



COW PASTURE OF PLENTY: More than 80,000 people spent three days in the Big Cypress Swamp to celebrate New Years with the rock band Phish. For the story in words and photos, see our Special Phish Section.



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Eastern Creeks Visit Seminoles

By E. Bowers
HOLLYWOOD — On Jan. 14 the Tribal Council was visited by the Florida Band of Eastern Creeks. The Eastern Creeks, who are based in the Florida Panhandle, are on the cusp of receiving federal recognition after applying nearly five years ago.

Principal Chief Andrew Ramsey and tribal archeologist Dan Penton presented Chairman James Billie with gifts during the Council's regular meeting.

"We do support your effort," said Billie. "We need somebody to watch that gate over there while we watch this gate over here."

The Principal Chief played it close to the vest when asked about the Tribe's future status. "You can never be too confident about anything," said Ramsey.

The Council also:
*During a special Council meeting on Jan. 24 adopted an amended version of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 and approved the termination of a 1980 agreement with the State of Florida to bring changes in the Family Services

See COUNCIL, page 3

Tribe, Corps Sign Compact

■ See Jim Shore's statement, Page 2.
By Dan McDonald

NAPLES — Using the backdrop of the 15th annual Everglades Coalition meeting, the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers signed a historic \$41 million agreement Jan. 7, that will help clean much of the 1.7 billion gallons of water that flows through the Everglades watershed every day.

The matching agreement marks the largest and most complex contract the Corps has ever signed with an Indian Tribe and ends four years of negotiations. The work covered by the contract includes surface water quality and storage, flood control, and a system of dikes and berms to better control water flow through the 52,000-acre Big Cypress Reservation.

"We've been working on this contract for four years," Seminole Tribe General Counsel Jim Shore said. "This plan has gone through various committees and review committees. It's been an ongoing thing."

"It's been designated a critical project by the Corps, and we're happy to end the process. Finally, it's ready to sign."

The contract was signed by Shore and Chairman James E. Billie for the Seminole Tribe, and Joseph Westphal, Assistant Secretary for the Department of the Army. The work is scheduled to begin in 2001, and run through 2004.

"The idea is to improve the quality of the water that enters and leaves Big Cypress," said Craig Tepper, Director of the Tribe's Water Resource Management Department.

"The water is polluted upstream, so we're forced to deal with various contaminants when it arrives at the reservation. This agreement will pro-

See COMPACT, page 12



THUMBS UP: Chairman James E. Billie and Micco Aircraft Co. President F. Dewitt Beckett show off certificate.

Micco's SP20 Finally Cleared For Takeoff

By Dan McDonald
FORT PIERCE — Finally. It took five years, but the Seminole Tribe's most aggressive business venture -- airplane manufacturing -- is taking off for the sky after the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) awarded a Type Certificate for the MAC 145-A.

At a rollout ceremony Jan. 15, at the St. Lucie County International Airport, Tribal Chairman James E. Billie accepted the framed certificate from Cynthia Lorenzen, Program Manager for the Atlanta Aircraft Certification Office of the FAA.

Certification allows the manufacture and sale of aircraft by the Micco Aircraft Company (MAC), a firm owned by the Tribe. The FAA certified MAC 145-A, marketed as the SP20, marks the first time in history an Indian tribe will manufacture and sell an airplane.

"A woman is only pregnant for 270 days," an elated James Billie said to the approximately 350 guests and Tribal dignitaries who gathered in MAC's 40,000-sq. ft. plant for the ceremony. "We've been pregnant for five years!"

"It's been a long time coming. We had to overcome a lot of obstacles, but it's finally happening. I couldn't be more proud and happy than I am for this day to arrive."

Billie, who is an avid pilot with single, multi-engine, instrument and helicopter ratings, took the occasion to thank those who helped shepherd the plane through the labyrinth of FAA regulations.

He specifically singled out Tribal President Mitchell Cypress and Councilman Max Osceola for having the resolve to fund the project through all the years. He also introduced Sally Tommie, the Fort Pierce Reservation liaison, and acknowledged Shanny and Marty Tommie, the first two Tribal members to work

See MICCO, page 5

Artist Noah Billie: 1948-2000

By Charles Flowers
HOLLYWOOD — The skies opened up on Monday in South Florida, the first hard rain in weeks, as Noah Billie was laid to rest next to his brother Jonah.

The Seminole artist died on Jan. 20, after a second heart attack and complications from diabetes. Jonah, who shared their father Charlie Billieboy's penchant for

Old Testament names, died in 1992 at the age of 42.

Noah Billie was born Sept. 14, 1948, and lived through a tour as a U.S. Marine in the Vietnam War. A five-man Marine color guard fired a 12-gun salute at the graveside service at the New Seminole Indian Cemetery. Mitchell Cypress described a painting of that war that Mr. Billie presented to Seminole Veterans. The Seminole president described a meeting with Noah Billie after a ball game in which Mr. Billie said, "We all made it back."

"I thought he was talking about the ball game," Cypress said. "I didn't realize he was talking about the military."

Although he learned wood carving and beadwork from his parents (his mother was Alice Huff), Mr. Billie is best-known for his vividly colorful paintings of Seminole life and history. One of his paintings, of a Seminole family in a dugout canoe poling through ghostly purple cypress trees and Spanish



THE MAN AND HIS ART: Noah Billie poses with one of his Seminole War paintings.

See NOAH, page 10

Seminoles Expand Gaming

■ Brighton Opens Dec. 16
■ Coconut Creek To Open Feb. 2

By Michael James
The Seminole Tribe of Florida has expanded its gaming operations with the opening of two new casinos on federal trust land. The Brighton Seminole Bingo and Gaming Casino opened Dec. 16 on the Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation and the grand opening of the Coconut



SNIP, SNIP: Marty Johns and Mitchell Cypress.

Creek Seminole Gaming Casino, in western Broward County, is scheduled for Feb. 2.

The Brighton facility is a new and expanded version of the old Brighton Bingo hall, which operated sporadically near the northwestern shore of Lake Okeechobee since the late 70s. The Coconut Creek Casino is a brand new facility that

See CASINO, page 12



Ruby Osceola 104 Years Old

By Mark Madrid
TAMPA — Born in 1896, Ruby grew up and was married and had seven children. Those kids gave her 29 grand children, who gave her 51 great grandchildren who gave her four great great grand children. That's a total of 91 off spring. Ruby has been living in Tampa for a long time and will be there for a good while longer.

Editorial

Drowning In Her Own Tears

***Dexter Lehtinen**

A tragedy is unfolding in the Florida Everglades as these words are being written.

The heart of the Florida Everglades -- the 752 square miles of freshwater Everglades prairie marsh, studded with tree islands and teeming in biodiversity, known as the state's Water Conservation Area 3-A-(WCA 3-A) -- is drowning. Once the tree islands are washed away and the biodiversity is transformed into a dull monoculture -- once the area is dead -- it cannot be brought back to life.

Does anyone care? Will anyone act? The legal responsibility for protection of this precious resource rests with several state agencies -- Governor and Cabinet sitting as the Internal Improvements Trust Fund (legal title holders to WCA 3-A), the FWC (wildlife management), and the South Florida Water Management District (water managers).

Ideally, the federal government (Everglades National Park) would care as well, but here lies the problem: they just don't care because they don't own WCA 3-A. The central Everglades seems to be an orphan, a beautiful child with unlimited potential, but not worth the political trouble to fight for.

Will these agencies just wring their hands, repeating "What a shame?" Or will they take the simple step of letting the water flow naturally? No one believes WCA 3-A isn't worth it; no one says she should die, everyone knows the current high water levels will kill her-yet no one takes responsibility for saving her.

We know that WCA 3-A is not a single living organism, but from the air she appears so -- a beautiful living creature struggling to be set free, caught in a snare set by her twin sister -- the National Park -- who has turned against her, drowning her in her own tears. Only a metaphor? Rain comes naturally in the Everglades ecosystem like tears come naturally to every life; and

rain, like tears, flows away naturally. But the flow builds to deadly levels if it's blocked. And WCA 3-A drowns in her own tears.

The double tragedy is that this death sentence is man-made and unnecessary. There is no flood protection, human health, or property rights reason for holding the water back. Instead, the Park makes WCA 3-A absorb any natural events or conditions that the Park doesn't like.

The Department of the Interior uses an artificial barrier (Tamiami Trail and its bridge structures) to hold water conditions artificially low south of the Trail in the Park by holding water artificially high north of the Tamiami Trail in state and tribal Everglades (WCA 3-A). This is done so that a subpopulation of about 10 percent of a subspecies of bird that moved into the artificially dry area will not have to move again due to natural water flows. All of these artificial, unnatural conditions are being created in the name of "nature." Like Alice in Wonderland, can make words mean whatever it wants them to mean.

It wouldn't take much to save this gallant lady. The solution remains simple. Just pull the plugs that block water flow, just open the drains. The urban and agricultural areas to the east and west would not be harmed. In fact, flood protection would be improved because the water would flow through the Everglades naturally, where it belongs, instead of being stacked up to threaten collateral damage on the flanks.

The central Everglades needs a voice; a Joan of Arc to cut her chains, open the gates, smash the artificial barrier that now serves as the tool for small minds to gain selfish advantage at her expense. She needs a leader who, in President Lincoln's words when describing the Mississippi River after Vicksburg's fall, will enable "the mighty river to once again flow unvexed to the sea."
— **Dexter Lehtinen is General Counsel for the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida**



Ko wah yee who ne che

Peace Into The Millennium

Another year gone and a new life to start. How are you starting this one out? Are we dead sure about making those changes and following through with them? Have you noticed any differences? Are you happier, more confident, less apprehensive?

You should not have to feel sorry for what you had gone through. After all, the circumstances are the abusers' mystery. Until they give a program for themselves it will remain that, a mystery. We can only pray that one day, they will find a solution to their problems.

Indifferences are best worked out before a very drastic event happens. Situations are not to be just laughed off as a joke. The abusers think only of themselves, blaming their partners for what is ailing them.

Several years passed before my abuser had called me to apologize for his conduct and all the terror he had put me through in our relationship. Why couldn't you have admitted this to me then? I asked, if you preferred drugs and alcohol, I could've accepted that. Not long after the beatings and manipulation began did I want it to end. Sure, I was lonely, and felt that I could change, but why? I wasn't the one having the problem. Of course I felt responsible, ashamed, inadequate and afraid that I would be judged. But my abuser had succeeded in making me feel this way.

I had a cousin who I confided in on the situation and she too had been abused. To be open about that type of treatment is difficult. After all, you can't (no matter how many times you try) talk to your partner about the circumstances, much less trying to work out the whole lifestyle to suit their needs, not yours.

As individuals who have survived abuse, we should make more and louder attempts to reach our people and let them know how horrible it really is.

No one should have to put up with such misconduct. The afflictions are terrifying enough. Out of love and consideration we need to make others more aware that it still going on. Maybe we need to take pictures after such beatings to remind them. If we could only take pictures of their brains and hearts, so they could see the hurt inflicted upon them as well. Not to mention self-esteem, and whatever pride we might have had at one time.

Then, there is the issue if there are children involved: they see all this. What are they thinking? It is OK to beat on one another? Or is there no love, that they could treat each other better? Is it because of us? Sure it's affecting all of you. There are many considerations to weigh in such situations. Are you strong enough to make life better for yourself and those little ones? If you're not, you best find an escape for everyone. But remain worthy to not leave them with such an individual. There's help everywhere and for everyone today. Don't wait for a miracle, Changes are not going to make a grand entrance.

Remember the movie *Radio Flyer*? In that situation, a single mother with two boys falls for a man who abused one of the boys. It wasn't till after many beatings and ending up in the hospital did the mother find out. She had him arrested and the boys were real happy . . . till the collect phone calls starting coming. Then, of course, mom felt sorry and he returned after his sentence. Guess what? The beatings began again!

Another word of advice too: if after a period of time apart, they appear to have improved? Not. Think again.

In search of more peace into our new millennium, let's work harder at peace among each other.
— **Virginia Mitchell is Editor of the Seminole Tribune**



Editor's Thoughts

By Virginia Mitchell

Tribe Linked To 'Glades

***Jim Shore**

— *Statement to the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on Jan. 7, 2000, in Naples.*

The Seminole Tribe have been active participants in the multi-faceted efforts to restore the South Florida ecosystem and to provide a healthy future for people of Florida, as well as for the natural environment, including the Everglades, that draws so many more people to visit and move here. We appreciate being invited to share our views with Senators Smith, Voinovich, and Graham on the Restudy presented to Congress last July. The Tribe supports the Restudy.

In this testimony, I will discuss, briefly, who we, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, are; our general philosophy regarding ecosystem restoration in South Florida; the Tribe's contribution to the restoration; and specific comments on the Restudy.

The Seminole Tribe lives in the South Florida ecosystem. The Big Cypress Reservation is located in the Everglades about 60 miles east of here, directly north of the Big Cypress Preserve. The Immokalee Reservation is approximately 30 miles northeast of here, near the Big Cypress Preserve. The Brighton Reservation is located on the northwestern shores of Lake Okeechobee. Tribal headquarters is located on the Hollywood Reservation on the east coast. The Tribe relies on all aspects of a healthy ecosystem, including the Everglades which provide many of our Tribal members with their livelihood. Our traditional Seminole cultural, religious, and recreational activities, as well as commercial endeavors, are dependent on a healthy South Florida ecosystem. In fact, the Tribe's identity is so closely linked to the land that Tribal members believe that if the land dies, so will the Tribe.

During the Seminole Wars of the 19th Century, our Tribe found protection in the hostile Everglades and Big Cypress Swamp. But for this harsh environment filled with sawgrass and alligators, the Seminole Tribe of Florida would not exist today. Once in the Everglades and Big Cypress, we learned how to use the natural system for support without doing harm to the environment that sustained us. For example, our native dwelling, the *chickee*, is made of cypress logs and palmetto fronds. It protects its inhabitants from sun and rain, while allowing maximum circulation for cooling. When a chickee has outlived its useful life, the cypress and palmetto return to the earth to nourish the soil.

In response to social challenges within the Tribe, we looked to our Tribal elders for guidance. Our elders taught us to look to the land, for when the land was ill, the Tribe would soon be ill as well. When we looked at the land, we saw the Everglades and supporting ecosystem in decline. We recognized that we had to help mitigate the impacts of man on this natural system. At the same time, we acknowledged that this land must sustain our people, and thereby our culture. The clear message we heard from our elders and the land was that we must design a way of life to preserve the land and the Tribe. Tribal members must be able to work and sustain themselves. We need to protect our Tribal farmers and ranchers.

Recognizing the needs of our land and our people, the Tribe has developed a plan to mitigate the harm to the land and water systems within our Reservations while ensuring a sustainable future for the Seminole Tribe of Florida. The Big Cypress Reservation is the first of our Reservations for which this plan has been implemented. The Tribe is in the early stages of developing a plan with similar goals on the Brighton Reservation.

On Big Cypress, the restoration plan will allow Tribal members to continue ongoing farming and ranching activities while improving water quality and restoring natural hydroperiod to large portions of the native lands on the Reservation and ultimately, positively affecting the Big Cypress National Preserve and Everglades National Park. Construction activities on the western side of the Reservation have been identified as a "Critical Project" under section 528 of WRDA '96. The Tribe is working closely with the NRCS to identify appropriate programs to complete construction of the project on the eastern side of the reservation. Two Wetland Reserve Projects are currently underway.

The Seminole Tribe is committed to improving water quality and flows on Big Cypress and has expressed that support by dedicating significant financial resources to our environmental programs and projects, as well as estimates of 9,000 acres

of land to support the projects on Big Cypress alone.

The Seminole Tribe participates in the task forces, working groups, commissions, and committees too numerous to list. In these various fora, stratified levels of detail are debated and discussed. Throughout our involvement, the Tribe has applied the following guidelines to the many proposals and plans that have been produced and vetted. Our resources limit our specific comments to portions of the plans that will directly affect our lands. Our "philosophy," so to speak, however, can be applied to all of the plans.

Shared adversity. No one place or group of people should be required to shoulder more than their proportional cost of the problem caused by the federal project created to help all Floridians.

If you messed it up, you clean it up. While all should share in the corrections to the built system to provide for sustainability, if an entity has created a specific problem, that entity is responsible for correcting the problem. For example, the Big Cypress projects are designed to improve the quality of the water that the Tribe discharges.

Get the science right. The Tribe recognizes the complexity of the Everglades ecosystem. Understanding these complexities and developing the applied scientific principles is critical to saving the ecosystem.

Adaptive management. While, in the perfect world, the scientists would have all the answers to provide the design engineers building the projects needed to improve water quality, quantity, flows, and levels, in the real world, some projects need to proceed on the best available information. Best professional judgment must be executed in the design and implementation projects for which there is an absence of all needed data points. However, it is crucial that monitoring and data analysis continue for such projects and required adjustments to the design and/or operation of the projects be undertaken in a timely way. In this way, adaptive management allows important restoration projects to proceed.

The Seminole Tribe supports the Restudy and its goals of addressing environmental restoration and adequate flood protection and water supply. The Tribe reviewed and commented on all drafts of the Restudy. Rather than provide extensive comments here, I will highlight our four most significant concerns:

1. **Ecological models and monitoring.** While computer-generated models and necessary analytical tools, the information they provide is not reality. It is important to recognize their limitations — limited to current knowledge, contain assumptions, and subject to computational constraints — and to deal with project planning accordingly. In addition, the Restudy computer models were designed so that many of the Tribe's lands are outside or at the edges of the models. This situation has forced the Tribe to infer the likely effects of the selected alternative on its lands. Because the predicted behavior of the model may not be accurate, the Tribe urges that project authorization include ongoing data gathering and monitoring.

2. **Adaptive management.** The Tribe strongly supports the Restudy's incorporation of the adaptive management concept. The Tribe urges Congress to incorporate in the authorization of the initial projects the flexibility needed to allow for the application of adaptive management.

3. **Federal funding for water quality improvements.** The Tribe believes that the federal government shares the responsibility for improving water quality. WRDA 2000 should incorporate the WRDA '96 provision requiring 50/50 federal/local cost share for water quality projects.

4. **Critical projects and programmatic authority.** Should any of the projects identified as "critical projects" under WRDA '96 section 528 fail to be implemented due to lack of federal appropriations, programmatic authority under WRDA 2000 should renew authorization for the projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to share the views of the Seminole Tribe of Florida with you. While the Tribe is a strong supporter of the Restudy, we will continue to be vigilant in our review of its implementation. We look forward to a continued partnership on a government-to-government basis in the challenging effort to save our Everglades.

— **Jim Shore is General Counsel for the Seminole Tribe of Florida.**

e-mail

tribune@seminoletribe.com

Editor:

I just read the FAQs. I was told when I was a child that my grandfather was a Seminole and I have always wanted to search out my roots, but after reading the part about why it's so hard to become a member, I understand why. I would still love to find out more about my family's background but understand why I can't become a member. Thank you for this website. This isn't the first time I've been here and it won't be my last. I enjoy reading the Tribune.

**Sara Kennebeck
Knoxville, TN
miavolfan**

Editor:

I loved your site and as a school-teacher I found it to be wonderful. I have already taught my children about Native Americans before, but it is wonderful to be able to let them know there is such a rich culture and heritage in our own backyard right here in Broward County. Thank you.

**Carol Hernandez
Davie
wecope2@aol.com**

Editor:

Hello, it is me again. My grandmother used to make some wonderful medicines from roots and long-leaf pine tar (palmetto roots I think). She also made

a snapping turtle and cabbage palm stew (she would substitute palmetto stems if she couldn't get cabbage palms). She made chairs from deerskin and antlers, and shoe laces from eel's skin. She also grew a little yellow sweet potato (not red like you buy in stores). Is anything being done to preserve this type of knowledge? In my family, it died with Grandmother, and I would like to be able to pass some of this knowledge on to my son and daughter, but have no idea of where to obtain it. Thank you.

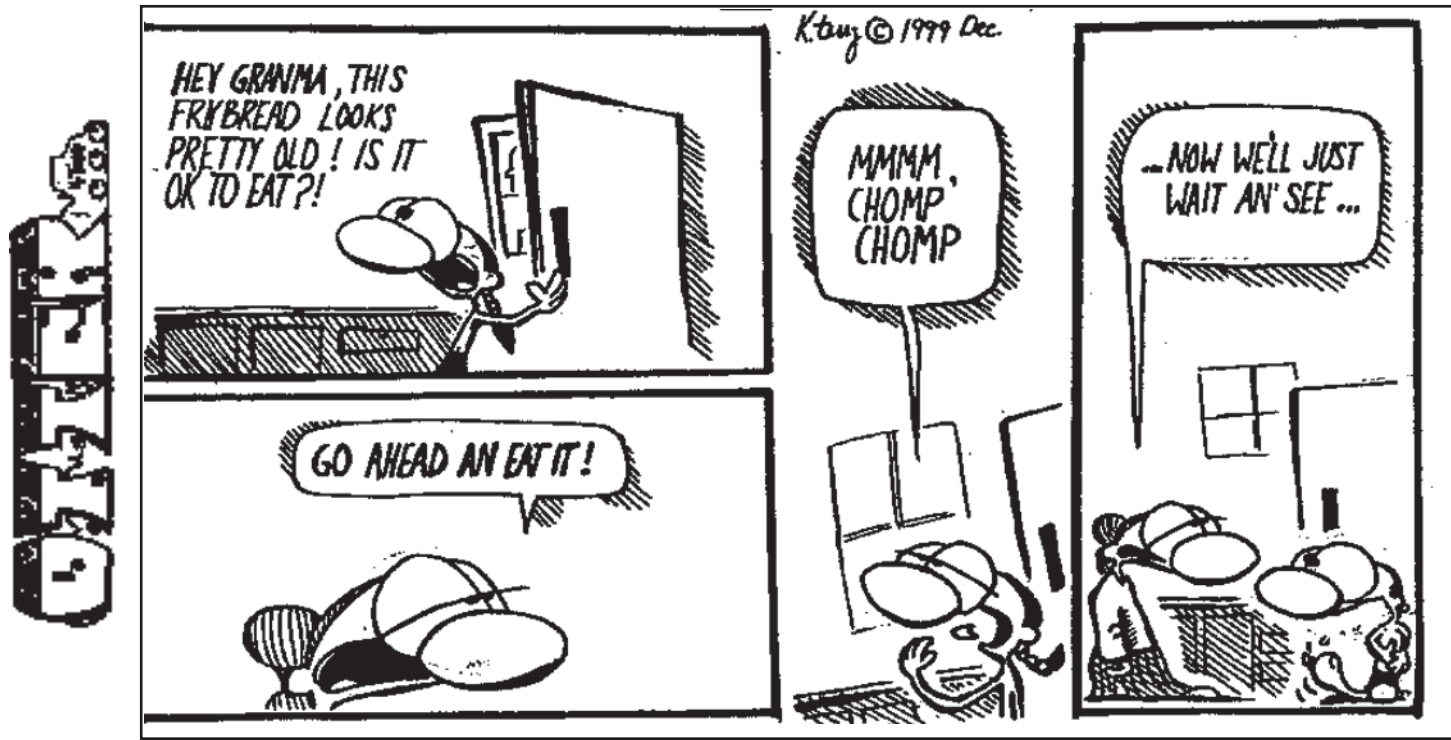
**Albert Smith
Harleston, S.C.
Albert.Smith@gcapital.com**

Editor:

Hello. I am a student at Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Ind. But I am currently studying at one of our partner Universities in Tuebingen, Germany. I am researching your heritage for a project and report for an American Native Indian course in which I am enrolled. If you have any further information which could be of assistance to my report I would greatly appreciate it. I have found much information from this valuable site and also historical literature in our library at the University. Your history is extremely interesting..

**Julie Scheetz
Valparaiso, IN
julsch143@yahoo.com**

See E-MAIL, page X



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Publisher: James E. Billie
 Director: Dr. Betty Mae Jumper
 Editor: Virginia M. Mitchell
 Special Projects: Peter B. Gallagher
 Design/Layout: Melissa Sherman
 Design/Layout Assistant: Vanessa Frank, Brian Larney
 Secretary: Valerie M. Frank
 Reporters: Libby Blake, Elrod Bowers, Ernie Tiger
 Business Manager: Dan McDonald
 Contributors: Amy Cox, Charles Flowers, Michael James, Mark Madrid, Sandi McClenithan, Rhonda Roff, Raiford Starke, Sabrina Tuttle, Vida Volkert, Patsy West, Dr. Patricia R. Wickman

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DANCING IN THE NEW YEAR: Fancy Dancer and Jingle Dress Dancer wow the crowd.

Tribe Kicks Off Seminole Heritage Month

By Charles Flowers

FORT LAUDERDALE — About 15 Seminoles and Indians from other tribes held a millennium celebration the day after New Year's for several hundred tourists and other spectators at the Las Olas Riverfront.

Besides performances by a group of decorated dancers of the Medicine Wheel Dance Troupe, the crowd was invited to join in a Gambship Dance led by Kelley Gambill, 25 and her niece, Lovely Lily Warmtoes, 6. Barechested Seminole dancer William Osceola thrilled adults and children alike when he danced up close and personal with feathered headdress, long braids, rattles and bells.

Seminole tourism consultant Lee Tiger called it "only a glimpse of what's to come."

The event prefaced a month of events in South Florida including the 29th annual Seminole Tribal Gathering at the Hollywood Reservation Feb. 10-13, the 2nd annual Kissimmee Slough Shootout and Rendezvous at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress on Feb. 5-6, and finishing with the Fiesta Tropicale in Young's Circle (Hollywood Blvd. at U.S. 1) on Feb. 25-27, which the Tribe is sponsoring.

"It was the highlight of the day," Tiger said of the Jan. 2 event along the New River. "They had food, a jazz battle of the bands and lots of other events. But this (celebration) blew the rest of it away. People had never seen the likes of it."

Besides the dancers, who moved along to the beat of a big powwow drum, there were examples of Seminole crafts, including dolls, jewelry and baskets, and a 25-foot dugout canoe made by Henry John Billie for Seminole chieftain James Billie.

Tiger said the waters of the New River were



JINGLE BELLS: Las Olas crowd eyes skillful Indian dancer.

too choppy, and chock full of other pleasure boats for dugout canoe traffic on this bright Sunday.

The Tribe also announced discounts on tickets to attractions including two-for-one admissions to Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki, \$5 discounts on airboat and swamp buggy rides at Okalee Swamp Safari, and \$2 off admission prices at Okalee Museum, all during Heritage Festival Month.

Council

Continued from page 1

program.

Chairman Billie mulled the possibility of the Tribal Council withholding dividends and assistance from Tribal members who shirk their parental responsibilities.

*Approved a letter of agreement for pharmacy operations and benefits agreement for the

Seminole Tribe employee plan with Sav-Rx prescription services.

*Approved a resolution naming the improvement of Snake Road as the top BIA road project priority for fiscal year 2000.

*Changed the Tribal tag allotment from two tags per member, three tag per married couple to three tags per member and five tags per married couple.

Five New Members Inducted Into Sports Hall Of Fame

By E. Tiger

HOLLYWOOD — David Jumper, Cecil Johns, Richard Smith, Fred Smith and Genus Crenshaw were inducted into the Seminole Tribe's Sports Hall of Fame at the 3rd Annual Sports and Seminole Hall of Fame Inductee's Banquet Dec. 13.

"This will hopefully give the way to recognize Hall of Fame inductees and help build a foundation to help them strive to maybe one day, become Hall of Fame inductees themselves," said Moses Jumper Jr., Hollywood Recreation Director.

The inductees and why they were:

*David Jumper -- Also known as the "Barefoot Seminole" hiked 20 miles before he ran and won his competition track meet.

*Cecil Johns -- inductee for his accomplishments in track and football.

*Richard Smith -- Received awards for his accomplishments in basketball, football and baseball.

*Fred Smith -- inductee for his accomplishments in football.

*Genus Crenshaw -- was inducted for honoring the Tribe and Tribal members in sports.

Guest speaker and former Los Angeles Ram Preston Dennard supplied the audience with a very inspirational speech on "how his life had been filled with challenges and doubt from others." He had proved to himself and others how "persistence in never giving up" had given him the chance to make



Preston Dennard, former L.A. Rams wide receiver, addresses crowd.

his dreams come true in the NFL."

Hollywood Councilman Max Osceola took time out during the night's banquet to participate and acknowledge Rev. Crenshaw's accomplishments and how he affected the lives of Seminole athletes.

"He opened many doors that were not available to many during that time and he helped build the foundation for the athletic program that you see today."

Other athletes acknowledged and handed trophies by Mr. Osceola included three of the Lil' Thunder Fast Pitch Softball team: Meaghan Osceola, Nicole Osceola and Briana Harjochee for their recent accomplishments at the 1999 ISA and ASA State and National Championships.

Line-up Set For The Winds Of Change Festival And Gala

CORAL SPRINGS — On March 17-18, The Barcole Foundation will host the second annual Winds of Change American Indian Festival at The Coral Springs Sportsplex in Coral Springs. A fundraiser for homeless women with children, this event will feature arts and crafts, intertribal dancing, drumming, give-aways, celebrity appearances by actor/artist Eric Schweig and stuntman/actor Henry King, storytelling by Everette Osceola of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, and performances by flutist Charles Littleleaf and R&B/Rapper Shadowwyze to name a few. National recording artists will be announced mid-February.

The preview party to the festival, The Winds of Change American Indian Art Gala, is scheduled for

March 16 at 7:30 p.m. The evening will consist of a meet and greet art reception, a sit-down dinner, auction, and dance floor featuring 70s and 80s music. Guests will also have the opportunity to mingle with the celebrity guests of honor. Tickets to the gala are \$65, and must be purchased in advance through the foundation.

Currently, the organization is in need of food vendors, musicians (flutists positions are filled), performers of various types, and volunteers. To purchase gala tickets or to receive additional information including vending and advertising opportunities, call 954-925-5228, e-mail barcole2@bellsouth.net or visit <http://barcolefoundation.tripod.com>.

2nd Annual Slough Shootout, Feb. 5-6

BIG CYPRESS — The Seminole Tribe will host the Second Annual Kissimmee Slough Shootout and Rendezvous at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, on Feb. 5 - 6 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The event is highlighted by battle reenactments from the Seminole War period and over 100 "warriors" will be participating in the weekend event in addition to 30 "pioneer traders." The event will also feature arts and crafts vendors whose wares will include 19th century-style goods. There will also be Seminole dancing, archery contest, hatchet throwing contest and Seminole food.

On Saturday, Feb. 5, the Seminole battle reenactments will take place at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. On Sunday, Feb. 6, the reenactment will be held at 3:30 p.m. The additional activities take place until 5 p.m. on both days.

The Slough Shootout and Rendezvous are featured as part of Seminole Heritage Month. February is Seminole Heritage Month, which offers the opportunity for both residents and visitors to learn about the unique history of the Seminole Tribe. This is another initiative of the Seminole Tribe which features outreach in conjunction with the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau and State of Florida tourism partnerships.

Admission to both the event and the museum is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children. For more information, please call (941) 902-1113 or (954) 792-0745.



Swamp Owl is a well-known battle re-enactor.

William Osceola Receives Statue

By Charles Flowers

HOLLYWOOD — Peruvian sculptor Felipe Lettersten presented 15-year-old William Osceola with a statue that the artist made titled "A Boy and His Alligator."

The work, a life-cast made in 1998, shows William astride a six-foot alligator, prying the reptile's head open with his hands. William is wearing traditional patchwork clothing, which is also recorded in the hyper-realistic process.

