and its crew often reflect the first impression of the Seminole Tribe.



The Tribal jet was one of the highlights of the air show, with more than 700 guests passing through.

Air Show Provides Support For Naples Airport

By B. Secody
NAPLES — On Saturday, November 18, the Seminole Tribe Aviation Department came out in full force to support the efforts of Alan Wright, Chairman of the Naples Aviation Bay at Naples Municipal Airport.

Wright is working towards reversing a decision to ban the Stage 2 jet aircraft from utilizing the Naples Airport.

Chief pilot of Seminole Aviation Peter Vedel and stewardess Connie Haught, along with Dewitt Beckett from Micco Aircraft Company, attended the event in support of those organizations and private individuals who own a stage 2 jet and will be adversely affected by the ban.

Although the Seminole Tribe's Corporate jet is a stage 3 jet and not affected by the ban, many of the Stage 2 jet owners will be adversely affected by the decision of the Airport Authority. The air show brought out thousand of local residents as well as visitors from all over the country to peruse the Naples Airport where rows and rows of various aircraft had parked for spectators to enjoy. The Seminole fleet was given a place of honor at the forefront of all the activity. The Tribal Corporate jet was the first thing visitors saw upon entering the show and by day's end more than 700 visitors had toured the elegant craft.

Other Tribal pilots who participated in the day-long event were Sean Hogan, chief of Maintenance, who brought one of the Tribe's Bell helicopters and Chris McGinley, a dual-rated airplane/helicopter, who flew in one of the new Micco planes. Dewitt Beckett, the laid-back friendly guy from Micco Airline Company, spent most of his day doing what he does best — selling those Micco planes. Within the first hour after setting down the new Micco SP20 and SP26 he had a captive audience on his every word about the little beauties. Shortly thereafter, Beckett, sporting a big grin on his face, made sure we all saw him fold the check he just received for payment in full for a new Micco. As he has stated before, "the planes actually sell

themselves as they are a top of the line aircraft and every family should have at least one!"

Throughout the day's event, the announcer pleaded the cause for Stage 2 aircraft owners and thanked the thousands of people and pilots who



The Tribe's new twin-engine Pilatus was also on display at the Air Show.

came in support of the cause, as well as those who came to merely enjoy the air show.

For years now, residents in the area of the Naples Airport have been complaining to city and county officials about the noise caused by the Stage 2 jets that land at the airport. According to Jeff Cochran, from the City of Naples, the Airport Authority Commission reluctantly made the decision Nov. 9 to close the Airport to Stage 2 jets.

Appeals are underway for reconsideration and reversal of that decision by the Stage 2 jet owners, their legal representatives, and other concerned parties such as Naples business owners. In the meantime, the aircraft owners have until the first of the year to decide where they will be landing their aircraft once the ban goes into effect.

Many feel this decision could prove to be infinitely devastating to Naples area businesses. Countless businessmen and women own homes in Naples yet work in New York or other cities during the week. These people fly into Naples each weekend to spend time with their families. These residents tend to spend a lot of money while they are home. Many also own a Stage 2 jet.

The closest airport to Naples, which allows the Stage 2 jet, is 30 miles away in Fort Myers. This would mean a 30 — 45 minute drive into Naples. Many of the distraught jet owners are now talking about selling their property in Naples and moving to an area where their stage 2 aircraft would not be a problem. If that were to happen, the City of Naples could end up losing out on a great deal of business generated by these residents.

There is also the safety aspect involved with emergency aircraft needing to utilize this facility. Those aircrafts will now no longer be able to do so, to the possible detriment of community health and safety.



Guest examines the Micco Aircraft Company's recently certified SP26.

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