William was one of six Seminoles who have posed for the renowned sculptor, who has exhibited in many countries including his native Peru, Ecuador, Great Britain and Japan. Locally, he has exhibited life-casts of indigenous people at the Miami Science Museum, and has an exhibition of 50 sculptures, including the Seminole pieces, scheduled for the Graves Museum of Archaeology & Natural History from Jan. 30-April 15. The sculptures of Larissa, his mother Peggy Osceola, Laura and Larissa Tucker and Jo-Lin Osceola are all expected to be unveiled at the Graves show.

"I wanted to thank William personally, as well as all the Seminoles who helped me with this project," Lettersten said. "The Tribe will be well represented in this and other shows throughout Florida and the world."

After moving his non-profit foundation, Sons of Our Land, to Florida last year, Lettersten said he hopes to complete his Seminole collection this year. He has also made contact with members of the Miccosukee Tribe of Florida Indians, in hopes of including Miccosukees in his "Indians of the Americas" group.

Lettersten, 44, began making life-casts of Amazon tribes more than a dozen years ago. To date, he has recorded more than 150 different Tribes in South America, Central America, North America and the Caribbean. His goal is to make representative sculptures of every indigenous people on earth.



Sculptor Felipe Lettersten poses with subject William Osceola.

To that end, he hopes to invite as many as a dozen Native Americans to Peru after the Seminole Tribal Fair in February. Currently, he said, it is necessary to make the castings in his Lima studio, because his skilled artisans who remove the drying plaster and re-assemble it into sections, are unable to obtain permission to travel to the United States.

William echoed the opinions of other Seminole models when he told the *Seminole Tribune*: "It's nice to know that 300 years from now, someone can be looking at me and say, 'There they are. They did exist.' Even the Egyptians don't have that. They have pyramids and mummies, but nothing to show how they really looked, the clothes they wore, the hairstyles."

William and other Seminole Tribal members are expected to appear at the opening reception of the Graves exhibition on Jan. 28.

The Graves Museum of Archaeology & Natural History is located at 481 S. Federal Highway in Dania Beach. For hours and admission prices, please call (954) 925-7770.

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE TO AMERICAN INDIANS

BALLOTS FOR THE USDA'S COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS WILL BE MAILED NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 24, 2000

The USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is conducting its annual election for seats on their county committees. These committees perform an extremely important role in programs and services of the FSA to land owners and agricultural producers in your county. USDA programs, such as farmer loans, price support loans, land conservation programs, disaster programs, incentive and indemnity payments, and other programs and services are overseen by these local committees.

Historically, American Indians have been under-represented on these committees, thus, our distinct issues and concerns have been ignored due to this lack of representation on the committee. The time has come for American Indians to exercise our rights and **Vote** for an American Indian to sit on the FSA County Committee. If you are a member of a Federally Recognized Tribe with Trust property, then you should receive a notice of election by February 24, 2000 and the ballot must be returned to the county office by March 6, 2000.

If you are eligible to vote and have not received a ballot from the county office, please contact your local USDA county office and request a ballot. The term of office for newly elected County Committee positions is 3 years.

PLEASE FOLLOW ALL LABELED INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BALLOT TO INSURE YOUR VOTE COUNTS

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A Moment In Time With Lorene Gopher

By Michael James
BRIGHTON — If you were to follow Gopher's Gully out to the road, turn north for a mile or so and then a couple of clicks to the right when you got to Brighton Seminole Baptist Church you would find yourself in a fine sort of oak and cabbage hammock. If you paid real close attention and didn't ask too many questions, you might find yourself standing in the remnants of Billy Bowlegs' garden.

"He had a garden where he grew sweet potatoes, corn, and sugar cane. It's still there today," said Lorene Gopher, one of six children born to Annie Pierce Bowers and Andrew Bowers Sr. Their grandmother Lucy Pierce, the sister of Billy Bowlegs and mother of Annie delivered all of the Bowers children.

When she was two years old, Lorene had the misfortune of losing her mother. Consequently, their grandmother Lucy, and Billy Bowlegs raised the children. From then on Bowlegs, who was a great uncle, became known as Grampa. "He taught us a lot of things that he know," she says.

"We grew up at that camp. It was a place to live. There was a chickee for cooking, one for eating and another for sleeping," said Gopher.

Born in 1945, Gopher said she couldn't recall ever seeing a white person other than Albert DeVane who used to come around the camp "a lot" to swap stories with Bowlegs. On occasion, people would come by the camp to see her grandmother for medicine.

"Grandfather (Bowlegs) pushed us to go to school," said Gopher, who entered public school in Keeseechobee in Mrs. Hunt's fourth grade class in 1954. According to Gopher, Bowlegs taught himself to read and enjoyed magazines that friends subscribed to for him. "He mostly read farm magazines," she said.

Some of Lorene Gopher's fondest memories of childhood are of the times she spent swimming and hunting.

"They didn't want us to play much, they

taught us that what we did had to be meaningful," she said.

"My best memories are about swimming in Bowlegs Creek. That was before they dug it up to make Indian Prairie Canal."

She described huge live oaks that overhung the banks of the creek, which children would jump off of to be carried down stream by the current. The current, which has long since been stilled, was too strong for the youngsters to swim against and they would have to haul themselves out and hike back to their starting place.

"Back then we always had hogs. Sometimes we and Andy would hunt with our aunt. Some times were marked and we didn't take them, but now days they kill everything," she said.

"One time we all got to go to a place near Fox Brown Road with him (Bowlegs) to kill a big alligator," she said. Bowlegs had heard of the where-



FINGER ROLL: Lorene is cooking for the family.

abouts of the animal and planned to skin it and sell the hide. "He could shoot good," recalled Gopher.

Gopher continued in her education and after graduating from Okeechobee High School she attended Haskell for three years. In 1966, she came back home to a job with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. She married Willie the same year. She left her job with the BIA in 1974 for the opportunity to work for the Board and the museum, which she did for 15 years. In 1990, she came home to Brighton and works as a culture instructor for the culture program.

As an instructor, she is a one-woman cultural crusade, always ready to teach, correct, and hammer home some of the same lessons that Bowlegs and Lucy Pierce taught her. Three days out of each week she is in and out of Okeechobee public schools setting the record straight about Seminole culture. For Gopher, the choice to go to the schools was a logical one and she says her experience has been good.

Closer to home, Gopher, in addition to serving on the Repatriation Committee for the Tribal Council, is actively working to bring the language to the young people of the Tribe.

"Louise and I worked on the alphabet and got it going," she said adding that, "so many don't get it at home." Her objective is to get the parents involved and last month, through a joint effort with broadcasting, a target audience of people in the 20-to-30-year-old range began tuning into live language lesson broadcasts.

Today, Gopher lives by a "keep to yourself philosophy."

"I do what I gotta do," she said. On this day her "gotta do" list included preparing a family feast in honor of her grandson Ruben Burgess' birthday. It was an exciting day for the three-year-old.

why I finally went up in the air in one of these planes. I'm excited. Finally, we have a plane that we can sell to the public."

Selling to the public didn't take long. After the presentation of the certificate, Beckett introduced Jim Vandervort of SoCal Aviation, one of the six distributors who will sell the SP20 nationwide. Vandervort was presented the keys to the first SP20 to be delivered.

"We think the SP20 is going to be a big hit," said Vandervort of Santa Monica, Calif. "This plane serves a specific market that isn't being filled at this time. In vehicle terms, this is like a sports car. It has some high-performance characteristics. It's not for everyone. It's not a family sedan.

"But, for someone who wants to have a little fun with flying, this plane fits the bill. It allows someone to get into the air and have an aircraft that is responsive with fairly good range. It is a fun machine to fly."

The SP20 (the SP stands for Sports Plane) is a 200-horsepower, all metal, two place retractable conventional gear aircraft. It comes in two versions; The VFR - equipped aircraft, which sells for \$147,500, and the IFR - equipped aircraft, which sells for \$162,900. The plane is a modern version of the Meyers 145, which was known as an extremely reliable and sturdy aircraft.

"We already have 30 orders," Beckett said. "We'll ship the next plane on Feb. 15, then ship three planes in March and four in April. From then on, we expect to produce and sell one airplane a week."

Beckett said currently there are 74 Micco employees. Now that the company is entering the production phase, he expects to reorganize the work force and in time, add more workers.

"When we're in full production, we expect to have about 90 employees," Beckett said.

Beckett added the company is in the process of certifying the SP26, a 260-hp version of the MAC 145-A. The SP26 will be used for aerobatics. That certificate is expected by June.

The pioneering venture is another step in the Seminole Tribe's expansion of its revenue base. The Tribe is nationally known for its entrepreneurship, having pioneered the multi-billion dollar Indian gaming industry in 1979.

The Seminoles were also the first Tribe to build and operate a hotel - the Sheraton Four Points - on the Tribe's Tampa Reservation, and the first to operate an Internet marketplace, found at www.seminoletribe.com.

"This is a big step for the Tribe and I'm very happy that we're finally able to market this plane," says Billie. "It was a long process, but I think it's important that our Tribe continue to diversify its revenue sources. I hope this is just the start of a long line of planes that we produce and sell."

For more information about Micco Aircraft Company, or the SP20, visit the company's website at www.miccoair.com.

Citrus Groves Under Johns' Control

By T.R. Benn
BIG CYPRESS — Meet Timmy Johns, who has been the director of the Big Cypress Citrus Groves for the past 13 years. He has managed the Grove's five-man crew and its annual \$210,000 budget with great success.

Timmy, a member of the Panther Clan, graduated from Chilocco Indian School, Chilocco, OK, and served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam. He is also the father of Emma and Alex Johns.

Johns started the Big Cypress Groves was started under an ANA (Administration of Native Americans) grant. The grant was \$1.5 million and was spearheaded by Tribal members Jacob Osceola and Christine Nevaquaya. The first trees were set in January of 1989. The 506-acre grove has both table and juice fruit with six different varieties of citrus.

"We have 161 acres of *Hamlin Oranges*, which is basically a juice variety," says Johns. "We also have 218 acres of *Valencia*, which is a table fruit. The *Valencia* crop usually nets the most profit."

The Tribe also has 52 acres of red grapefruit and two varieties of tangerines - *Murcotts*, a late maturing fruit, and *Robinson's tangerines*, a fruit that matures early. The last variety of table fruit is the *Orlando Tangelo* with 12 acres of fresh fruit.

"We have another 100 acres ready to plant," says Johns. "At present this acreage is being used by Seminole Farms to grow peppers on."

Harvest time can run from early October to the end of May. The *Hamlin orange* crop starts the picking season and the late variety of the *Valencia* will end it in late May.

To grow and harvest table fruit — with its high overhead — Johns must watch the crop very carefully. He must decide when to spray and keep the grove fertilized so that the fruit remains free of insect scars and looking fresh for the homemaker. But the dollar rewards are worth it.

Fresh fruit is graded and paid by percent of its pack-out. The pickers are paid by field boxes they pick. The fruit is then weighed when it arrives at the packing shed. It may weigh more, or less, than the pickers' field boxes show. The fruit is then graded and culled. The grower is paid by net boxes of the pack-out. Example: Field boxes 520, Total weight 540, Cull boxes 5, Net boxes 535 grower paid on.

The pack out is the percentage of fruit that can be sold as choice table fruit. With 100 pounds of fruit, if 70 pounds pack out the grower receives a 70 percent pack-out. The remaining 30 pounds or 30

percent cull fruit will be juiced.

Juice oranges pay out is completely different and is calculated on three factors — the percentage of acid content, percentage of solid brie (sugar) and figure by ratio that governs the industry of a pound solid per box.

If the percent acid is around 80 percent solid brie (sugar) 12 percent and pound solid 7.5 percent you will have a most desirable ratio, stated Johns. But, with Mother Nature, it's hard to keep within those guidelines.

"Mother Nature can play havoc," Johns said. "We have to be on constant alert for diseases that may encroach the grove.

Tristeza, a disease that kills the tree's feeder roots and causes the trees to transpire, decline and die is also a big problem. *Blight*, *Asian leaf minor*, *Asian leaf miner*, and *alterna* and *water* are also important concern.

"There is never a happy medium with water. Sometimes we have to pump water due to a heavy rain and at the same time we'll be watering the grove for irrigation. That's Mother Nature," grinned Johns.

The crew stays busy spraying for *rust mites*, *scabs*, *menose* and *alterna* and fertilizing. The trees are fertilized three times annually with 200 pounds of nitrogen per acre in early February, during the bloom in April and then again in October to keep the

trees in a thriving condition going into winter months.

"I have a great crew," stated Johns. "Raymond Cypress, one of the equipment operators was here before I was. Leroy Pritchard is our other equipment operator. Joe Simone is the field supervisor. We try to do all our own maintenance in house, keeping cost down to a minimal if we can.

"Dr. Mongi Zebri from the Hendry County Extension Office in Labelle, and Dr. Bob Johns at the University of Florida Research Station in Immokalee have always been available to me, and to the Tribe. They have helped us to stay on top of problems before they get out of hand. And that's a big plus for us.

"If I just had a crystal ball to figure out how to keep the price of both table fruit and juice oranges up. Or how to compete with the Mexican, South American and Spanish international markets. But when you don't have to play by the same rules, someone else takes the advantage, and —guess what?— it's not the American producer," allowed Johns.



Timmy Johns shows the fruit of his labor.

Micco

Continued from page 1

He specifically singled out Tribal President Mitchell Cypress and Councilman Max Osceola for having the resolve to fund the project through all the years. He also introduced Sally Tommie, the Fort Pierce Reservation liaison, and acknowledged Shabby and Marty Tommie, the first two Tribal members to work for MAC.

Billie then thanked MAC President F. DeWitt Beckett who had the hands-on role of pushing the plane through the certification process. According to Beckett, this is only the fourth type certificate issued since 1992, and the first of the year 2000.

"This plane was a dream, and now it's a reality, thanks to these men and others who helped make it happen," Billie said. "Now, we have something that the public can rightfully assume is safe."

Billie used the occasion to personally fly in the SP20 for the first time — although as a passenger. Three SP20's took off and circled the field in a tight formation. When the planes landed, the Chairman had the look of a proud parent, which was appropriate as his 7-year-old son Micco, whose name was given to the company when it was formed, quickly joined him. Micco means leader, or superior one.

"I wouldn't fly in this airplane myself before it was certified by the FAA," the Chairman said. "Without the certification, it's classified as an experimental airplane, and I just am not brave enough to fly an experimental airplane. And, I don't expect anyone else to risk his or her life in an experimental airplane.

"Now, we have FAA approval. It was hard to get, but it means this is a trustworthy aircraft. That's



Dan McDonald

FAA's Cynthia Lorenzen congratulates James Billie.



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Fort Brooke: City Of Tampa And Seminole Reservation Are Fort's Legacy

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

By Vida Volkert
TAMPA — It was Dec. 23 of 1835. Major Francis Dade and more than a hundred men of his command were ordered to leave the safety of Fort Brooke along the shores of Tampa Bay. The men were heading to reinforce the garrison at Fort King, near the modern city of Ocala.

The men were called to attention under the overcast Florida sky. They checked their rifles and ammunition one final time, then turned and left the sprawling fort that would soon be turned into the largest occupied post in the United States inventory, and marched into the pages of military history.

Forty miles away from their destination, Major Dade and his men were destroyed by a force of Seminole Indians, led by the great Seminole leaders Alligator and Micanopy, on Dec. 28, 1835.

This battle - called the Dade Massacre - marked the beginning of the Second Seminole War. Through a series of events that were centered around Fort Brooke, the fort became instrumental in the evolution of the city known today as Tampa.

When the news of the Dade Massacre reached the War Department, thousands of men from all over the country stepped on board the first ship available. Their destination was an isolated outpost on the edge of Tampa Bay known as Fort Brooke.

Fort Brooke would soon become the center of operations from which over 40,000 men would be sent to battle the Seminoles. It also became the main embarkation point from where thousands of Seminoles would be shipped to the Indian Territory in what is present-day Oklahoma.

"Many people drive around the city of Tampa without knowing that there is so much history to this place," said Brent Weisman. "Because of the Seminole Wars, Fort Brooke became a major staging area. So many people came to this area during the Second Seminole War, that the area just naturally grew. In fact, it could be said that this war was the birth of the modern city of Tampa."

Weisman, who is the author of *Unconquered People* and a member of the Seminole War Foundation, explained that Tampa Bay was the headquarters for the military operations during the Seminole Wars.

Located on the southwestern part of the state of Florida, with direct access to the Mexican Gulf, Tampa Bay was considered a strategic point to conduct operations in Florida. It was on the banks of this bay that the Department of War ordered a log fort to be erected in 1824 to help the military control the Seminole Indians, said Weisman.

The fort was named after Col. George Brooke, who had been sent to Florida by the War Department in November 1823. Brooke had entered the Army in 1808 and served in Canada during the War of 1812. He also assisted Jackson in the First Seminole War (Nov. 21, 1817 - May 24, 1818.)

Ted Underwood, Project Coordinator for the Historic Preservation Office of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, said that Seminoles would trade items such as fish, fur and pottery with the whites. "The Seminoles would get cookware and tools in return," he said.

However, the fort served mainly as an embarkation point from which Seminoles were removed to the Indian Territory, said Underwood, an Oklahoma Seminole tribal member whose ancestors were deported from Florida to the west territories during the Seminole Wars.

Today there are 12,000 Seminole Nation tribal members in and around Weotoka, Okla., and most of them can trace their roots back to Fort Brooke. Such is the case of Underwood, who in 1998, in search of his heritage, made a special trip to Tampa to visit the site where Fort Brooke once stood. There, he met historian Brent Weisman, who led him on a tour and gave him information on the historic events that occurred within the boundaries of Fort Brooke.

"It felt good tracing the trails of my ancestors and going through the places where they lived and endured the hardships of the war. It gave me a spiritual connection with the past," said Underwood.

Seminole Burial Found

In the mid-1980s, Tampa City workers were excavating a site downtown for the purpose of building a municipal parking garage. While beginning the excavation, they found an Indian burial site dating from the Second Seminole War, said Weisman.

"This burial is known as the largest sample of professionally excavated Seminole burials in the Southern United States," he said, adding that Seminole Indian children, men and women were found at the site.

"Thirteen adult male, eight adult female and 17 children or juveniles were found in this burial," said Weisman, adding that personal possessions of the Indians, such as pots and pans, copper ornaments, Spanish and Mexican coins that the children would have worn as necklaces were also found in the burial.

The cemetery was located in the area where Fort Brooke was situated, but the corpses were removed and reburied in a different site near the original so that the parking garage could be built. The garage, called the Fort Brooke Parking Garage, is located on the corner of Florida Avenue and Whiting Streets in south Tampa.

Because the Indian burial was discovered in this site, Weisman said the Seminole Tribe of Florida was able to present a case to gain rights over their ancestors' burial site.

"Based on the fact there was a historical connection between the Tribe and the City of Tampa, the Tribe won certain rights to have a reservation in Tampa," said Weisman, about the origin of the Seminole Tribe's Tampa Reservation. "The Tribe won the rights but had to purchase the land," added Weisman.

The land the Tribe bought in the mid-1980s became the Tampa Reservation. The site is about five acres square, said Weisman, adding that Seminole Tribe of Florida Chairman James Billie was instrumental in pushing this forward. The Tampa Reservation now has a casino that produces much of the Tribe's growing income, as well as the Sheraton Four Points Hotel, another revenue generating business owned by the Tribe.

"Fort Brooke, on the other hand, deteriorated with the years," Weisman says. "It was used by the Confederate forces during the Civil War. The fort even survived a Union attack in October 1863.

"But, like many other forts built in Florida, Fort Brooke was made out of wooden logs. Termites, storms and age took a toll and it fell apart and disintegrated. Now, there are no traces of what was once the largest military post in the United States.

"The biggest legacy is the city of Tampa, which grew around the fort. By the time the 30 to 40-acre fort disappeared, the community was well established and remains one of the largest metropolitan areas in the state of Florida.

"But, many people in Tampa don't even

adding that at one point during his command, Jesup suggested the use of bloodhounds to track the Indians and that at another point Jesup was willing to try new firearms.

However, Jesup did not last long in Florida. Exhausted and demoralized, he requested his dismissal and in May 1838, was replaced by Brig. Gen. Zachary Taylor. Taylor, who would later become the 12th President of the United States, assumed command of Florida on May 15, 1838. He had served in the Black Hawk War and was ordered from the frontier on July 31, 1837 to report for duty in Florida with his First Infantry.

According to Mahon, when the 54-year-old Taylor assumed control he had already earned the nickname "Old Rough and Ready" because of his dislike of uniform and regulations, and willingness to fight.

During Taylor's command, 800 Indians and 400 blacks were shipped west. Brig. Gen. Walker Keith Armistead succeeded Taylor on May 5, 1840.

Armistead served on the Niagara front during the War of 1812. He attained the rank of lieutenant colonel. He later became chief of engineers

of Ocala. William P. Duval, Indian Commissioner, Col. James Gadsden and Bernard Segui, representing the United States, and 32 Indian chiefs, the leader being Neamathla, signed the Treaty of Moultrie Creek Sept. 18, 1823.

The treaty stipulated that the Indians could remain unmolested in the territory for 20 years, where they would be confined in an approximately four million-acre reservation. They would receive food and other necessities from the federal government and the United States would establish a school and provide a blacksmith for them.

According to Weisman the Indians signed the Treaty under pressure.

"They [the military] were only interested in getting signatures, but the Indian perspective was different," he said. "There were all kinds of confusions after the treaty was signed. Although the Chiefs signed, many Indians felt that they did not agree to move to south Florida or to the Indian Territory."

About this event, in the book *Treasure City of Tampa*, authors Gary Mormino and Anthony Pizzo quoted Indian Chief Neamathla.

"Neamathla, the great Chief of the Mikasukis, foresaw grief in the sandy and barren south: 'We are poor and needy; we do not come here to murmur or complain. We only rely on justice and humanity. We rely you do not send us to the south, to a country where neither the hickory nut, the acorn, nor the persimmon grows.'

The allusion to the persimmon tree and the hickory nut was not mere rhetoric. Tampa Bay would be an alien land for the Seminoles. Weisman said some Indians moved to the reservation boundaries, but many felt it was unjust and remained in the Everglades, growing hostile at the unfair treatment.

To enforce the provisions of the Treaty, the War Department planned to establish the military post at Tampa Bay.

"They [Seminoles] will not go unless the Indians shows a disposition to compel obedience," wrote Col James Gadsden to the Department of War. He suggested the construction of the fort.

"From conversations held with many who have explored partially the western coast of Florida, I am inclined to think that the Bay of Tampa presents the most eligible site for a military post and offers many favorable and healthful positions."

Col. Brooke and Col. Gadsden selected the northeastern bank of the Hillsborough River to establish the military post because it was near the beach [Mexican Gulf] and the main river [Hillsborough].

On Jan. 20, 1824, four companies of the 4th Infantry began the construction of Fort Brooke.

As the years followed, Fort Brooke evolved from a primitive beachhead into a military and economic community. Weisman explained that soon after Fort Brooke was established, its boundaries became a meeting point for friendly Indians.

"The Indians who were considered friendly would frequent the post for trading purposes," said Weisman. By 1829, the fort had added a guardhouse, barracks, storehouses, blockhouse, powder magazine, wharf and stables.

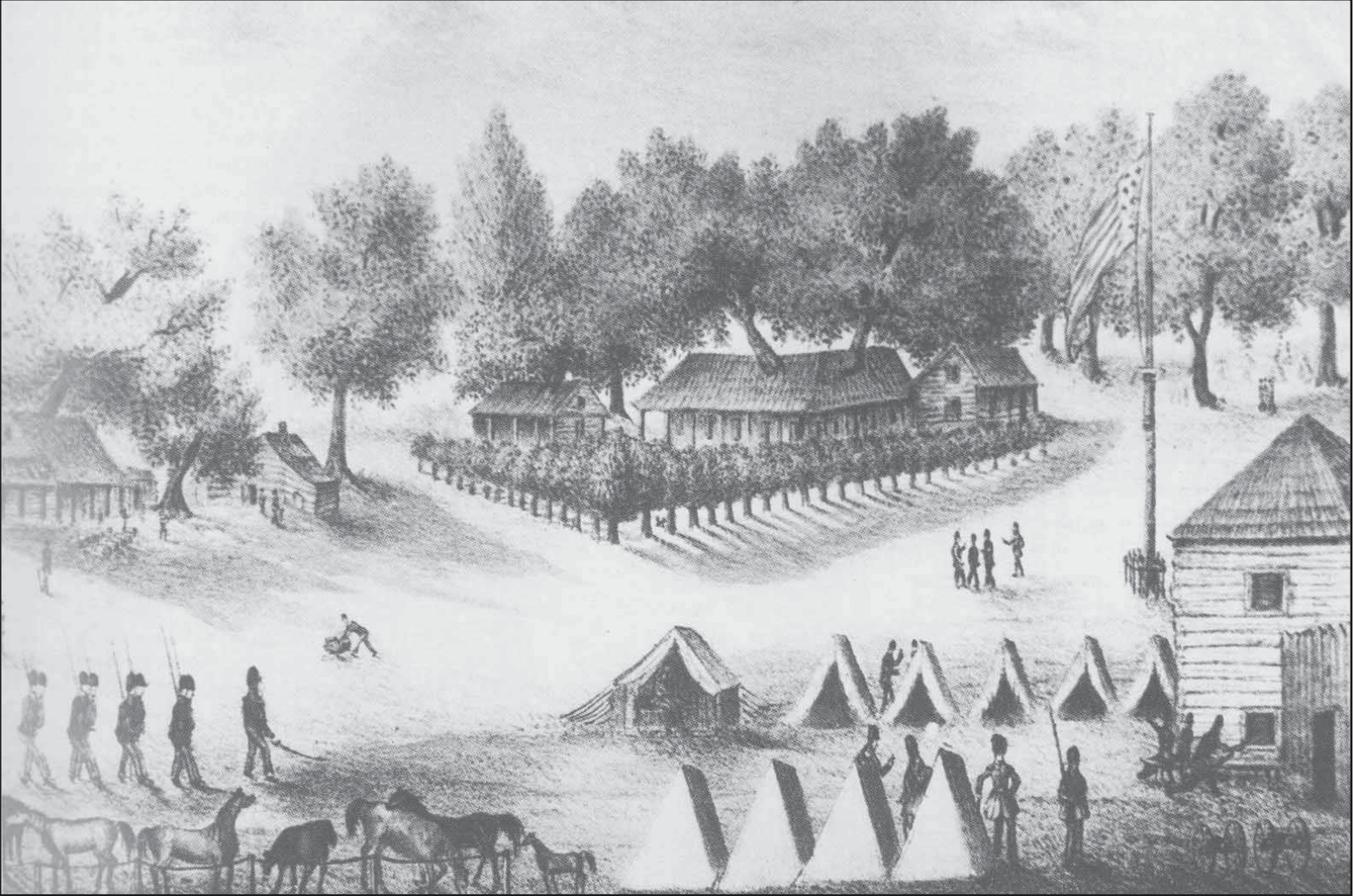
According to Mormino and Pizzo, fresh meat came a week from Pensacola, while Cuban fishermen sold dried pompano and fresh fruit. Civilians grew fresh vegetables for the commissary while Seminoles sold gofers (land turtles), as well as whooping crane and deer hams.

One of these friendly Indians became popular among the soldiers established at Fort Brooke, said Weisman.

"Seminole Indian Gopher John used to trade and sell gopher turtle to the soldiers. Gopher became known because he would sell turtles to one batch of soldiers, but then before they would eat the animals, he would snatch them from holding pens. Then, he would resell it to other soldiers," said Weisman. He also said that Gopher John served the military as a translator because he spoke the English and the Seminole languages.

But, within a year after the Treaty of Moultrie Creek was signed, settlers who wanted Indian land, cattle and slaves were violating the provisions, says Weisman. Hungry for land, white settlers would burn Indian villages and force them to move out of their own territory. Mahon wrote that in response, the Seminoles would retaliate against the whites by raiding their farms and pushing them off Seminole land.

It is under these circumstances that the gov-



This 1837 sketch, drawn two years after the Dade Massacre, shows some of the sprawling fort that became the largest outpost in the U.S.

know they are driving around a historical site," said Weisman. "There is really nothing to remember this extremely important fort that once was the largest establishment in the United States arsenal. At one time, it took up most of what is the lower part of the city. There are small historical markers that talk about where the officers were stationed and things like that, but there is no part of the city that stands aside for Fort Brooke."

Three Chiefs Held

Weisman, who is also a professor of anthropology at the University of South Florida, said that three major Seminole leaders, chiefs of various bands, were kept in Fort Brooke and embarked from this fort to the west territories. "Micanopy, Alligator and Black Dirt were among these Seminole leaders," said Weisman.

Micanopy, who was between 35-40 at the outbreak of the war, was a descendant of Cowkeeper of the original Alachua band. Due to his age and wealth, Micanopy had much influence in the nation. Some historians, however, state that the five-foot-six, 250-pound Indian leader was manipulated by some of his fellow comrades.

"He was used to command, but other more talented Indians habitually manipulated him to their ends," wrote University of Florida historian John Mahon in his *History of the Seminole War*. Mahon adds that the young warrior Osceola, as well as the Seminole leader Ote Emathla, known by the white men as Jumper, were "close at hand in the manipulation of Micanopy's power..."

Alligator also exerted important influence on Micanopy. A war chief from the Alachuaes, whose Indian name was Halpatter Tustenugee, Alligator was around 40 years old and seems to have been only five feet tall.

"He was a natural comedian, evoking a laugh even in the solemn councils," wrote Mahon. "Yet in dealing with white men he acted as if born to the purple. His manners, in all respects, were as fine as theirs. Behind his open face and Roman nose was a stock of shrewdness, craft, and intelligence second to none."

Black Dirt was another influential Seminole leader who went through Fort Brooke. Black Dirt, in 1823, participated in the signing of the Treaty of Moultrie Creek. His Indian name was Fuchtaluste Hadjo.

Micanopy, Alligator and Black Dirt advocated for their people and led their warriors in victories. The three of them, however, were at different times captured by the military and kept in Fort Brooke for some time before their removal to the territory in the west.

Weisman also stated that because Fort Brooke was a principal post during the war, many important military leaders who were very instrumental in enforcing the removal of the Seminoles and later participated in the Civil War, also went through this post.

"[Thomas] Jesup, [Zachary] Taylor and [Walker] Armistead were some of the important military men who went through Fort Brooke," he said.

Because of Major General Thomas S. Jesup's intervention in the War of 1812, he was promoted to quartermaster general in 1818. In 1828, Jesup was given his brevet as a major general "for long and faithful service."

He was 48 when he took command of Florida. According to Mahon, Major Jesup was the most important white individual in the Seminole War because his policies and enforcement the removal of the Indians were severe and drastic.

"He threatened captives with hanging if they did not reveal what they knew," wrote Mahon,

with the grade of full colonel and in 1821, became commander of the Third Artillery. Armistead later became famous during the Civil War.

Under Armistead's command, 700 captives, red and black, were shipped to the west.

This war for land between the United States and the Seminoles within Florida began, however, long before it was declared in 1835. Weisman attributes its beginning to the year 1821, when Spain ceded the territory of Florida to the United States.

Once Florida became another state, the federal government began forcing Seminole Indians, who were established in the northern part of Florida, out of their territory.

Treaties Made Tampa

Several treaties were enforced to remove the Indians, but all resulted in confusion and serious disputes. As the Indians began rebelling, the War Department began manning the peninsula with troops. Situated near the mouth of the Hillsborough River at the head of Tampa Bay, the first settlement of Tampa was made in 1824. It was centered around Fort Brooke.

Col. Brooke was ordered to proceed to the Bay of Tampa to establish a military post. These orders were given to Brooke after the Treaty of Camp Moultrie had provided for a reservation for the Seminoles in South Central Florida in September 1823. Weisman notes that Fort Brooke was originally founded to monitor the activities of the Seminole Indians in the newly-created reservation.

According to the Treaty of Moultrie Creek, the Seminole Indians agreed to be relocated to a reservation that extended 20 miles inland, from Charlotte Harbor to Tampa Bay, to later be removed to the Indian Territory in Oklahoma. The reservation, said Weisman, was located south of the present town

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Fort

Continued from page 6

ernment began actions against the Seminole Indians, and Fort Brooke was turned into an embarkation point. By 1830, Congress and now President Jackson passed the Indian Removal Act. This act, wrote historian William E. Erwin, "simply traded Seminole land in Florida for land west of the Mississippi.

"Through this act, the United States government simply gave itself permission to use any force necessary to remove the Seminoles."

In 1834, Gen. D.L. Clinch was appointed to command all military operations in Florida. But, tension and hostilities in Central Florida grew because the Seminoles would not obey the provisions of the Treaty.

Weisman said that troops were sent to reinforce Florida from other states and that would first arrive at Fort Brooke.

"They [troops] would come from New Orleans," said Weisman. "They would land at Fort Brooke and from Brooke would march to the other forts. Such was the case of Major Dade's troops," said Weisman.

Dade's detachment consisted of one company of the 2d Regiment United States Artillery, and one company of the 3d Regiment. The officers were Captain G. W. Gardiner and Lts. W. E. Bassinger and R. Henderson of the 2d Regiment; and Captain U. S. Frazer and Lts. R. R. Mudge and J. L. Keais of the 2d Regiment — numbering 108 men in all — and were to have been commanded by Captain Gardiner.

"At Fort Brooke, on Tampa Bay, 108 men of the fort's complement had been alerted and were ready to move out to reinforce Fort King," wrote Erwin in *Prelude to Victory*.

"Major Dade, who had recently arrived from Key West with his company of the Fourth Infantry, had been placed in command of the relief column. None of these men, from the Fourth Infantry and the Second and Third Artillery, thought marching through the back country of Florida was a good way to spend Christmas, but they were soldiers and did as they were told," wrote Erwin.

The so-called Dade Massacre (Dade and all but one of his men were killed in the battle) marked the beginning of the Second Seminole War. The Indians, led by Alligator, Jumper and Micanopy had already planned the ambush.

"Halpatter Tustenugee (Alligator) later said they had been formulating their plan for a year," wrote Mahon.

There was only one company left at Fort King (Ocala) when two companies started from Fort Brooke along the 100-mile road to Fort King. The detachment's route was the stretch of road built in 1828 between the two forts. Hidden in the trees along the roads, the Indians attacked by surprise.

"One hundred and eighty Indians kept up so heavy a fire that the trunks of the trees were later found to be full of lead, and the logs of the breastworks solid with rifle bullets of small caliber. Under this hot blast, the defenders dropped one by one, shot in the forehead or neck.

"Finally by four o'clock, not a white man was left standing. The Indians did not scalp or loot. They took food, and some clothes and ammunition, but nothing else," wrote Mahon.

Later, when night fell, a survivor, Ransome Clarke, crawled out from the pile of bodies and made it back to Fort Brooke. Clarke, who was the only white survivor of this battle, lived to narrate the story. But, he was too badly shocked and injured to work.

According to Mahon, since there was no type of welfare system to aid the handicapped at that time, poor Clarke "was obliged to write accounts of his escape in order to obtain food."

After the Dade Massacre, reinforcements arrived at Fort Brooke. By December 1837, the government had the largest army assembled in Florida during the Seminole wars. Official figures showed that Florida had 4,636 regular army, including 170 marines. There were 4,078 volunteers from Florida, Louisiana, Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee. In addition, there were 178 northern Indians and 100 sailors.

By 1838, Weisman said, Fort Brooke was so big and well developed that it was regarded as the



CALVARY DANDY: Col. George Brooke was huge fort's namesake.

largest military establishment in the United States. He added that the money cost of this war has been estimated at \$40 million. Much of that money and material was spent on outfitting Fort Brooke.

All throughout 1838 the conflict continued. Most Seminoles that were north of Tampa had surrendered or been captured and removed to the west. In May 1838, Major Gen. Alexander Macomb, supreme commander of the United States army, made an attempt to negotiate peace with the Seminoles. He made a special trip from Washington to Fort King, and sent word to the Indians that he had hidden in the Everglades and the Big Cypress Swamp.

Macomb offered the Seminoles a large reservation south of Charlotte Harbor, where they would be left alone. The only condition was that the Seminoles must stop fighting.

The Seminoles, again, believed in the government, accepted the conditions and began moving to the new reservation located south of Tampa.

However, Macomb's attempt to end the war failed when the Seminoles discovered that the new reservation was to be used only to help round them up so that, under guard, they could be removed to the West.

The war continued until 1841. In June of the same year, while peace negotiations were being discussed, Coacoochee was captured at Fort Pierce with 15 other warriors.

Coacoochee and his men were sent West, but Col. William Jenkins Worth, commander of Fort Brooke, requested the interception of the ship and the prisoners were brought to Tampa. Coacoochee, known by the white man as Wild Cat, was one of the most important Seminole leaders.

He had led his warriors in the Battle of Okeechobee in December 1837. On Christmas Day the Seminoles, who were outnumbered almost three to one, devastated Col. Taylor's army.

Worth, who according to Mahon was considered among the handsomest men in the army, was born in a Quaker family but was drawn away from Quaker principles by the second war with England.

When Coacoochee arrived in Tampa, Worth ordered Coacoochee's chains to be removed. Then, Worth persuaded Coacoochee to convince his people to end the war.

Messengers went to the Everglades carrying Coacoochee's message. At the end of 40 days, over 250 Indians had surrendered.

Although records indicate that Coacoochee was deported from Fort Brooke, Underwood says Coacoochee was only held at Fort Brooke for a short period.

"Since Seminole warriors had been able to free some of the captives from Fort Brooke, the government looked for alternatives to keep the prisoners at other facilities," says Underwood.

"He (Coacoochee) might have been processed in Fort Brooke, but we believe he was held at an Island [Egmont Key] near Tampa."

Regardless of where Coacoochee was held, with his capture and eventual removal, on Aug 14, 1842, General Worth declared the Seminole War officially over.

"There is no way to be sure how many of them (Seminoles) perished during the war, but 3,824 (Seminoles) had been shipped westward by the end of 1843," wrote Mahon. Many of those Indians — an estimated 2,000, — were processed through Fort Brooke before boarding ships that would take them west forever.

So many Seminoles died at Fort Brooke while awaiting deportation that a cemetery was created in the military post during the war to bury the unfortunate. Others were buried outside the fort. It was the discovery of one of these cemeteries that led to the Tampa Reservation which has had a profound impact on the modern Seminole Tribe.

Now, Weisman said, that the city is trying to buy two acres of riverfront property in the area for a proposed park to be called Fort Brooke Park. The project is called the River of Green Project, said Weisman, who says the city is trying to get funds to sponsor it.

If this project comes true, the millions of people who live and drive by Tampa would be able to learn and remember the rich history of the Treasure City. They would have a reminder of the thousands of lives that were lost during the Seminole War. Lives that were shaped by the forgotten ghost of Fort Brooke.

— *Vida Volkert is a freelance writer based in Fort Lauderdale. A descendent of Inca Indians, Volkert writes about historical subjects for the Seminole Tribune.*

Next: Fort Pierce.

Sheli Tigertail Graduates Nursing School



Sheli Tigertail

Mrs. Sheli Tigertail is a recent graduate of Broward Community College's nursing program. Previously she attended Clewiston High School, Florida State University, and the University of Miami. She graduated from BCC after the fall semester.

Her inspiration for nursing came from nurses who attended her during childbirth and from experience while she cared for her grandmother. Her career desire is to be an obstetrics nurse.

Mrs. Tigertail resides in Big Cypress with her spouse, Alfonso. She has a five-year-old daughter named Ragan, and a five-year-old son named Tylor. She is presently employed as a tutor at Big Cypress Learning Resource Center where she has also studied intensely for the state board exam.

DSO Congratulates Silvia Baker, Thomas Storm And France Billie

The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Department of Education and Hollywood's DSO, would once again like to congratulate 1999's graduates, Silvia Baker, Thomas Storm and France Billie.

The year 2000 has motivated many students to complete their GED. If you are interested in getting your GED, please call Wendy Green, Adult Education Teacher at DSO, 989-6840, extension 101. Office hours are Monday through Friday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Alternative times may be available by appointment. Remember that each journey begins with one small step.

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Hi, I'm Lee Tiger with the Florida Department of Transportation's Native American Outreach Program. I'd like to thank all the tribal members that participated in this past year workshops.

To those who would like to attend one, we will continue FDOT workshops in the year 2000. One of the more asked questions in getting DBE Certified was "Do we need to have a Florida Corporation?" The answer is no, you can apply for a registration with a fictitious name. We have these one-page forms and can help you fill them out.

So if you or a family member are interested in pursuing contracts with the state of Florida's largest contracting agency. Call me at the Department of Transportation at (954) 370-3900. We will be happy to answer any questions and add you to our current mailing list to keep you informed on upcoming workshops.

If you have any questions regarding the Florida Department of Transportation Native American Outreach, please call (954) 370-3900.



Lee Tiger

American Indian Outreach



Turkeys Released In Everglades

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in cooperation with Everglades National Park and the National Wild Turkey Federation released wild turkeys to restore wild turkey population in the Everglades. Since the beginning of the year 2000 wild turkeys have been released.

In 1973 when the National Wild Turkey Federation was founded, there were an estimated 1.3 million wild turkeys and 1.5 million turkey hunters. Thanks to the work of state wildlife agencies and the NWF's many volunteers and partners, today there are an estimated 5.2 million wild turkeys and approximately 2.5 million turkey hunters. Since 1985, more

than \$115 million NWF and cooperator dollars have been spent on over 10,000 wild turkeys benefiting wild turkeys throughout North America.

The NWF is a 215,000-member grassroots, nonprofit organization with members in 50 states, Canada and 11 foreign countries. It supports scientific wildlife management on public, private and corporate lands as well as wild turkey hunting as a traditional North American sport.

For more information on the National Wild Turkey Federation, call 803-637-3106, check out our website at www.nwtf.org or e-mail questions to nwtf@nwft.net.

River Restoration Proceeding As Planned

KISSISSIMMEE — Congress in the 1992 Water Resources Development Act authorized the Kissimmee River Restoration Project. The project will restore more than 40 square miles of river/floodplain ecosystem including 43 miles of meandering river channel and 27,000 acres of wetlands.

The restoration project will be jointly implemented and cost-shared by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USCOE). This construction project began in June and to date more than one mile of the channelized portion of the Kissimmee River, called the C-38 canal, has been backfilled with approximately four million cubic yards of dredged spoil removed from the adjacent floodplain. Within this reach of Pool C, both the backfilled canal and degraded spoil mounds have been graded to historic floodplain elevations.

A quarter-mile long section of river channel has been quarried and linked to remnant river channels on the east and west sides of the backfilled canal, thereby restoring flow through more than eight miles of river channel. "Recarving" means that a

reach of river that was destroyed by the channelization is dredged to recreate a channel similar to the historic river.

The reestablishment of flow has led to restore the physical attributes such as channel geometry; sandbars and sand substrates within the river channel, but has led to shoaling that could be hazardous to boaters at two locations. These submerged shoals resulted from the flushing of sand deposits that had accumulated in the stagnant remnant river channel near where the channelized Oak Creek and the Istokpoga Canal join.

These shoals are expected to be eliminated following resumption of higher flows, but have been marked to warn boaters to proceed with caution. Maps of the locations of shoaling are available at the Okeechobee Service Center or from locktenders at S-65C and S-65B. Although this historic river channel has been reconnected, it is still not possible to navigate from S-65C all the way to S-65B because of culverts that have yet to be removed in the north end of the remnant river channel. This work is expected to be complete by March 31, 2000.

Judge Retains Control Of Trust Fund Case

WASHINGTON, DC — In an historic and long-awaited decision, Federal District Court Judge Royce C. Lamberth ruled on Dec. 21, 1999, that the federal government has breached its fiduciary duties to 500,000 individual Indian fund beneficiaries, and cannot be trusted to carry out trust management reform without continued oversight by the Court.

Calling decades of Indian trust fund mismanagement by the United States "fiscal and governmental irresponsibility in its purest form," Judge Lamberth vowed to retain jurisdiction over the case for at least five years to ensure that the government's promises to reform are kept. The judge characterized the outcome of the first phase of this case as a "stunning victory" for the Indian plaintiffs.

The decision came in the first phase of a class-action lawsuit filed over three years ago by the Native American Rights Fund and private attorneys to hold the federal government accountable for the on-going mismanagement of the Individual Indian Money (IIM) trust fund accounts. By law, the accounts are held in trust by the government and are comprised primarily of money that is earned by

Indians through leases of their land for oil, gas, timber, ranching and farming.

"We are very happy with the decision," says John Echohawk, Executive Director of the Native American Rights Fund. "It sets the groundwork for finally achieving justice for those individuals who have suffered the worst kind of mismanagement at the hands of the federal government."

Earlier this year, the same judge held Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and former Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin in contempt for violating his orders, and appointed a Special Master to monitor discovery in the case. Judge Lamberth stressed that he will not hesitate to appoint a second Special Master or to exercise his contempt powers again should the government fail to live up to its own representations regarding reform efforts or fail to abide by the Court's orders.

The second phase of the case, which will involve an accounting by the government, has not yet been scheduled for trial.

For further information on the World Wide Web, please visit www.narf.org.

Everglades Conference "A Time to Act"

NAPLES — On Jan. 6, federal and state leaders gathered here to discuss immediate actions on the restoration of the Florida Everglades.

"The Everglades is Florida's Grand Canyon" proclaimed U.S. Sen. Bob Smith, R-N.H., who heads a crucial U.S. Senate Committee. Smith promised he will do all he can in the next six months to fill its needs with money.

"If the Federal government messed it up, then the Federal government needs to step in and fix it," Smith said, referring to the Army Corps of Engineers regional water control project begun back in 1948. The Senator's pledge came one day after Governor Bush promised to secure half of a \$7.8 billion plan for restoring the Everglades.

Despite general consensus that the Everglades restoration should take place, there are concerns—particularly from industry and farmers—about how to implement the plan. The proposal is being criticized by one sugar industry executive as being too vague for Congress to even approve. And an attorney for the Miccosukee Indian Tribe accused federal park managers of wrecking the restoration and killing much of the Everglades through "bureaucratic arrogance and incompetence."

The Everglades which is the nation's largest wetland and the major source of South Florida's water supply, has lost over half of its territory and 90 percent of its wading birds since the 1950's and 1960's. This happened after the engineers—at Florida's request and Congress' command—carved its marshes with canals and dikes to create the massive drainage system that allows farms and suburbs.

The canals also waste 1.7 billion gallons of fresh water every day by dumping it into the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, devastating Lake Okeechobee and coastal waterways such as the St. Lucie River and the Lake Worth Lagoon.

The Everglades restoration proposal, by all accounts is the largest in history. The clean up blueprint calls for the creation of 181,000 acres of wetlands, construction of 300 underground aquifer storage wells and removal of 240 miles of levees and canals.

The three senators heard testimony from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Carol Browner, David Struhs, and Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and others.

Earlier in the day, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt announced the retirement of his Assistant.. "My Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Patricia Beneke, will soon be leaving the Interior Department to return to private life. Patty has chaired the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force with great skill and insight, and with patience and goodwill needed to bring harmony out of such a highly motivated and diverse group. She will be missed, and we are all most grateful for her outstanding public service." Miss Beneke's successor is a "natural" for the job", Babbitt explains. Mary Doyle is a former Florida resident and Dean of the University of Miami Law School. Miss Doyle came to Washington as Counselor to the Secretary at the very moment of transition." I am pleased to announce her appointment, beginning today, as chair of the South Florida Ecosystem Task Force," Babbitt announced.

Babbitt also cheered many environmentalists by criticizing a proposed international airport that Miami-Dade County wants to create on the site of the former Homestead Air Force Base. "Last week the Air Force released a supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for public comment as part of its process to dispose of Homestead Air Force base. As you all know, the Base lies squarely between Biscayne National Park and the Everglades. The Biscayne Department feels development of a commercial airport could seriously degrade both of these national parks, and remains

deeply concerned over its potential adverse impacts to the surrounding pristine landscape. And we urge the parties to give careful consideration to other alternatives that lead to better development and more jobs at less environmental cost."

Babbitt concluded by saying, "A fountain so complex only the Creator could have designed it. So valuable we almost destroyed it. So beautiful it has united us here today to restore it forever. If we succeed in our efforts, the magic in water will heal not only mankind, but the whole of creation; it will keep the landscape itself in a perpetual state of renewal, of youth, of wonder. It will baptize us, surprise us, recharge our spirits. It will flow through our fountain-our River of Grass—from which hope springs eternal."

In related news, Babbitt and Congressman Clay Shaw announced that a portion of the final expenditures from the 1996 Farm Bill will be used to construct a melaleuca quarantine facility in Davie, near Fort Lauderdale.

In recent years there have been promising research projects involving the eradication of this destructive invasive plant species in the Florida Everglades ecosystem using biological control agents. Melaleuca, left unchecked, propagates very quickly and displaces native plant and wildlife species, drying up wetlands, creating fire hazard and threatening the stability of the Everglades. Lack of quarantine space for testing biological control agents has impeded research and testing.

"Invasive plant and animal species are a great threat to the future health of the Everglades ecosystem and melaleuca is a particularly bad actor," Babbitt said. "We have unsuccessfully sought sources of funding for a melaleuca quarantine facility for several Congressional budget cycles. Now I believe it is fitting to designate some of the last of the Farm Bill funds for this important and useful purpose."

In the meantime, the Department of the Interior will provide \$6.2 million to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for construction of the facility. When construction is completed, the facility will be run by the Agricultural Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture at the University of Florida's Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center in Davie.

Another of the final land acquisition projects funded by the 1996 Farm Bill will include adding to an existing joint agreement between South Florida Water Management and the Department of the Interior to acquire 1,700-2,250 acres along the East Coast Buffer of the Florida Everglades. These buffer land acquisitions are considered crucial to the restoration of one of America's greatest natural resources and is an important component of the Administration's comprehensive plan to restore the Florida Everglades ecosystem.

"The restoration of the Everglades ecosystem depends on plentiful supplies of clean water," Babbitt said. "Acquiring lands in the East Coast Buffer greatly increases our chances of meeting this goal."

The East Coast Buffer plan is a series of marshes and reservoirs dedicated to receiving excess water now discharged into the sea. The East Coast Buffer reduces seepage lost from the Everglades, enhances wetlands habitat, and provides storm water storage and recharges aquifers. To assist in this effort, the Department of the Interior will provide \$13.9 million to the South Florida Water Management District from funds appropriated to the Department in the 1996 Farm Bill. The District plans to equally match these funds for a total expenditure of \$27.8 million. As required under the 1996 Farm Bill, the Department of the Interior has spent \$220 million to the State of Florida in acquiring nearly 100,000 acres in South Florida of particular importance to the restoration of the Everglades ecosystem.

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Census taking is not an office job. Workers will be spending most of their time locating addresses and conducting door-to-door interviews — often in the evenings and on weekends. Most census workers will work from mid-April to mid-June, 2000, to follow up on households that did not return their census questionnaire.

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better than anyone else. Individuals who are familiar with the various languages and cultures in their neighborhood can apply for this position.

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Traffic Jam Blues

*Cops Didn't Expect So Many Phans

By Colin Kenny

For most, the three-day Phish millennium celebration at Big Cypress went down as smooth as a Ben & Jerry's ice cream bar . . . except for a 12-hour wait on Alligator Alley prior to the concert.

The monumental traffic jam (cars and vans were backed up on I-75 from the Miccosukee Service Plaza to Weston Road at one point) was widely reported in the media. But whose fault was it?

Lt. Malcolm Rhodes of the Collier County substation of the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) noted that the Phish NYE 2000 concert "wasn't a bad idea . . . but advance-

planning sure was lacking in lot of aspects."

Over on the east side of the Alley the Broward FHP "didn't expect that many people the day before (the event)," said FHP public information officer Lt. Pembroke Burrows. Both FHP officials asserted that the traffic jam left them shorthanded and that troopers had to be pulled from other parts of the state as far away as Tampa to deal with the problem.

Many hours and much planning regarding the traffic situation, however, did take place among the concert organizers and the Seminole Police Department. And the FHP had clearly been let in on what to expect.

Tom Hernan, Director of Seminole Law Enforcement, said there was, in fact, a meeting of all pertinent law enforcement agencies at the Holiday Inn in Plantation a month prior to the Phish event. Among those present, said Hernan, were representatives of Broward, Collier and Hendry County Sheriff Departments, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Florida Highway Patrol and the Miccosukee Police Department.

Chief Hernan remarked that some of those present were "more focused on the internal operations of the (Phish) concert site itself . . . the Broward County Sheriff's Department wanted to know if there was enough food and water (for the Phish concert goers) rather than hear us present the traffic problem."

Chief Hernan said that those present at the meeting were fully briefed on the number of people and vehicles expected to attend the Phish concert and when they would probably start coming in. He told them that there would be 70,000 or more attending, and figuring an average of three persons per vehicle projected from 20,000 to 30,000 vehicles coming from Alligator Alley to Snake Road.

Hernan's figures were not that far off. The crowd was estimated at 80,000, cars at 30,000. According to Hernan, SPD had engineered a plan to

prevent any massive overflow on Snake Road and felt they could prevent any gridlock on the Alley.

It is clear that South Florida law enforcement agencies were dubious that a musical group unknown to most of them - Phish - could draw fans in such large numbers. "If it had been the Rolling Stones, we would have been more prepared for a large crowd," said one Hendry County deputy.

The concert toll gates were opened on the morning of December 29. According to Chief Hernan, on the days that Phish fans drove in, 10 SPD officers traveled up and down Snake Road from the campground to the reservation line six miles north of Alligator Alley equipped with extra gas and tow ropes

to assist any stranded motorist or remove any disabled vehicle out of the traffic flow.

In spite of the gridlock that built up on Alligator Alley, Chief Hernan asserted that the traffic on Snake Road was "free flowing from the reservation line six miles north of Alligator Alley, to the (Phish concert) toll booths, with minimal back-ups between the toll

booths and the campground."

Several news reports, including one by Brett Sokol in *New Times* newspaper, indicated that the Miccosukee police may have contributed to the back-up. Reportedly, the Miccosukees were briefly stopping cars at the Snake Road exit to check gas gauges. A 30-second stop per car soon added up to hours of backed-up traffic. Reportedly, a direct order from Miccosukee Chairman Billy Cypress to let traffic proceed freely, was significant in clearing up the jam.

When the *Tribune* contacted Officer Lowell McDonald of the Miccosukee Police Department, who patrolled the Miccosukee-owned Shell station at the Snake Road exit, he referred all questions to the Miccosukee Tribal Chairman's Office. As of this writing, Chairman Cypress has not returned any phone calls to the *Tribune*.

"The FHP unclogged a mess that shouldn't have been," Chief Hernan said. "With the help of the Florida Highway Patrol, we were able to get remaining traffic in before the concert started. They did an excellent job."

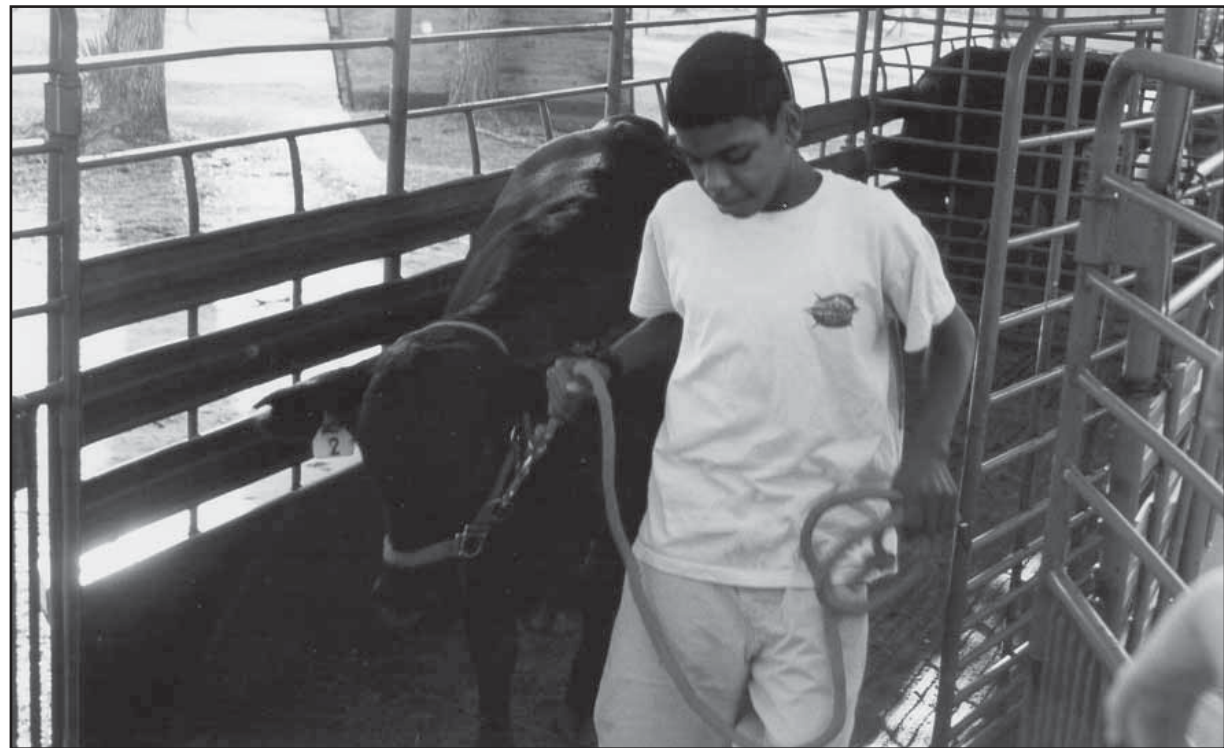
Only three arrests were made by the SPD during the entire three-day event, according to Chief Hernan: One narcotics arrest, one drunk and disorderly, and one grand theft. There was also one car fire that was quickly extinguished. There were two airlifts to the hospital. One man died, on Alligator Alley, prior to the concert when he fell from a camper and was run over.

"In the end," Chief Hernan said, "there were no heated phone calls in regards to the traffic issue." He commented, "The Phish fans were very respectful and courteous to us, and we hoped to return that to them."



census 2000

world ford



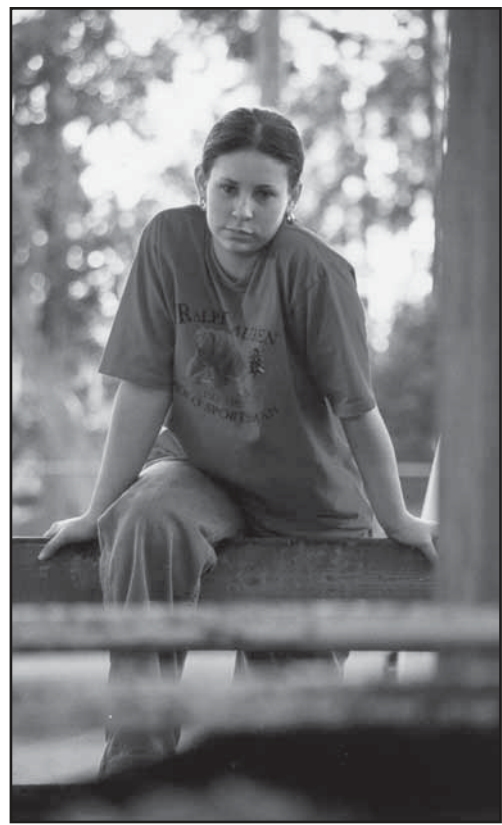
Adrian Baker leads his steer (purchased from Joe Lester John) to scales.

4-H Members Plan Show And Sale

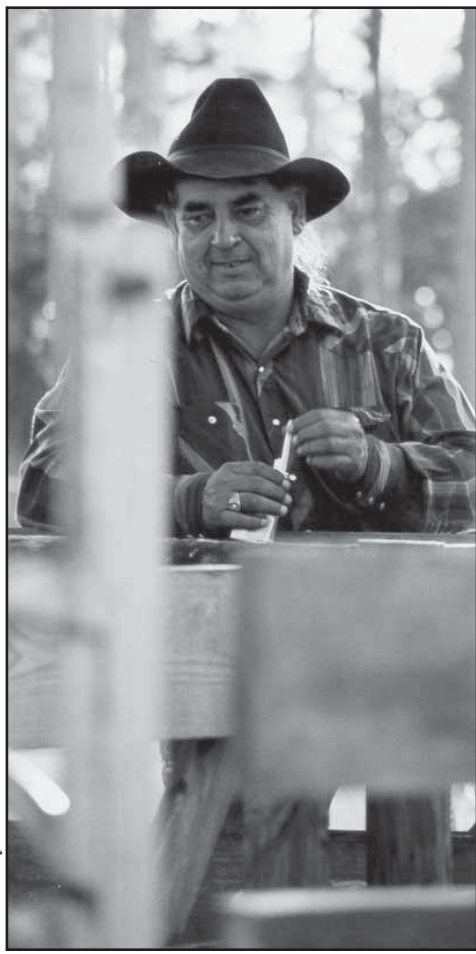
By Tommy Benn
BRIGHTON — It's that time of year again. Seminole 4-H members are getting ready for the biggest livestock show and sale ever held at the Brighton Reservation. Approximately 20 steers and 90 hogs will be put on the auction block and sold to the highest bidder. The annual sale has been set for Feb. 26, at the Brighton 4-H Center.

One major factor of this year's sale is that all the show steers had to be selected from the cattle herds of the Seminole Tribes' cattle programs. Either from the land lease programs or from individual cattle owners' herds of Big Cypress or Brighton Reservations. No outside-bred steers were expected this year for the Seminole 4-H Shows and Sales. The sale is under the direction of Polly Hayes and her vast system of volunteers.

The benefits to the children from their 4-H programs are rewarding. It helps instill character and responsibility, shows that hard work pays off and that good things come from hard work and dedication.



Scooter Johns watches her steer on scales.



Norman Johns helpful as ever.

Richard Bowers To Head IAC

By Tommy Benn
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK — Richard Bowers was elected President of the 13th Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC).

Richard resides on the Big Cypress Reservation, and is a member of the Panther Clan. Bowers is Natural Resources Director of the Big Cypress Reservation, a cattle owner and serves as chairman of Cattle Board of Big Cypress.

Bowers was elected to replace Robert Miller of the United Oklahoma Tribes. Miller had held the president's Office for 13 years. Miller had seen the organization grow from its conception to its present membership of tribes.

Currently there is over 54.8 million acres of land held in trust for Indian Reservations in the United States. Over 34 million acres is range land, 10 million in forest and graze land, 1.5 million acres in irrigate farm land, 3.5 million acres in dry farm land, and another one million in proposed irrigatable farmlands. These lands produce an annual income of nearly \$800 million.

Since its inception in 1987, the IAC has promoted Indian use of Indian natural resources. Using its annual IAC Symposium and information programs, the IAC keeps its members in the know on agriculture issues.

The IAC also monitors federal policies instrumented by Congress, USDA Bureau of Indian Affairs as well as other Federal agencies that brings business concerns to Indian Country.

Indian agriculture covers a wide spectrum from cattle ranching to herding reindeer in the Alaskan tundra. It ranges from apple orchards in Washington State to orange, lemon, and grapefruit



Seminole Richard Bowers is new IAC President.

groves, in the Sunshine State. Fisheries, canneries, meatpacking plants, turtle farms, and sugarcane plantations are also part of the package.

Bowers brings leadership skills, character, experience, and values to his newly elected position the IAC.



YOUNG BULL: From the plains of Texas to the Big Cypress Swamp, a new home for this Bull.

Texas Bulls Are Home On The Range

By Tommy Benn
BIG CYPRESS — The Brangus bulls purchased from Texas arrived at their new Florida homes, the ranches and grasslands of the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Reservations and its Board cattle operations.

The pure bred Black Brangus bulls will be distributed

to the Big Cypress, and Brighton Reservations. The two Seminole Tribe Board cattle operations, at the Miccosukee Land Lease, and its newest lease at Parker Island in Highlands County, will also receive the bulls.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida has some of the best brood cows in the Nation. The

base cows are of Braford and Beefmasters breeding. With the hybrid vigor these Texas Brangus Bulls bring to the breeding program, it is a positive step towards the goal of being a leader in the Beef Industry not only in Florida, but also on a National level.

4-H Youth Looking For Your Support

I am asking for your support for our 4-H participants. Our annual Seminole Indian Youth Livestock Show & Sale is coming upon us soon and we would like for you or a representative of your company to come out and show your support for these good children.

The show & sale will be Feb. 26. As you will notice we made a change this year, moving our event to Saturday. This change is for the convenience for all buyers to attend. The 4-H program teaches children responsibility, leadership, and pride in showing their animals, which you will come to notice once you see our show.

We will have a fine selection of market steers and swine at our show this year. The children have been raising these animals for 4-6 months and they will be ready for auction in February. Don't forget about our "Buyer's Dinner" that we will provide on the day of the sale at 5 p.m. The sale will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m.

Again, we would greatly appreciate any support from your company. Hope to see you there. If you have any questions regarding our Show & Sale please feel free to contact Don H. Robertson, my 4-H staff or me at 863-763-5020.
— Polly Hayes

Horse Club Is Mounted Up Again

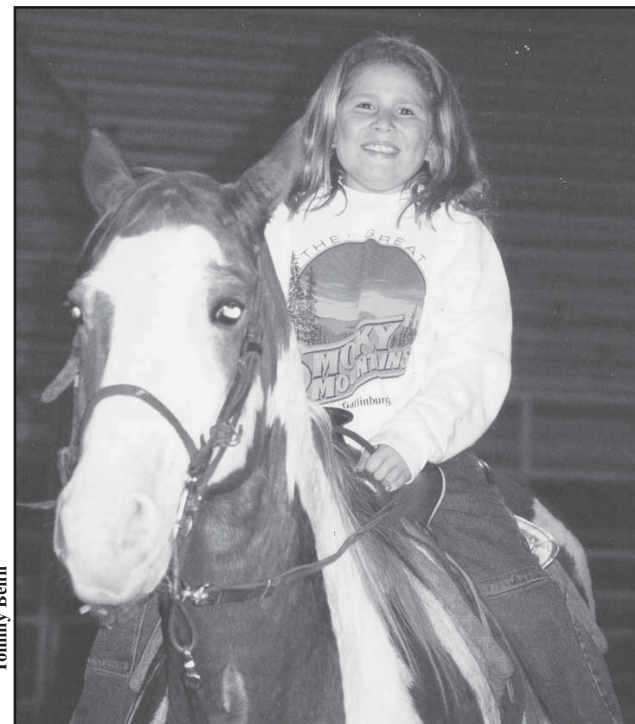
By Tommy Benn
BIG CYPRESS — The members of the Big Cypress Horse Club are mounted and ready to ride again. 4-H director Polly Hayes announced that Benny Hernandez would be heading up the 4-H youth program assisted by Carissa and Paul Bowers Sr.

The club will be stressing equitation, how to sit a horse properly, how to control your horse while both mounted and from the ground. In general the basic fundamentals of horsemanship will be covered.

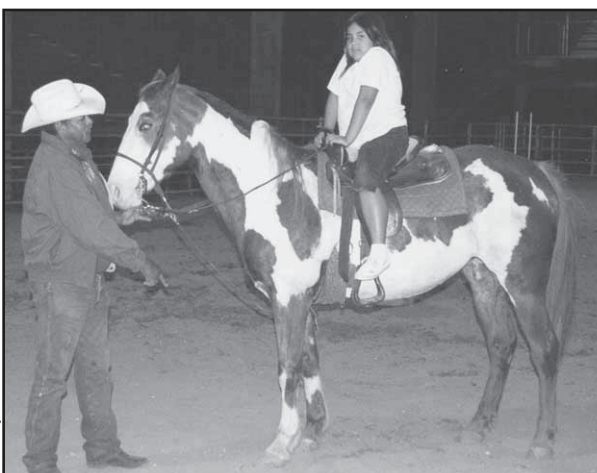
"We have already lined up several guest speakers to come and speak on various topics in related fields in the horse industry," said Polly. "We are hoping to have a couple of riding clinics through out the calendar year too."

Knowing how to ride and to sit a horse and to be able to get the most from an animal will help when you have to ride horses other than your own. Participants will learn how to use hands to control the horse's head, leg pressure and weight to make the horse flex and bend.

"We want to give the kids a strong riding foundation where they go from there will



FRIENDS: The "Dilly" and Danielle Webster.



"This is the ground," Paul Bowers gives pointers.

be up to them," Polly said. "We'll have some fun and hopefully learn a few things that the youngsters can carry with them in to the adult world. The youth who participate will be required to wear a riding helmet for safety reasons."

"If you never fell off, or been thrown off, you haven't ridden much" laughed the senior Bowers.

"Riding classes and the planned clinics will resume after the first of the year," stated Hernandez.

"We want the kids to have a good first experience with the horse," said Polly. "I hope the program will benefit them in later life, wherever their horsemanship may lead them. From working cattle, to the rodeo arena or just pleasure riding."

Protect Your Rights! Maybe we can help!



Tired of hiding?

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DUI or DUI injury cases?

The Law Offices of Guy J. Seligman, P.A.

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The hiring of an attorney is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements before you decide, ask us to send you free written information about our qualifications and experience.

Classified • Announcements

Happy Birthday



Happy Birthday Denise Emanuelle Osceola. I love you and I miss you! You're a big sister now and you're a big 2 years old! Love you always, Mom.

Happy 2nd Birthday "Babe" Denise Emmanuelle Osceola "Me Logues." Love you, Egoosh.

Happy Birthday Peggy Jim Osceola on Jan. 15, we love you sooo much! XOXOXO, Cheyanna, Jamie, Willie.

Great Grandma Peggy, have a **Happy Birthday.** You're the greatest. We love you always, **Dominique, Marlon, Letitia, Denise** and **John Rhodes.**

Happy Birthday Marcella Billie on Jan. 15. Another year gone. Be safe! Love you always, **Valerie.**

Happy Birthday Victor Phillip Osceola on Jan. 20. I love you. **Valerie.**

Happy Birthday Taygoocha, Valerie Mae Frank, born on Jan. 25. We all love you and hope you have a grand old day! Love you always and forever, **Your family.**



Happy Birthday to Shatee! Love, **Grandma Kathy & Grandpa Norman.**

Happy Birthday to Ms. Jackie Jim on Jan. 18. Have a good one baby! Be careful and don't have a love you lots and always, **Valerie.**

Happy Birthday Valerie and **Vanessa** we love you! Hugs and Kisses, **Communication Department.**



Happy Birthday and congratulations to **Victor Phillip Osceola** of the Bear Clan. Victor, born on Jan. 20, will be nine years old this year. Victor also made the B Honor Roll Recognition at Driftwood Elementary School, where he received several awards and certificates. Great job Victor — all that hard work all summer sure did pay off, didn't it. We knew you could do it all along. We're so very proud of you and know you will continue to strive. Have a very Happy Birthday. Love you always, **Your Family!**

Happy Birthday Cindy on Jan 24. Love **grandma, Jimmy, Randy,** and **Resha, Mailani.**



Happy Birthday to Lisa Mullennix from the **Communications and Geneology Department.**

Happy Birthday to Mom on Feb. 27th and Dad on Feb. 20th. Love Always, **The Huggins Bunch.**

Happy Birthday "Piglet"! on Feb. 4th. Love, **Ekosh Marilyn.**

Happy Birthday "Buzzard" on Feb. 16th. Happy hunting! Love, **Uncle Norman & Family.**

Happy Birthday to Amos Huggins on Jan. 20th. Have a good one, you deserve it. Love, **The Huggins Crew.**

Happy Birthday to Jackie Jim on Jan. 18th. Hope you have a good one. Love your sister, **Marilyn.**

Happy Birthday to Lizina on Feb. 21st. Damn, "Z" finally turning 18! Hope you enjoy your birthday. I wish Shatee & I could be there with you. Be careful and don't party too hard. Have fun, cause you know you deserve it. Love, **Savannah & Shatee.**

Happy Birthday to Mr. Haden Littlebear & to Moose! Love, **The Huggins Clan.**

Happy Birthday Jacqueline Osceola on Jan. 22nd! Love, **Norman & family.**

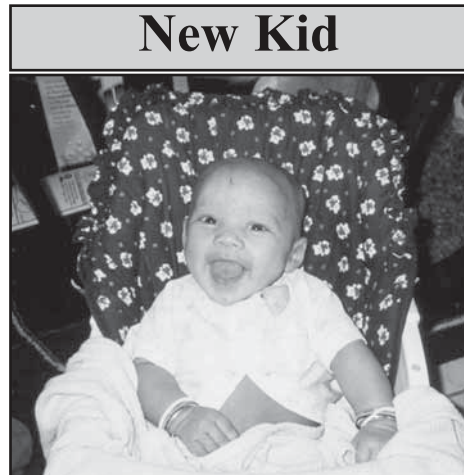
Happy Birthday Jason D. Cypress on Jan. 16th! Love, **The Strangers in Trail.**

Happy Birthday to our god-daughter **Jackie Jim (Weeshon)** on Jan. 18th! Always remember that we love you no matter what may come. Love your godparents, **Kathy & Norman.**

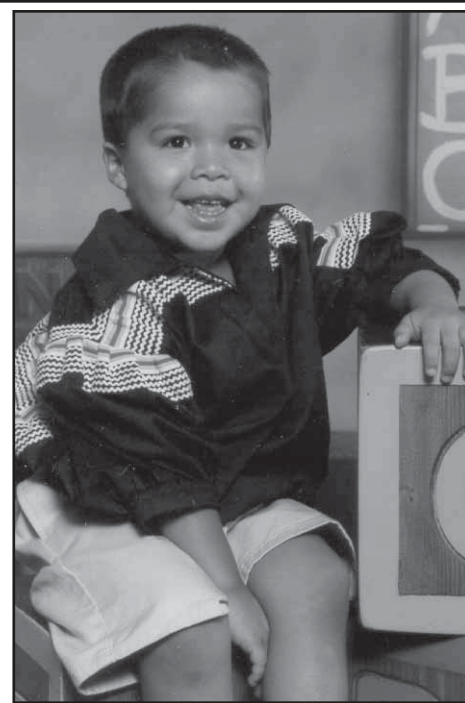


I want to wish my daughter, **Randell Sandra-Karynn Osceola**, a very special **Happy 1st Birthday** on Feb. 4th. I can't believe that it's been a year already since you came into my life. I remember the months before you were born and how I loved you even then...how I would have gladly given my life so you might have the joy of life. I remember the anxiety and anticipation of waiting and wondering. I remember the joy, the pride, and the happiness. I felt during the moments following your birth. When I first held you in my arms, I experienced the unconditional love that exists only between a parent and child. I felt a sense of wonderful responsibility and a certain inadequacy or fear that I might in some way fail you. I felt a closeness that could only exist with my very own child. Your first smile, your first word (mama), your first step were all as if no other person had ever accomplished such great feats. The pleasure I get watching you, a part of me, grow, learn, and develop into a toddler yet a precious moment that I shall always cherish. Love, **Mom.**

Happy Birthday Justice J. Baker, born February 14th. Have lots of fun. Love ya cuz, **Jaryaca & Kiylier.**



Happy Birthday to Nyami W. Bankston, born Oct. 8, 1999. He weighed 8 lbs., 2 oz., 21 inches. I love you baby. Love, **Mommy (Danielle Bankston).**



"Happy Birthday wishes to our little 'Cow Chip', **Conner Douglas Osceola**"

You act much older than the three years you have been with us. There are times when you act like you are five, ten or even 50 but this is just your natural behavior as you are just a wild "little man".

Always remember that **Grandpa** and **Grandma** love you no matter how wild you act!!!! You will always be out little "Cow Chip".

May all your birthday wishes come true!!!! You know that we will try our hardest to make these come true for you!!!!

Happy 3rd Birthday to our cousin, **Conner "Cow Chip" Douglas Osceola.**

We love you even though you beat us up and try to tip us like a cow. Have fun on your birthday (Jan. 17th) and the party planned for you will be great! OOPS, that was a surprise!

Love you fats, **Christopher, Haley, Shelby (Chia), Richie, Kendal, Brandi, Monica, Brandyn, Cayla, Krysten, Gavin** and **Lauren.**



For someone special in my life.... **Amos.** I just wanted to wish you a **Happy Birthday!** Love, **Elizabeth.**

A **Big Birthday** wish goes out to a very special boy who will turn 3 on Jan. 17...**Ahfatee**, have a wonderful birthday. God gave this day to you. From, **Momma, Amos and Chagups.**



For my son, **Conner Douglas Osceola...** Another year has gone by and the time has come for you to celebrate your 3rd birthday

And still you couldn't ever imagine how much joy you have brought to me

I can picture you playing with your friends and getting mad when you can't do everything they can

Give yourself time and you will learn

I guess you could say se possess something amongst us

Something only you and me could understand

A kind of love that a mother has

For her baby....Her son

In the years to come, good times or bad,

Remember I'll still love you just the same...

Love, **Momma.**

Hugs and Kisses from, **Grandpa Sandy and Grandma Theresa** XOXOXOXOXO

"Happy 45th Birthday to **Sandy Osceola**"

We wish you a very happy birthday and always remember that we love you!

You may be turning 45 years old (on Jan. 13th) but as you know, we all have to get real old sometime! Just kidding, you still look 21!

You have us and the grandkids to thank for keeping you so young! Oh yeah and the early morning coffee from the General Store!

Love you **Dad, Jalene, Elizabeth, Michael and Palee.**

Love you Grandpa, the Story kids, Haley, Shelby (Chia) and Richie, and the Osceola kids, Conner Douglas, Saige and Kendal, and last but not least but always the best grandson, Christopher Dylan Clay

Happy 45th Birthday Sandy! XOXOXOXOXO Love, **Theresa.**

Happy 13th Birthday to Gregory Osceola. Love you always, **Mom, Dad** and family.

Happy 2nd Birthday to Shannah Huggins. From all who love you. **Your family.**

Happy 5th B-day to Joseph John on January 30th. We hope you have a fun day. From **Uncle Shawn and Deanna.**

Jobs

Position: Health/Nutrition
Coordinator
Location: Preschool Program/Education
Opening: Jan. 4, 2000
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: \$15.30 per hour plus benefits

Position: Purchasing Agent
Location: Purchasing
Opening: Jan. 4, 2000
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: \$14.00 per hour (negotiable) plus benefits

Position: Enrollment Administrator
Location: Secretary/Treasurer's Office
Opening: Dec. 29, 1999
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: Negotiable - Benefits (After 90-Day Probation)

Position: Teacher Aide II - Infants
Location: Education Preschool (Brighton)
Opening: Dec. 27, 1999
Closing: Jan. 10, 2000
Salary: \$8.73 per hour plus benefits

Position: Teacher Aide II - (3-5 Year Olds)
Location: Education Preschool (Big Cypress)
Opening: Dec. 27, 1999
Closing: Jan. 10, 2000
Salary: \$8.73 per hour plus benefits

Position: Procurement Coordinator/Estimating
Location: Housing Authority (Hollywood)
Opening: Jan. 3, 2000
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: \$25,543.07 Negotiable based on experience

Position: Secretary
Location: Family Services Program

Opening: Jan. 6, 2000
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: \$10.00 per hour plus benefits

Position: Community Health Representative
Location: Health (Brighton)
Opening: Jan. 6, 2000
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: \$9.00 per hour plus benefits

Position: Enterprise Manager
Location: Seminole Okalee Village
Opening: Jan. 6, 2000
Closing: Jan. 20, 2000
Salary: \$24,000 Annually (Negotiable) plus benefits

Position: Grove Maintenance/Operator I
Location: Citrus Grove - Brighton
Opening: Jan. 11, 2000
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: \$7.00 per hour plus benefits

Position: Cattle Foreman
Location: Natural Resource Program - Brighton
Opening: Jan. 11, 2000
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: Negotiable - Includes Benefits

Position: Grove Maintenance/Operator II
Location: Citrus Grove - Brighton
Opening: Jan. 11, 2000
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: \$7.50 per hour plus benefits

Position: Transporter
Location: Health - Big Cypress
Opening: Jan. 11, 2000
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: \$7.90 per hour plus benefits

Position: Site Manager

Location: Nutrition Program - Hotmeals
Opening: Jan. 11, 2000
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: Negotiable

Position: Youth Center Attendant
Location: Juvenile Justice
Opening: Jan. 11, 2000
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: \$6.20 per hour plus benefits

Position: Audio Production Editor
Location: Washington, DC
Closing date: February 15, 2000
Salary: \$40,714 - \$52,927 per annum

Position: Loan Officer
Location: Credit and Finance - Hwd
Opening: Nov. 9, 1999
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: \$27,000 annually (negotiable) plus benefits

Position: Bus Driver
Location: Education Pre-School (Big Cypress)
Opening: Nov. 15, 1999
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: \$10.12 per hr (part time)

Position: Teacher IV
Location: Education - Preschool (4-Big Cypress)
Opening: June 14, 1998
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: Negotiable (Has benefits)

Position: Teacher IV
Location: Education - Preschool (2-Brighton)
Opening: June 14, 1998
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: Negotiable (Has benefits)

Position: Teacher Aide II (4 year olds)
Location: Education Pre-School (Brighton)

Opening: Nov. 15, 1999
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: \$8.73 per hour plus benefits

Position: Culture Instructor
Location: Education Pre-School (Immokalee)
Opening: Nov. 15, 1999
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: \$13.53 per hour plus benefits

Position: Teacher IV
Location: Education Pre-School (Immokalee)
Opening: Nov. 15, 1999
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: Negotiable (Has benefits)

Position: Payroll Assistant
Location: Personnel Office (Hollywood)
Opening: Nov. 15, 1999
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: \$22,000 Annually plus benefits

Position: Teacher IV
Location: Education Pre-School (5-Hollywood)
Opening: Nov. 15, 1999
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: Negotiable (Has benefits)

Position: Instructional Aide
Location: Ahfachkee
Opening: Nov. 16, 1999
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: \$9 per hour plus benefits

Position: Cage Supervisor
Location: Coconut Creek Gaming Facility
Opening: Nov. 12, 1999
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: Negotiable

Position: VPT Floor Supervisor
Location: Coconut Creek Gaming

Facility
Opening: Nov. 12, 1999
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: \$27,000 (Negotiable)

Position: Video Pull-Tab Supervisor
Location: Coconut Creek Gaming Facility
Opening: Nov. 12, 1999
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: \$27,000 (Negotiable)

Position: Poker Floor Person
Location: Coconut Creek Gaming Facility
Opening: Nov. 12, 1999
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: Negotiable

Position: Poker Office Supervisor
Location: Coconut Creek Gaming Facility
Opening: Nov. 12, 1999
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: \$27,000 (Negotiable)

Position: Security Manager
Location: Coconut Creek Gaming Facility
Opening: Nov. 22, 1999
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: Negotiable

Position: Building and Maintenance Supervisor
Location: Coconut Creek Gaming Facility
Opening: Nov. 22, 1999
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: Negotiable

Position: Human Resource Manager
Location: Coconut Creek Gaming Facility
Opening: Nov. 22, 1999
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: Negotiable

Notices

Free Financial Information Program Available - Jan. 18 to Feb. 29 - 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. at the Southwest Focal Point Senior Center, Pembroke Pines. Jan. 24 to March 6 at the Century Plaza Library in Deerfield Beach. To register call 954-370-3725.

Birmingham International Festival - 50th Anniversary Celebration - Salute to Native Americans. Teacher workshops are Feb. 26, Festival dates are April 10-16, Street Festival is April 14-16 at Linn Park in downtown Birmingham. Call 205-252-7652.

23rd Annual Indian School on Alcohol and Other drug-related problems - Feb. 12-18, at the Albuquerque Marriott Hotel. For detailed information and free brochure call 916-920-0731, fax 916-920-8930, email: AITInc@aol.com.

10th Annual World Championship Hoop Dance Contest - Feb. 5 & 6, at the Heard Museum Amphitheatre in Phoenix, Ariz. This contest is open to native dancers only. Tribal enrollment card or CIB required. For more information call 602-251-0284.

"I'm Thumbody" volunteers foster positive self-esteem and an understanding of "good mental health". Next training is Jan. 26, from 9 a.m. - noon at the MHA office at 7145 W. Oakland Park Blvd. For info call 954-746-2055.

Listen to Children Program - Feb. 16, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Feb. 17, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. To register call 954-746-2055 and speak with Jody Spinelli.

Guardian Ad Litem for Tribal court personnel & social service agencies/providers: "Highlighting Family Law, Child Protection, ICWA, Court Orders" - Feb. 7 - 8 at the Lake of the Torches Casino, Lac du Flambeau, WI. Call J. Dalton Institute at 800-706-0102 for information.

Leadership in the New Millennium - An Introductory Course - March 20 - 22 at Fabulous Avi Resort & Casino on the beautiful Colorado River, Fort Mohave Indian Reservation, AZ. Call 800-706-0102 for more information.

35th Annual Old Island Days Art Festival - Feb. 26-27, Key West, call 305-294-0431.

27th Annual Everglades Seafood Festival - Feb. 4-6. City Park, call 941-695-4100 Everglades City.

34th Annual Swamp Cabbage Festival - Feb. 26-27 at Barron Park, call 941-675-2995.

Memory

In Memory of Abrianna Kaylene on Jan. 13. Remembering you on the day you left us! Although I remember you everyday! Even though I could not remember anything within those four days, today I can almost relive those painful days. Pain has subsided. I will always love your mother in my own way, for being just your mother. Love you always, your **Grandma**.

Leadership Development & Teambuilding - Feb. 22 at the Sheraton Airport Hotel in Fort Lauderdale. To register call 800-873-7545 or 913-677-3200.

Conflict Management Skills for Women - Feb. 24 and March 24. To enroll call toll free at 800-873-7545. Presented by SkillPath Seminars.

Steve Mizerak's Senior Masters - March 15 - 19 at Four Points Hotel in Tampa. Call 561-840-0048 for information on tournament.

Management Skills for the new or Prospective Manager - March 6-7 and April 3-4. To enroll call toll free 800-873-7545 for information and registration.

Pepper Web Site Available - POLARIS availability - the Pepper OnLine Archival and Retrieval Information system. It can be accessed at <http://pepper.cpb.fsu.edu/library/default.htm>.

Girl Scout Cookie Sale - Jan. 20 through Feb. 8, \$3 per box. Call the Girl Scout Leadership and Education Center at 739-7660.

Mid-Atlantic Gaming Congress - April 25 - 26 to be held at the Atlantic City Convention Center, Atlantic City, NJ. For information call 212-468-1695. Highlights include slot operation, approaches to changing marketplace, outlooks on the industry and the latest regulatory issues and developments.

SunGuide - www.sunguide.org. Information about ITS in South Florida at the click of a mouse and is a cooperative effort of South Florida transportation and governmental agencies.

High School Programming Competition - Sat., Feb. 26. Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Department of Computing will host, to recognize and reward Florida high school students who excel in computer programming. Call Jan Collins at 904-226-6656 or visit web site at <http://computing.db.erau.edu>.

Fiesta Tropicale - Feb. 25 - 27 in Young Circle Park, downtown Hollywood. Call 954-926-3377 for information.

Start Smart Sports - Jan. 15 - Feb. 23. Ages 3-5 year old, \$20 for a six week session. Must have six participants in each class. Contact Driftwood Recreation at 967-4241, ask for Miss Pixie.

Fort Lauderdale Conference for Desktop Publishers - March 16, at the Ramada Beach Resort. To register phone 800-867-4340 or 913-432-1400.

Dealing with Negative Attitudes in the Workplace - March 15 and April 7 in Fort Lauderdale. Call 800-873-7545 or 913-677-3200 for further information.

Free Micro Business Seminars - Jan. 31 through April 3. For adults interested in learning how to operate a small business. Ten-week course meets once a week. To register, please call Monique Balke at 954-762-5272.

Winter Gaming Conference 2000 - Feb. 19-23, to be held at the Miccosukee Resort & Convention Center, Miami, Florida. For information call 800-741-4600.

Sports Banquet 2000 - Monday, March 13, at the Signature Grand in Davie. Contact make-A-Wish of Southern Florida at 954-967-9474.

Indian Summer Festival - March 4-5. Wisconsin State Fair park, Milwaukee-Trade Mart Bldg. For information call 414-774-7119 or www.indiansummer.org.

Covering The Land Use Story - February 11-13, 2000, held at Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel. Call 626-584-0010 for information.

Meet and Greet - February 11, 2000, from 8:30 - 10:00. Ocean Princess dock, Terminal 2, Port Everglades. Fans invited to greet legendary cover model Fabio when he arrives aboard Princess Cruises' newest Love Boat, Ocean Princess.

The American Indian/Alaska Native National Service Delivery Conference - March 14-16, 2000 in Denver, Colorado. Presented by the Social Security Administration. To share methods that have been successful and to dialogue with American Indians and Alaska Natives, subject experts, and other agencies about better ways to provide service. Deadline is March 1, 2000. For updates visit our web site at <http://www.ssa.gov/ai/an/>, Planning Team toll free 888-772-4468.

4th Annual Economic Development Conference on Indian Tourism - February 23-25, 2000 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. "Tourism for the New Millennium; Friendly, Fascinating & Fun" sponsored by the Five Civilized Tribes Tourism & Marketing Association. For info call 800-593-3356 or 405-527-6667. Workshop presenters include top tourism professionals, economic development specialists and tribal leaders.

4th Annual Arizona State University Spring Competition Pow Wow - April 21, 22, 23, 2000. ASU Band Practice Field, Sixth St. & Rural Road, Tempe, Arizona. For more information call Lee Williams at 480-965-5224 or visit <http://powwow.asu.edu>.

Crop Disaster Program - sign up ends February 25, 2000. Pays for losses to 99 crops from weather related conditions. Call FSA at 863-763-3345 or 863-983-7250.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program - sign up ends March 10, 2000. Cost-share payments for conservation enhancements, wildlife habitat improvements, water quality improvements. FSA at 863-763-3345.

Conservation Reserve Program - sign up ends February 11, 2000. Land rental payments/cost-share assistance to protect highly erodible land and marginal pasture. FSA at 863-763-3345.

Poems

The Progress of Human Knowledge

It is time for us to prove ourselves by our works because; nobody will take us seriously or think we are worth anything we do.

Practical results are the only way to prove our abilities. If knowledge is to become something more than learning, we must make it the means by which we change and improve our human conditions.

Knowledge is far more complicated than people imagine. What we need is to make an inventory of the things we have seen, done, experienced and analyze what we already know. There's so much that can help us to become productive members of our environment. Remember, that the person who discovers the cause of things can also master the effects.

So, when we learn to use our knowledge wisely, when it can be turned into human progress, than knowledge will have become our true power!
— **Burton Lee Harjo '99**

A Poem for Bill

Even though you're gone, I'll make sure your spirit still lives on. Too bad I wasn't there to see you go, but I said a prayer for you I want you to know. You were really a true good friend of mine, when I first met you I thought it would take some time.

Till this day I can't believe you're gone, like you always told me, "man life goes on."

You hurt a lot of people the day the lord took you, but you're in good hands and he'll know what to do. A true warrior; that's how you looked in my eyes, man Wild Bill this still is a big surprise.

Even though we're finally apart, believe me, always have a place in this heart.

As I look up in the heavens above, this is one brotha that showed you much love. Rest In Peace Wild Bill.
— **Kenny Tyler**



You Are Appreciated

*You are appreciate Tasha I want you to know
May our friendship constantly grow
I sit here thinking about you
hoping that you're all right
My dear friend I always wish you well
day and night*

*I want the world to know that you Tasha are one of a kind
I've been blessed to have you a friend of mine*

*You're one of the realists with beauty that's unique
Ain't no secret those others can't compete*

*Tasha you have a lot of heart & you're down for one
This scribe goes out to you my dear friend for all you've done*

*I want to thank you for standing strong
My friend you showed no sign of weakness that's well known*

*Stay real Tasha don't let those fools corrupt your mind
A young lady with your abilities is hard to find*

*My friend I got love for you & much respect too
I hope you enjoy these truthful words I've written for you*

*Tasha the time has come to put this scribe in the wind
You take good care my dear friend*

*You are appreciated you are the best
A queen you should be treated as nothing less*
— **Ike T. Harjo, Panther Clan.**

Notice To All Tribal Members

HOLLYWOOD - Arrangements have been made for RSM McGladrey, Inc. to assist Tribal members in the preparation of their 1999 Individual Income Tax Returns. The tax accountants will be out to each reservation during February and March per the following schedule:

Hollywood - Jan. 31 through April 7, Monday through Friday. Big Cypress on Jan. 31, Feb. 1 and March 1. Immokalee on Feb. 3 and March 2. Brighton will be Jan. 31 through Feb. 1, Feb. 28 - 29. Tampa will be Feb. 2 and March 6. Fort Pierce will be scheduled for Feb. 3.

Tribal members will be assisted on a first come first serve basis on the scheduled days between the hours of 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. If you have any questions you can contact, Peter Bozetarnik of RSM McGladrey, Inc. at 561-697-1785.

RSM McGladrey, Inc. estimates that the majority of returns will be completed and mailed with in 3 to 5 business days.

Please bring the following information with you when you meet with the accountant:

Copy of your 1998 tax return

(Form 1040).
2. Any correspondence received from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) during 1999.

Form W-2 from all employers. List of children (dependents) with their birth dates and social security numbers. Form 1099 showing income received during 1999.

Form 1099R, if you are receiving any funds from a pension plan.

Name, address and tax identification number of the person or company to which you paid child care expenses.

Form 1098 showing the amount of interest you paid to a bank or mortgage company.

Social Security statement, if you are drawing Social Security.

List of charitable contributions.

Property tax bills.

Daytime telephone number.

Seminole Translator

Author writing stories about Seminole Indians is looking to hire a Seminole (Miccosukee or Creek) to help with Native dialogue. Interested persons should contact Alexandra Hoffman at 203-876-1002.

Happy Anniversary

Well it's been a year ago on Jan. 8, 1999. We celebrated our love for each other by gathering our friends and family to be with us on our special day, as we became husband and wife. A lot has happened since, but our love for each other is strong and grows stronger each and every day.

I remember to the day we got married as our song "I Do Cherish You" played. The words in the song meant a lot to us while we were seeing each other, that's why we picked this special song to get married to:

"All I am all I'll be everything

in this world all that I'll ever need is in your eyes shining at me when you smile I can feel my passion unfolding." Then it goes onto another part that says, "In my world before you I lived outside my emotions didn't know where I was going till that day I found you. You opened my life to a new paradise in a world torn by change still with all my heart till my dying day I do cherish you for the rest of my life. You don't have to think twice, I will love you still from the depths of my soul. I've waited so long to say this to you if you're asking do I love you this much I do love you this much I do."

Living together we've cried, laugh, played, but most of all we've loved together. A marriage is togetherness, sharing the good the bad. Being able to communicate and trusting one another is the key to a successful happy marriage. I love you Bobby Yates. I hope we have a long happy live together. Here's to many more happy years.

Love always, your wife
Louvella Yates.



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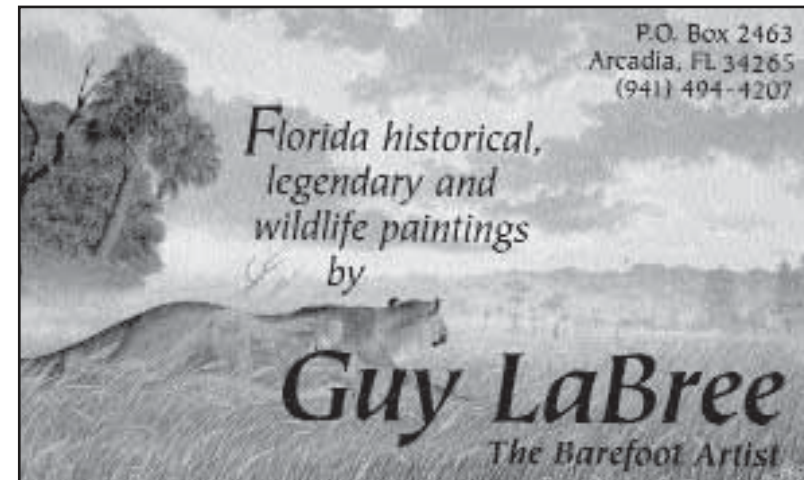
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Diabetes Rates Soars At Brighton

By Michael James
BRIGHTON — Officials from Indian Health Services (IHS) met with members of Brighton Council on Jan. 6, to deliver some news that surprised many in attendance. It seems that Brighton is in second place in a race that nobody should want to win. Brighton, according to the IHS, is second only to the Pima Tribe in the prevalence of diabetes and its complications.

Mary Wachacha began the meeting by saying, "Diabetes is a big problem among all Indian people." Each year IHS's Nashville office does a check on clinics all over the United States. "We are alarmed by Brighton's incidence of diabetes and rate of renal failure," said Wachacha. She continued by saying they were not there to scare the residents of Brighton, but to let them know there is a definite problem that, according to Wachacha, is going to take research to solve.

According to IHS figures, the national incidence of diabetes among Indian people is 29 percent. The average for Tribes in the east is 25 percent. Brighton community is 44 percent. Figures for Big Cypress and Hollywood are 21 and 30 percent respectively.

With the alarming numbers glaring back from the overhead projector, an impromptu question and answer period began in which some in attendance indirectly implicated the clinic. "The problem is not the clinic," said Wachacha whose rigorous scrutiny of the clinic left her with but one answer. "You have the best physicians and the very best health care."

After the meeting, one Tribal member suggested the reason the diabetes numbers are so high for Brighton is that the community is health conscious, more so than Big Cypress or Hollywood. "We go to the clinic more so they find more diabetes," she said.

Pat Schumacher, the National Area Representative on Nutrition and Diabetes from the Nashville office of IHS emphasized individual responsibility in combating this silent killer.

"You should go to the clinic for yearly diabetic checkups that include blood and urine tests," she said. She added those with diabetes should seek medical attention at the first sign of a kidney or bladder infection.

Other important individual responsibilities according to Schumacher include controlling blood pressure and blood sugar levels with an emphasis on home glucose testing, eating a healthy diet that is low in fat and adding to avoiding alcohol. Schumacher also urged consultation with the nutritionist, exercise, and cessation of smoking.

Tribal Health Director, Connie Whidden, was the first to get the news about Brighton. "I knew that diabetes was rampant in the

community and that the community should know," she said. Whidden communicated the findings with Brighton Council Representative Jack Smith Jr. who then promptly called the meeting.

"Diabetes is easy to overlook because it isn't painful," said Whidden. "I hope people will take responsibility. The outcome really is up to the individual."

Tribal President Mitchell Cypress, who is a strong advocate of personal responsibility in the management of diabetes, stepped up to the plate to share his own testimony about the disease.

Cypress told the audience he first became aware of symptoms during a Tribal steer sale. "I didn't take it serious," said Cypress about the frequent urination that is a cardinal sign that a problem may exist. At the time Cypress said he was borderline. By April of 1983, Cypress was diagnosed as being diabetic. Cypress went on to share that seven years went by and then, in 1990, his wife died in his arms on the way to a dialysis clinic. It was a wrenching but courageous moment when Cypress recounted this event for the benefit of all Tribal members. Cypress went on to say that it was a pivotal point in his own struggle with the disease.

"I quit drinking, but I didn't stop eating," said Cypress about the first shaky steps he took to change his behavior in order to take control of diabetes. He added at the time he began to take notice of his friends who were suffering the consequences of uncontrolled diabetes such as kidney failure, blindness, and amputations.

By 1996, Cypress began an exercise regimen that finally allowed him to gain control of his still fluctuating blood glucose numbers. In addition to boasting an average blood glucose level of 111, Cypress also gleaned other added benefits from his lifestyle change. Today, his cholesterol level has plummeted from an average of 254 to a healthy 164 and his triglyceride (a type of fat found in the blood) has dropped from 334 to 114. Today he is fit, energetic, and an outstanding example of how personal commitment can work for you.

And, he is not alone. Brighton Council Representative Jack Smith Jr.'s blood glucose levels are in the excellent range according to his October glycohemoglobin test. The "glyco" test is blood glucose test whose results reflect a three-month average. "Everybody's treatment is different," said Cypress in conclusion, "but most important is that you do the things necessary to help yourself."

According to IHS, taking responsibility and control can add 5 years to your life, 8 years of eyesight, 6 years of freedom from kidney disease, and 6 years of freedom from amputation and nerve damage.

For more information, call Wendy Johns, the Brighton Health Education Coordinator, at 763-4128.



General Counsel Jim Shore addresses the committee; Florida Senator Bob Graham is on right.

Jim Shore Testifies Before Senate Committee

* See page two for Jim Shore's complete statement. By Dan McDonald

NAPLES — Jim Shore said the Seminole Tribe is ready to do its share to restore the Everglades when he testified before a U.S. Senate Committee holding field hearings Jan. 7, during the 15th annual Everglades Coalition meeting.

Shore spoke before the Committee on Environment and Public Works, chaired by Robert Smith (R-NH). Smith was joined by Sen. Bob Graham (D-FL) and Sen. George Voinovich (R-Ohio).

"The Seminole Tribe has committed a lot of money and resources to this problem," Shore said. "But, we shouldn't be expected to pay more than our fair share to fix a problem that we didn't cause."

"While all should share in the corrections, if an entity has created a specific problem, that entity should be responsible for correcting the problem. And, if a project that is identified as a critical project fails to be implemented due to lack of federal appropriations, then that project should be renewed so that it is completed."

Shore, whose written testimony was entered into the Congressional Record, was limited in time

because of the number of witnesses who appeared before the committee. He was joined at the witness table by Dexter Lehtinen, a Miami attorney who represents the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida.



LEGAL POWERS: Jim Shore, Dexter Lehtinen testify.

Lehtinen also was limited in the amount of time he could testify before the committee. Lehtinen presented a written statement to be included in the Congressional Record.

Prevention Keeps Children's Smiles Healthy

HOLLYWOOD — February is Seminole Children's Dental Health Month. The Seminole Dental Prevention Program invites parents to attend a special presentation about keeping their children's teeth healthy. The program will be held during the monthly Preschool Parent's Advisory Committee Meetings:

Big Cypress — Tues., Feb. 1, 5:30 p.m. at the Preschool.

Hollywood — Wed., Feb. 2, 12 noon at the Preschool.

Brighton — Thurs., Feb. 3, 5:30 p.m. at the Preschool.

During the program, parents will learn about when children should have their first dental visit, ways to prevent tooth decay, how dental sealants protect teeth, and proper brushing and flossing techniques.

The Seminole Dental Program has these tips for parents and caregivers:

*Take your child to see the dentist regularly, beginning by the child's first birthday.

*Put only water in a child's naptime or bedtime bottle. Don't "prop" the bottle.

*Start brushing as soon as the first tooth appears.

*Begin flossing when two teeth touch.

*Brush and floss your child's teeth until he can do it alone and supervise until he/she is 7 or 8 years old.

*Make certain your child is getting the right amount of fluoride.

*Have a sealant, a thin protective barrier, applied to the chewing surface of the back teeth.

Good oral health practices should begin in infancy and continue throughout adult life. In your child's early years, you must provide this care. Later you will need to instruct, monitor and motivate your child to help maintain good oral health habits. Attitudes and habits established at an early age are particularly important for good oral health throughout life.

Rule Hopes To Prevent Heartwater Disease

TALLAHASSEE — Florida Agriculture Commissioner Bob Crawford announced the adoption of an emergency rule placing restrictions on the importation of animals from countries endemic with heartwater disease.

The action was taken after agricultural inspectors found numerous *Amblyomma* sp. ticks on tortoises imported from Africa at an importer in Hillsborough County. Some of the ticks later tested positive for the *Cowdria ruminantium* organism, which causes the heartwater disease.

"We've been conducting routine inspections for this disease for some time now," Crawford said. "Introduction of heartwater disease into Florida would be disastrous to the state's beef and dairy cattle industries and ruminant wildlife."

Heartwater is an acute, tick-borne disease of domestic and wild ruminants, including cattle, sheep, goats, deer and antelope. This killer disease is caused by the rickettsial bacterium *Cowdria ruminantium*, which is transmitted by ticks of the genus *Amblyomma*. It is characterized by a rapid rise in body temperature, loss of appetite and respiratory

distress, followed by nervous signs, such as circling motions, incoordination, recumbency, and paddling movements of the limbs. Heartwater disease does not affect humans.

If this disease enters the United States, mortality rates in susceptible infected species could range from 40 percent to nearly 100 percent. Since there is no officially recognized treatment or practical vaccine to protect against the disease, prevention relies on control of its tick vectors. The same ticks are also potential vectors of diseases that may affect the general public.

The emergency rule requires reptiles, amphibians, llamas, antelopes, and captive wild species from all areas to be inspected and certified free of ticks prior to entry into Florida. In addition, all animals from countries with heartwater disease must have prior permission for entry and are subject to inspection and quarantine upon arrival. Heartwater is mostly found in Sub-Saharan Africa and Madagascar. It can also occur in some Indian Ocean islands and a few Caribbean islands, and occasionally in Europe.

Mouthguards Help Protect Teeth

HOLLYWOOD — Do your children play football, basketball or go bike riding? How about baseball or softball? Perhaps they're into four-wheeling or rodeo. No matter what the sport, there's always a risk of injury.

A properly fitted mouthguard, or mouth protector, is an important piece of athletic gear. Many experts recommend that everyone — from children to adults — wear a mouthguard during any recreational activity that might pose a risk of injury to the mouth. There are three types of mouthguards:

- *The ready-made, or stock, mouthguard.
- *The mouth-formed 'boil-and-bite' mouthguard.
- *The custom-made dentist's mouthguard.

Although all three provide protection, they differ in the amount of protection and in their comfort and cost. A custom-made mouthguard is individually designed and made in the dental office or professional laboratory. The dentist makes an impression of the patient's teeth. Using a special material, the mouthguard is made over a model of the teeth.

Because of the material, and the extra time and work that goes into making a custom mouthguard, this type is likely to provide the most comfortable fit and protection. The Seminole Dental Program and the Academy for Sports Dentistry have worked toward improving and protecting athletes' smiles.



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Casino

Continued from page 1

on five acres of land obtained by the Tribe in a trade at NW 54 St., just east of State Road 7 on Sample Road.

Both gaming operations will feature Class II gaming, including video machines and poker. The addition of Coconut Creek brings to five the number of Seminole gaming operations. The Tribe operates gaming halls in Tampa, Immokalee, Hollywood, Brighton and Coconut Creek. The Big Cypress Bingo Hall, which once featured "Million Dollar Bingo" games has been closed through the 90s and is now used as a storage facility.



RIBBON CUTTING: Tribal officials and gaming managers open casino.

Brighton Casino director Marty Johns took to the podium at noon, Dec. 16, to welcome over 300 guests for a rousing "Grand Opening Extravaganza." Tribal officials, politicians from surrounding communities, dignitaries, and well-wishers from all over the area gathered for luncheon buffet in the new gaming hall.

A 2 p.m. ribbon cutting ceremony was held to officially open the casino to the public. Throngs of guests awaiting the opening bellied the ribbon as officials barely had time to cut it and get out of the way.

For some in the community, 'the house that Josiah built' evolved into the house that Marty built. Today, the restaurant in the shiny new casino bears the name of Josiah Johns, Marty's father and the man who first started Brighton Seminole Bingo. Upon the untimely death of his father, Marty stepped up to assume the responsibility of the daily operations of the gaming hall.

Throughout the years the original 1,900 square-foot building was remodeled and expanded. As the popularity of Brighton Seminole Bingo continued to increase over time, the walls began to shrink. Foretelling the need for a bigger, more modern building, Johns took the idea to the Tribal Council three years ago.

Today, just eight months after the ground breaking, a new state of the art 27,000 square foot building stands just a few feet from where it all started in 1977. A remnant of the original building stood for several more days before workers finished the demolition.

In addition to the expansive space, the number

employed has increased from 27 to 70, a boon to surrounding communities. According to Johns, local motels are enjoying increased revenues from some of the 3,500 registered players who come from as far away as the Space Coast to try their luck at Brighton.

"I'm seeing a lot of new faces," said Johns who sold 306 prime rib dinners at the Casino's first ticketed event, a New Year's Eve gala complete with a bingo match that went on until the ball dropped at Times Square.

Seminole "partnership" with the state will take another major step with the Feb. 2 opening of the Coconut Creek Casino, reports new director Jo-Lin Osceola. City commissioners unanimously approved a contract whereby the Seminole Tribe will pay \$1 million annually for municipal services (electricity, sewer, water, etc.). The land is zoned "light industrial" and is close to several car dealerships.

"We're going to be a good neighbor to the residents of Coconut Creek," said Max Osceola, Hollywood Councilman for the Seminoles. "This gaming facility enables the tribe to do many things that benefit our members and the state of Florida."

The first phase of the Coconut Creek Casino will have 20,000 square feet and will evolve into a



PARTNERSHIP: Seminoles Tony Sanchez (l) and Marty Johns (r) with Don Flechter, Tod Lamn and Jimmy Aceveda of World Touch Gaming.

multi-venue facility. Featuring an art deco motif, it will offer visitors an upscale snack bar and a variety of gaming opportunities, including poker, pull tab video games, and lightning bingo.

Within 12 months after opening, the casino intends to add an additional 100,000 square feet of gaming, several restaurants, gift shops, administrative offices, parking garage, and a show stage. Also planned is a third phase to include a hotel and meeting and convention facility.

The casino's northwest Broward County location is ideal since it will attract people from Broward, Palm Beach, and Martin counties.

"The Seminole Tribe provides a wide range of tourist opportunities that attract visitors nationally and internationally," said Nicki E. Grossman, president of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau. "The beaches, shopping, and Seminole attractions are ranked among the most important in the area. We look forward to working together in the promotion of this new facility. It will add to Broward County's position as one of the world's leading tourist destinations and will further enhance our economic position."

The Seminole Tribe of Florida has a significant impact on the state. It currently employs more than 2,000 non-Indians and purchases more than \$24 million in goods and services from more than 850 Florida vendors every year. In addition, the Tribe pays \$3.5 million in federal payroll taxes.

"It's extremely important for us to preserve our rich heritage," Osceola said. "We're able to do this with the funds generated by gaming and other attractions which allow us to retain and promote our traditions, educate our children and tourists, and attract visitors to Florida."

"Our relationship with the state and county benefits everyone, and we look forward to expanding this partnership with the new Coconut Creek Casino."

Compact

Continued from page 1

historic signing, the Corps is pledging \$24.6 million towards the total cost of the project. The Tribe's matching funds are roughly \$17.15 million in cash. The rest of the Tribe's matching contribution comes from the value of the land that will be dedicated to holding ponds, irrigation ditches and berms, plus the costs incurred by Tribal employees in the planning, designing and construction of various parts of the project.

The project is one of the first in a sweeping Everglades restoration agreement that is expected to cost \$7.8 billion over the next 20 years. That plan, called the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERT), aims to restore the Everglades to normal and historical water flows and improve the water quality.

The Big Cypress Reservation is in the heart of the Everglades, and the Tribe's water entitlement represents a huge percentage of the water that ultimately flows through the watershed. The Tribe's water entitlement is 47,000-acre feet of water per year, which would

equuate to almost a foot of water over the reservation's entire 52,000 acres.

"Obviously, the Big Cypress Reservation is an important part of the Everglades," Tepper said. "That's why this project was given the funding and the priority. What we do on Big Cypress will impact a large part of the overall restoration project."

"It's a big project and a great challenge to us. But, we're ready to tackle the work. It's time to start and we're proud to lead the way toward restoring the Everglades."

According to Tepper, early next year construction crews will begin turning dirt in the first phase of the project. The plan calls for construction a new ditch system, with small dikes and berms for stacking and detaining storm water. Some existing canals will be back-filled to alter water flow.

The plan will also utilize current wetlands for water storage, allowing natural filtration that will remove much of the phosphorous that is found in the water. The phosphorous is so high it encourages the growth of cattails, which have overrun much of the Everglades watershed. The plan will also return sheet flow to mimic more natural water flow.



Seminole General Counsel Jim Shore, Chairman James Billie sign historic Everglades agreement with Joseph Westphal, (r) Assistant Secretary of the Army.

"The Everglades is a national treasure," declared Sen. Robert Smith (R-N.H.), chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. "It's like the Grand Canyon or the Rocky Mountains. It's important that we leave a lasting legacy to future generations."

The pact with the Seminole Tribe is one of the first steps of the Everglades restoration. Seven other restoration projects were also signed at the Coalition meeting.

Miccosukee ad

SPORTS

Jumper, Tiger Win Fishing Tournament

By Ernie Tiger
BIG CYPRESS — A quiet day, with a slight breeze from a cold front moving in from the west set the mood for fishermen taking part in a recent two-day fishing tournament.

The tournament which ran Friday, noon to 6 p.m. and resumed Saturday morning, from safe daylight until 3 p.m. Participants in the tournament were able to catch a 10-fish limit (bass) for each individual day, requiring that each fish measured over 12 inches long.

Other fish such as biggest catfish, biggest garfish and biggest mudfish also had their own individual age group categories. Friday evening's weigh-in, turned up the biggest bass caught in the tournament.

The 6 1/2-pound bass, caught by Mike Tiger, would later prove to be the fish that didn't get away and secured the Jumper and Tiger Team first place with 20 pounds for the first day's weigh-in. The Leon Wilcox and Remus Griffin team, trailed by only 3 pounds.

The following morning's forecast produced a cool start with heavy cloud cover, keeping the fishing at stand still until 12. By noon, the front had passed, and brightened the fishing day, making it ideal for jig, rattle trap and worm fishing.

Weigh-ins for the ending day produced some interesting results. Anglers who chose the L-28 interceptor canal, said a percentage of the whole

day was windy which ended a lot of the top water feeding for bass. But, anglers who chose parts of Miccosukee Canals west of the Feeder had a different story to tell.

Saying the weather was very nice and they had caught a majority of their fish early in the morning. Anglers who fished in the two-day tournament were invited to a catered fish fried lunch by Recreational officials and awarded millennium fishing T-shirts for their participation.

The following are the results:

- 1st Place Moses Jumper Jr. and Mike Tiger-34 1/2 lbs.
- 2nd Place Sonny Tiger and Ernie Tiger-32 1/2 lbs.
- 3rd Place Shane Cypress and Tyrone Cypress-29 1/2 lbs.
- 4th Place Mondo Tiger and Jason Billie-26 1/2 lbs.
- 5th Place Leon Wilcox and Remus Griffin-22 3/4 lbs.
- 6th Place Samy Nelson and Clyde Tiger-19 1/2 lbs.
- 7th Place Ricky Doctor and Vince Micco-17 3/4 lbs.



Mike Tiger shows his trophy 6 1/2 pound catch.



CRASH TEST: Unidentified rider will be happy he wore his helmet for this bull.

Bull Riding Clinic Stresses Faith

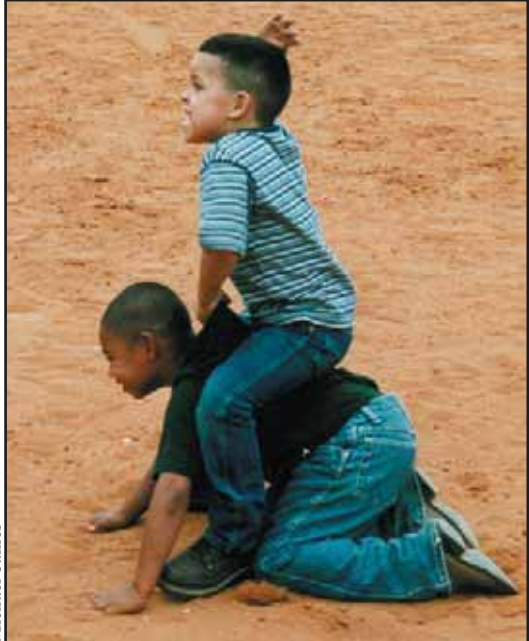
By Michael James
BIG CYPRESS — World class bull riding came to the Big Cypress Rodeo Arena on Dec. 18 with a different twist.

As young cowboys from all across the country gathered for the event, clinic organizer Moses Jumper Jr. handed over the microphone to two men who have made their mark on the sport of bull riding.

Ernesto 'LaBamba' Franco, now retired bull fighter, and two time world champion bull rider Terry Don West each took the opportunity to share with the youth how their Christian faith is a powerful influence in their lives.

Franco, who gained fame by riding bulls backwards as part of his arena act said he was satisfied with his career of saving cowboys, but since his retirement has turned his energy to 'saving souls.'

In the rough and tumble world of the rodeo cowboy this isn't always an easy thing to do. For Franco though, he only has to look at his own life for inspiration.



Chebon Gooden gives Nick Jumper a ride.

wheel," said Franco. "The Lord helped me find the brakes and the wheel." Franco

added that with help from God everyone could become a better cowboy.

Terry Don West told the audience that one of the biggest obstacles to success in the rider's ability to overcome fear. Fear, according to West, "comes from the devil and the Lord didn't give us a spirit of fear, but one of courage."

It was a real treat to have West as a personal trainer for the afternoon. According to Clint Sinclair, a Choctaw Indian evangelist, Choes Jumper Jr. was thrilled at the news that West would be there. Sinclair has been attending Jumper's clinics for four years and is friends with both of the cowboys.

"He's one of the greatest bull riders ever," said Sinclair of West who finished the 1999 season third in the world. Amazingly, West came without any expectation of monetary compensation.

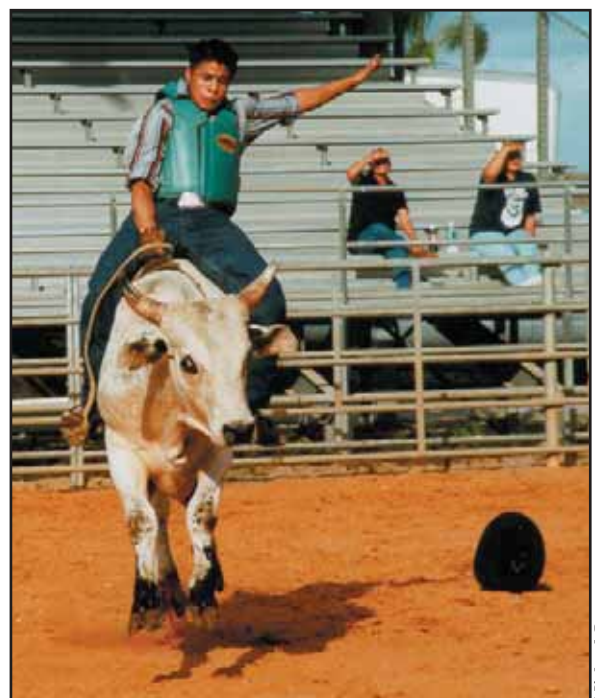
"He came here for the opportunity to share his faith," said Sinclair. "Nothing else."

Once the riding got underway, cowboys from the littlest newcomers to the most seasoned got the opportunity to take pointers from West. While he instructed the riders, 'LaBamba' Franco coached would be bull-fighters in the arena. Each participant rode up to five animals throughout the afternoon. The clinic concluded with a barbecue.



MAN SITS ON BULL: Ernesto Labomba Franko plays dangerously.

"My life was like a truck going 90 miles an hour without brakes or a steering



HAT TRICK: Why don't cowboys use velcro?



BULL GO UP, MAN GO DOWN: Just another bull ride in Big Cypress town.

Hollywood Bowling Tournament Results



MAX OSCEOLA AND THE SEMINOLE ELEVEN: Tribal men bowlers line up for play.

HOLLYWOOD— (55-59 Women) Ruby Osceola; 584 2. Maydell Osceola; 523 3. Mabel Osceola; 508 4. Ruby Dietz; 501 5. Judybill Osceola; 493. (55-59-Men) Eugene Bowers; 781 2. Dan Bowers; 512 3. Joe Billie; 447 4. Sammy Nelson; 447 5. Billy Micco; 446.

Men 1. Jimmy Osceola; 580 2. Archie Johns; 498 3. Johnny T; 493 4. Dan Osceola; 488 5. Wonder Johns; 440 6. Howard Micco; 378 7. George B; 347 8. Jimmy S.; 335.

Women: 1. Geneva; 631 2. Agnes; 529 3. Dorothy Tommie; 7496 4. Betty Osceola; 484 5. Rosie B; 469 6. Annie; 433 7. Louise; 422 8. Dorothy; 416.

Millennium Bowling Tourney

By Libby Blake
HOLLYWOOD — Big Cypress Recreation hosted a Millennium Bowling Tournament Dec. 11 at Holiday Bowling Center. Eighty-eight bowlers participated in the all Indian event.

Cost to participate was \$20 per person. Big Cypress Recreation, under the directorship of George Grassopper, and David Cypress, Big Cypress Council Representative, each contributed \$2,000 to the prize fund. To commemorate the event, T-shirts were given to all present.

No tap — 1st place Shaun Willie and Cindy Rodriguez — 490, 2nd place Amos Billie and Farrah Jones — 479, 3rd place John Madrigal and Wendy Snow — 445, 4th place Elton Shore and Rusty Tiger — 439, 5th place Mingo and Alfreda Musket — 422, 6th place Leon Wilcox and Jeanette Cypress — 415, 7th place Mingo Jones and Alma Johns — 410, 8th place Richard Osceola and Tommie Micco — 409.

Scotch Doubles — 1st place (tie) Leon Wilcox and Crystl Huff and Danny Tommie and Amanda Smith — 204, 3rd place Remus Griffin and Addie Osceola — 191, 4th place Bill Eddie Johns and Beulah Gopher — 188, 5th place (tie) Vincent Micco and Mable Osceola and Delwin McGowan and Lawanna Niles — 181, 7th place Joe Billie and Mahala Madrigal — 178, 8th place Bernard Robbins and Heather Osceola — 173.

Jack Gorton, Assistant Director Big Cypress Recreation, ran the tournament. Before announcement of the winners he thanked all the bowlers for their participation. Jack also thanked David and George for their participation and contributions to the tournament.

Jack also reminded bowlers of the next big event to be held Memorial Day weekend when \$10,000 will be added to the prize fund making the event the highest paying all Indian tournament in history. Pool and golf tourneys will also be held with \$5,000 added to each pot.

For more information contact Big Cypress Recreation at 941-983-9659. Information packets and entry forms for the event are available by request.



WAITING FOR A ROLL 88 bowlers competed in tourney.

The top eight places paid in each of the four contests: regular, 3-6-9, no tap, and scotch doubles. In the regular competition the bowlers competed with their chosen partners. The women then drew names for their subsequent matches.

Winners in each event were as follows: Regular — 1st place (tie) Toby and Alma Johns and John and Mahala Johns — 404, 3rd place Remus Griffin and Patricia Wilcox — 384, 4th place Amos Billie and Alfreda Musket — 365, 5th place Leon Wilcox and Michele Osceola — 354, 6th place Jamie Smith and Crystal Huff — 334, 7th place (tie) Maxie and Linda Tommie and Ronnie Doctor and Mable Osceola — 330.

3-6-9 — 1st place Joey Micco and Mary Tigertail — 441, 2nd place Lois Smith and Terry Frank — 414, 3rd place David Cypress and Alfreda Musket — 411, 4th place Richard Osceola and Alma Johns — 410, 5th place Danny Jones and Dana Osceola — 403, 6th place Delwin McGowan and Reina Micco — 399, 7th place Ramsey Osceola and Crystal Huff — 395, 8th place Milo Osceola and Mable Osceola — 388.

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Naples Fall/Winter Pool League Standings

By Libby Blake
NAPLES — The Naples Valley National Eight-Nation (VNEA) sanctioned pool league posted its mid-season standings on the last day of 1999. Four teams of Tribal members play every Wednesday night in the 36-team competition. The teams, players, and standings were as follows: **4th place** — "Seminoles" with captain Tony Billie and team members David Cypress, Elrod Bowers, Anthony Falcigno (President of the league), Joey Korsiak, Marl Osceola, OB Osceola, Andy Tennent, and George, Dale, and Jason Grasshopper; **25th place** — "Play Az" team captain David Billie and members Mike Alvarado, Maria Billie, Roy Cantu, Raymond Mora, and Juan Salinas Jr.; **22nd**

place — "Motown Boyz" with captain Ralph Sanchez and members Mario Posada, Felipe Munoz Jr., Jay Patterson, Isaac Rodriguez, and Phil Short; **24th place** — "Motown Bandits" captained by Virginia Billie with the team of Tommy Benson, Angel Cintron, and Manuel, Pedro, Raymond and Roy Garza; The following have won games by making the eight-ball on the break: Mario Posada, Isaac Rodriguez, and Roy Cantu. The players with perfect 10-0 wins include: Mario Posada (2), Isaac Rodriguez (4), David Billie (3), Roy Cantu (1), Raymond Mora (1), Tony Billie (1), Anthony Falcigno (5), George Grasshopper (1), OB Osceola (1), and Andy Tennent (4).

Mid-Season Pool Standings

Naples — 1st place — Little Motown — Esmeralda Billie, Nina Frias, Ray Yzaguirre Jr. 2nd place — Da Pro's — Tommy Benson, Bo Garza, Karen Cypress. 3rd place — Tony's — Tony Sanchez Jr., Courtney Sanchez, Miguel Mata. 4th place — Nathan's — Nathan Billie, Bonnie Billie, Christian Benson. 5th place — Dominic's — Dominic Venzor, Allen Michael Venzor, Deidra Hall. 6th place — Seminole — Phalyn Osceola, Janel Billie, Anthony Hernandez. 7th place — Janet's — Erica Mata, Janet Mata, Allen Hernandez. 8th place — 8-ball Joker's — Ali Colon, Laci Sanchez, Ralphie Sanchez. **Adult League** — 1st place — Seminole — Tony Billie, David Cypress, George Grasshopper, Joe Billie, Randy Clay (sub for injured Tony Billie). 2nd

place — Motown Boyz — Roy Garza, Ralph Sanchez, OB Osceola, Mario Posada. 3rd place — Motown Bandits — Virginia Billie, Raymond Garza, Tommy Benson, Angel Cintron. 4th place — The Saints — Charlie Cypress, Ricky Doctor, Mike Onco, Leroy (Kenno) King. 5th place — Play'Az — Maria Billie, Roy Cantu, Raymond Mora, Juan Salinas. 6th place — Andy's Friends — Robert Garza, Adam Garza, Mike Garza, Delores Jumper. 7th place — Da Rookies — Mike Alvarado, David Billie, Marciano Calderon, Dennis Gonzales. 8th place — Do You Smell What's Cookin'? — Connie Williams, Lonnie Billie, Danny Billie, Juan. 9th place — Dale's — Dale Grasshopper, Linda Billie, Libby Blake, Esther Buster.

EIRA Sets 2000 Rodeo Schedule

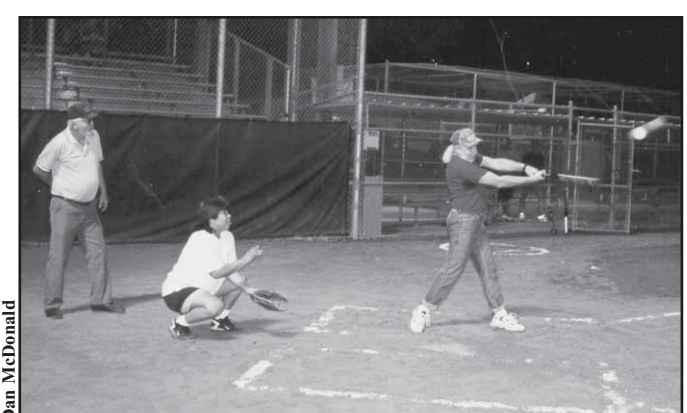
The Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) made a few changes for the new year. The kids' events will start on Fridays at 6 p.m. and Saturdays at 5 p.m. The number of days for the call in has been changed to one (1) day only. The call in number has also changed; please make note of this new number, (954) 384-7075. Please call this number the Tuesday before every rodeo. You can also call if you have any questions between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. The 2000 "tentative" rodeo schedule is as follows: **Saturday, Jan. 29 at Big Cypress;** Kids' events 5 p.m. and sanctioned events 7 p.m. **Friday, Feb. 11 at Hollywood, Bill Osceola Memorial;** Kids' events 6 p.m. and sanctioned events at 8 p.m. **Friday, Feb. 18 at Brighton Field and Rodeo;** Kids' events 6 p.m. and sanctioned events at 8 p.m.

Friday, March 3 at Immokalee; Kids' events at 6 p.m. and sanctioned events at 8 p.m. **Saturday, March 18 - 4th Annual Cattle Drive and Junior Cypress Memorial;** Kids' events at 5 p.m. and sanctioned events at 7 p.m. **Saturday, April 29 at Hollywood;** Kids' events at 5 p.m. and Sanctioned events at 7 p.m. **Friday May 5 at Immokalee Cinco De Mayo;** Kids' events at 6 p.m. and sanctioned events at 8 p.m. **Saturday, May 20 at Big Cypress;** Kids' events 5 p.m. and sanctioned events at 7 p.m. **Saturday, July 1 at Brighton Josiah Johns Memorial;** Kids' events 5 p.m. and sanctioned events 7 p.m. **Saturday, July 29 at Hollywood Recreation Arena;** Kids' events at 5 p.m. and sanctioned events at 7 p.m. **Saturday, Aug. 5 at Brighton;** Kids' events at 5 p.m. and sanctioned events at 7 p.m.

Communications Runs Record To 2-0

By Chris Kringle
HOLLYWOOD — Using a blistering attack of long ball and timely hitting, the Communications Department continued its winning ways with a 29-23 victory over a team from Payroll and the Chariman's Office Dec. 14, in the Seminole Tribe's Co-ed Inter Department Softball Challenge Series. Melissa "Catphish" Sherman upped her record to a perfect 2-0, but needed the late inning bat of Danny "McGwire" McDonald, who saved her bacon with a three-run dinger that had some people screaming that the bat was corked. "It's an aluminum bat," McDonald shrugged when asked about the monster line drive homer. "Hey, he threw me the inside hanging curve. The rest was just the sweet science of hitting." The blast was the big stick in the five-run seventh. It ended the hopes for the Payrollers after they had clawed back with a nine-run burst of their own against ineffective relief pitcher, Barry "Newman" Biednny. "I thought my slider had some good motion, but my curve certainly wasn't happening tonight," Biednny said. "In fact, the only movement on my curve was when they were hitting it out of the park." While Biednny was tagged repeatedly, his cause wasn't helped by a porous defense that allowed six unearned runs. Pete "I got it, I got it," Gallagher

played a game of hide and seek with what appeared to be a routine pop fly to left field, while Charles Flowers and Bobby Frank nearly collided under a shallow outfield-infield dinker that should have ended the rally. The clash of the Titans sent Flowers sprawling into the mud as the ball fell to the ground. While the lack of defense hurt the Communicators, the big surprise was the disappearance of offense from the normally potent Raiford Starke, the team's clean-up hitter. Starke was going through a long-ball drought. He must have been feeling the pressure, for he actually struck out during one at-bat. "That was the lowest point of my career," Starke explained. "Hey, I don't care whether the team won or not. For me, the game is about hitting. It was a horrible evening. Horrible. There is no joy in Starkeville tonight." Still, paced by Flowers' perfect on-base percentage, and Brian Larny's lashing left-handed swing, the Communications Department is a perfect 2-0 against inter-Tribal competition. The Recreation Department and the Payroll/Chairman's squad are both 0-1, while the Seminole Police Department continues undercover work. That is to say, they continue to hide from the Challenge Series. The Co-ed Challenge Series is open to all Seminole Departments. To schedule a game, contact Dan McDonald at (954) 967-3416, Ext. 1266.



Gallagher works on a special project — making contact.

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Tommies Take Christmas Tournney

By E. Bowers
HOLLYWOOD — Dec. 12 marked the triumphant return of the Seminole Tribe to the Bonaventure Golf Club for the Hollywood Christmas Golf Tournament. The 14, two-man teams in the field gutted it out on the dreary, overcast day for 36 holes, alternate shot on the opening 18, and two-man

scramble on the back 18. The tournament was slightly different from other tournaments. Pars were worth 1 point, birdies worth 2 points, eagles worth 3 points, and no points for bogeys. The dynamic duo of James and Jason Tommie (Funk and Luther) eked out a win over Bo Young and Jimbo Osceola with a first-place score of 23 points. The complete results are: Two-man team — 1) +23, James Tommie & Jason Tommie (+21, Bo Young & Jimbo Osceola 3) +20, John Madrigal & Howard Madrigal 4) +19, Mitch Osceola & Marcy Osceola. Closest to Pin (East) - #3- Max Osceola, Jr., Melissa Cypress #6- Lawrence Osceola #12- Howard Madrigal #17- Jason Tommie, Melissa Cypress. Closest to Pin (West) - #3- Marl Osceola #5- Charlie Cypress, Gina Allardyce #8- Scarlett Jumper #11- Maxie Tommie, Melissa Cypress #15- Bo Young #17- Maxie Tommie, Gina Allardyce. Longest Drive — (East)- Maxie Tommie, Melissa Cypress (West)- Abe Rockwell, Gina Allardyce.



James and Jason Tommie were the Two Man champs.

Rodeo Scheduled

BIG CYPRESS — The Eastern Indian Rodeo Association will hold an All Indian Rodeo Jan. 29 at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena. Kid's events begin at 6 p.m. Sanctioned events begin at 7 p.m. Added money includes \$500 per event. Please notice one day call in. Call in number is (954) 384-7075. Call in time is 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. No late entries will be accepted.

Okeechobee Pool League Standings

1st place - Blues Brothers — Bleu Ford, Danny Boremei, Sean Tucker, Jeff Butler, Jack Kieffer. **2nd place** — Seminole — Tony Billie, David Cypress, George Grasshopper, Tony Carter, Joe Chandler, Corey Penrod. **4th place** - House of Pain — Theresa Boremei, Richard Payne, Don Watt, Ray Trent, Russ Ryan, Darrin Miller. **8th place** - Dale's — Dale Grasshopper, Anita Nunez, Libby Blake, Don Ellis, Roger Horner. **Eight on break** - Joe Chandler (1), Corey Penrod (1), ERO's (Eight Run Outs) - Don Ellis (1), Corey Penrod (6), George Grasshopper (3), David Cypress (2).

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Entry Fee and Tour Card must be paid by March 1, 2000

Dress Code: Collared or Mock Turtle neck shirt. No Jeans! No Sneakers! Will Be Strictly Enforced

Noah

Continued from page 1

parents (his mother was Alice Huff), Mr. Billie is best-known for his vividly colorful paintings of Seminole life and history. One of his paintings, of a Seminole family in a dugout canoe poling through ghostly purple cypress trees and Spanish moss, was used as the cover for *Seminole Colors: A Coloring and Learning Book for Young Minds*. That book is used as a teaching tool at Ahfachkee School in Big Cypress.



Pallbearers carry Noah Billie's casket after service ends.

Ironically, Mr. Billie died as a collection of his paintings was being prepared for his first exhibition, scheduled Feb. 12 -- March 31 at the St. Petersburg Museum of History -- planned as a highlight of the Seminole Tribe's Discover Native America festival. The show, now titled "A Tribute To Noah Billie," will go on as planned, according to Museum Director Sam Bond.

"Noah was always the biggest guy that we had," said Moses Jumper, Jr. "He was a big, big man." But, Jumper added, "He was kind of a sensitive person... a gentle person. He never threw his weight around. He was able to get a lot of things accomplished through his art."

Mr. Billie is survived by his wife, Brenda Billie, three daughters, Amy Billie Cox, Blossom Billie and Kayla Billie; his mother Alice Billieboy; sisters Leoda Jumper Osceola, Frances Jumper Osceola, Judy Ann Osceola, Joann Osceola, Martha Billie, Jolene Osceola and Rachel Billie; brother Mark Billie, and many nephews, nieces and grandchildren.

Others who spoke at the funeral service at First Seminole Indian Baptist Church included Pastor Vincent Micco, and Dan Osceola.

"He was always willing to spend that little time with me," Rev. Micco recalled of time spent with Noah as a child. Osceola asked the assembly in Miccosukee and English, to remember "the good things he done that encourages."

Memories Of Artist Noah Billieboy

I was saddened as I heard of the news today. They told me a friend of mine went on to better way

My mind thought quickly back to the days of our youth, When as young boys we would have fun and frolic looking for our path of Truth

I thought of the times we spent together riding our bikes to the rec hall to have some fun, Football and baseball was how we spent our time in the sun

Because of his vision Noah was the first to be picked on every football team, And every ball he hit would go a country mile it seemed

The Holidays and Friday night campouts were very special times for the reservation boys. It was a time to bond and create a little noise!

Around the campfire Noah always had a scary story or two, Though at the time rough and big, there was a sensitive side to Noah we all knew...

I still see the time we all would share that RC Cola Noah seemed to bring from the house each day, I guess old Charlie never minded cause he knew he would get our quarters when by the house we would get a pongee and pay!

As young boys our bond was of respect for you and me, I guess that was the way things were supposed to be

We had our fights and tussles as young boys sometimes do, Never no grudges for the next day our friendship would start bright and new

I push around young boys Noah could have used his size to push around his crowd, That was not his way, he was never boisterous out loud!

My mind wanders back to those days again, Though our lives have changed I knew we were still friends

Noah had gifts from the Creator above, In his art you could sense his inner love

I'm sure the pain he had in his last few years, Was seldom mentioned except by the tears

When we talked in later years if but for a moment or two, I knew he hurt a lot but he told of the things he still had to do.

I know now that he has gone, his art will be of the heavenly land we all will one day call home, I can see him now with old Jackie, Jonah and Randolph as together down to the old rec hall they will roam.
— Moses Jumper, Jr.

e-mail

Continued from page 2

Webmaster:

Thank you so very much for such a beautiful web site! My son is doing a report on the Seminole Indians, and found your site to have all the information that he could have wanted. The photos are beautiful! Your craftwork is stunning! What a beautiful history and culture! Thanks again!

Steve Murray
Keystnham, Australia
kstmurray@talk21.com

Webmaster:

My son James aged 7 years has a project this term on Native Americans. Native Americans are hard to come by in Wales part of the U.K. Would any of your readers be able to spare some time to help a little boy with his project? The only work we have at home on Native Americans is *Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee*. He has given himself the name Grey Owl. Please help if you can. Thanks.

Don Fleming
Pat.Fleming@care4free.net

Editor:

What do I need to become part of the Tribe?

Stonerose315@aol.com

Go to <http://www.seminoletribe.com/history/faqs.shtml#G2> for your answer.

Editor:

My very best wishes of health and happiness to Chief Billie and the Seminole Nation in this new millennium. I am a Cuban-American Senior Avionics Engineer at Boeing Co. in Long Beach, Calif. and also a pilot. The news of the SP-20 came to me through AVWEB and I was delighted to see that the same nation whose art and culture I had the chance to admire in my visits to Florida has made this important contribution to the Art of Flying. Again Mr. Billie, with all due respect, please convey my congratulations to your great nation.

Emilio H. Morales
Carson, CA

Dear Chief Billie,

Congratulations and best wishes on the certification of the Micco SP-20. According to the AVWEB Newswire, yours is the first Type Certificate of 2000. I am an avid pilot, and love aerobatics. I just wish I could afford your excellent airplane.

I may have some sort of tie with introducing the Seminole Nation to aviation. Many, many years ago, Chief Billy Osceola used to come to Lakeland to preach at Southside Baptist Church. My late father, Clyde McGinnes, on occasion, would fly him back and forth for these meetings. This would have been somewhere in the mid to late 1950's, if memory serves.

One of Dad's favorite tales was of the time he and the Chief noticed his family on the ground, waiting for the landing, and he convinced the Chief to let Dad spin the airplane. According to Dad, the Chief was a good sport about it, but requested no more repeat performances!

I hope the airplane will be at this year's Sun & Fun, I would like to admire it from a respectful distance. I will try not to drool on the paint. Man that is a pretty airplane! Sincerely,
Dean C. McGinnes
Lakeland

See our page 1 story on the Micco.

Editor:

I'm doing some research on the Seminole Tribe. I remember reading that a Seminole Chief put a curse on any leader of the U.S.A. elected in a year that ended in a "0." Elected in 1860, Abe Lincoln would die in office. Elected in 1960, Kennedy would also die. Is there any truth to this? And if so where can I find the information? Your web page is one of the most interesting history related pages I have found on the web.

Jack Buck
jbuck49018@monmouth.com

We've never heard of such a "curse" but we'll ask around.

Chief Billie:

Hello There Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Century. Well let me tell you a little about

me: I am from the Yucca Fruit Clan. I am born into the Mountain Streak Clan. My paternal grandfather is from the Mexican People Clan and my maternal grandfather from the Pueblo People Clan. This is my lineage as a Navajo Woman. Today was a terrific day! What love and happiness filled our home My New Year resolution is to have a baby in 2000. I am searching for a Native American name for my future son or daughter. Something beautiful with meaning. I want to use the original spelling if you have a written language. Any suggestions would be gratefully accepted. Best Wishes.

Shari Cody-Begay
Phoenix, AZ
travisb@infocad.com

How about Shona Bisha?

Editor:

Hi. I happened to run across your Seminole Website and wanted to say that I think it is a great site. Just a comment: When I was a little boy growing up in North Florida near the Suwannee River, San Pedro Bay, Steinhatchee, and the big bend of Florida my Grandmother told me about my Great-great grandfather going down to the Gulf of Mexico in the Fall of the year to meet Chief Billy Bowlegs. She said that they hunted deer turkey and ducks, gilled fish and made salt. They would smoke and salt meat and then each would depart for the year. Do you have any information about Chief Billy Bowlegs' trips to North Florida via the Gulf of Mexico.

Al Barrs
Greenwood, FL
albarrs@wfeca.net

Webmaster:

I just wanted to extend a warm thank you for sending our basket order so timely. My daughter's report is due tomorrow and she now has an original piece of your beautiful artwork to show off. Her teacher thought it was great! She also tried to make her own Seminole doll and from the picture we got from your web site she didn't do too bad. I'm sure she'll get an A+.

Alice Everhart
AEverGOON@aol.com

Dear Betty Mae:

My name is Nicole Jumper. I've always heard my family had Native American blood. I looked under Jumper genealogy and found you.

Nicole Jumper
Jackson, MS
nikki1231@hotmail.c

Editor:

My mother tells me I am part Indian and to look at some of the pictures of my ancestors, I truly feel I am part Indian but don't know how to find out what tribe or if this is really true. I understand if I can provide proof that I am part Indian I may be able to get help with my college tuition. I am a decathlete and played quarterback for Sandra Day O'Connor High School here in San Antonio, Texas, and would like to attend Arizona State. Please help me to get some information on how to research this. My mother's name before she married was Benavides De La Garza. Her family is from San Antonio, Texas and Mexico.

Michael Mazur
San Antonio, TX
michael.mazur@mcworld.com

Editor:

I am a student at West Shore High of Melbourne, Fla. I am currently working on a project involving the Everglades and the Seminole tribes that lived there. To be more specific, I have finished a novel called *Forever Island* by Patrick Smith and it involves the destruction of the Everglades and how a Seminole family tries to avoid the forced move by the development company. I now have to do a project on this novel and after coming to your website have found it easier because of all the vital information that is so relevant to my project. Thanks! After reading this heart wrenching novel and relating to it easily it makes me sick to see the destruction that is happening in the Everglades. Also all the advertisements on how you can pay to see Indians doing this and that and them wrestle alligators in the 'glades, makes me want to e-mail that advertisement company and give them a piece of my mind. We need to preserve the culture of the Seminoles and the land where they live, not broadcast it to the world like it's a tourist attraction. Thanks for your very helpful i

Internet site and if you have any more information that can be of use to me it would be greatly appreciated.

Danna Fowler
Melbourne
roxybabe999@hotmail.com

Editor's Note: Alligator wrestling is part of the Florida culture.

Editor:

As far back as I can remember, and seeing pictures my great-aunt had, there have been stories of Alexander Bedault in South Carolina having a Seminole Indian wife giving birth to two sons, Alexander, Jr. and Brutus. This wife was kidnapped back by the Seminole Tribe and brought back to Florida. The names of Billy Bowlegs and Osceola have always been there. Aunt Maggie was furious about the realization that there was Indian blood from her Grandmother; she destroyed as much as she could. Thanks to her and the Civil War, all I can find so far is the record of birth of the two boys and Alexander Bedault.

We used to work on the Tribe's vehicles in Brighton and are friends with Alice Snow, but once I mentioned to them about my ancestors, we did not see them much anymore. I am not ashamed of the fact there is a very good chance of being part Seminole as I feel it is very much a part of my history and making. Is there anything within the Tribe's history/tales about such? I know that many of the women were sent away from the Tribe for being involved with the "white man" and I would so much like to know all that I can.

Flo Cooper
Coopertown
ccooper@mail.strato.net

Editor:

Want to thank the Seminole Tribe for helping us with the production of *Black Elk Speaks*. I'm a costume designer and I did Wes Studi's and Larry Miller's costumes. The play was wonderful. I'm a Ponca Otoe Indian. Chief Billie was great. My family is from the Yellowhammer group from Ponca City, OK. Aho.

Dorcas Kent Williams
Tulsa, OK
dorcas@nordam.com

Editor:

Is there a Seminole word for "gathering place" or "place for games?"

David Fountain
Tallahassee
fountain@supenet.net

Chief Billie replies:

Tu-pe-kek-yuk-nee

Editor:

I am a school-mate of Carolyn Flores who was married to Peter Joe Billie. I was told that she is now married to Robert (I don't know his last name) who is a member of the Seminole Tribe. He is or was the owner of a Smoke Shop in Hollywood, Florida. Carolyn is a Cherokee Indian. I am an Oglala Sioux in Pine Ridge, SD and any help or information can give me regarding my friend Carolyn will be appreciated. We were best friends in High School and lost track of each other and I would like to write to her or call. Can anyone help me? I don't know of any other means to look for her.

Judy Rowland
Pine Ridge, SD
supreme@gwtc.net

Carolyn resides in Hollywood. Contact the Tribal Secretary-Treasurer's office.

Chief Jim Billie:

Today I saw a documentary about the rich history and culture of the Florida Seminole Indians, made from the German ARD-Television. It was very interesting for me to hear about your

work, visions and your great music. Many greetings from Austria to you.

Erich Sonderegger
mailto:s.erich@xpoint.at

Chief Billie:

Congrats and kudos to you on the release of your awesome CD. I have seen you and John Anderson in concert a couple years ago at the Jam at Suwannee. I'm also a subscriber to *Cowboys and Indians* magazine. Imagine my surprise when I found news about your release while reading this 'zine and the upstanding review they gave "Alligator Tales." I was smiling and saying, All right. P.S. Keep on rockin' and storytelling.

Kelley Bailey
Middleburg, FL

Editor:

I look forward eagerly to the next edition of the *Tribune*. I think it teaches me of my heritage, keeps me aware of current affairs, and is always fun. I especially like reading about the young people, the future of our world depends on them. They need to embrace both the future and the past. Their being is owed to those who came before them, and tomorrow will belong to them. And I see the *Tribune* as one of the major links between an oral history and a written history. Keep up the good work.

Albert Smith
San Francisco, CA
Albert.Smith@gecapital.com

Editor:

She:kon. That's "greetings" in my language, Kanienhkeha (Mohawk) from Kahnawake reserve near Montreal, Canada. We visited the Seminole Museum recently, passing through on our way to Disney World. A very pleasant and proud Seminole young man showed us around and later "worked with the alligators."

This young man made me proud to be Indian. He was knowledgeable about his personal history as a Seminole man and said he needs to know his culture, for not only himself, but for his children. And he is right. He was only 18, yet he conscientiously presented his culture to us in a clear, concise, yet humble manner. All our young people need to know our culture, for when the elders die so does our language and our very important ways. Many

people can learn from this young man as I did! I would like to publicly thank "Thomas" for a very important lesson on Seminole Tribal history and for keeping the knowledge alive. Job well done Thomas, Niawenko:wa (Thank You very Much)!

Kahnawake Reseve
Maureen Meloche ,Canada
mmeloche@compuserve.com

Editor:

I enjoyed your web site. Also enjoyed visiting your museum a couple of months ago when our Gumbo Limbo Nature Center employees took a field trip to your location. I would like more information about your patchwork — specifically what your designs represent. I also had an Uncle Bahui Cline that used to disappear from home in Boynton Beach and take off to the Everglades to visit his Seminole friends. Unfortunately I was very little and don't know any more than that. Thanks again for such an informative web site.

Darlene Rosa
Boca Raton
MommyRosa@AOL.com

Editor:

I am seeking to register myself as a Seminole Indian. Can you please contact me regarding what procedures to take in this matter.

James Norris
Encinitas, CA
Noooluck@aol.com

Please go to <http://www.seminoletribe.com/history/faqs.shtml#G2> for your answer.

Webmaster:

Excellent web site. Many of us in England are interested in indigenous cultures and regret the part our forefathers played in their tribulations.

Loriann Granados
London, England
loriann@mneta.net

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Ahfachkee Nominated For Excellence Award

By Libby Blake
BIG CYPRESS — Three years ago Ahfachkee School was considered seriously underperforming. Students were doing poorly in language arts (reading) and math.

That's all changed now. Thanks to the hard work of students, staff, parents, principal Dr. Patrick Gaffney and his wife Dr. Sharon Byrd-Gaffney, Director of School Operations, the school was recently nominated for a Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) School of Excellence Award. Ahfachkee School is the only elementary school in Hendry County accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

When the Gaffneys arrived in July 1997, about 92 children attended the pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade school. Only 34 percent of the students were ranked as proficient in language arts and only 26 percent were considered proficient in math. Average daily attendance was at 63 percent and the school had a dropout rate of 20 percent. There was no official library and none of the few available books had been checked out by a student since 1992 and were, in fact, packed away in boxes collecting dust.

To change this, the new administrative team implemented "some very fundamental changes," said Byrd-Gaffney. "Some immediate 'band-aid' strategies were put into place to keep student achievement from falling further behind. Very clear expectations were set for both student and teacher performance while support in terms of training, materials, and leadership were provided."

It was determined that one of the reasons students were scoring so low on tests was due to a serious deficiency in reading skills. The first "band-aid" was the training of all teachers - grades four and above - in a proven method of direct instruction. This method quickly brought the students two-grade levels or more up to their correct grade level.

Old, out-dated curriculum was removed and a higher-order thinking strategy, with emphasis on higher-ordered thinking skills, was implemented. The School Improvement Program (SIP) was born.

The testing program in use at the time consisted of a standardized test designed to measure only the basic skills. The staff worked to find a better way to assess student achievement. It selected the Florida Sunshine State Standards but the state contended that since Ahfachkee was not a State of Florida-funded school it could not use the test.

The staff's next choice was the Stanford Nine Assessment Test. This test has been alleged to be racially biased, she said. In order to fully assess the Ahfachkee students, an individual portfolio, was developed to complement the test and more accurately reflect each child's progress and abilities.

"At this time, we are training to use the Learning Record to help create the complete picture of student achievement," Byrd-Gaffney said. "This instrument will use student, parent, and teacher input to assess the samples gathered in the student portfolio."

"These standards and assessment methodologies are perfect for use with a population of students who have varying abilities and talents. All students toward the same goals at their own pace and to the extent they are personally capable. Because of the alternative portion of our assessment program, we are able to judge each student only

against himself and not against the progress of others."

The next step was to create an atmosphere where children wanted to come. Besides having defined expectations, the children needed a sense of normalcy and a routine. Parent support for the school, for the plan, and of the students was a must.

A comprehensive program that promotes a healthy home-school partnership was developed and implemented. Parents are supported in working with their child throughout their school career. They are encouraged and supported to start their preschool-aged child with an intensive language program designed to promote reading readiness. They set goals for and with their child.

"Ahfachkee School has stepped up the pace and challenged students to work harder from a younger age," stated Byrd-Gaffney. The high expectations insisted upon by the Ahfachkee administration, staff, and parents have created an atmosphere the children feel privileged to be a part of.

The SIP must be working. Assessment tests at the end of the 1999 school year ranked 76 percent of the students as proficient in language arts and 60 percent in math. In addition, where no students were ranked as advanced in these subjects in 1997, by 1999 there were 10 percent who ranked as advanced in language arts and 16 percent in math.

The school now boasts an enrollment of 142 students with an average daily attendance at 84 percent and a dropout rate of only 2 percent. The number of dropouts in BIA/tribal schools nationwide average 10 percent.

The library books have been unpacked, the collection added to, and now are housed in a new Media Center. This center was dedicated in October 1997, and named in honor of Edna Mae Cypress, sister of Big Cypress Council Representative David Cypress and Tribal President Mitchell Cypress.

An Accelerated Reader program was instituted to encourage and increase student reading. In this system, the books are color coded to correspond with student reading levels. After students complete a book, they are tested on understanding and retention skills and are rewarded with stamps which are redeemable for gifts at the center's store.

All the teachers at Ahfachkee are certified in their field of expertise. Theresa Jumper, who is a Certified Culture Teacher, provides instruction for all ages. Miccosukee language classes have been added to the curriculum. The student to teacher/staff ratio at Ahfachkee is five to one whereas the BIA/tribal school national ratio is 14 to one with a 43 to one ratio of students to noninstructional staff. In public schools, these ratios are between 50 and 72 to one, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

The school was built in December 1991 for a capacity of 120. Byrd-Gaffney projects an enrollment of 200 by next year. Four new classrooms, financed by the Tribal Council, are needed by the 2000-2001 school year, she says.

In fact, the school only receives 40 percent of its funding from the Federal Government. The rest of the funds come from the Tribe.

The students, staff, parents, community, and Council can be proud of their accomplishments over the last two years. Ahfachkee School has not only been nominated as a School of Excellence, but is now used as a model for other BIA/tribal schools.



Sabal palms, fountain grass, lemon grass, dwarf papyrus, ponytail palms, foxtail palms grace schoolscape.

Ahfachkee Gets Green Facelift

By Libby Blake
BIG CYPRESS — Ahfachkee School on the Big Cypress Reservation recently underwent a facelift thanks to the generosity of David Cypress, Councilman. The school has made great strides on the "inside" with improvements in attendance and academics. David wanted to show improvement on the "outside" as a visual reminder to the students, staff, and community.

Kris's Landscaping and Tree Service, which has sub-contracted with the Tribe for more than six years, worked with David and the staff at Ahfachkee to achieve a "natural" look. "When David first proposed the upgrades, his only request was to keep it native," stated Kris Lawrence, owner of the landscaping company.

To begin the process, a notebook was placed in the school for staff members to write down their ideas on the types of foliage to be included. While this was going on, Kris's team installed an underground irrigation system on the school grounds, which are "about the size of nine football fields" according to workers.

Once the staff had made their recommendations, Kris and his workers met with them to discuss the feasibility of their suggestions. Some plants had to be eliminated because of their toxicity, for example, and replaced with others more compatible with the environment and the children.

The final list included sabal palms, fountain grass, lemon grass, dwarf papyrus, ponytail palms,

foxtail palms, and cypress mulch. Annuals, such as impatiens, were added for color. The rest of the ground was then covered with over 100,000 square feet of St. Augustine grass.

The entire process took Kris and his crew over eight weeks to complete. The result was a school that all Tribal members can be proud of.



Newly planted palms require 2-by-4 reinforcement.

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 members in their

own reservation. Each reservation has numerous Tribal members who are raising cultural and healthy children, rich in 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 Services Program - Hollywood at 954-964-6338. Yvonne Courtney is the Tribal counselor. Big Cypress call 941-983-6920 and speak with Jane Billie, Tribal counselor. Brighton Reservation call 941-763-7700 for Jenny Johns, Tribal counselor. Immokalee phone 941-657-6567. Ask for Billie Napper-Bodway, counselor. In Tampa call 813-628-0627 and speak with Tom Ryan, counselor.

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Shepherds (L-R) Louie Escobar, Raymond Osceola, Hayden Little Bear, Trewston Pierce.

Youths Enjoy Seminole Holiday Visit

By Holly Billie
BIG CYPRESS — The holiday season began in a very special way for the boys from Mel Blount Youth Home. The Big Cypress and Brighton communities opened their hearts and homes to the boys and staff members who had traveled from Vidalia, Ga. to spend Thanksgiving in Seminole Country!

The generosity of the Tribal leaders allowed the boys to experience Seminole culture as guests at the Billie Cypress safari grounds where they enjoyed camping, air-boat rides, museum tours and good eating at the Swamp Water Café.

Their visit, however, became even more meaningful as they participated in the community and church activities scheduled throughout Thanksgiving weekend.

The group was warmly invited to the Big Cypress community Thanksgiving Dinner where in return the boys entertained Tribal leaders and community members with their singing and praise.

As word spread of how talented the boys were, they were quickly invited to perform during the Wednesday evening service at the New Testament Church. Thanksgiving Day was shared with the Brighton community where Tribal families and members were blessed by the music and testimonies of these young men during the annual Thanksgiving assembly.

Thanksgiving became especially meaningful to the Tribal leaders and family members of the four young men whose lives have been changed as a result of the

love and commitment of Mel Blount, his brother Clint, and their staff. Mel Blount, known best for his All-Pro years with the Pittsburgh Steelers, started a program for troubled youth in the early 1980s.

Young men, throughout the years, have graduated from the Mel Blount program successfully fulfilling their dreams on college campuses, serving

and their generosity to the boys.

The following excerpts are from several of the Mel Blount youth letters, which were sent to us upon their return to Georgia:

"Thank you for everything you did for us because it means a lot! This was the best Thanksgiving in my whole life. I hope we can keep doing things for the Youth Home because if I didn't come here my life wouldn't be so good." — John Hall, Big Cypress Reservation.

"We all enjoyed what you planned for us and we loved the food, the activities and being in church. I didn't know we had an alligator as big as Super Man." — Dayne Billie, Hollywood Reservation.

"I would like to thank my people for a wonderful visit and good time and thank the churches for the fellowship and Junior Battiest for his good singing." — Kyle Jumper, Hollywood Reservation.

"I would like to express my appreciation to the Seminole Tribe. It was a new experience for me sleeping in a chickee." — Breon.

"Thank you for everything and letting us eat with the Indian community. Now we can say we saw it for ourselves." — Nickolas.

"I had the best time of my life! I learned a lot about the Seminoles and they are very brave. I thank the church cooks. I ate and ate some more." — Stephen C.

"I really learned a lot about the Seminole people. I have never been so close to an alligator in my life! It was great to hear you praise the Lord Jesus in your native tongue." — Antwain.



Russell Osceola, Mitchell Cypress and Clint Blount pose with boys from the Mel Blount Youth Home.

in the military and becoming contributing members in their communities.

Tears flowed, and gratitude was expressed as the four Seminole youth shared testimonies and song with their families and communities. Family members of John Hall, Russell Osceola Jr., Kyle Jumper and Dayne Billie, gladly gave permission for the public recognition of the success and personal accomplishments of their loved ones.

Several family members expressed the same family feelings she said, "We are so thankful to Mel and Clint Blount and their staff. We are so proud of our boys!" Family would also like to thank David Cypress, Mitchell Cypress and James Billie for their commitment

Pre-Schoolers Perform Play

By E. Bowers
HOLLYWOOD — On Dec. 22, the Hollywood Pre-School Program presented *The Christmas Story* for parents and friends at the First Seminole Baptist Church.

Starring Clarissa Jumper and Kelton Josh as Mary and Joseph, and Brandly Osceola and Alex Jumper as King Herod and Queen, the young students put on a fine show.

Afterwards, the cast and audience repaired to the back porch for a session of eating and gift giving.



Maleah Issac smiles as she opens a gift.



(L-R) Leah Cox, Isabel Tucker, Brooke Osceola, Hailee Osceola, Brianna Billie.

Tampa Community Celebrates Christmas

By Mark Madrid
TAMPA — Over 200 people from the Tampa, Brighton, Immokolee, and Big Cypress communities attended the Sixth Annual Christmas Party held at the Seminole Tribe's Sheraton Four Points Hotel.

Following a long standing, or sitting tradition, everything started with a buffet dinner accompanied with music by the band Cattle Axe, who were returning for their fifth year. When Santa arrived, kids and moms lined up to get their pictures taken. There were even a few kids lining up. One looked a little like Bobby Henry, and one girl looked just like Grandma Ruby.

brought the wish with him to add a festive atmosphere of Christmas Carols and good cheer.

One of First Indian Baptist's new members, Laurie Lanni, led the kids of the Brighton Youth Choir in a few songs. Laurie is a Navajo from Flagstaff, Ariz. She has lived in Okeechobee for two and a half years and has taken an active role in the community.

The kids in the choir are Mary Huff, Erin Willie, Alyssia Willie, Trina Bowers, Toni Lanni, Sami Lanni, and Dallas Cypress.

Adding to the night's musical talents and under the direction of Randy Santiago, the Tampa kids had a go at it. One of the night's troopers was Linda Jane Henry who played a solo of Silent Night on her violin. Linda's been playing for four years now, and it sounds like she's got the touch for it.

The big part of the evening for the kids was when they all received presents. There was a lot of smiling faces and flying wrapping paper as everyone opened them up at what seemed like the same time.

While the kids examined their presents and checked out what their friends got, Bobby Henry and Albert Osceola told the story, in the Miccosukee language, of how Christmas came to the Seminoles. How when the people first heard of someone called Santa Claus, they wondered who that guy was. That



Bobby Henry shares a laugh with Santa Claus.

Christmas wasn't part of Seminole life before. The way that Jesus came to the Seminoles and how they accept this Christmas was now.

There was a raffle that got the grown ups as excited as the kids. Some of the winners were: **Grandma Ruby Osceola** won a 61-inch projection TV. **Clarence Motlow** won a trip for two to anywhere in the U.S. **April Bakera** won a trip to Orlando for four. **Peggy Cubis** won a trip to Orlando for a family of four.

There were a lot of creative entries in the Decoration Contest and some very happy winners. "Santa" was very, very good to them.

Decoration winners: Apartments — 1st. Joanne Henry, \$600; 2nd. Lilla Henry, \$500; 3rd. Gerry Henry, \$400; 4th. Tommie Henry, \$300.

Houses — 1st. Ramsey and Susan Harjo, \$900; 2nd. Annie Henry, \$800; 3rd. Colleen Henry, \$700. 4th. Barbara Sisneros, \$600. 5th. Ronnie Doctor, \$500.

B.C. Has Merry, Swampy Christmas

By Libby Blake
BIG CYPRESS — The stockings were hung by the Chickee with care in hopes that St. Nick soon would be there as community members started arriving at the beautifully decorated gym

The Swamp Water Café provided the fixin's offering an assortment of goodies that pleased the palate of all.

David Cypress opened the party with holiday greetings. Mitchell and Mondo echoed his sentiments. David then "forewarned" community members of the deluge of Phish fans about to descend upon the area while Dale Grasshopper issued the special decals needed to get on and off the Rez during the millennium concert.

Those responsible for the festive decorations included Robin Hernandez, Vicki Knouse, Mabel Jim, Louise Osceola, Alfreda Muskett, Linda Billie, and Delwin McGowen. This group started the night before and was still putting on the finishing touches as the



Mary Frances Fewell Cypress, Mitchell Cypress share holiday moment.

Even though David Cypress guests arrived.

for the Annual Big Cypress Community Christmas Party Dec. 23.

David Cypress, Council Representative, and Mondo Tiger, Board Representative, hosted the event. Mitchell Cypress, President of the Tribe, was also on hand for the festivities.

St. Nick, looking suspiciously like Mondo, awarded \$100 door prizes to eight lucky adults and two delighted children. Paul Buster, accompanied by daughter Jessica and son Paul "Chunky" Jr., serenaded the guests with traditional and inspirational holiday sounds.

announced the end of the workday at noon, community members lingered well into the afternoon enjoying the special day of fellowship and fun.



Table decorators pose by their creation.



Rianna Thomas holds new Christmas pal.

Jack Smith and Richard Henry shared the mike as the excess of the evening. Looking around at the crowd Richard said the kids were now outnumbering the adults in the Tampa community.

Wonder Johns, pastor of the First Indian Baptist Church from Brighton,

Tampa Rings In New Year With Party

By Mark Madrid
TAMPA — At this point in time, Y2K appears to be one of those oddities of urban myth that will go down in history as an indicator of the anxiety generated by the economic techno culture's fear of not getting the right.

One of the parts of the world that didn't worry was Seminole Country, Florida. If there's one thing the Seminole people like to do its come together and have some sort of party. A celebration of some sort. These modern ways certainly offer more times to party. New Years being one of the big ones. On Dec. 31, at 8 p.m. at the Tampa village, Lila and Johnny Henry threw a New Year's party for the entire community.

Being that it is a community, everybody pitched in and brought lots of

food to put on the table. The DJ was Rick Farmer, Choctaw, a new community member who kept the music going all night. The entertainment was provided by the Tampa Youth Volunteer Spontaneous Dance Troop. They put on a pretty good non-stop stage presentation. Lila said, "I'd like to thank Richard Henry and Alex Johns for contributing to the affair."

While the adults hung out and the guys smoked cigars the kids toasted marshmallows and made s'mores at the marshmallow. The kids took turns trying to break open a New Years piñata ball and had a great time scrambling for the candy. Some members even went over to the bingo hall. As it turned out it wasn't their lucky night.

In the spirit of the occasion, some News Years resolutions and proposals were made that night

Richard and Colleen Henry: "Be prosperous for community and continue to survive." "Hope the best for kids."

Jessie Jimmie: "Find happiness." Arnie Garcia: "Like to have Dad around for another year."

Barbara Sisneros: "Meet new people. Stay healthy. Have happiness with all of family and friends. Find a different happiness with a male companion."

Lila Henry: "Loose weight and get pregnant." Susie-Q Henry: "Learn to drive and get a license. Keep my place clean 'cause dad (Bobby Henry) says it looks like it has been hit by tornado."



Bobby Henry, grand-daughter watch balloon.

Joanie Henry: "Stay on top of paying bills and keep in shape." Carol Forrest: "Loose 20 pounds and watch how I turn of the kids, especially while driving."

Amamda Sisneros: "Would like health, happiness, and success."

Jamie Henry: "Get rich."

Bobby Henry: "Would like everyone to get together and see each other more often. Meet more friends like old times. Like to see moms and dads be stronger and talk more to kids and keep the language going. Remember kids come first and hope they don't change too much."



Peace on earth: David Cypress, Mondo Tiger hosted.

Decoration Winners

BIG CYPRESS — Winners of the David Cypress-sponsored home decoration contest were as follows:
1st) Jane O. Billie \$500.
2nd) Mary Louise Johns \$400.
3rd) Jeanette Cypress \$300.
4th) Lorraine Billie and Ronnie Billie \$200.
5th) Donelda Mercer \$100.

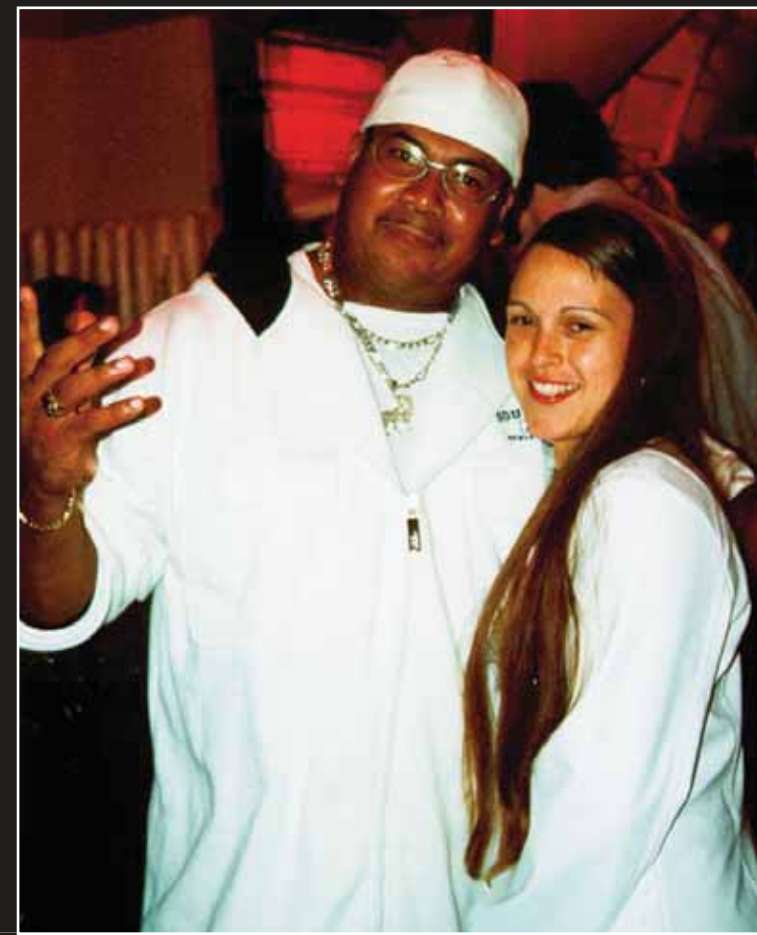


Tampa's Richard, Colleen Henry celebrate 2000.



1999 CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Photos by: Mark Madrid, Libby Blake, Elrod Bowers and Ernie Tiger





January 28, 2000

The SEMINOLE TRIBUNE

Phish At Big Cypress

80,000 Music Fans Create Swampload Of Humanity

By Peter B. Gallagher
BIG CYPRESS — There were more people than alligators in the Big Cypress Swamp on New Year's Eve 2000.

The gators, who share this world with a few Seminole Indians, panthers, bears and hogs had no choice but to hunker down in their murky bunkers, and wait out the disturbance.

Perhaps, a weird primal new age urge, a rock and roll version of the mystery which inspires a sea turtle to return to its birth beach, hypnotized a swampload of humanity to forego the glitz of Times Square for a cow pasture on the remote Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation — where Y2K was not allowed, the cow patties covered the fire ants and a band called Phish was holding a party.

These humans — Phish music

fans — poured into South Florida from all over the world, in a parade so large and bizarre the great superhighways couldn't handle the traffic. Imagine the transportation engineer's worst nightmare:

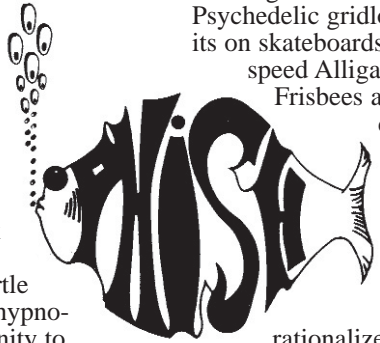
Psychedelic gridlock. Dozens of free spirits on skateboards rolling down high-speed Alligator Alley, dodging Frisbees and all manner of paisley colored vehicles, occasionally laying down in the passing lane to nap. Is this what Kerouac meant by "On The Road?"

Perhaps, "It was a living organism," rationalized one Phish "phan" of a traffic jam that made 25 miles a 9-to-12 hour experience. "It stretched from the band to the campground to the highways to our homes far away. It was exhilarating." Dave Barry did not — and could not — make this up.

In fact, the events of those last few days of December and the first hours of January were reported all over the world. *The Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation* is now a household name to hundreds of thousands of people who are still talking about this show on the Internet and in the pages of music magazines across the globe. *Phish NYE 2000* was the official name for the largest rock concert in Florida history. But, for goodness sakes, this was more than just a simple rock concert.

It was 80,000 people (some say it was more than 100,000) who paid anywhere from \$150 to \$250 for a ticket, hiked to South Florida, withstood the traffic jams, navigated the curves and road kill of Snake Road, made it through a giant toll booth and joined a campground that for three days was the tenth largest city in Florida.

How did this effect the Seminoles, about 500 of whom



(L-R) Phish bassist Mike Gordon, Phish drummer Jon Fishman, John McEuen, Raiford Starke, Phish guitarist Trey Anastasio, Seminole Chief Jim Billie, and Phish keyboardist Page McConnell take a break from a rehearsal before the show.



The classic psychedelic VW micro bus experience.
Taylor Crothers

Peter B. Gallagher

Dan McDonald

live way out here? The Big Cypress Campground was closed to the public for more than a month. Billie Swamp Safari and the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum were closed for a week. Phish employees — more than 1,000 — took up every available campsite or chickee for rent. If you weren't a Tribal member or employee or didn't have an airtight story about hauling cane to Miami, you couldn't enter the reservation from the north.

Much effort was made to limit the concert's impact on the tiny Seminole community. It worked. At the peak of the concert, at 11:30 p.m. on New Year's Eve, while Father Time was pedaling the hands around a giant clock on stage, a reservation dog lay down to sleep in the middle

of peaceful Snake Road. The little stores on the rez had *less* business than usual.

The action was all on Jack Motlow's pasture, a half-mile south of town. What did people do in the pasture? They shopped at a general store, mailed postcards from a post office, asked for band-aids at a hospital, ate at an Italian restaurant, and listened to an FM radio station — all of which existed for only three days.

They stared at giant paper airplanes stuck in the canopy of a tall oak and walked a wide boardwalk, past the façade of a fake downtown, around a swampy lagoon where a crazy missile had crashlanded, then entered a real cypress dome, where

throbbing bongos and shadowy movements of wild dance was an infrared Fellini movie on the mind.

They painted clothing on naked bodies, ingested all manner of herbs, hot tea and hallucinogens, and made all sorts of love in cars, tents, fields and the little palmetto thatch shelter pods scattered about the scene. They rode on two giant Ferris wheels, a giant sun dial and a hot air balloon, dropped memorabilia into a

See PHISH, page 5

Photos along the bottom of pages 2-7 connect to form a panorama by Robert Kippenberger.



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Perhaps, a weird primal new age urge, a rock and roll version of the mystery which inspires a sea turtle to return to its birth beach, hypnotized a swampload of humanity to forego the glitz of Times Square for a cow pasture on the remote Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation — where Y2K was not allowed, the cow patties covered the fire ants and a band called Phish was holding a party.

These humans — Phish music

fans — poured into South Florida from all over the world, in a parade so large and bizarre the great superhighways couldn't handle the traffic. Imagine the transportation engineer's worst nightmare: Psychedelic gridlock. Dozens of free spirits on skateboards rolling down high-speed Alligator Alley, dodging Frisbees and all manner of paisley colored vehicles, occasionally laying down in the passing lane to nap. Is this what Kerouac meant by "On The Road?"

Perhaps. "It was a living organism," rationalized one Phish "phan" of a traffic jam that made 25 miles a 9-to-12 hour experience. "It stretched from the band to the campground to the highways to our homes far away. It was exhilarating." Dave Barry did not — and could not — make this up.

In fact, the events of those last few days of December and the first hours of January were reported all over the world. *The Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation* is now a household name to hundreds of thousands of people who are still talking about this show on the Internet and in the pages of music magazines across the globe. *Phish NYE 2000* was the official name for the largest rock concert in Florida history. But, for goodness sakes, this was more than just a simple rock concert.

It was 80,000 people (some say it was more than 100,000) who paid anywhere from \$150 to \$250 for a ticket, hiked to South Florida, withstood the traffic jams, navigated the curves and road kill of Snake Road, made it through a giant toll booth and joined a campground that for three days was the tenth largest city in Florida.

How did this effect the Seminoles, about 500 of whom



(L-R) Phish bassist Mike Gordon, Phish drummer Jon Fishman, John McEuen, Raiford Starke, Phish guitarist Trey Anastasio, Seminole Chief Jim Billie, and Phish keyboardist Page McConnell take a break from a rehearsal before the show.



The classic psychedelic VW micro bus experience.

Taylor Crothers

live way out here? The Big Cypress Campground was closed to the public for more than a month. Billie Swamp Safari and the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum were closed for a week. Phish employees — more than 1,000 — took up every available campsite or chickee for rent. If you weren't a Tribal member or employee or didn't have an airtight story about hauling cane to Miami, you couldn't enter the reservation from the north.

Much effort was made to limit the concert's impact on the tiny Seminole community. It worked. At the peak of the concert, at 11:30 p.m. on New Year's Eve, while Father Time was pedaling the hands around a giant clock on stage, a reservation dog lay down to sleep in the middle

of peaceful Snake Road. The little stores on the rez had *less* business than usual.

The action was all on Jack Motlow's pasture, a half-mile south of town. What did people do in the pasture? They shopped at a general store, mailed postcards from a post office, asked for band-aids at a hospital, ate at an Italian restaurant, and listened to an FM radio station — all of which existed for only three days.

They stared at giant paper airplanes stuck in the canopy of a tall oak and walked a wide boardwalk, past the façade of a fake downtown, around a swampy lagoon where a crazy missile had crashlanded, then entered a real cypress dome, where

throbbing bongos and shadowy movements of wild dance was an infrared Fellini movie on the mind.

They painted clothing on naked bodies, ingested all manner of herbs, hot tea and hallucinogens, and made all sorts of love in cars, tents, fields and the little palmetto thatch shelter pods scattered about the scene. They rode on two giant Ferris wheels, a giant sun dial and a hot air balloon, dropped memorabilia into a

See PHISH, page 5

Photos along the bottom of pages 2-7 connect to form a panorama by Robert Kippenberger.



e-mail From Phish Fans

Chief Billie:

I just wanted to say, thank you so, so so, so much for the greatest weekend of my life. Every Phish fan is more than grateful for the beautiful wonderful land you let us use. I greatly appreciate all of the effort you and your people put into it and the great spirit all of you showed during a very stressful situation. This was my first large Phish show (12th overall) and I couldn't imagine it ever being in a better place than Big Cypress. It meant so much to the 80,000 of us there. Thanks again:

Andy Shonebarger
amshonebarger@email.bsu.edu

Hey Chief Jim Billie!

Just wanted to give you a big shout out from some kids up in Indiana! THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!!!!!! Never before and never again have we experienced so many happy faces and good vibes. It wouldn't have been possible without your help! The land was beautiful, we all tried very hard to keep it that way. I hope all turned out well. Thank you again, and bless you and your Phamily.

Ben and company
BenFerguson@aol.com

Hi Chief!

Thanks sooooo much for the venue and your songs. I really felt like you liked us, and that we were welcome at Big Cypress. Not all venues are like that. You are a wonderful person, and put off some powerfully good energy. Very sincerely,

Jessica Cooper
jessica@clemson.edu

Chief Billie:

I recently visited your reservation during the Phish NYE 2000 event. I wanted to find a way to show my personal gratitude for allowing such a large gathering of people to attend. This was my 3rd Phish show and my first trip to the Everglades proving most worthwhile. I have enjoyed learning about your culture as well as others present at the event, and I genuinely hope that you enjoyed it as well. I hope this happens once again. GUYUTE PHISH.

Jenna Blanken
Drayton, SC
BathubJen@aol.com

Chief Billie:

Thank you so much for your hospitality before, during and after New Year's. Your reservation is beautiful. I hope to come back again soon. Peace and love.

Matt Cawthon
Springfield, Ill.
mckng@aol.com



GOING POSTAL: Jack Motlow's Cattle Pasture, Big Cypress, Florida, 33430, U.S.A.

Chief Billie:

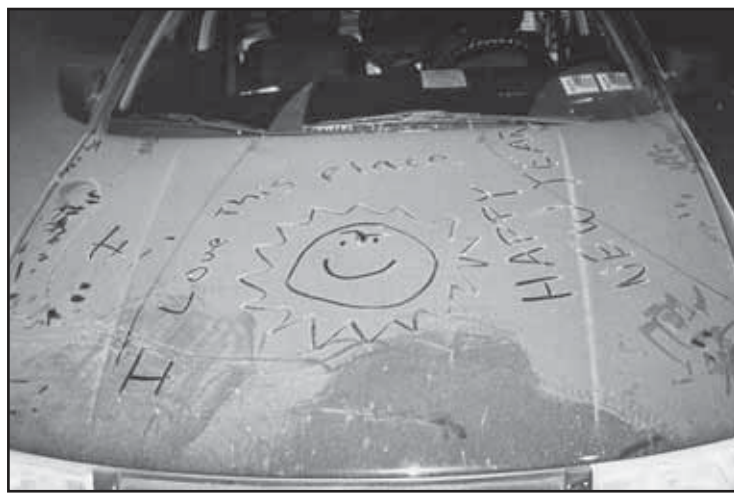
I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you and everyone else that made the Phish millennium celebration possible. It was the best time of my life. I don't know what else I can really say other than that. Thank you

Eric Thalhammer

Chief Billie:

Just a note to say thanks very much for you and your Tribe's hospitality for the Phish New Year's show. When you and yer boys got up and played with Phish I was blown away!! I felt so welcome to be there, I was almost in tears! Thank for the time of my life.

Duane Kelly
New Brunswick, Canada
freakout@fundy.net



A message of love written in the dust after a rainless weekend.

Hello Chief Jim Billie:

I am a phan of the group Phish. I wanted to express my endless thanks to you for allowing them to put on a show on your land. I was awestruck by the infinite beauty of the area. I had the time of my life and I hope to return to Big Cypress in the future to relive the experience. Thank you again! Happy New Years!

Joseph A Abrams
acapulcog@juno.com

Seminole Tribal members:

This letter is to thank Chief Jim Billie and all the Seminoles who welcomed myself and 80,000 of my brothers and sisters on to their land for a four day festival that was one of the highlights of our lives. To celebrate the turning of the year 2000 with Phish was an experience I made sure I would not miss. The fact that it was in Florida was an added bonus,

considering that I live in South Georgia. I'm fairly active on the Internet, and reading all the responses of kids going down was awe inspiring. People wanted to keep the place clean to ensure that Seminole land wouldn't be scarred, not to mention that we wanted Phish to be invited back. I was proud of the way we, as a group, handled ourselves, but more so, I was incredibly proud to have been a part of the experience of Phish's Millennium Party at Big Cypress. A big thank you to the Seminole people who welcomed us, gave us their land to use, and entertained us. And I'd really like to extend kudos to Chief Jim Billie. The man got up and performed in front of

80,000 people, and was an excellent addition to the show. He obviously was having a good time on stage, and was an excellent performer to boot. I'm sure I speak for everyone who was at the magical moment in time that was, without a doubt, the "party of the millennium." Thanks to Chief Jim Billie and everyone else who made this event possible. It is a memory I will always cherish. Sincerely,

Patrick J. Marshall
clearerphish@yahoo.com

Chief Billie:

My greatest thanks and praise goes out to Chief Jim Billie and the Seminole Tribe for letting us

(being the Phish family) live one of the greatest experiences on some of the most beautiful land south of the Smokies that I've seen. I really hope that you (Chief Jim Billie) and the rest of the Tribe enjoyed having us as guests to your land, and if the environmental impact and the HUGE amount of people was not a problem, I really hope that you will invite us all back next year or sometime in the near future! Once again thank you!! Peace and Love to all,

Matt Schulz
cowsue@aol.com

Chief Billie:

As a follower of Phish for over five years, I learned during my visit that I had more of a connection to your sacred land than I originally thought. See I am a New Yorker, but my father was born in Florida, as was his mother. She was in the northern part of the state, where her mother settled from Europe. Apparently there is an island located off the coast of Florida/Georgia, named after my great grandfather. This island eludes most maps, according to my grandmother (Delray), and its name eludes me, but she recounted her mother's time there and indeed some Indian blood was brought into our bloodstream. Blood that I am proud to possess. She said that she wasn't sure of a specific tribe, be it Seminole or not, but nonetheless it is there. It was not until after the fact that I spoke with her and told her of the concert that she brought this up to me, and I was pretty honored to say the least. I wanted to say thank-you, my brother, for opening your home to us. I would also like to say that I am sorry



COMMUNICATION: Florida State Museum wanted to save this message board as history.

for the way it was treated, but please recognize that in comparison to many previous Phish events this was by far the cleanest. Others recognized the sacredness of the surroundings and did a good job cleaning up. Not good enough, but I think that many did their part and then so. Thank-you again.

Chris Delray
Fotovult@aol.com

Chief Billie:

Just wanted to say thank for the best New Years ever.

Nick Brown
simonie@gateway.net

almost an epiphany. The songs that Chief Jim Billie played with Phish are some of the most memorable jams I have heard on the tours I have been on. I hadn't known that he was such a great musician. (The Chief). From my spirit to yours I would again like to thank you for what went on. If there are any audio recordings of some more songs I would like to know. Thank you for all of your time! ONE LOVE! ONE WORLD! and again thank you. Graciously and thankfully,

Robert A. Bennett
Seminole, FL
Way2TaLL66@aol.com

Chief Billie's music can be heard and purchased from the Tribal Internet marketplace at www.seminoletribe.com

Dear Chief Jim Billie:

Thank you sir, very, very much for allowing Phish and their allies to visit your lands. I appreciate you for letting this go on. Your lands were very beautiful. It was my first time in Florida and I loved every minute of it. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

LLDarko@aol.com

Chief:

Thank you for welcoming the Phish community on your land. It was an unforgettable experience. Thanks.

Steve Shaw
scs176@psu.edu



Each car passed through this remote toll booth enroute to the concert.

To all Indians at Big Cypress:

Hola, aloha, como esta, hello, che hun ta mo. I am an artist, and I live in Seminole, Florida. I was recently at the Phish concert for 2000 and from the deepest reaches of my soul I would like to show my appreciation and utmost gratitude for the use of your land. I had the most memorable moments of my life in your beautiful reservation. It's so beautiful to see untouched land and such honest hearts. For your land to be loaned to Phish and my friends and phriends worldwide was the most amazing thing I have ever witnessed in my life. What more could you ask for than to spend a beautiful weekend in a beautiful environment? I used to work with the Sierra Club canvassing throughout Tampa Bay for the passing of Amendments 1, 2, 3, and 4. To finally see this land, and see its true purity was

Chief Billie:

I just wanted to say thank you, thank you, thank you for hosting Phish's New Years Eve Bash. My friends and I had a wonderful time. The beautiful land that we were on compliment the magical music just right. I couldn't think of a better place to have it. Sometimes I had to just stop what I was doing and take in what was really going on — 80,000 people out in the middle of nowhere, listening to some great music, living without too many modern amenities, and all smiling and having a good time and being nice to one another. That's how everyday life should be -- happy.

I just wish some of the harsh critics could have really experienced what the rest of us did, instead of focusing on only small

See E-MAIL, page 3



e-mail

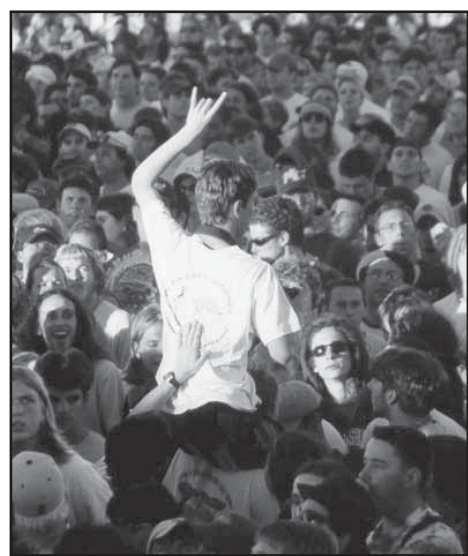
Continued from page 2

aspects of the concert which society views as bad and weird. Just because "society" thinks something, doesn't mean it is right. Remember slaves and driving American Indians off their land!!

Thank you again for taking a chance on us. I hope we didn't leave too much of a mess and I apologize for the ones who forgot to pick up after themselves.

P.S. The nine hour traffic jam was totally worth it. I got some cool pictures of my boyfriend lying down in the middle of Alligator Alley. When am I going to get that opportunity again? It's all in how you look at things.

Vickie Grassman
Boca Raton
vdgrassman@lvp.com



E. Bowers

More than 80,000 attended the show.

Chief Billie:

I just wanted to drop a line to you guys and say thanks for letting Phish play at Big Cypress for New Year's. I had more fun down there than I have ever had in my life. Thanks again.

Will McGehee
Weekapaug3@aol.com



Dan McDonald

Some fans brought their own phish . . . er fish to the show.

Chief Billie:

Thank you for sharing your reservation with the Phans of Phish. The experience changed our lives forever. I was able to see good all around us, from the interstate to the

campground. We hope this turns into a tradition! Peace,

Brian and Amber Hobbins,
Gretchen Dambaugh,
Jason O'Leary, Amanda, Josh,
Bret Hobbins, and Rick Knox
ROSSETAP@home.com

Chief Billie:

It was so very gracious of you to allow us to use your land for such a wonderful occasion as NYE 2000. Words cannot express the joy I felt being on your beautiful land. May the New Year bring you unlimited peace and happiness. Thank you so very much. Peace.

Chris Lawson
PhishCAL@aol.com

Chief:

My family and I are dedicated Native Americans and work in the Silicon Valley in California. I spent four great years in the United States Coast Guard. I've spent four long days walking in the desert without food knowing only good water and bad water. What this is all leading to is, I just wanted to say that I have had some spiritual moments in my life and have lost and found myself many times. But, when I stepped foot on Big Cypress, I knew that I was in for something different. Never before have I been so touched and so full of life. Forever, I will be dreaming of the beautiful sunsets, the oaks and palms with the fog slowly dancing through the air. Heck, I'll even miss the morning dew. Honestly, just writing this note is bringing tears to my eyes. I'll never forget you on stage welcoming us. That was touching for me, and I'll never forget the good vibes and happy faces wherever I looked. In the four days I spent at Big Cypress I realized who I

was and who I want to be, and I can't say I've learned that anywhere else. It happened in Seminole land. I will always secure a special cove in my heart where I will store all of these great memories and those sweet tears of joy. Someday, I hope to meet you, look you straight in the eyes, stand tall, shake him, and throw you a giant hug of thanks.

Paul Segura
apache@seegosoft.com

Chief Jim Billie and Seminole Tribe:

I am writing this in thanks for the wonderful experience I had at Big Cypress. Your land is beautiful and you are very generous people for sharing it with us. It was the most exciting and beautiful experience I have yet encountered. Driving 23 hours from Iowa and waiting in traffic 11 hours was very much worth the journey. I hope we didn't cause anyone too much stress or leave too much garbage or cause any damage to your land. This was a wonderful place to have such a gathering for the Y2K. Every other Phish show I've experi-

enced has been shadowed by too many cops trying to reach an evening quota, leaving everyone feeling, overall, more unsafe than if there weren't any police at all. I greatly appreciate the trust you put in us as visitors on your land. I felt completely comfortable and safe with the level of security provided. I can only dream of being able to relive this awesome experience. Once again, THANK YOU!! Take



Taylor Crothers

The campground covered nearly 500 acres and, for three days, was the 10th largest city in Florida.

care and have peace from a phriend, phan, and recent lover of alligators.

Susan Flynn
sflynn2@earthlink.net

Chief Jim Billie:

Thank you so much for your hospitality and that of the Seminole Indians during Phish NYE2000. Words can't express the time that was had by all who attended. Thank you for allowing us to walk upon such a beautiful place and spend time with beautiful people.

It was truly the most amazing thing that I have ever been a part of. Seeing you on stage and meeting members of the Seminole Indian community as we trekked the campsite made me feel that much more welcome.

PS. I work for a small school in NC called Davidson College. John McEuen used to perform there years ago. If you see him, ask if he remembers.

Allen Clark
fiji@bellsouth.net

Chief Billie:

I would like to take a moment to thank everyone involved at Big Cypress. My boyfriend, Matt and I had such a wonderful experience at Big Cypress. Not only did we witness an exciting two days of music, but we were exposed to beautiful scenery and gracious hospitality. Thank you, thank you, thank you for making our New Year's celebration one we won't soon forget.

Melinda Cummings
Melinda_Cummings@kiawahisland.com

Chief Billie:

Just wanted to write and say thank you for allowing such a big event on your land. I had a great time along with all of my friends and greatly appreciate your generosity. Sincerely,

Kelly Bumpus
Syracuse, NY
Kmbumpus@aol.com

life and I really mean that. I have never been in such a gorgeous environment with such amazing people and I just wanted to thank you and I would like to go ahead and request that we do it all again next year. Your Phriend,

Jordan Reed
FUDONICU@aol.com

Dear Chief Jim Billie:

Without taking up all of your time, I would like to extend my deepest most heartfelt thanks to all of the Seminole Tribe members for making my NYE 2000 the best ever. I could go on forever with all the stories I took away from that weekend, but I will just say that the energy of that beautiful land was what made the difference. I'm sure you don't have time to read all of the e-mails you are getting so I just wanted to let you know what a great thing you and your people did for us!

You will forever be in our hearts as one of our Phellow Phans and we hope to see you again! Love,

Marc D. Phrom
MDPDAZED@cs.com

Hey Chief:

THANK YOU more than you can ever imagine for allowing us to assemble on your land. I had the time of my life. I hope the masses didn't cause too many problems! Hope to do this again in the future. And I was quite impressed by your performance with Phish - and your comment on enjoying the sunset. Some people forget. THANKS AGAIN!!!

Becky Story
rstory@cc.cumber.edu

Dear Chief Billie:

I just wanted to write a letter to thank you and your Tribe. This past New Year's event at Big Cypress was the best run, nicest venue I have ever seen a band in. (This includes over 120 Grateful Dead shows, and over 40 Phish shows). The hospitality you and your Tribe showed by hosting this event is greatly appreciated to those of us fans of the Phish community. Again thank you so much.

James R Kaserman
Charlotte, NC
guyute3@prodigy.net

Chief:

Thank you for allowing us into your home and onto your land. I think I speak for the majority when I say we had an absolutely amazing time in the Everglades. I hope we did not intrude upon your people or land too much during our stay. Most of us are very aware of these issues, and apologize for those who weren't. Peace and Blessings

Jeffrey T. Tansley
pyite@prodigy.net

Chief Jim Billie:

I just wanted to take a moment to thank you on behalf of myself and my 20 friends who made the trip to your reservation from Cincinnati, Ohio for your hospitality. We all had the time of our lives and it is an experience none of us will ever forget. I can't think of a better way to have spent the final New Year's Eve of the century than in such a beautiful place with such beautiful people. You have probably received thousands of e-mails like this one, so I will wrap this up and not take any more of your time. Just one more HUGE thank you!!!! A deeply appreciative Phish fan,

Jenni Clark
Cincinnati, OH
Jenrclark@aol.com

See E-MAIL, page 4

Chief Billie:

I would just like to take this opportunity to give a big thanks to you for permitting us to use your land during New Year's Eve. I had more fun on the reservation that I ever had in my life. Thank you for letting Phish come and play there. Hopefully we will visit you again for future shows. Chief Billie really knows how to rock!

Laura Fuller
Jupiter
Rents420@aol.com



E. Bowers

"Dirty Bill" is brought to Phish concerts by a Colorado fan.

Hey Chief:

I just wanted to express my gratitude for the NYE Phish show. I had the time of my





Dan McDonald

Lesley Billie (Mrs. Chief Billie) delighted fans by selling copies of *Seminole Tribune*.

e-mail

Continued from page 3

Chief:

Thanks to you and your Tribe for your outstretched hands and welcoming spirit from all the Phish Phans in Massachusetts. PEACE.

Charles Fields
Oxford, MA
fields.charles@worldnet.att.net

Chief Billie:

Thank you so much for your hospitality and beautiful land on which the Phish concert took place. I really enjoyed your songs. This truly was the time of my life. Thank you so very much. P.S. I live in Tampa and will definitely go to your reservation up here!

Peter Malessa
pmaless1@tampabay.rr.com

To whom it may concern:

Well, one of my friends sent me this e-mail address and said it was for the Indian chief at Big Cypress. I hope it is. I just wanted to thank you for allowing Phish to use your land for the recent New Year's Eve concert. I drove down with three of my friends from New York State and we all had the best time there. The land and scenery were beautiful, the concert was amazing and the weather was so much better than the freezing temperatures that I am used to up here. I just wanted to thank you for allowing my New Year's 2000 the best that it could have been and exposing me to an area as breathtaking as the Florida Everglades. I really can't thank you enough for making the event possible. The joy I experienced there will be something that I fondly remember for a long time...

Meredith Streeter

Chief Billie:

I just wanted to say thank you for allowing us to ring in the new millennium in the beautiful surroundings of Big Cypress. It was a momentous event for the entire Phish community. Thank you all for setting such an inviting atmosphere. I also wanted to take this chance to apologize for all the garbage that was left behind. Some of us worked very hard to try to leave your land as pristine as we found it, but many did not do their part. I sincerely hope that our community did not leave any permanent environmental damage or negative feelings amongst your Tribe.

Matt Geary
Clayton, NC
phredom@aol.com

Chief Billie (and the rest of the Seminoles):

Thank you so much for letting us use your land so that we could all share together in the most wonderful experience of my lifetime. I am glad that we could share this celebration with you. Happy New Year. A satisfied phan.

Melissa Postolowski
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
postom@rpi.edu

Chief Billie:

Just a quick note to say thanks for having us and 80,000 others to your beautiful reservation for the greatest New Year's Eve celebration ever. I have heard nothing but stellar comments about the people, the land, and the treatment we were all given.

I hope we did not leave too big a mess behind. Most of us tried to take care of your land, but there are always the bad seeds. I took some of the most beautiful sunset pictures I have ever seen while there. You are very lucky to live in such a beautiful place.

Thank you again, and I hope we can do it once more some time. With sincere appreciation,

Jim C. and Tim C.
NrlrNrm@aol.com

Dear Chief Jim Billie and the whole Tribe:

I just wanted to thank you all for providing the site for the most amazing concert experience I've ever had. We all enjoyed your songs and the place was beautiful. Other than the traffic, everything was a hugely wonderful event which I'll remember forever!

Todd Miller
Good Time Entertainment
Boulder, CO
goodtimetodd@earthlink.net

Che hun ta mo to Chief Jim Billie and the entire Seminole Tribe:

Thank you, thank you, thank you, for one of the most memorable moments of my life. New Years 2000 weekend will be indelibly etched in my memory forever. You made it all possible with your gracious generosity and cooperation. I am more grateful than words can express. Peace and love to you and yours in the coming years and again, my heartfelt thanks.

Dale McGinnis
squamish@mindspring.com

Chief Billie:

I just wanted to thank the Seminoles for their gracious hosting of the Phish show. Thank you very much.

Chris Barbieri
Atlantic Highlands, NJ
MBQuartRF@aol.com

Mr. Chairman:

To all concerned with regards to the planning of the Phish concert, I would just like to say it was well put together with all the control in place.

Aside from the inconvenience for cattle owners, traffic and some individuals who were not paying attention while on the road, and a few mishaps. The overall conduct of the concert goes great.

Lucille Jumper
Tribal member

Phish!!! Sho Naa Bisha

I would like to say *he tho pek cho shah* to Mike, Trey, Jon and Page for treating me so well and allowing me to perform with them on the most magnificent show I have ever attended. Many, many *sho naa bishas* to the great fans of Phish who also treated us (the Seminole people) with great respect. I have never heard so many "thank you's," "excuse me's" and "how are you doin's" in my entire life. I couldn't stand all that politeness and had to go home!

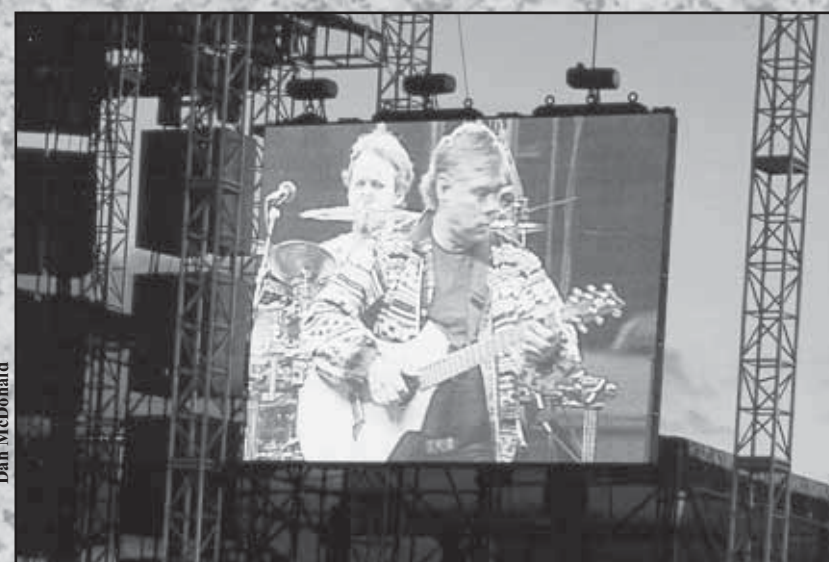
I have had many concerts at our small rodeo arena which required my security to break up fights and take care of trouble, etc. But none of this occurred with the Phish people, even though there were many thousands more at the Phish concert than at any of our other musical events.

To the band Phish, the Seminoles say *sho naa bish*. We will remember you and hope that you will remember us. *Sho naa bisha* to all the Phish fans wherever you may be on this earth. Thank you for the many letters and e-mails. I enjoyed reading all of them.



Peter B. Callagher

CHE HUN TAMO: Chief Jim Billie, Raiford Starke, and John McEuen joined Phish onstage for a surprise appearance.



Dan McDonald

Giant Jumbotron screens helped fans watch the show from a mile away.



Peter B. Callagher

Mike Gordon of Phish keeps rhythm for Chief.



Phish

Continued from page 1

time capsule, buried and dug for archaeological surprises, climbed atop pyramids of ice, and tacked letters on a message board to elaborate the Florida State Museum wanted it for its collection.

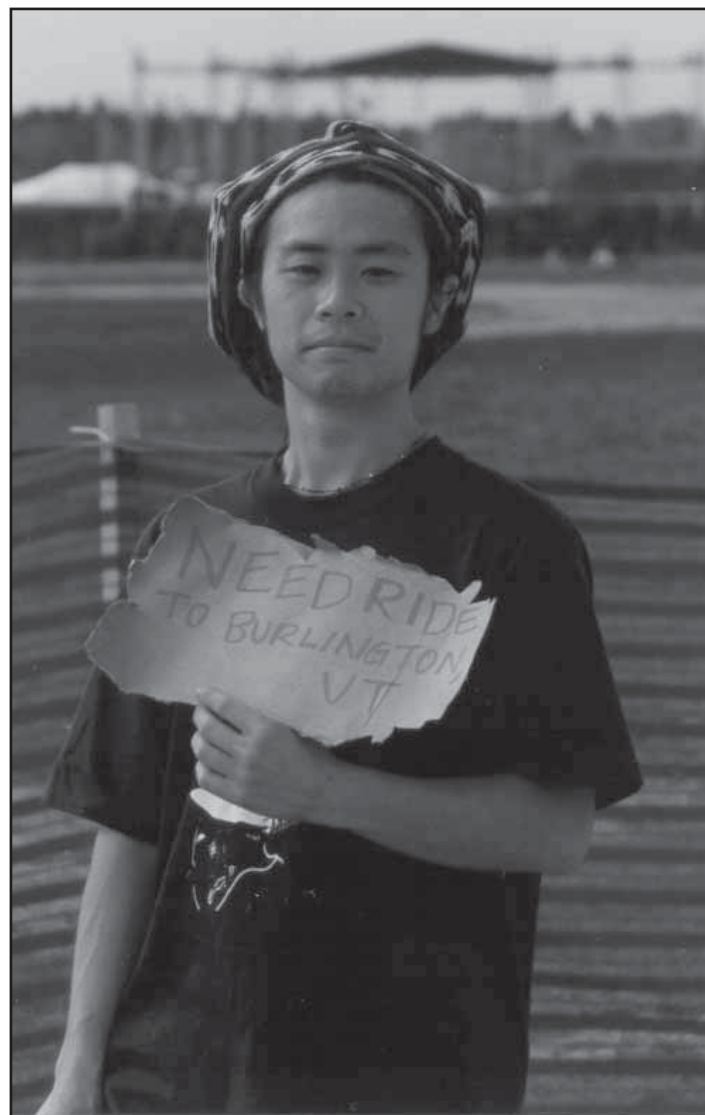
They fawned over the arts and crafts of the Seminoles, in the booths manned by Nancy Motlow



SWAMP BOARDWALK: Just another day in paradise.

and Connie Gowen, and listened peacefully while Sonny Nevaquaya serenaded with his magic flutes. "Oh they were the nicest people I have ever met," said Connie, who claims she is now a Phish fan. "Very polite. Very respectful. The best people I have ever seen at a show. The music was very nice, also."

These were people who drank several hundred thousand dollars worth of beer, much of it



STRANDED IN BIG CYPRESS: Would you give him a ride?

strange local brews from the Burlington, VT area, yet caused practically no trouble. Human kind. The politically correct mob.

"One of our biggest problems, and it really wasn't a problem, were the people who kept wanting to hug our officers," said Seminole police chief Tom Hernan. "We've never experienced such overwhelming love and respect."

In the Phantasy world where the Phish fans like to linger, Tom Hernan is the perfect police chief. He wore a tie-dye T-shirt instead of a uniform and his officers wrote no speeding tickets to people with "I Love Phish" or "I Need Nuggets" in the dust covering their vehicles.

Without shoving -- oh, maybe a polite mosh or two -- these people crowded together into a 26-acre concert venue to watch the four members of Phish play more than 14 hours of music from a seven-story stage (repeating but a single song -- J.J. Cale's "After Midnight" -- over two days). They watched at sunset on the first day (Dec. 30) when Seminole Chief Jim Billie joined Phish on stage to sing "Big Alligator" and "Che Hun Ta Mo."

"I felt like I was looking out at the ocean," said Chief Billie, who rehearsed with the band earlier in the afternoon in a semi-trailer. "All of those heads bobbing as far as the eye could see."

As the century began to end... in the peculiar Phish fashion where Homer Simpson meets Star Trek. First a huge boat soared above the audience then exploded into a giant hot dog (with the four band members astride the phrankfurter) They watched Trey, Jon, Mike and Page feed "meat sticks" to an exhausted Father Time, then grab their instruments and play Auld Lang Syne while fireworks pressed the gators even deeper into the muck.

Peter B. Gallagher

"One of our biggest problems, ... were the people who kept wanting to hug our officers." -- Police Chief Tom Hernan



The show began just before sunset on Dec. 30 when drummer Jon Fishman (dress) appeared on stage.

The drummer wore a dress that brought Bam Bam Flintstone to mind. He put a live vacuum cleaner hose in his mouth and made sounds for a song. The crowd stood and cheered while the band played a seven hour and 45-minute set, screamed "cheesecake" at the ABC TV cameras when Peter Jennings introduced the scene to the world at 3 a.m., then collapsed in holy glee when the sun rose on a new century and the familiar strains of the Beatles "Here Comes The Sun," followed by the "Velvet Sea" and "Meatstick" -- the band's final two offerings to NYE2000.

Slowly, this battalion of swamp hair, collapsed energy and chronic smiles retreated back to the camping pasture. Many stayed a whole extra day before leaving, basking in the warm afterglow. A whole bunch of people had no way to get

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Tall persons stand in front of Phish time capsule.



Connie Gowen spent three days selling crafts in Phish land.



ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG: Some buried; some dug up; all in fun.



The Price of Phame

So here I am Raiford Starke, standing on a gigantic stage looking out over the ocean . . . an ocean of Phish-heads. I do what only a Phish-head could do: I do a quick head count — I count about 81,586 with dozens more pouring in by the minute — and I read the crowd. You see folks, in the music business, how you read a crowd can mean the difference between *The Starkansaw Tribune* classifieds . . . and the cover of the *Rolling Stone*.

This crowd was not easy to read. They seemed deliriously happy to be standing in a cattle pasture. A few of them seemed stoned. Someone was throwing a plastic alligator in the air. I counted 44,329 natives of Vermont. I turned to consult with my drummer, Jon Fishman. But he was wearing a dress. Page McConnell was already sitting behind the keyboards, Mike Gordon was thumping his bass. My old classmate from Starkansaw Elementary, Trey Anastasio, slung his Paul Languedoc custom guitar over a shoulder and whispered in my ear: "Uh, Raiford, who are these people?"

He pointed toward a tall guy with white hair holding a banjo and a short guy in an Indian jacket. I told him the banjo man was John McEuen, "You know, the Swamp Wizard," I said and Trey nodded, smiling from ear to ear. "The other guy's Chief Jim Billie. This is his reservation."

Before I had a chance to hit the first chords to "Stockbroker Took My Girl," the Chief grabbed the microphone and yelled: "Che han ta mo!" I was shocked when the crowd roared back an exuberant "Ah-he-thosh-chah!"

A panic shot through me like a meatstick on fire. I had read the crowd wrong. I figured people who painted their bodies and craved Ben and Jerry's ice cream were definitely a Raiford Starke type of crowd. But this was a Jim Billie audience. I could hear them screaming "Hul pa te chobee," "Coo-wah-chobee," "Okeechobee."

"What should we do, Raiford?" Trey asked. "The

only Indian song we know is Quinn the Eskimo!"

"Just follow me, man," I bluffed like a minor searching for a nugget. I started a bluesy, Santana-influenced riff and nodded at the Chief. The crowd roared when he began singing "The Native Greeting Song."

When it came to the first lead break, I figured I'd scare 'em a little, and so I take my Gibson Firebird guitar and cut me a righteous 12-bar slice of the blues. But, I could hear Trey lightly playing a perfect harmony with me. "The kid is good," I thought, remembering the red-headed youngster I taught to play "After Midnight" on the ukelele when we skipped school in the fourth grade.

On Trey's break, he dug way down deep into the aquifer and carved out a series of phrases that can only be described as *Trey-mendous!* The crowd roared and for a moment I forgot that the Raiford Starke portion of the Phish NYE 2000 concert had, well, kind of disappeared.

When the Chief finished I figured I'd take it upon myself to do a brief dronic swampadelic "Prelude in A Modal" intro to my hit song, "Girl From Immokalee," but durned if Chief Billie didn't start talking on the microphone again. He thanked the crowd for visiting Big Cypress, then began a poem in his signature

booming baritone:

"Big alligator is mysterious. Big alligator is amphibious. Big alligator he's dangerous. But with a big alligator you can be prosperous . . ." Mike slapped the bass, Page hit the piano, Jon walloped the drum and Trey brought the *A Modal* up to country and the Chief sang his slightly precautionary tale about alligator hunting and the entrepreneurial spirit.

The audience sang along on the chorus: "*Hul-pah-te cho-hooe nock-sho-nitch kee-kah . . .*" I was amazed. Who would have guessed that Phish phans could speak Seminole? And here I had spent \$4,000 making flyers with the words to my songs and passing them out to the crowd.

Oh well, after the third chorus, I decided to make my mark. Trey politely stepped back and I jumped right into the viewfinder of that Jumbotron camera. I jumped hold of that "Bird's neck and choked out the most tortured Skynyrd meets Godzilla six-string freak-out I could muster. The crowd went bonkers. After all those years playing blues bars and barbecues, I was famous!

I heard Trey exclaim as I walked out of sight: ". . . that was our friend Raiford Starke on the guitar."

Suddenly the women in the crowd began chanting. *Rai Phord. Rai Phord. Rai Phord.* Through the haze of the sunset fog, I could imagine the arms of hundreds of female Phish fans reaching out for me. Then one voice cut through the cacophony. Sarah McCulloch, youngest daughter of Swamp Apple Allison, who lives way out in these woods near a crossroads called McCulloch Slough.

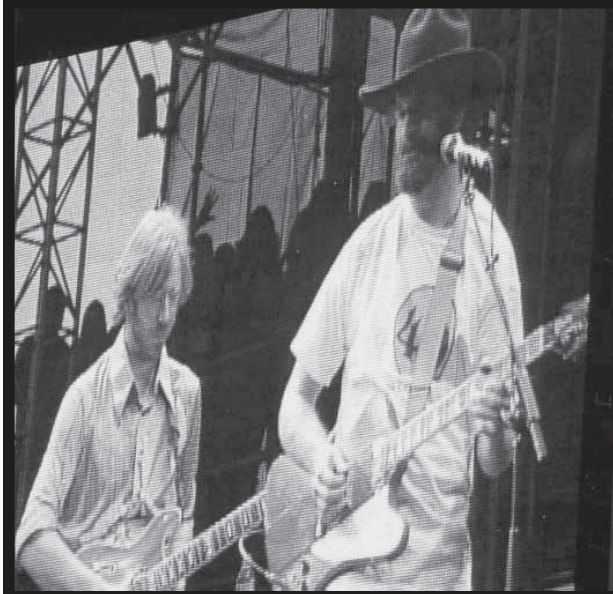
The prettiest gal in the swamp finally noticed me! I looked up to see where she was. The last thing I remember was the voice of the Phish stage manager saying, "Hey Ray . . . like . . . look out!" . . . and then falling backwards off the edge of the stage . . .

So here I am, I . . . don't know who I am. Somebody in a white coat is asking how many meters there are in a three-story fall. I am in some sort of First Aid tent and a crowd of girls at the entrance are screaming *Raiphord Starke* at me. I ask the doctor if I really played in front of 81,586 screaming people with a band named Phish. Doctor, am I famous now?

"Ah-he-thosh-chah," he replied. "Ah-he-thosh-chah."

—The music of Chief Jim Billie and Raiford Starke is available on the Internet at www.seminoletribe.com.

RAIFORD STARKE



RAIFORD STARKE



Peter B. Gallagher

Phish jams with Starke and Chief Billie before the show.



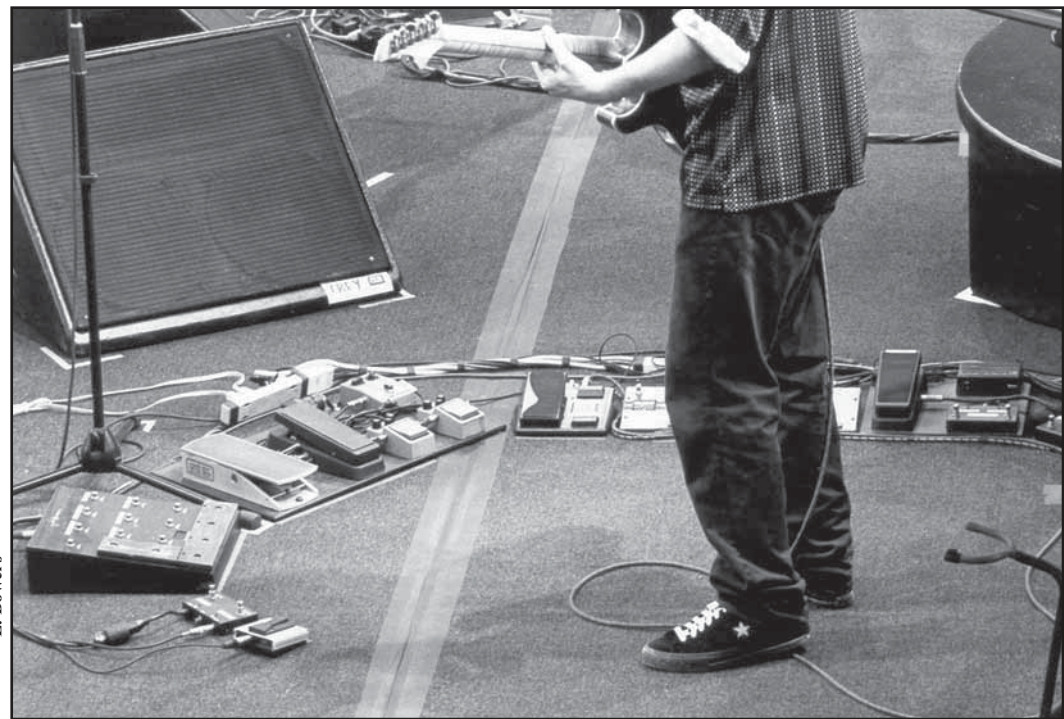
E. Bowers

FRIGHTENED SMILES: The stage exploded with fireworks at the stroke of midnight.



E. Bowers

PHRANKFUTRTER: The band rode a giant hot dog over the crowd on New Year's Eve.



E. Bowers

GUITAR PEDALS: Not visible to the audience, this is the stage set-up for Trey Anastasio.





DRUM CIRCLE: Inside the cypress dome, drum beaters kept rhythm.



Elrod Bowers

Robert Kippenberger

Phish

Continued from page 5

home, save a scrawled sign and a tired thumb pointing to the north. Incredibly, a lot of trash was picked up and assembled into piles by the concert-goers who had respected the agrarian "sacredness" of the Seminole lands.

"Phenomenal, and you can spell it with an F!" was how Dave Werlin, president of Great Northeast Productions described the three-day event. It was the biggest show Werlin and his crew ever put on; astoundingly, all the injuries, all the injuries, all the complaints could be listed on the front page of a lettersized legal pad.

"On behalf of the band and the entire Phish organization, I want to extend a warm thanks to Chief Jim Billie and the Seminole Tribe for

helping us put on the most memorable event in the band's history," said John Paluska, manager of the band. It was Paluska who stared down at Jack Motlow's pasture from a helicopter

egrets.. "The site was beautiful, the weather was perfect and almost everyone was still standing when the sun rose on the new millennium! Thanks to the Seminoles for being such wonderful hosts."

Before the vultures had a chance to circle over the land soaked with beer, a Florida Highway Patrolman told the *Naples Daily News* that the Seminoles had signed a four year contract with Phish. Not true, say all the important people, including Werlin, who allowed "I certainly think (another show) will be considered."

In the end, everything was removed from the pastures, except for the shell roads put in by Mondo Tiger's crew. Jack's cows are back lowing in the winter heat, savoring a little different bouquet from their normal grass. And some guy wants to talk to Chief Billie about putting on the World Pumpkin Chucking contest "right there where Phish was!"



Peter B. Gallagher

POLICE BUSINESS: Chief Tom Hernan (center) talks to troops.

months before and was struck with a vision way beyond cows and cattle



Dan McDonald

PHISH FEAST: Page, Trey, Mike and Jon bring "meat sticks" to tired Father Time.



SPARKLER: When one burns down to his fingers, he just lights another.



Robert Kippenberger

How about a quick game of Rock, Rock, Pepple? Hands in full view. Girl on right goes first.





E. Bowers



Robert Kippenberger

Robert Kippenberger



Peter B. Gallagher

BUTTERFLYS ARE FREE: On a wing and a tattoo.

CONVERSATION: It's not so much the silver skin, as it is his shoes.

PEACE ON EARTH: The Seminole Blues Brothers make surprise appearance.



Robert Kippenberger

E. Tiger

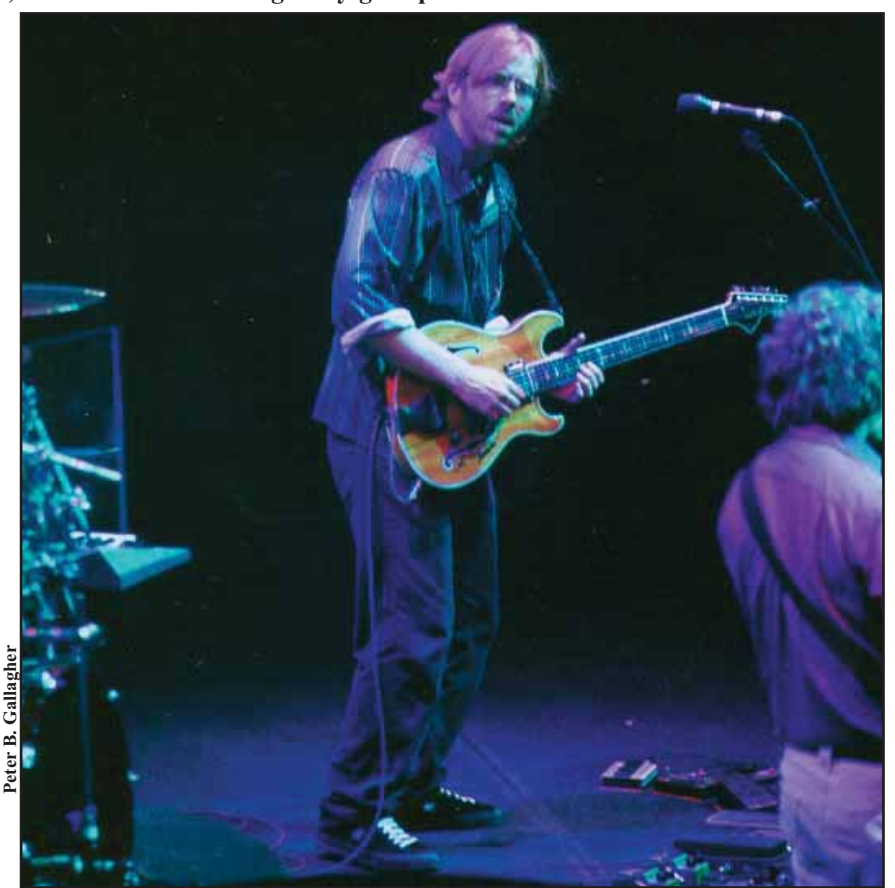


SHELTER FROM THE NORM: Aliens left these pods.

AULD LANG SIGN: Among the many ways Phish fans celebrated New Years, these four chose strategic day-glow paint and a blush of inhibition.



E. Bowers



Peter B. Gallagher

(Above) The Homer Simpson rooting section. (Below) The first sunrise of the new century marks the end of Phish NYE 2000.

PURPLE PHISH: Illuminated guitarist Trey Anastasio goes up the neck.
Peter B. Gallagher

